

# Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



April 2022

## ECAMGV Tour Chippewa Valley Growers Facility by Carol Cox



Pictures by Ellen Terwilliger



Wednesday, March 2, 2020 provided the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteers (ECAMGV) with an opportunity to breathe deeply of spring air – at least Spring greenhouse air. That was the day that the Kellys had issued the invitation to come tour the Chippewa Valley Growers facility and get a look behind the scenes at their greenhouse to learn how they plant

and prepare for the gardening season.

During the tour the staff showed participants how they prevent, monitor, and control insect pests and diseases, and how those chosen methods of control affect the quality of the product we buy for our gardens.

Obviously, spring (or pre-spring) is a very busy time in the greenhouse as literally thousands of plants (seeds, plugs, unrooted cuttings or whatever) must be made grown and looking great in preparation for the hoard of deprived gardeners who will leave their winter dens and descend upon the greenhouses on opening day.

Along with many other statistics and facts those those in attendance learned was the fact that Chippewa Valley Growers plants some 3,000 hanging baskets for sale for the coming year.

In addition, they utilize some 70,000 four-inch square pots, grow all their veggies from seed (and it is harder to grow vegetables in the greenhouse) and (continued on page 7)



## Volunteer Opportunities – Old and New By Frankie Weinberger

Master Gardener volunteers gathered on Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> to hear an overview of volunteer projects from group leaders. There are many opportunities spanning a wide variety of activities. Most of these projects are on the Eau Claire Master Gardener Association website at <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/>, however there are a few up and coming projects. Here is a brief summary of the presentations on established and new volunteer projects, as well as contact information if you wish to learn more.

### Youth Gardens at River Fronts Park

**presented by Judy Mitchell** - Children going into third through fifth grade participate in a teaching garden from June 20 – August 11, 2022. The program is sponsored by Boys and Girls Club and FoodWise from UW Extension and uses the Growing Healthy Kids curriculum from Oregon. It takes place Mondays through Thursdays at 9-11 am. Volunteers can choose their schedule and help prepare and plant the garden, teach and garden with youth, or do garden maintenance. An application needs to be submitted to the Boys and Girls Club, and a background check is required. Contact Judy at [jmitchell@pobox.com](mailto:jmitchell@pobox.com).



### Beaver Creek Reserve presented

**by Barb Huggins** - Volunteers are needed for the native plant sale preparation April 4-6, the sale on Mother's Day weekend, as well as the Butterfly House from July 5<sup>th</sup> through Labor Day. More information can be found on the website at [bcr@beavercreekreserve.org](mailto:bcr@beavercreekreserve.org), or contact Kristin Giefer at [outreach@beavercreekreserve.org](mailto:outreach@beavercreekreserve.org).

### Schlegelmilch House presented by Sue

**Gallagher** - This is a historical house that is part of Chippewa Valley Museum. Volunteers plan and manage the gardens outside at the Schlegelmilch House. As Andy Heren stated, the first step is to learn correct pronunciation! Contact Sue Gallagher at [suzannegallagher30@gmail.com](mailto:suzannegallagher30@gmail.com).

### Forest Street Community Garden and Edible Landscape presented by Mari Jackson

(continued on page 6)



## 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**

Ellen Terwilliger is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

**Topic: Dr. Nora Mitchell Speaking On South African Plants and Their Connection To Wisconsin Plants**

Time: Apr 18, 2022 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)  
(Counts for 1 hour of MGV Continuing Education)

#### Our Speaker and What You Will Learn

Dr. Nora Mitchell is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire. Her research focuses on evolution and hybridization in wild plants groups, ranging from the Protea of South Africa to sunflowers in the United States.

Biodiversity is spreading unevenly across the planet, with some regions being home to more species than others. The Cape Floristic Region of South Africa is one such “biodiversity hotspot”, and is home to an astounding diversity of plants in particular, including the iconic genus Protea (the sugarbushes). This group of species has spectacular floral diversity and is becoming a model system (along with others in the region) for understanding the rise of diversity and is also culturally iconic. We will explore this region, its plants, and the connections between some of our plants in Wisconsin and those on the other side of the globe.



### 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>	
Rita Gundry	<a href="mailto:gundryrk@uwec.edu">gundryrk@uwec.edu</a>	715-579-5523

#### Note:

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



### ECAMGVA 2022 Calendar

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

**April: Nora Mitchell on South African Plants**

**May 25: Native Wildflower Sanctuary Tour**

**May 22: Plant Sale with Hosta Society and EC Garden Club**

**June: TBA**

**July: Learn about landscaping**

**August: Outdoor education**

**September: Visit BCR Butterfly garden**

**October 7: Deadline for Photo Contest**

**October: TBA**

**November: TBA**

**December 16: Annual Holiday Party**

*To dwell is to garden.  
Martin Heidegger*

## Meet A Master Gardener – Sally Anderson...

Hello. I'm Sally Anderson and I've been a master gardener for twenty-two years. So many changes, of course, have taken place. In the early years of training, we had no Internet. We had three ring binders loaded with information written by the state extension experts. We took the twelve required classes and then set out to do volunteer work. Volunteer opportunities included the Clairemont Nursing Home, The Children's Garden and then for quite some time I volunteered at the Eau Claire County Expo Center.

Working at Expo we created a variety of demonstration gardens to show what would be appropriate to grow in our area. I met so many wonderful people as we planted and tended to the various gardens. What a great learning experience it was!

Now my favorite volunteer spot is at the Farmers' Market. We have a banner stating "Ask a Master Gardener" and every Saturday we set up our table with informative materials and answer questions from the public. We don't have all the answers, of course, but being able to look something up online has been so helpful. It's a learning experience for all of us. Please join us sometime. We can always pull up an extra chair!

Personally, I've always had a garden wherever we've lived and a compost area. I enjoy greatly having and utilizing compost and trying to be as sustainable as I can.

So, welcome new members. It's a whole new world out there since I began twenty-two years ago. But making new friends, educating the public, and constantly learning will always remain so gratifying.



Picture provided by Sally Anderson!

## Events



### CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

#### **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. In this hands-on 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 a 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.



\* Class instruction is free. Pay for plant, mounting piece (if not bringing your own), and \$15 for *materials*.

#### **Spring Bulb Garden Workshop**

Schedule a time to create a sensational spring bulb garden! We will have beautiful sprouting bulbs in a variety of types - tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and more! Plan a fun outing for your family or a group of friends!

1. pick your pot (2 options available)
2. pick your plants
3. pot your plants and pretty 'em up, with our help
4. watch your flowers grow throughout the spring!

\* No charge for the workshop. Pay only for what you create that day.

A \$10 booking fee will be charged at registration and deducted from the cost of your finished project.

Workshop appointments will be scheduled every half-hour, and groups of up to 6 may be scheduled together. Sign up for classes by visiting our website (events link) or by calling 715-833-1234, ext. 3.

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



## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Seminar



**Saturday, April 9, 2022**

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Hosted by

Ladysmith/Conrath  
Women's Fellowship  
Congregational UCC

109 E. Lake Ave. Ladysmith,



### Speakers:

**Darsha Helgerson & Kathy Halbur**, “Annuals, Perennials and More.”

**Pat Kosher**, “Barn Quilt Art” (workshop (\$10) -limited to 12.

**Ellen Wynkoop**, “Monarch Parenting 101”

**Ruth Meszaros**, “Tall Bearded Irises, Queens of the Garden”

Registration is limited to 75. Cost: \$10 before April 1, \$15 thereafter (\$5 off for bringing someone who has never before attended this seminar). Fee includes 2 seminars and a snack (Barn Quilt workshop not included).

For more information, please call the Julie at (715)579-0784

### ECAMGVs Join us for an Educational Tour

**10:30 am. Wednesday, May 25, 2022**

### Native Wildflower Sanctuary Tour

(Near the duck pond at Irvine Park in Chippewa Falls.

Parking available next to the Wildflower Sanctuary  
Counts as 1 hour of Continuing Education)

Ginger Weirman, Chairman of the Wildflower Sanctuary will provide us with a tour and information about the sanctuary. This is a project of the Lake Wissota Garden Club. May is a time when a variety of wildflower are



blooming. As the Sanctuary is mostly under trees, a light rain does not stop or delay our tour. The motto is stay home if it is lightening or raining sideways.

There are picnic shelters located nearby for a picnic lunch or we can check out Leinie Lodge. More details to come after registration.

**REGISTRATION:** Please email Andy Heren at [Andy.Heren@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:Andy.Heren@co.eau-claire.wi.us) by May 19th if you plan to attend so that there will be enough docents to conduct the tour.



## BEAVER CREEK RESERVE NATIVE PLANT SALE

The online store opens **April 20**  
and closes **May 4**

Plant pick-up is **May 6 & 7, 2022**

This year's sale will be online, with potential for an in-person sale on the pick-up days! The online store will open **April 20** and will close on **May 4**. Once the store is live, make sure to sign up for a time to pick up your plants at checkout. Plant order pick-up will be at the Wise Nature Center on **Friday, May 6 and Saturday, May 7**. Stay tuned for more information!

Check out the list of native plants we grew last year (this list varies from year to year): [2022 Native Plant List](#)

\*\*BCR members will receive a 10% discount if they're signed in to their member account. Aren't a member? [Become one today!](#) Don't have your account set up? [Create one now!](#)



S1 County Road K,  
Fall Creek, WI 54742  
Beavercreekreserve.org  
Phone: (715) 877-2212



S1 County Road K,  
Fall Creek, WI 54742  
Beavercreekreserve.org  
Phone: (715) 877-2212

### Preparing For Your Pollinators Registration

Date: April 7th, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Come join Beaver Creek Reserve's Naturalist and Butterfly House Coordinator, Megan Giefer, as we talk pollinators! During the middle of winter our minds are far from the summer season, but this is the perfect time of year to start preparing your gardens! This program will be about how to start a pollinator garden in your own backyard, looking at the benefits of these beautiful gardens, and learning about the pollinators you want to attract, especially butterflies! Let's get ready and "bee" excited for spring!



Registration Deadline: April 6th, 2022 Cost: Free. A zoom link for the event will be sent to your email prior to the event.



### All About Nettles

April 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-2:00 p.m.  
Wise Nature Center Auditorium

Nettle, *Urtica dioica*, yes, stinging nettle! Did you know that nettle is more nutritious than kale or seaweed? Nettle has many more benefits to offer and Kerri Kiernan, Master Herbalist of River Prairie Apothecary, wants to share all of her knowledge with you about this invaluable plant including how to source, prepare, use, and store nettle.

Participants will have the opportunity to sample nettle tea and will go home with their very own nettle stash to be used in multiple ways for nutritive support.

If you have any questions please call us at 715-877-2212 or email us at [bcr@beavercreekreserve.org](mailto:bcr@beavercreekreserve.org). Thank you!

Registration deadline: April 4, 2022  
Cost: Member: \$10; Nonmember \$15



## Bits & Pieces

### Malabar Spinach...by Carol Cox

I have grown this plant in my garden in lieu of spinach and enjoyed it, not just as an edible but also an attractive climbing plant that adds interest to my garden. Originating in India, it is not a true spinach although it resembles that vegetable. While a perennial, here in our zone 4 area it is treated as an annual. I generally buy my plants at one of the local nurseries rather than plant from seed.

The plant prefers moist fertile soil with lots of organic matter and a pH of 6.5 or slightly higher. While Malabar Spinach will grow in some shade (the leaves get bigger) it prefers full sun and hot humid temperatures. To prevent blossoming and having the leaves turning bitter it needs constant moisture.

Malabar Spinach is used much like regular spinach. It is delicious cooked and not as slimy cooked as some other greens are cooked. Cooked it tastes much like spinach but raw it has a more citrusy, peppery flavor. It is delicious used in salads with other greens.





## The Quest

By Judy Mitchell

This is the last Quest article of the season. If you followed along this winter, you learned a bit about micro irrigation, how to tell when apples are ripe, how to diagnose winter salt injury and more. Now, as the sun gets warmer and the days get longer, it seems a good time to brush up on bee identification.

It turns out there is a UWEX publication to help you identify thirteen commonly found bees: UWEX Publication A4142, Wisconsin Bee Identification Guide, available at the Learning Store (<https://learningstore.uwex.edu>) or on the Extension Horticulture website (<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu>).

Maybe you can identify bees at a glance from their size, shape, color and behavior, not me. The Wisconsin Bee Identification Guide will help you with size and markings, social behavior and nesting sites. It even explains how leafcutter, sweat and other bees got their names. I took my time reading this publication and looking at the pictures. I pulled out a ruler to get a better idea how big a ¼ to ½ inch bee is. Not very big.

I reflected on the bees that visit my garden, from the mason bees and queen bumble bees of early spring to the sweat bees of late summer. I thought about my new planting of aromatic asters and the tiny bees that visited them - and I made a note to identify those bees this year. Long-horned bees are attracted to asters and it would be pretty nifty to find that planting aromatic asters drew them to my garden. Maybe I should plant more asters this year. What pollinator-friendly changes do you have planned?

*Volunteer Opportunities continued from page 1...*

The Forest Street Community Garden works on shared gardening projects, and holds monthly meetings and social events. Volunteers help maintain the Edible Landscape downtown Eau Claire. Harvesting fruit and other produce is open to the public for no cost. Contact Mari Jackson at [mandtoutpost@gmail.com](mailto:mandtoutpost@gmail.com).

### **Lakeshore Elementary School, Flynn Elementary School, Menomonie Street Gardens, ECMGVA Website presented by Ellen Terwilliger**

Ellen presented many volunteer opportunities. Lakeshore Elementary School has a summer teaching garden, and volunteers can help garden or teach with youth, or do maintenance. The Food Wise curriculum is used to teach healthy eating. Flynn Elementary School would like to start a similar program. Menomonie Street Garden completed a beautification project replacing invasive plants with native and other plants, and will help liaison with neighborhood associations to create similar upgrades. The ECMGVA website needs periodic maintenance and updates, and Ellen would welcome assistance with this. Contact Ellen at [terwilset@gmail.com](mailto:terwilset@gmail.com).

### **Teaching Gardens at UW Extension Office and Ask a Master Gardener presented by Andy Heren**

Garden beds can be “adopted” and cared for throughout growing season. In the past, a community event was held for people tour and harvest from the gardens. Ask a Master Gardener takes place at the Saturday morning Farmer’s Market from 8 am to noon between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Contact Andy at [Rcktnut007@aol.com](mailto:Rcktnut007@aol.com).

### **Newsletter presented by Carol Cox**

Volunteers can submit garden photos “eye candy”, poems, quotes, stories or articles for the newsletter. These are especially helpful outside of gardening season from November to February. They are due near the end of the month. Contact Carol at [c7w6c2200@charter.net](mailto:c7w6c2200@charter.net).

### **Master Gardener Plant Sale presented by Nina Logan**

The annual Master Gardener Plant Sale is a fundraiser, and it will be co-hosted this year by the Eau Claire Garden Club. It is a large project where all hands on deck are needed – to grow, prepare and run the sale and clean up. It will take place on Saturday, May 22 at 9 am – 12 noon at Phoenix Park Pavilion. Contact Nina at [ninalogan@centurytel.net](mailto:ninalogan@centurytel.net).

### **New Project for Earth Stewardship presented by Sue Waits**

Sue will be starting a new project to work on activities and education for earth stewardship to help the community and organizations take good care of the earth and environment. Examples would be teaching composting and other methods of sustainability. The project will help promote and support the lesser known component of the mission statement of the ECMGVA, which is: **We are volunteer leaders in providing horticulture education, empowering community to become environmental stewards.** Contact Sue at [waitsr@charter.net](mailto:waitsr@charter.net).

With so many choices, as well as now being able to create your own project within guidelines, it should be easy to meet the 24-hour volunteer requirement in 2022!



# Eye Candy



Top and to the left - what interesting trees (courtesy of Pinterest – even if some help with photoshopping). To the right, a photo from Hawaii (taken by Emily Beamer) & end one from Arizona (Carol Cox)



*Greenhouse Tour continued from page 1...*

have two wells to supply the water needed by the operation.

They pay particular attention to the sanitation in the greenhouse and sanitize the ground fabric after each season and again before the next season. Wherever possible they try to use organic products for pest control within the greenhouse.

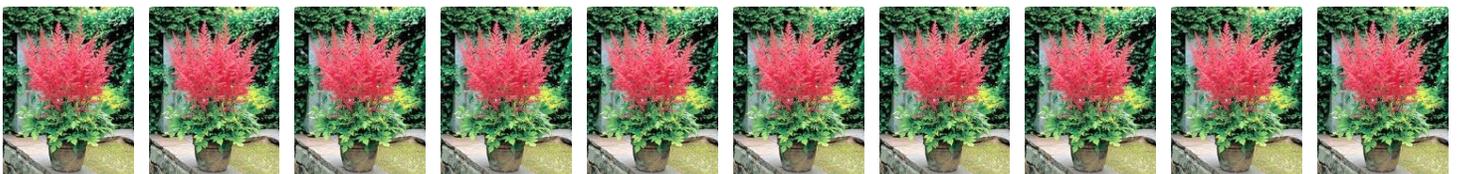
Chippewa Valley Growers is owned by John and Jessi Kelly with Jessi being the on-site manager of The operation. Presently there are also five year around employees, and the business will bring on another ten retail people for the summer season.



*Picture by Ellen Terwilliger*

The Kelly's grew up in the Augusta area. Jessie has a mathematics teaching degree and has worked at Hutchinson Industries. Her husband, John, is in construction. Jessie now is involved full time in the greenhouse business.

There are so many other interesting facets involved in the Chippewa Valley Growers business operation. It is, indeed, a fascinating place to visit – both behind the scenes and in general. I am breathlessly awaiting the opening of the doors as I anticipate the shopping my own garden treasures when the greenhouse opens to the public on or about April 15. Come join me in line!!





**Cactus** (picture by Dana Cox)

Cactii are such interesting plants. Often they are not what many people call beautiful with their odd shapes and prickly covering of spines. If you have ever backed into one you will likely not go near them again. **But** when they bloom – WOW! They have some of the loveliest and most spectacular flowers in the plant kingdom. For a look at some of these amazing plants blooming go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8W4LyIXINE> for a time lapse video of them (sorry about the ad that comes first).

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

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