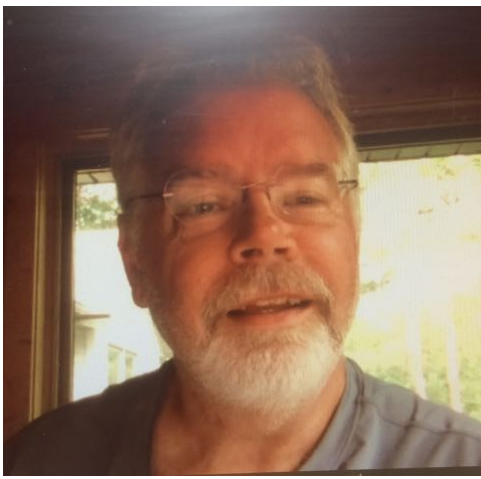


# Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News

July 2020



## Let's Talk About Hostas (and Daylilies, Too)...

by Carol Cox (pictures by Jo-Ann Clark and Carol Cox)

I am sure that we have all missed having speakers and the usual monthly educational meetings. Well, even though we are still minus the door prizes and treats the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting brought us back face-to-face (well, at least via Zoom) with a speaker. And a very interesting speaker at that.

John Hager said that his wife, Esther, had started their hosta garden and then he took it over. His presentation to the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteer Association (ECAMGVA) was a sharing of his principles and experience as a hosta gardener and hybridizer (he also shared with the group some of his daylily cultivars and information on daylilies).



Hager commented that "These are not your grandma's hostas." With the hybridization going on in the world of hostas there are over 6000 registered hosta varieties and many others, as well, that have never been registered. Where do these all come from? Well, some come from seed, some are sports of existing cultivars and many are hybridized using the tissue culture propagation method. The last twenty years has seen an explosion of new introductions.



He explained that a sport is, simply put, a leaf but in a clump of hosta that grows differently than the rest of that clump. This sport can be separated out and used to propagate more like it. Sometimes a hosta that resulted from a sport will revert back to the more solid color of the parent plant. That happens when you start to see green leaves in the midst of your lovely variegated hosta. If you don't divide those out of the clump the more vigorous solid colored roots/buds will, eventually, take over and crowd out your more colorful hosta.



Some websites that provide more information on the different hosta varieties include [www.hostalibrary.org](http://www.hostalibrary.org), <http://www.hostalists.org/>, and <http://americanhostasociety.org/>.

When ordering hostas over the internet it is "buyer beware," John indicated. The validity of a site offering hostas for sale can be checked out at <http://www.davesgarden.org/> (under the "Products and Sources" link which takes you to (continued on page 6)



## 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!!!**

**MGV**

### ECAMGA Board

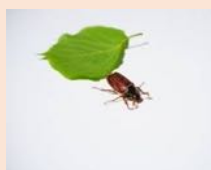
ECAMGA BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO		
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Nancy Spak	<a href="mailto:nancyspak@gmail.com">nancyspak@gmail.com</a>	715-210-7005

#### Note:

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

### Upcoming Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Educational Meeting by Ellen Terwilliger

Your Master Gardener Board is working to provide continuing education opportunities until it is safe to meet again. Here are upcoming sessions to watch for:



Monday, July 20th. 7:00 pm. Margaret Murphy will do a presentation on Zoom regarding Garden Pests. Chris Southworth will host and provide the Zoom Link for Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. We will share our late

gardens and harvests via photos and stories as we did our spring gardens.

Ellen Terwilliger will host and send Zoom link and request for photos for the Monday, September 21st. 7:00 p.m. meeting at which Jeannie Chomey, MGV will present via on planting fall bulbs.



Watch for the emails and information in the newsletter about upcoming educational events. Margaret Murphy also shares statewide educational offerings to take advantage of for continuing educational hours (Remember that we are still required this year to meet our continuing education hours).



### ECAMGVA 2020 Calendar

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

**July 20: Margaret Murphy presenting  
via Zoom on Garden Pests**

**August 17: Zoom meeting sharing  
photos and info on our late  
gardens**

**September: Jeannie Chomey will  
present via Zoom on Planting  
Fall Bulbs**

**October: TBA**

**November: TBA**

**December 16: Annual Holiday Party**

**To keep up to date on the latest  
guidance from UW Extension  
relative to the COVID19 situation  
go to:**  
<https://wimastergardener.org/2020/03/20/halt-to-master-gardener-program-volunteer-activities-2/>



## Thank you Eau Claire Master Gardeners,

Every year the Eau Claire Master Gardener Volunteers provide two \$500 scholarship to CVTC horticulture students. What follows are their thank you letters.



### EAU CLAIRE AREA MASTER GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

Your 2020 scholarship recipient is:  
**Travis Waltzer**

Travis is a native of Eau Claire, graduate of Amery High School, and student in the Landscape, Plant & Turf Management program.

#### Thank You!

Dear Eau Claire Master Gardeners' Association,  
I must express my sincerest gratitude for your generosity and your decision to award me the Eau Claire Master Gardeners' Association Scholarship! Thank you for your assistance in helping me fulfill my desire to complete this program. I am saddened that the reception has been canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Quarantine life has given me the opportunity to spend time with my kids and time to learn about plants. I hope that even in these trying times, you have been able to see some of the good things in life. As of this moment, I am on track to begin interning with UWEC on their gardening crew! I really can't express how excited I am to learn the tasks that they will teach me. Again, I thank you for your generous gift and appreciate it to the fullest.  
Sincerely,  
Travis Waltzer

#### PLEASE NOTE:

At the recommendation of the CDC, this year's Scholarship Reception has been canceled. We appreciate your continued support of CVTC and our students. Wishing you all the best as we work through these unprecedented times as a community.



### EAU CLAIRE AREA MASTER GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

Your 2020 scholarship recipient is:  
**Shayla Breen**

Shayla is a native of Chippewa Falls, graduate of Chippewa Falls High School, and student in the Landscape, Plant & Turf Technician program.

#### Thank You!

Dear Eau Claire Master Gardeners' Association,  
Thank you so much for your generous support. When I found out I received the Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners' Association Scholarship, I must admit I cried a few happy tears. However, at the time I received the email, I was working at my internship at Klinger's Farm Market in Tilden, so I didn't want to full out start crying at work. With the current events going on in the world, making the switch to home schooling my children and taking my classes online has been an uncertainty, a challenge and slightly disheartening. Receiving this scholarship was an absolute ray of sunshine warming a very cold and cloudy time in mine and my children's lives. I look forward to learning more information about the Master Gardener's Association in my future.  
Thank you again, and I cannot express my appreciation enough.  
Sincerely,  
Shayla Breen

#### PLEASE NOTE:

At the recommendation of the CDC, this year's Scholarship Reception has been canceled. We appreciate your continued support of CVTC and our students. Wishing you all the best as we work through these unprecedented times as a community.



### Grandma's Old-Fashioned Strawberry Shortcake

Yield: 8 - Source:

<http://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/grandma-s-old-fashioned-strawberry-shortcake>.

6 cups fresh strawberries, sliced  
½ cup sugar  
1 tsp vanilla extract

#### Shortcake

3 cups flour  
5 tbsp, divided sugar  
1 tbsp baking powder  
1 tsp baking soda  
½ tsp salt  
¾ cup cold butter, cubed  
1 cup buttermilk

#### Topping

1 ½ cups heavy whipping cream  
2 tbsp sugar  
½ tsp vanilla extract

#### Instructions:

1. Combine berries with sugar and vanilla; mash slightly. Let stand at least 30 minutes, tossing occasionally. Preheat oven to 400°.
2. For shortcake, whisk together flour, 4 tbsps. sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Cut in butter until crumbly. Add buttermilk; stir just until combined (do not overmix). Drop batter by 1/3 cupfuls 2 inches apart onto an ungreased baking sheet. Brush with 2 tbsps. heavy cream; sprinkle with remaining 1 tbsp sugar. Bake 18-20 minutes.
3. Remove to wire racks to cool completely. For topping, beat heavy whipping cream until it begins to thicken. Add sugar and vanilla; beat until soft peaks form. To serve, cut biscuits in half; top with strawberries and whipped cream.



Pollen is commonly found on the anthers in the center of lilies. If this pollen rubs off onto clothing or fabrics, it stains. Try brushing the pollen away with a chenille stem or pipe cleaner. You can also leave the item out in the sun to let the lily oils dry up. Shake the cloth and the pollen will fall off. To keep this from happening, simply remove the pollen prior to using or displaying the lilies. This is easily done by pulling the pollen pods off the anthers. Be sure to wash your hands well afterward.



## Bits & Pieces



### Youth Garden Update

by Judy Mitchell

Thanks to Margaret Murphy, our Extension Horticultural Outreach Specialist, we have been approved to work in the Youth Garden at Eau Claire's North River Front Park. The garden was planted on June 16 and is once again serving as an amenity of the park. We will not be teaching kids in the garden this year, but we do have hopes that kids from the Boys & Girls Club will be able to visit later in the summer. If you are interested in helping to tend the garden, please contact Judy Mitchell at [jmitchell@pobox.com](mailto:jmitchell@pobox.com)

### Plant Profile – *Aralia cordata* 'Sun King'

'Sun King,' a zone 3-9 plant, is the gold form of Japanese Spikenard. A subshrub (which means it dies back to the ground each fall) this plant emerges in springtime with large, bright gold leaves (assuming it gets at least a few hours of sun each day) and remains that color throughout the summer. If in full shade the color will be chartreuse to lime green.

This plant was chosen as Perennial Plant of the Year in 2020 by the Perennial Plant Association and was first introduced by Barry Yinger who, believe it or not, found it in a Japanese department store nursery and brought it to the U.S. The plant has 2' spikes of tiny white flowers which appear in summer followed by inedible, purple berries. The plant is 29-35 inches tall and wide. As a subshrub it is fast growing and deciduous. It makes a neat addition to the shade garden and is deer resistant (if there is such a thing) and is an easy-care perennial thriving in average to moist soil.







### All-Terrain Outdoor Wheelchair

Interested in more ways to get involved with us? Beaver Creek Reserve is now a host site to Access Ability Wisconsin's all-terrain outdoor wheelchair! If you are interested in learning how to use this wheelchair, consider becoming a volunteer to train others on how to operate it. Volunteers are expected to attend a training offered by Beaver Creek Reserve, as well as be onsite to train those who are reserving the wheelchair. No previous experience required! If you have any questions regarding the all-terrain outdoor wheelchair or would like to sign-up to be a volunteer, contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Kristen at [volunteer@beavercreekreserve.org](mailto:volunteer@beavercreekreserve.org) for more details.



*Nothing is prettier than Sweet Autumn Clematis.*

Lori Kempen says, "I got this simple recipe from a friend many years ago. It is quick, easy and very refreshing on a hot summer day. Served with a scoop of vanilla ice cream it is always a winner."

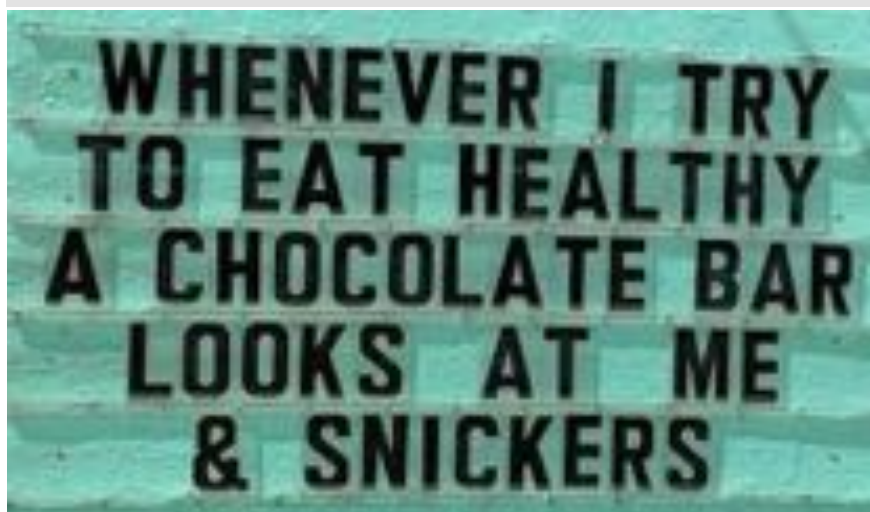
### Summer Sunshine Lemon Cake

1 box cake mix (yellow, white or lemon)  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup Canola Oil  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup water  
 4 eggs  
 1 box lemon jello

Dissolve jello in water. Add eggs and beat for one minute. Add oil and beat for 1 minute. Put in a greased and floured 9x13 pan. Bake for about 40 minutes at 350 degrees. Immediately after, when taken from oven poke cake all over with a fork. Pour glaze over warm cake.

### Glaze

2 cups powdered sugar  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup lemon juice  
 Mix in small bowl and pour over warm cake.



*Hostas...continued from page 1*

the Garden Watchdog section of that website. That feature provides a “directory of the 7,998 mail-order gardening companies worldwide” with those retailers ranked and rated by Dave’s Garden members. One of Hager’s favorite suppliers for hosta is Northern Grown Perennials which is a Wisconsin grower located at Ferryville, Wisconsin.

Some reading material Hager recommended on hosta include some field guides by Mark Zilis, “The Hosta Field Guide to Hostas,” “The Hosta Handbook” and “The Hostapedia: An Encyclopedia of Hostas.”

One bit of information shared by John was the fact that hostas do not come true from seed so, if a hosta grower wants to ensure that they maintain the hosta variety, they will need to do so by division of the hosta or through tissue culture techniques. All in all, the tissue culture technique has very much simplified the process of hosta hybridizing.

Hager’s presentation also covered a bit about Hosta Virus X with him pointing out that this looks like ink bleeding between the veins of the hosta plant. Disinfection of tools between plants and getting rid of infected plants is the best way to deal with this. In addition he added a bit of insight into the pests that attack hosta. These include foliar nematodes, slugs, and cutworms (plus deer).

In summarizing his “keys to successfully growing hosta” John said:

1. Dig a big hole – wide rather than deep;
2. Amend the soil when you plant;
3. Don’t be afraid of some sun but water, water, water.

He also pointed out that fall is very important in ensuring that your hosta overwinter successfully and come back healthy the next spring. Making sure that the hosta get adequate water in that fall season is so important as this is when they are setting/developing the root structure for the next year’s growing season.



In addition to his passion for hosta, Hager also hybridizes daylilies. At present he has about 300 daylily seedlings growing. He likes big flowers with bold colors and ruffled edges. And, like hosta, daylilies do not come true from seed. His presentation on daylilies (as was true for hostas) included numerous pictures of various daylilies, including those he has hybridized. (With the hosta he also paired those pictures up with what the sports were from a given hosta).

John also indicated that his gardens will be on the Eau Claire In Bloom garden tour next summer.

Questions and answers followed his presentation. Hager’s home and gardens are located in the Town of Seymour in the St. Andrew’s Park area near the Town of Seymour townhall.





*"A physician can bury his mistakes; an architect can only advise his clients to plant vines."*

*- Frank Lloyd Wright*

*Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art.*

*-Eleanor Roosevelt*



Photo submitted by Paula Bonnin of a rose she picked from her garden.



## EYE CANDY



Interestingly only the males are actually "peacocks" (the hens are peahens). A family of peafowl is called a "bevy" and they are not born with those fancy tail feathers. Also, surprisingly they can fly despite their huge trains and do not have to be killed to harvest feathers from them. In addition, there are all-white peafowl. Who knew!



"Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;"

-Robert Frost



Our own Mikel Reise dealing with the flowers and tomato plants at the gardens at the UW-Eau Claire Extension Office..

"Though there are other ways to finance your gardening, one successful way is to choose carefully whom you marry. A good and generous man is needed, one who knows how to make money and enjoys sharing it, one who himself is not interested in the actual pursuit of gardening but likes to be proud of the premises."

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$

- Emily Whaley, Mrs. Whaley's Charleston Garden

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$

**Did You Know This About Hummingbirds?**

- they can remember flowers they have visited
- which humans can be trusted to refill empty hummingbird feeders
- they can fly forward and backwards
- they beat their wings between 70-200 times/second
- the male can dive past the female at speeds that can reach 60 mph
- but once the female is impressed and impregnated, she works for five days to build a 2-inch diameter nest of buds, plant down, and lichens, about an inch deep and lays in it jellybean-sized white eggs
- she sits on those eggs for two weeks while the male looks to mate with any other females who wander into his territory.

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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