

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



January 2018



Photo by Steve Anderson

ECAMGAV Party, Party, Party...by Lori Kempen

The annual Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Association Volunteer's (ECAMGAV) annual Holiday Party was held on Monday, December 18th at the UW-Extension Office in Altoona. About thirty people gathered for the event where a festive array of delicious foods was served by our members, who cook and bake as well as they garden!

Horticulture Educator, Erin LaFaive, thanked all Master Gardener (MG) volunteers for their many hours of service throughout the year. She then presented certificates to the 2017 Photo contest winners. First place went to Carol Losey, Second place went to Kathy Radloff and the Third place winner was Jo-Ann Clark. Paula Bonnin and Ellen Terwilliger received Honorable Mention awards for their photo entries also. The framed winning pictures will be on display in the meeting room for the next year. (Remember to snap those garden photos throughout the coming year for the 2018 contest).

Door prizes were awarded to several lucky recipients. The rest of the evening was spent enjoying good conversation, food and friendship with our fellow garden friends.

This year, instead of a gift exchange, attendees were asked to bring non-perishable items for the food pantry. What a great response we had! Over 95 pounds of food and some cash was donated. This was taken to the St. Francis Food Pantry the next day. (A copy of their response is included in this newsletter on page 7.) Thank you to everyone who donated to this worthy cause in our community.



As well as being good cooks and bakers, gardeners are generous and caring. Happy New Year to everyone! Let's make 2018 the best year ever for the ECAMGVA!!!!



A really laid-back group listens as Erin LaFaive updates them on 2017 volunteer hours, and gives out the awards for the ECAMGA Photo Contest.



Photo by Steve Anderson

INSIDE:

Local Master Gardener News - 2

Upcoming Events
Bits and Pieces -5

- 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).



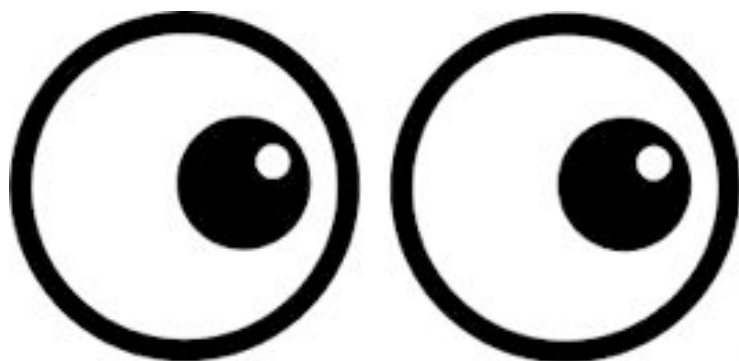
Bulletin Board Postings Stories and Opportunities!



IDEAS WANTED!!!



If anyone has ideas for education programs or would like to present one for one of the ECAMGAV monthly meetings please contact Lori Kempen (715-832-8088) or Nina Logan (715-878-4585) or let one of the other board members know at any time.



Looking forward to a great 2018 in the garden for all of the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteers! Happy New Year!

ECAMGA Board

ECAMGA BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO		
Name	E-mail address	Phone number
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Ellen Terwilliger	terwilset@gmail.com	715-839-0731
Lori Kempen	lorikempen@charter.net	715-832-8088

NOTE: The ECAMGAV Board minutes may be accessed at <https://eauclairemastergardeners.weebly.com/ecamg-board.html>.



ECAMGAV

2018 Calendar

All meetings at

WW-Extension Office unless otherwise noted

January 15: Eric Keisler with a BCR Update

February 3: ECAMGA Winter Garden Seminar at CVTC.

March: TBA

April: TBA

May: TBA

June: TBA

July: Garden Tours TBA

September: State WIMGA conference in Eau Claire

October 1: MGV Hours due in

October 7: Annual Photo Contest entries due

November: Election of new board members

December 17: Annual Holiday Party



**Eric Keisler, BCR
Executive Director,
Featured Speaker
At The January
ECAMGAV
Meeting** by Nina Logan

On January 15, 2018, Erik Keisler, Executive Director at Beaver Creek Reserve will update the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Association Volunteers (ECAMGAVs) about what is new and happening at Beaver Creek Reserve.

If you haven't been there lately (located at S1 County Road K, Fall Creek, Wisconsin), a lot of changes have taken place. Have you seen the new nature center for children yet? Kids love it.

New trails are being built, a new parking lot is under way and there is a great play area along one of the trails where the children can make music on instruments made from materials found in nature.

All this plus many nature workshops, a native plant sale, and lots more for families.

In addition, Beaver Creek offers all kinds of volunteer opportunities for our members to earn volunteer hours.

Come join us on Monday evening, January 15 at 6:30 p.m. to hear more from Erik about this great place. The event will be held at the Eau Claire County UW-Extension office located at 227 First St. West, Altoona.

Snacks and door prizes will be offered. Bring a friend! In fact, bring two or three friends. The public is welcome. See you there!

2018 Winter Garden Seminar update.

Great progress has been made on preparations for our February 3, 2018 Ready, Set, Go, Winter Garden seminar. There is a wide selection of speakers lined up for this year's event.



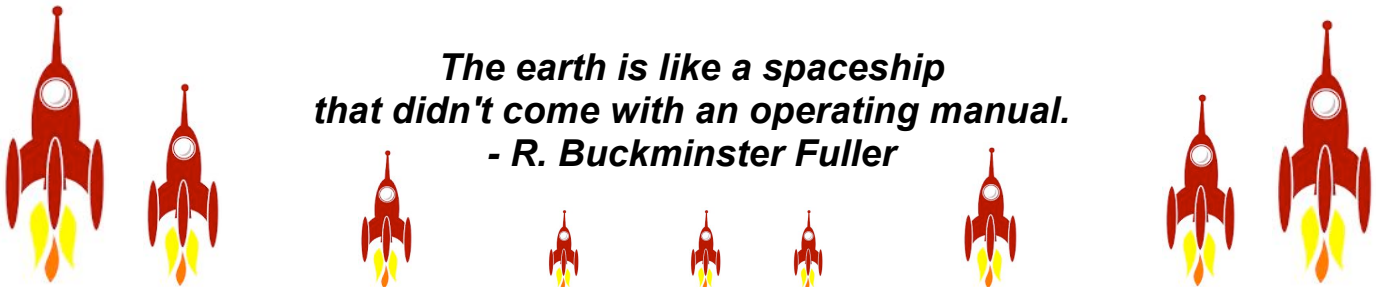
This year's keynote speaker will be Heather Holm. Heather is a nationally sought-after speaker and spends much of her time passionately educating audiences about the fascinating world of native bees and the native plants that support them. Her first book, *Pollinators of Native Plants*, published in 2014, helped establish her as a knowledgeable resource on the subject of the interactions between native bees and native plants.

Other presentations will include speakers on backyard beekeeping, establishing new community gardens, energy conservation, new plants for 2018 and many more interesting topics.

There will also be a tea workshop where one can select and blend one's own selection of teas and take home your own brew. The cost of this workshop is an added \$15 to the \$35 registration fee for the daylong event. Any walk-in guests will pay \$40 at the door so be sure to register early. The brochure is being printed now and will be available at the Extension office soon.

Call the Extension office for more info (715-839-4712) or to register for the event.

**The earth is like a spaceship
that didn't come with an operating manual.
- R. Buckminster Fuller**



Upcoming Events & Other Things



Beaver Creek Reserve
 S1 County Road K
 Fall Creek, WI 54742
 Phone: 715-877-2212

Winter Bird Banding Demo

8:30 until 10:30 am

Join the Beaver Creek bird banders for a bird banding demonstration. This is a great opportunity to see some of the birds that visit feeders on a cold winter day up close and personal. Learn about bird identification, bird behavior, what to feed birds, and why we band them.

Registration ends: JANUARY 18TH
 Cost: \$0

Timber Wolf Winter Ecology Workshop

The Timber Wolf Information Network (TWIN) will hold a two-day winter wolf ecology workshop at the Reserve. TWIN members discuss wolf ecology, population biology, management issues and field study techniques including a winter tracking field trip into wolf territory.

Fee includes instruction and materials. Bring your own Saturday lunch and beverage, and clothing and footwear for winter weather.

The program runs from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Saturday and 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Sunday.

(Rustic lodging is \$13 per night, per person. Call Beaver Creek Reserve at 715-877-2212 for additional lodging information.)

Registration deadline is January 19th.
 Cost: Member: \$65; Non member: \$70.00

For more info, call 715-839-4712



The male Northern Cardinal's eye catching red coloring is welcome in any garden. Even the brown females sport a sharp crest and warm red accents. Cardinals don't migrate and they don't molt so they're still breathtaking in winter's snowy backyards. In summer, their sweet whistles are one of the first sounds of the morning.

Classes:



Saturday, January 6th at 10:00 a.m. and Saturday, January 27th at 2:00 p.m.: Terrarium/Fairy Garden Workshop:

Come discover why terrariums are growing so popular and how they are a great way to get kids excited about gardening. A simple glass container can be transformed into a self-sustained tropical oasis! Learn how to properly put together a glass terrarium that creates a perfect growing environment for plants and adds life to your office desk, the nook in the kitchen or a child's room. Bring your own container or purchase one here.

Cost: Build your own; only pay for what you take home.

Saturday, January 20th at 10:00 a.m.: Caring for Your Succulents and Air Plants

– Succulents and air plants are all the rage these days. Come learn how to plant and care for these awesome plants and watch our experts demonstrate creative ways to display them. There are many different and unique ways these can be used for interior decorating. We encourage you to think outside the "container."

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

E-mail - home@dwntoearth.com

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



Garden Dreams 2018

February 3, 2018 7:45 am – 3:00 pm
 Lettie Jensen Community Center
 Amherst, Wisconsin
 \$30.00, which includes a hot lunch

Registration deadline is January 30, 2018
 Note: A hearing loop is available

See the registration brochure for information on topics and speakers. We hope you will join us. You can also view the registration brochure online at <https://goo.gl/PumsnC>. For more information, please call 715-345-9776 or e-mail 66hornets@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!



In the dead of winter, as the wind blows and the thermometer drops below zero, it is oh-so pleasant to remember last summer's garden scenes like the one above. The true wonder of Wisconsin's four seasons is that gardeners have some time to rest and contemplate. I often think that if I lived in the south where I could garden all year around that I would probably kill myself gardening – just plain wear out so much faster. BUT, in Wisconsin we can curl up on a cold winter's day in January with a good gardening book or with one of the seed catalogs that are already arriving and DREAM of "next year in the garden"!

Dunn County Beekeepers of Wisconsin "INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING WORKSHOP"



Saturday, February 3, 2018
 8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.
 Menomonie Alliance Church,
 502 21st St N.
 Menomonie WI 54751

Topics Covered:

Beekeeping as a Hobby
 Basic Beekeeping Equipment
 Basic Honeybee Biology and Diseases
 Starting Your First Honeybee Colony
 First Year Colony Management



Round Robin Small Group Sessions

Ordering Equipment
 Assembling Hive Components
 Dressing for Success
 Non-Traditional Beekeeping
 More than honey in a Hive
 Pollination Planting



COST: \$48.00 per person which includes meals (Lunch with Dunn County Beekeepers), breaks, materials and course book. \$8.00 for each additional family member, OR \$25.00 for 4-H, FFA or Scout youth members

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Saturday, January 27, 2018

Send name, address and phone number (email optional) with a check payable to "Dunn County Beekeepers" to: Dunn County Beekeepers, Attn. Mary Buschmann N11901 130th St., Downing, WI 54734

For more information, call 715-265-9284.



"The bee is domesticated but not tamed." -Wm Longgood

Bits and Pieces



EYE CANDY

***"I have never had so many good ideas day after day as when I worked in the garden."
-John Erskine***



The Photo to the right was taken by Paula Bonnin. It is of an osteospermum that grew in her garden this summer. Otherwise known as an African Daisy, this plant is considered an annual in our climate (it is actually a zone 9 perennial), and loves the sun although some varieties prefer a sun and shade mix. She grows various colors and styles of these in garden boxes over the spring and summer months and says that they are great for cutting and bring some beautiful color into the house!



The photo at left was taken by Judy Mitchell, an ECAMGAV member.

The picture is of a Dusty Miller that brightens the garden walkway at her home outside of Fall Creek, Wisconsin this past August.

The picture to the right was taken by Rhonda Cooke, another of our ECAMGAV gardener/photographers, and is entitled, "Brown Eyed Susans at the Farm."



All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today...Chinese Proverb



December 21, 2017

Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners Association

Attn: Lori Kempen

2624 Calumet Rd.

Eau Claire, WI 54703

Greetings:

On behalf of the board of directors, staff and volunteers for the St. Francis Food Pantry, thank you for the generous gift of food collected for us at your annual Christmas party. St. Francis continues to focus on good nutrition for the 500+ local families in need that rely on us for groceries each week. All food donated to us stays 100% local to help our neighbors in Eau Claire County.

St. Francis is very pleased to be an organization that the Master Gardeners are so invested in. Again, thank you for supporting us in our mission to ease hunger in Eau Claire!

Sincerely,

Sue Ellen Kowieski
Sue Ellen Kowieski, Treasurer

Many thanks!



1221 Truax Blvd., Eau Claire, WI 54703

e.StFrancisFoodPantry.org | 715.839.7706 | info@stfrancisfoodpantry.org

Seed Catalogue Time...

Long before “seed time” gets here comes the season when we are deluged by the seed catalogs. While some seed companies and nurseries no longer send out paper seed catalogs they are all available on line for those who are interested in saving some trees.

In any case, whether you treasure curling up on a cold day with a paper catalog or prefer to sit at your computer and browse, below is a listing of sites that give you their list of “The Best Seed Catalogs”. You may want to take a look and enable yourself to shop only what are considered the best.

1. The Garden Glove: <https://www.thegardenglove.com/top-garden-seed-catalogs/>, Vegetable Gardening With Lorraine: <http://www.vegetable-gardening-with-lorraine.com/seed-catalogs.html>.

3. The Old Farmer’s Almanac: <https://www.almanac.com/content/garden-seed-catalogs-mail>.

4. Garden Products Review: <https://gardeningproductsreview.com/five-best-gardening-catalogs/>.

While many of these lists contain duplications that is simply a confirmation of their validity as high-ranking sources for seeds and plants. Also, some of these lists cater more to vegetable growing while others are more diverse or are aimed at flower gardening.

In any case, check out the lists and then go compile your Own list of “best” seed and nursery catalogs. Happy dreaming and planning for your 2018 garden season!





"There are two seasonal diversions that can ease the bite of any winter. One is the January thaw. The other is the seed catalogues."

***Hal Borland,
The New York Times, January 19, 1958.***

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/eaucnaire
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**