

## MAMGA September 2023 Newsletter



A Siberian crane explores its territory

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## President's Column by Ed Meachen

We're turning the last corner for summer...of course we have some 90 degree days ahead, but harvest season is upon us. For me its apples, blackberries, a lot of tomatoes, peppers, grapes and beans, beans, beans. Days are filled with outdoor work in the gardens despite the drought and the hot weather. You may recall from my last year's September message, I invited MAMGA members (and others) to stop by and pick apples. It was another good year for apples, though I think they're a bit smaller. I'm inviting you once again to pick some apples. I've got Galas, Braeburns, Criterions, Tompkins County Kings, Spitzenburgs, Newtown Pippins, and Winter Bananas. Please send me an email if you're interested, and I'll get back to you when they're ready to pick. I think the Galas will be ready in the next week. Free for the picking!

I hope all of you have had a great summer in spite of the Canadian smoke, hot weather, and lack of rain.

## MAMGA's Signature Project Lussier Prairie Update

MAMGA members and volunteers with Dane County Parks continue to remove invasives from the target area in order to encourage the survival of the seedlings we have planted. The prairie display of grasses and forbs is generally at its peak in September. The lack of rain means that plants will not grow as tall as they would with a more typical rainfall, but they will still provide a colorful display.

Work sessions are on Friday mornings from 9:30am to noon, with shorter hours on hot days. September workdays are on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Drop-in volunteers are always welcome. Be sure to bring a sun hat, gloves, and protective clothing. In case of stormy or exceptionally hot weather, workdays will be canceled. For more information, phone or text to 608 520-4364 or email percy.mather@gmail.com

## Calendar of Events

**Prairie workdays at Lussier Family Heritage** at 3101 Lake Farm Road. Tools, rest rooms, and water provided. Not sure what to pull out? We show you which weeds to remove. In case of stormy or extremely hot weather, workdays will be canceled. For more information, phone or text to 608 520-4364 or email percy.mather@gmail.com

**No Lussier workday on September 1 in honor of Labor Day.**

**September 2, noon Registration closes for the Aldo Leopold Foundation tour. See Sept. 8 below.**

**September 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.

**Sept 8 Friday Tour of Aldo Leopold Foundation Building and the Aldo Leopold Shack and Farm. Baraboo. 9:30 AM - Noon. Limit 20 attendees. \$10 Register here:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tour-of-aldoleopold-foundation-building-and-aldoleopold-shack-farm-tickets-681298140077?aff=oddtcreator>

### **September 21, 6 – 7:30pm Wednesday Tour of Epic’s Gardens with Jeff Epping**

Meet at the Zodiac parking structure before 6pm.

**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 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>

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## **Classes**

**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.

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. Register for the entire series at a discounted price or for selected classes.

Class Dates and Topics:

Thursday September 21: Soils, Composting and Fertilizers

Thursday September 28: Fall-planted Bulbs for Spring-blooming Flowers

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 the Dane County UW-Extension website at:

<https://dane.extension.wisc.edu> and go to the ‘Horticulture’ tab or go to <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*  
For more information, go to <https://madisoncollege.edu/academics/professional-continuing-education/enrichment>

## Volunteer Opportunity!

Master Gardener Dawn Eberhardt is looking for some extra help removing perennial weeds and caring for the plantings at the Caneel Corner Conservancy native plant garden in the Middleton Ridge Neighborhood of Middleton. Dawn and her team have a flexible schedule, but normally work on weekend mornings or after 6pm on some week nights, weather permitting. Anyone is welcome to participate, but Master Gardeners will receive volunteer hours credit for certification. The Conservancy team would be very grateful for any help you can provide. The garden is located at the corner of Caneel Trail and High Rd with parking is available on the street. For more information, please message Dawn at [bluebottlerx@gmail.com](mailto:bluebottlerx@gmail.com)



Whooping Crane

The August 26 tour of the International Crane Foundation featured all the crane species (15) in the world. We also learned about the 75 acres of prairie that had been restored at the facility. Note that the black primary feathers are clipped on one wing to keep the bird within the facility. Breeding pairs mate for life. Whooping cranes are the most rare species in the world. Sandhill

cranes are the most numerous having made a remarkable recovery in terms of numbers. Generally, a crane's life expectancy is 20 to 30 years in the wild but in captivity with good care they can live from 40 to 60 years.

Below: a pair of wattled cranes solemnly regard visitors.

Photos by Lisa Seidman

