

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



September 2018

Pollinators and Native Plants

by Nina Logan

On August 20 Sherry Sprague, one of our Master Gardeners, presented a talk on pollinators in the garden. Sherry has many years of experience with native plants and their relationship with pollinators. Let's start by defining plants who may or may not be described as native.

Native plant—a plant grown in North America before human involvement.

Exotic plant---plants brought here from other countries

Naturalized plants---those plants who adapted to North American climates.

Cultivars---plants who have been altered to produce a more desirable flower.

Invasives—plants who take over areas of existing plants.

Weeds—any plant growing out of place.

Besides being beneficial to insects, native plants have deep root systems which can reach moisture from deeper levels of earth. These deeper roots provide better absorption of moisture into the soil which helps prevent water run-off.

Native plants require less water and are easy to care for after they are established. Natives are usually single petaled and are more sought after by pollinators who find it hard to distinguish between types of multipetaled flowers. Also different pollinators may have different needs such as bloom time, height of the plant etc. For example, pale coneflower blooms in early summer which provides nectar for those early pollinators whereas showy goldenrod blooms later than most goldenrods and provides nectar for those later pollinators.

Have you heard of the Circle of Life? Native plants coevolved with native insects, birds and small mammals. They are deeply dependent on one another. Native plants provide food and shelter for insects, birds and small animals which in turn supports the lives of predators. So, you see, native plants are the building blocks; the stepping stones for a healthy ecosystem.



Picture by Jo-Ann Clark



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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 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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Note:

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

Hello Master Gardeners,

The time is flying by and the Master Gardener (MG) Board will have at least three vacancies to be filled. **Please consider being a member of the Board.** The meeting is held the second Thursday of each month with meetings lasting about one hour. Volunteer hours are earned for being on Board. The term of office is for two years and the term begins January 1, 2019.

Voting for the new positions will happen in November. You must be a certified Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteer Association (ECAMGVA) member for the year to be a member of the Board. Being on the Board keeps one up to date what is happening in the MG organization. Also, one can learn where to help out to earn volunteer hours.

Please contact Mary Jane Griffin (phone is 715-835-6979, email is mgriffinhlaa@gmail.com), Carla Pelzl (phone is 715-835-6628, email is jcpelzl@gmail.com), or Andy Heren, (phone is 715-839-4712, email is Andy.Heren@co.eau-claire.wi.us).

Please consider being a member of the ECAMGVA Board. Also remember that your volunteer and educational hours are due the end of September to be sure you meet the certification requirements.

Mary Jane Griffin
President of ECAMGVA Board



ECAMGVA

2018 Calendar

*All meetings at Extension Office
unless otherwise noted*

September 17: MG End of the Season
Annual Potluck

September 21-22: State WIMGA
conference in Eau Claire

September 30: MGV Hours due in to
the UW-Extension Office

October 7: Annual Photo Contest
entries due

October 15: MG meeting - TBA

November 19: Election board members
& Just Local Foods presentation

December 17: Annual Holiday Party



ECAMGAVs Enjoy Tour of Two Lincoln Avenue Gardens

By Lori Kempen with pictures by Jo-Ann Clark

On Tuesday, July 10th ECAMGV members and guests visited two gardens located just off of State Street in Eau Claire. Julia Kyle's garden at 320 Lincoln Avenue has an established front perennial garden and window box planters. The back is being developed using several gardening methods, including a rain garden and pollinator plantings near a gazebo. Many grasses and assorted perennials line the crushed rock walkways. A courtyard garden with herbs and edibles is located near a flagstone patio outside the breezeway. A bronze canoe water feature on a granite base is the perfect accent for this interesting little retreat.



Julie Kyle in front of her yard



The McGraw house and garden



Dennis McGraw in garden



From the McGraw Garden



The McGraw Garden

Across the street at 321 Lincoln Avenue Dennis and Kathy McGraw have spent 14 years establishing their beautiful yard and gardens. These spaces, filled with an assortment of perennials, including many hosta varieties are accented with colorful annuals.

The vegetable area is fenced to keep the deer from dining at will. A garden bench and bird bath with interesting statuary complete this cozy back yard. The result of their hard work is certainly reflected in these pleasant surroundings.

Thank you to Julia Kyle and the McGraw's for graciously showing their gardens. The beautiful weather contributed to a very enjoyable evening. If you missed this tour join us (and bring a friend) to the End of the Season Harvest Potluck on July 17th at the UW-Extension Office in Altoona. For more information see the article on page 5. See you there. Bring a friend!

Submitting Hours for the Year

It is almost time to submit your volunteer and continuing education hours for Master Gardeners. As you may have read in the July *Volunteer Vibe*, the state is working on going to an electronic form of submission, but the August *Volunteer Vibe* reported they aren't quite ready to do it that way only, so they ask that you submit your hours as we have in the past, **but also use the electronic way** to get used to it. I don't think a link has been provided for that yet. Watch the September *Volunteer Vibe* for more information.

Your volunteer hours go from September 1-September 1. You need to have your hours turned in to the UW-Extension office **BY October 1**. Please mark that on your calendar so they are in on time as we submit them all together for our county.

If you have any questions, you can call Andy at the Extension office at 715-839-4712 or email him at Andy.Heren@co.eau-claire.wi.us

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Master Gardener Volunteer Name Badges

Do you need a Master Gardener Volunteer name badge? The state only offers these once a year, at the time we turn in our hours, to make it cost effective. If you need a replacement badge, or if you never received yours, please email Andy at the Extension office at Andy.Heren@co.eau-claire.wi.us, or call him at 715-839-4712.

Please also do this by **October 1**.



Good judgement comes from experience, and a lot of experience comes from bad judgement!
-Anonymous



Volunteer Hours at the Conference

Eau Claire Master Gardeners: Many of you have registered for the Autumn at the River Conference on September 21-22 at the Lismore Hotel. We are excited that you are coming. You should have also received a couple of invitations from Judy Wibel to help volunteer a couple of hours during the conference. There are a large variety of options: helping sell bulbs, food line monitors, registration, introducing speakers or helping pass out handouts and other opportunities. If you have not received the online sign-up from Judy please email her at judywibel@gmail.com

It takes many people to put on a conference so if you are still looking for hours this is a fun way to get volunteer hours and continuing education hours in one fell swoop. Check out the variety of prizes that will be available in raffles and the silent auction at <https://www.wimgaconferences.com/prizes-vendors>. Registration for the annual WIMGA conference closes on September 9th.

See you at the Lismore September 21-22 for Autumn at the River.



Events



September 17th Annual ECAMGVA Annual Harvest Potluck To Be Held

On Monday, September 17th the ECAMGVA will be hosting the annual End of the Season Harvest Potluck at the UW-Extension Office in Altoona. All members and their spouses or significant others are encouraged to attend this fun event celebrating the end of our growing season. Please bring a dish to pass, if possible using something from the garden. Anything goes: appetizers, breads, desserts, salads, hot dishes or whatever you create. Feel free to share your recipe with the group. Coffee and another beverage will be provided. It is truly potluck, so what we get is what we eat! Dinner will start at the usual 6:30 meeting time.

This will be a casual time getting to know your fellow gardening friends. Be prepared to discuss the success of your plantings this year. We will share with others what worked and what didn't this season. Please call the office at 715-839-4712 and let us know how many will be attending, so we can have enough tables set up. Door prizes will be awarded, so invite a friend and join in for an evening of "garden chatter" and delicious food!



Beaver Creek Reserve

S1 County Road K

Fall Creek, WI 54742

Phone: [715.877.2212](tel:715.877.2212)



Birdbanding 101

Two sessions: September 12, 8 am to 1 pm and September 13 from 7:30 am to noon.

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 ends:
SEPTEMBER 7TH



Classes:

Thursday, September 6th at 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, September 22 at 10:00 a.m. - Fall Porch Pot Workshop:

Come and create your own fall porch pots to add great fall color to your home. We have a unique selection of fall plants that can handle the cold weather and will give you nice fall color for the whole season. Cost: Build your own; only pay for what you take home.

Thursday, September 27th at 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, September 29th at 10:00 a.m. –

Terrarium Workshop: Come discover why terrariums are growing so popular and how they are a great way to get kids excited about gardening. A simple glass container can be transformed into a self-sustained tropical oasis! Learn how to properly put together a glass terrarium that creates a perfect growing environment for plants and adds life to your office desk, the noon in your kitchen or a child's room. Bring your own glass container or purchase one here. 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

*When you wish for
rain, you also have
to deal with the
mud.
-Anonymous*



Sixth Annual ECAMGA Photo



Remember – the deadline to submit photos for the contest is coming up. Your best photo 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.



Meet Me in the Garden

September 8, 2018

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Display and Teaching Garden

UW-Research Station

Spooner, WI

Meet Me in the Garden is a series of educational events during the growing season at the Spooner Agriculture Research Station Teaching and Display Garden. The events are led by Master Gardener Volunteers, Summer Garden Interns, and the UW-Extension Horticulture Agent. This year's theme is "Get Social in the Garden". This close-up session will focus on harvesting and seed saving.

Please bring your own chair for the Meet Me in the Garden Series. 10am to Noon.

The event is free.

For more information contact Sue Reinardy at sreinardy@centurytel.net or by phone at 715-462-3361 or go to <https://wimastgardener.org/events/meet-me-in-the-garden-2/>.

Level 1 Training in Chippewa County Using Gardening to Make a Difference September 18, 2018

Chippewa County UW-Extension is now recruiting volunteers to apply for Level 1 Training of the Master Gardener Program.

Volunteers are important to UW-Extension. They help reach into communities and address the needs that matter most to people. Master Gardener Volunteers specifically focus on the topic of gardening. They help answer gardening questions, help people grow food, battle invasive plants and protect pollinators, and get people— of all ages and abilities— active in the garden! You'll get to help fulfill the [UW-Extension mission](#) in your area of the state using gardening and education. If you want to make a difference in your community and also want to learn more about gardening, think about joining our team.



Cost: \$80

Contact: Jerry Clark at Jerome.clark@ces.uwex.edu or by phone at 715-726-7950.



Bits & Pieces



Photo by Paula Bonnin. She calls it "Aretha"



How to use an old mailbox – rent it out to a bird!!!

Idea is off of Pinterest.com



An interesting birdhouse setup from Pinterest.com



Another interesting idea off of Pinterest.com – a small table made from a shovel.



REMEMBER... September 21-22 is the Wisconsin Master Gardener Conference in Eau Claire.

There is still time to sign up online at: <https://www.wimgaconferences.com>.

The website has brochures that you can print out for registration and info.

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/eauc Claire
 Phone: 715-839-4712
 Fax: 715-839-6277
 M-F 8AM-5PM



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