

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



August 2014

Local Florist Demonstrates Creative Use of Floral Material

Article and pictures by Jo-Ann Clark

Brent Douglas entertained us at the July 15th Eau Claire Area Master Gardener (ECAMG) meeting by amazing us with his simple, elegant and creative flower arranging techniques.

Yes, we were amazed at his creative ideas and how easy they were for him to achieve. Brent is truly an expert in floral arrangements and shared that knowledge openly with all who were present. It was fun to see the arrangements he made using some of the containers we brought from home. I liked

his idea of taking leaves, such as iris leaves, bending them down and then bunching them together with tape. This held the flowers in position in the vase. (A "Why didn't I think of that" moment!)

Douglas made cuts in a large leaf and threaded flower blossoms through the leaf to add flowers up and down the stem and then just placed it in a large clear glass container. This was both simple and elegant!

Also, he wired hosta leaves to bend and shape them for flower arrangements and then added flowers in the cuts he made in the leaves.



The idea with the hydrangea blossom (one blossom!) and then adding height from there by twirling ~ yes twirling ~ the lily stem into the center was really a new idea for me. Then he added two small umbrella palm stems and the result? WOW!



Lilies are so pretty this year and just one in a container looks so nice but Douglas added pizzazz with just a piece of coiled, colored wire.

The most elegant and unusual arrangement (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 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!!!!



ECAMGA Board

ECAMGA BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO		
NAME/TITLE	e-mail address	phone number
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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

REMINDER: ANNUAL PLANT SALE!

Don't forget our fall plant sale is on **August 2** from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with clean up following. This is our **only** fund raiser of the year. The sale is held again this year at the Expo Center in barn A.

We are still looking for volunteers to assist on Friday August 1st for table and plant set-up beginning at 2:00 p.m.

Remember to dig and pot those plants from your gardens and maybe even your neighbor or friends gardens. Plant donations can be dropped off on Friday. Late deliveries can be dropped off in front of the building before sale time.

We also need volunteers for Saturday starting at 8:00 a.m. Hopefully we will have all plants sold and the barn cleaned up by 3:00 p.m.

Those of you on Facebook, please notify friends and family of our event. There are always really good buys of unique plant items and garden books and magazines. See you there.

Nina Logan



ECAMGA 2014 Calendar

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

August 3 – Plant Sale at the Expo Center

August – Tour of Mary Zellmer's garden. Watch for more information on particulars.

September 16 – speaker TBA & volunteer hours due

October 21 – speaker TBA

November 18 – speaker TBA

December 16 – annual potluck and election of officers

Local Florist Demonstrates... continued from page 1

was made with a large flat bowl. Douglas used sticks wired together with copper wire to hold them in place and then added the leaves and flowers. The result was spectacular.



At left see the bottom side of the arrangement. Note that it can all be picked up and placed down without falling apart. At right is the finished elegant arrangement with sticks and wire holding it in place



Everyone in attendance can now take the knowledge Brent Douglas shared and apply it to our own garden flowers with spectacular results.

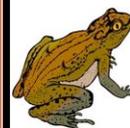


ECAMGA To Tour Zellmer Garden August 20th

Members of the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Association (ECAMGA) and their guests have been invited to tour Mary Zellmer's garden on Wednesday, August 20th starting at 6:00 p.m. This beautiful sun and shade garden covers nearly an acre and includes a pond. Many varieties of hosta, ephemerals and other shade plants are to be found in a "secret garden" located in the woods behind the pond.

Please feel free to bring a friend and join us for this little trip in the country. People wishing to carpool should contact each other to set that up. Directions from Eau Claire: Take Hwy 12 East to Fall Creek. Go left on County Road D just east of town. Follow "D" and go straight onto County Road N. (just past the blue bridge) "N" will take four 90 degree turns, right, then left, then right, then left. After those it is the third driveway on the left. Mary's address is: E 18110 County Road N, Fall Creek, Wi. 54742 (Telephone Number:715-559-0772). **See you there!**

"In such favor do toads stand with English market gardeners that they readily command a shilling apiece...and as toads possess no bad habits, every owner of a garden should treat him with the utmost hospitality."



-British newspaper, 1890

Upcoming Events



Twilight Garden Tour Aug 19, 2014 Spooner Agricultural Research Station Spooner, WI

The Teaching and Display Garden at the Spooner Agriculture Research Station, including the award-winning All American Selections (AAS) display garden, will be at their peak. There will be a number of exhibits and experts attending to answer questions starting at 4:00 p.m. At the Spooner Ag Research Station, 3/4 mile east of the intersection of 253-63 and 70 on Hwy. 70. For more information see [the website](#) or call (715) 635-3735.

“Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul.”
- Luther Burbank



Learn More About Soils

Understanding soil is a basic skill needed by anyone interested in agriculture, environmental science, gardening, natural resource management, and water quality. Now, with the power of the Internet at your fingertips, the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service is bringing the nation's first open enrollment online ***Introduction to Soil*** class to your office, dining room table, or local coffee shop.

Learn more about this \$30 open enrollment online course (that should count as continuing education hours for WI MGVs) at: <http://go.ncsu.edu/introduction-to-soil>

Enter the 2014 ECAMGA Photo Contest

1. Pictures must be taken between October 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014.
 2. Deadline for submission is October 1 (send a digital copy of the photo via email to c7w6c2200@charter.net).
 3. Photo theme must deal with the garden in some way, either from your garden, from an ECAMGA event or a garden you have toured between the dates listed in item #1.
 4. There will be three prizes with first prize being a reservation for the February ECAMGA Winter Garden Seminar. Second prize will be \$25 and 3rd prize will be \$20. The entries will be judged by the ECAMGA Education Committee.
 5. Only 2 entries will be accepted per participant. Only 1 prize will be awarded per participant.
 6. As many of the entries as possible will be published in the fall and winter newsletters editions.
 6. Along with the picture, please submit a title for the picture and some information about the photo (when, where, why, what, who, how – whatever is pertinent).
 7. The person who submits the entry must have taken the photo themselves and be a member in good standing of the ECAMGA during the 2013/2014 year.
- For more information contact Carol W. Cox at 715-861-4495 or email Carol at c7w6c2200@charter.net.





Upcoming Classes

Registration is not required for most classes but is appreciated.

Saturday, August 2 – 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 become your very own self-sustained tropical oasis! Learn how to properly put together a glass terrarium that creates the perfect growing environment for plants and also adds some life to your office desk, the nook in your kitchen or a child’s room.

Bring your own container or purchase one on site. Cost: `you only pay for what you take home.

Saturday, August 9 – 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Salsa Sampling and Demo: Come sample a variety of savory salsas carried in our country store. We will demonstrate how to make your own garden fresh salsa.

Saturday, August 23rd 5:00 p.m. (pre-registration required - limited to 30 people) – Summer Fairy Garden Tea Party in the Greenhouse: a wonderful fairy garden tea party in the greenhouse for grandmothers, mothers and children. A lovely lunch of mini sandwiches, mini desserts and tea will be served! Children will accessorize a mini summer fairy garden to take home and read a poem all about fairies. Cost \$25.00 /child & \$15/adult; price of the fairy garden is included in the child ticket price.

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

Classes

August 9 – Bees – Guest speaker and time to be determined.
 Call for more info.

August 23 – Worms (9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.) – Worms are extremely beneficial to your garden! Join us to learn more about worms and get started on your own worm composting bin.
 Cost for class: \$5.

Please sign up early, as most classes are limited to 10 participants. Sign up now by calling or emailing. Kids are welcome to attend all Classes if accompanied by an adult. Classes may be subject to change.

Tin Roof Garden

5310 Friedeck Road
 Eau Claire, WI 54701

Phone: 715-834-4232
 e-mail:

getyourplants@tinroofgarden.com

visit us at our website at:
www.tinroofgarden.com



Some of the oddest-looking cactus have the most beautiful blooms! That is really not unlike the people we meet in life. If we are patient and get to know people we often find many a hidden treasure of friendship and wonder in those we might otherwise pass by with out a second thought.




BEAVER CREEK RESERVE

S1 County Road K,
Fall Creek, WI 54742
bcr@beavercreekreserve.org

Butterfly Festival
August 3, 2014
1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Wise Nature Center



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! You won't want to miss this family-oriented, fun and educational afternoon at the Reserve!

Cost: \$3 person for Friends; \$10 for Friends Family; \$4 per person for Nonmember; \$15 for Nonmember Family



Bits and Pieces
EPA Introduces New Graphic To Help Consumers Make Choices About Insect Repellents


The EPA today unveiled a new graphic that will be available to appear on insect repellent product labels. The graphic will show consumers how many hours a product will repel mosquitoes and ticks when used as directed.

The EPA's new graphic will do for bug repellents what SPF labeling did for sunscreens. This new graphic will help parents, hikers and the general public better protect themselves and their families from serious health threats caused by mosquitoes and ticks that carry debilitating diseases. Incidence of these diseases is on the rise. The CDC estimates that there are nearly 300,000 cases of Lyme disease in the United States each year. Effective insect repellents can protect against serious mosquito- and tick-borne diseases.

The EPA is accepting applications from manufacturers that wish to add the graphic to their repellent product labels. The public could see the graphic on products early next year.

For more information go to
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/>



Eye Candy...



Tsuga canadensis 'Moon Frost, a delightful dwarf evergreen shrub with white new growth that slowly fades to a darker green with white tones. It maintains a naturally mounded habit of growth with branches arching slightly. It grows 3 feet tall (and wide) and will grow in sun or some shade. It is hardy to Zone 4. Under ideal conditions it can be expected to live for 40 years or more.



Photo by Marilyn Saffert

Some of the latest birdhouse art created by Paul Saffert.



Some things are just pretty!

BAT EXPERIENCE

(Excerpt from "Trowel & Error" by Sharon Lovejoy page 76; Workman Publishing, New York; 2003)

While bats aren't the prettiest critters, they're some of the best pollinators, seed dispersers, and pest fighters in the world. On warm nights many bats eat nearly their body weight in insects, so it's worthwhile to attract them



Illuminate a portion of your yard with a mercury-vapor lamp or incandescent lights. Moths and other garden pests flock to the light; bats will quickly follow, and feed.

Install a set of old shutters to attract and house bachelor bats. Mount the shutters at least 15 feet high, on the sunny side of a barn, garage, or outbuilding. Bats like to slip through the narrow slats and hang from them.

Place bat houses on 10- to 15-foot tall posts throughout your garden.

Also, to build a simple bat house go to:

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/home/how-to-plans/woodworking/step-by-step-guides-offbeat-diy-projects-7>





This little gem is *Greenovia dodreanealis*, a succulent that reaches 6 inches in height and is a member of the Crassulaceae family. It is Zone 11 so a house plant here in Wisconsin. It is native to the Canary Islands and are relatively easy to grow.

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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