

# Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



November 2013

## ECAMGA Photo Contest Winners Announced

The Education Committee's photo contest selection committee made the selection of the winners for the first annual MG Photo Contest. To be eligible for the contest the photographer had to have been a MG in good standing for the 2013 year and have taken the photo in 2013 in their garden or another garden setting. The selection of the winners was not easy as some very fine photos were submitted. The winning photos appear below. Also, in the coming several months issues we will also publish as many of the other photos that were submitted as we can.

### *First Place... Photo taken by Sally Anderson*



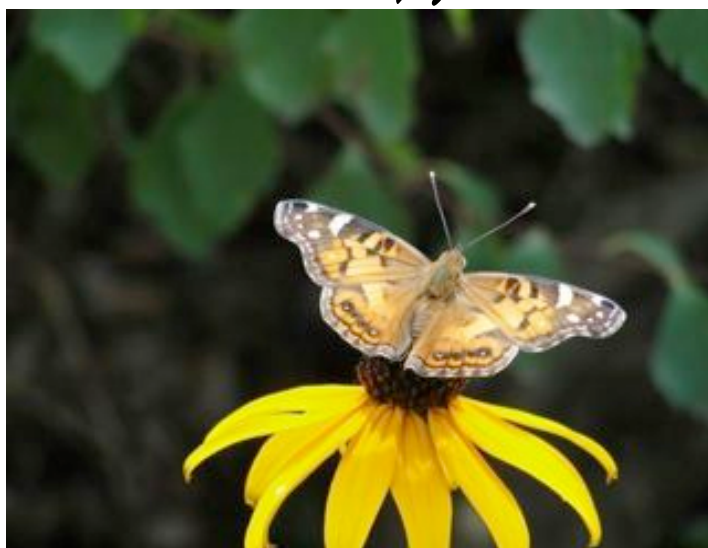
#### **"My Favorite Lily"**

Sally says, "I've had this lily for four years. I planted it at the last house we were living at, dug it up when we moved and planted it in our new flower garden. I don't know where I got it or what its name is, but I love it."

(Editor's note: The lily is an oriental lily, quite likely "Muscadet.")

### *Second Place...*

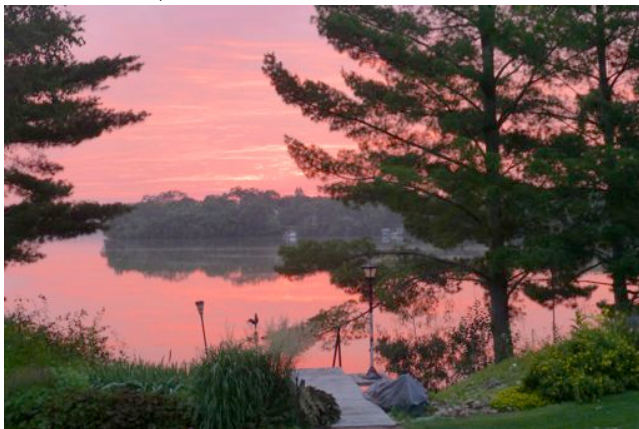
*Photo taken by Jo-Ann Clark*



#### **"The Painted Butterfly"**

Jo-Ann says, "This is Master Gardener, Carol Losey's (rudbeckia) flower and butterfly that I just happened to snap a picture of when I was visiting her garden on August 31, 2013. She called it her "Painted Butterfly"

### *Third Place... Photo taken by Christine Southworth*



#### **"Dawn Breaking Over Tainter Lake"**

This is the view from Christine's backyard! What a lovely view to wake up to as you look out over your backyard!

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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 you're new information to Carol Cox at [c7w6c2200@charter.net](mailto: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!!!!



Thank you Daria Hutchinson and Ron Bohl for helping to clean up the youth gardens at McDonough and North River Front Park and Bolton Refuge Transitional Housing! I'm still itching from the ground bee stings. Ron, I hope yours is recovering nicely too.

Erin LaFaive, Extension Horticulturalist



**“When flowers bloom, so does hope.”**

**Lady Bird Johnson**

### ECAMGA Board

ECAMGA BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO		
NAME/TITLE	e-mail address	phone number
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Daria Hutchinson	<a href="mailto:dariahu@aol.com">dariahu@aol.com</a>	216-797-4793

**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>



We would like to thank everyone who entered the contest. There were some very good pictures and the selection committee found it hard to choose the winners. Other contest submissions will be published in the December and January ECAMGA newsletters. In addition, the prizes for the winners will be presented at the November ECAMGA Educational meeting on November 19.

**Save the Date!**

The Winter Garden Seminar Planning Committee is already at work rounding up speakers, prizes and all kinds of delightful stuff for our annual Ready, Set, Grow... winter garden seminar. It will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2014 at the CVTC here in Eau Claire. Be sure to save the date and you may also want to purchase some tickets as Christmas gifts for your garden minded friends so they can attend with you!

## Larry Bennett To Present At November ECAMGA Meeting

by Lori Kempen



The November Education meeting will feature Larry Bennett discussing "Attracting and Feeding Birds in a Wisconsin Winter." Larry will display several types of bird feeders along with samples of seed. He will also provide suggestions on how to attract certain birds to the feeders, and give tips on caring for our feathered friends during cold weather.

This program will be presented on Tuesday, November 19 at 6:30 P.M. at the Altoona Extension Office. It is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded. To register call the Extension Office at 715-839-4712.

Larry is a retired educator from the Eau Claire School District and is an active volunteer at Beaver Creek Reserve. He has been a licensed bird bander for many years.

## ECAMGA Presents Scholarships For CVTC Students



The Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteer Association (ECAMGA), in keeping with our mission to provide horticulture education, has provided two \$500.00 scholarships for the Chippewa Valley Technical College Landscape, Plant and Turf Management program.

The scholarships will be awarded to a traditional and non-traditional student. Instructors will determine who is best qualified to receive the scholarships, based on eligibility for a Pell Grant, 3.0 grade point average and taking a minimum of six credits.

## Found Garden Art by Nina Logan

On October 15, Carol Cox presented some new ideas for garden design using "found" items. You know -- those things you can never find a use for, but can't part with. Put a plant in it!!! Carol showed us how an old tire can become a planter; a shoe can hold succulents and clay pots turned upside down and stacked can be beautiful. Paint them various colors or just paint eyes, nose and mouth and they will smile for you.

We learned how to use color to add focal points to a garden. By just painting bright colors to any found item, it can lead you to other sites around the corner or down the path. If you enjoy garage sales, junk yards, or dumpster diving you're bound to find something that would fit perfectly in your garden. The next time you are digging around in your attic you may spy great-uncle Fred's old chair that you despise, but your husband swears he will recover one day.

Drag that chair out in the garden, place some potting soil in the saggy bottom, the chair bottom, not yours, and fill it with petunias. Your husband will never be the wiser.

The event was well attended and was held at the Eau Claire County Extension Center in Altoona. Treats and door prizes topped off the night. If you missed it plan to attend the November 19th educational meeting as Larry Bennett will be speaking on birds and tips for bird feeding for the coming winter.



Photo by Jo-Ann Clark

## Upcoming Events



### BEAVER CREEK RESERVE

#### Nature Center Host - Training

**November 14 -2:30 until 3:30 pm**

**Wise Nature Center**

This volunteer training session will include greeting visitors, answering phones, ringing up cash register sales, organizing the Nature Store, etc. The Reserve is looking to fill spots for weekday and weekend shifts. On-call hosts are needed for weekday morning and afternoon shifts as well as weekend shifts.

Monday - Saturday morning's shifts are from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Afternoon shifts run from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday shifts are from 12-4 p.m.

What a great way to spend a few hours connecting with nature at the Reserve. If interested in learning more about becoming a Nature Center host, please register at [www.beavercreekreserve.org](http://www.beavercreekreserve.org).

FREE for Friends, FREE for Nonmembers  
Registration required by November 13.

## Down TO Earth

### Upcoming Classes

Registration is not required for most classes but is appreciated.

**Thursday, November 14, 5:00 p.m.:** Holiday Fairy Garden Class – Build your own, only pay for what you take home. Make your very own Holiday Fairy Garden! Pick out the pot, plants, and décor! These Fairy gardens will have a special twist just for the holidays! Fairy gardens can be kept inside during the winter and then brought outside in the spring.

**Saturday, November 16, 23, & 30 at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday, November 21 at 5:00 p.m.:** Spruce Up Your Porch Pot Class – Build you own, only pay for what you take home. Learn how to create really awesome and 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.

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

E-mail - [home@dwntoearth.com](mailto:home@dwntoearth.com)

Website: <http://www.dwntoearth.com/index2.html>



### **Porch Pot/Wreath Class Dates & Times:**

November 16th: 10:00am & 1:00pm

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.

November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

November 30<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

**Porch Pot Material and Class Fee \$30.00** \*Come and create your own Porch Pot with a beautiful fresh mix of evergreens, dogwood and berries. Let nature be your perfect decoration. You may also bring in your own pot to use, ask for details.

**Wreath Class:** Wreath Class Materials and Fee \$30.00. \*The wreath is already made and waiting for you to attach your own decorating flare on.

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

3424 Jeffers Road  
Eau Claire, WI 54703



*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



1717 Devney Drive,  
Altoona, WI 54720



## **November Classes**

**Saturday, November 16th, 10 a.m.-** Create a beautiful evergreen porch pot! The \$25 fee includes everything you'll need including pot, greenery, bow and embellishments. Or bring your own pot and just pay for materials used!

**Saturday, November 16th, 2 p.m.-** Make a cute birch wood snowman to decorate your home inside or out! The \$10 fee includes all materials.

**Saturday November 23rd, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.-** Create your own holiday evergreen wreath! The \$25 fee includes instruction from our professional wreath maker, all greenery, cones and bow. Additional embellishments will be available for purchase. Call 715-831-4000 to reserve your space, this class fills up fast!

**Sunday, November 24th, 1 p.m.-** Make an evergreen kissing ball! The \$45 fee includes all materials to create a 10-14" kissing ball. This class takes 1-2 hours, space is limited, call early to register and hold your space!

Call 715-831-4000 to register for classes and ensure space.

## Bits and Pieces

### Companion Planting

The following is a list of vegetables and herbs, which grow well together and protect one another from insect attack. Many herbs are natural insect repellents that can keep your garden bug free and reduce or eliminate the need for potentially harmful pesticides.

By using Companion Planting, many gardeners are discovering that they can discourage garden pests without harming helpful insects such as bees and ladybugs. Some herbs, through their odors or root secretions, will deter pests naturally. An added bonus is: these same herbs, planted as companions in your garden, will season the fruits and vegetables of your labor.

Some herbs even improve the flavor or growth rate of their companion vegetables. Companion planting is the ultimate way to bring the balance of nature into your garden. Just do your best to match the suitable herb with the suitable plant and the rest will follow.

**BASIL:** Plant with tomatoes to improve growth and flavor and to repel mosquitoes. Do not plant near rue.

**BAY LEAF:** A fresh leaf of bay leaf in each storage container of beans or grains will deter weevils and moths. Sprinkle with other deterrent herbs in the garden as natural insecticide dust.

**BEE BALM** (Oswego): Plant with tomatoes to improve growth and flavor.

**BORAGE:** Companion plant for tomatoes, squash and strawberries. Deters tomato worms.

**CARAWAY:** Good for loosening compacted soil.

**CATNIP:** Deters flea beetles.

**CAMOMILE:** Improves flavor of cabbages and onions.

**CHERVIL:** Companion to radishes for improved growth and flavor.

**CHIVES:** Improves growth and flavor of carrots.

**DILL:** Improves growth and health of cabbage. Do not plant near carrots.

**FENNEL:** Most plants dislike it. Plant it by itself.

**FLAX:** Plant with carrots, and potatoes.

**GARLIC:** Plant near roses to repel aphids.

**GOPHER PURGE:** Deters gophers, and moles.

**HORSERADISH:** Plant in potato patch to keep away potato bugs.

**HYSSOP:** Companion plant to cabbage and grapes, deters cabbage moths. Do not plant near radishes.

**KELP:** When used in a powder mixture or tea spray, this sea herb will not only repel insects but also feed the vegetables.

**LEMON BALM:** Sprinkle throughout the garden in an herbal powder mixture.

**LOVAGE:** Improves flavor and health of most plants.

**MARIGOLDS (Calendula):** The workhorse of pest deterrents. Keeps soil free of nematodes; discourages many insects. Plant freely throughout the garden.

**MAJORAM:** Improves flavor of all vegetables.

**MINT:** Deters white cabbage moths, and improves the health of cabbage and tomatoes.

**MOLE PLANTS (Euphorbia lathyris):** Deter moles and mice if planted here and there throughout the garden.

**NASTURTIUMS:** plant with tomatoes, radishes, cabbage, cucumbers, and under fruit trees. Deters aphids and pests of the curcubit family.

**PARSLEY:** Plant and sprinkle on tomatoes, and asparagus.

**PEPPERMINT:** Repels white cabbage moths.

**PETUNIAS:** Remember mom or grandma planting these? She had good reason, even though she may have only planted them for traditions sake. They repel the asparagus beetle, and the tomato worm.

**PURSLANE:** this edible weed makes good ground cover in the corn. Use the stems, leaves and seeds in stir-fries. Pickle the green seedpod for capers.

**ROSEMARY:** Companion plant to cabbage, beans, carrots and sage. Deters cabbage moths, bean beetles, and carrot flies.

**RUE:** Deters Japanese beetles in roses and strawberries.

**SAGE:** Companion plant with rosemary, cabbage, and carrots to deter cabbage moths, beetles, carrot flies. Do not plant near cucumbers.

**SOUTHERNWOOD:** Plant with cabbage, and here and there in the garden.

**SUMMER SAVORY:** Plant with beans and onions to improve growth and flavor and discourages cabbage moths.





## GARDENING IN OUR BLOOD

by Jean Little as found in Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul

When autumn time arrived last year,  
I said, "I've really had it, dear!  
I've raked and hoed and picked and canned;  
Just see that callus on my hand!  
Let's let our garden go next year.  
We'll buy all those things in the store—  
They wouldn't cost us too much more.  
When summer comes I'll sleep till ten,  
Get up and clean the house, and then  
I'll make a glass of lemonade  
And go and sit beneath the shade.  
When you come home at night from work,  
I'll put the coffee on to perk,  
Then we'll sit down and talk or read  
And never think of garden seed.  
Remember how you smiled and said,  
"I think you've really used your head  
To save us all this work next year.  
I'm sick of gardening, too, my dear."

But then one day, the sky was blue,  
The sun was warm, the tulips grew.  
The April days grew long and free,  
The ground lay waiting patiently,  
The sleeping grass awoke to green,  
And then in every magazine  
Were ads for bulbs and plants and seeds—  
In fact, for all your gardening needs.  
One day you picked me up downtown,  
With bundles I was loaded down.  
No need to try and hide the facts  
With "Burpee Seeds" stamped on the sacks.  
Remember how your face got red  
And how you turned away and said,  
"When we've unloaded all that junk,  
I have a few things in the trunk,  
I'll need some help, for it is hot



## Eye Candy...



Use looking glass spray paint to create the effect...



A neat way to "accessorize" an old tree stump and make it a plus in the garden instead of an eye sore!

And seed potatoes weigh a lot."

So now we stand here, hand in hand  
And gaze at our productive land.  
The berry beds are weeded clean,  
The vegetables are tall and green.  
We love our land in drought or mud,  
For we have gardening in our blood.

*Companion Planting continued from page 6...*

Striped cucumber beetles, squash bugs and ants.

**TARRAGON:** Plant throughout the garden, not many pests like this one.

**THYME:** Deters cabbage worms.

**VALARIAN:** Good anywhere in the garden, as a powder.

**WORMWOOD:** Keeps animals out of the garden when planted as a border.



**Interesting websites to visit:**

1. <http://traveloven.com/hatley-castle-and-its-gardens/>
2. [www.instructables.com/id/Upside-Down-Milk-Jug-Planter/](http://www.instructables.com/id/Upside-Down-Milk-Jug-Planter/)
3. [www.ehow.com/how\\_4893495\\_sturdy-recycled-newspaper-pots.html/](http://www.ehow.com/how_4893495_sturdy-recycled-newspaper-pots.html/)
4. <http://www.reimerseeds.com/search.aspx?keyword=Fun+Things+To+Grow>
5. <http://m.wikihow.com/Build-a-Tumblina-Composter>

**I live in the garden; I just sleep in the house.”  
-Jim Long**

**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](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/eauclore)  
 Phone: 715-839-4712  
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