

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



January 2014



ECAMGA Elects Three New Board Members at December Meeting

By Carol Cox

Photo by Jo-Ann Clark

The Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Association (ECAMGA) members held their annual potluck meeting on the evening of December 17th, 2013 at the UW-Extension Office in Altoona. High on the agenda was the issue of the election of officers for the organization's Board of Directors. The new officers (elected by unanimous ballot) are (from left to right in the picture above) Cindy Fever, Amy Boetcher, and Ede Strand. The new members will begin their term at the January 9th meeting.

Retiring Board members are Mikel Raise, Roslyn Siudak, and Katie Hartsel. Our thanks go out to them for their service to the ECAMGA.

Awards and certificates were also passed out. These included the prizes and certificates for the ECAMGA Photo Contest held this past fall, and the certificates to the Winter Garden Seminar Committee for the 2nd place in the Presentation Category from the International Master Gardener Conference.

Photo contest winners were: First place: Sally Anderson for her photo "My Favorite Lily;" Second Place: Jo-Ann Clark for her photo "The Painted Butterfly;" and to Christine Southworth for her photo "Dawn Breaking Over Tainter Lake." Remember as you go into the gardening season to take those photos of your gardens (or gardens you visit) to submit for the 2014 contest.

The Winter Garden Committee members who received individual certificates for their work in the winning entry are: Lori Kempen, Nina Logan, Sharon McGeorge, Jo-Ann Clark, Cindy Fever, Sue Wagner, and Carol Cox. Thank you ladies, especially to Lori and Nina for all your hard work.

At the meeting, Erin LaFaive, UW-Extension Horticulturist for Eau (Article continued on page 3)

INSIDE:

Local Master Gardener News - 2
Bits and Pieces - 6

Upcoming Events - 3

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 you're 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 715-783-0016 - cell).




Bulletin Board Postings Stories and Opportunities!!!!



Hello,

Robbins Elementary School is looking for assistance with a school garden. Let me know if you are interested and I'll send you the contact information. Here is the request:

"I am working on an education grant that would fund the construction and startup of a school garden. It will be an educational based garden with all grade levels involved. An area that we would need help in is to  have a Garden Coordinator who could work with our staff to oversee the proper layout of plants and the construction of the garden. Is this something that the Master Gardeners would be able to assist our school with? Thank you for your consideration. Robbins Elementary Partnership Coordinator"

Erin LaFaive

Horticulture Educator & Co-Dept. Head
Eau Claire County UW Extension
227 First St. W. Altoona, WI 54720
715-839-4712

ECAMGA Board

ECAMGA BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO		
NAME/TITLE	e-mail address	phone number
Erin LaFaive	Erin.lafaive@ces.uwex.edu	715-839-4712
Cindy Fever	cferver@charter.net	715-606-0006
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Diane Hunter	sportflower@gmail.com	715-835-2775
Andy Heren	Rcktnut007@aol.com	715-831-9236
Daria Hutchinson	dariahu@aol.com	715-797-4793

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



ECAMGA 2014 Calendar Put these dates on your calendar!

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

January 21 – Nancy Spak – Make and take mirrored wind chime (cost \$10 for supplies)

February 1 - Winter Garden seminar at CVTC, *Ready, Set, Grow... lots of great speakers, door prizes, etc.*

March 18 – Tour of May's growing grounds (at Plant Marketing not at their main location)

April 15 – speaker TBA

May 20 - speaker TBA

June 17 - speaker TBA

July 15 - speaker TBA

August 19 - speaker TBA

August – Plant Sale in conjunction with Sustainability Fair at Fairgrounds

September 16 – speaker TBA & hours due in

October 21 – speaker TBA

November 18– speaker TBA

December 16 – annual potluck and election of officers

ECAMGA Elects (continued from page 1)...

Claire County, also announced that, as of January 1, 2014, she will be going full time on the UW-Extension staff. Thank you Erin for all of the work you put in for the ECAMGA.

Additionally it was announced that Amy Boetcher will be revamping the ECAMGA website. She will be working on updating our website to make the site more efficient and workable.

The evening also began with some games and a great potluck and ended with door prizes being drawn. If you missed it plan to attend the January 21 meeting when Nancy Spak will be doing a "make and take" mirrored wind chime workshop. The cost is \$10. Make sure to call in to the Extension Office (715-839-4712) and make a reservation to insure that she has enough materials available for everyone who wants to make a wind chime. See you there!



...and a great feast was enjoyed by all...
photo by Jo-Ann Clark

Upcoming Events

Tired of Snow and Cold Weather?

by Lori Kempen

Think spring and gardening by joining us for a "make and take" evening on Tuesday, January 21st at 6:30 at the UW-Extension Office in Altoona. Nancy Spak from Azure Glass Studio and Crafts will lead us in assembling a mirrored outdoor sun catcher. There is a \$10 materials fee for one or \$16 if you make two. This is payable at the door.

This is a fun project and a chance to visit with fellow crafters and gardeners. Refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded. The public is welcome to attend.

Please call the UW-Extension Office at 715-839-4712 to make a reservation for a space as seating is limited.



Think Spring Garden Seminar



Saturday, February 15, 2014
Chippewa Falls Middle School
750 Tropicana Blvd.
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Keynote Speaker:
Jim Schweibert - "The Lives of Butterflies"
Plus a choice among 12 breakout sessions and workshops

For more information contact
Chippewa County UW-Extension (715-726-7950) or
contact Carol Buchholz at cbbuck@citizens-tel.net.

Cost for seminar (including lunch) is \$20 if registration received by February 7 or \$25 if registration is received after February 7. Some of the workshops have additional cost for materials also.

Sponsored by Chippewa County UW-Extension
And Chippewa Valley Master Gardeners Association



Bird Banding Demonstration: January 11, 7:30 until 10:30 am at the Wise Nature Center. Join the Beaver Creek bird banding crew anytime during the morning to learn about bird banding. This is also a great chance to see some of the birds that visit feeders on a cold winter day up close and personal. Learn about bird identification, bird behavior, how to attract birds to your yard and what to feed them. You will even be able to "adopt" one of the birds you see banded. Free for Friends, Free for Nonmembers.

Nature Center Host Training: January 15, 2:30 until 4 pm at the Wise Nature Center The Reserve is looking to fill volunteer Nature Center host openings for weekday and weekends shifts. Substitute hosts are also needed for weekday morning and afternoon shifts as well as weekend shifts. We have an ongoing need for dependable and enthusiastic volunteers to work in our Nature Center. Hosts greet visitors, answer phones, ring up cash register sales, answer questions and assist with occasional clerical duties. Weekend shifts are available 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 12:30 to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and 12 to 4 p.m. on Sundays. We can also use volunteers to help fill in for weekday shifts 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 12:30 to 4 p.m. Individual training sessions can also be arranged at a time convenient for you. Registration required by Jan. 13, 2014

Cost: FREE for Friends, FREE for Nonmembers



Upcoming Classes

Registration is not required for most classes but is appreciated.

Thursday, January 23, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.: Caring for Houseplants class – Nothing brightens up and adds life to the inside of your home better than lush, healthy houseplants. Come learn about amazing varieties of plants that will flourish indoors, from cacti and succulents requiring a sunny window spot, to varieties that need hardly any natural light at all. We'll teach you how to use containers and houseplants to decorate and provide you with tips and tricks to keep them thriving.

Saturday, January 25, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.: Whimsical Winter Miniature Garden Workshop - Discover the delight of miniature gardening! With just a few plants, a selection of miniatures and a touch of whimsy, you can create your own winter wonderland miniature garden! Your miniature garden will provide the perfect indoor garden that can be enjoyed all year long. You may bring your own container or purchase one there. Cost: Build your own; only pay for what you take home.

Saturday, February 1, 2014 at 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 be transformed into a self-sustained tropical oasis! Learn how to properly put together a glass terrarium that creates a perfect growing environment for plants, and adds life to your office desk, the nook in your kitchen or a child's room. Bring your own container or purchase one there. Cost: Build your own; only pay for what you take home.

6025 Arndt Lane, Eau Claire WI, 54701

715-833-1234 or E-mail - home@downtoearth.com

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

The ECAMGA Presents Ready, Set, Grow... Winter Gardening Seminar

Saturday, February 1, 2014

Chippewa Valley Technical College
620 W Clairemont Ave., Eau Claire
8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

See You There!

Bring A Friend!

Keynote Speaker
Bill Hogseth: "Putting
The Pieces Together:
Preserving The Chippewa
Valley Ecosystem"



Vendors
Exhibits
Door Prizes
Exciting Speakers!

Breakout sessions include:

- Bill Hogseth: "What We Can Do As Gardeners To Preserve Our Local Environment"
- Judi Robison & Mary Zellmer: "Maximum Gardening In A Minimum Space"
- Jim Schwiebert: "Wild Edibles"
- Faye Ryszkiewicz: "New Invasive Species List"
- Jerry Clark: "Growing Strawberries and Blueberries In Your Garden"
- Steve Horan: "Landscaping With Ornamental Grasses In Your Garden"
- Jerry Clark: "Effects Of The Recent Drought On Our Gardens"
- Erin LaFaive: "Growing Herbs: Garden To Table"
- Patty Marten: "The New Trends In 2014 In Your Garden"

*Registration is \$30.00 (includes lunch and snacks) postmarked **by January 24, 2014** (\$35.00 after that date). For more information, call Erin LaFaive at the Eau Claire County UW-Extension at 839-4712 or check out the following website: www.eauclairemastergardeners.com*

Sponsored by Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners (ECAMGA) and the Eau Claire County UW-Extension



2014 Garden Visions January 24-25, 2014 Wausau, WI

This winter conference for northern gardeners is presented by the North Central WI MGA. There will be workshops Friday evening and sessions from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. At UW-Marathon County. For more information contact Carol at (715) 693-6446 or see <http://gardenvisions.org/>.

Bits and Pieces

War and Roses by Carol McAdoo Rehme (Taken from "Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul")

He strode the length of the nursery walkway, inhaling the heady scent. To an untrained eye, the rows of methodically labeled roses might look identical. But Monsieur Francis Meilland knew better. As a rose breeder, he had dedicated his life to these plants. He knew each one intimately.

Pausing, he reached out to rub a particularly glossy leaf, its finely serrated edge curling slightly over his finger. Ah, this one...*this one*...Monsieur Meilland sighed. A masterpiece! Unlike anything he had ever grown before. Of all his treasures, this plant produced the most heartbreakingly beautiful blooms.

Monsieur Meilland was anxious to experiment, to develop the rose further and to give it an appropriate name. But he was out of time. The year was 1939, and the treat of war hovered over Western Europe. He could only hope to preserve the rose from the terrible dangers on the horizon.

By June of the following year, the German Army had occupied northern France. Now the Nazis cut across to the coast, then turned and moved toward Paris, never striking twice in the same place. Waging *blitzkrieg*, or lightning war, they had attacked first one town, then another, spreading defeat and disaster everywhere.

Pressed for time, Monsieur Meilland took cuttings from his beloved plant, still untested and still unnamed. Methodically, he packaged and shipped them to rose aficionados throughout the world. Would they get out of France? Would they arrive at their destinations? More importantly, would they survive? He could only hope. And Pray.

One last plane left France just before the Nazis gained control of the airport. On board were the final rose cuttings, cushioned in a diplomatic pouch, destined for the United States.

Four long years passed. Throughout Europe, shelling resounded like a giant bell solemnly tolling the dead. And then it arrived: a letter from a rose grower in Pennsylvania praising the beauty of Meilland's discovery. It was ruffled. Delicate. The petals were of cameo ivory and palest cream, tipped with a tinge of pink. His rose had survived.

But for Monsieur Meilland, the crowning glory came later. On the very day That Berlin fell and bells of freedom rang across Europe rose growers gathered far away, in sunny California, at a ceremony to christen his splendid blossom. To honor the occasion, white doves were set free to wing their way across a sapphire sky.

And, after so many years, the fragile rose that had survived war finally received its name. "Peace."



For those who missed the potluck meeting on December 17th here is a little quiz given out to stimulate your dormant energy for spring:

Unscramble the words. Each is a flower. See how many you can get without looking at the answers found at the bottom of this page.

1. erso _____
2. iptu _____
3. tsrea _____
4. iydsa _____
5. ecosul _____
6. etipnua _____
7. hscfaiu _____
8. doramigl _____
9. emrignau _____
10. talicems _____



Eye Candy...



Daisy

Photo by Carol Losey



“What Lies Beneath The Snow”

Photo by Jo-Ann Clark

APPRECIATING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

by Nina Logan

I was reading from Spencerville, a book by Nelson DeMille, which is appropriate to our mission as Master Gardeners. He wrote “The further the nation travels from it’s agrarian and small town roots, the less it understands the cycle of nature, the relationship between the land and the people, the law of cause effect, the less we understand our essential selves.”



Our mission as Master Gardeners is to bring people back to the land. Perhaps, through our teaching of horticulture to our youth, we can begin to bring people back to the land. Maybe a child will learn that by planting a garden, he can not only feed his belly, but can also feed his soul. Maybe a walk in the woods can give him peace. Let’s teach more about planting trees, restoring our prairies and wetlands, and generally conserving our rich resources that abounds here in Wisconsin.



**From the earth we were formed,
 To the earth we return,
 And in between, we garden.
 - Nelson Eddy**

Answers to flower quiz on this page are: 1) rose; 2) tulip; 3) aster; 4) daisy; 5) coleus; 6) petunia; 7) fuchsia; 8) marigold; 9) geranium; and 10) clematis.

A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.

-Doug Larson



Attention!

If any Master Gardener would be interested in donating a door prize for the Ready, Set, Grow... winter garden seminar you may contact Lori Kempen at 715-832-8088.

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/eauclore
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**