

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



October 2018

Autumn At The River, State WIMGA Conference A Sell Out!!!

By Ellen Terwilliger

On September 21-22 the Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners (ECAMGs), along with those from Barron, Chippewa, Dunn and St. Croix hosted Autumn at the River, the Wisconsin Master Gardener Association (WIMGA) annual conference. Two hundred and twenty-six Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) and gardeners from all over Wisconsin and Minnesota attended the conference and participated in local horticultural tours.



A highlight for many attendees was walking across the new footbridge and being able to see the Farmers Market on a perfect autumn day in Eau Claire.

Friday evening Mark Dwyer from Rotary Gardens spoke on Woody Plants for Fantastic Foliage. Saturday Ben Futa presented Principles of Planting Design with Perennials. Our breakout sessions covered GMOs, herbs, bulbs, mushrooms, daylilies, photographing your garden, plant disease, sustainable vegetable gardening, home berry production, gardening with children and "Gardens will Save the World."



Many thanks to the ECAMGs who volunteered their time to make the annual WIMGA conference a success. And a special thanks to Andy Heren for coordinating and introducing the Farm Market with a lovely talk. Nancy Spak and Ellen Terwilliger are more than ready for a quieter fall and winter after all their work on the event.

See you at our local Education and our ECAMG winter garden conference in February, 2019. (Watch for details in upcoming newsletters.)

Pictures by Jo-Ann Clark.



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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 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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| Nina Logan | ninalogan@centurylink.net | 715-878-4585 |
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Note:

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

Sixth Annual ECAMGA Photo Contest Deadline Approaches!



Remember – the deadline to submit photos for the contest is coming up. Your best phot must be submitted by no later than **October 7, 2018**. For contest rules and more information check out page 6 of the August issue of the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News.



ECAMGVA

2018 Calendar

All meetings at Extension Office unless otherwise noted

October 7: Annual Photo Contest entries due

October 8: Invitation to ECGC

October 15: MG meeting – Ask A Master Gardener Panel Discussion

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

December 17: Annual Holiday Party

October ECAMGA Meeting to Feature “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 will present a question and answer session with the “Ask a Master Gardener” group which meets every Saturday morning at the Phoenix Park Farmers Market. This group will discuss some of the most asked questions they have been presented with from the public. They can also help us as Master Gardeners as to how to best answer these questions we are presented with or how we can refer the public to further information about their interests. This meeting is open to the public. No question is too great or too small for us to discuss and attempt to find an answer. Snacks and door prizes are offered. Bring a friend or two!



ECAMGAV Board Elections Approaching – Will You Serve?

Elections for open positions on the Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners Association Volunteer (ECAMGAV) board of Directors will take place in November 2018. Directors are elected for a two-year term and may serve up to, but no more than, two consecutive two-year terms.

Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV) who are members in good standing (that is, have paid dues for the year and have completed the required number of service hours and educational hours) are eligible to run for a position on the board. Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month. (The Board has been meeting at 1 p.m. at the Extension Office. (The time for the new board to meet will be discussed at the first meeting after the election). The meetings last about an hour to an hour and a half, depending on the amount of business on the agenda.

The time that board members spend in a meeting or taking care of other board responsibilities, as well as the time it takes for travel to and from the meetings, counts toward service hours. It is a good way to learn more about the organization and to contribute to its goals and smooth operation.

Those interested in being placed on the ballot for a board position are asked to contact the Secretary via email or mail with the following information: your name and a brief paragraph (approximately 50 words) indicating how long you have been a volunteer, special areas of interest, and your reasons for wishing to serve on the board. The information must reach the secretary by Monday, October 8, 2018. The slate of candidates will be published before the November elections.

Please send the information to: Carla Pelzl, 3005 Hamilton Ave., Altoona, WI 54720 or email jcpelzl@gmail.com. (Please put “**Board of Director’s elections**” in the subject line). **If you have questions call 715-835-6628.**



The Quest *by Judy Mitchell*

Recently, I have been reflecting on fake news and my responsibility as a Master Gardener Volunteer to answer horticulture questions with UWEX and other appropriately researched information.

The UWEX Learning Store (<https://learningstore.uwex.edu/>) alone contains 330 publications on Lawn & Garden topics and 38 on Food & Nutrition topics. I find it is easier to refer people to a publication I have read, and I am pretty sure I have not read all 368 of these publications. How many have you read?

Beginning with this issue of the ECAMGV Newsletter, I will be challenging you to study at least one UWEX publication every month.

This month, my recommendation is UWEX Nutrition Publication A4044, To Eat or Not To Eat: Less-Than-Perfect Garden Produce. The vegetables we grow are not always perfect. Publication A4044 gave me the facts on what not to eat.

This publication explains why our fruits and vegetables are sometimes misshapen, what insects are damaging our produce, how to identify rodent damage and whether we need to be concerned about damage to the skin or the interior of our produce. It includes a handy one-page list of food safety guidelines that you can use to educate people about less-than-perfect garden produce.

Annual Harvest Potluck Recap

The Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteers (ECAMGVs) met on Monday, September 17th at the UW-Eau Claire Extension Center in Altoona for the annual Harvest Potluck. It was an evening with lots of delicious food and lots of sharing concerning the pluses and minuses of the past years gardening season. Some did a bit of grumbling over their ongoing fight with chipmunks, rabbits (and deer) in this past season. Paula Bonnin said she had tomatoes coming out of her ears and made huge quantities of salsa for the fire department personnel (which, was, apparently MUCH appreciated). She said she got her tomato plants this spring from Dick Lienhardt.

Rita Gundry also shared some very interesting information concerning her efforts to attract Mason Bees to her yard and garden. She said that it takes 60 honey bees to do the work of one Mason Bee in cherry tree pollination. Along with her interest in Mason Bees, Rita is also involved in raising Monarch butterflies and promoting blue bird nesting as well as doing bat counting.

Sally Anderson also has been taking advantage of using a local CSA to provide the produce that she uses rather than grow it all herself and Nancy Spak shared that she and her daughter had discovered chicken of the woods mushrooms and puffballs in their woods this summer.

Carla Pelzl worked at the demonstration gardens by the Extension Office in Altoona and talked about the climbing beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, morning glories and other things that were grown there. This is a project that she feels very much needs to continue and more volunteers are needed to make this happen next year.

And, someone also raved about their results with “Purple Cow” fertilizer. Many more insights and experiences were shared with someone also raving about their results with “Purple Cow” fertilizer.

After enjoying the delicious food and all of the sharing of the past seasons highlights and low lights, door prizes were given out. If you missed the event make sure to plan to attend next year!



Top left: door prizes.

Top right: Rita Gundry talking about Mason Bees.

Bottom left: Nina Logan talking about her summer garden experiences.

Bottom right: Ellen Terwilliger



Events

Calling All Garden Club Areas You are Invited to the NWHS October 14th speaker event.

1:00pm

Mayo Clinic Health System
Red Cedar Facility
2321 Stout Road,

Menomonie, Wisconsin.
(Enter by north side loading docks)

The speaker is Josh Spece owner of In The Country Garden and Gifts in Independence, Iowa.

<http://www.inthecountrygardenandgifts.com>

Josh is also Web editor-In-Chief for the American Hosta Society. He will be speaking on the topic of miniature hostas.

Hope to see you there!!
John Hager, President,
Northern Wisconsin Hosta Society



A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust. Gertrude Jekyll

Beaver Creek Reserve
S1 County Road K

Fall Creek, WI 54742

Phone: [715.877.2212](tel:715.877.2212)



Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding Demonstration Oct. 8: 8:00 pm – 10:30 pm and Oct. 20: 8:00 pm– 10:00 pm

Northern Saw-whet Owl migration is getting underway, and Beaver Creek Bird Banders will once again open the banding station to allow you to see these charismatic-night-flyers. Since we are working with wild animals we cannot guarantee that a bird will be caught during your visit; but you will be able to learn about the birds, their migration, and the banding process. Banding will be cancelled due to rain or extreme winds. This unique experience is something to hoot about, so invite your friends and come out to the Citizen Science Center.

Cost: Friends of Beaver Creek: free.
Non-member adults: \$3.00; non-member children: \$1.00;

Registration & full payment by October 8th.

And October 16th for the session on Oct. 20.





Classes:

Saturday, October 6 and October 20 – 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 pm:

Succulent Pumpkin Planter Centerpiece Workshop: Take your Fall season decorating to a whole new level! These new centerpieces are all the rage on Pinterest! All you need is a few live succulent cuttings, some fun seasonal decorations or fabric, a pumpkin and some hot glue. Your creation can then be planted in a pot once the pumpkin is past its prime. **Cost: \$25 per centerpiece.**

Saturday, October 15, 3:00 p.m. – House Plant Care & Transplant Workshop: Love the look of indoor plants but not sure how to keep them thriving? We can help! This class will cover what plants work in which environments, how to care for them, and how to transplant. A must attend class for anyone with indoor plants.

Thursday, October 18th – 5:00 p.m.: Putting Your Garden To Bed: A thorough fall clean-up will give your garden a healthy start in the spring! Come learn what you need to do before the winter arrives to have the best success in your garden. We will discuss how to clean up your perennial garden and what to do with trees and shrubs, how to overwinter tender plants, and all the odds and ends you should do now to save yourself time and energy in the Spring. We will also provide information on winter pruning and answer any questions concerning when and how to do it!

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

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

**Invitation from the
Eau Claire Garden Club
To the ECAMGAV Members
October 8, 2018 Meeting
CVTC Energy and Education Center
Room 103
4000 Campus Road, Eau Claire, WI
(on the North side of the building)
Social hour at 6:00-6:30 pm ~
Meeting at 6:30 ~ speaker at 7pm**

**Featured speaker
Steve Betchkal presenting:
"All this and Robins too
~ Wisconsin Birds"**

Steve Betchkal is the author of a number of books, two of which will be available for sale for \$10 each at the event





Bits & Pieces



The Foxy Lady Speaks... “Ode to a Dish Towel”

I'm a dish towel. My name is Tuesday. I know that's my name because it's embroidered on my lower left corner of my muslin body. I work in the kitchen of my owner.

Each morning I hang on the oven door handle of the stove and am ready for action in the kitchen. I only work one day a week, on Tuesdays. We stay busy all-day washing dishes, cleaning the counter, wiping up spills, and sometimes swatting the cat off the table. Sometimes I even have to wipe one of the kid's snotty nose, UGH! By the end of the day I'm so tired I'm happy to be tossed into the dirty clothes basket.

I have several friends who also work with me one day a week. Wednesday and Thursday are my best friends. There's also Friday, Saturday and Sunday, but their jobs are easier since that's the weekend and Sunday is the family's day of rest. Monday is no longer with us. He got into a tug of war with the family dog and lost so now he's just a scrub rag.

Actually, I am now retired but I volunteer to hang on the oven door handle one day a week on Tuesday. At the end of the day I'm folded and placed neatly back in the linen closet. My job is now taken over by a roll of paper towels. She doesn't do nearly as well as I have done. She's standing up there right now sneering down at me on the oven door handle. She's such a snob. Sometimes I feel like just swatting her off into the sink and turning on the water. She would just melt down into a soggy mass of goo. But I would never do that. I'm not that kind of dish towel.

The kids are all grown up and gone now. My owner has gray hair and I notice she has gained a few pounds. I'm also aging a little. I'm faded and have tattered edges in spots. One day all of us towels will be folded on the shelf at the Goodwill Store, except Monday of course. Who knows what happened to him. Then maybe some new wife will be shopping the Goodwill Store and will see us and think we're cute in a 1930s retro look and will take us home with her. We can hang on her oven door handle ready for action when she needs us. My day would be Tuesday. Wouldn't that be nice?

***Winter is an etching, spring a
watercolor,
summer an oil painting and
autumn a mosaic of them all.”
-Stanley Horowitz***





Tis the season for ripe crab apples, berries and all kinds of things to feed the birds over fall and winter. Then, too, it is the season of foggy fall mornings and turning leaves (and the bugs are gone, too).

Photo by Dana Cox.



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:
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 M-F 8AM-5PM



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**Eau Claire County
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 Altoona, WI 54720**