

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



March 2023

Seed Planting OUTSIDE in February??? Really?

by Ellen Terwilliger (photos by Ellen Terwilliger and Sue Waits)

Okay, it's minus four degrees and the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteers (ECAMGVs) just planted all kinds of seeds that are now sitting outside. No kidding! Here's what we did:

- Gardeners saved milk jugs, punched holes in the bottom and cut around the middle
- We labeled with permanent marker on the inside and outside what we planted



- Put 4 inches of moistened potting soil in the bottom and planted the numerous seeds of one variety
- Duct taped the jug back together



- Took them home and stuck them in the snow.



Later this spring we will repot them in 4-inch pots and sell them at our May 21st Plant Sale at the L.E. Phillips Senior Center in downtown Eau Claire. Materials will be provided so we ask you to register online on the website <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/events#!event-list> or by calling Andy Heren at 715-839-4712. Registration is limited to 25.

For participation in future ECAMGV events go to <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/events...>



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 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
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Judy Mitchell	jmitchell@pobox.com	

Note:

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



Photo by _____

Meet Master Gardener ... Tracy Hirsch

I'm Tracy Hirsch. I've been gardening about 35 years and became a Master Gardener in late 2014 after moving back to Eau Claire in 2013.

I grew up in Chippewa Falls where my parents had a huge vegetable garden and some fruit bearing shrubs, attended UW-EC, and then spent the following 10 years living on the East Coast before returning to Wisconsin in 2005. I went to

school for an associate's in horticulture in Virginia and was a member of the Fox Point Garden Club which is where I heard about Master Gardeners.

I primarily volunteer at the North Riverfront Children's Garden, watering and helping with maintenance. I started helping with teaching there last summer. I'm more of a behind the scenes volunteer but teaching the kids from The Boys and Girls Club is interesting too.

I have made some fun connections in the community though my involvement with the Master Gardener program and plan to continue until I just can't anymore.

"A person who feels appreciated will always do more than expected."
-anonymous



ECAMGVA

2023 Calendar

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

March 11: Mushrooms 101, Spring Edibles – L.E. Phillips Library – invite from the EC Garden Club

March 20: Workshop on seed starting and propagating plants.

March 28: Volunteer Launch

April 17: Growing citrus in Wisconsin

April 20: ECAMGVA booth at Earth Week Open House, Brewing Project

May 21: Plant Sale

June 3: Alternatives to Lawns tour (to be hosted by the Sierra Club)

June 5: Honeybee's Role as Pollinators

July 17: Rural Garden Tour

August: TBA

September: TBA

October 7: Photo Contest deadline

October: TBA

November: TBA

December: Annual Holiday Party and meeting

What's Happening with your Association? by Ellen Terwilliger, President

Thanks to those who participated in our listening sessions and who sent in e-mail responses about future involvement with our neighboring counties and concerns with what is happening at the state level. The below comments come from those sessions, and a WIMGA Association Presidents meeting.

Why is Master Gardener Membership declining?

Changes in the State Master Gardener program and a lack of technical support have made compliance, volunteering and reporting of hours more difficult. The State is not facilitating introduction of new members to our association. Our in-person educational meetings, tours and public outreach had to be curtailed during the pandemic and members became less engaged.

How would you feel about working more closely with Dunn and Chippewa Master Gardeners?

There are many questions that would have to be answered, such as how our organization would change and how and where meetings would be conducted but the idea should be explored. The benefits of working together might include a joint annual seminar, more educational events and tours, fewer resources spent on administration, and more resources going to public projects, education and outreach. A tri-county meeting with board leaders will be held in March.

What is happening around the state with other associations?

- Almost all associations have lost membership in the past year. Amounts varied from 20% to 70% loss of their membership.
- County associations are making adjustments in their membership categories to try to retain membership. They are including Alumni, Friends and then MGVs who meet all the requirements. They are required to pay dues. A few counties only have current MGVs.
- WIMGA will be a liaison with the State MGV office and further meetings will be held.

There is a lot of local education and tours are planned throughout the year. Please check the newsletter calendar and our website events page. Some events will ask you to register. <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/>

Plant sale plans are progressing. Keep Sunday, May 21st open to help.

Plan to attend a Community Earth Week Event at the Brewing Project on April 20th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. We'll be having a seed starting activity for the public to participate in.



Photo by Renew Wisconsin

Volunteer Launch Meeting



Wondering where to get your volunteer hours this year, or just looking for something garden related and fun to do with your friends? Come to our Volunteer Launch meeting on March 28, from 5-6:30 pm, at the Extension Office in Altoona. Project leaders will be available to share information about their projects and to answer your questions.

Check out our new option to register for our upcoming events on our website. Go to [eauclaireareamastergardener.org](https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/) and click on the Events tab.

Have an idea for a project but you're not sure where to start? Come talk to other MGV's who've done it.

Exciting news!

You can now register to attend our events on our website. Go to [eauclaireareamastergardener.org](https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/), and click on the Events tab to see the list of upcoming events.

Uncomfortable with this? No problem! Please come anyway. But knowing how many attendees to expect at an event will allow our event planners to be better prepared, so please give it a try!



Talk to repeat. Listen to learn!
-Anonymous



Events

WIMGA Educational Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Mar 6	6 pm	Wisconsin Spring Wildflowers	online event
Mar 8	6 pm	Spongy Moths: What to Expect	online event
Mar 13	6 pm	Tree Pruning and Tree Planting	online event
Mar 18	8:30 am – 3:15 pm	Spring into Gardening 2023 Conf.	The Kemper Center/Kenosha
Mar 18	10 am	Beyond Birdfeeders: How to be a bird friendly gardener all year round.	Community Engagement Ctr Whitewater



For more information and to register go to: <https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/events/>



Growing Citrus in Wisconsin

April 17, 2023

5 – 7 pm CDT

UW-Extension Office

227 First St. West, Altoona, WI

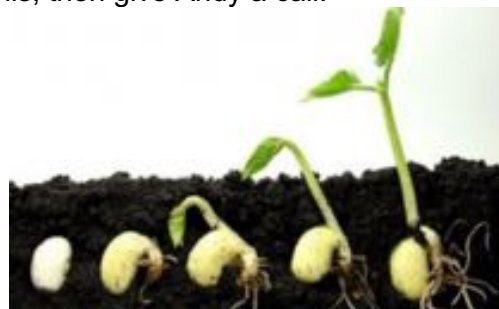
Master Gardeners and the Public are invited to attend this presentation by Ellen Terwilliger. If interested in attending, go to <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org> and select the events page to register (it gives an estimate on how many to prepare for), otherwise just come.

SEED STARTING & PLANT PROPAGATION

March 20, 2023

Here is a chance to grow your own plants from seeds. Learn the basics and then get your hands in some potting soil. Materials provided. Andy Heren will kick off the meeting at 5 pm with a short presentation and then we will get to work. Materials will be provided so registration is required. To register, contact Andy Heren at rcktnut007@aol.com.

Registration limited to 25 so if you haven't signed up and want to be a part of this, then give Andy a call.



MUSHROOMS 101/SPRING EDIBLES

Saturday, March 11
Riverview Room

L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library
400 Eau Claire Street, Eau Claire

MUSHROOMS 101

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

New to mushroom foraging? Learn about the “three rules-plus one” and the safe six: morels, shaggy manes, hen of the woods, chicken mushrooms, oyster mushrooms, and giant puffballs. Topics include tree identification, ethics, safety, storage, and preparation. Poisonous mushrooms will also be discussed.

No registration required.

SPRING EDIBLES

1-4 p.m.

Find out how to identify and prepare wild morel mushrooms. Learn all forms of true and false morels, as well as how to prepare them for the table. Oyster mushrooms and pheasant’s back mushrooms will also be discussed along with several edible spring plants. The program will focus on safety and ethical mushroom harvest.

No registration required.



About the Presenter

Tavis Lynch is a mushroom enthusiast and a 35-year veteran of mushroom cultivation and identification in northwest Wisconsin. He is also a mycology instructor for 22 schools in the Upper Midwest. Tavis is the author of *Mushroom Cultivation* and co-author of *The Beginner's Guide to Mushrooms*. He is active with the Wisconsin Mycological Society, and is the founder of the Northwestern Wisconsin Myco Enthusiasts Club, as well as an active contributor to everything mushroom-related in the Midwest.

For more information, call 715-839-5004
or email librarian@eauclaire.lib.wi.us, or
visit www.ecpubliclibrary.info

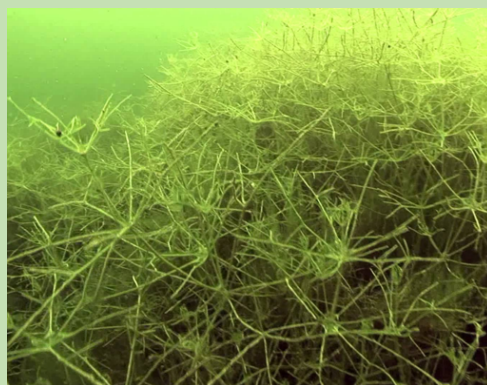


L.E. Phillips Memorial
Public Library



Co-sponsored
by the
Eau Claire
Garden Club.

“A person who feels appreciated will always do more than expected.” -anonymous



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

Invaders in 15: Starry Stonewort
March 15, 2023 – 9:00 A.M. to 9:25 A.M.
This is a Virtual/Zoom type of program
(A program link will be sent to the registrant's email address prior to the start of the program)

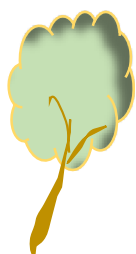
Join us for this flash webinar series on invasive species! The Invaders in 15 webinars will spotlight one local invasive species in a flash presentation that includes the history, biology, and ecological impact of the featured species. This month's feature is a macro-algae that can turn a healthy benthic zone into a monoculture meadow.

Date to register & pay by Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 4:00 pm - **Cost: FREE!**

CONTACT E-MAIL: bcr@Beavercreekreserve.org



Bits and Pieces



THE QUEST

By Judy Mitchell

This is the final Quest article of the season. If you have been following along, you've read up on houseplant care, lawn care, and landscaping for butterflies and beneficial insects. Today, let's review an article on woody plants: Summer Flowering Trees, Shrubs & Vines, available on the UW Horticulture website at <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/summer-flowering-trees-shrubs-and-vines/>.

The author suggests that most gardeners think of woody plants as flowering in Spring. I guess I'm one of those. What comes to mind when I think of blooming shrubs are my showy lilac, serviceberry and viburnum shrubs. They bloom in the Spring and so do my apple trees. What surprised me about this article? How many shrubs and trees in my yard are on the author's summer blooming plant list.

I have two pagoda dogwood trees, a catalpa tree, and dogwood, bush honeysuckle and elderberry shrubs. All on the summer list. I guess I should pay better attention to their bloom times. Also on the summer list are lots of shrubs and vines that I don't have in my yard. Very interesting. I'd love to have more summer blooming woody plants. I have plenty of space and she's given me many plants to research and consider.

Even if you have a small yard, there are plants on the summer list that might suit you. I had an amur maackia tree and a pagoda dogwood in the small yard of my previous home. They suited the space nicely. I also had a tamarisk that would have worked out better if I hadn't planted it too close to the garage. It's a good idea to measure before planting a woody plant!

Now is a great time to look around your late winter yard and find a place for one of the lovely summer blooming woody plants on the author's list.



What is No Mow May?

by Sue Waits

Lawns have been a part of the landscape for a long time and provide the perfect place to run, kick a ball, accommodate pets or border a flower garden. The big question is how much lawn is necessary and to what standard.

The objectives of the voluntary No Mow May campaign are not to ban mowing in

May but to challenge property owners to rethink how much lawn is necessary and to provide wider habitat for pollinators throughout the growing season. Many bees, butterflies and moths are in decline and their losses threaten Wisconsin wildflowers, ecosystems, agricultural crops and natural areas, which depend upon them.

The traditional monoculture lawn lacks floral resources or nesting sites for bees and is often treated with large amounts of chemicals that harm bees and other invertebrates. When we think of habitat loss, we tend to imagine bulldozers and felled trees, but acres of manicured lawn are as much a loss of habitat as any development site. Re-thinking the American lawn can take a variety of forms from reducing mowing frequency or area mown to permanently converting lawn to a more diverse and natural landscape. Lawns require regular mowing, watering, and fertilizing thus making them very resource intensive. In addition, turf grass is devoid of the flowering plants needed to support pollinators. In the month of May when flowers are not yet blooming, native pollinators are beginning to emerge and require food to sustain them. The idea with No Mow May is to designate a portion of the lawn as a pollinator habitat and not mow or apply pesticides or fertilizer in order to allow common flowering plants like dandelion, clover, creeping Charlie, and violet, to provide food for pollinators when many other flowers are not yet blooming. This is especially important in urban landscapes that do not border open land. At least one study has shown that unmown yards in the city have a fivefold increase in the number of bees present.

No Mow May is not over come June 1; it is just the beginning. The long-term goal of No Mow May is to permanently dedicate a portion of the lawn to pollinator friendly plants. A lawn intermixed with native plants requires less mowing, less watering and fewer chemicals, and can provide long term habitat for pollinators.

To learn more about how to adapt your property to be less resource intensive and more pollinator friendly, check out the following community events:

May 13 - Native Plant sale hosted by Beaver Creek Reserve

May 21 - Plant Sale hosted by Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners

May (TBA)- Library Talk by entomologist on Co-evolution of Native Plants and Pollinators

June 3 - Alternative Lawn Tour hosted by Sierra Club

July 22 - Gardens in Bloom Tour hosted by Eau Claire Garden Club



REMEMBER...the annual plant sale!

On May 21 in the a.m. at the Senior Center, it is our biggest fund raiser of the year. Also, Louise and her committee are in need of a whole a bunch of volunteers to make this the best sale yet! So, plan what you can divide out of your gardens come spring and/or what seeds you might be able to start (or houseplants you might divide), etc. for the sale. Also, let Louise know that you will be available to help by emailing her at white1roach@gmail.com or call her at 715-831-3352.



Above and below, as well as the picture above the article are some ways that "No Mow May" can look in our yards.



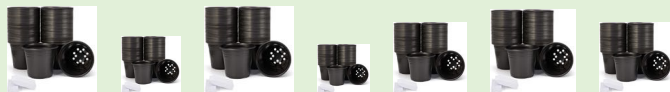
Pictures provided by Sue Wait.

***"We stand tallest when we stoop to help others."
-anonymous***



Hey, Master Gardeners!

Do you have some used plastic pots stuck away in the corner of your garage or “she-shed”? If so, and if you want to make room for your car again, we can use them for our plant sale! Bring them to the next couple of meetings at the Extension office, or drop them off at Ellen Terwilliger’s house, as we’ll be digging there this spring. Questions? Contact Louise Roach at white1roach@gmail.com



Can't wait!

Can't wait!
Soon tulips will bloom!
Daffodils and crocus,
Will fill the air with the
Perfume of springtime.
Birds and bees and
All things green will
Be seen in my garden!

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



March 12

For more Eau Claire County UW Cooperative Extension information go to our website:

www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/eauc Claire

Phone: 715-839-4712

Fax: 715-839-6277

M-F 8AM-5PM



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