

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



September 2022



Picture by Chris Southworth

“Sedges Have Edges and...WOW!”

by Louise White-Roach

What a delightful Monday evening on the 15th of August! We gathered at the home of Chris Southworth, as she and her husband recently moved to the Oakwood Hills area. We started the evening with an incredible potluck supper and lots of smart talk, with a bit of wine added for fun. Because their new property is in the center of “turkey/deer central”, Chris decided not to feed them with “normal” plants, so she worked hard, researching grasses, sedges, and the like.

After our repast, Ellen Terwilliger talked a bit about the difference between grasses and sedges: grasses are flat, and sedges have edges! Sedges are always perennial, will fill in quickly, grows in the sun or shade, and reseeds. Grasses can be annual or perennial. They generally like the sun, though Japanese Forest Grass loves the shade. Some of the most familiar perennial grasses are Prairie Dropseed, Karl Foerster, and Malena Skyracer, to name a few.

Chris also planted a steep slope with “NoMow” grass, which can take up to three years to fill in. She also made good use of boulders and rock, working with Northern Roots for that hardscaping. The front yard was also a delight, filled with Drumstick Allium, Blue Gramma Grass, Little and Big Bluestem, and a wealth of zinnias! Not bad for one year’s work!



Picture by Jo-Ann Clark



First two pictures above taken by Jo-Ann Clark; picture to the right taken by Chris Southworth.



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!!!**

ECAMGA Board

ECAMGVA BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO		
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Note:

The ECAMGVA Board minutes may be accessed at <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org>.

Did you know about the Honored Member Status?

Info provided by Andy Heren and Chris Southworth

The University of Wisconsin Division of Extension Master Gardener Program has a new participation level – **Honored. Members** with this status are exempt from reporting volunteer and continuing education activities. They may report less than the required hours for perpetuity. This includes reporting ZERO hours. **Note: individuals must still complete ALL other requirements of the program, including accepting and fulfilling the terms and conditions for the program.**

To qualify, you must have completed 10 years OR 1000 hours of service and list significant accomplishments as a participant in the program. Applications must be reviewed and approved by Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program staff. **Applications will be accepted only from November 1 through December 31, with decisions awarded before March 31.**

As part of this recognition, these individuals are marked as HONORED in the ORS and have the freedom to continue to participate in the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program without the obligation of annual hour reporting, though we still welcome their contributions!

The purpose of this level is to

- 1) recognize volunteers for their contributions to the program
- 2) increase flexibility in annual reporting requirements, and
- 3) create uniform recognition across the state.

The board is watching for the application to be released, which we believe will be in September. When it is, we will let you know. We will even have printed copies to help people get their applications submitted.



ECAMGVA

2022 Calendar

Watch for emails regarding location of meeting and/or Zoom link

**September 9: Tour BCR
Butterfly Garden**

**October 8: Deadline for Photo
Contest**

**October 17: Building a Beautiful,
Healthy, Ethical Cactus
and Succulent Collection**

**November: Making Soaps Using
Garden Plant Oils**

**December 16: Annual Holiday
Party**

**January 16: member share on
containers (Zoom only)**

February 20: Volunteer Launch

**March 20: Workshop on seed
starting and propagating
plants.**

**April 17: Growing citrus in
Wisconsin**

**May 20: Alternatives to Lawns
tour (to be hosted by
another organization)**



Photo from BCR website

ECAMGVs to Tour Beaver Creek Reserve Butterfly House...

Naturalist Megan Giefer will be leading the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteers (ECAMGVs) on a tour of the Beaver Creek Butterfly house. The event will take place on September 9th between 11:00 am and 12 pm.

Where : S1 County Road K, Fall Creek, WI 54742 Parking is available in front of the building.

Registration : Please register with Aruna email : arundhathi@yahoo.com by September 6th. It is a free event and will count for 1 hour of continuing education. Group size will be limited to 30.

Meet Master Gardener ... Jael Wolf

I became a master gardener after I moved to Eau Claire in late 2019. (I am originally from Quito, Ecuador, and I lived in Santa Barbara, California and Phoenix, Arizona). At the time, I was working remotely, and I thought being part of the local garden community would help me to meet like-minded folks.



Unfortunately, after our first in-person onboarding meeting everything had to switch to virtual due to the pandemic. Nonetheless, I was able to learn enormously. All of my gardening experience before living in Eau Claire was in USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 10–13.

The Master Gardener program was very helpful and resourceful. Not only did I gain a lot of knowledge, I also met beautiful people that have become wonderful friends. I consider it extremely valuable that new Master Gardeners are paired with mentors. This allows us to practice the theory we have been acquiring (in the past years, it has been primarily online) and share expertise that can only be shared in face-to-face interactions. I have also had the chance to participate in hands-on volunteer projects like the Menomonie Street invasive species removal.

Besides being part of the Master Gardener program, I am part of the Forest Street Community Garden, where I have my own plot and I also work with the share Forest Street Community Garden group.

For me, gardening is a therapeutic exercise that helps me relieve anxiety and depression. It is a hobby I can do on my own or surrounded by a community. It has allowed me to connect with people I love and is the perfect excuse to soak in all the sun during the warm months to endure the cold ones.



Pictures to the left are of some favorite daylilies taken by Carol Cox

Volunteer opportunities

- **Edible Landscape in Eau Claire** - This is a very visible area across from the Farmers Market and is full of established fruiting trees and shrubs. It has been somewhat maintained by the Herb and Shared gardeners. It is in need of a leader and/or group to help keep it maintained. Any ideas are appreciated. Perhaps a late winter tree pruning lesson could be done there.



- **Volunteers needed to guest on,**

Gardening in the Valley, for October and beyond. Contact me if interested. The show airs at 7:30 a.m. on 96.3 FM WHYS the first Saturday of each month. Topics already covered include seed starting, maple syrup, heirlooms, vegetable gardening, container gardening, wildlife in the garden and pollinators and native plants. September 3 will feature Jeanne Chromey discussing fall bulbs.

If interested in being involved in the above contact Margaret Murphy, MS, Horticulture Educator (715) 726-7957 / Work Cell (715) 382-3253 or email her at margaret.murphy@wisc.edu.



Elephant Ears and coleus make a great combo. These elephant ears were overwintered as plants (as opposed to bulbs) which accounts for the size at summer's end in our climate. (picture/Carol Cox)



Events

Bringing the Garden Inside Wednesday, September 7 12:00 p.m. via Zoom



Presented by: Darrin Kimbler,
Agriculture Educator, UW-Madison
Division of Extension Iron County

Description: Get ready to continue enjoying your garden by bringing your plants indoors. You'll learn about which plants can come in, the requirements for growing plants indoors after they have been outside all summer, and how to properly transition them to their new indoor home.

[Click here to register](#)



REMEMBER: 10th Annual ECAMGVA Photo Deadline is October 8, 2022

Summer is here with a lot of opportunity for gorgeous photo ops so take a few pictures and enter your best shot in the Master Gardener Photo contest. Details can be found in the July 2022 ECAMGVA newsletter (page 4). Submit photos via email (largest size/pixels that your email will allow to be sent) to Carol Cox at c7w6c2200@charter.net **by no later than October 8, 2022.**

Please place **"Photo Contest Entry"** in the email subject line. You will be notified when your entry is received by return email.



*"Most things wrong in our lives started by
forgetting the things that were right."
-anonymous*



S1 County Rd K
Fall Creek, WI 54742
Phone: 715-877-2212
<https://beavercreekreserve.org>

75th Anniversary Celebration



Camp Beaver Creek!
Saturday, September 10, 2022
4:00 - 8:00 PM
Beaver Creek Reserve

Join us in celebrating 75 years of connecting people with nature! This anniversary celebration will recognize all the people, programs, and partnerships that helped make Beaver Creek Reserve the Chippewa Valley's hub for environmental education that we know it as today.

Besides celebrating this exciting milestone this combined Annual Meeting and volunteer and donor appreciation event will announce 2022 award winners and highlight our successes over the past 75 years. Please join us in recognizing our friends, volunteers, and donors with a night filled with nature activities for both kids and adults, music, delicious food and drinks, and good company.

BBQ will be catered by Karl's Bar-B-Q, and beer, wine, and soda will be available for purchase. Please wear your best Beaver Creek apparel or vintage camping attire. We hope to see you and your families there!

Registration is NOW OPEN! See our website for event schedule and register at **[Register Now](#)**

Classes

Mammals that Fly: Beguiling Bats

Date: Thu, Sept 15

Time: 9:30 AM

Cost: FREE

**This is a virtual program.*



Did you know bat guano can make gunpowder? Or that without bats, we would not have mangos, bananas, or cocoa? Learn this and more about our beguiling bats! A program link will be sent to the registrant's email address prior to the start of the program. **Registration ends Wednesday, Sept 14. [Register now!](#)**



The World of Moss

Date: Sat, Sept 1

Time: 10:00-11:15 AM

Cost: Members \$8, Nonmembers \$10

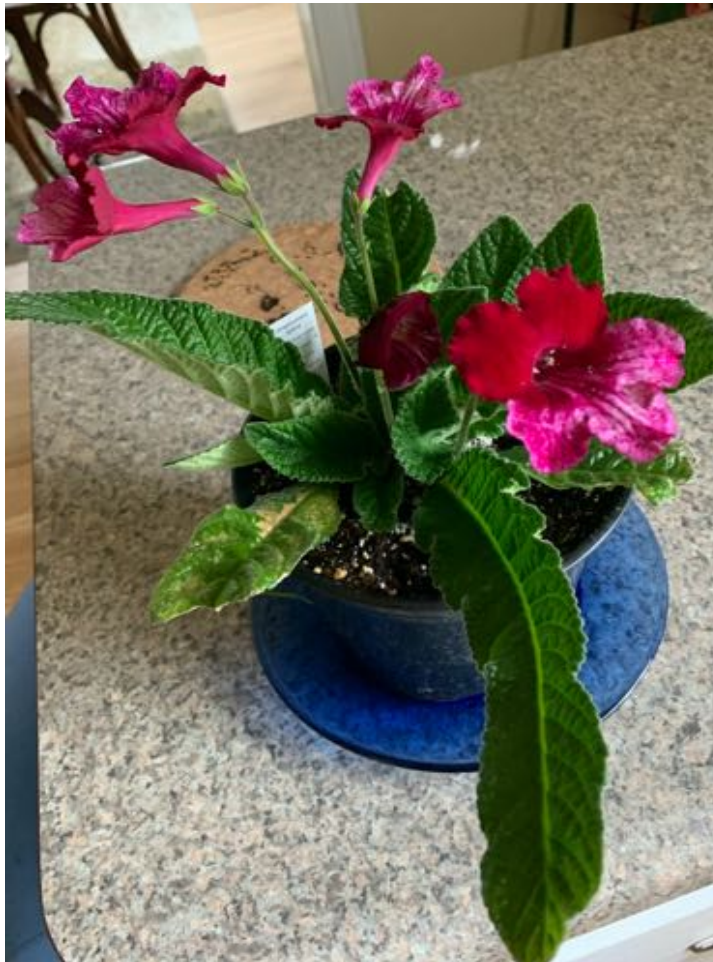
Location: Wise Nature Center

Take a walk with moss fan, Joe Rohrer, to learn about moss diversity, life history, and ecology, along with tips on distinguishing different species. Mosses are small; bring along a hand-lens if you have one so you can get a closer look. **Registration ends Thursday, September 15.**

[Register now!](#)



Bits and Pieces



Picture by Carol Cox

Streptocarpus or Cape Primrose...by Carol Cox

I discovered these plants some years ago and fell in love with their gorgeous blooms and interesting strap-like leaves. These are a cousin of the violet but somewhat easier to grow and have similar growing requirements. The Streptocarpus species are native originally to Africa and Madagascar and possibly Asia.

Also known as the "Cape Primrose" they are not really a primrose but gesneriads or African violet cousins. Unlike violets, each leaf of a streptocarpus will produce eight to ten or more bloom stalks, sequentially, so that plants tend to stay in heavy bloom for long periods of time. Culture and care of streptocarpus is the same as for African violets.

The flowers come in purple, blue, pink, yellow, orange, and white hues as well as red varieties. They are borne on upright stems that hover over the plant's foliage. The leaves are wrinkled and thick with a fuzzy texture and make an attractive houseplant all by themselves. The plants are easy to grow. They love light but direct sunlight may burn the foliage, so it is best to grow in a little more shaded place. The easiest way to kill this plant is through overwatering it so make

sure your planting medium has very good drainage and allow it to dry out between waterings.

It is easy to propagate new plants by cutting off a leaf and slicing out the central vein. Then plant the halves in potting soil by standing them up with the cut side down. These plants make gorgeous gifts. One downside I have found is that my cats also like these plants and have sometimes chewed back the leaves (they do not appear to cause the cats to get sick).





Eye Candy



Purple Shamrock



Escargot Begonia



Petunia, hosta and golden artemisia



Silver sage



'Tis the season for the morning glories!

Five pictures directly above
by Dana Cox

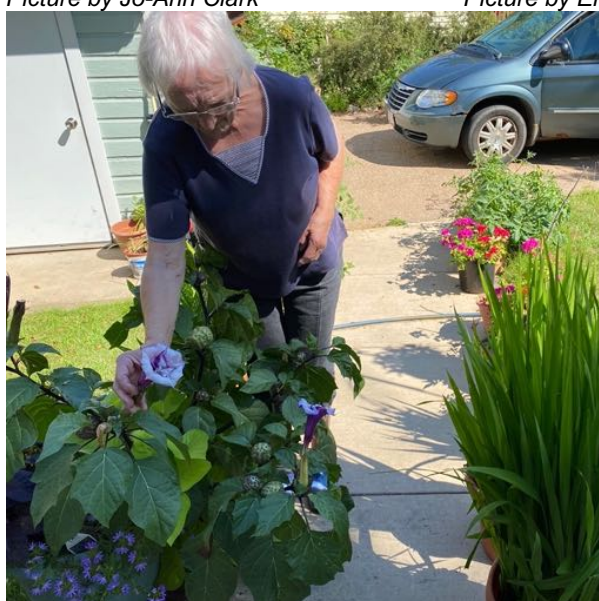


Picture by Jo-Ann Clark

To the left, variegated mystery plant from Carol Losey's compost bin - *possibly a melon???*
Anyone have any ideas, if so contact Carol?
Below, interesting poker type plant from Hawaii – not sure of the identity but very interesting.

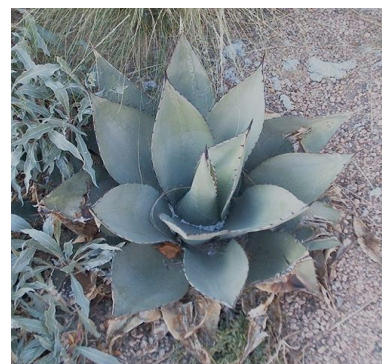


Picture by Emily Beamer



Directly above, Carol Losey admires a datura blossom.
(Picture by Jo-Ann Clark)

Below, an Agave plant. These get quite large and have very sharp long spines on the very end of the fleshy "leaf" segment. Native to arid and semiarid regions of the Americas, particularly Mexico and the Caribbean.



Two pictures above (taken by Carol Losey) are from the same Datura plant in her yard.

To the left is the blossom from the mysterious plant growing in Carol's compost bin. *Again, anyone who is able to identify this contact Carol Losey.* Likely some type of melon or squash. (picture also by Carol Losey).





SUMMER IS FLEETING (AND WINTER IS ON THE WAY)... We, as gardeners, plan and work all summer to achieve that perfect container arrangement or garden bed. Then August comes and wonder of wonders, we have achieved it (even though we struggled all spring and summer with squirrels and rabbits and bugs and whatnot) and it suddenly dawns on us that September, October, and the likelihood of frost is staring us in the face.

Oh well, it was worth it for that moment of beauty or that harvest of produce and think of all the great exercise we got along the way! So, take those pictures of your brightest and best garden achievements and put them on your computer desktop so you can, with a cup of coffee in hand, and at your leisure, enjoy them through the cold, dark winter months! And, just maybe, submit one of them for the photo contest. *(Picture stock photo off of google.com/images).*

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



*September 22, 2022
 First Day of Autumn*

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