

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



October 2019

End of Harvest Potluck Focus On The Online Reporting System

by Carol Cox

On September 16, 2019, the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Association Volunteers (ECAMGAVs) met for the regular monthly educational meeting. And, of course, since it was a potluck, the food was fabulous and plentiful to say the least. Just wanting to taste a spoonful of this and one of that can lead to having to diet for the next week but it is worth it!!

In between all the eating and visiting, Margaret Murphy walked members through the Online Reporting System that is now being used to report volunteer hours. Having now managed, as of this writing, to input my hours I really don't want to hear more about it. However, Margaret demonstrated how to go into the system and input and save our hours. She also explained some of the problems that might be encountered.

Since July 1, 2019, UW-Extension is now merged into the University of Wisconsin system and so there will still be some additional changes in the coming year as a result. One of the things that Margaret mentioned will be under review will be looking at Master Gardener projects and evaluating them in terms of risk and liability to Extension.

Ede Strand also reminded members that dues for the coming year should now be sent into her (\$15 for full membership in both the local and State organization plus another \$5 if you want the newsletter to be sent to you via the mail.

In addition to food and fellowship, door prizes were also given out.

Super Star Training Presented For Master Gardeners ... by Ellen Terwilliger

Instead of a statewide Wisconsin Master Gardener Association (WIMGA) conference this year there were three training sessions held around the state to help master gardeners develop skills other than gardening expertise. The third of these sessions was in Eau Claire with close to thirty Master Gardener Volunteers attending from all over Western Wisconsin.



Picture by Ellen Terwilliger

Mike Maddox, our state Master Gardener Director worked with us in the morning on improving our Social Media skills. As we work at improving recruitment and retention of Master Gardeners, he emphasized we need to include the "why."

For example, Mike Maddox brought samples of newsletters we've sent to (continued on page 6)



Rita Gundry to Speak To the ECAMGA Volunteers On Mason Bees

Have you heard of the industrious native mason bees or wondered why they are gaining in popularity? For more information, you're invited to learn more about them and their gentle non-aggressive behavior by attending a presentation, THE ABC'S OF MASON BEES.

Eau Claire County Master Gardener Volunteer, Rita Gundry will be speaking on her experience as a mason beekeeper on Monday, October 21, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at the Eau Claire County UW-Extension Office. Minimal equipment and a few hours here and there from spring to fall are all that are needed, as mason bees are solitary and can "keep" themselves quite well. If pollination is your goal and you have desirable habitat free from pesticides and herbicides, consider hive-less bees and optimize your garden's potential!

The presentation is open to the public so bring a friend – bring several friends. Treats will be served and door prizes given out. See you there!



Local Master Gardener News

Changing e-mail? Moving?

If you do, please remember to notify the ECAMGA 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!!!

MGV

ECAMGA Board

ECAMGA BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO		
Name	E-mail address	Phone number
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Chris Southworth	Chris_southworth@yahoo.com	715-514-3358
Ellen Terwilliger	terwilset@gmail.com	715-839-0731
Nancy Spak	nancyspak@gmail.com	715-210-7005

Note:

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

Only Seven Days Left to Enter THE 7th Annual ECAMGA 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. ECAMGAV for the 2018/2019 membership year.
4. The photo must have been taken by the contestant between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2019.
5. Each entry must be accompanied by a short description (the "What," "Where," "When," etc. as applicable).
6. By entering the contestant gives consent for the ECAMGA to use the photo submitted for the ECAMGA Newsletter and/or ECAMGA 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.
8. A panel of judges selected by the ECAMGA Educational Committee will judge the contest and the panel's decision is final. Winners will be announced in the November 2019 issue of the ECAMGA Newsletter.
9. 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 7, 2019**. Please place "**Photo Contest Entry**" in the email subject line.



ECAMGVA 2019 Calendar

All meetings at Extension Office unless otherwise noted

October 7, 2019: Deadline for MG Photo Contest entries

October 21, 2019: The ABCs of Mason Bees – Rita Gundry

November 18, 2019: Gardening with the Incarcerated Population – Bill Manning

December 16: Annual Holiday Party



"A rose by any other name would smell as sweet" (paraphrase of Wm Shakespeare from Romeo & Juliet)
Photo by Paula Bonnin



Photo by Margaret Murphy

2019 Youth Garden Program by Judy Mitchell

Thank you to all the volunteers who made the 2019 Youth Garden Program a success. This program would not be possible without your help.

We partnered again with Foodwise Nutrition Educators Pam Warren-Armstrong and Joy Weisner to deliver a Youth Garden Program in North River Front Park for the Boys & Girls Club. About 22 children a day came to learn to raise their own vegetables and to eat healthy food. The program ran four days a week for six weeks, and the kids loved it.

This program owes its success to many of you. ECAMGA paid for compost, mulch and other materials. If you helped with the plant sale, you helped to make this possible. Dick Lienhardt donated 169 plants and Kasey Benson hauled two yards of compost from the curb to the garden.

Mari Jackson, Rita Gundry and Kate Perry were at the Youth Garden for work days, for planting day with Longfellow School and to work with the Boys & Girls Club kids. They taught the kids about organic gardening, mulch, eating a rainbow of foods, how to use flowers to make bouquets, bath products and tea, and much much more.

Tracy Hirsch and Jeannette Chromey worked after hours to keep the garden neat and watered. The kids learned to water and weed, but Tracy and Jeannette did most of this work and made everyone's job easier.

Pam Warren-Armstrong and Joy Weisner were in the pavilion every day, teaching the kids about nutrition and using our produce to make delicious stir fry, pizza and more for the kids to eat. They used produce from the Teaching Garden too. If you helped with the teaching garden, thank you!

Special Guests Margaret Murphy, Andy Heren, Caroline Haar and Rachel Hart-Brinson taught the kids about roots, stems & leaves, compost, heirloom tomatoes, monarchs and how raising a garden is like raising a pony. Those days were great fun for everyone.

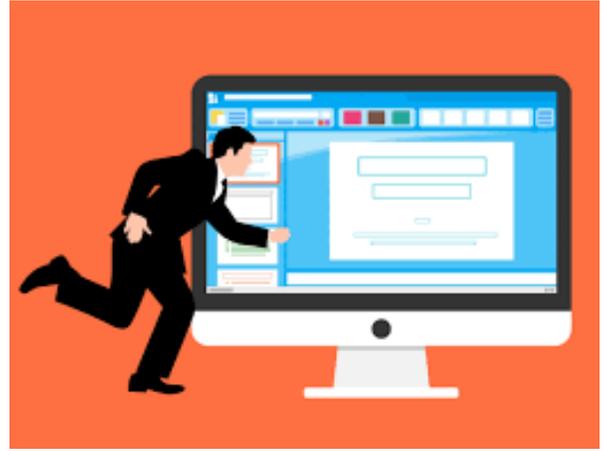
2019 Kids' Garden Comments North River Front Park Youth Garden

- I learned how plants help our earth and I enjoy picking plants from the garden.
- I learned about Dragon Beans and I like to help out making food by picking vegetables in the garden.
- Plants take forever to grow and it's easy to hurt a plant if you don't pay attention in the garden and I love picking the vegetables.
- Good food, learning about eating healthy and the kids garden is fun.
- I learned there was such a thing as dragon beans and that when you cook them turn green. I love to eat the vegetables.
- There is such a thing as a blue potato! And I love the stir-fry.
- I learned tomatoes and potatoes are related and I love to walk around the garden pick veggies.
- I have learned strawberries grow for 2 months and I love to hang out with the plants and water them.
- I learned that I love parsley, mint and turnips. Parsley is my favorite thing in the garden. I didn't know turnips existed before this.
- I learned about watering plants, you need to do it more than you think and I love picking lettuce and strawberries.



Why Be a Board Member of the Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners?

There is no better way to get to know a dedicated group of Master Gardener Volunteers. Plus you get to help steer the organization and make it relevant. Contact Chris Southworth at chris_southworth@yahoo.com, Ellen Terwilliger at terwilset@gmail.com, Paula Bonnin at paula.d.bonnin@gmail.com or Rita Gundry at gundryrk@uwec.edu to learn more. We are looking for nominations by mid October.



Have you checked out our website? We have updated our website this past year. <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/>

Why should you take a minute to look at it? You can find out about volunteer opportunities, education events, review board minutes, look at our newsletters and find links or send us a message. It also has a link to our Facebook page. Keep up to date and stay connected to your fellow Master Gardener Volunteers.



Events

ECAMGAVs Are Invited To The Eau Claire Garden Club Meeting

October 14, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

(for treats & visiting come at 6:00 pm)

**CVTC Energy and Education Center
4000 Campus Rd., Eau Claire, WI**



The speaker will be Chris Gaetzke, Executive Director of the Lower Chippewa Invasive Partnership. He will be speaking on "Invasive Species of the Chippewa Valley."



*How to avoid earthquakes: if you find a fault, don't dwell on it.
~anonymous*



*If you want to soar with the eagles in the morning, you can't hoot with the owls all night.
~anonymous*





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



Sweater Weather Tea Blending October 9, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

It's time to cozy up with a mug of your very own, home-crafted tea blend featuring the ethically wild-crafted and home-grown herbs of local Master Herbalist, Kerri Kiernan. This is session we will learn all about how to make a balanced and tasty tea blend as well as the added benefits of medicinal herbs. Participants will then make their own blend of tea to bring home. Tea will be served in class during discussion! (BYO sweater!) All materials included with workshop fee. Instructor: Master Herbalist Kerri Kiernan, River Prairie Apothecary LLC The class will be held at the Wise Nature Center in the Woodland Room.

Preregistration and payment are required, Registration ends: OCTOBER 7TH. **Cost:** \$20.00 – members; \$25 non-members.\$25.00.

Infused Oils and Salve Making October 11TH, 6:00 to 8:00 pm**

Learn how to create healing salves with herbal oils for pain, wounds and other skin ailments using common herbs as well as local wild weeds. Join us as we learn how to concoct herbal remedies that can be used on the skin. We will use a versatile recipe for minor skin issues and for reducing pain. If you joined us in spring 2019 for Salve Making come and join in on the fun again as Kerri will cover another method of infusing oils with herbs...the quick method! Herbal oils & salves are a must-have DIY remedy to add to your home apothecary. All materials included with workshop fee. Instructor: Master Herbalist Kerri Kiernan, River Prairie Apothecary LLC

Preregistration and Payment are required. Registration ends October 11th. **Cost: \$25.**

****Class to be held at the MAIN LODGE (North Side of K at the Youth Camp)**



Saturday, October 5, 12, 19, and 26: Scarecrow Makin' Saturdays: Your fall decorating isn't complete without a scarecrow! We'll provide everything you need to create your unique master piece and we clean up the mess! Post pictures of your scarecrows on our Facebook page for all to enjoy and be inspired. **Cost:** \$15 per scarecrow includes straw, burlap head and clothes

Saturday, October 5, 12, 19, and 26: Pumpkin Painting Saturdays: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm: Bring the family for Pumpkin Painting, every Saturday in October! For \$2, you can grab your choice of mini pumpkin and let your creativity run free! Fun for kids of all ages!

Saturday, October 5th, and 19th: Succulent Pumpkin Planter Workshop: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and from 2:00 – 3:00 pm: Take your Fall Season decorating to a whole new level! All you need is a few live succulent cuttings, some fun seasonal decorations or fabric, a pumpkin and some hot glue. Your creating can then be planted in a pot once the pumpkin is past its prime. **Cost:** \$25. **Register for this workshop today.**

Saturday, October 12th: House Plant Care & Transplant Class: 3:00 p.m.: Love the look of indoor plants but not sure how to keep them thriving? We can help! This class will cover what plants work in which environments, how to care for them, and even how to transplant. A must attend class for anyone with indoor plants. **Register for this class today.**

Thursday, October 17th: Putting Your Garden To Bed Class: 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.: A thorough fall clean-up will give your garden a healthy start in the spring! Come learn what you need to do before the winter arrives to have the best success in your garden. We will discuss how to clean up your perennial garden and what to do with trees and shrubs, how to overwinter tender plants, and all the odds and ends you should do now to save yourself time and energy in the Spring. We will also provide info on winter pruning and answer any questions concerning how to do it. **Register for this class today.**

Down To Earth Garden Center
6025 Arndt Ln
Eau Claire, WI 54701
715-833-1234

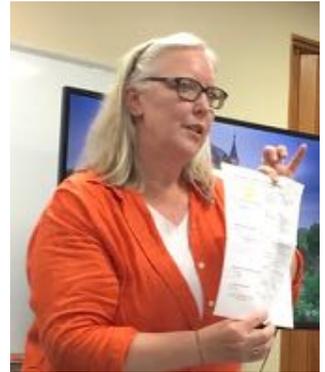
www.downtoearthgardencenter.com

Superstar Training...continued from page 1...

members. Most of the articles were describing events that had happened, or future events where we described the who, what, when and where - but no why. He suggested we put the why front and center - with an attention getting picture. Why is an event important, why should someone serve on the board, why does our work matter.

Janet Mangold, a Master Gardener from Northern Wisconsin provided us with tools to become more effective presenters. Whether we teach one-on-one or present to a large group we should always be able to let our audience know in one sentence what we're going to cover. Janet covered other skills such as eye contact, engagement of participants and being confident. Practice, practice, practice before the actual program. We worked in small groups to develop ideas for a presentation and a number of those were given to the larger group.

We are all Master Gardener Volunteers. Volunteers work with people. To be effective we can all improve our communication and presentation skills to more effectively assist the public with their gardening challenges.



Picture by Jo-Ann Clark



Picture by Ellen Terwilliger



Bits & Pieces

Scilla – interesting flowering bulbs planted in the fall for spring bloom.

The scilla family contains some interesting and lovely spring-blooming bulbs many of which can readily be used for naturalizing. While scilla bloom best when they are grown in full sun, they can also be grown in partial shade. (Scilla will not grow in deep shade) and they will multiply quickly when planted beneath shrubs and shade trees, in woodlands and beside streams and ponds, giving you reoccurring color throughout the years. Scilla are winter hardy in zones 4 to 8 and are not fussy about soil but do best in soil that is well drained and fertile.

Siberian squill (*S. siberica*) and wood hyacinths (*S. campanulata*) are two of the most popular types of scilla. One really great thing about these little beauties is that they are untroubled by rodents or deer. One variety, **Scilla siberica**, has cobalt blue blossoms and is gorgeous. It is also known as Siberian squill or spring beauty. Each bulb produces multiple stems, topped with several dainty blue flowers that resemble little parasols growing just 4 inches tall. These plants multiply by both producing seed and by forming bulb offsets. Over time just a few bulbs can turn into a lovely carpet of blue flowers. These plants bloom at about the same time as the early daffodils and the crocuses with the foliage fading away quickly after flowering, so they make a good choice for planting in lawns and landscaped areas.

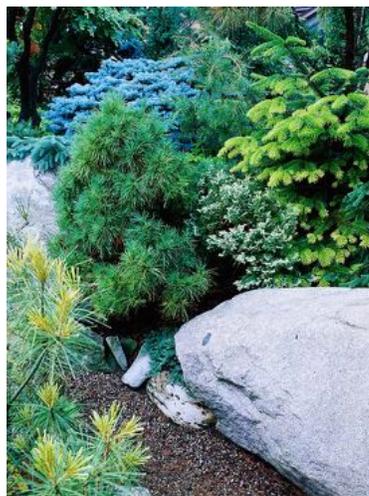
Scilla bulbs should be planted in mid to late fall, any time after the first frost and before the ground freezes at a depth of 3 to 4 inches and 3 to 4 inches apart. For the most natural look, plant the bulbs in clusters of 10 with no more than a couple inches between each bulb. Scilla also mix well with other spring bulbs, so consider combining them with crocus, snowdrops, chionodoxa and daffodils. Because all scilla will multiply, they should be planted in places where they won't compete with native perennials.

When the scilla is through blooming, let the foliage continue growing until it turns brown in color and fades away. The bulbs use their foliage to generate the energy they need for the next year's flowers. Once the foliage has died back the bulbs stay dormant under the ground until growth begins again the next spring.





*Eye
Candy*



Editor's Note: It is said that beauty is in the eye of the beholder but I think that most would agree this collection of pictures has captured beauty for the eye to behold. The sight of a butterfly on a beautiful blossom certainly attracts the eye as does the gorgeous hosta planting. Both of these photos are courtesy of Pinterest. The lovely daisy photo is one of Paula Bonnin's contributions to this collection of eye candy. Next is another photo from Pinterest with the eye appeal only a grouping of conifer and rock can produce. Next is "Uchida" a Turk's cap type lily (not sure where I found this one) and, lastly is "Strutter's Ball," a daylily I have in my yard.

Quick Gardening Tips:

1. An old apple corer makes a great dibbler for small bulbs such as muscari, crocus, etc.
2. A mixture of equal parts white vinegar, rubbing alcohol and water will remove the salt residue from encrusted pots and can also be used to clean dirty tools.
3. If you find weeding your fairy garden or terrariums difficult, try using a grapefruit knife. The sharp, curved blades make it easy to get into the small spaces in a container garden.
4. Store string inside an upside-down terracotta pot & pull the string through the drainage hole.
5. The large sized wooden handled butcher knives (if you can find them) make excellent diggers for working in the soil and digging.
6. You can make a quick tool to clear out the weeds from the crevices in your sidewalk or the spaces between the boards on your deck by screwing a hook on the end of an old broom handle and dragging the hook between the cracks.





To see a world in a grain
of sand and heaven in a
wild flower, Hold infinity in
the palm of your hand and
eternity in an hour.

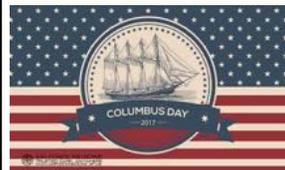
William Blake

Pictures by Carol Cox



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:
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