

# Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



April 2018

## Permaculture Explained...

Master Gardener, Mari Jackson, enlightened those in attendance at the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteers (ECAMGV's) educational meeting concerning the purposes and benefits of Permaculture. The event was held on March 19 at the Eau Claire County UW-Extension Office in Altoona.



Picture by Nancy Spak

Jackson indicated that she had actually started doing permaculture before she even knew what it was since much of what is involved in permaculture involves good gardening practices. Permaculture was developed in the 1970s by Bill Mollison and David Holmgren. It is a system of agriculture and social design principles that are centered around simulating or directly utilizing the patterns and features that one finds in a natural ecosystem. Once established, such a system is self-sustaining (and low maintenance) as well as beautiful, productive and provides excellent wildlife habitat. Permaculture systems also are very productive generating an abundance of food, fiber and energy.

In discussing permaculture Mari cited the principals that go into designing such systems. In the process a lot of observation and interaction with the landscape occurs resulting in a system where there is little or no waste. Plant groups and systems are integrated into the whole rather than being segregated into monocultures. This type of agriculture also links one group of plants and their outputs to another plant's inputs resulting in the waste from one group feeding the other so that everything within the system is made use of. I think that is what my grandparents tried to do leaving nothing to be thrown out.

The twelve Permaculture design principles that were promulgated by Holgren in his **Permaculture: Principles and Pathways Beyond Sustainability** are:

1. **Observe and interact:** By taking time to engage with nature we can design solutions that suit our particular situation.
2. **Catch and store energy:** By developing systems that collect resources at peak abundance, we can use them in times of need.
3. **Obtain a yield:** Ensure that you are getting truly useful rewards as part of the work that you are doing.
4. **Apply self-regulation and accept feedback:** We need to discourage inappropriate activity to ensure that systems can continue to function well.
5. **Use and value renewable resources and services;** Make the best use of nature's abundance to reduce our consumptive behavior and dependence on non-renewable resources.
6. **Produce no waste:** By valuing and making use of all the resources that are available to us, nothing goes to waste.
7. **Design from patterns to details:** By stepping back, we can observe patterns in nature and society. These can form the backbone of our designs, with the details filled in as we go.
8. **Integrate rather than segregate:** By putting the right things (Continued on page 6)

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## 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!!!!**



Now that we have a vacancy in the Horticulture Educator position, people have expressed interest in coming to the Extension office and helping answer the high volume of horticulture questions that come into our office.

Dunn County UW-Extension will be hosting this year's "Responding to Horticulture Inquiries" workshop in Menomonie. Some of our members took it a few years ago when it was held in Eau Claire. It is led by our Extension professionals from Madison, such as Brian Hudleson, PJ Liesch, Mark Rena, and Paul Koch.

This training would be beneficial to anyone volunteering at the Extension office or at the Farmers Market. The date for the training is April 20<sup>th</sup> (8:30 am to 4:30 pm at the Dunn County Community Services Building) **with a registration deadline of April 13<sup>th</sup>**. The cost per person is \$20, which includes lunch.

Andy Heren will be attending. Is anyone else interested? More information is available via the WI Master Gardener website at <https://wimastergardener.org/responding-to-horticulture-inquiries/>.

If you have any question, please call Andy at the Extension office at 715-839-4712.



### ECAMGA Board

ECAMGA BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO		
Name	E-mail address	Phone number
Mary Jane Griffin	<a href="mailto:mgriffinhlaa@gmail.com">mgriffinhlaa@gmail.com</a>	715-835-6979
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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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Lori Kempen	<a href="mailto:lorikempen@charter.net">lorikempen@charter.net</a>	715-832-8088

#### NOTE:

The ECAMGAV Board minutes may be accessed at <https://eauclairemastergardeners.weebly.com/ecamg-board.html>.



*ECAMGAV  
2018 Calendar  
All meetings at  
UW-Extension Office unless  
otherwise noted*

**April:** Chef LaLaine Gunem, Asian edible plants & cooking w/ them

**May:** Jim Schwiebert, on wild edibles

**June 10:** MG Plant Sale in conjunction with the Hosta Society at Phoenix Park

**June:** David Schmitt of Haycreek Outfitters on "The Nature of Bears"

**July:** Garden Tours TBA

**September:** State WIMGA conference in Eau Claire

**October 1:** MGV Hours due in

**October 7:** Annual Photo Contest entries due

**November:** Election of new board Members

**December 17:** Annual Holiday Party

**Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Plant Sale  
June 10, 2018 at Phoenix Park  
10:00am – 1:00pm**



Happy Spring Master Gardeners:

The plant sale committee has had its first meeting and we are excited for the June sale. Here are a few things members can plan for to help us make this a successful sale.

First, we will be selling donated perennial and annuals as usual. We may have some native plants. If you are starting some flower, vegetable or herbs, plant a few extra for the sale!

It is suggested that the donated plants be planted or repotted in sterile soil purchased at a store if possible.

Second, if you have jumping worms in your yard or think you might have, please consider donating other things than plants from your yard.

Third, we will be accepting lightly used and in good condition garden related items to sell such as garden tools, flower pots and garden décor.

Fourth, we will take houseplants. Please make sure they are in good condition, pruned and potted in an appropriate pot.

Make sure that you keep track of the time that you spend for your volunteer hours. The planting, digging, maintenance of the plants, and travel time to the sale can be counted toward your volunteer hours. We are also looking for volunteers to help at the plant sale. If you can help, please phone, text or email. See below for the information.

The plant sale is Eau Claire Master Gardeners only fund raiser. Your donations are very important to the success of the sale. Any donations are deeply appreciated!

Mary Jane Griffin and  
Susan Merten  
Plant Sale Co-Chairs  
715-590-3742 cell/text  
mgriffinhlaa@gmail.com



## Upcoming Events & Other Things

*Dear gardening friends:*

*Chippewa Valley Growers  
is inviting members and friends of  
Eau Claire Garden Club and  
Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners to a*

### **2018 New Variety Plant Preview.**

**Tuesday, April 24, 2018  
6:00 - 7:00 PM  
(Rain or shine!)**

*This is a special evening  
to receive a personal tour of their  
greenhouse and learn about  
12 new perennials and 12 new annuals  
for the 2018 season!*

*Purchases will be allowed that evening.  
All those attending will receive a coupon  
for  
\$ 10.00 off a \$ 50.00 purchase.  
(Coupons will be good for that evening  
or a later date.)*

***Chippewa Valley Growers  
7825 Prill Road, Eau Claire***

*Chippewa Valley Growers is located 3  
miles East of Eau Claire  
at the intersection of Highway 12 and Prill  
Road.*

***An obstacle is something you  
see when you take your  
eyes off the goal.  
-Anonymous***





## EAU CLAIRE GARDEN CLUB ART IN BLOOM BUS TRIP April 26, 2018

Join us as we travel to the Minneapolis Institute of Art to enjoy the 35th annual ART IN BLOOM where you will enter a world of timeless art and fresh flowers. Delight in over 150 floral arrangements designed to interpret pieces of art from the MIA's permanent collection. Afterwards, we'll stop at Gertens, a premier garden center. Supper will be at a fast foods restaurant on the way home.

**COST:** \$35

Includes coach bus and driver tip. Sign up and pay at [eauclairegardenclub.com](http://eauclairegardenclub.com), under "Events." Lunch on your own at MIA'S Agra Culture Dining Area. The bus will leave the Target parking lot at 7:30 a.m. SHARP. The bus will return about 7:45 p.m. Will need 38 people to fill the bus.

**RESERVATION DEADLINE is APRIL 13, 2018.** No refunds after this date.

If interested send payment through the [www.eauclairegardenclub.com](http://www.eauclairegardenclub.com) website or mail a check made out to Sharon Daniels to Sharon Daniels, 10606 24<sup>th</sup> Ave., Eau Claire WI 54703. Include your name and phone number. For more information email Sharon Daniels at [davesgraced1@charter.net](mailto:davesgraced1@charter.net) or call her at 715-715-830-1405.

***Men (and women) with courage do not  
slay dragons, they ride them.  
- Anonymous***



### Classes:

**Saturday, April 7 at 10:00 a.m.: Caring for Your Succulents and Air Plants –**

Succulents and air plants are all the rage these days. Come learn how to plant and care for these awesome plants and watch our experts demonstrate creative ways to display them. There are many different and unique ways these can be used for interior decorating. We encourage you to think outside the "container."

**Saturday, April 14 at 10:00 a.m.: Veggie & Herb Gardening 101 –** New to growing your own food? This class is for you. Everything from planning the layout of your garden or container to what to plant and when. We will also cover companion plants and harvesting. Growing your own food is a much healthier way to live. Find out how to get started at this class.

**Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.: Straw Bale Gardening Class –** Learn about the newest, interesting way of garden growing. Cost: \$15 includes Straw Bale. The book will be available for purchase as well. **Pre-registration is required for this class.**

6025 Arndt Lane  
Eau Claire WI, 54701  
715-833-1234

E-mail - [home@dwntoearth.com](mailto:home@dwntoearth.com)



**Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am: Fairy Garden Class.**

**Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm: Spring Herb Planter Class.**

Call 715-836-8220 for more information or go to: <http://www.maysfloralgarden.com>. to register.

May's Floral Garden, Inc.  
3424 Jeffers Road  
Eau Claire, WI 54701



### Eau Claire Master Gardener **Scholarships** for Autumn at the River Conference

As many of you may know we have the state WIMGA conference here in Eau Claire on September 21 - 22 this year. The Eau Claire Master Gardeners are offering six \$50 scholarships for Eau Claire Master Gardeners in good standing interested in attending. **Application deadline is May 31st.** For an application form contact Ellen Terwilliger at [terwilset@gmail.com](mailto:terwilset@gmail.com).



### Spring Expo

Saturday, April 7, 2018  
8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.  
WITC Conference Center  
Rice Lake, WI

#### Keynote Speaker:

**Debbie Lonnee** from Baily Nurseries – speaking on “Growing Perennials in Cold Climates” and “Shrubs and Small Trees in Cold Climates”

Also,

**Crystal Schmidt** speaking on “Rare and Unique Edibles for the Home Garden”

And

**Susan Frame** speaking on “Integrated Pest Management”

Seminar cost is \$30 (tickets at the door will be \$35 with no guarantee of lunch being available), which includes a continental breakfast, chicken breast over rice pilaf lunch, and afternoon coffee. For a registration brochure go to <http://barron.uwex.edu>.



Beaver Creek Reserve

S1 County Road K

Fall Creek, WI 54742

Phone: 715-877-2212

**Bird Banding: Wednesday, April 11, 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and Thursday, April 12, 7:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

Are you interested in joining Beaver Creek Reserve’s Bird Banding Crew? Join us for an introduction to bird banding. This workshop is for those with little or no bird banding experience. Participants will learn how to safely capture and release birds. They will learn techniques to hold, band, and take measurements on birds in the hand. Discussions will also include Beaver Creek’s Avian Monitoring Program, benefits of bird banding, bird identification, and banding safety.

**Price: \$50.00. Registration and full payment required by April 5.** Friends and Nonmembers \$50 per person



*Picture of gorgeously decorated gourd taken by Nancy Spak on her last trip.*



**Permaculture** – continued from page 1...

in the right place, relationships develop between those things and they work together to support each other.

9. **Use small and slow solutions:** Small and slow systems are easier to maintain than big ones, making better use of local resources and producing more sustainable outcomes.

10. **Use and value diversity:** Diversity reduces vulnerability to a variety of threats and takes advantage of the unique nature of the environment in which it resides.

11. **Use edges and value the margins:** The interface between things is where the most interesting events take place. These are often the most valuable, diverse and productive elements in the system.

12. **Creatively use and respond to change:** We can have a positive impact on inevitable change by carefully observing, and then intervening at the right time.

Some of the other terms and concepts that Mari talked about were “Hugelkulture,” “Food forests,” “Fruit tree guilds,” and “Nutrient accumulators.” To learn what these are and to explore in more depth the fascinating subject of Permaculture check out Holmgren’s book referenced above as well as “Introduction to Permaculture” by Mollison; Sepp Holzer’s Permaculture: A Practical Guide to Small-Scale, Integrative Farming and Gardening or “Practical Permaculture: for Home Landscapes, Your Community and the Whole Earth” by Jessi Bloom and Dave Boehnlein.

After a period of questions and answers treats were enjoyed and door prizes were given out. If you missed the event mark your calendar for Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup> when the next ECAMGAV educational meeting will be held. Same place (Eau Claire County UW-Extension Office in Altoona) at 6:30 p.m.

The speaker will be Chef LaLaine Gunem who will be presenting on growing and cooking with Asian edible plants. The public is welcome. Come and bring a friend. Treats will be served and door prizes awarded.



## 2017 Digger Award Goes To Dick Lienhardt

by Lori Kempen

The Digger Award for 2017 was presented to Dick Lienhardt during the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteer Association (ECAMGVA) Board Meeting on Thursday, March 8th. Dick has been a MG since 2007 and is currently serving on the board as Vice President.

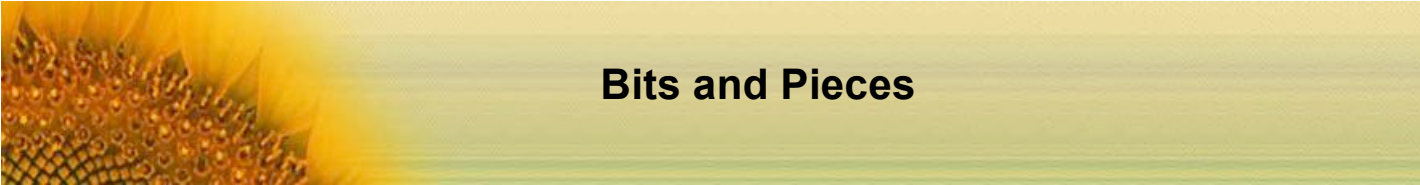
Dick is a very active member working on many projects. He assists with the “Ask a Master Gardener” booth at Phoenix Park during the Downtown Farmers' Market season. He is a “walking encyclopedia” of garden information and happily shares his knowledge with those asking questions.

Many plants raised in his greenhouse are donated to the Kids Gardens and the Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale or generously shared with friends. Dick has served as a judge for the Eau Claire County Junior Fair and has presented education programs on starting plants from seeds as well as vegetable gardening at monthly education meetings. He helps out at the Ready, Set, Grow...winter garden seminar each February.

This past July Dick and his wife Jennifer hosted a tour of their extensive gardens and beautiful yard for the ECAMGV group. They have graciously agreed to again let the ECAMGAVs to visit this summer (due to a nasty storm many people were unable to attend last year’s tour). Local food pantries, friends and fellow gardeners have been fortunate to receive numerous donations of produce from these gardens. It is not at all unusual for Dick to show up at a board meeting with a trunk full of tomatoes, peppers, squash, leeks, onions, pumpkins and just about anything you can think of to share.

This award is usually presented at the Holiday Event in December. It was delayed due to the fact Dick was visiting family in Norway when the party was held.

Congratulations and thank you for all you do to make the ECAMGVA a great organization. You exemplify what the Digger Award means: someone who gets out there and does things to make the Master Gardener’s Association a vibrant presence in our community.



## Bits and Pieces

### Rhubarb – Old Fashioned Pie Plant! by Carol Cox

Rhubarb, (*Rheum rhabarbarum*) is a species of plant in the family Polygonaceae and is considered to be a perennial vegetable. This plant grows well in most areas of the United States and is often known as “Pie Plant” as it is so often used in pies as well as in sauces and other baked goods.

Rhubarb is an ancient plant with Chinese rhubarb being traced back to 2700 BC. Chinese doctors recommended it for its medicinal qualities as a laxative and to help reduce fever and cleanse the body.

The plant is easy to grow and best divided in the early spring when the plants are dormant. Plant the roots with the crown bud about 2 inches below the surface of the soil. This plant likes good drainage otherwise the crown will rot. Working in plenty of compost or well-rotted manure before planting will substantially increase production. Rhubarb plants should be divided about every five years.

It is helpful to apply a complete garden fertilizer before growth begins in the spring and then side-dress with a high-nitrogen fertilizer in late June. Mulch is helpful in dry areas but do not cover the crowns.

It is best to not harvest rhubarb during the first year following planting to allow the plants to develop strong root systems. Then harvest for 1-2 weeks during the second year and for 8-10 weeks during the third and subsequent years (harvest in the fall only when the plants are to be discarded the following season).

To harvest, pull the leafstalks from the plant and trim off the leaf blades. The leaf blades contain large amounts of oxalic acid and should not be eaten (both the roots and the leaves contain high amounts of oxalic acid and are potentially highly toxic). The deeper the red color of the stalk the more flavorful the rhubarb. To ensure a healthy plant that continues to produce well, remove only about one-third of the leaves from the plant at any one time.

### RHUBARB CUSTARD CAKE (recipe from Lori Kempen’s kitchen)

1 Box Yellow Cake Mix  
4 Cups Rhubarb, Finely Chopped  
3/4 Cup Sugar  
1 Cup Whipping Cream or Half and Half

- 1) Prepare cake batter according to directions. Pour into a greased 9x13 inch pan. Sprinkle with rhubarb and sugar. Slowly pour cream over the top.
- 2) Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until golden brown. Serve with Whipped cream, if desired. Refrigerate leftovers.



**The World Thru the Eyes of a Child:**

**Teacher:** How old is your father?

**Kid:** He is 6 years old.

**Teacher:** What? How is that possible?

**Kid:** He became father only when I was born.

(Logic! Children are quick and always speak their minds.)



Some very interesting birdhouses can be found at:

<https://meowlogy.com/2018/01/30/23-best-birdhouse-can-build-right-now/>

**EAU CLAIRE AREA MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER**  
A newsletter for the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Association members.

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  
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M-F 8AM-5PM



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