

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



June 2017

Gardening 1 2 3 by Barbara Huggins

The May Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Association (ECAMGA) meeting featured Master Gardener Volunteer Darrell Reed. Darrell spoke to a large group of gardeners about planning a garden. He emphasized the need to consider sunlight, orientation, soil conditions, frost dates, and how to maintain the growth of plants.



Photo by Paula Bonnin

Sunlight

- . Full sun equals 6hrs. or more of sun/day
- . Partial sun equals 4-6hrs. of sun/day
- . Shade equals less than 4hrs. of sun/day

Orientation

- . east/west orientation is best
- . Maximize your southern exposure. Place plants like cucumbers on the south side of your garden. Plant tall plants on the north side.

Soil composition

- . a light sandy loam is best. The soil holds moisture and breaks apart easily.
- . Add shredded leaves, coffee grounds, and well- rotted manure to create compost. Add the compost to the ground before you plant.
- . Mulch the top of the soil with shredded leaves, grass, or straw to retain moisture.

Soil nutrients

- . Have a soil test completed for your garden. Pick up a soil envelope at the UW Eau Claire County Extension Office in Altoona. For a \$15 fee the soil will be sent to UW Madison to be analyzed. Results will be sent to you.
- . Soil needs a balance of Nitrogen for plant growth, Phosphorus for root growth, and Potassium for fighting disease. Usually a balanced 5-5-5 fertilizer is used for normal plant stimulation. Slow released fertilizer is best to prevent root burn.
- . A pH of 6 is a good balance from too acidic (sour) or too non-acidic (sweet) soil.

Frost Dates

- Eau Claire is in Zone 4 and our first frost dates are usually September 20-26 while our last frost dates are usually May 17-23.
- . Memorial Day or after tends to be a good planting date.
- . Read seed packets and plant stakes carefully to find best dates to plant, depth, spacing, and watering tips.

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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!!!!



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>

ECAMGA Board

| ECAMGA BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Name | E-mail address | Phone number |
| Erin LaFaive | Erin.lafaive@ces.uwex.edu | 715-839-4712 |
| Mary Jane Griffin | mgriffinhlaa@gmail.com | 715-835-6979 |
| Dick Lienhardt | dicklienhardt@yahoo.com | 715-286-9917 |
| Nancy Spak | nancyspak@gmail.com | 715-835-6546 |
| Ede Strand | edestrand@aol.com | 715-8326775 |
| Jerry Richards | richardsleeann@hotmail.com | 715-456-7232 |
| Carla Pelzl | jcpelzl@gmail.com | 715-835-6628 |
| Nina Logan | ninalogan@centurylink.net | 715-878-4585 |
| Ellen Terwilliger | terwilset@gmail.com | 715-839-0731 |
| Lori Kempen | lorikempen@charter.net | 715-832-8088 |

ECAMG Plant Sale June 11, 2017 at Phoenix Park

- If any questions about the sale or plant root cleaning process (see April & May newsletters, **PLEASE** call/text/email me.
- Start potting plants now. The root bleaching is time consuming and hard on plants and takes a few days for them to bounce back.
- Please call, text or email me as to when you can work. Shifts are 7am-11 or 11-3. I am flexible, just let me know when you can work.
- Let me know if you are bringing a table. If everyone brings one and we won't have to rent them.
- **Below is the plant label for your use.** Also a picture of the plant in bloom and the name of the hybrid can help get a better price.
- Judy has the sale up on the MG Facebook page. Invite friends to the sale. Go to the Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners Volunteers. Click on the event and let the cursor hover over the share>invite friends. You select the friends you would like to invite!
- Another great thing to do is post the event to your timeline.
- I have left copies of the poster and take aways at the UW-Extension office. **Pick some up to hand out!**
- Please bring your garden cart if possible.
- We are having the thrift sale this year. We are selling gently used garden items including pots, books, garden decor and tools. We also will be selling grow bags made from recycled plastic and bamboo support stakes.

Plant Name: _____

Light: _____ Sun _____

Shade _____

Mature Size: _____

Notes: _____



ECAMGA 2017

Calendar

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

- June 11, 2017: ECAMGA Annual Plant Sale**
- July 18, 2017: Paula Bonnin, "Growing Roses"**
- August 15, 2017: Backyard Beekeeping –tentative**
- September 19, 2017: End of Season Harvest Potluck**
- October 17, 2017: "Healthy Houseplants" – Kelly from DTE Garden Center**
- November 7, 2017: Ellen Terwilliger - "Costa Rica Cocoa Plantation"**
- December 2017: Annual Christmas Party and Election of Board Members.**

Upcoming Events & Other Things



“ASK A MASTER GARDENER” BOOTH

Spring is here (at least the calendar says it is) and it will soon be time to start our “Ask A Master Gardener” table at the Saturday Farmers Market at Phoenix Park. We usually start the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. This year that date is May 27. We are out there every Saturday until Labor Day, except for July 28 & 29, when we will be at the Eau Claire County Fair.

Are you looking for a way to get your 24 hours of volunteer time? Do you like talking with people and watching the crowds at the Farmers Market? If so, please consider volunteering with us.

Here is how it works: Either myself or someone else will bring all the supplies out to the Phoenix Park Pavilion at 8:00 a.m. We are never in the same place; it all depends on where Diedra, the manager, tells us to set up. Just look for a familiar face and our table. We try to have about 4 of us there, which means someone probably knows the answer to most questions. If we don't, we refer them to the Extension office and someone will get the answer to their question.

We are looking for people to help this year. It doesn't matter if you have done this before or not. You can do it as often as you like or just a few times. In a few weeks I will send out a Doodle that you can access to sign up. You can sign up many weeks at once, or a week at a time. I usually check the signup each week to see who will be there and send a reminder email a few days before.

You are not expected there every week; just help as your schedule allows. Please consider joining us this summer! If you are interested, please email me at Rcktnut007@aol.com and I will add your name to the list.

Thanks!
Andy Heren



Photo by Paula Bonnin – She says, “I love Neil Diamond so when I found this rose at Shopko I had to buy it for my rose garden!!”

Some interesting websites with great info...

Like peonies? Then check out this website – lots of good information about the different types of peonies, their care and lots of pictures. Go to: <https://www.peonysenvy.com/>.

Interested in Iris? Then check out the Old Farmer's Almanac (<http://www.almanac.com/plant/irises>) for lots of information on Iris and other favorites also.

Crabapple Trees your thing? Go to: <http://bit.ly/2qCzkri> for all you ever wanted to know!



Sparta's Tilling Thyme Garden Walk June 22nd, 2017 4:00pm - 8:00pm

Each of the four gardens offers a variety of interests.

1. A city garden with a lawn that represents a river using feng shui elements.
2. Another garden shows urban gardening at its best with bee hives, chickens in a coop, ecological effects using rain barrels and a composting system, raised beds and a child's garden.
3. The country gardens each showcase vegetables in different ways. One of the gardeners uses the xeric method of planting in sand as well as raised beds.
4. One of the gardens showcases old farm equipment. The country garden on the farmstead has multiple floral gardens each with a different theme and emphasis.

Once again we will offer a "Garden Yard Sale" with handmade garden items, potted plants and new and gently used garden related items. Ice water will be available at each site and refreshments will be available on one garden patio.

Proceeds from this event provide scholarships and support our community projects of maintaining the gardens at Rolling Hills, Museum Complex, Library, Water Street hanging baskets and a memorial park bench on the walkway in Evans-Bossard Park. So, come and enjoy an evening of gardens and find some new plants or ideas of what you can do at your home.

Sponsored by Tilling Thyme Garden Club, rain or shine!

Cost: \$5. For more information and to purchase tickets contact: Kristin Nussdorfer (phone: 608-269-3439 or email her at kknussdorfer@gmail.com.)

Tickets and map to four gardens are available the day of the walk on the front lawn of the Museum Complex on Main and Court Street. Tickets and maps are available under the tent at the Deke Slayton Bike and Space Museum Complex on the corners of Court and Main Streets.



**I used to visit and revisit it a dozen times a day,
and stand in deep contemplation over my
vegetable progeny with a love that nobody could
share or conceive of who had never taken part in
the process of creation. It was one of the most
bewitching sights in the world to observe a hill of
beans thrusting aside the soil, or a rose of early
peas just peeping forth sufficiently to trace a line
of delicate green.**

~Nathaniel Hawthorne, *Mosses from an Old
Manse*



Classes:

Saturday, June 10 at 10:00 am: Landscaping 101- This will be a beginner's class on how to plan, layout, and install your own landscaping designs. If you are wondering where to start, we can help. Then look forward to landscape 201 – a must attend!

Saturday, June 24 at 10:00 am: Landscaping 201 - We will cover additional landscape design principles including: foundation plantings, edging installation, and the pros and cons of using ulch vs. rock. We will also go over how to determine what type of soil you have, provide tips on what plants to use, how to plant and how to incorporate boulders into your design.

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>.

Summer Tree, Shrub, and Vine ID: - June 7, 2017. Two sessions: 9:30 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Are maple trees really either hard or soft? Are popple, poplar, and aspen the same tree? Are red pine and Norway pine different species? Naturalist Jim Schwiebert will answer these and other tree questions as you hike BCR's trails to look at the unique leaf, twig, and bark characteristics of trees, shrubs, and a few interesting vine species found on the Reserve. Learn easy ways to remember how to identify them. A simple key to tree identification will be provided for participants to take home. **Registration and payment required by June 5.** Friends \$3; Nonmembers \$5.



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

Phenology Hike for Elder Explorers - Thursday, June 8, 9:30-11:00 a.m. At the Wise Nature Center. This naturalist-led, 60-minute hike on reserve trails will document the changes taking place in the woods at Beaver Creek. The hike will be capped off with coffee and a treat and further discussion about the changes and things we've seen on the hike. Hikers should expect about a mile-long hike with uneven terrain and stairs to negotiate. This program is targeted for adult nature lovers 55 and older. **Registration and full payment required by June 6.** Friends \$3 Nonmembers \$5.

BUTTERFLY HOUSE LAB - Training: Tuesday, June 8, 7 p.m.

Volunteers are needed from early June through mid-September. This exciting volunteer opportunity involves the daily care and feeding of caterpillars, monitoring chrysalis development, and releasing butterflies into the Butterfly House. Lab workers are needed daily Monday through Saturday, for one to two hours, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., and Sunday, 12-2 p.m., to help raise caterpillars in our lab. To sign up for this training call 715-877-2212. If you cannot attend this training session, please contact the Reserve to set up a personal training time.

BUTTERFLY HOUSE GUIDE - Training: Monday, June 29, 7 p.m.

Enjoy learning about our native butterflies and helping visitors to identify them while volunteering in our beautiful Butterfly House as a Volunteer Guide! Guides answer questions and share their love and enthusiasm for butterflies. Don't think you know enough about butterflies? Don't worry -- this is a great way to learn on the job! Come and see what it's all about! Volunteers are needed daily Monday- Saturday, 11 a.m.-3:00 p.m., and Sundays 12:00-3:00 p.m., from July 5 through early September. To sign up for this training call 715-877- 2212. If you cannot attend this training session, please contact the Reserve to set up a personal training time.



Wild Food in the Context of Prairies and Savannas

A discussion and walk with Wild Food Author Sam Thayer

Saturday, June 3rd/ 10 am-3 pm/ Colfax Municipal Building, 613 Main St., Colfax, WI
 Join the Prairie Enthusiasts and celebrated Wild Food author Sam Thayer for this presentation and plant walk with Sam at Dobb's Landing in Colfax. Attendees should plan to bring walking shoes and lunch. Suggested donation is \$15.

For more information email:

theprairieenthusiasts.csc@gmail.com

Hosted by: Prairie Enthusiasts - Chippewa Savanna Chapter



June 3rd Fairy Garden Workshop 10:00

Call 715-836-8220 to register or for more information or go to:
<http://www.maysfloralgarden.com>.

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 by October 7, 2017. Please place "Photo Contest Entry" as the email subject.



Bits and Pieces



DIY DOUBLE X
Outdoor Bench
MADE WITH 2X4'S



For free plans go to: <http://bit.ly/2rPpMNf>.

Gardening 1, 2, 3 continued from page 1...

Watering

- . Water tomatoes regularly. (sandy soil ½-¾inches /twice a week, - loam and clay soils 1inch/week).
- . Add shredded leaves for compost. Mulch with untreated grass.

Transplants

- . Water with warm water. Dig an oversized hole. Add compost.
- . Add the plant and cover the roots with soil. For tomatoes and peppers you may sprinkle Epsom Salts or bone meal around the base of the plant.
- . Make a trench around the plant and water again with warm water.

Containers

- . Container gardens need to be watered more. Stick your finger into the pot. If the soil is dry water thoroughly, letting the water drain out of the pot.
- . Feed with balanced plant food 24-8-8 once a week.

Finally, keep a journal of your gardening. Each year you can reread and recall your successful strategies as well as your new discoveries.

Happy Gardening!! A good website for questions is: mudbrooker@gmail.com.

Thank you, Darrell for such wonderful information!



Succulents are all the rage right now. Check out directions for this easy to make succulent ball at: <http://low.es/2rPpQwF>.



photo by Carol Cox

Not all clematis are climbers although some of them grow large enough that one might think, set against a trellis, that they are. This one is called 'Seriously Black' and has dark black/green/reddish foliage and white blooms which appear in the later part of summer. The blooms look much like those of Sweet Autumn clematis.

We think that diamonds are very important, gold is very important, all these minerals are very important. We call them precious minerals, but they are all forms of the soil. But that part of this mineral that is on top, like it is the skin of the earth, that is the most precious of the commons.

**~Wangari Maathai (1940–2011),
*Dirt! The Movie. 2009***



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



Happy Father's Day

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**Eau Claire County
Extension Office
227 First Street West
Altoona, WI 54720**