

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



May 2013



Mushrooms, Morels, Fiddleheads and WHAT?

If you missed the presentation by Judy Krohn on April 16th at the UW-Extension Office in Altoona, you missed a delightful (and tasty) treat.

Judy discussed foraging for wild food and treated those in attendance by serving several of her recipes which included a Wild Mushroom and Wild

Rice soup, a salad using a garlic mustard dressing, and a sort of quiche dish (called Foraged Vegetable and Goat Cheese Tart) that contained, among other things, fiddle heads from ferns. In addition, she handed out the recipes.



Krohn has recently retired after 32 years of having been one of the chefs at the Harbor View restaurant in Pepin, Wisconsin. In addition, she conducts monthly cooking demonstrations at The Palate in Stockholm on several different topics including foraging.

Did you know what ramps are? Well, those in attendance got to sample them and discovered they are wild onions. In addition, those pesky nettles? Well, they are good to eat until they reach knee high! Not only that, but if nettles want to grow in your garden it is an indicator of really fertile soil!



Some of the other edibles Judy talked about were watercress (to be eaten in months with "rs" in them), which is related to the nasturtium. Also purselane, lambs quarter and dandelion as well as wild mushroom, juniper berries, wild violets, plantain and chickweed to name just a few. Krohn also cautioned, particularly concerning mushrooms that you do need to know what you are looking for.

Altogether it was a delightful (and tasty) experience. So, as previously mentioned, if you missed it... well, see you next time!



GARDEN PLANNING AND DESIGN - Working With What You Have.

On May 21 the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Association (ECAMGA) will be hosting a program on garden design. Our own Darrell Reed will be presenting.

Darrell has degrees in geology and biology and has 20 years history as a geologist. He also has a life-long interest in vegetable gardening and loves wild berry picking, mushroom hunting, and anything dealing with the outdoors. He attributes these interests to his parents and grandparents.

This program will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Eau Claire County Extension office, 227 First Street West, in Altoona. The presentation is free and is open to the public. Bring a friend – in fact, bring all your friends!!!

REMEMBER!

May 3 - we dig!

May 4 - we sell!

ECAMGA Bare Root Plant Sale at the Eau Claire County EXPO Center

Your help is needed. Contact Nina Logan at 715-878-4585 or email her at ninalogan@centurylink.net to sign up to help!

INSIDE:

Local Master Gardener News - 2
Bits and Pieces - 7

Upcoming Events

- 4



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!!!!**



Eau Claire is in Need of Help

Help from the Master gardeners, that is, for the 2013 Our City cleanup. There are at least two locations that could use knowledge and assistance.

1. Community Gardens- Soil preparation and Planting
2. Eau Claire Children's Theatre- Landscape and beds surrounding the building and parking lot.

Please contact Daria Hutchinson at dariahu@aol.com or 216-337-7697 if you are interested in helping out. I participated last year and it was fun but they could definitely use more help! The date and time is listed below. If you are interested in a free t- shirt you can register at the link below. **Put Master gardener under special skills.**

Our City 2013 - Saturday, May 18

Join us on Saturday, May 18 as we spruce up Downtown Eau Claire! Check-in begins at 8:30am at Valleybrook Church and we will have you out the door shortly after 9am. We finish up with a FREE lunch at Phoenix Park at Noon! Register here by May 5 to guarantee you get your FREE "Our City 2013" T-shirt.

To register and get the free T-shirt go to: <http://ourcity2013.eventbrite.com/#>

ECAMGA Board

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
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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>

"ASK A MASTER GARDENER" BOOTH

by Andy Heren



Are you looking for a fun opportunity to get some volunteer hours? Do you enjoy talking to people? Are you a people watcher?

We are looking for people to help at the "Ask a Master Gardener" booth at the Saturday Farmers' Market at Phoenix Park. We will begin Saturday, June 1, and continue until the end of August. We usually get there at 8:00 a.m. and stay until 11:00 a.m. or noon, depending on how many people are stopping that day. We get a variety of questions ranging from diseases to flowers, to vegetables, and the inevitable Japanese Beetle questions.

If you would like to sign up for some Saturdays, please contact Andy Heren at Rcktnut007@aol.com.

You can start off with one Saturday and see how you like it and then schedule more after that. We usually have three to five people there to answer questions, so don't feel you will be put on the spot.

More MGV Opportunities To Serve on page 4...

Responding to Horticulture Inquiries

Sessions will be held on May 8, May 23, and May 30. These sessions are designed to acquaint UW-Extension agents, educators, office staff and Master Gardener Volunteers with information on UW-Extension diagnostic services, written and web-based horticulture resources, and UW-Extension personnel who can assist in answering horticulture-related questions. The sessions are free of charge.

The program information and locations are as follows:

Racine County	Iowa County	Marathon County
May 8, 2013	May 23, 2013	May 30, 2013
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Town of Norway Town Hall	Iowa Co. Extension	Marathon Co. Extension
6410 Heg Park Rd.	303 W. Chapel	212 River Dr.
Wind Lake, WI 53185	Dodgeville, WI 53533	Wausau, WI 54403



If interested in participating, contact Brian Hudelson (608-262-2863 or bdh@plantpath.wisc.edu) by May 1, 2013 to reserve a spot, or if you have questions, your name, email address and county, as well as which of the three sessions you would like to attend.

MGVs and Citizen Science Projects

All across the U.S. Master Gardeners are partnering with the USA National Phenology Network (<https://www.usanpn.org>) to track plant and animal life cycle stages and their relationship to a changing environment. Phenology data, as you may know, is not only an important indicator for understanding how species are responding to a changing climate, but also an important tool many Extension Educators and Specialists can use, and do use, for outreach and their own research. Phenology informs integrated pest management protocols, forest habitat conservation and restoration, species bloom times, landscape design, and habitat garden development (for more details on this, see the recent article *Phenology and Gardening* on the MG website at <http://wimastergardener.org/?q=phenology>).

The USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN) sponsors a nationwide citizen science program called *Nature's Notebook* (https://www.usanpn.org/natures_notebook). *Nature's Notebook* is an online database where phenological observations can be recorded and later viewed for research purposes. Both citizens and scientists are contributing observations and using the data to inform local and global research.

For more information on how Master Gardeners are contributing phenology observations to



Nature's Notebook and how Extension Educators and Specialists are applying phenology to their program areas, visit the Phenology and Cooperative Extension landing page at (<https://www.usanpn.org/cooperative-extension>).

The USA-NPN also has special 2013 Seasonal Campaigns, sponsored by scientists interested in using crowd-sourced, citizen science data, to expand their reach. Take a look at this year's campaigns at <https://www.usanpn.org/nn/connect/region> and consider participating.

More Volunteer Opportunities:

May 22nd Planting Day May 29th is the rain date.

1. McDonough Park youth garden with Longfellow 3rd graders (over 60 youth!). Volunteers needed to assist planting with youth. 1-2pm.
2. North River Front Park youth garden (no group identified at this time) volunteers needed to plant. 9-10am
3. Bolton Garden. 3-4pm

Youth Garden Summer Program Schedule

1. June 25 – August 6, every Tuesday, North River Front Park youth garden, 9-10am. Volunteers needed to assist with youth activities in the garden and with craft projects.
2. June 26 – August 7, every Wednesday, McDonough Park youth garden, 9-10am. Volunteers needed to assist with youth activities in the garden and with craft projects.

Youth from Mayo Clinic Daycare - Volunteers needed to assist with youth activities in the garden and with craft projects.

1. July 3, North River Front Park youth garden, 10-11am.
2. August 26, North River Front Park youth garden, 10-11am

Session Street Apartment – volunteers needed to assist the residents plant the raised garden beds. May 28, 11-12

Session Street Apartment is an assisted living facility for adults with mental illness or disabilities.



Please contact me if interested in these volunteer opportunities. Thank you,

Erin LaFaive

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

Upcoming Events & Other Things



Upcoming Classes

Registration is not required for most classes but is appreciated.

Thursday, May 2nd & 9th 5:00 pm

Saturday, May 4th & 11th 10:00 am

Hanging Basket Class - Build your own, only pay for what you take home. Make your very own hanging basket. We will walk through the greenhouse and pick out plants that will fit your sun needs and fill out your basket. Then you will get to plant your basket and take it home with you to enjoy all season long.

Thursday, May 16th 5:00 pm

Saturday, May 18th & 25th 10:00 am

Thrillers, Fillers & Spillers Workshop -

Build your own, only pay for what you take home You will learn the basics of how to design and plant an annual container while leaving the mess here! Our staff will be on hand to help you design and create the best patio pots you have ever had!

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

22223 Cty. Hwy. O
Cadott, WI 54727
715-289-4567

E-mail - home@downtoearth.com
<http://www.downtoearth.com/index2.html>



Hello,

The Sunrise Educational Club at the Eau Claire VFW would like a 20-minute presentation/talk about gardening.

They start eating at 6:30am and the talk starts around 7am. You can join them for breakfast or show up near 7am. The topic is a bit open at this point. One suggestion was given: how to handle this growing season.

They are looking for one of these dates: May 1, 15, 22, or 29th. There are 28 people, aged 20-70.

Please contact me if you are interested in presenting.

Erin LaFaive

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



Spring Container Planting Classes

Saturday, May 4th 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, May 16th 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 18th 10:00 a.m.

Come and create your own beautiful porch pot or hanging basket that's just right for you. Let our staff help you select the plants that are right for your location. Cost for plants, pot and soil is \$30.

Space is limited, so please pre-register for all classes by calling call 715-836-8220 or register on line at <http://www.maysfloralgarden.com/classes>.

3424 Jeffers Road
Eau Claire, WI 54703



Spring Plant Sales Around The Area!!!!

Bluff Country Master Gardeners
Friday, May 3, 4 PM - 7 PM
Saturday, May 4, 8 AM - Noon
Concordia Ballroom
1129 La Crosse St., La Crosse, WI
Contact Lori Marnackat 507-895-6084

**Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners
Bare Root Plant Sale
Saturday, May 4, 9 AM - 4 PM (Rain Date May 5)
Eau Claire County Expo Center Gardens
Eau Claire, WI**

Clark Co. MGA
Plant Swap (actually a plant sale)
Saturday, May 11, 7:30 AM - 10:30 AM
(or earlier if sold out)
Clark County Fairground

Polk Co. MGA
Saturday, May 11

Beaver Creek Reserve
Native Plant Sale
Saturday, May 11, 9 AM – 1 PM
Wise Nature Center
Fall Creek, WI
Four miles north of Fall Creek on Hwy. K



River Falls Garden Club
Saturday, May 11, 9 AM - Noon
River Falls Armory
815 W. Division (near Westside Elementary)



Chippewa Valley Master Gardener
Association
Saturday, May 18, 9 AM - Noon
Irvine Park
Chippewa Falls, WI



Eau Claire Garden Club
Saturday, May 18th, 9 AM - Noon
416 Niagara St. (at 4th Ave.)
Eau Claire, WI



St. Croix Valley MGA
Saturday, June 1
Octagon House
Hudson, WI



Northern Wisconsin Hosta Society
Annual Hosta Sale
Phoenix Park, Eau Claire
Sunday, May 19, 2013 - 12 noon to 3 PM

There are no fat plants – right? That's because they are "light" eaters."



Spring Wildflower Walk - May 11 from 9 until 11 am | Citizen Science Center Parking Lot
\$5 for Friends, \$8 for Nonmembers - *8 spots available*. Join UW-Eau Claire professor Joe Rohrer and volunteer naturalists Mike Harden and Pam Rasmussen on a guided wildflower tour of the Schmidt Maple Forest. They will provide an up-close understanding of the life histories of the spectacular wildflower bloom at this Nature Conservancy site. We will meet at the Citizen Science Center parking lot and carpool to the site. It's one of the most popular trips, so register early. Bring your field guides, binoculars, camera and notebook. **Registration and full payment required by May 8.**

Bird Hikes

May 4, May 11, May 18, and May 25 from 6:30 until 8:30 am - Chippewa River Preserve
FREE for Friends, FREE for Nonmembers. Beaver Creek Bird Club will host bird walks this spring around the Chippewa Valley. The walks are open to bird watchers of all abilities. The morning hikes begin at 6:30 a.m. and hikers should meet at the site and wear comfortable clothing. If there is thunder, lightning or moderate to heavy rain in the area, the hikes will NOT be held. Don't forget your binoculars and field guides. Directions provided at www.beavercreekreserve.org.

For more information go to: http://www.beavercreekreserve.org/explore/events_and_programs.phtml or call 715-877-2212.

Protecting Your Gardens from Moles, Voles & More Online Webinar May 17, 2013

The Wildlife Damage Management Working Group will be discussing how to protect your garden from wildlife through protection, identification, and control at 11:00 a.m.

Go

to <https://connect.extension.iastate.edu/wildlifedmg> to connect to the webinar.

For more information contact Svantassel2@unl.edu or call (402) 472-9861.



Some Interesting Shrubbery!



The "Double Take Super T Quince" is thornless, fruitless, double flowers and a Zone 5 shrub. The shrub is 36-48" and hardy in Zone 5. The colors available are orange, pink and scarlet.

Bits and Pieces



GOOD FOOD REVOLUTION by Nina Logan

On April 17 the University of Eau Claire, University Forum hosted a presentation by Will Allen, humanitarian, urban farmer and CEO of Growing Power.

Growing Power is an urban farm organization devoted to the cultivation, production and delivery of healthy food to urban populations who have neither the funds nor the facilities to provide healthy food for their families.

Will began his program by purchasing abandoned lots from the city for garden use. He soon found that these lots were contaminated with unhealthy chemicals. With this in mind, he began producing clean soil by composting city waste. There is a plethora of wasted material for composting after city use; food waste from restaurants and grocery stores, wood chips, cardboard, leaves, packing crates to name a few. Allen states he never uses grass clippings because of the heavy use of chemicals and pesticides on lawns.

Growing Power has grown in popularity throughout the country. Will not only produces healthy foods, but now also teaches sustainable gardening practices to those under-served urban populations. Schools, churches, and businesses have requested his assistance in developing sustainable vegetable gardens on their unused properties.

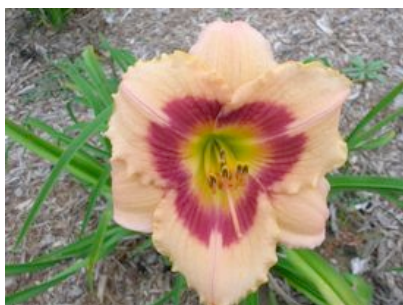
Will's greatest passion is composting. Using seven inches of woodchips and twelve inches of compost, he is able to cover any contaminants including tar and concrete. He believes that throughout the world, all people, regardless of economic circumstances, should have access to healthy food. He has developed, over a lifetime, a following of community urban farmers who are producing healthy foods and teaching others these practices.

The hope for the future lies with today's youth according to Allen. From the looks of Schofield Hall on Wednesday evening, his hope may become a reality. Over half the guests there were young people. It was also gratifying to see so many gardening friends and fellow Master Gardeners present.

For more information on Will Allen and his lifelong achievements see www.growingpower.org or obtain his book "The Good Food Revolution" published in May 2012.



Pictures of Expo Center Gardens taken by Jo-Ann Clark





Despite the gardener's best intentions, nature will improvise.
Michael P. Garafalo,
www.gardendigest.com.



A birthday gift from a son and a daughter was recently received that was made from PVC pipe with holes drilled in with a hole saw and then fastened to a stand. The picture then shows what it would look like planted to petunias.

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
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227 First Street West
Altoona, WI 54720**