

# Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



July 2022

## MG Volunteers June 20<sup>th</sup> Guided Tour of the Forest Street Shared Garden



On June 20, 2022, Mari Jackson led a tour through the Forest Street Shared Garden located in downtown Eau Claire at the corner of Forrest Street and Oak Street. It was a lovely summer evening for the tour and Mari Jackson led those in attendance on a fascinating tour of the garden. A wide variety of vegetables and herbs were being grown and a lot of information shared on the planting, mulching, trellising, and fencing methods used in the Shared Garden. Two areas of the garden were included in the tour. One was the Shared Garden; the other was the Edible Landscape portion of the garden.

The Shared Garden is about one-third acre that is gardened cooperatively with up to forty members, so it is different from most community gardens. The approximately forty members have a unique way of communicating to keep it organized and it's produce benefits others in the community as it provides lots of produce for the Community Table and other organizations. While on the tour the participants got to sample currants, serviceberries and much more of the fruit and vegetables grown there.

*Pictures by Mari Jackson*

This is Mari Jackson's third year as co-coordinator of the Shared Garden. Before that she had a large garden for thirty-five years. Mari showed those on the tour how the garden uses deep leaf mulch and wood chips to suppress weeds and build the soil. This year a tomato trellis system will hopefully keep deer and rabbits from some of the things they so often destroy/consume. Some inter planting and succession planting is used, and also a straw bale garden is being tried for 2022.

Members of the Shared Garden do some maintenance of the Edible Landscape portion of the garden but are looking for a formal leader who would take charge of it. There is already a nice variety of established fruit trees and shrubs that are available for anyone to pick. This is a great opportunity for a Master Gardener Volunteer to get involved and earn volunteer hours in doing so! If interested contact Mari.

Along with enjoying an interesting garden in the company of fellow gardeners, those Master Gardener Volunteers present on the tour earned 1 hour of continuing education credit. The next opportunity to tour a garden will occur on July 18<sup>th</sup> when the Schlegelmilch Historical House and Gardens will be toured. See you there!





## 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!!!**

**MGV**

### ECAMGA Board

#### ECAMGVA BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO

Name	E-mail address	Phone number
Louise White-Roach	<a href="mailto:White1roach@gmail.com">White1roach@gmail.com</a>	715-831-3352
Andy Heren	<a href="mailto:Rcktnut007@aol.com">Rcktnut007@aol.com</a>	715-831-9236
Sue Waits	<a href="mailto:waitsr@charter.net">waitsr@charter.net</a>	715-829-5762
Jeannie Chromey	<a href="mailto:J_chromey@yahoo.com">J_chromey@yahoo.com</a>	715-5799607
Barb Huggins	<a href="mailto:http:barbahuggins@gmail.com">http:barbahuggins@gmail.com</a>	715-833-0224
Chris Southworth	<a href="mailto:Chris_southworth@yahoo.com">Chris_southworth@yahoo.com</a>	715-514-3358
Judy Mitchell	<a href="mailto:jmitchell@pobox.com">jmitchell@pobox.com</a>	

#### Note:

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

## Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners and Gardening Friends



Picture from the Schlegelmilch House website.

**Save the date and time ---**

July 18 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Come with a cool beverage in hand, stroll through the beautiful gardens at the historic Schlegelmilch house and tour the house as well. Jill Barland will be leading the tour and there will be continuing educational credit for those in attendance. More details are coming soon! See you there, bring a friend along!



### ECAMGVA 2022 Calendar

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

**July 18: Schlegelmilch Historical House and Gardens Tour**

**August 15: Landscape tour at a private home**

**September 9: Visit BCR Butterfly garden**

**October 7: Deadline for Photo Contest**

**October: TBA**

**November: TBA**

**December 16: Annual Holiday Party**



"A rose by any other name will end up as a cabbage."  
-Sam Gardiner





## Events



**Down To Earth Garden Center**  
6025 Arndt Ln  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
715-833-1234  
[www.downtoearthgardencenter.com](http://www.downtoearthgardencenter.com)

### CLASSES/WORKSHOPS



### Succulent Planter Workshop

July 9, 2022, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

SCHEDULE A TIME for our greenhouse pros to guide you and your friends in making your own Succulent Planters! Workshop appointments will be scheduled the top of the hour, from 9:00 am-4:00 pm, and groups of up to six may be scheduled together.

Sign up by going to <https://downtoearthgardencenter.com/events-calendar.html>, or call 715-833-1234, ext. 3. A \$10 registration fee will be charged at the time of online registration and subtracted from the final cost of your project. No charge for workshop. Pay only for what you plant that day.

### Come learn how to create gorgeous living art!



Epiphytes are plants that grow without dirt and grow attached to other plants or trees. They receive their nutrients and water from the air, rain, and plant matter around them.

At this workshop, you will be taught the methods to mount these dramatic plants onto beautiful cork wood, driftwood or barnboard, to mimic their natural tendencies. You can bring your own mounting piece if you wish! You'll love the end result = living art that can stand alone or be added to your plant gallery! Because the process is similar to that of making Kokedama, those wishing to stop at that stage of the project and just enjoy a kokedama can do so! Please let us know when setting up the class time how many in your group will require mounting materials.

Sign up by going to <https://downtoearthgardencenter.com/events-calendar.html>, or call 715-833-1234, ext. 3. A \$10 registration fee will be charged at the time of online registration and subtracted from the final cost of your project. No charge for workshop. Pay only for what you plant that day. Class times will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. Up to six attendees can be scheduled together. Single & smaller groups may be combined as needed, at our discretion. If you would prefer a private class, please indicate that when scheduling a time with our event coordinator.

**Workshops are scheduled at the top of the hour, from 9:00 am-4:00 pm, first come first serve.**

### Growing and Caring for Plants in Wisconsin: Foundations in Gardening.

**Registration opens July 18, 2022!**



Take your next step to growing plants successfully using research-based methods! You'll leave the course with a combination of practical gardening skills to try plus the knowledge of why they work. Plan your calendar now!

**Course dates: September 11, 2022 - December 10, 2022**

If you have questions or want to learn more, [please visit our website!](#)  
We will contact you again in July when registration is about to begin.

This is an approved learning opportunity for individuals interested in the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program. To find out more check out the <https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/get-started/>



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

## Butterfly and Pollinator Discovery

July 22, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Please register at:

<https://landmarkwi.org/event/butterfly-and-pollinator-discovery-walk/>

Location: The prairie walk will take place at a private property in eastern Eau Claire County that is protected through a conservation easement with Landmark Conservancy and owned by Beaver Creek Reserve. The exact location will be provided during registration. Participants will drive to Beaver Creek Reserve to finish the field trip.

Trip Itinerary: (all times are approximate)

Prairie & Butterfly Hike: 1 hour  
Travel to Beaver Creek Reserve: 15 min.  
Lunch (bring your own): 30 min.  
Caterpillar Lab Tour: 20 min.  
Butterfly House: 20 min.

For more information contact [Megan@beavercreekreserve.org](mailto:Megan@beavercreekreserve.org)



## Foraging For Wild Edibles

Saturday, July 30, 2022 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Wise Nature Center – Woodland Room

Join Beaver Creek naturalist Jim Schwiebert for a taste of summer from the wild. We'll look at a PowerPoint presentation of plants to eat throughout the year, then take a hike and look for some common, easily identified, wild edible plants. We'll nibble a few things as we hike, and then sample some cooked greens and a wild beverage or two! A list of some plants, and a few mushrooms to try and their use will be provided. Come and join us for a taste from the wild!



Registration and payment are required **by July 27**. Cost: Friends \$12; Nonmembers \$15.

Contact e-mail: [bcr@beavercreekreserve.org](mailto:bcr@beavercreekreserve.org). Cancellation policy: Cancellations require a 48-hour notice prior to the class date to receive a full refund minus a 10 percent administrative fee per program.



## Beekeeping 103

August 6, 2022 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

(Last day to register is July 31, 2022)

Your bees made it through the summer, now you need to get the bees ready for winter. During this final class in the Beekeeping series, you will learn how to again care for your bees, while learning about fall hive feeding and getting the hive ready for winter. Topics include treating bees to protect from varroa mites and diseases, extracting honey, feeding the bees, and wrapping the hive. You will also have the opportunity to perform hands on extraction of frames of honeycomb; please bring along a pint jar and you can take some honey home with you.

Members of the Chippewa Eau Claire Beekeepers club will provide the training. Please bring a lunch and drinks along as well as a notebook. Chippewa Valley Beekeepers and Beaver Creek Reserve will be enforcing mask-wearing and social distancing. You will not be allowed in the building/class unless you have a mask on. **Cost:** Friends \$20.00; Non-members \$25.00

**Contact e-mail:** [bcr@Beavercreekreserve.org](mailto:bcr@Beavercreekreserve.org). **Cancellation Policy:** Cancellations require a 48-hour notice prior to the class date to receive a full refund minus a 10 percent administrative fee per program.



## Bits and Pieces



An interesting rain barrel scenario, sturdy, attractive and functional found at: <http://www.thepreparedpage.com/diy-rainwater-harvesting-tower/>



Pathways are so intriguing. They can lead us to such interesting places or invite us to sit awhile along the way. This was is courtesy of Pinterest (<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/19210735900632883/>).

### Come walk on the dark side - botanically speaking, that is!

by Carol Cox

I am constantly on the lookout for contrasting colors, leaf patterns and forms to add to my garden. Over the last couple years, I have been looking at “black” perennial (as well as annual) possibilities for my garden.

Why black? Well, it can add an elegant touch, even one that is mysterious. Black will also make brighter colors in the garden stand out or pop. Also, the hue or shade of the black will change depending on the available light. A black plant can provide a focal point or work to accent other plants in the garden. The search for and breeding of black plants has become a thing whose time has come.

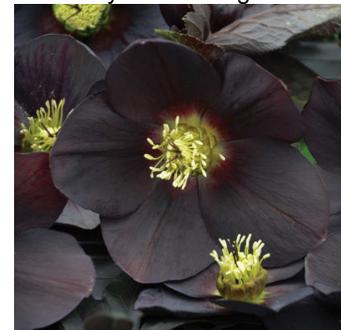
Sometimes the “black” aspect of the plant involves its foliage, sometimes the blossom and sometimes you and I might argue that what is labeled as “black” is really very dark red or blue or whatever and not a true black. Also, some of the “black” color fades a bit as summer progresses.

But, whatever the case may be, there are some unique and interesting plants out there that might be considered for incorporation into our landscapes and gardens. Consider some of the pictured examples shown.

For more information on “black” perennials you might check out [https://www.waltersgardens.com/photo\\_essay.php?ID=425](https://www.waltersgardens.com/photo_essay.php?ID=425) and <https://www.allaboutgardening.com/black-perennials/> for starters.



‘Chocoholic’ Cimifugia. This is a zone 4 shade loving plant that adds a lacy feel to the garden.



‘New York Night’ a Helleborus in the Honeymoon series. It is a zone 4 perennial.



‘Holy Grail’ Hibiscus is Zone 4 with black foliage and gorgeous red blossoms.



‘Black Knight’ Alicia rosea or Hollyhock. While many hollyhocks are biennial, this hollyhock is a true perennial and zone 3 to boot.



‘Black’ Sempervivum or Hen and Chicks. This is a zone 3 plant with black highlights.



### Eye Candy

*The newsletter is in need of more “eye candy” – photos taken in your own gardens (or gardens you have visited) that have delighted you that you might want to share with others. If you feel so led, send the picture to [c7w6c2200@charter.net](mailto:c7w6c2200@charter.net) along with a bit of background info.*



At left a rose bush that has delighted the garden owner for the duration of it's bloom. At right a double peony that provided the same “eye candy” delight every time she looked at it.



Have you felt that same delight when a plant has a season in which it blooms in all its glory? Some such delights are relatively transitory – like the bloom of a day lily, but others, like the orchid below, seem to hold their perfection for weeks. The one below was a gift to Carol Cox that bloomed the year she got it and then, for the next five years



– no blooms. She moved it to another location and this year it has been blooming for over 2 months. What is even more amazing is that there are no signs of the usual decay in the beauty of the bloom. It continues to provide delight each time she looks at it. Now, it may not bloom again for another 5 years but she has had those moments of delight (and a picture) to enjoy that memory of such a bit of beauty over the years.

Top left photo by Dana Cox, top right and photo immediately above by Carol Cox.



An interesting arbor off of Pinterest. (<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/1196337395428018/>).



The prickly pear cactus does not look like much in the spring when it emerges from the snow but, wow, by June it has revived and these gorgeous blooms appear. It will grow and thrive in Wisconsin surviving our winters just fine. Photo by Dana Cox.

*They say a picture is worth 1,000 words!*





**America the Beautiful** by Kathrine Lee Bates

*O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain!  
America! America!  
God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!*

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](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/eaucnaire)  
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 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**