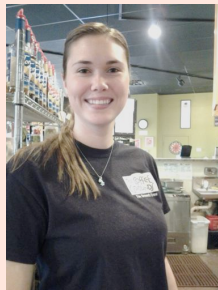


# Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



April 2013



## GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

by Nina Logan

On Tuesday evening Olivia Ludke, a botany student at UWEC gave a presentation and slide show on her visit to the Galapagos Islands.

The islands are located 200 miles off the coast of Ecuador in the Pacific Ocean. The oldest of these islands are closest to the mainland, are vegetated, and are inhabited by sea animals and reptiles with a few invasive species such as rats, goats, and blackberries.

The outlying islands are younger geologically speaking and have only lava formations. Vegetation will slowly evolve there after many more years.

The only island with human habitation is Santa Cruz. The population is small with families who have been there for generations and environmentalists are restricting increase in human population so the wild nature of the islands can be conserved.

Those in attendance saw albatross, blue-footed boobies, Darwin's finches, many reptiles, and strange fish from the sea. Then it was on to the jungles of Ecuador where attendees saw ferns as big as trees, streams, waterfalls, orchids, exotic hummingbirds and numerous vines and flowers.

Over all, it was an interesting look into the environment on and around the equator. Thank you, Olivia for an informative evening viewing the world that most of us will probably never see.



## April ECAMGA Meeting To Focus On Foraging For Wild Food

by Lee Pelham

At 6:30 on Tuesday, April 16, join us at the UW-Extension office in Altoona for a discussion on foraging for wild food with Judy Krohn.

Recently retired, for 32 years Judy has been one of the chefs at the Harbor View restaurant in Pepin Wisconsin. She also conducts monthly cooking demonstrations at The Palate in Stockholm, Wisconsin on various culinary experiences, foraging being one of the most popular.

The discussion will include foraging basics and preparing what you harvest. Foraging for wild food is a great way to experience our natural world. Not only is wild food rich in essential vitamins and minerals, but foraging can also provide exercise. It is a combination of hiking and gardening.

If you search the internet for "Creeping Charlie" you will get a number of websites that offer suggestions on how to kill this invasive weed. But did you know that you can eat it? For centuries this weed has been praised as a nutritious edible plant loaded with vitamin C. Who knew? "Creeping Charlie" has health benefits and tastes good on salads!

Garlic Mustard is another invasive weed, a non-native herb that has become a major threat to Wisconsin (continued on page 3)

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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!!!!



Beaver Creek Reserve on Highway K 4 miles north of Fall Creek has begun an "adopt a garden" program. This is a great opportunity for Master Gardeners to earn some volunteer hours. There are about 8 native gardens in need of attention. One can take over management of a garden or just volunteer to help maintain gardens on your own hours.

Beaver Creek plant sale preparations are taking place now. The greenhouse is open, seeding is done, and transplanting the seedlings has begun. Transplanting in the greenhouse is always fun; meeting other gardeners in the warm confines of the greenhouse while the snow continues to pile up outside. The plant sale is planned for May 11 at 9 am. Help is needed to move plants into the saleroom on the Friday before. On sale day Master Gardeners can assist with answering questions from gardeners.

In June, the butterfly house opens. Preparation for this includes helping plant annuals and perennials in and around the house for the butterflies to enjoy.

Beaver Creek also offers many learning opportunities for Master Gardeners:

On April 11 a phenology hike for older adults is offered. It will be repeated in May and in June.

On Saturday, April 27, at 10am, a program, "Why Native Plants" will be presented by our own Sherry Sprauge. Also on April 27 a program on "Aquatic Invasives of the Midwest" will be presented at 12 noon.

On April 28 from 1pm till 5pm is the Tiffany Bottoms train ride. Don't miss this one, folks. It's an open air train ride through the Tiffany Bottoms Wildlife Area near Durand. It includes several short hikes where you will see prairie plants, wooded native plants, birds and maybe some animals. It's a few hours of viewing nature at it's undisturbed best.

Coming up in May is a birding hike, a wild flower walk, and our native plant sale among other exciting nature activities.

For more information visit [www.beavercreekreserve.org](http://www.beavercreekreserve.org) or call 715-877-2212

### ECAMGA Board

ECAMGA BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO		
NAME/TITLE	e-mail address	phone number
Erin LaFaive	<a href="mailto:Erin.lafaive@ces.uwex.edu">Erin.lafaive@ces.uwex.edu</a>	715-839-4712
Mikel Reise	<a href="mailto:mandbreise@charter.net">mandbreise@charter.net</a>	715-836-7839
Gary Mathis	<a href="mailto:Garym5811@live.com">Garym5811@live.com</a>	715-878-4031
Roslyn Siudak	<a href="mailto:apras2@mydnet.com">apras2@mydnet.com</a>	715-559-3199
Katie Hartsel	<a href="mailto:hartseka@uwec.edu">hartseka@uwec.edu</a>	715-864-4300
Jeanne Mueller	<a href="mailto:jeanneventures@att.net">jeanneventures@att.net</a>	715-835-3146
Diane Hunter	<a href="mailto:sportflower@gmail.com">sportflower@gmail.com</a>	715-835-2775
Andy Heren	<a href="mailto:Rcktnut007@aol.com">Rcktnut007@aol.com</a>	715-831-9236
Karen Olson	<a href="mailto:kjolson@charter.net">kjolson@charter.net</a>	715-838-0842
Daria Hutchinson	<a href="mailto:dariahu@aol.com">dariahu@aol.com</a>	216-337-7697

**NOTE:** The ECAMGA Board minutes no longer appears in the newsletter. You may access them by going to the website at <http://www.eauclairemastergardeners.com/forms.html>

*ocus On Foraging For Wild Foods – continued from page 1...*

woodlands. It is not my intent to trivialize this problem, but it too is edible with many health benefits. Not all weeds are edible however. Proper identification is important to ensure the safety of foraging.

Join us on the 16<sup>th</sup> for a new way to look at the weeds we gardeners spend so much time with! The presentation is free and open to the public. Registration is requested but walk ins are welcome. Phone the UW-Extension Office at 715-839-4712.

Sponsored by the Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners Association.

## ***Don't Forget Now...***

The sale date has been set for selling all those gorgeous plants from the Eau Claire County Expo gardens. The sale will take place at the Expo center gardens on **Saturday, May 4** at 9:00 a.m. with a rain date set for Sunday, May 5. Also included in the sale will be stone benches, pergolas, and large stones. What a deal! Tell all your friends and mark your own calendar to take advantage of a once in a lifetime opportunity!!

We will begin to identify and dig plants on Friday May 3 at 10:00 a.m. Helping hands are needed to dig plants on Friday and help with the sale on Saturday. Remember, volunteers not only get a good deal on pricing, but also get first choice of plants. **This event is open to the public also** so spread the word! Bring all your plant lovin' friends!

For more information contact Nina Logan by email at: [ninalogan@centurylink.net](mailto:ninalogan@centurylink.net). See you there.



*"In search of my mother's garden I found my own."  
-Alice Walker*

Pictures by Jo-Ann Clark

## **FYI:**

**August 16-17, 2013  
will be the WIMGA Annual  
Conference to be held in  
Janesville, Wisconsin.  
The event will be hosted by the  
Rock Prairie Master Gardener  
Association at UW-Rock.**

More details to come. Watch for them in this newsletter and on the WIMGA website at:

<http://wimastergardener.org>.



## Upcoming Events & Other Things

1717 Devney Dr.,  
Altoona, WI 54720  
715-831-4000



### Classes –

**Thursday, March 21 –**  
**6:00 p.m. -**

Understanding Organics: Growing a more earth friendly yard and garden.

**Thursday, April 4 – 6 pm** - Flower Garden Design

Basics: Plan this summer's flower garden.

**Saturday, April 6 – 10 am** - Spring Lawn Rejuvenation: Bringing back the lawn after a long, hot summer.

**Thursday, April 11 - 6 pm** - Summer Flowering Bulbs: What's new and beautiful in summer bulbs.

**Thursday, April 18 – 6 pm** - Creating a water wise garden and landscape.

**Saturday, April 20 – 10 am** - Standout Summer Color: New annuals and perennials for great color this season.

**Thursday, April 25 – 6 pm** - Trees and shrubs for the garden: New and old varieties for seasonal beauty.

Call (715) 831-4000 to reserve a spot. For more information go to: [www.thepottingshed1.com](http://www.thepottingshed1.com)



### **Mexican Fiesta Herb Party**

**Free** – Tuesday, April 9: 6:00 p.m. – Learn how to cook, grow and store fresh herbs. Sample some great food, (and plant your own herb garden after class for \$20). Judy Robison is the guest speaker.

### **Container Planting Class**

April 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. - Plant your own hanging basket or porch pot that is just right for you! Cost - \$30 including plants, pot & soil.

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



### Classes –

**Saturday, April 13th 5:00 pm (pre-registration required) - Fairy Garden Tea Party in the Greenhouse - Cost: \$15 per adult & \$25 per child** Mothers, bring your daughters to this wonderful fairy garden tea party in the greenhouse! We will have tables set up in the greenhouse for this special event. Mini sandwiches, mini desserts, and tea will be served! After tea we will accessorize mini fairy gardens for each child to take home then read a book all about fairies! **Limited to 30 people, so please call to register.**

*\* Price of fairy garden included in child ticket price.*

**Saturday, April 20th 10:00 am - Early Blooming Annuals Container Class- Build your own, only pay for what you take home. Looking to add some early color to your yard? Certain annuals can handle the frost outside right now, we will be using these to create colorful baskets that can go outside early and give you some color while everything else is still brown. Bring your own container or pick one from our selection here.**

**Saturday, April 20th & Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> - Earth Day Celebration Weekend** - Great deals on trees both Saturday & Sunday! Get a Free Bare Root Tree\* with a \$25 purchase, & help support Earth Day. So why not plant a tree for Earth Day? *\* While supplies last, limit one per family*

Pre registration is not required for most classes but is appreciated.

6025 Arndt Lane	OR	22223 Cty. Hwy. O
Eau Claire WI, 54701		Cadott, WI 54727
715-833-1234		715-289-4567

E-mail - [home@dwntoearth.com](mailto:home@dwntoearth.com)  
<http://www.dwntoearth.com/index2.html>

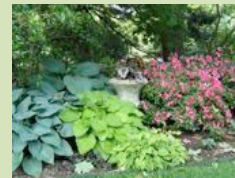
## BARRON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS SPRING GARDENING EXPO

Saturday, April 6, 2013

WITC Conference Center, Rice Lake

(WITC – Rice Lake Campus, 1900 College Drive, Rice Lake

8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



Speakers include:

Dave Wanninger – “Shady New Ideas For Your Garden – Perennials”

Cheri Messick – “Bees, Their Benefits and General Backyard Beekeeping”

Marilyn Saffert – “Butterflies – Flying Flowers of the Garden”

Dave Wanninger – “Some Shady Ideas For Your Garden Trees and Shrubs”

Pre-registration of \$30 includes continental breakfast, lasagna lunch, and afternoon coffee. Tickets at the door will be \$35 and lunch cannot be guaranteed. Checks should be made out to BCMG.

To Pre-register: List your Name, Address, Phone Number, and email address. Mail or drop off Form and Payment at the Extension office at: Barron County, UW-Extension, 335 E. Monroe Ave., Room 2206, Barron, WI 54812.



Register online at <http://barron.uwex.edu> Phone: 715-537-6250  
Deadline for pre-registration is 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 27, 2013.



### Will Allen To Appear At UW-EC Forum at Schofield Auditorium

Will Allen is the leading authority in the expanding field of urban agriculture that aims to provide equal access to healthy high-quality safe and affordable food for people in all communities. He is the founder of the nonprofit Growing Power, Milwaukee’s only urban farm, an international model for intensive urban agriculture and community food systems. Allen’s work is guided by the recognition that the unhealthy diets of low-income urban populations, and such related health problems as obesity and diabetes, can be attributed to limited access to safe and affordable fresh fruits and vegetables.

A 2008 MacArthur Fellow, Allen helped First Lady Michelle Obama, launch “Let’s Move,” her national initiative to reverse the epidemic of childhood obesity in America. He is co-author of The Good Food Revolution: Growing Healthy Food, People, and Communities, published in May of 2012.

**Allen will be appearing on the UW-Eau Claire campus at the Schofield Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on April 17, 2013.**

Tickets can be obtained at the Service Center and at the door. Call 715-836-3727 or 800-949-UWEC. You may also check out the website at [www.uwec.edu/servicecenter](http://www.uwec.edu/servicecenter) for more information. Admission for the general public is \$8, UW System Faculty/Staff and age 62 and over is \$6. UW system students and ages 17 and under is \$4. Student tickets are \$2 until the day of the event.



# Membership Drive

## Forest St. Community Garden

Only \$10 to become a member of the Forest St. Community Garden Shared/Volunteer Plot. Receive free, organic produce after volunteering during gardening sessions and have access to gardening education, potlucks and social gatherings.

**Learn more at these events!**

**Where:** Community Table  
of Eau Claire

320 Putnam St Eau Claire, WI 54703

**When:** April 1<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Time:** 4:30pm-6:30pm

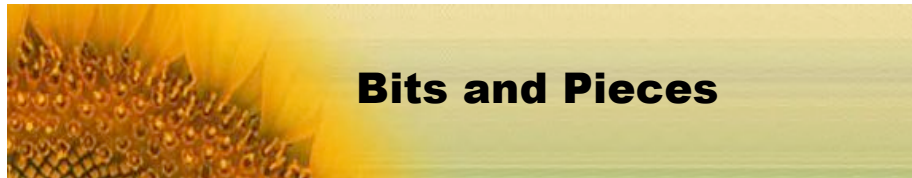


**“What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have never been discovered.”  
-Ralph Waldo Emerson**



Plant	Start Indoors	Transplant outdoors
Parsley	March 1	May 1
Broccoli	March 15	May 1
Early cabbage	March 15	May 1
Cauliflower	March 15	May 1
Eggplant	March 15	June 1
Peppers	April 1	June 1
Snapdragons	April 1	May 10
Dianthus/pinks	April 1	May 10
Cleome	April 1	May 20
Strawflower	April 1	May 20
Annual phlox	April 1	May 10
Okra	April 15	June 1
Tomatoes	April 15	May 20
Basil	April 15	May 20
Marigolds	April 15	May 20
Muskmelon	May 1	May 20
Pumpkin	May 1	May 20
Winter squash	May 1	May 20

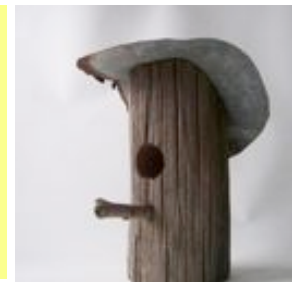
SOURCES: UW Extension, University of Minnesota Extension



## Bits and Pieces

*What a man needs in Gardening is a cast iron back with a hinge on it.*

**Charles Dudley Warner**



A really cute idea for use of old high-heeled shoes using succulents. Since such a planter will dry out quicker it would be suggested that it be kept in a shadier local where you will see it often.

### Interesting Books???

I have not checked these out but they sounded interesting so you may want to:

-1001 Old-Time Garden Tips: Timeless Bits of Wisdom on How to Grow Everything Organically, from the Good Old Days When Everyone Did

Edited by Roger (Rodale Press)

-Garden Wisdom by Jerry Apps (Wisconsin Historical Society Press)

-The Savage Garden; Cultivating Carnivorous Plants by Peter D'Amato (Ten Speed Press)

-Carrots Love Tomatoes; Secrets of Companion Planting For Successful Gardening by Louise Riotte (Storey Publishing LLC)



Picture by Jo-Ann Clark "Summer's First Rose"

We are currently hiring for several part time seasonal positions. They will probably run for a term of about 4/1-6/30. They are positions that require outside work and some lifting. Seasonal employees are eligible for a discount on all merchandise! There is the possibility person(s) these positions could become more permanent, but would still remain part time. We figured that gardeners who enjoy shopping here may also enjoy working here. Please stop in and apply in person.

Nancy Skelley  
The Potting Shed Garden & Gifts  
For more Eau Claire County



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](http://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**