

# MAMGA Newsletter

October 2021

Photo by Mary Collet



Eugenia Beecher's Japanese Garden

Photo by Mary Collet

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## President's Message

by Ed Meachen

What's still blooming? At our place its mostly annuals with some asters, some chrysanthemums, a phlox or two, a stray ditch lily, and a rose or two. We have a beautiful stand of snake root—a poisonous weed for most gardeners—but I keep it because the bright white flowers advertise the joy at the end of summer. Between the unusually warm late days

of September and the drought we've experienced at our place south of Madison, greens are being replaced by browns and grays. Any vibrant color is worth keeping. We have a lot of accidental plants. Some of the finest late sunflowers we've ever had are the result of birds' messy feeding habits at our numerous feeders. We quit feeding for about a month when the bird "pandemic" was announced, but we're at it again with the blessing of the Audubon Society, and underneath every feeder is one or more beautiful sunflowers. We have an unusual white rimmed yellow centered sunflower to admire for a few more days.

There's a sadness with the passing of summer, but also a sense of relief. We don't have to water anymore or tend our dozens of pots. And we don't have to mow! We can leave vast stands of perennials—mixed liberally with tall weeds—until the spring for bird food and cover. How many summers do we have left? Few people ask how many winters do we have left? We just go south for a couple weeks in winter if we're lucky. But there is a sweet sorrow in the question of how many summers are left.

Fall brings to mind business for MAMGA. I will send out an email in the first week of October asking you to renew your membership, but if you'd like to renew sooner, please go ahead and renew at <https://www.mamgawi.org/mamga-membership>. We really need all our current members to renew before the end of the year. Because of the changes in the certification process for new MGVs and the COVID pandemic, we had very few new members in 2021. 2022, we hope, will be a much better year. But for gardeners there are wonderful certainties. We will have winter. We will endure. We will have spring. We will rejoice. We will have summer. We will experience joy no matter what else happens. The year will roll forward as ever and I truly hope all of you will be rolling with it!

### **Job Opportunity: Looking to hire a gardener**

I am looking for a gardener to work year 'round for our home/property who could work 10-15 hrs per week from Spring through Fall. Please contact Jane McCormick at 608/217-6934

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## **Calendar Events**

### **October 2 Saturday WIMGA face-to-face meeting in Stevens Point 10am - 3pm**

The September WIMGA newsletter is available [here](#).

**October 5 Tuesday 12:30 pm – 2pm Green Thumb Tuesday** Monona Garden Restaurant, 6501 Bridge Road, Monona. Please contact Dana Warren if you plan to attend. She will contact the restaurant with the number of place settings needed. Dana's phones are 833-5703 and 843-7061. Bring a mask just in case...

**October 20 Wednesday 7 – 8 pm via Zoom.** Elizabeth Koehle, state director of the Nature Conservancy, speaks on the Conservancy's projects in and near Dane County. Register [at Eventbrite](#).

**October 24 Sunday Mandatory 10-digit dialing begins for 608 area code. [More info here.](#)**

**November 2 Tuesday 12:30 pm – 2pm Green Thumb Tuesday** Monona Garden Restaurant, 6501 Bridge Road, Monona. Please contact Dana Warren if you plan to attend. She will contact the restaurant with the number of place settings needed. Dana's phones are 833-5703 and 843-7061. Bring a mask just in case...

**November 7 Daylight Savings Time ends: Fall Back one hour!**

**November 9 Monday 4 – 6pm MAMGA Board Meeting via Zoom**

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### **MAMGA Board Minutes - Draft**

**4:00 September 13, 2021**

**Zoom**

**(EIN 39-1694554)**

**Board Members Present:** Karen Allenstein, Mary Collet, Art De Smet, B'Ann Gabelt, Percy Mather, Ed Meachen, Victoria Robertson, Dennis Tande, Dana Warren **Also Present:** Lisa Johnson **Absent:** Judi Janowski, Sally Kefer

1. **Review of May 10, 2021 Minutes** Moved by Dana Warren and seconded by Victoria Robertson, with the spelling correction of Agrecol. Minutes were approved.
2. **Membership** There are two pathways to MG certification, Foundations in Horticulture, which is open to the public, OR recommended local classes. This is followed by the On-Boarding process and test for certification. Lisa was not allowed to elaborate as directed by the UW Extension staff. Green Thumb classes will start in March 2022. MAMGA membership will not be offered to students while taking the class, but upon completion of On-Boarding. Lisa will provide the list of those who have passed. Students will have 13 weeks to pass the exam, starting in January. There continues to be a pause for new volunteer projects.
3. **By Law Change** A suggested change is to no longer require certification for Board of Directors membership. This will need to be voted on at the February Annual Meeting. B'Ann asked if elimination of the certification will affect our association with WIMGA, since not all of our members are certified.
4. **Nomination Committee** Dana, Art and Mary will serve on the Committee. Art and B'Ann will forward contact information for potential Board members to Dana. Ed and Victoria have agreed to continue.
5. **Program Committee** With one program left in the 2021 schedule, Ed reported 215 attendees, 86 in person. There are 14 programs scheduled for 2022, including three that were postponed from 2021.
6. **Treasurer's Report** Art sent reports prior to the meeting, with the usual expenses. It was recommended that Emily Meier continue her excellent technical support. Ed will propose a more formal agreement with Emily with Art's approval.
7. **Teaching Garden Greenhouse** Lisa and Karen updated us on the current status of the greenhouse and will provide additional information regarding bids, timeline and



funding.

8. **Community Grants** Sally will send a brief report regarding the Community Gardens following this meeting.
9. **Annual Meeting** Currently scheduled for February 26, 2022 at the Brass Works - Goodman Community Center. Catering decisions will be made in January. Proof of Covid vaccination will be discussed as a requirement to attend.
10. **Membership Renewal** Ed will begin the process, using past email templates and time lines. The October newsletter will contain information about 2022 renewals. Emily will need to update the on-line registration.
11. **WIMGA** There is an in-person WIMGA meeting on October 9 in Stevens Point. Victoria tentatively agreed to attend. B'Ann will pass on updates and agenda.
12. **Finance Committee** Meeting postponed because of too many unknowns and difficulty transitioning new members into the position of treasurer.
13. **Next Board meeting** **Monday, November 8, 4:00 by Zoom**
14. **Meeting Adjourned** Moved by Percy, seconded and approved.



## Meet Your Fellow Master Gardener: Eugenia Beecher

by Mary Collet

The word prairie conjures up the countryside and plenty of sun. Eugenia Beecher demonstrates what can be done in the city and with only partial sun. Drawn to naturalizing, she has recently planted a prairie and pollinator garden in her front yard despite shade from a large maple tree. The prairie is situated in a narrow strip of land between the street and sidewalk. On the other side of the sidewalk, the pollinator garden features calendula, milkweed, butterfly weed, and coneflowers.

Eugenia's garden also includes hundreds of cultivars. Undaunted by the shade, she was determined to grow lavender. She planted 'Munstead' and 'Hidcote' varieties where they would receive reflected sunlight from stones and the sidewalk. They took 5 years to establish and are thriving. She is particularly fond of hydrangea and clematis. One impressive hydrangea—*Hydrangea anomala petiolaris*—has made its way high up the trunk of a locust tree.

Autumn clematis was planted over three seasons. The plants are supported by bamboo trellises, which also provide homes for Mason bees. A Japanese maple, sumac and ferns lead the way to an artful waterfall. I was hard-pressed to find any exposed soil. To discourage weeds, flower beds are interspersed with thyme, parsley, and other herbs as well as groundcover. A thyme "nursery" for replenishing the beds is located alongside the house.

As a Master Gardener Volunteer, Eugenia has been involved with the garden at the Theresa Terrace Neighborhood Center (TTNC) since its inception. The garden was started as a health and environment project by the West Side Garden Club, while she was president. Food from the garden is donated to a food bank; more than 300 lb has been donated this season. When the community center was built at Theresa Terrace, Eugenia started a weekly after-school program to involve children in the garden and teach them about gardening and related topics such as foraging and composting. All lessons include hands-on activities. She feels that these activities are particularly important for those children who may be at risk for not caring for the land.

Eugenia credits her love of gardening to her father, who planted ornamentals as well as vegetables. She says that gardening gives her peace and connection with the world.

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## Asiatic Garden Beetle in Dane County

From PJ Liesch, our entomologist:

Just a heads up that I recently confirmed the ID of several specimens of the Asiatic garden beetle (*Maladera formosae*) in the state. The specimens had been found in Middleton (Dane Co.) attracted to lights on a warm/humid evening in late July.

The AGB is a non-native scarab beetle that can be a pest of a wide range of plants, including fruits, vegetables, herbs, field crops, turfgrass, and landscape trees & shrubs. The adults are



foliar & flower feeders that tend to cause damage after dark. The larvae can be pests of vegetables, field crops, ornamentals and turfgrass.

This pest has been in the eastern US since at least the early 1920's (New Jersey) and has been in nearby Illinois and Indiana since 2006. I've seen recent cases from the northern suburbs of Chicago, so it's not terribly surprising to see it pop up in Wisconsin. Just wanted to give everyone a heads up."

Here is a link to more info: <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/asiatic-garden-beetle>

