

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



May 2017



Indoor Seeding Techniques by Nina Logan

The April Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Association (ECAMGA) meeting featured Erin La Faive, Eau Claire County Extension Horticulturalist. Erin spoke to the large group of gardeners who were in attendance about using indoor seeding techniques to get an early start on our gardening.

She discussed various methods of seeding and answered many questions. Questions from gardeners included problems with dampening off of seeds after germination, how much light is too much or too little, and how to provide light to seeds planted indoors.

The latter half of the program was dedicated to hands on seeding of vegetables and flower seeds. This group of gardeners appeared enthusiastic about growing their own seeds and providing fresh home grown vegetables for their families.

Next month on May 16th, Darrell Reed will further the home gardening theme by discussing planning your garden plot. He will discuss how to select the right spot on your property for a garden, taking into consideration sunlight or shade and soil conditions. Also, he will cover the various methods of gardening whether a back yard spot, container gardening, straw bale gardening etc.

Darrell can discuss with you when to plant, the best seeds to start with as a new gardener, and how to determine when to harvest those plants.

The program will be held at the Altoona Public Library starting at 6:30 p.m. on May 16th, 2017. Snacks will be provided and door prizes awarded so be sure to come and bring a gardening friend or two along as well.



Pictures of the event by Jo-Ann Clark

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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!!!!



Hello,

May 18th, from 5-7 p.m. will be a workday for the teaching gardens at the Eau Claire County UW-Extension office. Please let me know if you plan to attend. Thank you!



Supplies/Tools needed:

- Wheelbarrows
- Shovels
- Materials for lasagna garden – mulched leaves, compost, etc.

Here's the "to do" list:

- Move rain barrel back in place
- Add material o lasagna garden
- Re-do cinder block beds (blocks have settled and are tilted)
- Re-do pea bed (blocks have settled and are tilted)
- Herb beds need more cement glue for loose pavers
- Turn compost
- Add new garden soil to garden beds
- Some planting of seeds and potatoes
- Empty containers and add potting soil
- Clean out dead plants

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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>



ECAMGA 2017

Calendar

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

May 16, 2017: Darrell Reed –
"Gardening 1,2,3" – Altoona
Public Library

**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



The WI Master Naturalist Program

is having a training session at Beaver Creek Reserve, Fall Creek begins June 5, 2017.

This program is dedicated to promoting awareness, understanding, and stewardship of Wisconsin's natural resources through an ever-growing network of master naturalist volunteers. Now in its fifth year, the program is opening registration for the 2017 volunteer training courses across Wisconsin.

For more information on how to get involved you may view the latest post at <http://bit.ly/2q5IVLn>.



Soon the iris family will begin to put out bloom. First the little iris reticulata, then the dwarf iris, the German bearded and some of the Siberians. What a show they make. For more on growing the lovely plans go to: <http://bit.ly/2q5gkVI>.

Photo by Dana Cox



Wisconsin Native Plant Sale.

On May 13 Beaver Creek Reserve will be offering over 3000 native plants for sale at the reserve between the hours of 8:30 am and 1pm. These plants have been grown from seed in a greenhouse setting and are ready to be transplanted in your garden or prairie.

Also being offered on May 13 is a fund raising bake sale sponsored by the Bird Watching Society to raise money to purchase new bird feeders and netting so the society can continue to monitor birds of the area.

By Banding birds the society can determine what migrators are returning to the Beaver Creek area, any diseases that may be detected, what breed of birds may be declining in population etc.

The Bird Watching Society is just another tool that Beaver Creek Reserve uses to ensure the conservation of all things in nature.

Beaver Creek Reserve is located 3 miles north of Fall Creek on Highway K.

Ramps, the wild onions of the woodlands, are one of the early hints of spring, and they offer great flavor for your culinary delight.

The distinctive garlicky, peppery aroma of ramps — also called wild onions — tells you immediately that you picked the right plant. These are a versatile vegetable, easily used in any recipe that calls for chives or green onions. For more info go to: <http://strib.mn/2q548nr>.





Classes:

Thursday, May 4th at 5:00 p.m. - **Spring Hanging Basket Workshop:** Personally design your very own hanging basket. We will walk through the greenhouse to choose and pick out plants that will fit your specific sun/shade needs and fill out your basket. Then you'll get to plant your basket and take it home with you to enjoy all season long. **Cost: Build your own; only pay for what you take home.**

Thursday, May 11th & 18th 5:30 p.m. - **Thrillers, Fillers & Spillers Workshop:** Discover how to create porch pots that are sure to dazzle! Learn the basics of how to design and plant annual containers using three types of plants that perform different functions but work in harmony to create unique & luscious porch pots. **Cost: Build your own; only pay for what you take home.**

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

6025 Arndt Lane
Eau Claire WI, 54701
715-833-1234
E-mail - home@downtoearth.com
<http://www.downtoearth.com/index2.html>



May 5th - 7th

Spring Open House Weekend

Saturday Free Seminars

10:00 Perennials Old and New

1:00 Container Gardening with an option of Planting a 12" container after class \$35.00.

Container Planting Classes in May

6th, 16th, 18th, 20th and 23rd

Hanging Basket and Porch Pot Planting Class

Class Materials Fee \$35.00

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

"Weather means more when you have a garden. There's nothing like listening to a shower and thinking how it is soaking in around your green beans." Marcelene Cox



ECAMGA and NWHS Plant Sale June 11 from 10am-2pm at Phoenix Park

The sale is in less that six weeks away and there are several things to do before the big day.

1. Please let me know what shift you can work— 7am-11am or 11am-2pm. I need to assign jobs. Call/text me at the 715-271-1259 or email me at susmerten@wwt.net
2. Also can you bring a table or two for the day (makes fewer to rent). Please let me know!
3. Judy Wibel has been facilitating the FaceBook page for us. It would help to advertise the sale if you invite (on top of liking and sharing the page) your local gardener friends and ask them to invite their friends as well.
4. The poster and takeaways are printed and ready for distribution at the extension office. Please pick some up and help us get out the word out!

To avoid the spread of jumping worms remember to take precautions when potting up your plants. As per Bernie Williams at the DNR.

1. After you dig the plant, remove the dirt from the roots. Dip the roots into a **COLD** bucket of water with a few drops of bleach(no more than 5%). (continued on page 6)



PLANT SALE



Same Great Sale /New Location

Sunday - May 21, 2017. 10 am to 1 pm

Farmers' Market Pavilion

Phoenix Park, Downtown Eau Claire, WI 54701

Come early for best perennial plant selection,

News release:

Jerry Clark
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 Agriculture Agent
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 715-726-7950

**What is Roundup for Lawns?**

With the spring lawn and garden season fast approaching, the advertisements for lawn care products are fast and furious right now. A new product from Scott's Company on the market is Roundup for Lawns. Many are familiar with Roundup which contains the active ingredient glyphosate. Glyphosate is a non-selective active ingredient which when applied to a lawn will kill it. Roundup for Lawns does not contain glyphosate. In this case, Scott's is taking the liberty of using a widely known name of one of the most effective herbicides, and putting something else in the bottle.

Roundup for Lawns contains the active ingredients MCPA and dicamba, as well as quinclorac and sulfentrazone. MCPA and dicamba provide broadleaf weed control, quinclorac helps control crabgrass, and the sulfentrazone controls sedges. Weed control occurs best when weeds are small or prior to emergence. Roundup for Lawns is considered a post emergence herbicide meaning it is labeled for applications after weed emergence. Crabgrass emerges after soil temperatures reach 50°F. Controlling weeds early can mean better control of weeds and fewer herbicide applications.

Other lawn care products contain similar active ingredients. Bayer Advance Weed Killer for Lawns contains only the synthetic auxin herbicides and will not control crabgrass. Additionally, Bonide Weed Beater Plus contains both quinclorac and dicamba, as well as 2,4-D. If you're looking for a product that is very similar to the formulation of Roundup for Lawns, you can find that in the PBI Gordon product called Surge, although this does not contain quinclorac so crabgrass control will not occur.

The bottom line is if you plan to use Roundup for Lawns on your lawn, be sure you do not mistake this for a bottle of Roundup containing glyphosate, which will kill your lawn. Just because this bottle says Roundup, it is not Roundup as we think of it. The herbicide active ingredients in Roundup for Lawns are regarded as more toxic than glyphosate. If you're looking for a good broad-spectrum post-emergent weed control product, Roundup for Lawns will work.

Be sure to follow all label instructions when using this product, including proper personal protective equipment, application strategies, and re-entry intervals. Adapted from the University of Minnesota <http://blog-yard-garden-news.extension.umn.edu/2017/04/what-is-roundup-for-lawns.html>

Plant Sale – continued from page 4:

1. Rinse the plant in regular water and,
2. Pot up the plant in sterile dirt.
3. If you are recycling pots, please sanitize them first.
4. Before **disposing of your bleach and rinse water**, add more bleach and let the buckets sit for a couple of days to kill any worm cocoons in the water.

We will NOT accept plants for the sale that have not been treated and repotted in sterile soil. If you know you have jumping worms in your yard, **please do not donate plants. Thrift sale items or, maybe, some starter flowers/herbs in sterile soil is also a great donation.** We are selling perennials, flowers, herbs and native plants. Gently used garden related items and houseplants (properly pruned and in appropriately sized pots) are also welcome donations.

Also remember the time you take to help, pot, put up posters, gather your donations, etc. all counts as volunteer hours. Keep track of them! See you at the sale!

Susan Merten
 Plant Sale Chair

Beaver Creek Reserve Holds Appreciation Potluck Dinner for Volunteers

by Lori Kempen

Thank you!

On Thursday evening, April 20th, Beaver Creek Reserve was the scene of an Appreciation Potluck Dinner for volunteers. Several dozen enthusiastic folks enjoyed a delightful meal, hosted by the staff.

Director Erik Keislor and Brianne Markin thanked those present for their valuable accomplishments. The more than 280 volunteers contributed approximately 4300 total hours in 2016.

After dinner Nathan Miller, of UWEC Physics and Astronomy Department, did a fascinating program on our relation to the universe and the many galaxies we share it with. We were all "seeing stars" by the end of a fun filled evening with fellow volunteers while being thanked by grateful staff members.

Thanks to AJ for organizing this event!



When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.
~Author unknown

Bits and Pieces



The Foxy Lady – Mothering Our Mother Earth

May is the month we celebrate Mother's Day. We honor our mothers with flowers, candy and kisses. But there is another day we celebrate. Warm days arrive and mother earth rewards us with the return of green grass, warm breezes and blossoming trees.

So many times we take these things for granted. Do we take care of Mother Earth like we would our own mothers? Will she always be there to take care of us? Maybe not, if we don't take care of her in a better way. Scientist tell us that, so far, they have found no place in our universe suitable for us to live after we destroy what we have here. If we continue to pollute our air and water; after we level our trees, fill our wetlands, kill off all the plant and animal life and build more cities and subdivisions; what is left of our beautiful home?

Let's start now on this day in May to improve our habits so we can secure a habitable home for future generations. Every time you throw that empty can into the recycle bin; every time you stoop to pick up that piece of trash blowing across your yard; every time you use less water or fertilizer on your lawn; every time you do one of these little things you will be helping to clean your house, your Mother Earth.

On Tuesday, April 25th, members of the Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners (ECAMG) and the Eau Claire Garden Club (ECGC) were again the guests of the Chippewa Valley Growers. As in the past years, Dean Carstensen had a list of 12 new annual plants and 12 new perennial plants (well, maybe 12 ½ each) that he spotlighted. Among those was a Zone 2 sweet cherry tree (Cherry Prunus cerasus x fruticosa Juliet that they have in stock. The tree is self fertile and, productive and obviously VERY hardy having been developed for tundra climate up in Canada. Along with the cherry tree were numerous other new introductions ranging from a hardy red phlox (mildew resistant) to several calibrachia and much more. *(Photo by Jo-Ann Clark)*



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:
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 M-F 8AM-5PM



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