

# Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



August 2017

## Bonnin Tells All... by Carol Cox

In a sweeping expose, Paula Bonnin recently (at the July 17, 2017 Eau Claire Area Master Gardener (ECAMG) educational meeting) revealed that she has celebrities buried in her garden!!

**Well, sort of.** Paula has this thing for Neil Diamond, Dolly Parton, Abe Lincoln, Princess Diana, Queen Elizabeth, Lucille Ball, etc. Only, much as she might admire some of the actual celebrities, her garden contains, not their actual bodies, but roses named after them. Paula is a rose aficionado. She battles bugs and blight and weather to grow these beauties in her garden.

Growing up on North Shore Drive Bonnin was introduced to gardening by a neighbor, Helen Michaels who, when her husband died planted her whole yard into flowers. Since she had lots of weeding to do, Paula began to get involved by helping her and so she was bitten by the garden bug.

Then she started growing roses at her parents house. Some of the first roses she grew were Blue Moon and Mr. Lincoln. She started with six and, at the height of her rose garden glory, had 25. Then she ran into a winter where the weather dropped to -40 degrees and she lost 12 roses. That, plus she had to learn to cope with critters and spots and bugs.

Paula gave some tips on how to be successful with roses. She indicated it is very important to select rose stock that has good healthy green foliage that is disease free and rose varieties that are hardy in our zone. She suggests staying local and actually buys most of her roses through Menards and Shopko rather than sending away for them. Bonnin says it is cheaper and she has had better luck with those roses than expensive ones she has ordered from catalogs.

Another important aspect of growing roses is to test the soil. Roses like a slightly acidic soil somewhere between a pH of 6.0 to 6.5. Paula strongly discourages the use of pine mulch though as she has had problems with it in her roses. When she plants her roses she uses fresh black dirt, throws in some worm compost.

She also uses PLANTSKYDD© to ward off deer, rabbits, voles and other marauding critters. This particular product comes in a shaker bag which she sprinkles around the perimeter of her plants. Made from porcine or bovine dried blood it comes in both granular pellets and a spray. It will last six months on dormant plants and three to four months on actively growing plants. It also provides some organic nutrient value. Bonnin uses the granular pellets for the summer and the spray as her roses are readied for winter.

Along with just plain mechanical removal (picking them off) of bad bugs she also likes Lady Bugs in her garden because a lady bug will eat up to fifty aphids per day. (Continued on page 3.)



*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 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 |  |              |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------|
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| Lori Kempen                      | <a href="mailto:lorikempen@charter.net">lorikempen@charter.net</a>         | 715-832-8088 |

**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>

## Don't forget those garden pictures!!!

### Fifth Annual ECAMGA Photo Contest

Rules:



1. One entry per person/member accepted.
2. The photo subject (i.e., the main feature of the photo) must be garden related.
3. The contestant must be a member in good standing of the ECAMGA for the 2016/2017 membership year.
4. The photo must have been taken by the contestant between October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017.
5. Each entry must be accompanied by a short description of the photo (the "What," "Where," "When," etc. as applicable).
6. By entering the contestant gives consent for the ECAMGA to use the photo submitted for the ECAMGA Newsletter and/or ECAMGA promotional purposes.
7. First prize will be a \$30 gift certificate; second prize a \$25 gift certificate and third prize a \$20 gift certificate.
8. A panel of judges selected by the ECAMGA Educational Committee will judge the contest and the panel's decision is final. Winners will be announced in the November 2016 issue of the ECAMGA Newsletter.
9. Submit photos via email to Carol Cox at [c7w6c2200@charter.net](mailto:c7w6c2200@charter.net) by October 7, 2017. Please place "Photo Contest Entry" as the email subject.



### *ECAMGA 2017 Calendar*

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

**August 21, 2017:** Backyard  
Beekeeping –tentative

**September 18, 2017:** End of Season  
Harvest Potluck

**September 30, 2017:** Volunteer hours  
due in to UW-Extension Office  
for 2016/2017 year

**October 7, 2017:** Deadline for entry  
for ECAMGA Photo Contest

**October 16, 2017:** "Healthy  
Houseplants" – Kelly from  
DTE Garden Center

**November 20, 2017:** Ellen  
Terwilliger - "Costa Rica  
Cocoa Plantation"

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

*Bonnin Tells All continued...*

Timing is everything with letting lady bugs loose in your garden. Get the Lady Bugs when you have the aphid problem and not before, other wise, with no aphids to eat, they will migrate elsewhere. Lady Bugs can also be enticed into your garden by growing mint, clover, yarrow and angelica.



In controlling things like Japanese Beetles and other insects (and weeds) that threaten your roses and your garden, Paula cautions to be careful what you use as many of these products have a detrimental effect on honeybees.



Some of the things that have worked in Paula's garden include Bag-a-Bug© by Spectracide. She says to put at least three to four around the garden and to change them regularly as the decaying beetles will stink and the other bugs won't go into the bags if it becomes to stinky (also, when you throw the used bags in the garbage take pity on your garbage man and double bag them).

Another topic Bonnin addressed was the black spots that show up on our rose leaves. She emphasized that good hygiene in your rose garden is really important and that all the old debris under the plant should be raked up and disposed of in the garbage. Leaves that are under two weeks old are the most susceptible and the lower areas of the rose bush are the most likely to be affected. Bonnin uses one to two tablespoons of baking soda in a gallon of water plus a couple teaspoons of dishsoap as a spray for blackspot. You can also pick off affected leaves and dispose of them. The cleaner you keep your rose garden area the less problems you will have. She also recommends cutting out diseased canes and keeping the bushes trimmed and pruned to enhance the airflow around the plants.

Winterizing the roses in your garden is important. Two to three days before an upcoming frost Bonnin prunes the rose bush down to three to four inches tall cutting all out-facing buds and leaving only three to five of the *thickest, most vigorous canes standing*. *In addition, pull off any leaves left on the canes. Then thoroughly clean the area under the bushes of all rose leaf debris. Once cleaned up put down new mulch and water. In addition, over winter Paula also covers her roses with rose cones with blankets on top.* So, if you missed out on the presentation and have rose questions, just ask Paula.



*Pictures of tour by Jennifer Lienhardt*



## Have You Had Your Veggies Today???

by Lori Kempen

Wednesday, July 19th was a typical warm, humid Wisconsin summer day until about 4:30 p.m. in the afternoon. The clouds that had been building in the west became thicker and darker. Before long the storm was in full force. Lots of lightning, thunder and heavy rain descended over the area. This didn't stop about a dozen hearty souls from making the trip to visit Dick and Jennifer Lienhardt's pristine gardens north of Augusta. After the rain delay, we were in for a real treat as the tour started. It was cold and windy at first. Jennifer graciously provided extra jackets for us and before we finished the sun was out again.

There are ten separate vegetable gardens located on the over four acres of beautifully mowed lawn. The amazing tomato garden alone has 333 plants growing in it. There are various gardens filled with onions, cucumbers, peppers, squash, pumpkins, broccoli, celery, kohlrabi and just about anything else you can think of. Several of the vegetables have more than one variety planted. A number of herbs are grown in large containers. (Continued on page 7)

## Upcoming Events & Other Things



### BACKYARD BEEKEEPING, WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

On August 21, 2017, at 6:30 p.m., at the UW-Eau Claire County Extension Office. (227 First St. West, Altoona), Kristina Beuning of Sunbow Farm and Drew Kaiser, are presenting a program on beekeeping.

In the presentations they will be providing information on how to start such a project? Also, covered will be just what plants attract bees and how does one go about overwintering bees. How about honey collection and what might be some new ideas for hive construction? In addition, how does the beekeeper keep the queen from leaving the hive and what are the city rules on keeping bees within the city limits? They will cover many other subjects of interest on beekeeping for an interesting and informative evening.

Snacks and door prizes offered and the public is welcome so bring a friend (bring a bunch of friends). For more information call 715-839-4712.



### County Fair Days by Sally Anderson

Several of the Master Gardener Volunteers spent two enjoyable days at the county fair at the Expo Center on July 28 and 29th. We had our Ask a Master Gardener table set up near the front door of the Exposition Center where all the 4-H members had their projects displayed. As always we had a wonderful time interacting with fair goers of all ages. We had many opportunities to answer gardening questions. The main problem people have this year is Japanese Beetles. We couldn't believe how prevalent they are this year. They are in trees, rose bushes, grapes and raspberry plants. It is a very frustrating year for those affected by them. Other questions we had were identifying invasive plants, tomato diseases and other vegetable diseases, some problems with powdery mildew, and so on. Gary brought his game so kids had fun matching the name of the vegetable to the photo of it. This is always a challenge for kids and parents alike.



(Pictures by Sally Anderson)



(Continued on page 6)

## Classes:



### **Saturday, August 26, 10:00 a.m.: Fall Porch Pot Workshop:**

Come and create your own fall porch pot 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 beautiful color for the whole season.

Cost: Build your own; only pay for what you take home. Bring your own container or purchase one here.

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

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

## Cover Crop Mix Available:

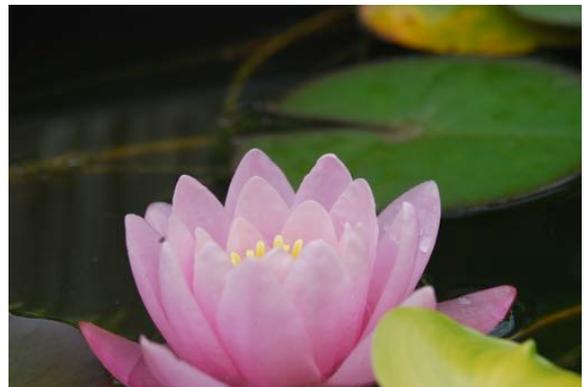
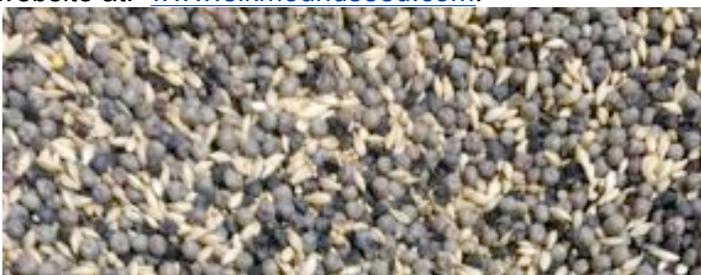
Back in July, Chad Zutter, from Elk Mound Seed spoke to the ECAMGAs about the use of cover crops in our gardens (see page 1 of the August 2016 issue of the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News available on the website). Use of a cover crop has a number of different advantages for improving the garden soil. Chad has informed the ECAMGA that Elk Mound Seed now has available a **Garden Plow down Mix**. This mix is described as:

“An all annual mix, this garden cover crop mix of Buckwheat, Peas, Barley and Crimson Clover produces ground cover and biomass. The quick growth of Buckwheat and expansive root systems of Barley allows this mix to produce soil activity below ground and cover above. A light till into your soil is recommended for establishment.”

The 2# Mix Covers 1,000 Sq. Ft. and cost \$10.95. Elk Mound Seed stocks in there store in downtown Elk Mound or it can be ordered online at -

<http://www.elkmoundwildflowers.com/product/garden-plowdown-mix/>.

Elk Mound Seed Company is located at 308 Railroad St. in Elk Mound, WI and can be reached by phone at: 715-879-5556 (email: [sales@elkmoundseed.com](mailto:sales@elkmoundseed.com) or go to their website at: [www.elkmoundseed.com](http://www.elkmoundseed.com).



*Water lilies delight the eye. Photo by Dana Cox*



*Jo-Ann Clark won this interesting Bromeliad (donated by Sally Anderson) at the last ECAMGA educational meeting. Picture was taken by Jo-Ann Clark.*

*County Fair Days – continued from page 4...*

Since we had enough volunteers we were able to take turns checking out the barns so see the sheep, goats, chickens, rabbits, hogs and more. What a fun day exploring the three barns and watching the judging as well. The Expo Center itself held all the projects the different 4-H clubs had done. There was cake decorating, photography, baking, woodworking, art projects, house and garden plants and so much more.

Several of our members served as judges on Friday. Barb Huggins and I judged the potted plants that were scattered around the grounds. Each done by a different 4-H club. It's always a pleasure seeing the imaginative displays they come up with making judging very difficult.

I hope many of you found the time to visit the fair. The members and their families put a lot of time and effort into making it a success every year. It is truly a family event.



***You can bury a lot of troubles  
digging in the dirt.  
-Author Unknown***



## **Hancock Research Station Open House and Tour August 5th, 2017 9:00am - 1:00pm**

The gardens at the Hancock Research Station will be open for tours with Master Gardener Volunteers who work in the gardens available to answer questions.

There are a variety of types of gardens to be viewed: a square foot garden area, a Life-long Gardening area with tools and information about gardening for older or disabled gardeners, an All-American Selection garden, shade gardens, a butterfly garden, fruit gardens, a bulb garden, a pond and several perennial gardens throughout the grounds.

There will also be a baked potato bar and a variety of vendors at the Open House. Tours of the grounds of the Research Station will be offered during the Open House as well.

Cost: free

Directions: Hancock Agricultural Research Station, N3909 County Road V, Hancock, WI (exit hwy I 39 at Hancock, go west on hwy V to research station).

For more information contact: Peggy Morgan (Phone: 715-335-6641 or email at [peggy6152@yahoo.com](mailto:peggy6152@yahoo.com)).

*Have you had your veggie's - continued from page 3...*

Almost all of the plants are started from seeds in the greenhouse on the property. Grass clippings from the lawn are used to mulch the plants and keep weeds down.

Several flower gardens are scattered among the other plots. The different varieties of marigolds provide a jolt of color and texture. The side gardens by the house are filled with hosta, daylilies, and many other gorgeous blooms. Colorful hanging baskets decorate the front of the barn.

As everyone walked through the extensive gardens, Dick also shared the history of how they had developed the various gardens over time. Lots of work and planning have gone into making them what they are today.



These gardens are truly the result of a lot of hard work and are an inspiration to anyone fortunate enough to see them. Most everyone went home with a bag of fresh broccoli. Dick got a knife and cut kohlrabi and herbs for a couple of people. He answered a lot of questions throughout the evening during our walk among the gardens.

Thank you Dick and Jennifer for hosting a fun and educational evening for our group. We appreciate your willingness to share your vast gardening knowledge with us. The cookies were a big hit, too!!!!

*(Editor's Note: If you missed this one mark your calendar for the next ECAMGA educational meeting that will be held at the Eau Claire County UW-Extension Office in Altoona on August 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. The subject will be "Backyard Beekeeping." You won't want to miss it. Bring a friend.*



*Pictures by Jennifer Lienhardt*

**"Gardens are a form of  
autobiography."  
-Sydney Eddison, Horticulture  
magazine, August/September 1993**



Even when rusty and worn, with flat tires and the seat gone, a bike can still bring joy into our lives and become an object d'art on a garden fence.



A gate that offers intrigue and mystery. Does it not just have to open up into fairyland?

Photo from pinterest.com

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/eaucnaire](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/eaucnaire)

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Fax: 715-839-6277

M-F 8AM-5PM



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