

MAMGA October 2023 Newsletter



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President's Column by Ed Meachen

With the end of summer I would like to take stock of a challenging year for MAMGA programming. This was some year. We began with a great symposium, *Food Pantry Process Seed to Table*. 30 members attended at Vista West. We used Zoom for Ecological Planting Design with 52 attendees. A group of 12 members went out to Snug Haven Farm in Belleville. 22 members attended the Roadside Veggie Stands at WMARS. Although we only had 53 members our annual meeting at the Goodman Community Center to listen to Stanley Temple's reminiscences of Aldo Leopold and his work on phenology. We had a very lucrative silent auction and an outstanding breakfast. 15 member attended our trip over to the Milwaukee suburbs to walk around on a guided tour of Lyndon Sculpture Garden. Ed Lyon gave a great program on mail order nurseries with 83 people attending at Oakwood West. Linda Conroy explained foraging in Stoughton with 17 members in attendance. The annual Teaching Garden tour and luncheon was a great success with 30 attendees who toured the new greenhouse and participated in a wonderful conversation, especially with new Master Gardener certifiers.

Then the summer devolved into Canadian smoke and 90 degree temperatures. The New Lavender Farm tour in Baraboo attracted 16 very brave members who battled smoke and a very high temperature. The Epic Garden Tour had to be postponed for a month owing to oppressive 90 degree plus temperatures. Its September postponement date went forward in a drought ending rainstorm. But 30 members braved the elements and Jeff Epping gave a great tour in the twilight at Epic Gardens. The Seed Savers tour was canceled when we failed to attract more than just a handful of people. The Prairie Restoration at the International Crane Foundation attracted 20 members at Baraboo. And finally, due to low attendance the Aldo Leopold shack tour was canceled with the promise of another tour in 2024.

I want to thank the Program Committee for their work putting together our MAMGA programs which were exceptional. Next year's programs will be announced in December with the hope that the summer will be kinder, that we will not experience the wild fires' smoke in Canada, and we will not experience the drought and high temperatures of 2023.

MAMGA's Signature Project Lussier Prairie Update by Percy Mather

MAMGA members and volunteers with Dane County Parks wrapped up their work removing invasives for the season on September 29, the last scheduled workday. The focus has been on removal of wild parsnip, Queen Anne's lace, and thistle. The welcome rains of September also caused a sudden pulse of new growth of the parsnips to serve as a reminder that we haven't seen the last of this and other unwelcome plants. However, the timely rains did help many of the seedlings planted this year to survive. It was also thrilling to see colorful blossoms like blue lobelia and the vivid red catch fly scattered here and there, having survived a year of growth.

We've received preliminary news that in 2024 and beyond, the Lussier facility will be developing more environmental education programs, especially for youth, and will become less of a private event venue. The upcoming changes will give MAMGA a chance to clarify its commitment and working relationship with Dane County Parks. Members of the MAMGA Board are working to secure funding to create take-away bookmarks to educate visitors about the Lussier native plants and about how to become a Master Gardener Volunteer. There's a need for discussions on best ways to coordinate the work of MAMGA and volunteers from the public with the facility and educational staff. The Board will consider the topic at its November meeting to help develop a work plan for 2024 and beyond.

Calendar of Events – Watch for an email with renewal information.

October 3, 12:30 – 2pm Green Thumb Tuesday at the Breakwater Restaurant, 6308 Inland Way in Monona just off Broadway. No need to sign up, just stop by.

October 8, Sunday 1 to 4pm Open house at Warwick Way Gardens. The gardens received a MAMGA grant this year. Judy Cardin, from the DNR Bumble Bee Brigade and a member of the Wisconsin Bumble Bee Observers, will speak and have handouts. Stop by to see this area tucked between the Beltline and a bike/ped bridge crossing next to the residential area near the Midvale Avenue exit. The Warwick Way Gardens are located at the corner of Warwick Way and Whenona Drive in southwest Madison.

October 11 Wednesday Lecture on Discovering Wrightscapes: Nature's Forms as Inspiration by Tony Gomez-Phillips. 3 PM. Dane County Extension Office. Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/discovering-wrightscapes-natures-forms-as-inspiration-tickets-698160947187?aff=oddtcreator>

October 19, Thursday 7 – 8:30pm via Zoom Integrated Pest Management for the Home Garden by PJ Liesch. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/integrated-pest-management-for-the-home-garden-tickets-726747309767?aff=oddtcreator> These are the last programs for 2023, but be sure to renew your membership in anticipation of the 2024 programs.

November 7, 12:30 – 2pm Green Thumb Tuesday at the Breakwater Restaurant, 6308 Inland Way in Monona just off Broadway. No need to sign up, just stop by.

November (either 13 or 20) Monday 3pm MAMGA Board meeting Lyman Anderson Building, 5201 Fen Oak Drive, Madison

December 5, 12:30 – 2pm Green Thumb Tuesday at the Breakwater Restaurant, 6308 Inland Way in Monona just off Broadway. No need to sign up, just stop by.

Classes

The Dane County Extension Horticulture Program will offer home and community gardeners classes from September through early November 2023. Classes offer in-depth and engaging gardening information on a variety of topics. From building healthy soil to spring-blooming bulbs to getting the garden ready for winter, this gardening class series will help home gardens thrive. Classes will be held from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday evenings via Zoom and will be recorded.

Thursday October 5: Great Ornamental Grasses for Home Gardens

Thursday October 12: Fall fireworks: Plants for Fall Color

Thursday October 19: Getting the Garden Ready for Winter

Thursday October 26: Shady Characters: Great Perennials for Shade

Thursday November 2: Bright Futures: Great Perennial Plants for Sun

To register, please visit "<https://GTGFall2023.eventbrite.com>."

For more information call Chip Thompson at (608)224-3705.

Sustainable Gardening: Creating a Plant Guild | \$65

MAMGA member Katie Hartman-Grohn is teaching a Sustainable Gardening class at Madison College on Saturday mornings in October / November on how to build a plant guild using permaculture principles. Wouldn't it be neat if a tiny corner of your garden provided plenty of food for you, encouraged pollinators, fed wildlife, looked beautiful, and required almost no work? It's possible! Come learn how to create a plant guild for a space in your backyard or container. We will talk about sustainable design, demystify plant guilds, and design a guild that fits your space. #33561, *Truax-Early Learning Center, 10/28-11/11, Saturday, 10-11:40 AM*

MAMGA Board Minutes - Draft

3:00 September 18, 2023

UW Extension 5201 Fen Oak Dr. Madison, WI (EIN 39-1694554)

Board Members Present: Karen Allenstein, Alyska Bailey, Emigh Cannaday, Mary Davidson, B'Ann Gabelt, Judi Janowski, Ed Meachen, Dennis Tande

Also Present: Art De Smet

Absent: Nancy Kieraldo, Barbara Park, Carol Troyer-Shank

1. **Review of July minutes** Moved by Mary Davidson and seconded by B'Ann Gabelt. Approved.
2. **Treasurer Report** Mary reported no issues. All bills are accounted for, with one uncashed check.
3. **Cyber Security** Art listed a number of issues for the board to consider including board member transitions, access to Square Space and Stripe, MAMGA membership master list, and access to MAMGA emails.
Karen will be the owner/administrator of the membership list in Google sheets and coordinate with Janie and Alyska. She will change the password annually. Board members will have view-only access along with others as needed, such as Program Committee Chair. It was decided to eliminate our web site list of members, even though it was password protected.
Emigh is continuing to work on our email access and setting up an additional email address for the treasurer.
4. **Advertising MG Program** To better advertise MAMGA, Marketing/Communications discussed increasing visibility on a variety of social platforms. We added a new FaceBook Group and an InstaGram account. Art listed Lisa's Extension advertising for MG program and MAMGA. Karen will contact Extension asking what they do to advertise and to whom. The cost of certification is seen as a significant accessibility issue. Lisa has limited funds for her Green Thumb classes, not for Foundations in Gardening. There is a decline in Speakers' Bureau requests. It was suggested we have a MAMGA booth at Farmer's Markets, promoting MAMGA and generating interest in MG certification.
5. **MailChimp** The board voted to upgrade to a paid service, with discounts for annual billing and non-profit status. Art will send Federal non-profit forms to Ed for the upgrade. Ed will contact Janie. Emigh will do tutorials.
6. **New Board Members** There are two strong candidates for 2024 elections. Karen handed out the duties of the President and Secretary that are listed in the By-laws along with additional jobs.
7. **WIMGA Zoom Meeting** Ed reported that most associations reported a drop in membership, with some no longer requiring MG certification to be members. The Extension does not provide names of newly certified MGs.
8. **Next Board meeting** November 20*, 3:00 5201 Fen Oak Drive Madison, WI
9. **Meeting Adjourned** (*Note that the date may change to the 13th)

Time to Renew Your Membership

Don't forget to renew your MAMGA membership now before you get busy with putting your gardens to bed for the winter. With a credit card and device of your choice, you can go online to <https://www.mamgawi.org/mamga-membership> renew your membership(s) and even make an extra donation to MAMGA in a few minutes. MAMGA dues are \$25 and WIMGA dues are \$5. If you prefer, you can mail a check to P.O.Box 259318 Madison, WI 53725-9318



Fall Colors in the Lussier Pollinator Garden

Photos by Percy Mather

The Heritage Oak Project

This project began in 1976 to coincide with the US Bicentennial. A total of 443 oaks more than 200 years old were identified within an 8-mile radius of the Capitol at that time. A new survey is going through the original inventory of the trees that are now nearly 250 years old. The project is led by the Dane County Tree Board, Capital Area Regional Planning Commission, and the UW-Madison's State Cartographer's Office. Visit www.sco.wisc.edu/oaks for more information.

1. You may have a Heritage Oak on your property that is already on Scott's original list. If so, you can help us update the information we have for it.
2. You may know about a Heritage Oak that is **not** in our inventory. If so, you can help us add it to the inventory.
3. Spread the word! Tell your friends and neighbors about our project.
4. Protect your oaks! Not only do these oaks provide environmental and economic benefits to the communities we live in, they are also living, historical artifacts.