

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



July 2017

Hello Master Gardeners!

I just wanted to **thank all the MGs** who helped with the sale on Sunday. It was a wild day due to the rain storm and I appreciated everyone's flexibility to work around the adverse weather to make the sale work.

I would also like to thank the plant sale committee who worked hard to plan and advertise the sale to make it a success. The committee consisted of Judy Wibel, Lori Kempen, Nina Logan, Kathy Taylor and Mary Griffin and myself. I enjoyed working with all of them.

Thank you to Nancy Spak for letting us use her tables and plastic table covers.

Lastly, thank you for the donation of 860 plants and the thrift sale items. I know the plant repotting prep we required to deter spreading jumping worms made things a little difficult but everyone was very generous with their donations. Everything given was much appreciated.

Thank you all again!

Susan Merten
Plant Sale Chair

The Show Sale Must Go On (and so it did)!



Despite some very difficult weather circumstances the ECAMGA annual plant sale DID go on. Thanks to all who helped out and thanks to Ellen Terwilliger for documenting the event.

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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 715-783-0016 - cell).



**Bulletin Board Postings
Stories and
Opportunities!!!!**



ECAMGA Board

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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 <http://www.eauclairemastergardeners.com/forms.html>

Hello,

I'm visiting Hope Gospel's Ruth House July 3 at 2:30pm. If you are interested in volunteering with this garden, please let me know. Touring the garden would be a great way to see if this volunteer project is right for you.

Erin LaFaive, M.S.
Horticulture Educator
& Co-Dept. Head



***ECAMGA
2017
Calendar***

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

July 17, 2017: Paula Bonnin,
"Growing Roses"

August 21, 2017: Backyard
Beekeeping –tentative

September 18, 2017: End of Season
Harvest Potluck

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.

Hello everyone!

I know that the Asian Jumping Worms have been a hot topic with gardeners in the area. I just saw that they are the topic on Larry Meiller for June 28.

If you missed the broadcast, you can listen to it on <http://www.wpr.org/listen/1124646>.

ANDY HEREN

UW-Extension Eau Claire County
Administrative Specialist II

Also see email message from Jeff Epping on page 7 regarding the jumping worm problem.



Why The Best Master Gardener Volunteer Hours I Spend Are With Young Children by Ellen Terwilliger, MGV with the Lakeshore Elementary School Gardeners

1. Kindergartners and First Graders are excited to plant seeds and learn about gardening.
2. Young children ask gardening questions I can answer.
3. You get to see children get excited about planting broccoli and then eating it.
4. The look of amazement on a six-year-old child is priceless when they look up at a ten-foot high sunflower they planted in the spring and now see it again in the fall.
5. Six year olds don't ask you what the Latin name of the plant is.
6. When you ask a child why you would want to put hay around the seedling they are planting and they tell you it is to scare away the bunnies.
7. First graders are a quick study. When you ask them what plants need to grow they'll tell you: sun, water and dirt.
8. Plant diseases and pests are not yet part of a young child's vocabulary – they only see the wonderful possibilities.
9. Children write you thank you notes with pictures and say things like, "You are the best ladey ever in the hole world. You are the best for teaching us about planting. Plece do not go."
10. When you are helping young children learn about gardening they think you are the smartest gardener in the world.

*"The glory of gardening: hands
in the dirt, head in the sun,
heart with nature. To nurture a
garden is to feed not just on the
body, but the soul."*

-Alfred Austin



Changes...

The Eau Claire Area Master Gardener's Association (ECAMGA) monthly education meetings schedule will be changing from the third Tuesday of the month to the third Monday starting on July 17th at 6:30 p.m.

This change is necessary due to Eau Claire County now enforcing the requirement that a county/state employee **MUST** be present during any scheduled meeting before/after regular business hours in a county facility.

After much discussion the ECAMGA Board elected to try changing the meeting night to accommodate staff that will be attending these presentations. It will involve moving our scheduled speakers one day ahead on the calendars. Hopefully this will not be an inconvenience for people and may even make it possible for others to attend.

We ask for your help in getting the word out regarding the change in dates. Reminders will be sent out prior to meetings. The correct dates will be in the press releases, as well.

Thank you for your help in resolving this issue.

Upcoming Events & Other Things



July ECAMGA Meeting to Spotlight Growing Roses...

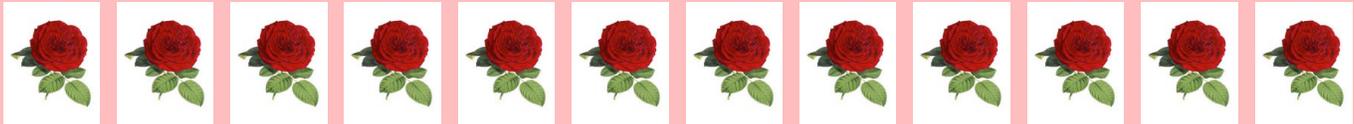
The July Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Association (ECAMGA) meeting will feature Paula Bonnin presenting on growing roses. The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on July 17, 2017 at the Eau Claire County UW-Extension Office at 227 First St., Altoona, WI.

Paula has been growing roses since she was very young. As a child, a neighbor, who was a retired teacher and avid gardener got Paula interested in gardening by letting Paula help her plant flowers and pull weeds in her garden. The neighbor had her entire yard filled with flowers and so Paula was often found in the garden with dirty hands and a smile on her face!



Bonnin became increasingly interested in roses as no one else in her neighborhood ever had them! Since then, she has dedicated her rose garden to the memory of her mother Sharon. At various times Paula has had as many as twenty-five different hybrid tea, floribundas, and grandiflora roses in her rose garden at one time. After one brutal winter her rose garden went from twenty five to eleven rose bushes after losing roses to -40 below weather. Presently she has eleven roses, six of which were named after famous people!

So, come to the presentation to find out just whom Paula has buried in her rose garden! Bring a friend – better yet, bring several friends as the event is open to the public. Treats will be served and door prizes awarded. See you there!



Classes:

Saturday, July 16, 2017, 10:00 a.m.: Perennials:

Attracting Birds and Butterflies: A forum for all bird and butterfly lovers! We'll talk briefly about plants, trees and shrubs that help attract our beloved winged creatures, and then open up to questions and discussions. Bring your stories and pictures. No Fee. Pre registration is not required for most classes but is appreciated.



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

E-mail - home@dwntoearth.com

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

Beaver Creek Butterfly Count: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm, July 10, 2017

Join other butterfly enthusiasts for the annual Beaver Creek Reserve Butterfly count. Meet at the **Wise Nature Center** to review species likely to be seen, then get directions for the count and receive a route assignment. Most counters usually



spend two to four hours counting, but you may count for as little as one hour, or for most of the day if you wish. The results are forwarded to the North American Butterfly Association. Suitable for children 8 years and older, and adults. **Please register by Thursday, July 6**, so we can have enough materials on hand for counters. **No Fee**—There is a suggested \$3 donation (not required) to cover

BCR's cost, assessed by NABA, payable on the day of the count.



Beaver Creek Reserve
S1 County Road K
Fall Creek, WI 54742
Phone: [715.877.2212](tel:715.877.2212)

Acoustic Bat Survey: 7:30 am – 9:30 am, July 15, 2017

Wisconsin has seven species of bat, four of which are threatened and three which are listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need. With White-nose Syndrome threatening bats across much of the United States, there is no better time to assist in this citizen science opportunity. Join us to learn about Wisconsin's bat species and how to conduct acoustic monitoring and bat roost monitoring surveys in the Chippewa Valley. To end the program we will step into the night and learn how to use the Citizen Science Center's portable acoustic bat monitoring device to assist state bat biologists with collecting data about these misunderstood night flyers. This is a hands on, out in the field (or forest or stream) program. By registering for this program you are committing to participate in field work-study. Please dress for the elements. **Registration and full payment required by July 10. Fee: Member \$5; Non-member \$8.**

Breeding Bird Atlas Blitz, July 25, 2017, 7 am – 11:00 pm.

Bird nesting season is here! Come join us for a Breeding Bird Atlas Blitz as we spend the morning searching BCR to record as many breeding birds as possible. The Breeding Bird Atlas is a five-year citizen science project that aims to map the distribution and abundance of all bird species breeding in WI. Along with contributing to a massive statewide citizen science project, you will have the exciting opportunity to learn how to recognize bird courtship, nesting behavior, and to watch the birds as they prepare for the arrival of their young. You will gain knowledge about bird behavior that will be sure to make your nature

walks from that day forward even more fun and interesting! Located at Citizen Science Center. Open to ages 18+. **Fee: \$5. Registration and full payment for July 25 session required by July 23.**

Summer Wild Edibles, July 28, 2017, 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

Join a Beaver Creek naturalist for a taste of some summer's wild edibles. We'll take a hike and look for some common, easily identifiable, wild edible plants. We'll nibble a few things as we hike, and then sample some cooked greens and a wild beverage or two! A list of some plants to try and their use will be provided. Come and join us for a taste of summer from the wild! **Fee: \$8 Members; \$11:00 non-members. Registration and payment required by July 24.**



BCR pictures



*"Who loves a garden still his Eden keeps;
Perennial pleasures, plants, and wholesome
harvest reaps."*

~A. Bronson Alcot, "The Garden,": Tablets, 1868



Spooner Ag Station Meet Me in the Garden July 13th, 2017 6:00pm - 7:30pm

“Meet Me in the Garden” is a series of educational events during the growing season at the Spooner Agriculture Research Station Teaching and Display Garden. The events are lead by Master Gardener Volunteers, Summer

Garden Interns, and the UW-Extension Horticulture Agent. Please bring your own chair for the Meet Me in the Garden Series.

The Display and Teaching Garden can be found across from the Sheep Research Facility at N5264 Orchard Lane. Orchard Lane is located 1 ½ miles east of Spooner on Highway 70 or ½ mile west of Hwy 70/53 Interchange. In the case of inclement weather, programs will be held at the Station Building at W6646 Hwy 70/53 Interchange. In the case of inclement weather, programs will be held at the Station Building at W6646 Hwy 70, Spooner.

The topic will be ***“Foodscaping: Interspersing Edibles in the Ornamental Garden”***. This is the All American Selection theme for 2017.

No cost. For more information and the handouts go to: <http://bit.ly/2swwd4b> or contact Sue Reinardy at 715-462-3361 (or email sreinardy@centurytel.net).



Top picture by Dana Cox/ bottom one by Carol Cox

Cactus flower even here in Wisconsin. Most of the cactus species are not hardy in our Wisconsin winters. They can, however, be overwintered indoors and then, when taken out for the summer, will often surprise us with unique and lovely blooms.



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 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 by October 7, 2017. Please place **“Photo Contest Entry”** as the email subject.



Bits and Pieces



The climax has begun, a host of fires
to enchant the bees and flower flies.
With sun-fire Evening Primrose
ignites her candelabra.
She's burned yellow candles
all the way up her spike.
Guttered wicks dry and drop.
Eve the Primrose burns
her candles at the top,
and they shall last the light.

-Picture and poem by John Caddy
Submitted by Mikel Reise



***"It is good to be alone in a garden at
dawn or dark so that all its shy
presences may haunt you and
possess you in a reverie of
suspended thought."***

~James Douglas, Down Shoe Lane

Email from Jeff Epping March 30, 2017

We're more than a little worried about the jumping worm invasion at Olbrich. We really don't know when we first imported it into the gardens or how it got here exactly, but it's here and we're trying to figure out the best way to deal with it. We are working closely with Bernie Williams at the DNR and hope to come up with the best way to live with them. I say live with them, because I don't see that there is any way to eradicate them now that they are firmly embedded here.



Picture from DNR website

I am also living with them in my home garden and have noticed very significant changes in my soil in parts of my garden. My soil structure has changed from a typical silt loam soil to a granular, almost sand-like loose structure. The granules are so loose that I can easily scoop my hand into the top 3-5 inches of soil with minimal effort. The soil granules also seem to be a bit hydrophobic and certainly not moisture retentive. During periods of drought in the summer the plants in the worst jumping worm areas suffer from lack of moisture way more than in the areas where the worms are less concentrated.

Here at Olbrich we noticed something disturbing the other day, which I think is due to the presence of the jumping worm, but I am not exactly certain. Our hedge row of approximately 20 wintergreen arborvitaes planted on the west perimeter of the Rose Garden are all leaning towards the east. It appears that strong wind gusts out of the west a few weeks back caused the problem. These trees were planted about 5 years ago and should be well rooted and anchored and not affected by wind, at least not to that degree. I think the loose soil structure is why the trees are leaning, since we didn't suffer any wind damage on any other plants in the gardens. We plan on treating the soil with Early Bird fertilizer this spring in hopes of killing the worms in that area and then try to get the soil back to a healthy state again...to be continued. In the meanwhile, we will not share any plants or plant material with other gardeners, since we certainly don't want to spread the worm in the process. We're hoping to learn more as time goes by and learn how to deal with the jumping worm. Wish us luck...wish us all luck and garden on!

Thanks,

Jeff Epping
Director of Horticulture
Olbrich Botanical Gardens

WIMGA Conference 2017

The Washington County Master Gardeners would like to announce that the Wisconsin State Master Gardeners Conference will be held on **October 13th and 14th, 2017**. This event will be held at the West Bend Mutual Insurance Company Prairie Center, in West Bend. The Prairie Center is located on several acres filled with native plants. There are several walking paths through the property.



Friday night's featured speakers will be Martine and Edgar Anderson of Door County. Their topic will be the joys and challenges of "Growing Lavender in Wisconsin". Saturday will consist of several breakout sessions with a variety of speakers. For more information including a brochure go to: <http://bit.ly/2swpkjh>.

Masters at the Prairie

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
Phone: 715-839-4712
Fax: 715-839-6277
M-F 8AM-5PM



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**Eau Claire County
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