

MAMGA Newsletter

August 2022



Photo by Percy Mather

The yellow coreopsis and rattlesnake master in the newest pollinator garden.

In this issue:

President's Column p. 2

Calendar Events pp. 2-3

MAMGA Board Meeting Minutes pp. 3-4

More about Badger Munitions pp. 4-5

Employment & Volunteer Opportunities pp. 5-8

Know Your Master Gardener – Rosalind Batley pp. 8-9

Signature Project Update p. 10

President's Column

by Ed Meachen

We are at the halfway point of summer. I may be in a minority, but I have enjoyed the hot days as well as the temperate days. I've talked to some members about their vegetable gardens, and they tell me they've had a productive season so far. And the Japanese beetle infestation appears to be very low. I have great beans, a lot of yet to ripen tomatoes, good sweet peppers and (as usual) abundant summer squash. Last year I had virtually no apples, but this year the trees are loaded. I already picked 5 bushels from my early Cortland trees and will be making cider and apple butter (some people have mentioned they love apple butter, and I will be giving away some of the jars).

Amidst all the garden work, family visits, and vacations, the program committee is hard at work creating 15 programs for 2023. Those include a symposium on food pantries, programs with Ben Futa, Tony Gomez, Ed Lyon, and PJ Liesch, tours of the New Life Lavender farm, Seed Savers in Decorah, Iowa, a late winter tour of Snug Haven Farm's greenhouses, a trip over to the International Crane Foundation, and a trip over to the Aldo Leopold shack. We'll take another tour of Epic Gardens with Jeff Epping, and a tour of the Lynden Sculpture Garden in Brown Deer. We will also be exploring roadside vegetable stands and foraging for our lunch!!

If we can navigate Covid and bad weather, I think 2023 will be the best set of programs and tours we've put together in many years. If you'd like to do some volunteer work for MAMGA, the program committee might be just your forte. It is a hardworking group, but it is a lot of fun. Send me an email if you're interested in joining the group (willismeachen@gmail.com). We meet about four or five times a year, some times in person, some times over Zoom.

I hope summer's second half is full of gardening, friends and families.

Calendar Events

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

August 5 & 19 Friday 9:30am – 12 noon Lussier prairie workday, 3101 Lake Farm Road. We'll be doing the final planting of plugs, removing invasives and gathering seeds for our nursery beds. In case of bad weather, check with Percy Mather 608 233-1955 or 608 520-4364 (c) for information.

August 13 10am – 12 noon Saturday Tour of Agrecol

Join MAMGA for this behind the scenes tour of Agrecol's greenhouse and seed production led by Assistant Greenhouse Manager Avery Johnson. Agrecol is located in Edgerton. This event is free and limited to 25. Read more information and register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tour-of-agrecol-a-native-seed-and-plant-nursery-tickets-375576538537>

August 24 10 – 11am Wednesday Docent-Led Tour of Olbrich's Outdoor Gardens

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/olbrich-botanical-garden-tour-tickets-375585104157>

September 2 & 16 9:30am – 12 noon Friday Lussier prairie workday, 3101 Lake Farm Road. We'll be removing invasives and planting the seed beds. In case of bad weather, check with Percy Mather 608 233-1955 or 608 520-4364 (c) for information.

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 14 4 – 6pm Wednesday MAMGA Board Meeting – Dane County UW-Extension Meeting Room

MAMGA Board Meeting – Draft Minutes

MAMGA Board Minutes - Draft 2:00 pm July 11, 2022 Meachen residence 975 Flint Rd, Stoughton, WI

Board Members Present: Mary Collet, Art De Smet, B'Ann Gabelt, Judi Janowski , Ed Meachen, Barbara Park, Eugenia Beecher, Percy Mather, Carol Troyer-Shank

Absent: Karen Allenstein, Dennis Tande **Also Present:** Lisa Johnson, Deb Pienkowski

- **Review of May Minutes** Moved by B'Ann and seconded by Art. Approved.
- Strategic Planning Session for 2023
- Renewing, retaining, and recruiting new members
 - Discussed ways to clarify and better explain how to become a master gardener. Agreed that we needed to provide a link on our web page to Extension's "how to become a master gardener" web page. While the steps required to become a master gardener are clear, the time between beginning the master gardener program and successful onboarding is fundamentally different from the in-class education offered by Extension before 2020. Previously students enrolled in classes became MAMGA members as part of their student tuition even though they had not attained certification. The problem now is how to connect MAMGA membership to those people intending to onboard without going through a March to August set of classes. In lieu of the student category of members, we will explore the possibility of an "intern" category of membership. Membership as an intern might be limited to 1-2 years and is intended to encourage individuals to become master gardeners.
 - We reviewed the process of membership renewal. Our current method is to send out an email in October to encourage annual renewal, a second email in November for those who have not renewed, and a third email in December for non-renewers. We then send out a letter in January to non-renewers at the same time we send out membership cards to those who have renewed. We have also experimented with sending out renewal letters to those who have not renewed in the last five years. Generally speaking, this effort has proved fairly successful. The letter to members who have not renewed should stress that MAMGA is an alumni association and current master gardener certification is not required for MAMGA membership. Reaching out directly to non-renewing

members by phone is another effort that might work to encourage ongoing membership.

- MAMGA Standing Committees
 - Of the six standing committees in the bylaws, we agreed to make the Finance Committee “ad hoc.” We agreed that the Communication Committee should be retained, and perhaps explore new avenues of communication, not just to members, but to the general public. Communications includes the newsletter, facebook page, the website, and the use of mail chimp. The Community Services Committee includes a sub-committee managing grants and a sub-committee managing signature projects. We agreed that we might have more than one signature project. The membership committee currently does not manage renewals, but might take on this task. The membership committee also manages the membership database. It may also do data analyses such as those currently done by Art De Smet to determine patterns of membership over time. The program committee is in very good shape.
 - We agreed that the graduation committee, the annual meeting committee, and other ad hoc committees are important, but should not be by-law committees.
- We briefly discussed succession of key members. There were suggestions that included having the president serve as a mentor for a president elect over the last year of the president’s term, and perhaps have the past president serve on the Executive Committee as a non-voting member. Similar suggestions about mentoring were mentioned for the Treasurer’s position..
- We briefly discussed the membership directory now on the web site. It will be available to all members beginning in 2023 and is password protected. Passwords will be included with membership cards in January 2023. The membership directory will include the member’s name, email address and zip code.
- We agreed to begin using our reserve fund to balance the annual budget from year-to-year, particularly if our membership numbers decline. The reserve fund is large enough to likely see us through the next ten years, and still maintain our program array, our grants program, and any other unforeseen mission-based expenses.

Next Board meeting September 14, 4 pm, Dane County UW-Extension Meeting Room

Interested in supporting Monarch butterflies? See [this website](#) for information from the Wisconsin Monarch Collaborative.

Note: MAMGA members took a tour of the Badger Munitions facility on July 13 with lunch following at Wollersheim Winery. This is a follow-up email.

Invitation from the Badger Ammunition Tour leaders (Sent to Deb Pienkowski)

Mike, Frank and I very much enjoyed meeting with your group to share the stories that encompass that fascinating 7400 acres of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant. And so happy the weather was perfect! Hoping you all made it to Wollersheim in good time for tasty food.

We at the Badger History Group invite you all back anytime! Please come when you have more time to wander the space, visit the museum, or attend our lecture series beginning in fall. And also be sure to check out our partner, Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance. Both organizations help lead tours upon request, tailored to any interest. Below are the few links promised today.

Explore the Badger Lands App (free for Apple and Android handheld devices). Mike is still working with the Alliance to improve content, so some Points of Interest are partially built, others still pending. But the public access road is clearly defined on the App's map and allows for GIS location, and all of the West and South portions are complete, including the Great Sauk Trail in those areas.

Android Version [on Google Play](#). An Apple Version is available at the App Store

Badger Apple Corps Project

Learn about the effort to identify and propagate apple trees from the farms that once occupied the area. Scroll down to see the award-winning 8-minute video.

Stay tuned for the **Badger History Group Lecture Series 2022-2023!** (Starts this September with Badger Plant employee Carolyn Dallmann - you won't want to miss her story!) Lectures are hybrid - in person at the Museum and via Zoom. Contact Heather at hssonntag@gmail.com for info as we work to revamp our BHG website, or visit this [BHG Events page](#).

[Sign up for programs and volunteer opportunities](#) here at Badger through the **Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance**. Invasive species removal happens every 2nd Saturday of the month from 9-12. Sign up for the notifications! And also future lectures and programs.

Thank you all again, and have a good rest of the summer,
Heather Sonntag, Mike Mossman, and Frank Wolf

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. Listings are normally posted for two months.

(V) Opportunity to help with a school garden:

Hello, I would love to speak with someone on the phone about our 3 Sisters Garden at Sandburg Elementary. I am a teacher there, and this is our first year with this garden. I could really use some support and volunteers for the future. [Note: Sandburg Middle School, 4114 Donald Drive, is on the east side of Madison near the 151 and I 90 intersection.]

My summer cell phone number is 608-843-7263. THANKS!
Sarah Thomas
Posted August 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

(\$) Local garden designer and landscape architect is looking for an experienced plants person who can help with some paid hours every couple weeks manage and improve a small sized (400 square foot) near-west Madison Butterfly Garden that was installed in 2017. The property owners are a wonderful couple to work with.

Set your own schedule, help suggest plant additions as we work together to reduce some species from taking over and increasing the diversity and display. Call/text/email

Peter Nause 608.206.1463 secnatland@yahoo.com

Posted July 1

Volunteer Opportunities (V) Lakeview Library, located on the northeast side of Madison, is looking for a master gardener volunteer to facilitate garden planning, maintenance, and education in our garden space.

About the Garden

The library's garden consists of a 36' x 20' enclosed space, with an additional 36' x 3' bed outside the fence. The space contains a path and patio with outdoor seating. Currently, the garden is largely dedicated to ornamental flowers, but we are interested in adding a container garden for growing vegetables. We also plan to manage a native plant garden in the bed outside the fence.

About the Position

Examples of Duties and Responsibilities:

- Designing and planning
 - Evaluate garden space and make recommendations
 - Work with library staff to choose ornamental annuals, perennials, and other trees/shrubs appropriate to the conditions of the space
 - Create a map of the garden for current and future use
- Maintenance
 - Create a care and maintenance plan for the garden space
 - Work with garden volunteers to maintain garden space year-round
 - Education
 - Work with library staff to plan educational opportunities in garden space

Reach out to Hannah Majeska, Community Engagement Librarian, at hmajeska@madisonpubliclibrary.org if you are interested in this opportunity. Please include a description of your background and experience, as well as a short statement about your interest in the space.

Pronouns: she/her 608-246-4547 Posted July 1

We have a publicly accessible approx 500 sq ft courtyard garden at Grace Church at 116 W. Washington Ave - at the top of West Washington Ave, just off the Capital Square. You can see it at Catherine H. Colman Garden visible on Google Maps layers display. It opens just off the sidewalk. The garden is open to the public and it is used extensively by passersby who want some peace, beauty, and solitude. We are trying to find persons expert in gardening who might be willing to volunteer some time to advise us and also assist occasionally if possible.

Thanks for your assistance,

If interested, please contact John Andrews at jherricka4@gmail.com

Posted July 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 July 1

Meet Your Fellow Master Gardener Rosalind Batley

by Mary Collet

Certified as a master gardener in both Ohio and Wisconsin, Rosalind Batley is well equipped to share her gardening knowledge and talents with the community. In Ohio, master gardener training is provided on the county level, though people attend from throughout the state. A resident of Columbus, Rosalind took the training for Franklin County. She found a collegial feeling among master gardeners, who even prepared lunch for trainees. Her volunteer projects included tending a pollinator garden at a retirement center, redoing a public library garden, and working on a meditation garden at a Columbus hospital.

When Rosalind moved to Madison a year ago, she was intent on continuing to be involved as a master gardener. Unable to transfer her Ohio master gardener certification to Wisconsin, she took master gardener training through the UW Extension. She particularly appreciates the

manual, which “provides good information for where to find more information.” She has enjoyed meeting fellow master gardeners through Green Thumb Tuesdays and volunteering in the UWEX teaching garden.

Rosalind was born in Canada of a Canadian father and English mother. Every three years, she and her mother spent the summer in England, visiting her grandparents. It was here that Rosalind learned about composting and fell in love with growing flowers. At one point, she lived in England for a whole year while recovering from a fungal lung disease. The family eventually moved from Canada to upstate New York, where they bought a house from a professor of forestry, and, says Rosalind, “I learned about trees.” The land sported many native trees, in particular American bittersweet and American beech. Alongside her father, Rosalind learned how to raise bees and became interested in pollinators. When she was sixteen, the family moved to Columbus. In college, she considered studying ecology and ended up as a graduate student in botany, with a particular interest in medical fungi. This led to her profession in medicine where she eventually became a Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine physician. In Columbus, Rosalind established a pollinator way station, and was treated to the marvel of hundreds of monarchs. In Madison, she is interested in growing native plants, though her taste runs to cultivars as well. She is in the process of installing a rain garden. “Gardening is intertwined with birds and butterflies,” she says. “The separation between a gardener and bird watcher is unnatural.” See part of her garden on page 10.



We warmly welcome Rosalind to the Madison master gardener family.

MAMGA Signature Project Update

Volunteers continue to plant seedlings and remove invasives from the Lussier grounds, generally on the first and third Friday mornings from 9:30 to noon. In case of bad weather, check with Percy Mather 608 233-1955 or 608 520-4364 (c) for information. Once volunteers are familiar with the site, they are welcome to work at other times convenient for their schedules.

New volunteers are always welcome at these workdays. Wild parsnip, canada thistle, curly dock, field mustard, reed canary grass, bladder campion and bird’s foot trefoil are targeted for removal. We may never remove all of these plants, but we can reduce the seed bank and give native plants a chance to get established.

This year we’ll be collecting seeds from established native plants and planting them in our screened seed beds shown below. The hardware screening will keep most critters away from seedlings until they are large enough to transplant.

If you are looking for interesting things to do, the Lussier Center holds a number of kid and family-friendly outdoor events. Check [the schedule](#) for activities or just take a walk around the site.



Homemade plant nursery

Photo by Percy Mather

