

# Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



May 2018

## Asian Foods Highlighted At ECAMGAV Educational Meeting...

by Nina Logan

On April 16, Chef Lalaine Gunem of Eau Claire gave a presentation on selecting and preparing Asian foods. She introduced those present to vegetables most of us are not familiar with such as two varieties of Asian eggplant, jicama (pronounced hee-cama), and lemon grass. Those in attendance enjoyed sampling eggplant salad, baked eggplant and lemon grass, infused water and also were introduced to jicama, which is a root plant that can be eaten in a salad but can also be eaten raw. It's taste is somewhat like that of an apple. It has a rough outer skin which must be peeled off to expose a moist fleshy inner body that is rich in moisture and nutrients. The greens of this plant are considered toxic and should not be eaten. Jicama has a long growing season but can be grown here and harvested early when the root is about the size of a walnut.



All of these vegetables can be found in our larger grocery stores, in the Asian stores, or, sometimes found at the Farmers Market.

All in attendance enjoyed sampling these foods which are very familiar in our Asian community. We also enjoyed the stories told by our enthusiastic speaker who told us of her childhood growing up in the Philippines where most of their vegetables were obtained in the woods where they grew wild.

Treats were also served and door prizes awarded. If you missed the event be sure to plan to attend the May 21<sup>st</sup> educational meeting when Jim Schwiebert, from Beaver Creek Reserve, will be presenting on "Wild Edibles." Come join us and bring a friend or two.



My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant's point of view.

~H. Fred Dale



### INSIDE:

Local Master Gardener News - 2

Upcoming Events  
Bits and Pieces - 7

- 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](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!!!!**



### ECAMGA Board

ECAMGA BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO		
Name	E-mail address	Phone number
Mary Jane Griffin	<a href="mailto:mgriffinhlaa@gmail.com">mgriffinhlaa@gmail.com</a>	715-835-6979
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#### NOTE:

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

### Ask a Master Gardener at the Farmers Market

Ready to start getting your volunteer hours? Do you like talking with people and helping them? If so, consider volunteering this summer at our Ask a Master Gardener table at the Phoenix Park Farmers Market on Saturday mornings.

Our first day of this season will be Saturday, June 2. We arrive and set up our table at 8:00 and stay until 11:00 or 12:00, depending on how many questions we are getting. You can come for the whole time or just part. You can come the Saturdays that work for you. You are not pressured to answer any questions you are not comfortable answering. Usually if there are 4-6 of us there, *someone* knows the answer. If not, we get the person's contact information and give them a call with the answer a few days later.

If you want to be added to the pool of volunteers, please email Andy Heren at [Rcktnut007@aol.com](mailto:Rcktnut007@aol.com). If you are unsure, come by and give it a try. No pressure! Just look for our table with the white banner on the front. We are not in a certain spot; it changes each week.



photo by Steve Anderson



*ECAMGAV  
2018 Calendar  
All meetings at  
NW-Extension Office unless  
otherwise noted*

**May 21:** Jim Schwiebert, on wild edibles

**June 10:** MG Plant Sale in conjunction with the Hosta Society at Phoenix Park

**June:** David Schmitt of Haycreek Outfitters on "The Nature of Bears"

**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

### Good morning, Master Gardener Volunteers!

There are many ways to volunteer at the North River Front Park Youth Garden this year. The Youth Garden is located not far from Phoenix Park at the corner of Hobart & Huyssen Streets. Let me know if you would like to help. This will make scheduling much easier.

**Spring Preparation & Planting** – There will be work sessions to clean up, add compost to the raised beds, and plant seeds and plants. Path Renovation – There will be a separate work day to line the paths and add wood chips.

Working with Kids – UWEX, the Boys & Girls Club and ECAMGA collaborate on the Youth Garden Program. UWEX is asking for a Master Gardener Volunteer to be in the Youth Garden (weather permitting) from 9 to 10:30 on the following days:

June 11-14; June 18-21; July 9-12; July 16-19; July 23-26; Aug 13-16 and Aug 20-23.

The Master Gardener Volunteer will assist the UWEX educator by directing the kids while they are in the Youth Garden. The kids will mainly be picking, weeding and watering. These sessions are what the Youth Garden is all about. Please consider signing up to spend time with the kids. You can sign up for one day, for one day a week or for a particular week. Let me know how you can help with the North River Front Park Youth Garden this year by contacting me at [jmitchell@pobox.com](mailto:jmitchell@pobox.com).



Judy Mitchell  
Volunteer Leader  
NRF Park Youth Garden

Good afternoon, Master Gardener Volunteers!

As we enter this wonderful time of year, don't forget to also be working on those 24 volunteer hours. Here are a few opportunities for you to consider to get those hours:



1. The Department of Land Conservation is asking for volunteers yet again this year to help at their tree sale sort at the Expo Center. The tree sort will be Thursday, May 3, from 9 am to 5 pm. If you are able to help, please contact Jenna Hazelton at Land Conservation at 715-839-6226 or email her at [Jenna.Hazelton@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:Jenna.Hazelton@co.eau-claire.wi.us)
2. The Altoona Library has need for someone to help them with their house plants. They are looking for some advice on pruning, fertilizing, and possible repotting. You can give advice or even do some repotting for them. They will pay for any supplies needed. You can contact the library director, Alyson Jones, at 715-839-5029 or email her at [ajones@altoonapubliclibrary.org](mailto:ajones@altoonapubliclibrary.org)
3. Since we no longer have a horticulture educator, we are looking for Master Gardener Volunteers interested in helping staff the answer desk this spring and summer! We would like to start with a couple of 2 1/2 hour time slots (maybe Mon and Thu afternoons) but are flexible so will staff according to volunteer interest and availability. If you are interested, or have questions, please email Alon Coppens at [eccounty.ext.answerdesk@gmail.com](mailto:eccounty.ext.answerdesk@gmail.com).
4. Once again we will have our "Ask a Master Gardener" table at the Saturday Farmers Market at Phoenix Park starting on Saturday, June 2. We run through Labor Day. Friday and Saturday, July 27 & 28, we will be at the Eau Claire County Fair. An article will also be appearing in the May newsletter. If you have done it in the past, I will keep your email on my list. If you would like to be added, please email me at [rcknut007@aol.com](mailto:rcknut007@aol.com). We have a great time and would like to see a few more people in our group. You don't have to come every week; I send a doodle out so you can schedule the days you can help. The Saturday Farmers Market is the place to be in the summer!

We hope you take advantage of at least one of these opportunities. Don't wait until August to start getting those hours!

Andy Heren  
UW-Extension Eau Claire County  
Administrative Specialist II

## Upcoming Events & Other Things

### Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners And Northern Wisconsin Hosta Society Plant Sale Sunday, June 10 - 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Phoenix Park

The Plant Sale is less than six weeks away and there are several things to keep in mind. If you are starting seeds or splitting your plants – **Save some for the sale.**

We will be selling perennials, annuals, herbs, vegetable plants, house plants and, hopefully, native plants. **Please mark your plants with type, name and sun requirements.** If you can, please add a picture of the blooming plant. Customers will pay more for a plant if they know what it looks like.

We will need volunteers so if you can work the day of the sale, please email me at [mgriffinhlaa@gmail.com](mailto:mgriffinhlaa@gmail.com) or call/text me at 715-590-3742. If you can bring tables for the day of the sale, please let me know. We will start set up at 7:00 am on Sunday June 10. Any time that you can help would be appreciated. Also, save your cardboard containers – small ones – and bring to the sale. I will get large cardboard boxes from Sam's Club.

**Remember:** The time that you take to help, pot, put up posters, gather your donations, etc. all counts as volunteer hours. Please keep track of them.

We will be selling gently used (good condition) garden items and garden art (pots, decorations, etc.) for the garden. Please prune your house plants and pot in appropriate size pot. If it is possible, when you dig up your garden plants, shake the dirt off and repot in soil bought in bags at the store (**Sterile Soil**). It will help the spread of Jumping Worms. **If you know that you have Jumping Worms in your yard, please do not donate any plants from your yard** (We would accept plants started from seeds planted in sterile soil). Donate some thrift sale items instead if you have Jumping Worms. We will accept magazines and offer them for free. **No Books this year!**

There are posters and takeaways at the extension office. Please pick some up and help us to get the word out about our Plant Sale. Judy Wibel has set up the Facebook page about the Plant Sale so please invite (liking and sharing the page with) your gardener friends and ask them to invite their friends.

Have A Great Spring!  
See you at the Plant Sale!

Mary Jane Griffin and  
Susan Mertens  
Plant Sale Co-Chairs



### North Country MGV Plant Sale May 19th, 2018

Spoooner Agriculture  
Research Station  
W6646 Highway 70  
Spoooner, WI 54801

The plant sale features Heirloom Tomatoes, Peppers, and Native Perennials. Starts at 8:00 am and sells out fast.

For more information contact Sue Reinardy (Phone 715-462-3361 or email her at: [sreinardy@centurytel.net](mailto:sreinardy@centurytel.net))



### North Central WI Master Gardener Plant Sale May 19th, 2018 7:00am - 12:00pm Marathon Park Cattle Barn 1201 Stewart Ave

Annual HUGE plant sale by North Central WI Master Gardeners. Annuals, many perennials, herbs, vegetables and more! Many of our perennials are from local plant digs. Also Home Composter bins, gently used garden tools and accessories. FREE children's planting area. Each child takes home a plant!

**Come Early!**





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

**Native Plant Sale**  
**May 12, 2018**  
**8:30 am until 1:00 pm**

A wide variety of flowers and grasses native to Wisconsin as well as a few herbs will be for sale. Experts will be on hand to answer questions. All proceeds to benefit Beaver Creek Reserve. A plant list will be on our website and Facebook page the week before the sale. Some species are limited so get there early. [www.beavercreekreserve.org](http://www.beavercreekreserve.org) or call 715-877-2212.

**AUTUMN AT**  
**THE RIVER**

September 21-22, 2018.  
Wisconsin Master Gardener Association Conference, Eau Claire, WI

WIMGA - Wisconsin Master Gardener Association  
Conference at The Lismore Hotel in Eau Claire  
[www.wimgaconferences.com](http://www.wimgaconferences.com)  
<https://www.facebook.co/WIMGA.2018.conference/>

**Eau Claire Master Gardener Scholarships for Autumn at the River Conference:**

As many of you may know we have the state WIMGA conference here in Eau Claire on September 21 - 22 this year. The Eau Claire Master Gardeners are offering six \$50 scholarships for Eau Claire Master Gardeners in good standing interested in attending. **Application deadline is May 31st.** For an application form contact Ellen Terwilliger at [terwilset@gmail.com](mailto:terwilset@gmail.com).



**Saturday, May 5th**  
**at 10:00 am: Bee Keeping Basics:**  
**Plants that Attract Bees**  
**At 1:00 pm: Container Gardening**  
**Annuals, Perennials, Herbs, and**  
**Tropicals and Plant Your Own**  
**Container**

**Container Planting Class Dates:**  
**Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am;**  
**Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm;**  
**Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm;**  
**Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am; and**  
**Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm.**

*May's Floral Garden, Inc.*  
3424 Jeffers Road  
Eau Claire, WI 54701



**Classes:**

**Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 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 luscious porch pots. **Cost:** Build your own; only pay for what you take home.

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



## Tiffany Bottoms State Natural Area Train Ride & Spring Birding

*A fundraiser for The Prairie Enthusiasts hosted by Chippewa Savannas Chapter*

Saturday, May 12 - Arrive: 6:45am | Departure: 7:00am | Return: 12:00pm \$35/\$25

Join The Prairie Enthusiasts and our guest ornithologist for an extensive tour of remote sites within the heart of the Lower Chippewa River during peak spring migration. Attendees should plan to bring sturdy shoes, lunch, and water.

**\$35 non-TPE member/\$25 TPE members**

Registration contact, Kathy Stahl : [theprairieenthusiasts.csc@gmail.com](mailto:theprairieenthusiasts.csc@gmail.com) / 715-962-4010

Tiffany Bottoms State Natural Area, a diverse portion of the larger Tiffany Bottoms floodplain forest, is abound in wildlife due to ranging soil types; river birch, ashes, and basswood are in the southern portion and a more oak-dominated forest in the northern part. TBSNA is host to many game species, rare raptors, warblers, the great-blue heron, pileated woodpecker, and the blue-gray gnatcatcher.



**“If you get to thinking you’re a person of influence, try ordering somebody else’s dog around.”**

**-Anonymous**

## Wild Edibles Focus For May ECAMGA Educational Meeting

by Nina Logan

On May 21, 2018, Jim Schwiebert, a naturalist at Beaver Creek Reserve, will be speaking about foraging for wild foods. His interest in searching for and eating wild foods has been with him since childhood. Jim will be helping us identify edible foods of the forests and we can even sample some of his finds.



Jim has worked in the resource fields for many years. His knowledge of all things in nature has been a driving force for environmental education at Beaver Creek Reserve for the last 11 years.

The presentation begins at 6:30 pm on May 21 at the Eau Claire County UW-Extension Office, 227 First St. W in Altoona. Snacks and door prizes will be offered. See you there. Bring a friend or two and come enjoy an interesting evening.

### Bits and Pieces



**Sign Up For Free Garden Newsletters** (plus, by visiting these home pages you will find lots of other interesting articles and information:

1. From **Fine Gardening** – go to [www.finegardening.com](http://www.finegardening.com) and page about ¾ of the way down the home page and you will find a link to sign up.
2. From **Garden Gate Magazine**, go to [www.gardengatemagazine.com](http://www.gardengatemagazine.com) and scroll down to “Garden Gate Notes” where you can click on the link to sign up for the free Tips and Ideas email.
3. From **Birds and Blooms Magazine**, go to <http://www.birdsandblooms.com/> and you will find the link for their free email newsletter.

### EASY ASPARAGUS SIDE DISH

*from the kitchen of Lori Kempen*



2 Tablespoons Olive Oil  
 1/4 Cup Grated Parmesan Cheese  
 1/2 Pound Fresh Asparagus  
 Salt and Pepper to Taste  
 2-3 Tablespoons Fresh Lemon Juice

Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat.

Cook and stir the asparagus in oil until tender, about 5 minutes.

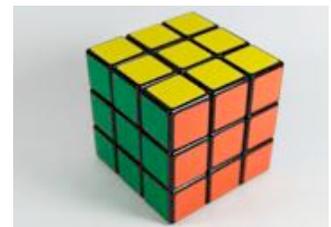
Add the lemon juice and season to taste with salt and pepper.

Place in serving dish and sprinkle with Parmesan Cheese to serve.

Recipe is easily doubled.



***Sometimes the easiest way to solve a problem is to stop participating in it.***  
***-anonymous***





*Spring on the UW-Madison campus.*

*Photo by Stephanie Trader*

**"You must remember garden catalogues are as big liars as house-agents."**

Rumer Godden,  
China Court, 1961



**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/EAUCLAIRE](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/EAUCLAIRE)  
Phone: 715-839-4712  
Fax: 715-839-6277  
M-F 8AM-5PM



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**Eau Claire County  
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Altoona, WI 54720**