

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News

February 2017



Free catalogs...



Treasures from vendors...



Lots of interesting vendors...



Now,
where
do I go
next?

2017 Ready, Set, Grow...A Success!

by Carol Cox

The annual event brought over 150 garden enthusiasts together to fuel their spring angst! The keynote speaker, Tim Johnson, from Seed Savers (Decorah, Iowa) let out with why we should grow heirlooms.

He also gave attendees some idea of what an heirloom seed is with special emphasis on the fact that the heirloom seed has a generational relationship with the seed being passed down through the generations. Johnson also proposed that gardeners also played a part as "nation builders" in that, historically America has encouraged the collection of seed materials from all around the world and that, in 1897 USDA distributed 1.1 billion packets of seed. In addition, U.S. Agriculture grew because of all the diversity in plant material that was available to the early farmers and ranchers.

The seminar also offered three breakout sessions with a choice of three different speakers in each breakout. David Ziesak, Associate Professor of Horticulture at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, gave those (continued on page 6)



It was all worth the work...



Lots of plant temptations...



Catrine Marcussen

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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 715-861-4495).



Bulletin Board Postings, Stories and Opportunities!!!!



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NOTE: The ECAMGA Board minutes no longer appears in the newsletter. You may access them by going to the website at eauclairemastergardeners.weebly.com

Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners Plant Sale Sunday, June 11, 2017 at Phoenix Park

Hello Master Gardeners!

While I know everyone is dreaming of spring and your gardens, it is time to start planning for the MG Plant sale. We will be partnering with the Hosta Society again.

I am looking for master gardener volunteers to be on the plant sale committee and help plan our one and only fund raiser. We would meet about once a month and maybe have an extra one as we get closer to the June sale date. Our first meeting will be the week of February 13th.

The unfortunate arrival of invasive jumping worms in your area is going to require the Master Gardeners to embody some new protocols for sale plant preparations to avoid spreading the worms. We also will need to talk about how we are going to educate our customers on jumping worms—what they are, how they spread and how we can help to deter them from spreading.

Plant Sale Committee participation provides an easy way for you to get your volunteer hours! Come and help raise the money we use to sponsor garden projects and education in the Eau Claire area! If you are interested or would like more information, you can call or text me at 715-271-1259 or email me at susmerten@wwt.net.

Susan Merten,
Plant Sale Chair



**ECAMGA
2016**

Calendar

*All meetings at UW-Extension
Office unless otherwise noted*

February 2017: Tom Stallman –
“Raising Chickens in Your Backyard”

March 21, 2017: Gordy Petschow
–“The Science of Organic Soils and Gardening”

April 18, 2017: Darrell Reed –
“Gardening A to Z...
Getting Started.”

May 2017: TBA

June 11, 2017: ECAMGA
Annual Plant Sale

June 2017: TBA

July 2017: Tour Dick
Leinhardt's Vegetable
Garden

August 2017: TBA

September 2017: TBA

October 2017: TBA

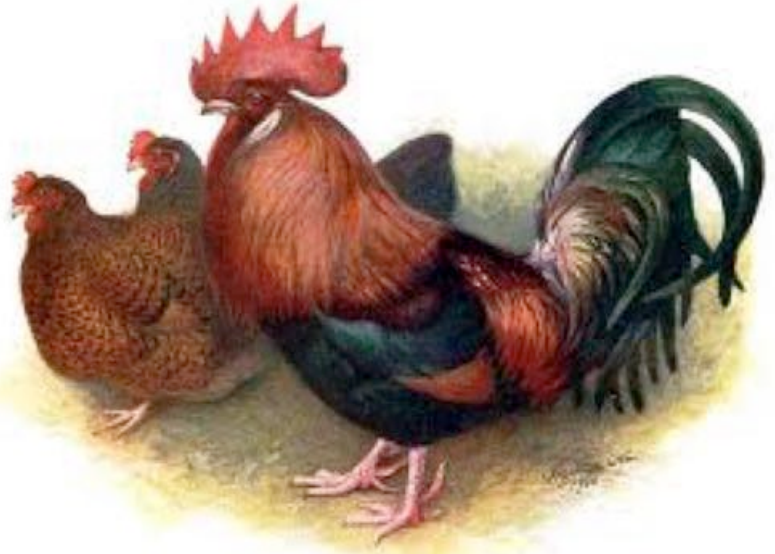
November 2017: TBA

December 2017: Annual
Potluck, Christmas
Party and Election of
Board Members.

Upcoming Events

BIRDS OF A FEATHER.....

On February 21, 2017 at the Eau Claire County Extension Office (227 First St. West in Altoona) Tom Stallman will be speaking to the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Association (ECAMGA) on the subject of raising chickens in your backyard.



He will talk about different breeds of chickens, the eggs they lay, and how to care for them. Tom also raises ducks, geese and guiana fowl and can answer questions about them.

Stallman will also discuss diseases of chickens, and winter care for them in our northern areas.

The event is open to the public so bring along a friend. Door prizes will be awarded and treats will be served.



Classes:

Saturday, February 4th 10:00 am Relax & Reflect - Yoga in the Greenhouse with Certified Instructor. Come relax and reflect with Yoga in the greenhouse! What a fun way to get out of the house, do something to treat yourself and enjoy a terrific light lunch after. (Preregistration Required): **Cost: \$25 per person -Includes Light Lunch.**

Thursday, February 16th & 23rd 5:00 pm: Hanging Basket Workshop: Break away from winter and come plant your very own custom hanging basket in the greenhouse! We will be planting baby plants in your hanging basket. Then DTE will care for your baskets until they are ready to go outside. You'll be able to pick up your baskets in May to take home and enjoy. You're welcome to stop in and check on their status as they grow. **Cost: \$50 per basket, everything is included**

6025 Arndt Lane, Eau Claire WI, 54701
715-833-1234 or E-mail - home@downtoearth.com
Website: <http://www.downtoearth.com/index2.html>

Think Spring Garden Seminar

Saturday
February 18, 2017

8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.



Avalon Hotel &
Conference Center
1009 W. Park Avenue
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Keynote speaker Jeff Epping, Director of Horticulture at Olbrich Botanical Gardens,

"Inspirations from English Gardens"
"Small Trees with Big Impact" and
"Sustainable Gardens: Designs and
Plants for Greener Gardens"

Faye Ryszkiewicz, Fryszki's Country Gardens, LLC;

"Violets and Companion
Houseplants" and
"Succulents in a Teacup" workshop

Joy Lancour and Steve Hesselberg, CVMG Volunteers;

"Straw Bale Gardening"

Jerry Clark, UW Extension Chippewa County Crops & Soils Educator;

"Garden Pests"

Dora Wood, CVMG Volunteer;

"Produce Preservation"

Mary Jo Fleming, CVMG Volunteer.

"A Kinder, Friendlier
Garden: Beatrix Potter's Legacy"

Garden vendors from around the area will have their latest items for purchase. Door prizes are also planned.

Cost: \$25 Early-Bird rate/ rate after February 8, 2017 is \$30.

For more information, contact the Chippewa County UW-Extension Office at 715-726-7950 or visit our website at www.chippewa.uwex.edu

Hosted by the Chippewa Valley Master Gardener
Association and
The Chippewa County UW-Extension Office.

BEAVER CREEK RESERVE



February 9, 2017: Snowshoe Hike For Elder

Explorers - 9:30 am to 11:30 am. Winter is not a time for staring out the window and wishing it were spring. Come join a BCR Naturalist for a snowshoe hike this winter! It's a great chance to explore the winter woods and get some exercise too! This program is targeted for our older, but active, nature lovers 55 and older. Expect a moderately strenuous outing, over uneven terrain, with a one-mile hike. If walking is difficult for you or you have balance issues, you may want to pass on this offering. Wear your winter clothes and boots; snowshoes and instruction will be provided. If needed, snowshoe rental rates are \$3 per pair. Registration and full payment required by Feb. 7.

Who's Been Here? Winter Tracking For Kids.

Two sessions: 9:30 am - 11:30 am and 12:30 - 2:30 pm. Did you ever go out in the morning and notice all the tracks under the birdfeeder or next to the shrub and wonder who had been there? Kids can come to this program and learn some of the detective work it takes to figure out the answers. If conditions allow, children will take a short walk outdoors, guided by a naturalist, to look for tracks and identify who may have passed that way. Class includes making a plaster cast of a wild animal track to take home. Please bring boots, gloves and warm clothing for outdoor exploration!

Recommended for kids 8 and up. One chaperone is free. Reg. ends February 14.

BCR's Frosty Frolic From 2:00 pm until 7 pm

Come to Beaver Creek and enjoy a "Snow Day, Your Way." Snowshoeing, Cross-Country Skiing, Kids Activities, Campfire Foods, Candlelight Snowshoe Hikes and Dog Sledding. Complimentary hot chocolate and snacks. Gordo's Food Truck will be onsite to purchase additional food.

Cost: \$20 for each 1/4-mile dogsled ride. Each ride can accommodate up to 2 adults or 1 adult and 2 small children. Price is per loop. You do not need to add a dogsled ride to each person you are registering, only the total # of loops desired to fit your party.

Schedule:

Dogsledding 2:00 - 5:30 pm

Cross-Country Skiing 2:00 - 5:00 pm

Snowshoeing 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Seminars 2:00 - 4:30 pm

Candlelight Snowshoe Hike 6:00 - 7:30 pm.

Snowshoes are available on a first come, first serve basis. Registration ends Feb 10.th For more information or to register call 715-877-2212 or go to <https://www.beavercreekreserve.org>.



Wisconsin Public Television's Garden Expo

February 10th - 12th, 2017
Exhibition Hall
Alliant Energy Center
1919 Alliant Energy Center Way
Madison, WI

Sponsored by Wisconsin Public Television, Friends of WHA-TV, and the UW-Extension Horticulture Team, this event draws nearly 16,000 people to view 400 booths, provided by numerous exhibitors over 100,000 square-feet.

Certified MGVs will assist UW-Extension Specialists and Agents in answering questions in the UW-Extension booth.

Numerous educational seminars, demonstrations, and workshops are offered on a variety of horticultural topics.

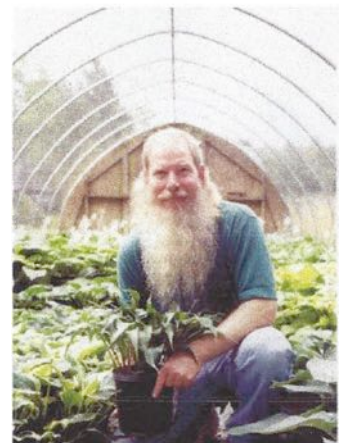
Hours are Fri 3:00-9:00, Sat 9:00-6:00, and Sun 10:00-4:00.

An admission fee is charged to this fundraiser to support WI Public TV programming. Cost:
One-day ticket – \$7 in advance/\$8 at the door; Two-day ticket – \$11 in advance/\$12 at the door; Three-day ticket – \$16 in advance/\$17 at the door; additional cost for workshops.

Contact:
Kristin Korevec, WPT Special Events Manager - Phone: 608-262-5256
Email: gardenexpo@wpt.org. Also for more information visit www.wigardenexpo.com.

North West Hosta Society Showcases Noted Hosta Hybridizer.....

On February 12, 2017, noted hosta grower and hybridizer, Bob Solberg, will speak at the North West Hosta Society (NWHHS) meeting. The event will be held at the Red Cedar Medical Center in Menomonie, at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, February 12, 2017.



One of the most popular speakers and prolific writers in the hosta world, he and his wife, Nancy, own and operate Green Hill Farm located in North Carolina. The well-known nursery has been in operation since 1981 and is very highly rated by gardeners for its service, its plants, and the friendly helpfulness of its owners.

Solberg has developed many well-known hostas. It would be surprising if you don't have a few of them in your own garden. Of more than 50, the best known is probably 'Guacamole,' introduced in 1994 and selected Hosta of the Year in 2002. Others include 'Orange Marmalade,' 'Corkscrew,' 'Ginsu Knife,' 'Baby Blue Eyes,' and dozens of others.

Bob has always been interested in the nursery business, but it hasn't always been with hostas. As a kid in Miami, Florida, he grew coconuts from seed in his backyard nursery. He earned a B.S. in biology, then studied bryophyte ecology at the University of North Carolina. (Bryophytes are nonvascular plants; mosses, liverworts and hornworts.) After experimenting with azaleas and rhododendrons, he ended up with hostas, to our benefit.

He obviously knows hostas, he likes to share his knowledge, and we've heard that he's entertaining as well. You will be sorry if you miss this one.



Ready, Set, Grow...continued from page 1...



Tim Johnson

Above picture by Carol Cox – all other photos by Jo-Ann Clark.

who attended his breakout session, great information and suggestions on “the Cutting Edge of Landscape Roses.” He also told attendees that there are different definitions of “hardy” in a zone. The question to ask is if that means that they will just survive or will they thrive in that zone’s climate.

Christi Spak also provided those in her breakout session with a recap of “A Year In The Life Of A Bat” with great information on how we can protect our bat population and how important they are to our gardens and agriculture.

Tim Johnson, in addition to being the keynote speaker, presented a breakout session on “Let’s Start with Tomatoes: Saving Seeds From America’s Favorite Vegetable (Or Are They Fruits?).” This should result in a lot of saved seeds by those in attendance and, maybe, many seeds passed down to new generations of gardeners.

After a really great lunch and an opportunity to check out the vendor tables everyone came back to one of the three Second Breakout sessions. Kathy Stahl, an officer with the Lower Chippewa Invasive Partnership and a member of the Chippewa Savanna Chapter of Prairie Enthusiasts, brought everyone up to date on “Invasive Plant Species in Wisconsin.”



Another option in the second breakout section was to hear Crystal Schmidt (pictured on the left), an enthusiastic grower of “Rare and Unique Edibles For The Home Garden.” Speaking from her own experience Schmidt showed examples and described some really unusual vegetables and fruits that she has been growing.

The third option for that middle breakout session was Dan Zerr, a regional natural resource educator with the University of Wisconsin-Extension, who is based in Eau Claire. Zerr provided some excellent information on “Water: Use It Wisely.”

After a break for some popcorn and other treats and a last chance to check out any vendor tables previously missed, attendees settled in to listen to their choice of three more speakers. Catrine Marcussen, a member of the professional team from the Winter Greenhouse, showed us “Water Features in the Garden” along with many of the water plants that make water gardening so popular.

Another choice was to attend Chad Zutter’s presentation on “Planting and Maintaining Wildflower Plots” for all those interested in establishing prairies which has been growing in popularity along with an interest in using native plants.

The third breakout also included the opportunity to end the day by attending Nancy Spak’s “Make a Stained Glass Wind Chime for Your Garden.” A lot of really creative wind chimes walked out the door going home to grace many a garden this summer.



Also walking out the door were the many really great door prizes that were awarded the items that were acquired at the silent auction (Bat house at left was auction item). Also pictured (at right) is the quilt that was raffled off that went home to warm it’s new owner until spring makes it’s appearance.

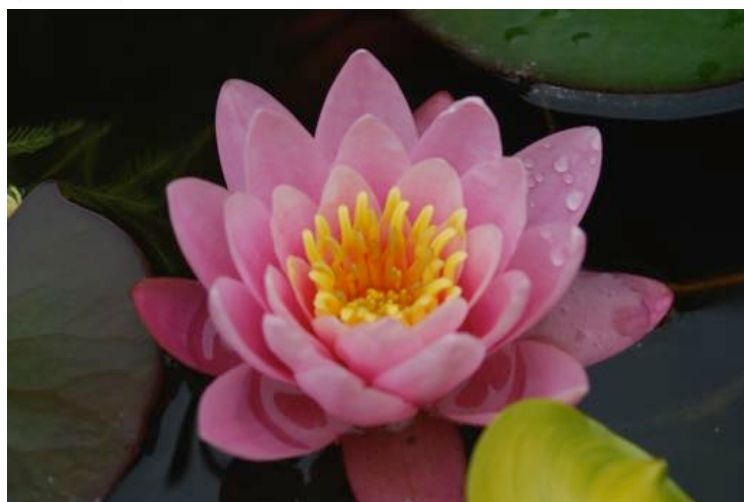
If you missed it put a reminder in your Calendar and plan to be there next year!



Bits and Pieces



Eye Candy



Two Photos by Dana Cox



An interesting hosta website...

This website, The Delaware Valley Hosta Society website, helps you to identify old hosta varieties that you may have. Go to: <http://bit.ly/2jPp3EQ>.



Check out this cactus container garden and more at: <http://bit.ly/2jPwX0S>.

*"We will be known forever by the tracks we leave."
-Native American Proverb*

Thank you to everyone who played a part in a successful Ready, Set, Grow... Winter Garden Seminar. You helped to bring a bit of spring sunshine into everyone's winter day.



Yes, Charlotte, it is a real plant. It is 'Notocactus scopiformis forma monstruosa cristata.' For more weird and unusual plants go to: <http://bit.ly/2jPr1Fd>.

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

Phone: 715-839-4712

Fax: 715-839-6277

M-F 8AM-5PM



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