

MAMGA Newsletter

October 2022



Fall Colors at the West Ag Research Station prairie
Photo by Percy Mather

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President's Column

by Ed Meachen

I could have used one more month of summer. So many flowers, so many peppers, beans

and green tomatoes. I'm writing this on September 28th with the threat of the first fall frost. It's impossible to cover everything, so I'm being very selective. Plants I mean to bring into the house get the covers; everything else is on its own.

Even though we all have a lot of fall work to do, don't forget to renew your MAMGA membership this fall. You can renew on our website. <https://www.mamgawi.org/mamga-membership> or you can renew by mail.

Our program array is really outstanding for 2023. We have 16 programs, not counting the annual meeting. There are some programs that should interest every gardener. We have trips scheduled to Seed Savers, to the Lyndon Sculpture Garden, to the New Life Lavender farm, to the International Crane Foundation, and to the Aldo Leopold Shack. We will be publishing the complete program list in December.

Finally, please consider serving on the MAMGA board in 2023. At least three of our current board members have decided not to run again next year. We have such a great association, and we have members who have a wealth of history in many different fields. The board has worked hard over the last decade to insure the long term health of MAMGA, and we hope some members will step up to carry on the tradition.

If you have any interest whatever in serving on the board, please contact me at willismeachen@gmail.com and I will talk to you about what's involved in serving on the board.

Calendar Events

Is there interest in restarting Green Thumb Tuesday? We are sad to announce the closing of Monona Garden restaurant where MAMGA members gathered for monthly lunches and discussion. If anyone has another site to suggest as a replacement, let MAMGA know via email to info@mamgawi.org and we'll publish it in the next newsletter or via an email to all members. What format should we follow?

October 11 Tuesday 1 – 2:30pm Helping our Wisconsin Bats Oakwood Village West Our speaker is Sue Johansen-Mayoeth, the DNR naturalist at Devils Lake State Park. Register at [Eventbrite](#). This is the final educational program for 2022. The 2023 Program will be available in December.

October & November are great months to renew your MAMGA membership. Do it now while you are thinking about it and avoid feelings of guilt and extra postage and effort that are needed to remind people in December & January.

November 14 Monday 3 – 4:30pm MAMGA Board Meeting First floor meeting room, 5201 Fen Oak Court, Madison. Anyone interested in joining the Board is encouraged to attend and see what is involved.

December 31 is an Important Deadline (if you want to maintain your MGCV certification! Remember that MGCVs need to report their volunteer (24 hrs) and continuing education hours (10) on the online reporting system before December 31 to keep MGCV

certification current. There will be no assistance available on that day (Saturday), so take the plunge and get your hours entered before that. Remember that you can be a member of MAMGA regardless of your MGCV certification status.

Fall Green Thumb Classes have Started

If you or someone you know is looking for any gardening classes this fall, Lisa Johnson's Green Thumb Gardening series will continue through December 8.

Register at <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/horticulture/fall2022series/>

Mon Oct 3 6-8 pm Intro to Insects (PJ Liesch)

Thurs Oct 6 6-8 pm Shade and Ornamental Tree Planting and Pruning (Lisa Johnson)

Thurs Oct 20 6-9 pm Fundamentals of Plant Disease (Brian Hudelson)

Mon Oct 24 6-8 pm Lawns and Turf Management (Doug Soldat)

Tues Nov 1 6-8 pm Planning/Techniques for the Organic Vegetable Garden (Claire Strader)

Thurs November 3 6-8 pm Weed ID and Management (Lisa Johnson)

Mon Nov 7 6-8 pm Vegetable Garden Crop Management, Pests and Diseases (Lisa Johnson)

Thurs Nov 10 6-8 pm Tree Fruits (Lisa Johnson)

Mon Nov 14 6-8 pm Wildlife in the Garden (David Drake)

Thurs November 17 Invasive Plant ID and Management (Lisa Johnson)

Mon Nov 21 6-8 pm Intro to Growing Berries (Lisa Johnson)

Mon Nov 28 6-8 pm Perennials (Lisa Johnson)

Mon Dec 5 6-8 pm Annuals (Lisa Johnson)

Thurs December 8 Native Plants and Pollinators (Lisa Johnson)

MAMGA Board Minutes - Draft
3:00 September 19, 2022
5201 Fen Oak Dr. Madison, WI
(EIN 39-1694554)

Board Members Present: Karen Allenstein, Mary Collet, Art De Smet, Percy Mather, Ed Meachen, Barbara Park, Dennis Tande

Also Present: Lisa Johnson

Absent: Eugenia Beecher, B'Ann Gabelt, Judi Janowski, Carol Troyer-Shank

Review of July minutes Moved by Art and seconded by Barb. Approved.

Treasurer's Report Art's updated budget shows everything going relatively well. Because of the inactive Finance Committee, Art has used the Board for financial consulting. However, he would like input for checking, savings, CDs, and money market decisions. Art will set up a Zoom meeting with Barb and Ed.

Membership Renewals Our renewal rate is high, 308 members. We will use the same timeline from past years for membership renewals. The first notice will go out in October, the second in November and then December. Ed will write a letter in January

to those who have not renewed. If a member has renewed twice, Art said it is easy to refund their payment. Membership cards are mailed the third week in January along with a program calendar. In addition to memberships, we receive a number of donations. Karen will send a thank you letter using Ed's template. Ed will continue to write letters for certain donations. Dennis will order new stationery.

Program Committee Ed reported there were 221 face-to-face meetings, with one more program to go. Ed will update his MAMGA History based on additional conversations from his presentation, including our logo creation in 1998. The program schedule for 2023-2024 looks great.

Graduation/Recognition will be combined with the Teaching Garden event. The suggested new date is July 15. Ed will contact Deb about the new date and Lisa will reserve the room, checking capacity.

Working Groups

New Board members Ed will work with Percy and consult with a variety of members about possible candidates.

By-Laws Ed, Bonnie and Dennis will work on necessary changes. Ed will send Dennis and Bonnie the latest version.

Community Grants Mary reported that all the grants were well utilized. Three of the four have submitted progress reports. Mary will send out a request for the final report and start thinking about grant presenters at the Annual Meeting on April 22. Applications may be submitted starting November 1, with a deadline of March 1. Grant application is advertised through our Facebook, web site, newsletter, UW Extension, DPI, and Rooted. \$3,000 is allocated and may be exceeded for exceptional requests.

New Student Scholarships Carol suggested offering scholarships to interested community members. The costs: Green Thumb \$170, Foundations \$300 and On-Boarding \$100. Lisa has funds for two scholarships which have been rarely used. If she gets requests, MAMGA will cover the cost of On-Boarding, which she cannot cover. If she receives more than two requests, MAMGA will cover the costs. Students will also have a one year MAMGA membership.

WIMGA Check your email for the report attachment forwarded [to Board members] by B'Ann.

Board Membership The following are up for election: Mary, Karen, Art, Percy and B'Ann. Mary, Percy and Art will not be running for reelection. Ed will check with B'Ann. Mary will continue to help with grants and Art will help with data analysis/projections. Art has streamlined the treasurer duties using Quicken and has created a comprehensive time line of responsibilities. Karen will assume the core treasurer duties.

Newsletter Percy will do a tutorial for newsletter publication, which involves creating a PDF of the document and linked to Mail Chimp for mailing. Art volunteered to help starting in May.

Misc. Ed will respond to the email from the Outagamie association regarding membership loss and future direction.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Board meeting November 14, 3:00 at Fen Oak. Ed will notify members of the date change.

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.

(V) Two projects at the Fitchburg Public Library located at 5530 Lacy Road.

(1) Develop & maintain a raised bed pollinator garden on the library's south facing patio.

Two library staff have gardening experience but we need help assessing the soil condition and determining the best plants for this bed. This planter has sun exposure all day long and direct water access.

(2) Collaborate with a master gardener to develop children's programming related to the pollinator garden.

Please contact: Outreach Librarian Minda Maurer at minda.maurer@fitchburgwi.gov or (608) 729-1791 for more information.

Photo of the raised bed provided by Minda Mauer



Do you have an interest in improving the MAMGA newsletter and website? Enjoy

photography or writing an occasional article? Learn the secrets of web revision and MailChimp in a masked one-on-one session. Contact Percy Mather at 608 233-1955 or percy.mather@gmail.com

Meet Your Fellow Master Gardener: Barbara Park by Mary Collet

Barbara Park says that she was “born gardening.” As a child in upstate New York, she rejuvenated a neglected rock garden in her backyard. That urge to get her hands in the dirt has persisted.

Barbara grew her first “decent” vegetable garden in rural Illinois. In Madison, she is in her ninth year of gardening at the Marlborough Community Gardens. She has two plots, one in the large plowed section and the other in an unplowed area. In both plots she takes care to improve the tilth of the soil. To break up the hardpan caused by plowing, she plants daikon radishes. In the unplowed plot, she plants a cover crop of oats and field peas. Barbara grows “the three sisters” (corn, squash, and beans) among other vegetables. She particularly enjoys growing corn: “It feels like an accomplishment.”

For the most part, shade hinders Barbara from growing vegetables at home. This season, she grew kale, collards, and nasturtium in two 2-ft-square raised beds in the front yard, which is partially sunny. She also has a pollinator bed. The shady back yard is devoted to spring ephemerals and includes a pond.

A MAMGA member since 2005, Barbara has contributed much to the community. She has put in more than 1,000 hours of service in the Olbrich Botanical Gardens library, where she volunteers weekly. Every other Saturday morning, she joins the Shade Gardening Team at the UW Extension office. She is a member of the Greentree Garden Club and the Hardy Plant Society.

New gardeners, says Barbara, can be supported and learn a lot by participating in a community garden. MAMGA programs are also a great place to meet other gardeners.

For Barbara, gardening provides joy, meditation, and quiet time. She finds that being outside focuses her. “The products of gardening are a bonus.”



Photos by Mary Collet



Garden fountain

Pollinator Gardener



