

# Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



September 2020

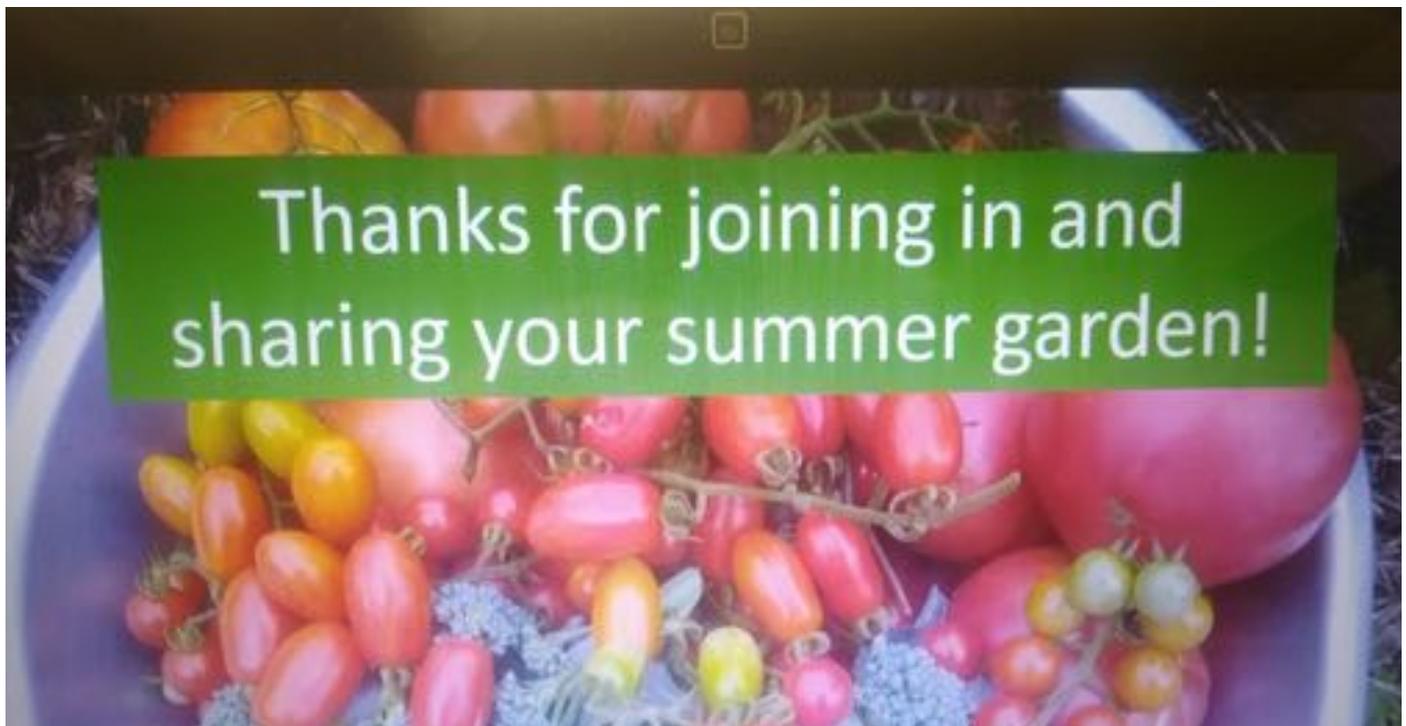
## ECAMGVs Again Meet Via Zoom – Share 2020 Garden Successes by Andy Heren

On Monday, August 17, nineteen members of the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Association gathered around their computers to “attend” our monthly meeting. This month, our president and Zoom host, Ellen Terwilliger, led us through a presentation that was given by nine members of their gardens late in the season. Our May 20 meeting was the beginning, in which members could submit photos of their gardens early in the season. Now we got to see those gardens, and others, later in the season. Those nine members sent her their photos, which she inserted into a Power Point presentation. As we got to each garden, that member would tell us about each slide.

It was so much fun to take these virtual tours from the comfort of our own homes. We saw a variety of vegetables, flowers, and perennials. We could see how much some had grown in the past 2 months. This meeting was enjoyable, and it also gives a person new ideas and inspiration for next year’s garden. (Aren’t we all thinking about next year already? What new tomatoes we want to try, what new garden beds we could put in?). There was time at the end for questions, comments, and a little visiting.

We want to thank Ellen for her hard work in setting up these virtual meetings. It is for sure better than not meeting at all, but we do miss being together for our meetings. We all hope that this pandemic will get under control soon so we can return to meeting in person to enjoy more discussions and each other’s company.

Our next meeting is Monday, September 21, at 7:00, with member Jeannie Chromey talking about planting bulbs. We hope you can join us!





## 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

ECAMGA BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO		
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Paula Bonnin	<a href="mailto:paula.d.bonnin@gmail.com">paula.d.bonnin@gmail.com</a>	715-220-6373
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Nancy Spak	<a href="mailto:nancyspak@gmail.com">nancyspak@gmail.com</a>	715-210-7005

#### Note:

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

### Next Zoom Educational Meeting (September 21) Jeannie Chomey Presenting On Planting Bulbs

**Jeannie Chromey:** A little bit about myself: I've been gardening (and loving it) since I was a little girl in 4-H. I like to say it is my mom's fault! She liked to grow a few new and different things each year and it always fascinated me to see what the result was – of course it wasn't always yummy- I still don't like chard. My family refers to my vegetable garden as my 'jungle' because I like to use every available space and have a tough time pulling out those 'freebies' that reseeded from last year. Typically I have dill, ground cherries, cleome, sunflowers, lettuce, radishes and tomatoes growing everywhere. One of these years I won't even have to plant. When some other volunteer activities I was involved in ended a couple years ago, I decided that it was time to expand my gardening activities and here I am a Master Gardener.

**Planting Bulbs:** Let's explore a few of the options for bulb gardening together. I'll share with you some of the different types of bulbs available and how to care for them based on my mistakes and successes. Well, mostly mistakes – but let's hope I can save you some time and money! Like most gardeners, my bulb gardens are always evolving based on what grows well and what I can exchange with friends – and of course that colorful package that catches my eye in the store. So no matter whether you already have established bulb gardens or none at all, there should be something for everyone in this presentation.



(Editor's Note: Jeannie will also review how to pay dues and enter hours on the Online Recording System.) Watch for the email from the Extension Office with the link to the meeting.



### ECAMGVA 2020 Calendar

*All meetings at 6:30 pm  
at the Extension Office  
unless otherwise noted,*

- September 21: Jeannie Chomey will present via Zoom on Planting Fall Bulbs**
- October 7: Photo Contest deadline**
- October 19: Preserving the Harvest – Becky Gutzman**
- November: TBA**
- December 16: Annual Holiday Party**
- December 31: Volunteer hours due**

**To keep up to date on the latest guidance from UW Extension relative to the COVID19 situation go to:**  
<https://wimastergardener.org/20/03/20/halt-to-master-gardener-program-volunteer-activities-2/>



Our ECAMGV monies at work. These are three of the thank you notes that have been received from fair participants showing their appreciation for the prizes the ECAMGVA donated.

*Some interesting ideas...*

From [www.thehandymansdaughter.com](http://www.thehandymansdaughter.com):



I always struggle with finding a simple solution to elevate my rain barrels. This one caught my eye.



Another idea that caught my (editor's) eye was the use of these old doors to create a garden arbor. This one off of <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/421368108872390646/>

Thank you for sponsoring the champion houseplant trophy. I appreciate your support of the Eau Claire county Youth. Abby Wahl

Dear Eau Claire Master Gardeners, Thank you so much for sponsoring the Champion Food Preservation trophy. Getting this trophy for my Pickled Beets I made this past year means a lot to me. Your support to the fair is greatly appreciated. Thank You!

Sincerely,  
Sydney Iverson  
Pleasant Valley 4-H Club

Dear Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners, Thank you for sponsoring the trophy for Reserve Champion Farm Crops at the 2020 Eau Claire County Fair. The Farm Crops project is one of my favorites to bring to the fair. Thank you for your support!

Jesse Goell



**An Irish Blessing**  
 May the wings of the butterfly kiss the sun. And find your shoulder to light on. To bring you luck, happiness and riches. Today, tomorrow and beyond.



## Bits & Pieces

### 8<sup>th</sup> Annual ECAMGVA Photo Contest Rules:

1. One entry per person/member accepted.
2. The photo subject (i.e., main feature of the photo) must be garden related.
3. The one submitting the photo must be a member in good standing of the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteer Association (ECAMGVA) for the 2019/2020 membership year.
4. The photo must have been taken by the contestant between October 1, 2019 and September 30, 2020.
5. Each entry must be accompanied by a short description of the photo (the "What," "Where," "When," etc. as applicable).
6. By entering the contestant gives consent for the ECAMGVA to use the photo submitted for the ECAMGVA Newsletter and/or ECAMGVA promotional purposes.
7. First prize will be a \$30 gift certificate; second prize a \$25 gift certificate, and the third prize a \$20 gift certificate. At the judge's discretion an "Honorable Mention" award may also be made (no monetary award)..
8. A panel of judges selected by the ECAMGVA Educational Committee will judge the contest and the panel's decision is final. Winners will be announced in the November 2020 issue of the ECAMGVA Newsletter.
9. Submit photos via email (largest size/pixels that your email will allow to be sent) to Carol Cox at [c7w6c2200@charter.net](mailto:c7w6c2200@charter.net) by no later than **October 7, 2020**. Please place "**Photo Contest Entry**" in the email subject line. You will be notified when your entry is received by return email.



**Slow Cooker Potato and Corn Chowder**

(recipe from <https://www.gracefullittlehoneybee.com/slow-cooker-potato-and-corn-chowder/>)

approx. 29 oz canned or frozen corn  
8 medium red potatoes, diced  
6 cups chicken broth  
1 tsp dried oregano  
1/2 tsp garlic powder  
1/2 tsp onion powder  
1/2 tsp salt  
1/4 tsp black pepper  
half pint heavy cream  
3 oz bacon bits

Step 1: Add corn, potatoes, broth, herbs and spices to slow cooker.  
Step 2: Cook on low for 8 hours.  
Step 3: Remove 3 cups of cooked chowder from slow cooker and blend well.  
Step 4: Mix blended chowder back in the slow cooker.  
Step 5: Mix in cream and bacon bits before serving.

### Plant Profile –



**Joe Pye weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*)** is an herbaceous perennial with clusters of pink blooms atop tall stems in from midsummer to late fall. Joe Pye is native to eastern and central North America and is a wildflower and an herb that was used as an herbal remedy to lower fevers and for other maladies. Hardy in zones 2-9 the plant has lance-shaped leaves that grow in whorls around the otherwise green stem which is purple where the leaves attach. In some plants, the leaves give off a vanilla-like scent. The compound flowers are dusty rose to mauve. The plant is 5-7 feet tall and 2 to 4 feet wide but there are shorter, more compact varieties available. While the species can be a spreader there are some cultivars that are clumping types. The plant grows best in partial shade (in moist conditions it can handle full sun). Requires evenly moist soil as leaves will scorch if soil dries out. The plant attracts bees, beneficial insects, birds and butterflies and is a long blooming and attractive plant. It is also deer and rabbit resistant. This perennial is often used to landscape banks and slopes and in beds and borders. Overall it is a very low maintenance choice for the garden.



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

**Check out our YouTube page!**

More videos [here](#)

Butterfly House Tours:  
Part 3, Black Swallowtail



## A Historic Triumph for National Conservation

As of yesterday, August 4th, the Great American Outdoors Act was signed into law by the President. This triumph will affirm conservation and continued care for national parks and public lands by committing to manage overdue maintenance needs and updates to make lands safe and accommodating for everyone.

"In addition to addressing national park infrastructure, the Great American Outdoors Act enshrines our nation's conservation legacy through permanent, mandatory funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund."

-National Park Foundation

For more information on the Great American Outdoors Act, or how this legislation will support our public lands and national parks, read the National Park Foundation article [HERE](#).

### Trailside Treasure Series

Follow along with Ruth, one of our naturalists, to learn about the exciting things you may find along a nature trail!

Trailside Treasure Videos are short clips designed to show you some of the cool things that you can look for as you explore the trails at Beaver Creek or your local park. Be on the look-out for new Trailside Treasure videos each week!

Trailside Treasures: Part 1, Interrupted Fern

Parts 2 and 3 are already posted, check those out [here!](#)

**SOME THINGS ARE JUST BETTER LEFT UNSAID AND I USUALLY REALIZE IT RIGHT AFTER I SAY THEM.**

**-anonymous**





## **Garden Art** by Judy Mitchell

No, this is not an article about putting art in your garden. It is about learning to draw the flowers, birds and elements of your garden.

Drawing is a low cost and pleasant way to spend a hot summer day or a cold winter afternoon. To get started, all you need is pencil and paper. A computer helps too. There are free instructional videos on "How to Draw" on websites like YouTube. There are also on-line classes available if you are willing to pay a fee.

I once spent two hours drawing a coffee cup after taking an instructional video. It is nowhere near as boring as it sounds. After I had a handle on drawing basics, I started sketching from my garden photos. With practice, I got fairly good results. Recently, I have been using a black gel pen on art paper (I prefer a mixed media paper for acrylics, watercolors, pen & pencil) and drawing garden images to make my own black & white greeting cards for family & friends.

I find myself studying the flowers, insects and birds in my garden from a different point of view now that I have started trying to draw them. I take lots of photographs (like the one above). If learning to draw interests you, start taking some photos now so you can use them this winter.



**EYE CANDY**



*Life in Paula Bonnin's garden...*



*A lovely use for an old piece of tree wood/bark.*



*Mum's the word! 'Tis the season for the beautiful display of mums that are available for purchase in the nurseries.*

**CAMPING: WHERE YOU SPEND A SMALL FORTUNE TO LIVE LIKE A HOMELESS PERSON.  
-anonymous**



**Autumn**  
by William Morris

Laden Autumn here I stand  
Worn of heart, and weak of hand:  
Naught but rest seems good to me,  
Speak the word that sets me free.

(Editor's note: After a long summer of gardening, I sometimes echo the above sentiment.)



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



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