

MAMGA Newsletter

May 2022



Photo by Lisa Seidman
Yellow Pitcher Plant – North Carolina

More info at: https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/sarracenia_flava.shtml

In this issue:

Green Light for the Greenhouse! p. 2

Plant Sale May 22 p. 2

Calendar Events pp. 2-3

Employment & Volunteer Opportunities pp. 3-4

Signature Project Update pp. 4-5

Board Project Updates p. 5

Green Light for the Greenhouse!

Thanks to generous MAMGA master gardeners and friends, the ten percent contingency fund requirement, the most recent challenge to building the Teaching Garden greenhouse, has been met. What a fantastic achievement for a determined band of gardeners, undeterred by COVID, price increases, lack of project bidders, supply chain problems, etc. Many, many heartfelt thanks to all who donated to this project and refused to give up the dream of having a greenhouse!

Plant Sale on Sunday May 22 11am – 3pm

For one more way to support the greenhouse, plan to attend the Dane County Master Gardener Plant Sale at the Dane County/UW Extension Office parking lot, 5201 Fen Oak Drive. The sale will include hundreds of perennials for shade or sun, vegetable & herb 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 a list of plants we will be selling on our website at <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/horticulture/plant-sale>.

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 following the [Plant Contribution guidelines](#) or hosting a “dig”. You can donate plants from your garden or contribute vegetables, herbs or annuals started in pots. The guidelines include information on plants that we desire for the sale, and those we can not accept. In particular we had a high demand for shade plants last year.

If you can contribute plants for the Plant Sale please email Karen Allenstein at kallenstein@charter.net. If you are interested in volunteering for Plant Sale workdays, here is the link to signup.com, where we manage signups for all Plant Sale volunteer activities: <https://signup.com/go/wsynmve>. 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, please email Karen Allenstein at kallenstein@charter.net. We would also appreciate if you could share the [Plant Sale Flyer](#) with your gardening friends.

Thanks for all your support!

Calendar Events

May 3 Green Thumb Tuesday continues in its face-to-face format starting at 12:30 at Monona Garden restaurant, 6501 Bridge Road. June 7 is the day for the next month.

May 6 Friday Lussier Prairie Workday 9 – 11 am Call 608 233-1955 to check for last minute changes due to the variability of the weather. Meet at the Lussier building. Dress for the weather. Tools will be provided. Contact percy.mather@gmail.com with any questions. We will continue to remove invasives.

May 7 Saturday 10am – 1pm Family Gardening Day on the UW campus. Look for more info at: <https://science.wisc.edu/family-gardening-day/>

May 10 Tuesday 12 noon Webinar on Best Practices for Watering Gardens Free Webinar. Register at: <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/events/webinars-for-wi-gardeners-2/>

May 12 Thursday 1pm Lilac Tour UW Arboretum led by David Stevens Director of Longenecker Horticultural Gardens. May 12 1 PM. Attendance limited to 25. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/uw-arboretum-lilac-tour-tickets-310536381677>

May 16 Monday 4 - 6pm MAMGA Board Meeting Board members will be notified of the meeting format. This is the correct date; the date given in the April newsletter was incorrect.

May 18 Wednesday 12 noon Webinar Strategies for Identifying Insect Pests Register at: <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/events/webinars-for-wi-gardeners-2/>

May 21 Saturday 10am – noon Lussier prairie plants arrive for planting, 3101 Lake Farm Road. Bring knee pads if you have them. Other tools provided.

May 22 Sunday 2022 Plant Sale 11am – 3pm 5201 Fen Oak Court Do your plant shopping and support the Teaching Garden at the same time. Bring along a gardening friend.

May 25 Monday 6pm Tree ID Workshop at the UW Arboretum led by certified arborist Briana Frank. Attendance limited to 25. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tree-id-workshop-tickets-310547274257>

May 31 Tuesday 12 noon Webinar Strategies for Plant Diseases Register at: <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/events/webinars-for-wi-gardeners-2/> Free.

June 8 Wednesday Boerner Botanical Gardens, lunch, and Eberts Nursery. Limit 20. Tour begins at 10 AM. Meet at UW-Ext at 8:15 if you would like to car pool or caravan together. Sign up at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/boerner-botanical-lunch-eberts-nursery-tickets-331134932497> Entrance to Boerner is \$10.50 and lunch is on your own. Ignore Eventbrite when it says "Free".

June 11 Saturday 10am – 1pm Faville Grove Tour and lunch. Limit 20. A Wildlife sanctuary managed by the Madison Audubon near Lake Mills and previously served as a research site for Aldo Leopold. Lunch at Oakstone Recreational in Cottage Grove. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/faville-grove-tour-and-lunch-tickets-331163407667>

Employment (\$) and volunteer (V) opportunities are listed on the MAMGA website under [Resources](#). MAMGA lists that information as a courtesy to our local organizations,

businesses & employers. Feel free to pass this information to anyone who might be interested in employment or volunteering.

(S) Blair Street Gardens Committee, Inc. is looking for a person to maintain the gardens at "Wilson Green" for the season. Wilson Green is located on the 400 block of E. Wilson Street across from Come Back Inn in downtown Madison. It consists of a raised perennial bed and perimeter beds of evergreens. Photos are available at <https://www.blairstreetgardens.org/gardens.html> Duties include: litter pickup, weeding the perennial and perimeter beds, pruning all beds, and mulching all beds. (litter can be disposed of in nearby trash can; weeds etc. can be piled on the berm; the City provides the mulch). Duties are on an as needed basis. BSG prefers to pay a lump-sum for these services. If interested, please email info@blairstreetgardens.org to schedule a site visit so an estimate of time and thus cost can be determined. <https://www.facebook.com/Blair-Street-Gardens-360721230674519/?fref=ts>

(V) The Waisman Center is looking for volunteers to maintain an outdoor play area used by children with diverse developmental needs. See [the MAMGA website](#) for more information.

(V) Smith's Crossing Community Garden, located in Sun Prairie, is looking for project volunteers.

We have several possible projects ranging from planting and maintaining our food pantry garden to installing a new watering system. We also have a Permaculture mound that needs planting and maintenance. For more information, see our website at <https://smithscrossingcommunitygarden.godaddysites.com/> or email Ann Schade at ansschd@yahoo.com

MAMGA Signature Project Update

Volunteers met at the Lussier Center on April 29th to remove wild parsnip, an invasive plant whose sap causes painful blisters if it gets on skin in daylight. The active ingredient in the sap is activated by sunlight.

The weather has not cooperated to allow the areas to be burned. The green invasive species would be damaged more than the dormant natives. The photo shows the fresh green growth of a parsnip. Using a modified shovel called a Parsnip



Predator, volunteers jam the blade in the ground to sever the root then rock the handle back to separate the top of the plant from the roots. Then there are the complications of plant identification. The plant shown below is NOT parsnip. It may be a purple-stem angelica, so we will let it grow until we are sure of its identity. Other plants we removed are Queen Anne's lace, dandelions, birdsfoot trefoil and thistles.



The next group workday will be on Saturday May 22 when we'll be planting potted seedlings starting at 10am. Individuals will also be working at the site on their own at other times.

Ongoing Projects

Work continues on the directory and newsletter projects.