

MAMGA Newsletter



March 2023

Photo by Karen Allenstein: Seed Starting Begins in the Greenhouse
Cheryl Bohling, Lynn Berton and Lisa Johnson start the first of many trays of seeds.

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President's Column

by Ed Meachen

We are having our first ever April annual meeting. This required a change in the bylaws that we made at last year's meeting. We are just now making annual meeting preparations. **The Web page for the annual meeting registration is now available.** Registration this year is

\$20 for MAMGA members, and if you wish to invite someone, \$25 for a guest. If you haven't renewed your MAMGA membership for 2023 you can do that at the same time. Please register at: mamgawi.org

The annual meeting is on Earth Day, Saturday April 22nd. That means it will be a splendid morning. We will be at the Goodman Community Center in the Brassworks building.

One more thing. Remember how much fun the silent auction was when our meetings were in person, and we could bid on very nice garden and other gifts, and have a chance to chat with each other before the program got started? Well, we've decided to do the silent auction again. What wonderful things do you have that you'd be willing to give to MAMGA for the silent auction? Please consider helping us with garden treasures. If you have something please send me an email. I will send it on to the manager of the silent auction. [We have east & west dropoff locations for your donations listed on page 5.]

Contact Ed Meachen at willismeachen@gmail.com with any questions.

Seed starting is underway in the Dane County Master Gardener Greenhouse on February 26th!

Lisa Johnson, Karen Allenstein, Cheryl Bohling and Lynn Berton were in attendance to kick-off the seed starting season. Plans include growing over 42 varieties of vegetables, 27 varieties of herbs and 47 varieties of flowers, totaling over 110 flats. Inside the greenhouse is toasty warm with ample room for many volunteers to work. We have watering supplies, heating mats with thermostat, fertilizer, seed starting mix, potting soil, misters, labels, and sterilized pots, trays, inserts & domes ready to go. The greenhouse is awesome!

If you are interested in helping with seed starting in the new greenhouse, please email Karen Allenstein at kallenstein@charter.net. We have several Teaching Garden volunteers who have already offered to help but can always use more volunteers (particularly when we up-pot the peppers and tomatoes). No experience in seed starting is needed. Please note that in order to volunteer at the Extension, you must comply with Extension requirements for volunteering, including the background check.

Calendar Events

March 1 Wednesday Due date for MAMGA Grant applications. Each grant applicant needs a MAMGA member sponsor. Grant recipients will be announced in mid-March.

March 7 12:30 – 2pm Green Thumb Tuesday meets at the Breakwater Restaurant, 6308 Inland Way, Monona, just off Bridge Road where it crosses the Yahara River. We have a separate room for our group. Let Dana Warren know if you plan to attend or just turn up. dwarren1943@gmail.com or djwarren5703@hotmail.com

March 8 Wednesday 1 PM - 2: 30 PM. Snug Haven Farm Tour, Belleville, WI. Co-Owner, Bill Warner will give MAMGA a tour of his thirteen hoop houses. Bill and his wife, Judy

Hageman, have been selling at the Dane County Famer's Market for over 30 years and have been integral in the Winter Farmer's Market as well. This event is limited to 25 attendees so we ask you to limit your guests to one. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/snug-haven-farm-tour-tickets-524640753617>

March 13 Tuesday 3-4:30pm The MAMGA Board meets at the Extension office for the last time before the election of new members at the Annual Meeting.

March 25 Saturday 8:45am - 2:45pm Columbia County's MGVs are sponsoring this educational event at the Rio High School. The keynote is Alec LePoidevin speaking on Edible Landscaping. See the list of sessions at the registration website. [Registration](#) is \$20 in advance, \$30 on the day of the program.

April 1 Saturday 1 – 2:30pm Rodney Denu talks about Roadside Vegetable Stands at the West Ag Research Station, 8502 Mineral Point Road. Rodney will walk us through all the intricacies of running a roadside veggie stand. He owned Brookside Gardens in Mazomanie. [Register here](#)

April 4 12:30 – 2pm Green Thumb Tuesday meets at the Breakwater Restaurant, 6308 Inland Way, Monona, just off Bridge Road where it crosses the Yahara River. We have a separate room for our group. Let Dana Warren know if you plan to attend or just turn up. dwarren1943@gmail.com or djwarren5703@hotmail.com

April 5 3 – 5pm Wednesday Dedication of the mural at the Lussier Family Heritage Center Local artist Sonya Sankaran created a 400 sq. ft. depiction of wetlands and prairie plants at the site of MAMGA's signature project. Stop by and see it.

April 21 9 to 11am Friday MAMGA Signature Project at the Lussier Family Heritage Center. Weather permitting, we'll begin another fun season of prairie plants, weeds and water on the first and third Fridays. We'll be expanding the areas planted with native plants and continue attacking wild parsnip and thistles. Check for weather cancellation by calling Percy Mather at 608 233-1955 or 520-4364. Tools are provided on-site. Wear comfortable clothing appropriate for the weather

April 22 Saturday 8:30 am – noon MAMGA Annual Membership meeting at the Goodman Center Brassworks building, 214 Waubesa Street. Register on [the MAMGA website](#). Pastries, coffee, election of Board members, silent auction, and speaker Dr. Stanley Temple.

Take advantage of gardening magazines at your local library

by Mary Davidson

Do you enjoy reading magazines? They can provide rest for the body & stimulation for the mind- with very little time commitment! Certainly going to the library to pick up gardening magazines is a good option, but so is checking out a digital copy. Did you know our Dane County libraries carry digital subscriptions via the Libby app? And not only are they focused on US gardeners, but there are quite a number that are written by Australian, UK and European gardeners, thus providing an interesting perspective different from what we see in our US titles. While I started jotting down titles on a 3x3" post it, I found I couldn't write small

enough to contain all the titles I wanted to check out! (Speaking of checking out - the loan period for these titles is 3 weeks, there is no waiting, and all you need is a valid library card.)

There are a few general titles I found, which are probably familiar to you: Garden Gate, Horticulture, and Modern Gardens. Hopefully Fine Gardening will be available at some point. If you're a backyard railroad enthusiast, there's Garden Railway and Garden Rail. Good Organic Gardening, ABC Organic Gardener Magazine, and the classic Mother Earth News are in the lineup for reliable tips, recipes, and advice from organic gardening experts. For more international content, try Kitchen Garden, BBC Gardeners World, English Garden, Gardens Illustrated, Garden Answers (all UK), Gardening Australia and The Gardener (South Africa). I also found international titles for home decor and gardens, similar to Better Homes and Gardens. Talk about gorgeous photographs, wow! Newly added titles cover topics of houseplants (Your Happy Houseplants) and landscaping (Landscape and Urban Design). There's something for all enthusiasts.

Finding the Libby app - If using the Libby app is new to you, start by going to [the Central Library](#) or your local library's website, and look for the plum colored icon "Libby. Borrow ebooks and audiobooks," or "Audiobooks," or "Wisconsin's Digital Library," or "Library @ Home." Every library describes their digital collections differently. Sign in by selecting the name of your library system (for Dane County residents - it's the South Central Library System), then enter your full library barcode number (14 digits long). You can search and read magazines on your phone, tablet or computer. I'd suggest downloading the app if you're using your mobile device.

Searching tips - Enter any of the titles above, or search by the subject "gardens" or "gardening" and filter by the format "magazines." Some of the magazines are published regularly, while some are special editions (one issue, or quarterly). Call your local library to get more advice on search techniques in Libby. They can guide you through the process if you get stuck. They're the information specialists when it comes to digital resources. And now that I have 4 new gardening issues to read, I'm heading for my comfy chair with a cup of tea.

We need donations for MAMGA's Silent Auction at the Annual Meeting

As you are Spring cleaning, look for items with gardening interest that you may have grown tired of yet would be valuable to a fellow gardener. These items, as well as newly purchased or newly made will be accepted for the Silent Auction at our Annual Meeting.

What are we looking for?

- Items should be of interest to gardeners
- Store bought or handmade
- Functional or decorative or both
- Gardening books, art, tools, etc.

Saturday April 22, 2023 Goodman Community Center—Brassworks from 8:30 am to noon.
The auction starts at 8:30. Payment by check or cash please.

The proceeds will be used for MAMGA grants to community gardens.

To donate, please contact:

(east side) Ritchie Rheaume, krheaume@charter.net, 608-347-1647

(west side) Diane Tabak, Itaba@aol.com, 608-692-0887

Items will be collected until April 15.

What I'm Reading

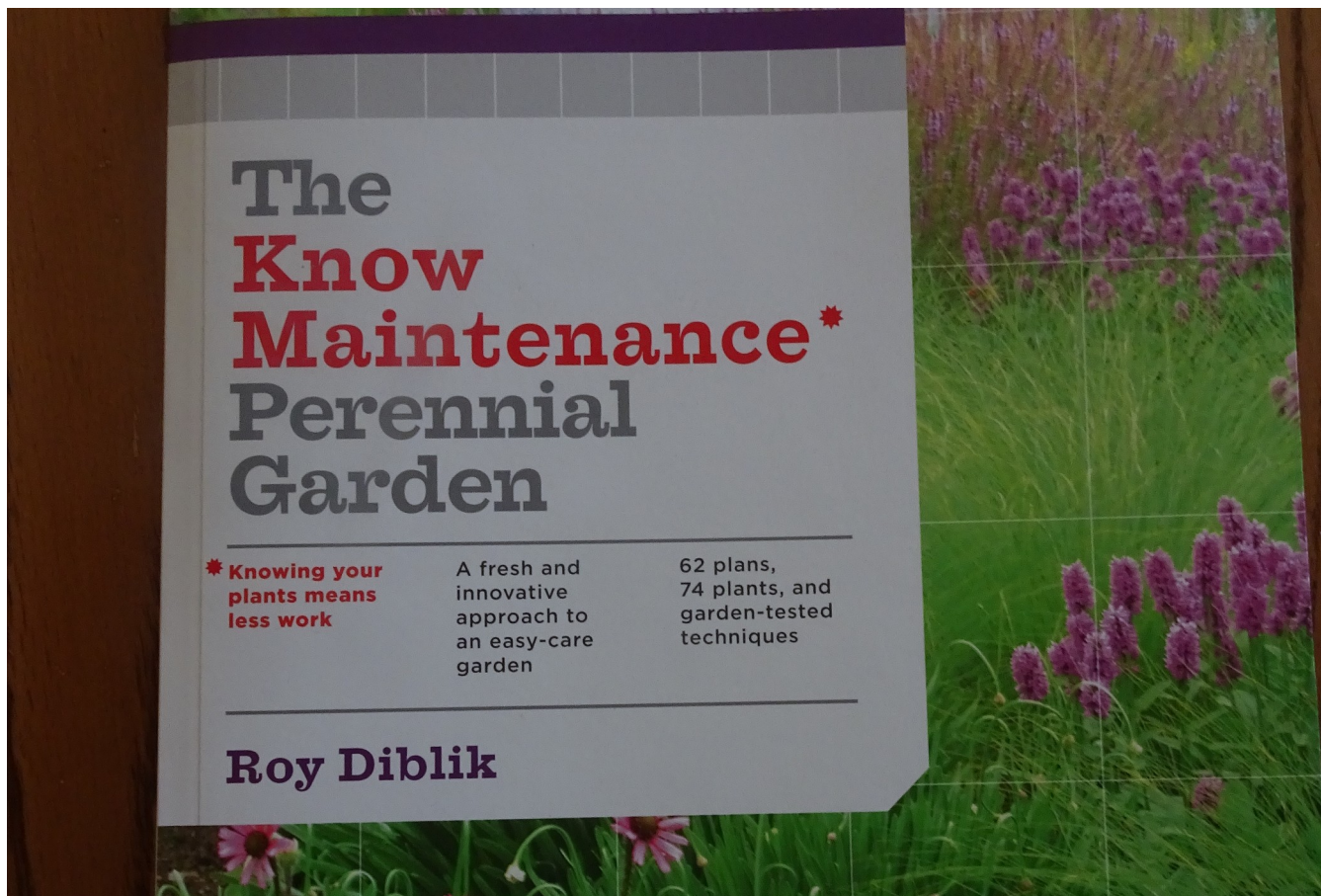
by Dennis Tande

The Know Maintenance* Perennial Garden by Roy Diblik

*Knowing your plants means less work. Filled with stunning photographs, this book is definitely a must read. His chapters include - understanding your garden, understanding plants, site preparation, care and maintenance and specific plans. He describes the flower, foliage, height, bloom time, growing conditions for 81 varieties.

There are 21 site plans for sun including Essence of Piet Oudolf and the High Line. There are 9 shade designs including Kinetic Textures and Moments of Color.

The book ends with photos and portraits of 9 outstanding gardeners, including our own Jeff Epping of Olbrich. The book is available at the Madison Public Library.



Seasonal Employment

A **variety of jobs** are listed on the Rooted website at: <https://www.rootedwi.org/engage-with-us/careers/>

Middleton Garden

Hi, my name is Alina Arefeva and I am looking for help with my home garden in Middleton close to the bus stop from approximately mid-February to September/October.

We need help with removing weeds (we can send you the names of typical ones we have) and general maintenance (fertilizing, pruning roses, deadheading, mowing the lawn and trimming the edges, etc.). Depending on when this ad is distributed, we may need help with putting a protected layer of carton boxes and mulch on some of the beds. We are envisioning one 3-hour visit per week on Friday or Sunday morning (for example, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm) that we will pay \$80 dollars for + \$5-10 tips if the work is done very well. As we go, we may need to cancel or reschedule those days when the rain makes yardwork difficult or when we have scheduling conflicts.

If you are interested, please email me at aarefevak@gmail.com with your full name and whether the proposed time works for you; if not, let us know what time would work. Although t

Volunteer Opportunities

Our Sandburg Elementary students and teachers would love an extra hand this fall with our 3 Sisters (plus sunflowers) garden. Specifically, we are looking for support using and processing our sunflowers and corn. We are thinking of making tea, roasting seeds, planting microgreens, drying and saving stalks from the sunflowers, and drying, saving and cooking with our corn. Later on, we can also use help clearing out our 4 x 16 ft garden bed and preparing it for the winter. Our school day is from 9 to 4 and late afternoons often work well, but we can be flexible if you have some time and skills to share. Contact: Sarah Ann Thomas Sandburg Elementary School 4114 Donald Dr, Madison, WI 53704 sathomas@madison.k12.wi.us (608) 561-3441

(V) Two projects at the Fitchburg Public Library located at 5530 Lacy Road.

(1) Develop & maintain a raised bed pollinator garden on the library's south facing patio. Two library staff have gardening experience but we need help assessing the soil condition and determining the best plants for this bed. This planter has sun exposure all day long and direct water access.

(2) Collaborate with a master gardener to develop children's programming related to the pollinator garden. Please contact: Outreach Librarian Minda Maurer at minda.maurer@fitchburgwi.gov or (608) 729-1791 for more information.

Volunteer Help Needed for April Garden Cleanup

I am one of the AmeriCorp farm to school specialists for the Oregon School District for the 2022-2023 academic year. My fellow farm to school specialist, Rebekah and I are interested in hosting a garden clean up day in April at some of the school gardens in the district. We thought an event like this would be a great way to celebrate Earth Day.

I thought it may be fun to ask master gardeners to volunteer to help with the garden clean up day and potentially give a short education lesson to students about gardening.

Michelle Naragon, MS, RD
OSD Farm to School Specialist,
Oregon School District,
123 East Grove, Oregon, WI, 53575
manaragon@oregonsd.net



Volunteers Needed!



AmeriCorps Farm to School Specialists at Oregon School District would like your help! We are looking for assistance with the following: garden clean-up and seedling planting. Tentative dates are the end of April into early May, exact dates and times are to be determined by the weather and number of volunteers.

Activities would include:

- Preparing garden beds for planting
- Setting up raised bed platforms in storage
- Educating multilingual student garden leaders on gardening basics
- Assisting in planting seeds and seedlings

If you are interested in volunteering in any of the activities mentioned, please contact one of the Farm to School specialists using the contact details below.

- Rebekah Herring, email: rjherring@oregonsd.net
- Michelle Naragon, email: manaragon@oregonsd.net





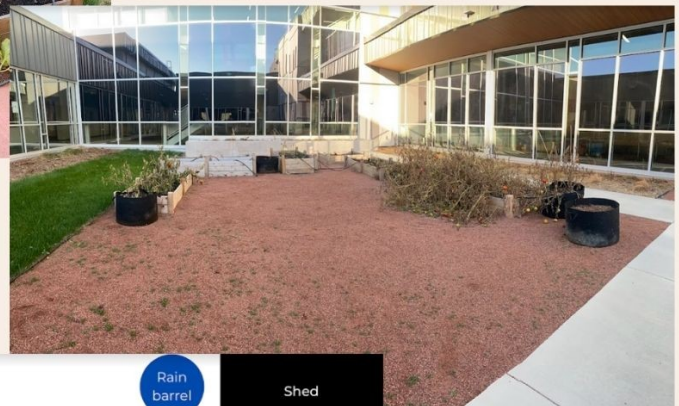
Garden Space:



Pictured below are photos of the garden that requires assistance. AmeriCorps Farm-to-School Specialists are planning to reposition garden beds as shown in the diagram below.



(Current garden set up)



(Future garden set up)

