

# Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News

August 2020



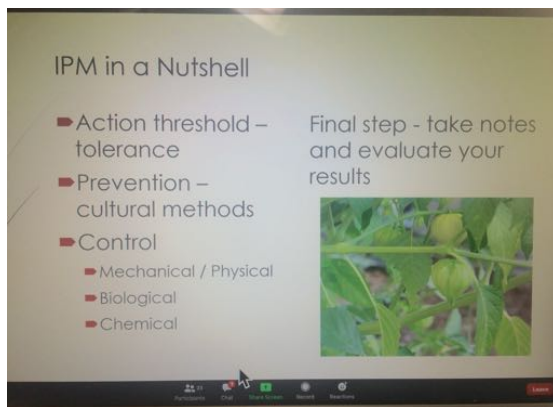
## ***So, What's Bugging You?*** by Carol Cox

On Monday, July 20, 2020, all the Master Gardeners got in their cars NOT! We all rushed into our computers and signed into the monthly educational meeting presentation via Zoom. The presentation was on "Garden Pests" and given by Margaret Murphy, the UW-Extension Horticulture Outreach Specialist. The first line of defense against these garden pests, as per Margaret, is good observation of what is going on in your garden. We need to look under the leaves and look around the plants to see what is going on and then decide what the problem is.

Margaret also talked about "Integrated Pest Management" which is not really one specific action or single pest control method but an integrated approach to managing pests that uses current information on life cycles of pests and their interaction with their environment. It also emphasizes using the least interaction needed in order to control the problem.

First it is necessary to monitor what is going on and to identify the pest. Then, learn about that pest and determine what your tolerance level is. Can you put up with a few leaves getting chewed? Maybe if the infestation is light you do not need to do anything as long as you can live with minor damage. If there is a heavy infestation, then you might need to take action.

In any case, prevention is the first method of controlling pests. Keep water off of leaves. Stake the plants as necessary and allow adequate air flow by using proper spacing for the plants. Site plants appropriately to their needs, keep your soil healthy and select disease resistant cultivars, etc.

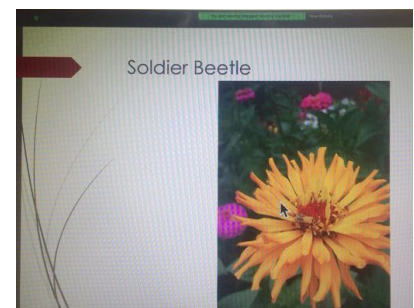


Murphy then went on to cover a number of garden pests illustrating what they look like and the damage caused as well as control practices to take. The pests discussed covered everything from the Colorado Potato Beetle to the Squash Vine Borer, slugs, earwigs and a lot more besides.

She also discussed some of the other problems encountered in the garden such as Blossom End Rot (which happens on the first flush of fruiting), powdery mildew and the like.

While the treats and door prizes were really less than spectacular (LOL) it was an interesting and informative presentation and attendees were able to ask questions and add comments as Margaret's talk progressed. She also provided some resources for gardeners. The first is the link for the Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic at <https://pddc.wisc.edu/>. Their fact sheets can also be found by going to <https://pddc.wisc.edu/fact-sheet-listing-all/>.

(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**

### ECAMGA Board

#### ECAMGA BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO

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#### Note:

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

For the August 17<sup>th</sup> Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteer Association (ECAMGVA) meeting, Ellen Terwilliger will be the host. This meeting will be an opportunity for all the Master Gardeners to share photos from their garden and speak a little about some of the things happening through the summer in our gardens (much like we did a couple months back). Ellen will send the Zoom link out along with a request for photos so watch for the email and think about what you want to share about your 2020 garden and gardening experience.



**ALSO** don't forget this year's photo contest (see details elsewhere in this newsletter). With all the time we have had to spend at home in our gardens and the rain we have had there should have been some great opportunities for some really lovely pictures so save your best and enter it into the contest.



### ***ECAMGVA 2020 Calendar***

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

**August 17: Zoom meeting sharing photos and info on our late gardens**

**September: Jeannie Chomey will present via Zoom on Planting Fall Bulbs**

**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/>



## Upcoming Events

### Wisconsin Horticulture Update Schedule

Tune in most **Fridays, 9:30am to 10:30am**, May 8 through September 25, for the Wisconsin Horticulture Update

#### How do I tune in?

In order to make this available to as many Master Gardener Volunteers as possible (and not just restricting this to only MGVs who answer gardening questions and do diagnostics) **we're going to broadcast the Wisconsin Horticulture Update live on YouTube. All you have to do is follow the link found in the document linked below.** Simply click this link a few minutes before 9:30 am on Friday and it should be good to go. When the meeting goes live you may need to click the triangle in the center of your screen. **Note each week will require a new YouTube link, all we be posted via the following link.**

- [Wisconsin Horticulture Update dates, agenda, YouTube links, and](#)

[instructions](#)

Important link to keep!

Each session you watch will count as 1 hour of continuing education.

#### Do I need to do the Evaluation?

The evaluation at the end of the WHU, or any program for that matter, is an important way for program hosts to get information about our participants and the impact the program may have. Try your best to do this because this is important information for Extension to have. The evaluation is not needed in order to claim the hour of continuing education.

#### I missed it! Can I watch the recording?

Yes! All the past recordings are found on that important link. You click on the YouTube link next to the date you missed to get to the recording. Here it is again:

- [Wisconsin Horticulture Update dates, agenda, YouTube links, and instructions](#)



Remember When we could all still get together and interact and do things like doing a “Kid’s Garden.” This is a picture taken in July of 2018 by Joy Weisner (I think), one of the Nutrition Educators who worked with Judy Mitchell on the garden. Both pictures show Judy, who is a MGv, working with the kids.

## Some interesting ideas...



*Old tires and old chair/table legs?*



*Those old iron pieces around that defunct whisky barrel planter.*



*That old toddler bed spring? (all ideas courtesy Pinterest)*



## Bits & Pieces

### 8<sup>th</sup> Annual ECAMGVA 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. The one submitting the photo must be a member in good standing of the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteer Association (ECAMGVA) for the 2019/2020 membership year.
4. The photo must have been taken by the contestant between October 1, 2019 and September 30, 2020.
5. Each entry must be accompanied by a short description of the photo (the "What," "Where," "When," etc. as applicable).
6. By entering the contestant gives consent for the ECAMGVA to use the photo submitted for the ECAMGVA Newsletter and/or ECAMGVA 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. At the judge's discretion an "Honorable Mention" award may also be made (no monetary award)..
8. A panel of judges selected by the ECAMGVA Educational Committee will judge the contest and the panel's decision is final. Winners will be announced in the November 2020 issue of the ECAMGVA Newsletter.
9. Submit photos via email (largest size/pixels that your email will allow to be sent) to Carol Cox at [c7w6c2200@charter.net](mailto:c7w6c2200@charter.net) by no later than October 7, 2020. Please place "**Photo Contest Entry**" in the email subject line. You will be notified when your entry is received by return email.



#### Note from the Editor:

Covid-19 has not only limited our gardening interactions and outreach but has also presented somewhat of a dearth of material for the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Newsletter. Therefore I am encouraging members to consider submitting the following (you can take volunteer hour credit for the time it takes you to prepare an article or take a picture, etc.):

1. Original articles (1/2 to 1 page in length) dealing with any gardening issue or topic;
2. Photos of garden plants, hardscape, projects, etc.;
3. Recipes, especially those that use ingredients you have grown in your garden (editor will strive to keep this varied when choosing which to publish).

E-mail submissions to me at [c7w6c2200@charter.net](mailto:c7w6c2200@charter.net).

Thanks.

## Plant Profile –

### Fireworks goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa* 'Fireworks')



This plant is a rhizomatous, spreading plant and may self-seed although it is not considered to be invasive. It is also a particularly attractive goldenrod with its panicles of showy yellow flowers that appear in late summer to fall (August to October) that kind of resemble fireworks, hence its name. The plant likes full sun although it will tolerate light shade and a medium to wet situation (can be used in a rain garden). It is a zone 4 plant that reaches a height of 2 ½ to 3 feet and about the same distance wide. It will tolerate deer, clay soil and wet soil and attracts butterflies and bees.

The flowers bloom at the ends of rough, hairy, often unbranched stems with hairy, ovate to lanceolate, medium to dark green leaves. Because of the deep pinnate veins the leaves have a rough and wrinkled appearance.

While goldenrods have been accused of causing hay fever, this is not true with the allergic reaction coming from wind-borne pollen from other plants such as ragweed. This plant has no serious insect or disease problems. Rust may occur as may powdery mildew and leaf spot.





**Beaver Creek Reserve**  
**S1 County Road K**  
**Fall Creek, WI 54742**  
**715-877-2212**

## Volunteer Opportunities

We are currently looking for volunteers to help move lumber, which was used to build a new bridge and stairs on the south trails!

Other volunteer opportunities include:

- Maintaining trails
- Weeding gardens
- Staining picnic tables & benches
- Helping visitors check-in and check-out AAW's all-terrain outdoor wheelchair (for more information about the outdoor wheelchair, please read below)

If you're interested in volunteering with us, reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator, Kristen at [volunteer@beavercreekreserve.org](mailto:volunteer@beavercreekreserve.org), for more information.



## How Saving One Butterfly Could Save the Prairie.

Facing significant habitat loss, the monarch butterfly relies on diverse wildflower communities and a proper egg-laying habitat to survive. Throughout the United States, native prairies are essential for monarchs to complete their life cycles and southern migration. While they feed on nectar, they also pollinate the many types of wildflowers that reside in prairies, which is important to producing a healthy ecosystem.

Restoring prairies is a great way to properly manage your native plant and animal species, while also controlling invasive species as well. Collecting and spreading seeds are simple ways to protect key species.

If you have ever considered growing a prairie or butterfly garden, there is no better time than now! Click [HERE](#) to read more about prairie restoration and how you could save the monarch butterfly.

*'The difference between stumbling blocks and steppingstones is how you use them.'*

**-ANONYMOUS**



## Maximillian Sunflower “*helianthus maximiliani*”

by Nina Logan

This is a long-lived plant that survives in heat, draught, and poor soil. It grows up to about ten feet tall and produces large flower heads two to three inches in diameter on one or more stems. The leaves are long, stiff and tapering off to a point. Leaves are mostly alternate.

The Maximillian Sunflower is native to grass prairies extending from Saskatchewan through Minnesota to Missouri. It's a perennial and is a desirable range plant for livestock. Flowering takes place from July through October producing a heavy crop of seeds thus is a valuable plant for wildlife.



It was named for the naturalist Prince Maximillian of Wied of Neuwied who led an expedition into the American West in the 1830s. I have wanted to plant this sunflower for several years but have been unable to find it in most seed catalogs. This spring my friend presented me with a plant she had raised from a seedling. It was about two feet tall with hairy green leaves on a straight stem. I was so happy to get it. My friend had named it “Max”. I put little max out on the north patio to harden off with plans to re plant him along the garden fence.

On most mornings I enjoy a cup of coffee and watch small animals come to drink from a pan of water I keep for them under my window. A little half-grown bunny is a frequent visitor. When I went out to do the morning chores I found little Max with only 12 inches of stem and 1 leaf remaining. Bad, bad bunny!!! I was heartsick to say the least. And worse yet, I was dreading telling my friend about poor Max. He did have most of his root system intact however, so I brought him in, gave him a healthy dose of Miracle Grow and hoped for the best.

I'm happy to say that Max has begun to recuperate and has a plethora of tiny new leaves all along the stem. When he does finally get out to the garden for replanting I will make sure he has protection. We have since found the Maximillian sunflower for sale in the Spring Hill Nursery catalog for 2020 for those of you interested in this unusual sunflower.

*So, What's Bugging You? Continued from page 1...*

Some other helpful links are for the Insect Lab (<https://insectlab.russel.wisc.edu/>), the Turf Lab (<https://tdl.wisc.edu/>) and the link for pesticide fact sheets from the National Pesticide Information Center at <http://npic.orst.edu/>. Also useful is the website for information on Integrated Pest Management at <https://www.epa.gov/safepestcontrol/integrated-pest-management-ipm-principles>. And, lastly the Iowa State University and Outreach website at <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/5694>.

Be sure to watch for the Zoom information for the August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting and join in on the discussion if you missed out on this one. See you then. In the meantime, have a great month in the garden.



*Pictured above are some of Margaret's gardens including a "Pizza garden" and her patio garden with the fencing she uses to keep critters at bay.*





## EYE CANDY



*The above picture, supplied by Paula Bonnini, is of a honeysuckle flower from her gardens.*



*This has been a really lush and green summer as is evident in these planters on Carol Cox's back patio. The elephant ear planter also contains a dark red leafed begonia, coleus and lanium. The plant to the right of the big container is Sun King auralia and the one in the lower left is Purple Shamrock with another dark leafed begonia in the lower right corner.*



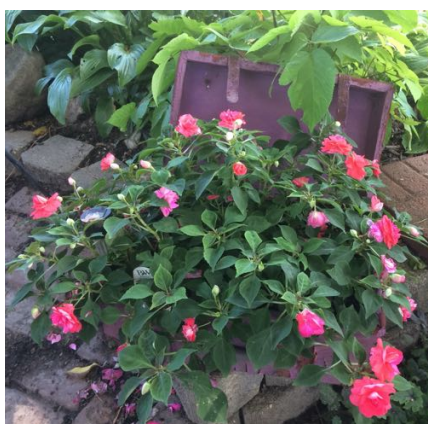
*The Rotary Gardens in Janesville, Wisconsin is always a delight to visit. This picture was taken from the parking lot circular driveway.*



*With all the plant breeding and hybridizing that is going on in the plant world a cone flower is no longer just like grandma's cone flower. The picture of this cone flower cultivar, 'Milkshake', was taken by Paula Bonnini in her garden.*



Those masks can get pretty hot and we can work up quite a thirst out in the garden. This may be the perfect mask to solve the problem when we are gardening (water, not beer – right?)



A new way to make use of an old suitcase and upcycle it. Here is such a suitcase filled with impatience just blooming like crazy.

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

**AUG**

For more Eau Claire County UW Cooperative Extension information

go to our website:

[www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/eauclaire](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/eauclaire)

Phone: 715-839-4712

Fax: 715-839-6277

M-F 8AM-5PM



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