

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



November 2018

Announcing the Winners of the 2017/2018 ECAMGA Photo Contest

Some excellent photos were entered. Thanks to all who entered. Pictured are this year's contest winners. First prize is a \$30 gift certificate; second prize is a \$25 gift certificate and third prize is a \$20 gift certificate. All winners receive a certificate with their name and winning photo on it including the Honorable Mention placing. Awards will be given out (continued page 7)



***First Place
Winner... Paula
Bonnin with her
photo "Red-
Spotted Purple
Butterfly on a
Black-Eyed Susan."***
Picture taken at the
Beaver Creek
Reserve Butterfly
House this past
summer.



***Second Place
Winner...***

***Ellen Terwilliger
with her photo
"Poppy"*** taken in
late June in her
meadow. She
commented, "I liked
the delicacy of the
petals with the white
edge. The green
insect was fun and a
good counterbalance
to the green foliage
around the poppy."



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 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
Mary Jane Griffin	mgriffinhlaa@gmail.com	715-835-6979
Dick Lienhardt	dicklienhardt@yahoo.com	715-286-9917
Paula Bonnin	paula.d.bonnin@gmail.com	715-220-6373
Ede Strand	edestrand@aol.com	715-8326775
Jerry Richards	richardsleeann@hotmail.com	715-456-7232
Carla Pelzl	jcpelzl@gmail.com	715-835-6628
Nina Logan	ninalogan@centurylink.net	715-878-4585
Ellen Terwilliger	terwilset@gmail.com	715-839-0731
Lori Kempen	lorikempen@charter.net	715-832-8088

Note:

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

Just Local Foods To Present To ECAMGA

The word local has become a hot, new buzz word recently. Although the idea of buying locally grown food is not new, this movement has picked up momentum in recent years.

On Monday, November 19th, Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteers (ECAMGVs) will have the opportunity to learn more about "eating local" and how this relates to Master Gardeners and anyone else interested in the concept.



Beginning at 6:30 at the Extension Office in Altoona, three members from Just Local Foods in Eau Claire will be on hand to enlighten ECAMGAVs about the "local" food movement here in the Chippewa Valley. The following people will be available to answer questions and discuss this initiative and its benefits. An enthusiastic gardener, Deli Manager, Heidi Sanders, loves to share her knowledge of growing, preparing and storing food. Local CSA farmer, Jake Lau from Square Roots diversified vegetable farm near Fall Creek can share his thoughts on connecting food consumers and producers in the same geographic region. Nik Novak is the Meat Buyer as well as a teacher, stonemason and avid canoeist.

Come prepared to learn how this alternative to the global food model benefits us as consumers by reducing travel time and ensures economic, ecological and social sustainability in our community. Bring a friend or neighbor and join us for the evening. Refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded. This meeting is free and open to the public.



ECAMGVA 2018 Calendar

All meetings at Extension Office unless otherwise noted

November 19: Election results for board members & Just Local Foods presentation

December 17: Annual Holiday Party



Summer's Best Containers must, unfortunately yield to frost and ruin! That is why we have cameras. (Picture by Carol Cox)



October ECAMGA Meeting Featured “Ask A Master Gardener Panel Discussion”

On October 15 at 6:30 pm, at the UW-Eau Claire Extension Office in Altoona, the Master Gardeners were allowed an opportunity for those present to interact in a question and answer session with the “Ask a Master Gardener” group. This is the group which meets every Saturday morning at the Phoenix Park Farmers Market. The panel, headed by Andy Heren, who most often work the “Ask a Master Gardener” booth discussed what they did and what the most frequently asked questions were (Japanese Beetles tops off the list). Most questions that come up are relatively easy and resource materials are available in the booth to look up anything that can’t be answered easily. After there was an informal discussion and questions from those in attendance.



Andy made the plug for more people needed to run the booth for 2019 so, consider this might be an interesting way to earn volunteer hours. Snacks were available and door prizes were given out. If you missed this meeting don't miss the next one (see article on page 2).



The Quest by Judy Mitchell

People ask about compost. What is it? How do I make it? What is wrong with my compost heap? Many of us know where to go for the answers. Some of us took the 2017 Level 2 Compost and Soils class and many of us have read Learning Store **publication A4021**, Making and Using Compost in the Garden. You may want to read or re-read that publication. However, it is not the topic of my article this month.

This month, I suggest stepping back and reviewing the role organic matter plays in your soil and checking out Learning Store **publication A2305**, Organic Soil Conditioners (available at www.learningstore.uwex.edu). This is an older publication (1998) that goes into why organic material is so important for soil health and how to improve your garden soil using a wide variety of products, including compost.

As it decomposes, organic matter supplies nutrients and also makes inorganic elements available to plants by “holding” them in a certain form and keeping rain from washing them away. Organic matter improves both sandy and clay soils. Sandy soil, which would otherwise drain quickly, benefits from the water holding capacity of organic matter. In clay soil, organic matter improves the soil structure and this publication explains how the microorganisms in organic matter accomplish that.

You may already be aware that organic matter is not all the same in terms of the benefits to plants. **Publication A2305** provides tables showing the carbon:nitrogen ratio for common soil amendments and the nitrogen, phosphate and potash composition of certain waste products. For me, the most useful guidance in this section was to target a low C:N ratio (less than about 28:1). That will release nitrogen, not tie it up, and I can achieve it using a mix of organic materials.

Fall is a great time for reflecting on the gardening season. I hope you will take a few minutes to read this publication and consider putting “add organic matter” on your list of things to do in the garden next year.

Update on Upcoming Board Elections – Meet the Candidates...

The annual election for board of director positions will take place in early November. There are four open positions. Voting will be done by postcard ballots mailed to all Master Gardener Volunteers. Please watch the mail for your postcard so that you can return your vote by the deadline listed on the ballot. The candidates for board of director positions have submitted the following information to introduce themselves to you:



Chris Southworth: I've been a Master Gardener since 2012. My focus this past year has been serving on the committee that planned the 2018 WIMGA Conference. I look for a variety of ways to participate and one of my favorites is our Ask A Master Gardener booth at the Farmers Market. The camaraderie there is amazing! I would enjoy the opportunity to learn more about the inner workings of our organization.



Rita Gundry: I have been a MG since the fall of 2011. My main interests lie in garden related activities, which are successful in keeping me from doing my real work. Counting bats for the DNR, Bluebirding for the Bluebird Restoration Society of WI, raising monarch butterflies according to monarchwatch.com from the University of Kansas and becoming familiar with mason bees and how to raise them to optimize my garden's potential. I would enjoy serving on the board and learning more about our organization.



Nancy Spak: I became a MG in 2002 and haven't stopped being involved in MG or Gardening since. I have previously served on the MG board for 2yr term. I was the Co-Chair for the 2018 State MG conference here in Eau Claire. I have been president of the Eau Claire Garden Club for 6 yrs. I have worked with the MG winter conference for several years as well as helped establish the teaching gardens at the Extension Office. I enjoy teaching others and helping people learn about the outdoors and all it has to offer. I would like to help promote the love of gardening and the MG association in Eau Claire.



Ellen Terwilliger: I've been a Master Gardener for 5 years. I work with children and families at the Lakeshore Elementary School Garden planting seeds and planting the vegetable garden with Kindergarten and First Grade students. The past two years I worked with a group of 16 people from five counties co-chairing the WIMGA state MG conference held in Eau Claire in September of this year. I've been your board member for the past two years and your WIMGA local representative for the past three years. I'm willing to serve as board member again for a second term.



Events



Classes:

**Saturday, November 3,
10:00 a.m. – Winter
Wonderland Miniature
Garden Workshop:** Make

your very own Winter Wonderland Miniature Garden! These miniature gardens will have a special twist just for the holidays! With a unique container, a few plants, festive holiday décor, and a touch of elfin magic, you'll have a wonderful new miniature garden to add to your holiday décor! **Cost:** Build your own; only pay for what you take home. Bring your own container or purchase one here.

Thurs, Nov. 8 & 15th at 5:00 pm; Sat., Nov 10th, 17th & 24th at 10:00 am. And 3 p.m. and Friday, Nov. 23 at 2:00 pm:

“Spruce” Up Your Porch Pot Workshop: Learn how to create unique containers for this Christmas season! Bring in your own containers and design your own porch pot during the class! Let us help you transform your porch pots for this season. **Cost:** Build your own; only pay for what you take home. **Please call ahead to reserve your spot as these workshops fill up quickly.**

Sat. Nov. 24th at 10:00 a.m., Thurs. Nov. 29th and Dec. 6th at 5:00 pm: Winter Wreath Workshop: Design your own winter wreath this Christmas season. When it comes to creating wreaths, we think outside the traditional “Red Bow.” We will start with a base wreath and go over different ways you can “spruce” it up. **Cost:** Build your own; only pay for what you take home.

NOTE: Pre-registration is preferred for all classes and workshops.

6025 Arndt Lane
Eau Claire, WI 54701
715-833-1234
www.dwntoearth.com



Classes:

Winter Porch Pot Classes:

*Sat., Nov. 10 at 10:00 am
Thurs., Nov. 15 at 6:00 pm
Sat., Nov. 17 at 10:00 am & 1:00 pm
Sat., Nov. 24 at 10 am & 1 pm
Thurs., Nov. 29 at 6:00 pm
Sat., Dec. 1 at 10:00 am*

Fairy Garden Classes

Sat., Dec. 1 at 1:00 pm

Register at:

<http://www.maysfloralgarden.com/page/classes-and-events>

May's Floral
3424 Jeffers Rd.
Eau Claire, WI 54702
Phone 7150836-8220
www.maysfloralgarden.com



As winter approaches, with the help of our candid camera shots we can look back fondly at the brightest and best spots in our gardens. Photo by Carol Cox

***The grass may be greener on the other side
of the fence, but you still have to mow it.
-Anonymous***

Photo Contest continued from page 1...

at the November ECAMGA monthly educational meeting. The other entries will be published in subsequent issues of the ECAMGA Newsletter.

Again, thank you everyone who submitted an entry. We can enjoy, along with you, your 2018 gardening experiences through the winter's ice and snow via your photo submissions.

Copies of the photos will also be hung on the way in the UW-Extension Office conference room in Altoona.

Third Place Winner...

Mikel Reise with her photo "Ligularia in the Early Morning."



Honorable Mention...

Rhonda Cooke with her photo "Molly." Her comment, "Even puppies take time to smell the flowers."



**Some people say motivation does not last.
Neither does bathing, but we must do it daily.
-Anonymous**



Bits & Pieces

Eye Candy



Eye Candy, whether in the form of flower, leaf or hardscape never ceases to catch our eye and intrigue our imaginations. If we look around us we find all kinds of it. Pictures by Dana Cox.



Tree peonies are woody, deciduous shrub peonies. They lose their foliage in the fall but their woody stems do not die back to the ground like herbaceous peonies.



Although the flowers may be similar, hardy hibiscus plants are very different from the fussy, tropical hothouse plants available in floral shops and grown indoors. Hardy hibiscus is a non-tropical plant that tolerates punishing winters as far north as USDA plant hardiness zone 4 (with protection), while tropical hibiscus won't survive outdoors north of zone 9.

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/eaucnaire

Phone: 715-839-4712

Fax: 715-839-6277

M-F 8AM-5PM



The University of Wisconsin Extension provides affirmative action and equal opportunity in education, programming and employment for all qualified persons regardless of race, color, gender/sex, creed, disability, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital or parental, arrest or conviction record or veteran status." If you need an interpreter, materials in alternate formats or other accommodations to access this program, activity or service, please contact 715-839-4712 as soon as possible preceding the scheduled event so that proper arrangements can be made in a timely fashion

**Eau Claire County
Extension Office
227 First Street West
Altoona, WI 54720**