



# MAMGA Newsletter

## May 2021



Seedlings  
ready for transplanting

Photo by Lisa Seidman

In this issue: President's Column / MGV Plant Sale May 23/ MAMGA Events / Opportunities for Continuing Education/ Plans for the Lussier Prairie Signature Project

## The President's Column

Ed Meachen

We are all busy with our own gardens as we head into May. I've always found it very difficult to do much volunteering in May because of the amount of work I have to do to get my gardens in shape for summer. But in addition to all the volunteer work needed by Extension and public gardens right now, there are two major projects I'd like you to consider for the hours you have left over after attending to your own gardens.

The first is the prairie restoration project by the Lussier Center at Lake Farm Park, MAMGA's signature project. The project is set for a very busy May and June. We need volunteers to help us plant a second pollinator garden (the first pollinator garden was planted two years ago) next to the prairie restoration. The plants for this second garden will be arriving on May 19. I volunteered to help with the planting in the first garden. In addition to the fun work of planting I learned a lot about pollinator plants. We also need volunteer help in the prairie. There are a lot of weeds and invasive grasses to remove, and then a lot of prairie plants to plant. MAMGA received an \$840 grant from Dane County Environmental Council to purchase prairie plants to supplement those Dane County Parks has procured. We need volunteers on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>, and June 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> between 9:30 am and noon. If any of those dates work for you, please contact Percy Mather at [percy.mather@gmail.com](mailto:percy.mather@gmail.com). This project has been approved for volunteer hours by UW-Madison Extension.

[Note: Gardeners can bring their own gloves, a hat, long sleeved shirt, water, kneeling pad and favorite planting tools, although we do have equipment on-site as well. We expect to have access to restrooms.]

The second project is the greenhouse construction for the Teaching Garden at UW Extension Dane County. There is an unexpected \$10,000 shortfall for this project. Had we not experienced the Covid Pandemic the greenhouse would already be built, but now it cannot move ahead without this additional funding. We anticipate getting half that money through a successful MAMGA plant sale on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please consider donating extra perennials you may have (free of jumping worms) for this sale. By all means do some purchasing at the sale. Contact Karen Allenstein at [kallenstein@charter.net](mailto:kallenstein@charter.net) or Lisa Johnson at [Johnson.lisa@countyofdane.com](mailto:Johnson.lisa@countyofdane.com) for information about helping with the plant sale, donating plants, or questions about purchasing plants. More details are in this newsletter.

Thanks for any help you can provide for these important projects!

## Please sign up for 2021 MGV Plant Sale Volunteer Activities!

Karen Allenstein

Mark your calendars for the Master Gardener Plant Sale on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> 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. **Note:** this year we will not be offering vegetable & herb starts, or annual flowers. Proceeds are used to support the Teaching Garden. Due to COVID, we will be making some changes to the plant sale format. We will not be advertising to the general public. Our invitations will go to MGVs, garden clubs, plant societies, Extension office staff, past plant sale customers and those who follow us on Facebook. MGVs are welcome to extend invitations to their friends and family. Only adults may attend. [Editor's note: Sorry, kids!]

We will be following UW Extension program COVID guidelines which include:

- All attendees and volunteers working the sale must wear masks and socially distance
- Plant varieties will be placed in rows 6 feet apart, and customers will be asked to move through the sale area in one direction
- Attendees will be required to provide their name and phone number to facilitate contact tracing should it become necessary
- Restroom access will not be available
- If you are experiencing any COVID symptoms or have been in contact with anyone with COVID 14 days prior to the sale, you should not attend

Find Plant Sale updates on [www.facebook.com/uwextteachinggarden/](https://www.facebook.com/uwextteachinggarden/), including any changes to the Plant Sale format due to the pandemic. Information on our COVID will be posted on the Teaching Garden web page <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/horticulture/teaching-garden/>, in addition to a listing of plant varieties for sale (available by mid-May).

Jumping worms continue to be a concern for gardeners, and we want to assure you that we are taking several steps to protect plants that are dug up and donated for our plant sale. We hope you will consider donating plants, or hosting a "dig". Email Karen Allenstein [kallenstein@charter.net](mailto:kallenstein@charter.net) for more information on how to contribute plants, including our plant dig protocols and list of desirable and undesirable plants. We are estimating that we will need at over 1000 plants in order to meet our revenue goal.

You can also support the plant sale by participating in plant digs, potting and labeling plants, setting up for the sale, working the sale, etc. We're using SignUp.com to organize our activities leading up to the Plant Sale. Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. **Click this link** to go to our invitation page on SignUp.com: <https://signup.com/login/entry/6669916494928000114>
2. **Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on SignUp.com)
3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots - SignUp.com will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually. Thanks for all your support!

## MAMGA Events

>May 4 Tuesday Green Thumb Tuesday via Zoom 12:30 to 2pm

Jan Blakeslee has an interesting topic about why we became active in gardening, gardening education, our decision to become Master Gardeners and the new Onboarding process to become MG's. This is a difficult topic to come up with questions for polling but she's working on the questions. If you haven't joined the group before, email [tipandskip1@gmail.com](mailto:tipandskip1@gmail.com) to receive an invitation.

>May 7 Friday 9:30am – noon Lussier prairie work day If the weather looks threatening, check by calling 233-1955.

>May 10 Monday 4 - 6pm MAMGA Board Meeting via Zoom May 10 Monday 4 – 6pm Contact Ed Meachen [willismeachen@gmail.com](mailto:willismeachen@gmail.com) to be included

>May 18 Tuesday 7pm via Zoom Virtual Tour of UW Madison's Lakeshore Nature Preserve conducted by Bryn Scrivner, Lakeshore Nature Preserve Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator Reserve your spot via [Eventbrite](#) Registration closes on Monday May 17th at noon. All registrants will be sent a Zoom link soon thereafter.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve is a 300-acre natural area situated on the south shore of Lake Mendota on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. It represents about one-third of the total acreage of the main UW-Madison campus and includes 4.3 miles of Lake Mendota shoreline.

The famed Lakeshore Path extends the full 4.3 miles along the Lake Mendota shoreline from the Limnology Lab, near the Memorial Union, to Wally Bauman Woods, next to the Village of Shorewood Hills, via Picnic Point, a peninsula that juts nearly a mile into the lake.

The beauty of the UW-Madison campus is renowned world-wide. Much of what makes the university so distinctive is its relationship to Lake Mendota, which means that the Lakeshore Nature Preserve is responsible for preserving some of the most celebrated features of the campus. It is the physical connecting link from the campus to the lake. Part of the mission of the Preserve is to serve as a living classroom laboratory for the teaching and research needs of the UW-Madison as well as a place for campus and community members alike to explore nature on the UW-Madison campus. This event is strictly for MAMGA members and their guests.

>May 19 Wednesday Pick up plants at Agrecol and deliver to the Lussier prairie  
>May 21 Friday 9:30am – noon Lussier prairie work day If the weather looks threatening, check by calling 233-1955.

> May 23 Sunday 11am to 3pm Dane County Master Gardener Plant Sale

## Continuing Education Opportunities

from Lisa Johnson:

>Testing, Amending, and Managing Gardens for Soil Health  
Tuesday, May 18 6:00-7:00 p.m. (CST)

Join Dr. Doug Soldat from the Department of Soil Science at UW-Madison to learn how you can create and maintain healthy soil in your landscape and gardens. You will learn how to conduct a soil test and interpret the results. We will also discuss various amendments to improve your soils for greater gardening success! This event is free, but registration is required. Please use the following link to register: <https://go.wisc.edu/461n76> . This is hosted by Julie Hill, UW-Madison Division of Extension Horticulture Outreach Specialist for Rock and Walworth counties. Questions about this event can be directed to Julie at [julie.hill@wisc.edu](mailto:julie.hill@wisc.edu)

## Plans for the Lussier Prairie Signature Project

The map on page 6 shows the pollinator garden on the left and area P1 as well as the new plantings: (1) addition of a second pollinator garden south of the existing one; (2) creation of a sensory garden next to the playground equipment where children will be encouraged to interact with the plantings; (3) planting areas P2 and P3 with native prairie plants. P2 is 40 ft by 130 and P3 is 140 ft by 80 ft. The areas labelled S1 and N will be seeded next year after being burned or treated with herbicide by Dane County staff.

Area P1 has been planted in 2019 and 2020 without the benefit of burning or herbicide pretreatment. Many plants have established themselves and created a stunning display despite having to compete with the established grasses. Volunteers continue working on area P1 to remove invasive plants such as wild parsnip, thistle, yellowcress, Queen Anne's lace, bird's foot trefoil, reed canary grass, and other undesirables.

