

# Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



March 2020

## Ready, Set, Grow... Another successful ECAMGVA winter garden seminar now in the books...

The 2020 event, held on Saturday, February 1, provided a collage of horticulturally related diversity. There was much to see and much to

Learn throughout the day. The event started off with Bonnie Blodgett as the keynote speaker. Blodgett, gardener, journalist and writer for the St. Paul Pioneer Press (author of "The Blundering Gardener" column) shared some of her gardening experiences as she "blundered" her way into learning about gardening. Her experience in gardening began with a wheel-

barrow full of hostas given to her by a

neighbor and went on from there as she went through trial and error.

Other offerings throughout the Day included Michael Travis information on "Perennials and Shaun Christensen showing us Design," and Chris Gaetzke Pike providing a look at the Invasives. This was only the

Then, after a delicious lunch in the Common Cafeteria and some time off to view the numerous venders and their diversity of garden and other products, the conference attendees settled down to an afternoon that included three more choices which included our own Margaret Murphy covering the subject of

"Gardening Trends 2020," and Jake Lau, Heidi Sanders and Nik Novak giving an overview of "The Local Food Movement in your Community! Growing! Selling! Serving!" John Hagar was on hand to discuss "Hostas and Stuff (Not your ordinary hosta presentation)."

After another break to check out the venders and anything that they missed buying earlier, gardeners in attendance while ECAMGAVs, settled back in to finish the day with a choice between Andy Heren and Gary Mathis shedding some light on "The Heirloom Garden," Jack Wagener offering information on "Growing Hemp in Wisconsin," or attending Dora Wood's "Mushroom Growing Workshop where participants were able to create a make-and-take oyster mushroom toilet paper roll as well as a 12 inch Shitake mushroom log they could take home and grow.

(Continued on page 3)



presenting  
Garden Health,"  
all about "Floral  
and Douglas Owens-  
subject of "Woody  
morning offering.



## Local Master Gardener News

### Changing e-mail? Moving?

If you do, please remember to notify the ECAMG 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).



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



### ECAMGA Board

ECAMGA BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO		
Name	E-mail address	Phone number
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Paula Bonnin	<a href="mailto:paula.d.bonnin@gmail.com">paula.d.bonnin@gmail.com</a>	715-220-6373
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Nancy Spak	<a href="mailto:nancyspak@gmail.com">nancyspak@gmail.com</a>	715-210-7005

#### Note:

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



### Somewhere over the rainbow, blue birds fly – Oh my!

by Rita Gundry

The Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteers (ECAMGVs) will welcome Spring with a presentation on bluebirds by Larry Liegel,

Larry enjoys retirement by aiding our bluebird population in accordance with the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin's mission. His goal is to monitor and increase the production of Eastern Bluebirds in our state through a coordinated nest box monitoring program.

He manages bluebird trails in his home county of Sauk and also in his residing county of Eau Claire. Larry also constructs cedar nest boxes with the recommended amenities specifically for bluebirds.

Plan to attend his informative talk to learn his monitoring techniques and to peruse the nests of other cavity nesters that call a bluebird box home....Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, House Sparrow and the House Wren. Bring along a friend or two as the presentation is open to the public. Treats and eats will be available and door prizes will be awarded.



### ECAMGVA 2020 Calendar

*All meetings at 6:30 pm at the  
Extension Office unless  
otherwise noted*

**March 16: Bluebirds – Larry Liegel**

**April 20: "Not Your Ordinary Hosta" – John Hager**

**May: TBA**

**May 31: Annual Plant Sale**

**June: TBA**

**July: TBA**

**August: TBA**

**September: TBA**

**October: TBA**

**November: TBA**

**December 16: Annual Holiday Party**

*"Kindness is like dog fur. It spreads  
everywhere." -Anonymous*



*Ready, Set, Grow continued from page 1...*

In addition to all the very interesting speakers attendees had access to, many left carrying door prizes and Kathy Zeglin (left) was the winner of the quilt raffled off at the Winter Garden Seminar. The quilt, created by ardent quilters Nina Logan, Sally Anderson, Mikel Reise and Cindy Ferver was a delightful plus to take home with many buying raffle tickets in the hopes of carrying off this prize.

If you missed this one, mark your calendars for the first Saturday in February 2021. See you then!



## Events

### RED CEDAR WATERSHED CONFERENCE LAND, WATER AND PEOPLE COMING TOGETHER

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020 · 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Hosted by the Tainter Menomine Lake Improvement Association (TMLIA)

#### L A N D

**Keynote: Regenerative Agriculture: Impacts on Water Quality**  
*Kris Nichols, PhD, Soil Microbiologist, KRIS Systems Education & Consultation, Knowledge for Regeneration & Innovation in Soil, Scottsdale, AZ*

**Breakout Session: Rotational Grazing for Profitability and Resource Protection**  
*Serge Koenig, Conservation Technician, Sauk County, WI*

**Breakout Session: Regenerative Agriculture - A Strategy for Local Economic Development**  
*Ken Meter, President, Crossroads Resource Center, Minneapolis, MN*

#### W A T E R

**Keynote: A Wisconsin Water Agenda for All**  
*Raj Shukla, Executive Director, River Alliance of Wisconsin*

**Breakout Session: Urban Watershed Improvements from Cumberland & Menomonee**  
*Randy D. Eide, PE, Director of Public Works, City of Menomonee, WI*  
*Tom Schroeder, President, Beaver Dam Lake Mgmt District, Cumberland, WI*  
*Michael Werner, Werner Leading Solutions, Cumberland, WI*

**Breakout Session: Seeking the Nexus Between Multi-State and Local Water Quality Improvement**  
*Jim Fischer, Mississippi River Monitoring Team Leader, WI DNR, La Crosse, WI*

#### P E O P L E

**Keynote: Managing Water Now: Individual Behaviors, Structural Barriers, and the Inevitability of Change**  
*Paul Robbins, Dean, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, UW-Madison*

**Breakout Session: Welcoming Women Outdoors**  
*Peggy Farrell, Director, Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW), UW-Stevens Point*

**Breakout Session: A River of Gifts**  
*Rod Olson, Barron County Historical Activist, Rice Lake, WI*  
*Brian J. Gabriel, Dunn County Historical Society, Menomonee, WI*

For more information  
and to register:

[www.RedCedarConference.TMLIA.org](http://www.RedCedarConference.TMLIA.org)

Conference supported with grant  
funding provided by the:



Platinum Sponsors:



Gold Sponsors:



Silver Sponsor: Jennie-O Turkey Store, Inc.

### ECAMGVA PLANT SALE

The 2020 ECAMGVA plant sale to be held on May 31 at Phoenix Park (9 a.m. to noon) is fast approaching. It is two weeks earlier and will start an hour earlier this year. Let's make this a successful sale.

Help is needed before the sale. Dick Lienhardt will start plants from seed and, about May 1, would like volunteers to take a flat or two to help him grow them out. The flats would have to be moved daily from your garage to the outside and return to the garage at night in order to harden the plants off. The plants would also need to be watered. If you can help out, let us know.

Also help is needed for digging, potting and labeling plants for the sale. There are Master Gardener members that would like help digging and prepping their plant sale donations. Please let us know if you can help.

This event is the ECAMGVA's only fund raiser. Your donations and time make the sale a successful. We need everyone to donate, if possible, at least 12 potted plants or bagged bulbs or houseplants. Any donations of plants and time are greatly appreciated! Thank you in advance for your help!

Mary Jane Griffin and Susan Merten  
Plant Sale Co-Chairs

715-590-3742 or 705-271-1259 cell/text  
[mgriffinhlaa@gmail.com](mailto:mgriffinhlaa@gmail.com) or  
[susmerten@wwt.net](mailto:susmerten@wwt.net)

L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library  
400 Eau Claire Street, Eau Claire

## Rejuvenate Your Landscape

**Friday, March 6**  
**4–5 p.m.**

**Saturday, March 7**  
(repeat program)  
**11 a.m.–Noon**

We often inherit landscapes filled with disconnected odds and ends, then wonder how to piece it together into a focused design and make it our own. This presentation will explore ways to stitch together an existing landscape to create cohesive garden spaces.

No registration required.

Co-sponsored by Eau Claire Garden Club. For more Garden Club events, visit [www.eauclairegardenclub.com](http://www.eauclairegardenclub.com).

Lisa Nunamaker Orgler is the creator of the Paper Garden Workshop website, a spirited place to learn garden design. Lisa uses her illustration skills to teach the topics she adores—garden design and landscape graphics. She does this full time in the Department of Horticulture at Iowa State University, plus part time on her website. To top it off, Lisa also holds degrees in landscape architecture, is registered in the state of Iowa and is currently serving on the Association of Professional Landscape Designers National Board of Directors.

715-839-5004 • [lbrian@eauclaire.lib.wi.us](mailto:lbrian@eauclaire.lib.wi.us)  
[www.ecpubliclibrary.info](http://www.ecpubliclibrary.info)

Presented by  
Lisa Nunamaker Orgler,  
award-winning garden designer,  
artist, and educator.



## Barron County Master Gardener Volunteers



### Spring Expo

**Saturday, April 4, 2020**  
**WITC Conference Center**

**Keynote Speaker: Bobby Jensen**, KARE 11's garden and landscape expert (the "Garden Guy") speaking on "Deer Resistant Plants." **Bobby Jensen** will also finish out the day with "Rethinking Your Landscape."

#### Other speakers include:

**Carrie Larson** – "New and Exciting Annual for your Garden in 2020"

**Dick Leinhardt** – "Practical Vegetable Gardening: Need some Do's and Don'ts to help you in your vegetable garden?"

Cost: \$30 per person (includes a continental breakfast, afternoon break, & lunch - menu: Lemon Thyme Chicken) if registered by March 27th. (thereafter \$35 with no guarantee on lunch).

For more information call 715-537-6250 or to register online go to

<https://barron.extension.wisc.edu/2020/01/10/barron-county-master-gardeners-spring-garden-expo-april-4th/>

## The Eau Claire Garden Club invites members and friends to **Planting Design Basics.**

**March 07, 2020 - 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM**

**Chippewa Valley Technical College - Energy Education Center**

This workshop, presented by Lisa Orgler, explores the beauty of arranging plant materials in your garden beds. Topics include the elements of planting design (form, texture and color), traditional and contemporary planting models, plus some basic graphics of plant symbols and drawing in elevation, so you can communicate your ideas to others. Along with pencil and paper, bring a laptop, smartphone, garden books and/or plant catalogs as we will use them as resources to explore plant options.

Lisa Orgler is an award-winning designer, artist and educator, and the creator of the website, [Paper Garden Workshop](http://PaperGardenWorkshop.com), a spirited place to learn garden design. Lisa uses her illustration skills to teach the topics she adores - garden design and landscape graphics. She does this full time in the Department of Horticulture at Iowa State University, plus part-time on her website. To top it off, Lisa also holds degrees in landscape architecture, is registered in the state of Iowa and is currently serving on the Association of Professional Landscape Designers National Board of Directors.

Cost: \$5 for Eau Claire Garden Club members and \$10 for non-members. To register online go to <https://eauclairegardenclub.com/> and click on the events tab.





S1 County Road K,  
Fall Creek, WI 54742  
Beavercreekreserve.org  
Phone: (715) 877-2212

**Owl Prowl**  
**March 17, 2020 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.**



Join a staff naturalist for a hootin' good time. The event will begin with a short walk outside to listen and hoot for owls, after which we will return inside to discover some of the unique traits of the owl family. A guest appearance by BCR's non-releasable owl is expected toward the end of the program. **This program is appropriate for upper elementary school-age children to adults.** Please dress appropriately for the weather. Registration and full payment are required by March 13, 2020.

Cost: Members \$3.00 (child) \$5.00 (adult; non-members \$5.00 (child) and \$8.00 (adult).

For more programs and activities visit the Beaver Creek Reserve website at:

<https://www.beavercreekreserve.org/events/calendar/March-2020/> or call BCR at 715-877-2212.



**Check this out on the Chippewa Valley Growers website at:**

<https://chippewavalleygrowers.com/4-things-to-do-in-march-for-your-garden/>. Enjoy the suggestions as to what to do for your garden (and you) in March while you watch for their opening for the season on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Garden U

### Wildflowers, Hostas, & Bees

Saturday, March 21  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (registration at 8 am)  
Hudson House Grand Hotel  
1600 Crest View Drive, Hudson, WI 54016

Program:

**Phyliss Root:** "Searching for "Searching for Minnesota's Native Wildflowers"

**John Hager:** "Hostas and Stuff"

**Heather Holm:** "Attracting Bees and Beneficial Insects to Fruit and Vegetable Gardens"

For more information and to register go to:

[www.scvmga.weebly.com](http://www.scvmga.weebly.com)



## Spring, 2020 Master Gardener Training Level I

**Eau Claire County Extension Office  
Altoona, WI**

### Location & Dates

The Master Gardener training is offered on eight Saturday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and two Thursday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Eau Claire County Extension Office, 227 1st Street West, Altoona, WI 54720.

### Saturday Class Days

March 28, April 4, 11, 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23

### Thursday Class Days

April 16 and May 28

Class size is limited so register early.

### Registration deadline is March 20, 2020.

**Program Fee: \$60.00** - (\$90.00 for two people from same household who share written materials.) Materials include the Master Gardener study manual, other course handouts, plus monthly newsletter.

### For More Information

Contact Margaret Murphy  
Horticulture Outreach Specialist  
Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire and Polk  
Phone: 715-726-7957  
Email: [margaret.murphy@wisc.edu](mailto:margaret.murphy@wisc.edu)

# Spring Begins!

With the Dunn County Master Gardeners

Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 9:00am-12:00pm

Dunn County Community Services Building  
3001 U.S. Hwy 12 East, Menomonie WI 54751  
\*Enter Basement Level Door on West Side of Building\*

Registration is \$8 until February 28<sup>th</sup>, \$10 thereafter or at the door.  
Fee includes materials, coffee break, snacks and door prizes.

For more information or to register, please contact the Extension  
Dunn County office at 715-232-1636 or online at  
<http://dunn.extension.wisc.edu>.

## More lilies anyone? And free too!

Our lily plant population can be increased for free with a little work. It is called “scaling” and is very easy to do. For instructions on how to do this go to:

<https://www.bdlilies.com/propfro mscal.html>.



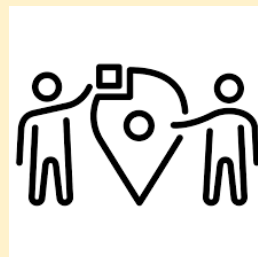
## Bits & Pieces

### Placemaking – What is that? by Chris Southworth

I recently completed Placemaking Lite; a Level 3 training course offered by UW-Madison. When I started I had only a vague idea of what Placemaking is. I learned it means bringing people together. Also, I learned the 19 Principles of Placemaking, plant blindness and a lot of other things. The course was interesting and thought provoking. But the biggest takeaway for me was the simple methodology it presented for evaluating our projects, both those that are ongoing and those that we’re considering taking on.

The methodology that was presented is this:

- What is the project under consideration? Describe it.
- What is the goal of the project?
- What is the community need or issue that the project supports?
- Is there credible research that supports the correlation between the project/ goal and the community need/issue that it’s addressing?



I’ll use one of our current MGV projects as an illustration of how we might use this methodology.

Project – landscaping at the Schlegelmilch House located in downtown Eau Claire.

Goal – create and maintain attractive gardens, to enhance and showcase one of Eau Claire’s historic landmarks.

Community need/issue – making downtown Eau Claire a thriving urban center.

Research supporting the correlation between our goal and the community need we’re addressing – “street trees and other streetscapes in downtown shopping districts were rated as highly favorable in a survey conducted among visitors”. (Kathleen Wolf, University of Washington’s College of Forest Resources).

Finally, it’s important to review our projects on a regular basis to determine whether we’re accomplishing our goal.



## The Quest

By Judy Mitchell

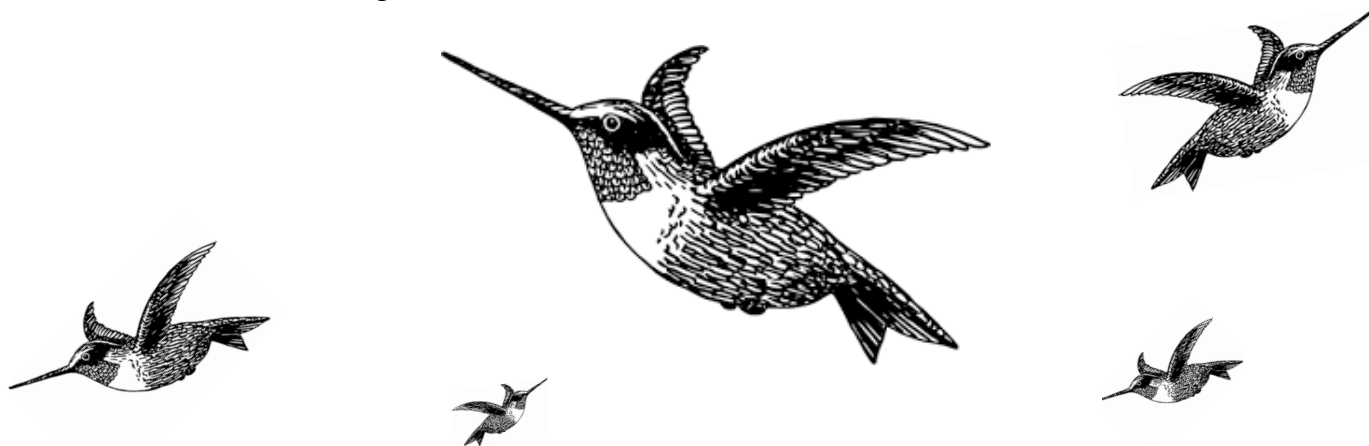
With Spring approaching, I am thinking wistfully about the arrival of robins, red winged blackbird, bluebirds and hummingbirds, as well as the berries, seeds and early blooms that I have to support them.

Our winter residents (chickadees, cardinals, juncos, woodpeckers and more) have eaten much of what is available above the snow and in my feeders. I will keep my feeders filled for the Spring migration and there should be grubs and more seeds available in the garden as temperatures rise and the snow melts.

Wondering what more I could do to help the birds, I decided to look for guidance at the Learning Store. Sure enough, there's a publication for that: UWEX Publication G1609, Landscape Plants that Attract Birds (available at <https://learningstore.uwex.edu>).

Birds need shelter, nesting sites, water and food. This publication explains that and provides information about the habitat and nesting preferences for each of the common Wisconsin birds. It offers landscaping ideas and includes a table on woody landscape plants that are attractive to birds. If you have a plan for editing or amending your landscape this year, you may find it worthwhile to consider the suggestions in this publication.

This year, I will put out a hummingbird feeder. In the past, I relied on my neighbor's feeder to attract the hummingbirds. After stopping at his feeder, they would fly across the street and around my house looking for, and finding, nectar in my flower garden. My neighbor won't be there to put a feeder out this year. I miss him. I don't want to miss the hummingbirds too.



Usually when we think of a library we think of books and, maybe, magazines. Certainly the L.E. Phillips Memorial Library (400 Eau Claire Street) in Eau Claire can provide us with those materials but, were you aware that they also have seeds? The seed library is opened at the end of February and is located on the first floor above the Dabble Box display cases and provides free vegetable, herb, and flower seeds all for free! Come see what seeds are available for starting your own healthy garden. It does not need to be huge, starting with a couple potted plants is okay too! Also, beginners can check out one of the many gardening books that can be found at the library to learn how to get started.

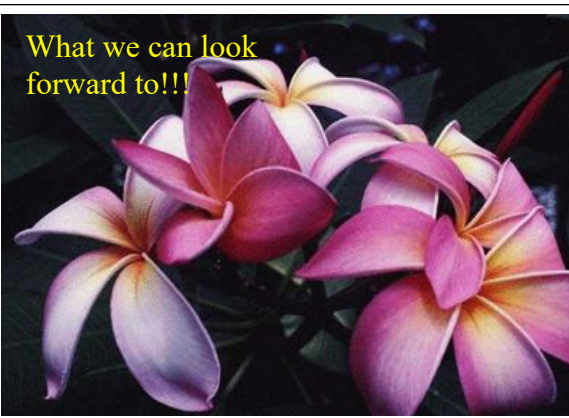


*A catty  
remark  
often has  
more lives  
than a cat.*

*-Anonymous*



What we can look  
forward to!!!



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

ST.  
PATRICK'S  
DAY

For more Eau Claire County UW  
Cooperative Extension information  
go to our website:

[www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/eaucnaire](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/eaucnaire)

Phone: 715-839-4712

Fax: 715-839-6277

M-F 8AM-5PM



**First Day of Spring  
– March 19, 2020**

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