

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News

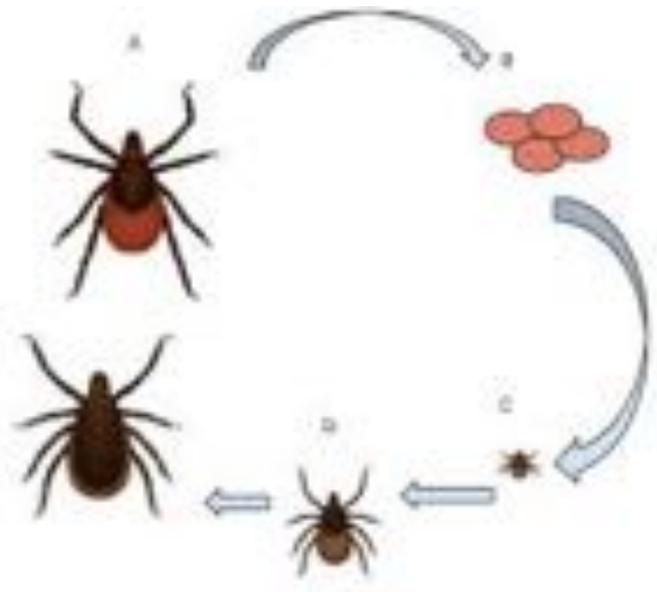


May 2020

Tick, Tick, Tock? by Carol Cox

Well, not quite. It is more like all about ticks – deer ticks, dog ticks, any old tick that might bite us while in the garden and cause us some rather serious health problems. For those who did not tune in to the presentation entitled “Wisconsin Ticks: Tick Biology, Diseases, and Personal Protection,” you missed an informative presentation on a subject that we, as active gardeners, definitely need to be aware of for our own protection.

First off, viewers learned that ticks are not, technically, insects but are, rather, related to spiders and in the Arthropoda: Arachnida category. They have 8 legs and hard, flat bodies. They also do not climb high in trees or fly, nor do they jump down from trees onto people. In fact, they are not particularly mobile and don't crawl a whole lot nor jump. They do, however crawl onto low growing vegetation and remain fairly close to the ground because they are highly subject to desiccation and so need to be able to get down to the ground where they can rehydrate during the day.



While Wisconsin has about 20 tick species most of these are highly specialized and have specific hosts and are not particularly of interest to humans (other than how they might affect our pets). The tick species that cause humans problems are the American Dog Tick (also known as the Wood Tick), the Lone Star Tick and the Deer Tick.

The American Dog Tick (Wood tick), while prevalent, has no major disease issues associated with it in Wisconsin. As to the Lone Star Tick, while there are some health concerns (such as developing an allergic reaction to red meat) they are rare in Wisconsin being found, largely in the South. That leaves the Deer Tick which is associated with Lyme Disease, Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, and the Powassan Virus among others.

While we generally think of tick activity as happening during the warmer months, that is not the case. Ticks in Wisconsin can be active anytime the temperatures are above freezing, and the snow cover disappears. That means that tick activity can even occur during a January thaw.

How do we, as gardeners, then protect ourselves as we are out in areas that may be prone to tick infestation? One of the ways would be through landscape management. Ticks need moisture and thick vegetative areas in order to thrive, so we lower the threat by maintaining “open” areas by removing invasive shrubs and thick vegetation and by maintaining turfgrass areas and using mulch. In addition, how we dress when we go outdoors to garden can provide protection. Wearing long sleeved shirts and pants that are tucked into our socks or boots go a long way to avoiding ticks.

(continued on page 7)



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!!!

ECAMGA Board

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Note:

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



Victory Gardening COVID19 Style

by Andrew Werthmann

Victory gardening COVID19 style! So many folks are planning to grow fresh healthy vegetables this summer and if you are interested in joining Eau Claire's community gardens please sign up now! We are implementing Social Distancing measures, bringing our own tools and gloves, and other safety measures are being followed.

Eau Claire offers over 200 rental plots across 5 gardens citywide. It's very affordable to rent, usually \$35 for the entire season for a 20x20 plot. \$60 for a double plot. To join the Forest Street Community Garden go to: https://eauclairecommunitygardens.com/.../paypal_membership_h... To join one of the other community gardens go to: <https://eauclairecommunitygardens.com/index.html>

ALSO – St. Joseph's Community Garden in Chippewa Falls has plots:

Pots are still being available at the St. Joseph's Community Garden in Chippewa Falls. The plots are spaced 6 feet or more apart so social distancing can be maintained. The garden has a deer fence, garden shed, tilled plots and inground irrigation system (woohoo)! For more information contact Cathy at cathylombard@hotmail.com. Spaces are also available at the Chippewa Falls Community Garden at Marshall Park. Plots are also well spaced and there is a deer fence and available water. Contact Heather at hclubs@co.chippewa.wi.us if interested.



ECAMGVA 2020 Calendar

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

- May 20: Via Zoom – "My Spring Gardening During COVID19"**
- June: TBA**
- July: TBA**
- August: TBA**
- September: TBA**
- October: TBA**
- November: TBA**
- December 16: Annual Holiday Party**

To keep up to date on the latest guidance from UW Extension relative to the COVID19 situation go to:
<https://wimastergardener.org/2020/03/20/halt-to-master-gardener-program-volunteer-activities-2/>

Gardening in the Spring of 2020 by Ellen Terwilliger

During my years of working at Mayo one of my responsibilities was to manage the Emergency Management Plan. I was known as the “Disaster Queen”. I coordinated disaster drills where we planned for events like a pandemic. Back then I would dream of having a spring where I could do nothing but garden. Well, that dream has pretty much come true - but at a great cost to the world. I am thankful for my gardens, though - they have been a source of solace and comfort the past weeks and months. Before the snow was gone I started pruning fruit trees and shrubs and raking the grass. It gave me a sense that there was still some order in the world. As we got some warm days I started doing some weeding. Smelling soil was just as good as baked bread. Before long I could see the first snow drops literally poking through the surrounding snow and a sense of hope grew. Each day I would see something new; the daffodils and tulips poking through - fiddlehead ferns appearing. I am constantly reminded of the promise nature provides us.



Picture by Ellen Terwilliger

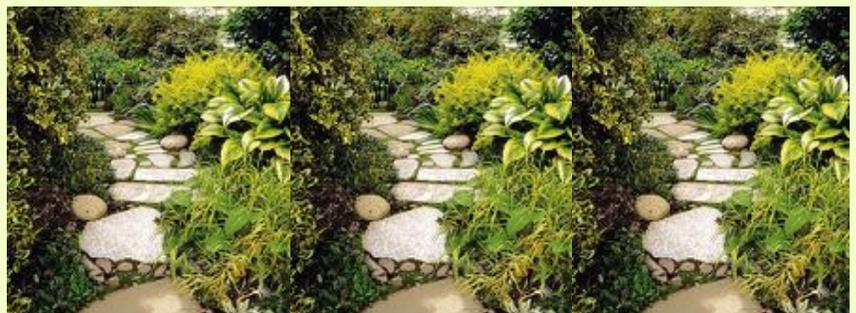
Working out in my front gardens, I would watch young families out for a walk. Friends and neighbors would walk by and we would chat from a distance. My sense of isolation lessened. Some neighbors who had built their house not too long ago were starting a garden, so I dug up plants for them and left them for them to pick up. Prairie Ridge Preschool was looking for raspberry and strawberry plants, so I dropped some off a couple of days ago wearing my mask.

The garden community is hard to keep down.

This year the sense of urgency to get ready for plant sales or to work with children at Lakeshore, is gone. I miss those events but in return I find myself sitting on my bench in the afternoon with my neighbor's cat, Nala, on my lap. I watch how the spirea catch the light and feel the sun on my face. I hear the Sandhill cranes up on Mt. Washington and I smell the pines in my yard. I think about some small modest projects I can do with materials and plants I have on hand. It is a fun challenge to build a raised bed using available materials. Each day I walk around the yard to find out what is blooming or poking through. The first star magnolia blossoms opened up today while my crocuses are finishing their time of bloom.

Gardening is keeping me sane (or as sane as I get), it continues to provide joy and to inspire. We'll meet again is what I say to my plants in the fall when the snow covers them up. We'll meet again my fellow Master Gardeners.

**“The glory of gardening:
Hands in the dirt, head in the
sun, heart with nature. To
nurture a garden is to feed not
just the body, but the soul.”
-Alfred Austin**





Events

Continuing Education May 20, 2020 via Zoom for Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners!

What an unusual spring we are having - not only the weather, but Covid19. Your Eau Claire area board has been meeting online using Zoom. And now we are inviting you to meet online for an hour of continuing education on: May 20th, 2020 at 7 p.m. utilizing the Zoom conferencing technology. We are calling it "My Spring Gardening During Covid19."

All Eau Claire Master Gardeners will have received a Zoom invitation by email from Ellen Terwilliger. Just accept the invitation if you want to attend. If you want to share what you are doing in your own garden please email Ellen at terwilset@gmail.com 1 - 4 photos of what is happening in your yard this spring - what's blooming, new projects or plantings that you are trying out. Please send photos with a brief description by May 12. Or you can just listen in too."

I will send everyone who replies instructions before May 20th with what you need to do. It is easy to use.

Hoping a number of us can connect online.

ECAMGAV Board





Bits & Pieces



Tallgrass Prairies of the Midwest by Nina Logan

Little remains of the tallgrass prairies of the past that blanketed America from the Rocky Mountains to eastern Illinois and from the Gulf of Mexico to Canada. They extended from western Wisconsin down through Iowa, Missouri and Illinois.

Tallgrass prairies began to expand after the glaciers receded. The warmer climate promoted growth of grasslands as woodlands retreated because of heat and drought. In our area, in Eau Claire County, one can see the line of demarcation as you travel North only a few miles. South of us are grasslands and suitable farmland whereas North of us begin the woodlands or what we now call the “North

Woods”.

Prairies developed and maintained their hold on the land in spite of the grazing of buffalo and deer. As the grasses were continually being nipped off by large animals, they began to develop tissues near the base of the plant below grazing levels. During drought, these plants were able to reach moisture by their long root system which took up water from deep in the soil.

Humans have been a part of the environment for thousands of years. Prairies have been home and hunting grounds for Native Americans who depended on it and cared for it accordingly. Fire was used to improve travel, hunting and to stimulate new growth for forage for game.

Through agricultural mismanagement and over grazing, prairies have been reduced to small isolated areas today. Water which was once held by deep rooted prairie plants now flows freely over the soil's surface causing flooding of rivers and streams. Winds race over the prairies reducing the unprotected topsoil and leaving sandy nonproductive soil behind to be replaced by bushy thickets and non-native weeds.

Nowhere on the planet was there a grassland complex like that of the American midwestern tallgrass prairies. Those examples of our rich, diverse and scenic prairies must be maintained or they will be forever lost. With them will go an irreplaceable facet of the American landscape. Just as human involvement has reduced the prairies, now human involvement must begin to protect those few remaining areas. Accomplishing that will require direct management, stewardship and restoration of grasslands.,

Prairies are few and small compared to the prairies of the past. many of these sites can be viewed by the public. One must remember however, to treat these areas with the respect they deserve. Take photos, feel the wind, walk the trails but never dig or collect plants or damage the area. A number of groups such as the Nature Conservancy, the Prairie Enthusiasts and the Department of Natural Resources are working to conserve and manage prairies to ensure their survival for future generations.

“If a garden is to be a world unto itself, it had better make room for the darker shades of feeling as well as the sunny ones.”

-William Kent





Smile because she Lived

You can shed tears that she is gone,
 or you can smile because she lived,
 You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back,
 or you can open your eyes and see all that she has left.
 Your heart can be empty because you can't see her,
 or you can be full of the love that you shared,
 You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,
 or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.
 You can remember her and only that she is gone,
 or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.
 You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn back,
 or you can do what she would want:
 Smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

-Unknown

Long time Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteer (ECAMGV), Cindy Ferver passed away peacefully on April 25, 2020 after some time in Hospice care. Ferver, survived by her husband, J.J. Godsill, was an active member of the ECAMGV Association actively involved in the annual plant sale and the winter garden seminar as well as being one of the ladies who made the quilts that were raffled off each year at the Winter Garden Seminar held each February. Cindy was also the go-to person, along with her husband, for the tech help each year at the Winter Garden Seminar. She also enjoyed doing yoga and knitting, sewing and reading as well as laughing with friends.

Her smiling face, helpful attitude and enthusiasm will be greatly missed. Funeral/memorial service plans have not been announced. Cards and condolences can be sent to her husband and family at 547 McDonough St., Eau Claire, WI 54703.

Forest Street Shared Garden



The Forest Street Shared Garden is one of the many community gardens in Eau Claire but it is quite unique. Located along the Chippewa River North of the Farmers Market it is about a half-acre garden shared by around twenty five members. That means all members have a part in planning, planting, weeding and harvesting. Everyone pays annual dues and can take part in monthly potlucks and meetings. Although that has changed with COVID19 so we've had several Zoom meetings and no more potlucks for now!

The garden was started ten years ago using organic methods and has been amended every year with plenty of compost and mulch so the soil is very fertile and has no need for tilling. The result, of course, is an abundance of produce! At the end of our work days we take home what we want and our extra produce goes to the Community Table (last year we donated over 1000 pounds – see picture above and to the left).

What a great way to have food security and enjoy fresh air and exercise at the same time!

We still have room for a few more members and if anyone is interested please check out our website at eauclairecommunitygardens.com and look for Forest St shared garden We are also on Facebook.



Pictures for article by Mari Jackson

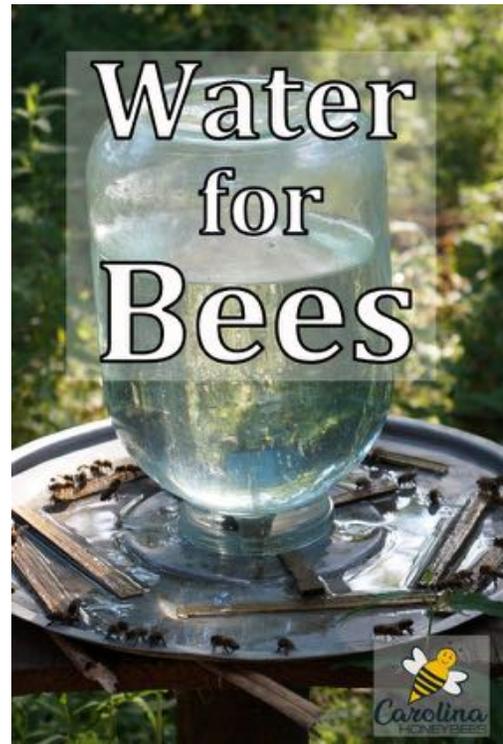


At left - fairy gardens come in all kinds of different containers and designs. This one, on Pinterest was created in an elevated container. To see more fairy garden ideas go to:

<https://rengusuk.com/2019/07/26/40-magical-fairy-garden-idea-just-for-you/>

Below is an idea, via Pinterest, of how to provide water for bees. For more go to:

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/543317142549015379/>



Tick, Tick, Tock, continued from page 1...

In addition, wearing lighter colored clothing will make tick detection easier. There are also many repellent products on the market (use those that are EPA-registered repellents) that will help protect us. Having a tick prevention program for our companion pets will also help protect the human owners. Another very important thing to do to help protect from tick bites would be to do a tick check whenever we come in from our gardening activities or from walks out in areas where we are in or near areas with high vegetation. Lastly, there are also some pesticide applications for use on our yards that can be used to eliminate the ticks from our yards.

In the hour time frame of the presentation there was a plethora of great information (Including resources for more information and help. These include:

- a site for testing for tick bites at TickEncounter.org.
- checking out EPA registered repellants at <https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-repellent-right-you>.
- info for the pet owner on tick control, etc. at bit.ly/PetsAndTicks and <http://www.thetickapp.org/midwest/pets>.
- for the pdf with the slides from the presentation on Ticks go to: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/11un8zviNX78NC-nCzMbmJlbifzZ8Dbml/view?usp=sharing>





Editor's note: Pinterest is one of my favorite places to look for ideas. At left is an interesting idea to expedite watering throughout our garden area.

And then there is cute – How about using some of those old, unused, hanging basket forms to create really cute turtles for your yard. Perhaps they could even be planted with sedums if soil could be confined inside to allow for planting.



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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