

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



March 2013



Jamie L. Nack,
Senior Wildlife Outreach Specialist

Certified Wildlife Biologist® who was the Keynote speaker for the event, pictured with a groundhog.



A very unique table for out in the garden displayed by one of the vendors at the event.



Ron Verdegan and Richard Witt, from the Hosta Society. Dick Witt also presented one of the breakout sessions on "Shade Gardening With Hosta"

Pictures by Diane Hunter

Another Successful Ready, Set, Grow...Winter Garden Seminar Held February 2 at the CVTC!

The day was filled with ideas, visions of spring, lots of exciting stuff displayed by vendors and lots of really great speakers and exciting door prizes. This was all topped off by great food and interaction with other fellow garden devotes (or should I say addicts?).

What can I say? If you missed it, you missed a great opportunity but don't worry – there is always next year and ideas are already popping up for the 2014 seminar. Maybe you would like to be a part of planning that. If so just give Lori Kempen or Nina Logan a call.



Kathi and Michael Rock who presented on "Gardening For Hummingbirds"



Just some of the many Master Gardener Volunteers who helped to make the event a huge success.

Thank you

to all the volunteers who contributed their time and talent in making the February 2nd Ready, Set, Grow... Garden Seminar a huge success. A special thanks to our fantastic committee members for their many hours spent organizing this event. Planning sessions, telephone calls, emails, trips to the printer, contacting speakers and vendors are just a few of the tasks so well done by this group.

Thank you to everyone from Eau Claire and the surrounding communities for spending the day with us. Our speakers and vendors were pleased with the large number of enthusiastic gardeners attending. We appreciate the assistance from the staff at Chippewa Valley Technical College in arranging details for the conference. We appreciate the generosity of the individual Master Gardeners and local businesses who donated door prizes. We hope to work with many of you again as we plan for the February 1, 2014 seminar.

Lori Kempen and Nina Logan
Garden Seminar
Committee Co-Chairs

Gardening is not a
rational act.

Margaret Atwood

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 MEMBER CONTACT INFO		
NAME/TITLE	e-mail address	phone number
Erin LaFaive	Erin.lafaive@ces.uwex.edu	715-839-4712
Mikel Reise	mandbreise@charter.net	715-836-7839
Gary Mathis	Garym5811@live.com	715-878-4031
Roslyn Siudak	apras2@mydnet.com	715-559-3199
Katie Hartsel	hartseka@uwec.edu	715-864-4300
Jeanne Mueller	jeanneventures@att.net	715-835-3146
Diane Hunter	sportflower@gmail.com	715-835-2775
Andy Heren	Rcktnut007@aol.com	715-831-9236
Karen Olson	kjolson@charter.net	715-838-0842
Daria Hutchinson	dariahu@aol.com	216-337-7697

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>

Mark Your Calendars!!

A date has been set for digging and selling plants from the Eau Claire County Expo gardens. The sale will take place at the Expo center gardens on Saturday, May 4 at 9am with a rain date set for Sunday, May 5. Also for sale will be stone benches, pergolas, and large stones.

We will begin to identify and dig plants on Friday May 3 at 10am. Volunteers are needed to dig on Friday and help with the sale on Saturday. Remember, volunteers not only get a good deal on pricing, but also get first choice of plants. This event is open to the public, so notify and bring all your friends. For more information contact Nina Logan by email at: ninalogan@centurylink.net. See you there.



A comment received from one of the speakers at the Garden Seminar...

Thank-you for sending the pictures. I really enjoyed the session and the interactions throughout the whole day. As always, it confirmed my belief that people who love gardening are truly congenial, nice people.

I also appreciated the unexpected honorarium.
Sincerely,

Dick Witt



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

I am the Recreation Director for the City of Altoona Parks & Recreation Department. I would like to run a couple of adult gardening classes and I am looking for an instructor. I was thinking about a Perennial Gardening Class and a Container Gardening class, or a class chosen by the instructor.

Is there anyone involved with the EC Master Gardeners that would be willing to lead a class?

Thank you for your help.

Debra Goldbach
Recreation Director
Altoona Parks & Recreation
Department

1904 Spooner Ave
Altoona, WI 54720
715-839-5188 / fax 715-839-1610



**"Spring—an experience in
immortality."
Henry David Thoreau (1817-62)**



Turtles, Travels, Tra-La Continued

by Carol Cox

When someone mentions the Galápagos Islands what comes to your mind? Balmy beaches, Charles Darwin, exotic animal and

plant life? Or maybe you are not even sure where they are.

Well, first a bit of background and then, an offer of an opportunity to learn a bit more from someone who has been there.

This chain of volcanic islands form an archipelago distributed on either side of the Equator in the Pacific Ocean west of continental Ecuador, of which they are part. The principal language on the islands is Spanish and the islands have a population of slightly over 25,000 people. The chain consists of 13 main islands, 3 smaller ones and 107 rocks and islets.

The islands were discovered by a Spaniard, Fray Tomás de Berianga, the fourth Bishop of Panama, in 1535. These islands are also famous because of Charles Darwin's voyage to the islands in the HMS Beagle in 1835. Also, an interesting fact is that these islands are one of few places in the world without an indigenous population.

Now, just what does this have to do with the Master Gardeners? Well, on March 19th at 6:30 p.m. at the Eau Claire County UW-Extension Office, we will have the opportunity to hear Olivia Anne Ludke, an Ecology and Environmental Biology student from UW-Eau Claire tell us about her trip to the Galápagos Islands.

Olivia has about 2 full time semesters worth of work to go before graduating. She would like to get her veterinary certificate, and ultimately work with exotic animals at a zoo, and/or with a conservation program. Olivia says, "The sea lions of Galapagos inspired me to get a job that will allow me to interact with wild animals. I think it is important to make people aware of the world around them!"

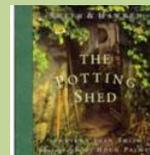
The staple animals of Galápagos islands include Blue-footed Boobies, Tortoises, Land Iguanas, Marine Iguanas, Sea Lions, and Frigate birds. She will have many pictures of all of these! On her trip she also saw stingrays, sharks, several fish, several birds, etc.

Her trip included a few days stay on the mainland near the Darwin Research Station on the island Santa Cruz where she spent a week touring the islands by yacht, and then traveled to Ecuador for a few days in the Cloud Forest--known for its hummingbirds and interesting plants!

Olivia will be going through her pictures and talking about her experiences in the Galápagos. So, for all of you who want to find out (as I do) what "Blue-footed Boobies are, come join us and bring a friend along. See you there!

Book Review

by Andy Heren



While in the library one cold winter day, looking for a certain book, another caught my eye. I added it to my stack, mainly for the pictures I hoped would give me ideas. When I started reading, I knew it was more than just another picture book.

The Potting Shed by Linda Jones

Smith is a small book devoted to the potting shed. Many of us have outdoor sheds in that capacity. Others, like me, hope to have one someday to serve not only as a useful building for gardening, but also to serve as a little sanctuary in my back yard.

Reading this book gives you the feeling that a potting shed is a gardener's sanctuary. First, the author takes us through the pleasures, traditions, and the tools of the potting shed. Next she takes the reader through the seasons of gardening with the shed.

As I started through the book, I got a comforting feeling, much like the one a person gets from eating special comfort food, but much lower in calories. The author either has an unbelievable vocabulary or a nearby thesaurus. She is way beyond the trendy and tiresome use of the word "amazing." The adjectives that she uses to describe parts and places of the shed, and the adverbs she uses to describe gardening work, take you to where she is.

Her adjectives appeal to all the senses as her descriptions are very visual; you feel the dirt on your knees and under your nails. You not only smell the plant and soil in the shed, you can taste them as well. Even though you can't see the insects and birds, you can hear them.

The photographs, by Hugh Palmer, are expertly taken, showing so many different types of potting sheds. Each one shows the shed from a different perspective. (Continued on page 7)

Upcoming Events & Other Things

Garden "U" 2013



Saturday, March 16, 2013

**Ready Randy's
1490 131st Street,
New Richmond, WI
(Corner of Co Rd G & WI Hwy 65)**

Program

- 8:30 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 9:15 a.m. **Joel Karsten**, author, lecturer
Straw Bale Gardening - A new and different method of container gardening for your vegetables - *it works!*
- 10:30 a.m. Break – check out Vendors
- 10:45 a.m. **Diana Alfuth**, UW Ext. Hort Educator and
Pauline Goerdit, Master Gardener
Things We Know We Forgot We Knew
Interactive session -how to handle questions from friends and neighbors about gardening, about pruning techniques, and plant selection.
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch – Check out Vendors
Door prize drawings
- 1:15 p.m. **Carol Cox**, Eau Claire
What to do with Garden Art - A humorous presentation of what is 'art' and the many ways it can fit in your garden or landscape.

Registration fee: \$30 payable to SCVMGA - Includes lunch
Mail to: SCVMGA – Barrette, 1358 County Rd V, Houlton WI 54082
Questions: Phone: 715-549-6438 or email:
stcroixvlymga@presenter.com

**Sponsored by the
St. Croix Valley Master Gardener Association**

St. Croix Valley Master Gardener Association is an all-volunteer organization sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Extension. Visit our web page for more information.
<http://wimastgardener.org/?q=StCroixValley> or www.scvmga.weebly.com

13th Annual New Ventures Gardening Seminar Saturday, March 16, 2013 Northwood School

(four miles north of Minong on Hwy. 53)

Minong, WI

- **“Tried, True, and New Shrubs”** – Many new shrubs have been introduced over the last few years with a focus on adding color and compact size to the landscape. Kathy Zuzek is a University of Minnesota-Extension educator with expertise in trees and shrubs having worked with the Northern Accents™ roses, the ‘Lights’ series of azaleas, Garden Glow™ dogwood, ‘Emerald Triumph’ viburnum, Firefall™ Freeman maple, Summertime™ maple.
- **“Growing Roses that Thrive in the North”** – David Zlesak, an assistant professor of horticulture at UW-River Falls, knows roses – some of the roses he developed are already on the market (Oso Happy Petit Pink, one of three 2012 Award of Excellence Winners by the American Rose Society).
- **“Rusts and Smuts and Leaf Spots – Oh, My! Diabolical Diseases in the Home Garden”** – Brian Hudelson, UW-Madison professor and researcher, is affectionately known as “Dr. Death” because of his work with plant diseases. He will lead you through the steps to conquer these problems in your own garden.
- **Mini-Session: “Getting Plants through Frigid Winters and Steamy Summers”** – David Zlesak will explain what makes a plant “hardy” and how gardeners can help their plants flourish in a climate that can reach 100 degrees or more during the summer and plummet to - 30 or - 40 in the winter.

For more information contact Julie Hustvet, gardenseminar@charter.net, or Micki Brisky, Northwood School, 715.466.4692, extension 323, or email at:
michela_brisky@northwood.k12.wi.us





**LIMITED AND FLEXIBLE
SCHLEGELMILCH
OPPORTUNITY BECKONS:
Volunteer and Learn
about Local History.**

If you are new to Master Gardeners you may not know about a wonderful community project that allows you to work with a number of people who have banded together to rehabilitate the historic Schlegelmilch Garden to what it may have looked like in 1910.

The House with its Garden located at the corner of Lake and Farwell in downtown Eau Claire and operated by the Chippewa Valley Museum, was home to Herman Schlegelmilch and his descendants until it became a house museum in the late 1960's.

The gardens are well established as our project was started in 2004 and today they provide a lovely setting for Museum events such as weddings and parties but also afford a quiet green space for people in the neighborhood.

Our work, scheduled at times that suit the volunteers, has generally been held on 2 mornings and 2 evenings each month. However, once we know the work plan for the season, individuals can simply schedule themselves for the various tasks.

We open the Garden in April or early May and would welcome your participation. If you are interested or have questions, please contact anyone of the Master Gardeners – Ashlie Wallo, Suzanne Gallagher, Ann Heywood, Sue Glenz, Rhonda Cook, Jill Barland, Keevin Peuse, Maria Fedele, Jan Haywood or Judy Clark

Another comment from the Garden Seminar...

Just wanted to let you know that I received your thank you note and check; thank you very much. I had a very enjoyable time at the Eau Claire Master Gardener conference. You have a wonderful group of volunteers who are a lot of fun and very warm and welcoming. Thank you for your hospitality.



Cheers,

Jamie L. Nack

Senior Wildlife Outreach Specialist

Certified Wildlife Biologist®

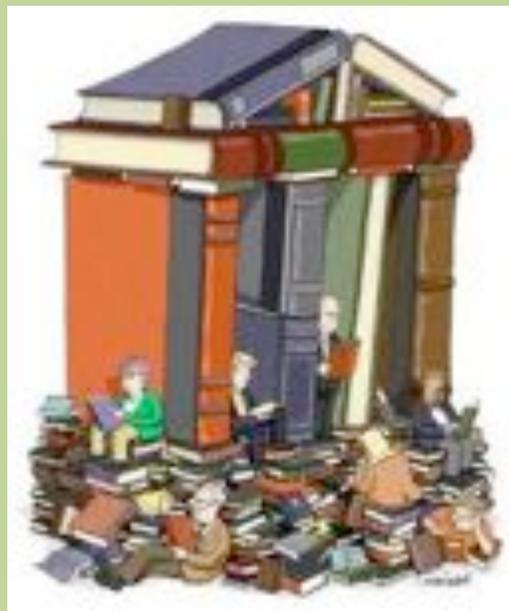
**I do some of my best thinking
while pulling weeds.
-Martha Smith**

Book Review continued from page 3...

The thought of sitting in many of them gives you the same warm, comfortable feel that you get when you put on that old, tattered coat to venture out into the autumn air.

This isn't so much of a book that you just sit and read. It is the type of book that you sit down with, along with a cup of your favorite coffee or tea, and enjoy. You read it slowly; savoring the feelings the words give, enjoying the pictures and the beauty of the old sheds.

I recommend that you look for this the next time you visit the library, or when you are at a bookstore that may carry it (or the next time you visit Amazon). It is a great book to peruse on a cold, winter day, and it helps you anticipate the gardening season just outside the shed door.





Classes

Saturday, March 9th 10:00 a.m.

Terrarium Class - *Build your own, only pay for what you take home.* Come make your own tropical oasis! Terrariums are growing more and more popular and are a great way to get kids excited about gardening. Bring your own container or purchase one from DTE.

Thursday, March 14th 5:00 p.m. - **Seed Starting Class**

We will cover the tips and tricks to starting your seeds indoors. We will also cover what seeds are better to start early and which ones are better to wait and plant directly in the ground. Bring your notebook!

Saturday, March 16th 5:00 p.m. **(pre-registration required for this class)**

Fairy Garden Tea Party in the Greenhouse - *Cost: \$15 per adult & \$25 per child.* Mothers, bring your daughters to this wonderful fairy garden tea party in the greenhouse! We will have tables set up in the greenhouse for this special event. Mini sandwiches, mini desserts, and tea will be served! After tea we will accessorize mini fairy gardens for each child to take home then read a book all about fairies! *Limited to 30 people, so please call to register. * Price of fairy garden included in child ticket price.*

Thursday, March 21st 5:00 p.m. - **Herb Seed Planting** - *Build your own, only pay for what you take home* - Herbs are not just for your garden. Come plant an herb garden for inside your home so you can enjoy herbs all year long. We will be starting by seed.

Saturday, March 23rd 10:00 a.m. - **Planning Your Veggie Garden Seminar** We will cover the basics of planning your veggie garden. What goes with what? How to plant a veggie garden in small spaces? How to plant a garden? Plus much more.

Saturday, March 30th All Day: 8:00 am - 5:00 p.m. - **Down to Earth Easter Egg Hunt** - going on all day - Rain or Shine! Each egg has candy for the kids! Plus, special eggs also have a coupon for the parents. Parents can sign up for a drawing to win one of several prizes including a \$50 Down To Earth Gift Card. There will also be games for the children. ** Limit 3 eggs per child - please.*

Saturday, March 30th & April 6th 10:00 a.m. - **Fairy Garden Class** - *Build your own, only pay for what you take home.* Make your very own Fairy Garden! Pick out the pot, plants, fairy, and accessories. Fairy gardens can be kept inside during the winter and then brought outside in the spring.

Pre registration is not required for most classes but is appreciated.

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

Visit our website at:
<http://www.dwntoearth.com/index2.html>



Is this anything like "Snail Mail"??

Probably not, but how is this for a variation on the old "ants on a log" recipe for a kids snack (and, maybe, an adult snack, too)? What a little creativity, celery, apple slices, carrots, peas, a few corn kernels, peanut butter and raisins will do to create a really attractive and nutritious





BEAVER CREEK RESERVE
S1 County Highway K, Fall Creek, WI 54742
Phone: 715.877.2212 or email:
bcr@beavercreekreserve.org

Learn the Art of Bee Keeping – March 9, 2013
9 a.m. until 4 p.m. – Wise Nature Center
\$40 for Friends, \$45 for Nonmembers



If you have heard about the pollinator shortage and want to make a difference, then become a backyard beekeeper. This informative class teaches you the basics to get started.

Learn beekeeping from a former professor who also caught the first swarm of African “killer bees” in the state of Arizona.

Bring a sack lunch and wear a hat, long sleeved shirt and long pants. Registration and full payment required by March 1.



Third Annual
“Spring Begins!”
With the Dunn County
Master Gardener
Association
Seminar:
Gardening Smarter
NOT Harder!



Saturday,
March 2nd, 2013
Dunn County
Judicial Center,
Menomonie, WI
9:00 a.m. - noon

8:30 am Registration
9:00 am Opening Remarks
9:15am **Diana Alfuth** —
“Getting the Most from
Your Yard and Garden:
Practical Tips to Improve the
Health of your Gardens
through Plant Choice,
Watering Methods, Tool
Selection & Garden Design”
10:45am Break
11:15am **Sydney Tanner** —
“No Weed Gardening:
Straw Bale Gardening,
Lasagna Gardening and Other
No Weed Gardening
Techniques”

For more information or to register,
please call UW-Extension at
715-232-1636 or email DCMGA at
dunncountymastergardener@gmail.com



Spring into Gardening Seminar
Lunda Center, Western Technical College,
319 North 7th St., La Crosse, WI
March 2, 2013
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Keynote speakers are Diane Whealy, co-owner of Seed Savors Exchange, “**Growing Heirlooms in Your Garden**” and Jeff Gillman on “**The truth about garden remedies.**”

Also breakout sessions:

Breakout Session #1:
Gary Whittenbaugh, “*Gardening With Conifers*”
Heidi Doering, “*Introducing...New Garden Annuals for 2013*”

Breakout Session #2:
Mark Swart, “*Designing With Ornamental Grasses and Perennials*”
Scott Parker, “*What’s New With Peonies?*”

Cost for the workshop is \$30.00. Your registration entitles you to attendance to the workshop; all program materials, refreshments and lunch (if registration received before February 22, 2013).

For more information and for a copy of the registration form and brochure contact Ellen Roseborough at Ellen.rosborough@gmail.com or see the registration brochure at <http://www.bluffcountrymastergardeners.org/>

Sponsored by Bluff Country Master Gardeners of La Crosse County.



Free Seminars, Saturday, March 16, 2013:
1:00 p.m. – Cottage Gardens Annuals and Biennials
2:00 p.m. – Gardening for the Health of It
3:00 p.m. – Indoor Green and Blooming Plants

3424 Jeffers Rd.
Eau Claire, WI 54701
Call 715-836-8220 or 1-800-422-6297
<http://www.maysfloralgarden.com/contact>

Erin had her baby, Rowan Richard, on Friday, Feb 8! He was 7.10 lbs. and very healthy. Erin ended up needing a C-Section, but she's doing well.



8th Annual Lunch with the Gardeners

Saturday, March 9, 2013
Fanny Hill, Eau Claire, WI
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Join us for exciting presentations, motivational ideas, garden inspirations from our guest speakers and a delicious lunch

Cost \$28 per person – Call for reservations at 715-836-8184 or visit www.fannyhill.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/eauc Claire

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**