



MAMGA Newsletter

April 2023

In this issue:

President's Column pp. 1-2

Plant sale & Greenhouse pp. 5-7

New Board members pp. 2-4

Calendar of Events pp. 7-8

President's Column by Ed Meachen

We didn't come close to the highest turnout for the annual meeting, but we had an outstanding meeting nonetheless. It was much later in the year and happened to fall on Earth Day. Fittingly our speaker, Stanley Temple, delivered an Earth Day talk on Aldo Leopold, Phenology, and Climate Change. Dr. Temple provided the keynote talk on phenology ten years ago at the MAMGA annual meeting, but this year's talk seemed more focused on Aldo Leopold's work studying the interaction of weather, plants, birds and insects and how his meticulous daily

journal might lead to better predictive analysis for successful crops and gardens here in Wisconsin.

We also had a very impressive silent auction—some great garden related items were up for purchase. Our logoed clothing sold very well, and hopefully master gardeners found some new places to volunteer after talking with some of the Dane County not-for-profit organizations that are looking for garden help. Our four new board members are Alyska Bailey, Emigh Cannaday, Nancy Kieraldo, and Mary Davidson. I believe this will be a very strong board in 2023.

Best of all, it was a lousy weather day outside. Small ice pellets, followed by on and off snow showers made the inside program at the Brassworks very inviting. The Goodman Brassworks is a tailor-made venue for groups such as ours. I'm hoping we will be able to rent that space again for next year's annual meeting.

Spring has finally arrived. I see asparagus, rhubarb, and peonies poking up, with the usual suspects that defy cold nights. Happy gardening!!!

New MAMGA Board Members

One of the tasks at the annual membership meeting is to elect members of MAMGA's governing board. We had candidates for all the open seats so members acclaimed them in a single vote.

Alyska Bailey

She / They/ Their

Specialist in Tangents, Trivia, and Weirdnesses alyska@gmail.com

Alyska hails from a long line of farmers and teachers, and has spent many many hours over the years observing their environment and asking questions; seeking and sharing information; and helping others do the same (not afraid to get their hands dirty in the process!) A lot of that experience has taught them that more accessible and inclusive approaches or solutions to the obstacles they encounter tend to be the most successful and sustainable as well.

They view the world as a complex, living (eco)system, and utilize a holistic, systems-based approach, applying it to everything from gardening and horticulture to everyday interpersonal relationships. Alyska certified as a Master Gardener in 2019, and a Wisconsin Master Naturalist in 2021.

Since then, in addition to their non-plant-related interests, they've served via the Dane County Extension Teaching Garden; Master Gardener Plant Sale Committee; Hammersley Park Community & Food Pantry Garden; UW-Extension Horticulture Helpline & Plant Health Advisors; and Dane County Parks Department.

By choosing to operate from a place of peer-learning, partnership, and reciprocity, focused

on developing interdependence and community, Alyska has been able to create a greater sense of both stewardship and fellowship in the groups she's worked with -- a regenerative method that seeks to heal and repair ecosystems while at the same time producing beneficial yields.

In joining the MAMGA board, Alyska hopes to be of greater service to more people, to create a more just and sustainable world for those alive today as well as those of future generations; to be a good neighbor, and good ancestor to their descendants. Here's to cultivating understanding and building community through collaborative effort. Meeting people where they're at, so we can help each other grow!



Photo provided by Alyska

Mary Davidson

Mary will be MAMGA's treasurer taking over from Art De Smet who held the office for eight years.



Photo by Percy Mather

Sign up to Volunteer for 2023 Master Gardener Plant Sale

The Dane County Master Gardener Plant Sale will be held on Sunday, May 21st from 11 am to 3 pm at the Dane County Extension Office parking lot at 5201 Fen Oak Drive. The sale will include hundreds of perennials for shade or sun, vegetable, herb and annual flower starts, house plants and more! Follow us on Facebook for updates on the sale <https://www.facebook.com/uwexteachinggarden/> .

A week before the sale you can access our 2023 Plant Sale Inventory on the plant sale web page <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/horticulture/plant-sale>. Please share the link to our plant sale web page with your friends.

If you don't have jumping worms in your yard, we hope you will consider donating perennials or hosting a "dig". For a list of desired perennials and those we cannot accept, please email Karen Allenstein at kallenstein@charter.net. You can also contribute vegetables, herbs, annual flowers started in pots, and house plants. For all contributions, please inform Karen of the varieties you plan to contribute as soon as possible.

If you are interested in helping dig up, pot and label perennials for the plant sale or working at the Plant Sale, please email Karen. She will send you an e-mail invitation from www.signup.com. We already have over 300 perennials potted and labeled for the sale! Don't forget, your hours spent in these activities count towards your volunteer service requirements for this year. If you have any questions on how to contribute plants for this event, feel free to contact Karen. Thanks for all your support!

MAMGA Support for the Teaching Garden

4/18/23

Lisa Johnson
Horticulture Educator

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Dept. of Extension
Lyman Anderson Ag. & Conservation Ctr
5201 Fen Oak Dr., Ste. 138
Madison, Wisconsin 53718-8812

608-224-3715 phone
608-224-3727 fax
johnson.lisa@countyofdane.com

To: Madison Area Master Gardeners Association

Dear MAMGA Board members,

I am writing to express my deep gratitude for your generous donation of \$500 toward our Teaching Garden. You have been a longtime supporter, and your gifts have been very much appreciated.

Especially, I would like to recognize your critical support for the greenhouse; it helped bring the project from a proposal to reality. Now that we do have it, there are expenses associated with new

areas to mulch, contour with soil, populate with shrubs and trees as required by the City, and then there's the cold frames we intend to build around the outside to accommodate hardening off plants for the sale and Garden. So with that in mind, thank you again for helping us to fund these great projects!

Sincerely,

Lisa Ann Johnson

Lisa Ann Johnson, Horticulture Educator
Dane County Extension

New Name Badges

Current participants in the Master Gardener program need new name badges. Applications for 2023 must be submitted by May 15. New badges will be issued annually, so if the May 15 deadline is missed, the next batch won't be issued until 2024.

To get your new name badge, you must:

- **Accept Terms and Conditions in the Online Reporting System (ORS).**
- **Verify your contact information** in the ORS.
- **Enter Your Preferred or Chosen first name**, which will be used on the name badge

See the April issue (emailed on 4/12) of the Volunteer Vibe for more information

MAMGA's Signature Project Continues at Lussier

MAMGA members and volunteers with Dane County Parks will begin their Friday morning workdays from 9:30am to noon starting on May 19th. In addition to removing invasive plants such as parsnip, thistle, burdock, birds' foot trefoil, honeysuckle, etc., we will be planting hundreds of seedlings. We have plants ordered from the Plant Dane program that will arrive on May 24th. We expect hundreds of additional plants in June and we will be working through the fall.

Teaching Garden Greenhouse is Officially Opened

On Tuesday April 25 the Dane County Executive, Joe Parisi, and several supervisors joined Extension personnel and a few dozen master gardeners in a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the Dane County Master Gardener Greenhouse. A donor recognition plaque installed on the front of the greenhouse will be showcased, and the greenhouse will be open for all to admire. The event was held in front of the greenhouse which is filled with annuals for the May 21 plant sale.



Calendar of Events

May 15 Deadline for applying for a new master gardener name tag.

May 17 10AM Lynden Sculpture Tour, Lynden Sculpture Gardens, River Hills, WI. Come tour the amazing grounds of the Bradley family with over 70 sculptures along with a spectacular Bonsai exhibit. Register early. This docent led event is limited to 35 attendees. Lunch will follow in Brown Deer. Admission is \$15; lunch is not included. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lynden-sculpture-garden-tour-tickets-597389115927>

May 19 9:30am Lussier Family Heritage prairie workday at 3101 Lake Farm Road. Tools, rest rooms, and water provided. Workday is canceled in case of stormy weather. For more information, email percy.mather@gmail.com

May 20 10 AM. Mail Order Plant Shopping. Oakwood Village West Auditorium. Working together, MAMGA and the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society are pleased to bring our memberships a live presentation by Ed Lyon, which will highlight how to simplify the process of

purchasing plants online. This event will not be recorded. Register here:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mail-order-plant-shopping-tickets-567039810337>

May 21 11am – 3pm Plant Sale at the Greenhouse & Extension parking lot. Bring a friend and come shop for annuals and perennials.

May 24 6 – 8pm Lussier Family Heritage prairie workday at 3101 Lake Farm Road. Tools, rest rooms, and water provided. We will be planting seedlings. Bring knee pads if you have them. For more information, email percy.mather@gmail.com

May 31 10 AM. Foraging for health, nourishment and fun! Moonwise Herbs, Stoughton WI. Join 30-year veteran herbalist and forager Linda Conroy for a walk on the wild side. We will learn about wild plants that can be used for food and medicine <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/foraging-for-health-nourishment-and-fun-tickets-597400048627>. \$7 registration fee. Lunch to follow in Stoughton. To register follow this link: . This event is limited to 20.

June 3 9:30am Lussier Family Heritage prairie workday at 3101 Lake Farm Road. Tools, rest rooms, and water provided. Workday is canceled in case of stormy weather. For more information, email percy.mather@gmail.com

June 28 10 AM. Tour of New Life Lavender and Cherry Farm, Baraboo. Lunch following at Driftless Glen Distillery. Limited to 55 attendees. \$20 fee for the tour; lunch not included. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tour-of-new-life-lavender-farm-tickets-623376946227>

Volunteer Opportunities

Sandburg Elementary School has a 4 x 16 foot 3 Sisters Garden of Ho-Chunk corn, squash and beans. Our curious students use it in conjunction with our science and social studies lessons, but teachers are stretched extremely thin these days, so we could use help on a few days this May and June to: plant with students, weed and water. The times could be flexible during the school day. It's a lot of fun!

During the summer, we need help with maintenance and watering since there are no students here. We also have some native prairie plants and flower beds in the front of the building that need some care, knowledge and maintenance this spring and or summer. See attached photos, and contact Sarah Thomas at 608-843-7263 if you have any skills or time to donate. We would be eternally grateful!

Sarah Ann Thomas she/her/ella
Maestra de segundo grado doble inmersión
Second Grade DLI Teacher

Sandburg Elementary School
4114 Donald Dr,
Madison, WI 53704
sathomas@madison.k12.wi.us
(608) 561-3441