

MAMGA Newsletter

September 2022



Roadside Fruits for Foraging

Crushed, strained, and mixed with sugar and water, these wild plums made a tasty fruit drink.

Photo by Percy Mather

In this issue:

President's Column pp. 1-2

Calendar Events pp. 2-3

Green Thumb Classes Start in Fall p. 3

Employment & Volunteer Opportunities pp. 4-5

President's Column

by Ed Meachen

The beginning of September. For me it's apple season, and this year the pollinators were prolific. All the trees are loaded. I have Braeburns (a New Zealand cultivar from the 1950s),

Galas (another New Zealand apple from the 1930s), Criterions (a Washington state apple—a cross with Red Delicious, Yellow Delicious and Winter Banana), Honey Crisps (a University of Minnesota apple), Haralsons (another University of Minnesota apple, a good pollinator for Honey Crisps), Spitzenburgs (an 18th century New York apple, supposedly a favorite of Thomas Jefferson who had several trees), Tompkins County King (a very large heirloom apple from about 1800 in New Jersey, but grown extensively in Tompkins County New York), Newtown Pippins (an 18th century apple supposedly beloved of George Washington, and one of the oldest apple cultivars in America), and Winter Bananas (an Indiana apple from around 1870). They ripen at different times. I have so many apples I don't know what I will do with all of them. So here's my invitation. If you like apples and are curious especially about the taste and texture of the heirloom varieties, send me an email and I'll email you back when they're ready to pick. You can come out to my place and help yourself. My email is willismeachen@gmail.com. I'd be happy to give away some of this year's bounteous production. I'll send you my address with my return email to you.

Calendar Events

September 2 Friday 9:30 11:30am Lussier prairie signature project workday. Enjoy the prairie at its peak bloom time while removing pesky weeds. Tools & instruction provided. Bring work gloves, sun hat, and appropriate clothing. If the weather looks threatening, check for cancellation by calling Percy Mather at 608 233-1955 or 520-4364.

September 6 12:30 – 2pm Green Thumb Tuesday Join other gardeners for lunch at the Monona Garden restaurant at Bridge & Broadway for food, fellowship, & garden talk.

September 12 Monday 6 – 8pm Green Thumb Classes Begin. Register at <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/horticulture/fall2022series/> See the list of classes on p. 3.

September 14 Wednesday 9 – 10am The History of MAMGA President Ed Meachen speaks at the Lyman Anderson Ag & Extension Center Conference Room, 5201 Fen Oak Drive, Madison. This talk is open to the public. Bring a friend who might be interested in the Master Gardener Volunteer program.

September 16 Friday 9:30 11:30am Lussier prairie signature project workday. Enjoy the prairie at its peak bloom time while removing pesky weeds. Tools & instruction provided. Bring work gloves, sun hat, and appropriate clothing. If the weather looks threatening, check for cancellation by calling Percy Mather at 608 233-1955 or 520-4364.

September 19 Monday MAMGA Board Meeting – 3-4:30 pm Lyman Anderson Ag & Extension Center Conference Room, 5201 Fen Oak Drive, Madison.

October 4 12:30 – 2pm Green Thumb Tuesday Join other gardeners for lunch at the Monona Garden restaurant at Bridge & Broadway for food, fellowship, & garden talk.

October 7 Friday 9:30 11:30am Lussier prairie signature project workday. Enjoy the prairie at its peak bloom time while removing pesky weeds. Tools & instruction provided.

Bring work gloves, sun hat, and appropriate clothing. If the weather looks threatening, check for cancellation by calling Percy Mather at 608 233-1955 or 520-4364.

October 11 Tuesday 1 – 2:30pm Helping our Wisconsin Bats Oakwood Village West Our speaker is Sue Johansen-Mayo, the DNR naturalist at Devils Lake State Park. Register at [Eventbrite](#).

Green Thumb Classes Will Start in Fall

If you or someone you know is looking for any gardening classes this fall, our Green Thumb Gardening fall series is starting on September 12. It will be live online (via Zoom). Here are the subjects, dates, times and speakers. For the whole package classes are \$10 each (\$160) or you can select individual classes for \$12 each. They do qualify for continuing education credits. All classes except the disease class will be recorded (and a video version of that class is on Brian Hudelson's website).

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

Mon Sept 12 6-8 pm Soils (Lisa Johnson)

Mon Sept 19 6-8 pm Plant Propagation (Lisa Johnson)

Wed Sept 28 6-8 pm Healthy Houseplants (Lisa Johnson)

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)

Interested in making your yard more bee-friendly? Check out [this website](#).

A video on building a better monarch butterfly garden is available until 11pm on Tuesday September 7 [at this website](#).

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.

(V) Help needed to clear, design and install a courtyard garden

Name: Mayra Tejera-Vollmar mtejerav@steorrawulf.com

Subject: perennial garden creation

Message: We want to create a perennial garden in the courtyard of our senior housing and we have the blessings of management. Our purpose is not one of just beautifying the area but we want to attract pollinators, butterflies and hummingbirds. We need help in designing and choosing the plants that would best serve our purpose. Our test/trial area is under way although a little late because it was hard to convince management that overgrown pampas grasses and hydrangeas do not a garden make. Can you help us?

Thanks in advance.

Posted September 1

(V) On April 7, 2022, Governor Tony Evers publicly announced at the Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Convention that the Executive Residence will proceed with the restoration of 294 linear feet of Lake Mendota shoreline (Madison, WI) using a diversity of native plants. The Executive Residence Native Lakeshore Restoration seeks to model shoreline-improvement actions that can benefit water quality and native habitat.

Through this privately funded project, 7,184 square feet of existing turf will be replaced with 32 species of native wildflowers, grasses, and shrubs. In total, 3,177 native plants and shrubs will get added to this iconic shoreland property. The resulting native plant gardens will showcase how such improvements help filter runoff, enhance pollinator habitat, prevent erosion and promote the type of natural scenic beauty that makes Wisconsin's lakes so special.

This project is coordinated through a partnership between Wisconsin Lake Leaders, Wisconsin Executive Residence, Wisconsin Department of Administration, Rock River Coalition, Clean Lakes Alliance, Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Extension Lakes, and Resource Environmental Solutions.

Request for Volunteers

Volunteers are being recruited to help with planting and maintaining the gardens. Phase I site planting will occur on September 24, 2022. We will also be looking for volunteers who are interested in weeding the gardens in 2023. Interested volunteers can [sign up here](#). To learn more email info@rockrivercoalition.org or visit our website at

<https://rockrivercoalition.org/projects-2/executive-residence-native-lakeshore-restoration/>.

If volunteers are interested in attending either the fundraiser or the volunteer planting day, they can also follow the links in the invitation below.

Posted August 1

(V) Volunteers Sought for Jumping Worm Survey in September

What: Earthworm Survey in Rural Dane County

Why: All earthworms in Wisconsin are non-native. While most of the species we are familiar with like the common nightcrawler, are from Europe, a new group of earthworms (referred to as jumping worms) from parts of Asia are now spreading throughout Wisconsin. While European earthworms provide some benefits to soils and plants in gardens and agricultural lands, jumping worms can cause profound changes to soil structure, nutrients, and plants. We are interested in characterizing this new invasion in different habitats (forests, grassland [prairies], open areas [parks], and residential sites with both gardens and turf grass) in the rural environment. (note: a complementary survey will be conducted in urban Madison. This is a follow-up to a survey we conducted in 2017).

How: The surveys will entail pouring a mustard powder and water solution into the soil and collecting earthworms that come to the surface. We would only survey a very small area... less than a 1-yard square area. The mustard solution does not harm plants or soil. In addition, we would like to collect a very small amount of soil (about 1 cup) to test for soil nutrients.

When: The surveys will take place on one weekend day in September 2022. Specific date and time are yet to be determined.

The ASK: We are looking for interested volunteers to offer their property(ies) to be surveyed! No knowledge of earthworms is necessary and in fact we DO NOT want to know if you have jumping worms or not! In addition, we are looking for volunteers to assist with the surveys. If you are interested in participating in this project and learning about what types of earthworms you have on your property or if you have any questions, please contact Brad Herrick, 608-263-7344; bradley.herrick@wisc.edu

Posted August 1

We want to see your garden! Take a photo of your garden or favorite plants (veggies are welcome) and email it to mpcollet@sbcglobal.net as a jpeg or png file. Include a commentary on what we are seeing. We'll put it in a future newsletter.