

# Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



March 2021



Photo by Ellen Terwilliger

**First Growing  
Together  
Seminar  
Kickoff Held  
February 20<sup>th</sup>  
–  
Soil  
Preparation  
for Planting  
Vegetables  
by  
Sonya Burke**

Growing Together: the 2021 Western Wisconsin spring Garden Seminar kicked off at 10 am on February 20th. Sonya Burke, a Hennepin County Master Gardener from Minneapolis provided us with information so that we can successfully prepare our soil for planting. Sonya covered soil testing, amending soil with compost, mulching and much more. Once your soil is ready Sonya then covered basics for planning and planting your veggies. Seed starting, pest control were all included in the hour-long presentation. While we miss gathering together in Eau Claire we had gardeners from all over Wisconsin and places like Colorado who joined in to learn the basics of Vegetable gardening. 315 people signed up for the seminar. You can still take advantage of this program and the remaining three live streamed programs by registering at <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/> The cost is just \$10, and you will be able to receive the link for this program as well as the remaining programs.

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While drooling over the latest Jung seed catalog, I came across a very interesting item, “**Ground Cover Raspberries.**” This pretty little fruit bearing ground cover is listed as zone 2 and thornless. Developed in Sweden it spreads by underground rhizomes, reaches a height of 5-6 inches, and bears 1-inch pink flowers in the spring. The flowering is followed by small, aromatic berries that ripen in midsummer. The plants require cross-pollination so at least one of each variety should be planted to maximize yields (up to 1 pound per plant). They begin bearing the year after planting and prefer part shade to full sun. Since these are zone 2 I plan to plant some in my containers as they should survive the winter there since they are rated zone 2.



## Local Master Gardener News

### Changing e-mail? Moving?

If you do, please remember to notify the ECAMGA and the newsletter editor of your new e-mail address and/or mailing address so you don't miss any Eau Claire Area Master Gardener happenings!



Email your new information to Carol Cox at [c7w6c2200@charter.net](mailto:c7w6c2200@charter.net) or notify her by snail mail at 1908 Hogeboom Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54701 (or call her at 715-783-0016 - cell).




**MGV**

**Bulletin Board  
Postings Stories  
and  
Opportunities!!!**

Good morning, Master Garden Volunteers!

Again this year I have gotten requests from the Augusta and Fall Creek Public Libraries for gardening presentations. This year they would be virtual presentations, of course, but I told them I would ask our group to see if any of you would like to do a presentation via Zoom that they could record and put on their websites.

I am going to do one again for Fall Creek on seed starting. They said they would put kits together that people could pick up since it won't be a make it/take it as we usually do.

People out there are wanting to learn, especially gardening in the last year of this pandemic. There is a lot of odd gardening information out there, and this gives us a chance to share reliable, research-based gardening information to help them be successful.

Anyone else have a topic they would like to present? If so, please let me know and I can put you in touch with them.

### Andy Heren

Administrative Specialist II  
UW-Madison Division of Extension, Eau Claire County  
227 1st West  
Altoona, WI 54720

(715) 839-4712

### ECAMGA Board

#### ECAMGA BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO

Name	E-mail address	Phone number
Louise White-Roach	<a href="mailto:White1roach@gmail.com">White1roach@gmail.com</a>	715-831-3352
Andy Heren	<a href="mailto:Rcktnut007@aol.com">Rcktnut007@aol.com</a>	715-831-9236
Paula Bonnini	<a href="mailto:paula.d.bonnini@gmail.com">paula.d.bonnini@gmail.com</a>	715-220-6373
Jeannie Chromey	<a href="mailto:J_chromey@yahoo.com">J_chromey@yahoo.com</a>	715-5799607
Chris Southworth	<a href="mailto:Chris_southworth@yahoo.com">Chris_southworth@yahoo.com</a>	715-514-3358
Barb Huggins	<a href="mailto:barbahuggins@gmail.com">barbahuggins@gmail.com</a>	715-833-0224
Judy Mitchell	<a href="mailto:jmitchell@pobox.com">jmitchell@pobox.com</a>	715-877-1354

#### Note:

The ECAMGAV Board minutes may be accessed at  
<https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org>



### ECAMGV 2021 Calendar

All meetings during the COVID19 pandemic will be held by Zoom invitation.

March 6: Third "Growing Together" seminar event  
March 13: Fourth "Growing Together" seminar event

April: TBA

May: TBA

June: TBA

July: TBA

August: TBA  
September: TBA

October: TBA

November: TBA

December: Annual Meeting and Christmas Party



## Events

# Growing Together

2021 Western Wisconsin Spring Garden Seminars



**SAVE THE DATES: Virtual Presentations. Saturdays at 10 am**

***Hurry – there is still time to register and get in on all the great gardening ideas...***

**March 6, 2021** Laura Jull  
*Planting Trees and Shrubs*

**March 13, 2021** Kelly Povo & Phyllis Root  
*Searching for Wildflowers in Wisconsin and Minnesota*

**Cost: \$10 for all sessions**

Spring Garden Seminars will be presented via You Tube Live. Attendees will receive the link the week prior to each seminar. These seminars are open to the public and we welcome both new and experienced gardeners to attend. Registration information will be coming soon at <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/> Brought to you by Western Wisconsin Master Gardener Associations from the following counties: Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pierce and St. Croix



### March 6, 2021 – Dr. Laura G Jull, “Planting Trees & Shrubs”

Dr. Laura G. Jull has been a member of the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Horticulture and the Wisconsin State Extension Specialist of Woody Ornamental Horticulture since 1998. She currently teaches Identification and Culture of Woody Landscape Plants, Arboriculture and Landscape Maintenance, and Plant Propagation. She is the faculty advisor for the undergraduate UW-Madison Horticulture Club and numerous undergraduate students.

(continued on page 4)

*Planting Trees & Shrubs...continued from page 3...*

Laura's extension responsibilities include serving Wisconsin's Green Industry, providing direction for statewide proactive programs, supporting county extension agents in implementing and evaluating programs, and advanced Master Gardener training. Her research interests are diverse and include woody plant evaluation, tolerance of ornamentals to urban conditions, best management practices in nursery production, plant propagation, and invasive species. Laura is also a member of numerous professional organizations, which span international and state boundaries and has served as educational advisor to several Wisconsin Green Industry associations.

### **March 13, 2021 – Kelly Povo & Phyllis Root, “Searching for Wildflowers in Wisconsin and Minnesota”**

Kelly Povo has been a professional photographer for over 30 years and has exhibited in galleries and art shows across the country. Her photographs have been published on posters, calendars, note cards, and in books. Kelly lives in St. Paul and works in Alumni Relations at St. Catherine University.

Phyllis Root has written over fifty books for children, including several books on bogs, prairies, old growth forest in the upper Midwest. Phyllis lives in Minneapolis and teaches in the low-residency Master of Fine Arts in Writing for Children and Young Adults Program at Hamline University in St. Paul.

Registration for the Growing Together Seminar is due by February 17 to receive the link to the first presentation by Sonya Burke. Registration after February 17 is due Wednesday before each week's presentation to receive the YouTube Live link for that week. It is necessary to register only once to view all four presentations. Paid registrants will have exclusive access to recorded presentations for a limited time after the seminar concludes. Door prizes will also be awarded to lucky recipients at the beginning of each session.

One registration fee of \$10 includes all four presentations. Registration is at <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/>. Questions can be directed to Andy Heren at UW– Extension at 715 839 4712 or [andy.heren@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:andy.heren@co.eau-claire.wi.us). Participants will receive a link to You Tube Live the week prior to each presentation.

Western Wisconsin Master Gardener Volunteers, as representatives of the University of Wisconsin Extension are organized to encourage, foster, support and promote horticulture in our region. Our goal is that participants use information gained through these educational presentations to enhance the gardening experience both in their own backyards and throughout their communities.



### **Container Combo Magic** by Carol Cox

There are containers, and then there are containers. Some I have created are just “so-so”, but the pot has something in it kind of thing. On the other hand, there have been times when I have created something that just pops! More often than not, I am ashamed to admit, that is purely by accident that this happens. The photo at the left shows one of those times.

The planting combo is a caladium, a King Kong Coleus and Bridal Wreath. The whole pot was then placed in the opening where the seat was to be on an old chair that I picked up for that purpose at a rummage sale. The plants have similar sun requirements and I placed it on the north side of my house by my back porch which meant that it was in partial shade for most of the day. Also, I saw it every time I walked out of the house and would remember to water as needed.



# The Unsung Season GARDENS IN WINTER

**LIVE VIRTUAL PROGRAM**  
**Saturday, March 13 • 10–11:30 a.m.**  
 L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library | 400 Eau Claire Street, Eau Claire | [www.ecpubliclibrary.info](http://www.ecpubliclibrary.info)

**ABOUT THE PROGRAM**

Wisconsin winters can seem like they'll never end, especially to gardeners. This program will show you how to plant for winter as a transition between fall and spring.

Bussolini says, "Form, line, color, texture, plays of light and shadow, movement, sound, birds, are some of the surprises you'll find when you drag yourself out of your comfy chair and go outdoors. Big structures carry the garden when details are buried under snow, evergreens provide color and form, seedheads and pods lend punctuation and texture, while many herbaceous plants persist well into winter."

Registration required. Register online at [www.ecpubliclibrary.info/events](http://www.ecpubliclibrary.info/events)



For information, call Information & Reference at 715-839-5304. Co-sponsored by Eau Claire Garden Club.

**PRESENTER**

Karen Bussolini has been a gardener all her life. She trained as a painter and was an architectural photographer before specializing in garden photography, writing, speaking, and eco-friendly garden coaching and design. Her garden has been featured in many publications including Anne Raver's feature, "A Hillside of Feisty Beauties" in *The New York Times*.



**Fruity Ideas for Fun Dining...**



*Pictures from Pinterest*



**Beaver Creek Reserve**  
**S1 County Road K**  
**Fall Creek, WI 54742**  
**715-877-2212**

<https://beavercreekreserve.doubleknot.com/event/mornings-at-the-feeders-march-9th/2782580>

**How Wise are You about Owls?**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> **Time:** 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** FREE

**March Mornings at the Feeder**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 9; **Time:** 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.  
**Cost:** Free

Come spend the morning with Beaver Creek Reserve and learn about birds that are visiting the feeders. This monthly talk will highlight a handful of common birds you are likely to see in your own backyard. There may be a few surprise visitors thrown in. Register by **Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**. Sign up at

Zoom on in and virtually join Reserve Naturalist Ruth Forsgren, as she explores these fascinating nocturnal hunters. Find out how much you actually know about these raptors, learn about which owls can be found here in Wisconsin and get a chance to virtually meet Luna, Beaver Creek's resident educational ambassador owl. Registered participants will be emailed a link the day prior to the program. Register by **Sunday, Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>**. Sign up **NOW!**



## Bits and Pieces



### The Quest

By Judy Mitchell

If you go to the Learning Store ( <https://learningstore.uwex.edu> ) and search on “Insect Pests”, eighty publications turn up. It’s a little overwhelming. About half of the eighty publications are on a specific topic, such as insects that affect apple trees or insects’ sense of smell.

The other half, about 40 publications, each focus on one specific insect pest. Many of them are short 2-to-4-page publications that explain how to identify the insect, when & where to scout for the insect, how the insect harms plants, the extent of the harm and effective controls. These are very useful publications, and my goal today is to share some of what I learned from them and to interest you in reading them.

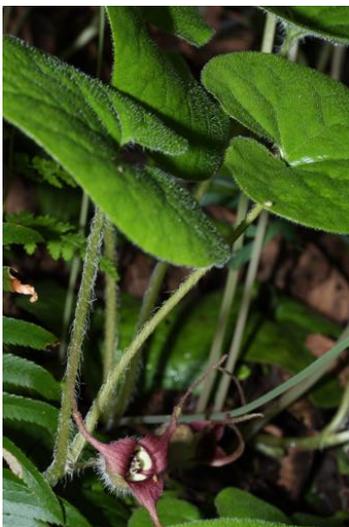
For vegetable gardeners, there are publications on cucumber beetles, squash bugs (A3755), hornworms (A3752), vegetable aphids (A3757) and much more. I discovered that Wisconsin gardeners should be scouting for cucumber beetles (publication A3751) from early May to early July. Row covers are the recommended non-chemical control method. The larva feed on roots & stems (which may kill young plants) and the adults can carry bacterial wilt disease (which kills cucumber and muskmelon plants).

Aster leafhoppers spread a different disease, aster yellows (publication 3679). I think of aster yellows as affecting flowering plants but that is not correct. Lettuce, potatoes, celery and onions are all susceptible too. The leafhopper is difficult to control, and the disease is untreatable. It can be kept in check by avoiding susceptible plants (listed in the publication) and promptly removing plants showing symptoms of the disease.

In late June, rose chafers (publication A3122) are attracted to roses, raspberries and other plants. They can be toxic to birds and small animals and the damage they cause is unsightly. A small population can be controlled by handpicking or excluded from the plant using cheesecloth. Chemical control is possible but will only work when rose chafers are present. This is a difficult pest to manage. I removed my roses.

Eastern tent caterpillars are also hard to miss (publication A2933). Their tents are often easy to see, even from a distance. Tent caterpillars can defoliate and weaken young trees. They are kept in check to an extent by natural predators and there are cultural, mechanical, biological and chemical controls available for protecting valuable young trees.

I have more to report but I am out of space. I learned a good deal writing this article. I hope you will take an interest in reading some of the Learning Store publications on insect pests in Wisconsin.



### *ASCERUM or Wild Ginger*

The 70 or so species making up this genus are mainly evergreen, low-growing, and rhizomatous woodland perennials from Europe, East Asia, and North America. They are grown for their heart-shaped or kidney-shaped, glossy, sometimes marbled leaves that conceal unusual-looking pitcher-shaped flowers that are malodorous. The plants grow up to 6 inches high and remain evergreen where winters are not too harsh; in Wisconsin the leaves generally die back to the ground. It is zone 4 hardy and requires minimum care. The plants are not related to ginger and should not be eaten as the plant contains compounds that can be carcinogenic. However, this is an attractive ground cover to grow in partial to full shade in humus rich, moist, well-drained soil that is moist. It makes a delightful addition to the shade when planted in drifts.



**EYE CANDY**



*I was visiting my daughter last night when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper.*

*"This is the 21<sup>st</sup> century," she said. "We don't waste money on newspapers. Here, use my iPad."*

*I can tell you this...that fly never knew what hit him...*



**Spring arrives with summer snapping at its heels.**



*I'm at that delusional age where I think everyone my age looks way older than I do. - Anonymous*



*The most important trip you may take in life is meeting people halfway. -Henry Boye*

Unless otherwise noted, articles for this newsletter are submitted and/or written by ECAMGA members or the newsletter editor, Carol W. Cox. Unless otherwise noted, graphics are from clipart. Newsletter layout by Carol W. Cox



For more Eau Claire County UW Cooperative Extension information go to our website: [www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/EAUCLAIRE](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/EAUCLAIRE)  
 Phone: 715-839-4712  
 Fax: 715-839-6277  
 M-F 8AM-5PM



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**Extension Office**  
**227 First Street West**  
**Altoona, WI 54720**