

# Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



August 2013

## 2013 PLANT SALE TO BE HELD AUGUST 10TH

by Carla Pelzel

The Master Gardener plant sale will be held **Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013, from 9:00AM – 2:00PM** at the Eau Claire County Exposition Center, off Hwy 93 South on Lorch Avenue. The sale will be Saturday only. We have reserved Barn A --- the same space as last year.



Plant donations will be received Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00PM – 7:00PM. We welcome water garden plants, houseplants and perennials that are potted and labeled with plant name, and culture information if possible. You may also bring your un-potted plants and join our “potting party”. Or you may drop off plant donations and volunteers will pot them. We also welcome other garden-related items, such as seeds, garden ornaments, pots and planters (but please, no plastic nursery pots), birdhouses and hand-crafted garden décor, gardening books, magazines (bundled by type/name), and extra boxes and nursery trays for customers’ use.

Potted, labeled plants may also be dropped off the morning of the sale from 7:00AM – 8:30AM. However, un-potted or bagged plants will be sold that way; we will not be potting plants just before the sale. **Plants that are infested with weeds and grass, or are on the DNR’s “Invasive Plants” list will not be accepted.** If you are uncertain about whether a plant is on the invasives list, please check the DNR website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/what.html> for terrestrial, aquatic & wetland invasives.

**VOLUNTEERS are needed both Friday and Saturday.** We can use some “muscle” for the heavier jobs, like setting up tables (men and strong young people are welcome). The schedule is:

Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>:

2:00 – 7:00 PM – set up tables, pot and price plants and other donations and move them to the sale floor, put up signs, etc.

Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>:

7:00 – 9:00AM - Receive and price donations, put up sale signs at the gate and Hwy 93 intersection, final prep

9:00AM – 2:00PM – Sale hours – help at cash table, help with customers’ questions, or carry and load their purchases

2:00PM - ??PM – Clean up – Sweep floor, clean and restack tables (again, “muscle” is welcome), remove signs, bag trash, remove unsold plants - all must go before we leave.



**TO VOLUNTEER:** Call or email Carla Pelzl with your availability, at 715-835-6628 or [jcpelzl@gmail.com](mailto:jcpelzl@gmail.com) (use “Plant Sale” in the subject line, please). There are no “Big Digs” this summer, so we are counting on you, our MG members, to donate generously from your gardens so our customers take home healthy, locally grown plants for their gardens.

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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!!!!**



### 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>	216-797-4793

**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>

### Remember!!!!

**Volunteers are needed for the annual plant sale – both for Friday and for Saturday.**

**Come and help out, enjoy the camaraderie and earn volunteer hours to boot!**

**See article on page 1 for who to contact to volunteer.**

**See you there!!**



### “ASK A MASTER GARDENER” BOOTH

Can you believe that August is here already? It seems like the first week we had our “Ask a Master Gardener” booth at the Saturday Farmers’ Market at Phoenix Park was just yesterday. Now we are looking at one month left for the season. The Farmers’ Market goes until October 1, but we aren’t there after August.

If you are looking for a way to get some more volunteer hours this year and like to talk with people, this is your opportunity. We usually have 3-5 people out there to answer questions, so they usually fall under someone’s “expertise” and we can answer them.

If you would like to sign up for some Saturdays, the easiest way is to go the Doodle at <http://doodle.com/9pgg49f7tk7byq929gwzzbwr/admin?#table>. Simply add your name and mark the dates you would like to help. You can also contact Andy Heren at [Rcktnut007@aol.com](mailto:Rcktnut007@aol.com).



## The Invasives May Be Coming Your Way!!! by Carol Cox

At least that is how I felt as I listened to Faye Ryszkiewicz of Frysckis Garden. Faye gave her presentation on Invasive Plants in Wisconsin at the July educational meeting for the Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners on July 16<sup>th</sup> at the Eau Claire UW-Extension Office.



The list includes some of our favorites as well as some plants we have been fighting for years. But these plants, if they escape into the wild or into our native waterways can do extensive damage. We may well be able to control them in our own gardens but if a bit of the plant material gets away from our site (as in a bird carrying it off or some plant debris that we throw away getting out into the woods or wetlands and waterways) it can spread unchecked.

Some of the plants include Japanese and Giant knotweed, Moneywort, yellow iris, Queen of the Meadow, and Lyme grass. In addition, DNR is revising its NR40 Regulation listings and some additional plants will likely be placed on the list. There are two listings – “Prohibited Species” and “Restricted Species.”

**Prohibited species** are not yet widely established in the state and pose great economic or environmental threat. Prohibited species may not be transported, transferred, possessed or introduced without a permit. Control of existing populations will be required.

**Restricted species** pose great economic or environmental threat, but are already widely established in the state. Restricted species may be possessed, but may not be transported, transferred or introduced without a permit. Control of existing populations will be encouraged.

Some of the proposed additions to the two lists include (Continued on page 5)

## Upcoming Events

### Preserving the Harvest

The garden season is progressing well and many of us are harvesting vegetables and enjoying fruits of the season. Have you thought about preserving some of the fresh fruits and vegetables to enjoy this winter when you yearn for some of the summer tastes?



On **Tuesday, August 20 at 6:30** Gayle Kleppe will share ideas/tips on how to preserve some of the harvest from this summer's garden. She will share information on the various food preservation methods; dehydrating, freezing, canning and will share resources from UWEX that are available for each of these methods.

Also there will be some other resources and recipes that she personally has used in preserving the harvest from her own vegetable garden. Gayle will show examples of foods that have been preserved and you will have an opportunity to taste some of the foods. Have you tasted dried summer squash, herbs frozen in olive oil, canned dilly beans, piccalilli? There will be other surprises to taste, too! Come out to the Extension Office in Altoona to learn more about preserving foods and to meet and visit with other Master Gardeners and members of the public about our favorite topic—GARDENING and the season's produce!

# Down TO Earth



## Upcoming Classes

Registration is not required for most classes but is appreciated.

**Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>: 10:00 a.m.**

### **Herbs Are For Grilling Seminar**

We will cover what herbs work well with different meats and have free samples! We will also cover the benefits of herbs. Don't forget you can bring your herbs inside over the winter and enjoy them all year long!

**Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> 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.*

6025 Arndt Lane  
Eau Claire WI, 54701  
715-833-1234

E-mail - [home@dwntoearth.com](mailto:home@dwntoearth.com)

Website: <http://www.dwntoearth.com/index2.html>

# Chippewa Valley Sustainable Future Festival

## August 10, 2013 at the Eau Claire County EXPO Center



(5530 Fairview Dr., Eau Claire, WI)

Plant Sale opens at 9:00 a.m.; Exhibits open at 10:00 a.m. and close at 4:00 p.m.

The Chippewa Valley Sustainable Future Festival focuses on educating people about creating a more sustainable lifestyle through workshops and speakers. This event is free and open to the public.

For more information go to: [www.sustainablefuturefest.com](http://www.sustainablefuturefest.com).

*The Invasives continued from page 3...*

Japanese and Chinese Wisteria, Amur maple, Wormwood (I shed some tears on this one), certain varieties of Japanese barberry (but not my Pygmy barberry!!!), Ribbon Grass (Reed Canary grass), Water hyacinth (both anchored and floating types), Water lettuce, and Aquatic forget-me-not, to name just a few.

After listening to Faye's presentation I went home and did a little inventory of my garden plants. No more water lettuce and water hyacinth I guess. I also turned a dour eye on a few other hither-to favorites but just cannot bring myself to ditch my "wormwood" (Artemisia)!

There is, apparently, a period of time in which the public will have a chance to make their input heard as the DNR plans to hold formal public listening sessions concerning the rules before they are finalized. Maybe I will get a chance to go to bat for my little old wormwood plant! You certainly can make your opinions heard.

To learn more about both existing and proposed rules regarding invasive species go to <http://dnr.wi.gov> and type in the keyword: invasives. There are also a number of other useful links on that website such as a printable invasive plant list, best management practices, and invasive species disposal information.

Faye also gave a contact at the Wisconsin DNR on invasive species. The persons name is Chrystal Schreck who is in the WDNR Invasive Species Education and Outreach section at WDNR. The phone number is 608-264-8590 (email: [Invasive.Species@wi.gov](mailto:Invasive.Species@wi.gov)).



## ECAMGA Photo Contest

### Rules:

1. Pictures must be taken between October 1, 2012 and September 30, 2013.
2. **Deadline for submission is October 1** (send a digital copy of the photo via email to [c7w6c2200@charter.net](mailto:c7w6c2200@charter.net)).
3. Photo theme must deal with the garden in some way, either your garden, concerning an ECAMGA event or a garden you have toured between the dates listed in item #1.
4. There will be three prizes and the entries will be judged by the ECAMGA Education Committee.
5. We will publish as many of the entries as possible in the fall and winter newsletters.
6. Along with the picture submit a title for the picture and some information (50 words or less) about the photo (when, where, why, what, who, how – whatever is pertinent).
7. The person who submits the entry must have taken the photo.
8. For more information contact Carol Cox at 715-861-4495 or by email at [c7w6c2200@charter.net](mailto:c7w6c2200@charter.net).



## PRIZES

First Prize is \$25  
Second Prize is \$15  
Third Prize is \$10

The winners will be selected during the month of October and the results announced in the November issue of the ECAMGA newsletter.



Beaver Creek Butterfly Festival August 4 | 1 until 3:30 pm | Wise Nature Center \$3 per person for Friends, \$10 per family for Friends, \$4 per person for Nonmembers, \$15 per family for Nonmembers.



Join butterfly enthusiasts from the area to Celebrate the unique wonder and beauty of our native butterflies. Mini-seminars will provide information on Wisconsin butterflies, butterfly gardening, and how to raise your own butterflies! There will be guided tours of the butterfly house and games and crafts for the kids! Be sure to mark this family-oriented, fun and educational day on your calendar. Registration and payment encouraged by August 3.

Wildflower Ramble August 24 | 9:30 until 10:30 am | Wise Nature Center \$5 for Friends, \$8 for Nonmembers - Only 14 spots available. Join BCR Volunteer Naturalist Pam Rasmussen for a hike around the Reserve. The native plants will be spectacular at this time of the year. Pam will highlight and teach you how to identify some of the native prairies grasses and fall flowers. Registration and payment required by August 21.



Anyone have any old grills they don't know how to dispose of??? Recycle and enjoy it another way.

## Bits and Pieces

### Grass Graffiti

Want to do something spectacular? How about graffiti made out of Moss? Here is what you need:

- 3 handfuls of moss
- 3 cups of lukewarm water
- 2 tbsp. water retention gardening gel
- 1/2 cup buttermilk

Crumble the moss and add water in a blender, add buttermilk and gel and pulse the blender until the gel forms. Transfer to a bucket and paint onto wood or rough concrete. Mist your artwork weekly and watch it grow. You can do this on pots, walls, fences, whatever.



### Perennial:

**Any plant, which, had it lived, would have bloomed year after year.**



*New Daylily! (photo by Carol Cox)*



Picture by Jo-Ann Clark

## Garden Tour That...Wasn't!

By Carla Pelzel

Some years ago on a hot, humid July day --- it was on my birthday --- I was sitting on my screened porch, waiting for a group of Gardeners to arrive for a tour of my garden. Several weeks earlier my neighbor had asked if she could suggest my garden as one of several stops on their club's garden tour. Of course, I protested that my garden was hardly worthy of being included in a garden tour (what a terrifying thought!). It is in a rural setting, under constant attack from weeds freely distributed by wind and birds, from critters of all kinds, and from quack grass whose rhizomes relentlessly creep under the garden edging. Keeping the garden beds clean is a constant battle, and one I often lose. But my neighbor insisted her friends would love to visit. After all, she enjoyed my garden (from the "safe" distance of her back yard). Her friends enjoyed visiting all kinds of gardens, because each garden had a unique style. A garden did not have to be grand or perfect to be enjoyed. I reluctantly consented.

I heard nothing more from my neighbor in the next couple of weeks. But I knew it would not be wise to wait until the last minute to start primping and prepping, so I "dug in". I pinched, pruned, deadheaded, watered, weeded, and pulled up quack grass roots by the yard! I filled empty spots in the border with pink zinnias transplanted from my cutting garden, and hid mistakes and disasters with colorful planters. I did battle despite heat, humidity and swarming gnats. My uniform included a layer of Deep Woods Off, long pants tucked into my socks, a sweatband, sun hat, and sunscreen. I looked a mess! But, at the end of the day before the tour, when I unknicked my back, unlocked my knees and finally stood upright, I had to admit --- my garden looked better than it ever had. It looked pretty! I was ready!

The next morning, I made a final garden check, pinched a few fading petunias and straightened a couple of leaning stems. Then I showered, changed into pastel summer slacks and a fresh T-shirt that had been chosen by my grandchildren because "it looks like Grandma"; in other words, it was a flowered print shirt. My husband and I sat on our shady screened porch, sipping iced tea, enjoying the garden view, waiting for our visitors. We waited --- and waited. Three o'clock came. Time to refill our tea glasses and wait some more. It neared five o'clock. My husband's stomach was growling ominously, and I was beginning to wonder what had happened. Did it get too warm and the group decided to end the tour early? Had they planned too ambitious a tour? Or, had my neighbor possibly forgotten to let me know they had not included my garden in their tour plans?? This was before everyone had cell phones, so I had no way to contact my friend.

By now my husband was getting grouchy. His stomach kept time, and it was well after 5:00. I told him to nibble a few graham crackers and hold on a bit longer, but finally had to concede that no one was coming to see my garden at its best. Was I disappointed? Yes. After all that sweat and toil, I was looking forward to sharing my garden with others. I could have done something much more fun on my birthday than sit around and wait. But, was the effort a complete waste of time? Well...no. We enjoyed my lovely garden for the rest of the summer. Even the quack grass was temporarily under control. Some time later my neighbor casually mentioned that their group had decided they had enough gardens to visit and would not add more to their tour. She had no idea that I had taken her request as a "probability" rather than a "possibility" and had spent weeks getting ready and all day waiting for their visit. She would have felt terrible and been so apologetic had she known. So I said nothing more and accepted the experience as a "learning opportunity" --- always double check and confirm a prior commitment --- just to be sure.

**Interesting website:**

Go to: [www.finegardening.com](http://www.finegardening.com) and you will find a number of interesting articles and videos. Click on the "How To" and find such articles as "Say Goodbye to Weed Worries," and, if you click on the "Videos" tab up in the header you can also access such interesting subjects as: "How To Prune Tomatoes," "Build A Rain barrel," "Drip Irrigation Basics," and "Worm Composting," to name just a few. There are also tabs on "Design" and "Plant Guide." You can also sign up for a free e-newsletter.



**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](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/EAUCLAIRE)  
Phone: 715-839-4712  
Fax: 715-839-6277  
M-F 8AM-5PM



The University of Wisconsin Extension provide regardless of race, color, gender/sex, creed, dis record or veteran status." If you need an interp contact Erin LaFaive at 715-839-4712 as soon as possible preceding the scheduled event so that proper arrangements can be made in a timely fashion

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