Winners Announced For 2015 ECAMGA Photo Contest

First Prize Winner: Ellen Terwilliger
“I took this picture of a giant thistle when I was at the Pizza Farm in late summer. The bee was a nice bonus to the image.”

Second Prize Winner: Sue Fiore
“This is Patty’s Plum, an oriental poppy that finally appeared in my garden this past spring.”

Third Prize Winner (above): Carol Losey
“Lily” which she says was taken on one of this summer’s garden tours.

Honorable Mention (to the right): Helen Heggerness
“Annabel,” a picture of her 2-year old granddaughter and garden helper.

There were some really good pictures entered in this year’s competition. The first prizewinner will receive a $30 gift certificate. The second prize winner (continued on page 3)
ECAMGA Board

ECAMGA BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO

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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 eauclairemastergardeners.weebly.com

WE NEED YOU!

Hello Master Gardeners,

As the year draws to an end we are looking forward to the New Year and are looking to add new members to the board. We are asking you to think about becoming an ECAMGA board member for the 2016-2017 term. We are allowed up to nine members and so are looking to add four new members (two members are leaving as their term is up). We are also looking for someone to serve as Treasurer.

Ever wonder why we don't support, donate, volunteer in your area. Being a Board Member you are part of these discussions and decisions. The Board plans the yearly budget, possible volunteer opportunities and so you would be (as a board member) the first to hear about all the interesting things happening in area garden projects.

Too much of a time commitment? NOT true I say! We try our best to keep the meeting going and no longer than 1.5 hours once a month.

Benefits? You are serving your community and the hours that you are at Board Meetings are hours that you can turn in for your volunteer hours. You could be adding an additional 18 hours to your yearly total by serving.

We are looking for any member interested in serving no matter the length of time you have been involved in the ECAMGA. We are looking for your new ideas and perspectives. If you have questions call one of us or email (see our emails and phone contacts on page 2). We will be adding members to the board at our Christmas Party meeting December 8th at the extension office. Please consider being a Board Member. Whether or not you are able to serve we look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Party where there is always lots of good food and fun.

Amy Boetcher
ECAMGA Board President
Photo Contest Winners (continued from page 1)…

will receive a $25 gift certificate and the third prizewinner a $20 gift certificate. The prizes will be presented at the annual Christmas meeting of the Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners. The four winning pictures will be displayed at the Eau Claire County Extension Office.

Last year’s prize winners were Jo-Ann Clark for her photo “Frog in Dahlia.” Second place was awarded to Ellen Terwilliger for her photo “Fiddlehead Ferns,” and third place went to Sue Fiore for her photo “My Garden’s Resident Flamingo.” Honorable Mention was “Lily” taken by Sally Anderson.

The other pictures that were submitted for the contest will be published in future editions of the newsletter. Thank you to everyone who submitted an entry. It is always fun to see the entries submitted and they are getting better each year.

“If you want to be happy for a lifetime, be a gardener.”
-Chinese proverb

October MG Potluck Meeting A Time Of Camaraderie and Great Food…

The potluck held by the Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners (ECAMGs) on Tuesday, October 20th, at the Eau Claire County Extension Office saw a good turnout with lots of really great food ranging from smoothies (containing kale, strawberries and a whole lot of other tasty and nutritious things) and apple crisp and pie to pulled pork and vegetable dishes from the member’s gardens.

In addition those present shared some of their summer experiences and ideas. Nina said that she now plants her potatoes around her compost pile and has bumper crops while the Terwilligers told about their experiment raising sweet potatoes (the vegetable kind, not the ornamental kind). They had gotten the tubers from their daughter who lives in the South and planted quite a long row of them. When they came to dig them about ½ to 2/3 of the row had hollow tubers eaten out by slugs. But when they got down the row where they had planted marigolds in the next row, suddenly the tubers were full and healthy. So, marigolds make a great companion plant where you have problems with slugs!

There were a number of other ideas shared and the evening was enjoyable. If you missed it make sure you mark your calendar for our next meeting, which will be November 11th. This will be a joint meeting with the Eau Claire Garden Club and will be held at the Plymouth Congregational Church on Moholt Drive. The meeting starts at 6:30 and Christi Spak will be the speaker (see article on page 5 for details).
"Where would we be if humanity had never known flowers? If they didn’t exist and had always been hidden from view...our character, our morals, and our aptitude for beauty, for happiness: would they be the same?"  - Maurice Maeterlinck

**Upcoming Classes**

**Winter Porch Pots** – November 14 (10:00 a.m.); November 17th (6:00 p.m.); November 21st (10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.) and November 28th (10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.): Let nature be your perfect decoration. Create your very own winter porch pot. Cost Materials fee $30.00

**Winter Miniature Garden Class** – December 5th (1:00 p.m.) and December 19th (10:00 a.m.): Create your own extraordinary mini garden with just a few plants, some mini accessories, a pebble pathway, waterway, mini-house and a little imagination. Class fee is materials used.

For more information call 715-836-8220 or 1-800-422-6297 or go to: http://www.maysfloralgarden.com/contact.

May’s Floral Garden
3424 Jeffers Rd
Eau Claire, WI 54701

"Just living is not enough," said the butterfly. "One must have sunshine, freedom and a little flower."

......Hans Christian Andersen

**Down to Earth**

**Upcoming Classes**

**Saturday, November 7th 10:00 a.m. - Winter Wonderland Miniature Garden Workshop**

Make your very own Winter Wonderland Miniature Garden! These miniature gardens will have a special twist just for the holidays! With a great container, a few plants, festive holiday décor, and a touch of fairy dust, you’ll have a great new miniature garden! Miniature gardens not only make a great decoration any time of the year, but also enable you to enjoy your garden during the winter season. *Bring your own container or purchase one here. Cost: Build your own; only pay for what you take home*

**Saturday, November 14th & 21st 10:00 a.m.**
**Thursday, Nov 12th & 19th 5:00 p.m. - “Spruce” Up your Porch Pot Workshop.**

Learn how to create unique containers for this Christmas season! Bring in your own containers and design your own porch pot during the class! Let us help you transform your porch pots for this season. Cost: Build your own; only pay for what you take home

**Saturday, November 28th 10:00 a.m.:**
**Thursday, December 3rd 5:00 p.m. Winter Wreath Workshop. Cost: $40 per wreath.**

Design your own winter wreath this Christmas season. When it comes to creating wreaths, we think outside the traditional “Red Bow”. We will start with a base wreath and demonstrate different ways you can “spruce” it up.

6025 Arndt Lane
Eau Claire WI, 54701
715-833-1234 or E-mail - home@dwntoeath.com
Website: http://www.dwntoeath.com/index2.html
Joint Meeting For November With The Eau Claire Garden Club by Nancy Spak

On November 17th, the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Association (ECAMGA) members will have a joint meeting with the Eau Claire Garden Club. The meeting will be held at Plymouth United Church of Christ located at 2010 Moholt Dr., Eau Claire. The meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

The evening’s speaker will be Christi Spak, Biologist and Researcher with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Her topic will be “Bat’s in your garden and other small furry creatures”.

Christi will discuss bats and the unusual places she has been to find them. In addition, she will discuss white-nose syndrome, the benefits of having bats around, as well as how to keep them out when you don’t want them, and the use and placement of bat houses.

Along with bats, Christi will talk about moles, voles and other critters in you gardens, their tracks, habits, food they like and what to do with them! She will also share many other fun facts she has learned while doing research around the state of Minnesota.

Come and enjoy a fun filled evening and learn about those critters that make us JUMP and SCREAM!

Uncinia Rubra ‘Firedance’ And Other Grasses For Fall Color And Texture by Carol Cox

Ornamental grasses, whether the annual or the perennial variety, can add texture as well as color to the fall landscape. The grass pictured at right, Uncinia Rubra ‘Firedance.’ This is an annual grass if grown in our area (Zone 8), but it is a striking one for use in containers or in the ground. This grass flowers in the summer followed by attractive black seed heads (may self-seed modestly but is not considered invasive) and should be grown in full to part sun in damp rich soil. This grass is in the sedge or rush family and reaches a height of 8-15 inches and about that wide.

While it is a bit late to plant these now, they are certainly worth thinking about incorporating into your 2016 garden. Some others worth giving consideration to are:

- **Blue Oat Grass Helictorbitrichon sempervirens**, which is a Zone 4 grass. This grass, with its blue summer foliage, makes a nice accent grass. It is a cool season, clump forming grass that flowers June through August. It about 20-24 inches tall with the flower stems reaching up to 40 inches. It likes full sun or light shade and fertile, moist soil but will grow in a wide range of soil. It likes good drainage.
Grasses – continued from page 5...

- **Feather reed grass Calamagrostis x acutiflora** is a zone 4 clumping grass with a number of very nice cultivars including (my favorite) Karl Forester Feather Reed Grass. This grass provides amazing texture, motion and is an architectural addition to any garden providing excellent vertical interest. Feather reed ornamental grasses are very adaptable to wet or dry areas with full to partial sun. This is a low care plant for the garden and will tolerate heavy clay soils. The seed of this grass is generally sterile so you should not have problems with it seeding all over the place.

- **Frost grass Spodiopogon sibericus**, a zone 3 grass (also known as Siberian Graybeard) adds a tropical look and feel to northern gardens as this grass looks a little bit like short bamboo. It grows 36-54 inches tall and is hardy in our zone 4 climate. This grass needs consistent moisture and will grow in full sun to part shade. It blooms mid to late summer and forms a neat, rounded clump when grown in full sun (in shade the habit will be looser and it will flop if the shade is too heavy). It likes average soil.

- **Japanese Forest Grass Hakonechoioa macra ‘Aureola’** is a Zone 5 grass which is relatively easy for us to grow although you may want to put it in a little more protected area. This grass prefers a uniformly moist, humus-rich soil and partial shade. It is very striking and adds color and contrast to the shade garden. It grows 1-3 feet tall and wide. Its golden color is more pronounced in sunnier locations.

- **Prairie dropseed Sporobolus heterolepis**, is a zone 3 grass so this could even be planted in a container and left out over winter (assuming a winter proof container). This grass likes full sun and sandy to loamy soil. It is deer resistant and grows 2-4 feet tall. This is the showiest of the prairie grasses for the garden as it has a magnificent fountain of fine textured, emerald-green leaves and adds elegance to any planting. Plains Indians ground the seed to make a tasty flour.

- **Red Switch Grass Panicum virgatum ‘Shenandoah’** is a zone 3 grass that grows 36-48 inches tall (48-60 inches with the plumes) and 18-24 inches wide. This plant likes full sun and will take most soil types including clay. It likes good drainage and should be planted with the crown of the plant resting just at or above the soil surface after watering it in. This grass is also deer resistant and attracts birds.

The last rose coneflower of summer (and the last bee also)...

The difference between friends and pets is that friends we allow into our company, pets we allow into our solitude. ~Robert Brault, rbrault.blogspot.com
Eye Candy…

Blue Fescue Border…

Texas Wahoo (picture by Jo-Ann Clark)…

Thuja occidentalis ‘Jantar’

An interesting planter/divider screen for a porch or patio…

Some “tired” fish I found on Pinterest.com. Old recycled tires never looked so cute!!

Interesting what one can do with little birdhouses found in craft stores plus little bits of tile and what not all!

“Cow hide” a bit of tongue
In cheek (Dana Cox creation)

A very interesting tropical tree…

When looking for the exotic one can always count on cactus (in bloom or not) and the Hellebores for unusual color, form and color. These pictures were from various “forwards” sent to me.

What is prettier than cyclamen in bloom?
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/eauclaire
Phone: 715-839-4712
Fax: 715-839-6277
M-F 8AM-5PM

The University of Wisconsin Extension provides affirmative action and equal opportunity in education, programming and employment for all qualified persons regardless of race, color, gender/sex, creed, disability, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital or parental, arrest or conviction record or veteran status.” If you need an interpreter, materials in alternate formats or other accommodations to access this program, activity or service, please contact Erin LaFaive at 715-839-4712 as soon as possible preceding the scheduled event so that proper arrangements can be made in a timely fashion.

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

Picture courtesy of Pinterest! It is amazing what can be done with old stuff one doesn’t know what to do with until a little imagination is applied!