

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



February 2020



Pictures by Jo-Ann Clark

Joseph Malual Provides Overview On Agriculture and Food Systems In South Sudan.

On Monday, January 20th, Joseph Malual, Extension Educator (serving Eau Claire, Dunn, and Chippewa Counties) provided a very insightful overview, not only of agricultural and food system in his native South Sudan but also problems with food shortages globally. He noted that worldwide, one in nine people experience chronic hunger (821 million people worldwide) while one in four of the world's children are stunted because of hunger. By 2050 there will be nine billion people to feed so food production worldwide must be increased by some 50 percent. In addition, water demand will increase by 40% by the year 2030. Malual commented that in order to feed people we must stop the conflicts that are going on as war and political upheaval jeopardize people's livelihoods and ability to provide for their needs and those of their families.

Sudan received its independence from Great Britain in 1956. It is an area with 250 different ethnic groups but the Arabs became the group to rule the country. In 1978 oil was discovered which accelerated the violence and conflict. Initially Chevron was involved with the oil production, but this has been largely taken over by the Chinese who export most of the oil back to China. There is little care to protect the environment from the impact from the oil drilling and production and so chemicals are causing pollution and destroying the country. About 80 percent of the people are illiterate and poor and get little out of the oil production especially with all the conflict going on.



Eventually Sudan was split into North and South Sudan in July of 2011. South Sudan (which Joseph considers his "home" country although he has lived in both North Sudan and South Sudan) has 64 different ethnic groups and 60% of the population of South Sudan is Christian while the North is almost entirely Muslim. Joseph came to the United States in 1999. Sudan has been an area fraught with political turmoil and violence since 1955. Malual, as an eleven-year old in 2011, found himself displaced by the war and turmoil that was going on and ran away from it.

South Sudan has 80 percent of its land suitable for agriculture but only 4 percent is used presently for agriculture as the agricultural industry is not very well developed. They have four seasons somewhat like Wisconsin's (except without the snow) and one growing season. There is also the capacity, with their rivers, to develop irrigation although South Sudan gets a lot of rain and the country is, largely swampy. The staple foods grown in the area are sorghum, millet, cassava although different cultures or ethnic groups grow different things. Malual's comment was that they can grow almost anything one might imagine (plantain, corn, cabbage, sweet potatoes, etc.). Yet right now about 80 percent of the food they eat in South Sudan comes from elsewhere.



While animals are raised they are mainly used for milk production (and as pets) and not meat although this is starting to change. At five years of age Malual remembers attending cattle camp. Some tribes/ethnic groups hunt but when Joseph was growing up, he often might go six months without having meat in his diet.

Almost 80 percent of the agricultural labor is provided by the women. In addition, food and the eating of food provides (as it does probably to a lesser degree in this country) a format (continued on page 3)



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

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Note:

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

Eau Claire MGV Board for 2020.

Thanks to our Master Gardeners who are serving on the board for 2020. They are Paula Bonnin, Louise Roach, Nancy Spak; Jeannie Chromey and Chris Southworth (Co-Treasurers); Rita Gundry (Secretary); Andy Heren, (Vice President); and Ellen Terwilliger (President). Our role is to provide leadership and direction for our Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Association (ECAMGA). That includes providing Master Gardener (MG) education programs as well as a variety of MG volunteer activities. Thanks to all of you who signed up to work at our various MG projects. You'll be hearing from the project leaders during the next weeks. If you have suggestions for the board, please contact any of us. Our emails are in the newsletter (see above).

When you want to know what our Master Gardener Association has been up to and what we have coming up you can go to our website at: <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/>. Our website has our newsletters, events and board minutes available along with other information. Or you can go to our Facebook page at <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/>. The board is looking forward to seeing you at events and in the garden.



ECAMGVA 2020 Calendar

*All meetings at Extension
Office unless otherwise noted*

- February 1: Winter Garden Seminar**
- March 16: Bluebirds – Larry Liegel**
- April: TBA**
- May: TBA**
- May 31: Annual Plant Sale**
- June: TBA**
- July: TBA**
- August: TBA**
- September: TBA**
- October: TBA**
- November: TBA**
- December 16: Annual Holiday Party**

*A true leader is always led.
-Anonymous*

Message from the Past ECAMGAV Board President

I would like to welcome the new board members: Jeannie Chromey, Andy Heren and Louise White-Roach. Also, congratulations to the following officers who were elected at the last board meeting: Ellen Terwilliger – President; Andy Heren - Vice President; Rita Gundry – Secretary; and Jeanne Chromey and Chris Southworth who will serve as co-Treasurers. May they have a very successful year!

Thank you to the following outgoing officers who gave up so much of their time to serve on the MG board: Dick Lienhardt, Carla Pelzl, Ede Strand (editor’s note: and Mary Jane Griffin). May they enjoy the extra time that they have now to relax or to be involved with other activities.

Mary Jane Griffin
Past President



Photo by Paula Bonnin of one of the roses in bloom in her garden this past summer.



Events

South Sudan – continued from page 1... for socialization as well as nutrition. “No one eats by themselves.” Joseph indicated.

The land is owned by the tribe or ethnic group and a member can crop as much land as they want. Intercropping of a variety of crops is used to help control weeds and to ensure the fertility so no chemicals are used (Nitrogen fixing plants interplanted with other crops, etc.). South Sudan has tremendous potential for agricultural production if political stability could be achieved.

Joseph noted that the average age of the South Sudanese is relatively young with most of them having spent a lot of time fighting and their training and skills are those of the military and they are not interested in or trained to grow food and think . Also, the war and violence have caused almost half of the population to flee the country.

If you were not there you missed an interesting and informative evening. Treats were provided and door prizes awarded. Remember that there will not be a February ECAMGA meeting because of the February 1st Winter Garden Seminar being the educational event for the month.

Knowledge without wisdom is as dangerous as power without restraint.
-Chris Hedlund



Presents:

Cyndy Dalzell



**“From Birds
to Bees
to Butterflies:
How to
Attract
Pollinators
into our
Gardens”**



February 20, 2020 - 6:30 pm

Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center

Free and Open to the Public

With declining populations of healthy pollinators for our gardens and crops, we need to look at what pollinators we should attract and how to make our landscapes more appealing. You will learn how to integrate native plants and design your gardens to build natural and healthy habitats. Cyndy will show actual projects that she has designed in Bayfield and Madeline Island over the last few years and the healthy pollinator populations that flourish in these gardens.



*An EEO/AAE employer, University of Wisconsin Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed. Please do so as early as possible prior to the program or activity so that proper arrangements can be made. Requests are kept confidential.



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Seminar session choices include: "Confessions of a Hydrangea Hoarder;" "Rain Gardens, Buffer Plantings, Healthy Lakes;" "Start Your Own Seedlings – Seed Starting Basics;" Planning and Planting Small Native Gardens;" "Growing Giant Pumpkins;" "Edible Perennials;" "Pruning Primer;" "High Tunnel System;" "In the Garden with Kids;" "Introduction to Horticultural Therapy;" "Growing and Using Culinary Herbs;" "Learn How to Grow Microgreens Workshop" (this is a limited workshop with a \$5 fee to attend); "Ask a Master Gardener Panel;" and "Houseplant Propagation Workshop" (this is also a limited workshop with a \$10 fee beyond the registration fee).

COST: \$25 by February 5th (\$15 for HS and College students) - \$30 after February 6th. Two workshops are extra as noted above (with limited seating in them). For more information, a brochure and to register go to: <https://chippewa.uwex.edu/think-spring-garden-seminar/> or call 715-726-7950.

Spring Begins!

With the Dunn County Master Gardeners!

Saturday, March 7th, 2020, 9:00am-12:00pm

Dunn County Community Services Building
3001 U.S. Hwy 12 East, Menomonie WI 54751
Enter Basement Level Door on West Side of Building

Registration is \$8 until February 28th, \$10 thereafter or at the door. Fee includes materials, coffee break, snacks and door prizes.

For more information or to register, please contact the Extension Dunn County office at 715-232-1636 or online at <http://dunn.extension.wisc.edu>.



Beginner Maple Syrup Conference

Saturday, February 22, 2020

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Hurley K-12 School
5503 Rangeview Dr.
Hurley, WI 54534

Whether you're not sure how to identify a sugar maple tree or you've been tapping trees for years, this is an opportunity to pick up some new tips on producing your own maple syrup!

Lunch is provided. Registration is \$10 per participant, please have cash or check ready when you arrive. Youth 18 and under are free. Checks can be made payable to Extension Iron County.

Portions of this class may be conducted outdoors. Dress appropriately.

This is a joint program of University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension and Michigan State University Extension funded in part with a grant from the USDA Acer Access and Development Program.

For more information call 715-561-2695 or email darrin.kimble@wisc.edu or visit www.iron.extension.wisc.edu



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

**Snowshoe Hike for Elder Explorer
February 11, 2020 – 9:30 am to 11:30 pm**



Winter is not a time for staring out the window and wishing it were spring. Come join a Beaver Creek Naturalist for a snowshoe hike this winter! It's a great chance to explore the winter woods and get some exercise too! This program is targeted for our older, but active, nature lovers 55 and older. Participants should expect a moderately strenuous outing, over uneven terrain, with a one-mile hike. If walking is difficult for you or you have balance issues, you may want to pass on this offering. Wear your winter clothes and boots; snowshoes and instruction will be provided. If needed, snowshoe rental rates are \$3 per pair.

Cost: Members \$5.00; Non-members \$7.00

**You are invited to the
Sunday, February 9, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.
Northern Wisconsin Host Society Meeting
Mayo Clinic Health System Red Cedar
Facility - 2321 Stout Road
Menomonie, WI.**



Bob Solberg will be presenting on "Growing Hostas in Containers".. Bob comes to us from North Carolina where he is proprietor of Green Hill Farms. A much sought-after speaker, author, and hybridizer, Bob's presentations are always a treat to attend! Link to his website at <https://www.hostahosta.com/index.html>. The event is free. Please enter at outdoor stairs/ramp at north side loading dock where there is plenty of parking right there as well.



CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Saturday, February 1, 2020 – Indoor Winter

Farmers Market: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.: the first Saturday of the month, November thru March, DTE will host local farmers, selling everything from honey to beef to pickles to pork! Veggies to fish to fruit to cheese! Come stroll through the farmers' booths and enjoy the sights, sounds and scents of the greenhouse at Down to Earth.

Saturday, February 8, and Saturday February 29th, 2020 – Succulent Planter Workshop: 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.:

Our greenhouse pros will guide you in the selection and planting of everyone's favorite plants – succulents! Create something beautiful that is easy to care for!

Class is FREE – pay only for what you purchase

Thursday, February 20, 2020 – Kokedama

Workshop: 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.: Make your own Kokedama Moss Ball! SUCH a cool way to garden! Kokedama originates from traditional Japanese garden art and consists of wrapping an ornamental plant's roots with moss, forming a ball. You will be able to select your own houseplant and we'll have a special kokedama soil mix and sheet moss for you to create your own unique planter.

Class cost: \$19.99

Saturday, February 22, 2020 – Hanging Basket

Workshops 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. AND 2:00 p.m. –

3:00 p.m.: Break away from winter and come plant your very own custom hanging basket in the greenhouse! You will be planting baby plants, then DTE will care for your baskets until they are ready to go outside. You'll be able to pick up your baskets in May to take home and enjoy, and you're as they grow!

COST: \$50.00 includes everything you need!

Register now for one of these workshops at <https://downtoearthgardencenter.com/events-calendar.html>.

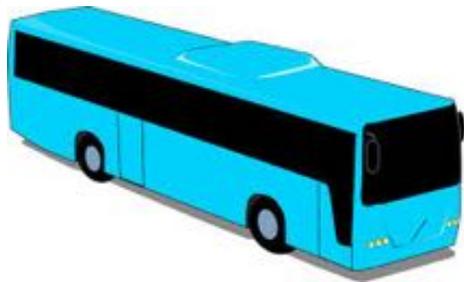
Down To Earth Garden Center

6025 Arndt Ln

Eau Claire, WI 54701

715-833-1234

www.downtoearthgardencenter.com



Join

**The Eau Claire Garden Club
Friday, February 7th, 2020**

For a fun day at the
PBS

Wisconsin Garden and Landscape Expo
Alliant Energy Center
Madison, WI



Event includes:
44 free seminars
Demonstrations

lots of shopping of garden related items.

See seminar schedule here:



www.wigardenexpo.com

Attendees will meet at the Target parking lot in Eau Claire at 8:00 a.m. **The bus will leave at 8:15 a.m. promptly** with a planned return time of 10:30 p.m. Please bring your own snacks and water for this trip.

COST: \$30 for members; \$50 for non-members - which includes the bus, driver tip, ticket to the Expo from 12 pm to 7 pm. Lunch is on your own at the Garden Bistro in the Atrium of the Alliant Energy Center or at various food vendors around the Center. Will stop at a fast food place on the way back to Eau Claire, where dinner is on your own.*

Sign up and pay for this tour on our website <http://eauclairegardenclub.com> (click on "Events") or by sending a check made out to Eau Claire Garden Club to Susan Girnau, 1703 Vine Street. Eau Claire, WI 54703. Be sure to include your phone number.

Checks must be received by February 4, 2020.



Great Horned Owl

With its long, earlike tufts, intimidating yellow-eyed stare, and deep hooting voice, **the Great Horned Owl** (*Bubo virginianus*) is the quintessential owl of storybooks. Also known as the tiger owl or the hoot owl, it is a large owl weighing about 3.2 pounds with a length of 18-25 inches and a wingspan of approximately 4.6 feet. native to the Americas. It is an extremely adaptable bird with a vast range and is the most widely distributed true owl in the Americas.

These are large, thick-bodied owls with two prominent feathered tufts on the head. The wings are broad and rounded. In flight, the rounded head and short bill combine to create a blunt-headed silhouette. Usually a mottled gray brown, with reddish brown faces and a neat white patch on the throat their overall color tone varies regionally from sooty to pale. Their call is a deep, stuttering series of four to five hoots.

In addition, they are nocturnal and hunt small mammals like mice, rabbits, squirrels and skunks. It also eats birds like ducks and quail. It eats small prey whole, larger prey it rips up into smaller pieces that it can swallow. Look for this widespread owl in woods, particularly young woods interspersed with fields or other open areas.



Bits & Pieces



The Quest

By Judy Mitchell

Evergreens are a very important asset to the winter landscape. That makes February an excellent time of year to study Learning Store publications on evergreen needle health. Start with UWEX Lawn & Garden Publication A2614, Evergreen Condition: Seasonal Needle Drop (available at <https://learningstore.uwex.edu/>).

Seasonal Needle Drop is a natural process resulting in evergreens shedding older needles on a regular basis in late summer or early fall. All evergreens shed older needles throughout the tree, but the pattern varies by species. The pattern for each of the evergreen species typically grown in Wisconsin is described in this publication.

If you observe needle discoloration and/or needle drop that does not follow the seasonal drop pattern for your evergreen, it may be due to mites or needle miners. It may also be due to one of several needle diseases which are described in separate Learning Store Publications:

Publication 2640, Colorado Blue Spruce and other conifers disorder: Rhizosphaera needle cast;

Publication A2608, Pine Needle Diseases: Brown Spot and Lophodermium Needlecast; and

Publication A2620, Pine Disorder: Dothistroma needle blight, a disease more common and serious in neighboring states.

These are all short and informative publications. Read them now and get in the habit of observing the needles of your valued evergreens. Note the type of evergreen and observe the time of year needles turn yellow, any needle markings, and how the symptoms progress throughout the tree. A disease will spread from the site of the infection, often the limbs nearest the ground.

With luck, you will find that your evergreens are simply engaging in Seasonal Needle Drop. You may also be better prepared to assist others who are concerned about yellow needles on their trees.



- Not just pines are evergreens. Evergreen trees are trees that keep their leaves year-round. This includes palms.
- Evergreen trees live on every continent except Antarctica.
- Regions that lack a dry season have broad-leaf evergreen forests.
- The majority of tropical plants (not all tree forms) are evergreens. Rainforest evergreens need constant warm temperatures to survive.
- Many evergreen trees are used for Christmas trees – about 1 million acres of the U.S. is covered in farmed Christmas trees.





The Song of the Bee by Marian Douglas

Buzz! Buzz! Buzz!
This is the song of the bee.
His legs are of yellow:
A jolly, good fellow,
And yet a great worker is he.



In days that are sunny
He's getting his honey;
In days that are cloudy
He's making his wax;
On pinks and on lilies,
And gay daffodillies,
And columbine blossoms,
He levies a tax!



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



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