

# Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



August 2022

## Master Gardeners Tour Historic Schlegilmilch House and Gardens

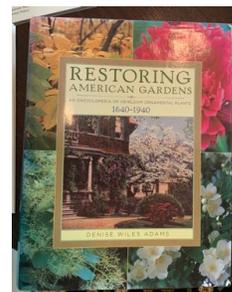
by Carol Cox

On July 18<sup>th</sup>, members of the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteer Association (ECAMGVA) were privileged to tour the historic Schlegilmilch house and garden. The event started with the elegance of fine wine, cheese, and fruit (don't they always) and an overview of the history of the house and the eighteen year long connection that the ECAMGVA has had with the reestablishment and maintenance of the garden. That association, which began in 2004, not only continues with various Master Gardeners coming by regularly to maintain the gardens, but the organization was involved in renewing the garden as an historic period garden. In addition, the volunteers worked to produce a brochure detailing what is in the garden for those who want to tour it on their own.



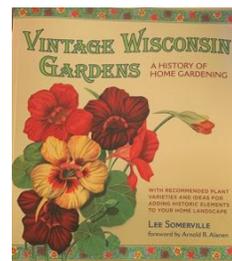
The garden plan was developed using Restoring American Gardens by Denise Wiles Adams as their go to "bible" and through consultation with Lee Somerville, garden historian and author of Vintage Wisconsin Gardens.

The house, itself, was built in 1871 By Herman and Agusta Schlegelmilch (the year before Eau Claire formally became a city). Herman was a gunsmith who had come from Germany via New York and Beaver Dam to Eau Claire



where he established a successful hardware store and built the house where the couple raised their five children.

At Herman's death in 1903, the house passed to his daughter, Louise, who lived there until 1948. Upon her death the house passed to her niece, Agnes McDaniel, who was a nurse trained at Johns Hopkins who also spent many years as a medical missionary in Thailand before coming back to live in the house. It was in 1978 that Agnes gave the house to the Chippewa Valley Museum to restore, care for and open to the public as an historic place.



There were no pictures or records of what the gardens looked like back when the house was built. However, the house had been modernized between 1906 and 1920. As a result, the gardeners decided to use the early twentieth century period as the time frame for the garden plantings.

The group of volunteers who planned the restoration of the gardens used cultivars that would have been used in 1910 or a slightly improved cultivar (to improve the survivability). Early on they struggled with challenges such as eradicating Japanese Knotweed, hardscape issues, a tree that was growing through the fences and the need to have handicap accessibility. They also had to think through security issues for the house. (Continued on page 4)



Pictures by Chris Southworth



## 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).



**MGV**

**Bulletin Board  
Postings Stories  
and  
Opportunities!!!**

### ECAMGA Board

#### ECAMGVA BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO

Name	E-mail address	Phone number
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Sue Waits	<a href="mailto:waitsr@charter.net">waitsr@charter.net</a>	715-829-5762
Jeannie Chromey	<a href="mailto:J_chromey@yahoo.com">J_chromey@yahoo.com</a>	715-5799607
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#### Note:

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



### Harvest Potluck and Landscaping Education

by Ellen Terwilliger

*Picture by Chris Southworth*

On August 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. the Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners will be hosting a harvest potluck at the home of Chris and Jerry Southworth. Drinks and dessert will be provided. The rest of us provide other food.

The Continuing education will focus on landscaping. The Southworth home features extensive hardscape and mostly grasses and sedges, to accommodate the large deer and turkey population in their neighborhood. Chris purchased four boxes of grasses from Beaver Creek and ordered sedges from Prairie Moon nursery. They have no mow grass and big bluestem seed planted on the steep hill beside the house. Learn why grasses and sedges are a good landscape option.

Directions to the Southworth home located at 4701 Oak Bluff Ct, Eau Claire. (Take Golf Rd, then turn south on S. Oakwood Hills Pkwy, then left onto Oak Bluff Ct.) See you there!



### ECAMGVA 2022 Calendar

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

**August 15: Landscape tour at home of Chris and Jerry Southworth**

**September 9: Tour BCR Butterfly Garden**

**October 8: Deadline for Photo Contest**

**October: TBA**

**November: TBA**

**December 16: Annual Holiday Party**

*"A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for."  
-anonymous*

## Lakeshore School Gardeners

by Ellen Terwilliger

Eau Claire Master Gardeners Aruna, Pat, Ellen, Paul and Jael are working with Lakeshore staff and the Extension Food Wise Program to present a six-week summer school class at Lakeshore Elementary. Students have been learning about the parts of a plant, watering, weeding and much more. They harvest food and taste food. I've talked with parents who say their children are teaching them things they didn't know. All of us Master Gardeners are learning things too. Did you know that a potato is a stem? We're growing the next generation of gardeners.



Photo by Ellen Terwilliger

## Menomonie Street Project

by Ellen Terwilliger

If you are on the west side of Eau Claire drive up Menomonie Street to the corner of Menomonie and Mt. Washington Avenue. The bank is city property and has been planted and maintained by Eau Claire Master Gardeners Jael, Paul, Aruna, and Ellen.

It provides an example of drought resistant and low maintenance shrubs, grasses, and sedges to replace an invasive shrub.



Picture by Ellen Terwilliger

## Meet Master Gardener Jo Olson...



Photo supplied by Chris Southworth

I've spent time in a garden since I was very small,  
A little girl sitting next to Dad, just talking, and having a ball.

As I grew, I began to appreciate what the garden can do for me,  
A "go to" place to plant flowers and "just be."

As a retiree in 2019, my gardening world took on a new look,  
No more rushing —I could plan new beds and read some plant books.

Becoming a master gardener was on my bucket list for years,  
In January 2022 my dream came true – it brought me tears.

My gardens are many with big and small hostas galore,  
The more the merrier – let's head to my favorite garden store.

I love rusty junk and unique garden art,  
My passion for flea marketing warms my heart.

I make garden vignettes, a story they sometimes tell,  
The "Minnie" hostas are cute, or a gas sign are all great places  
to dwell.

I'm off to my gardens, just my Sheltie and me,  
My ideas are many as I dig with glee!

## WIMGA Update by Andy Heren

As our county's WIMGA Rep, I wanted to give you an update from our June meeting. We talked about many issues, and I garnered a few good ideas. Some of these will be discussed at our Input Meetings next week. You can see the slides and the notes from that June 2 meeting at the WIMGA website [Home | wimga](#)



Some that I thought were of importance/ interest are as follows:

-There was much concern about members leaving due to the increased technology required to report hours. (If this is a concern of yours, we want to help! We have people who will help you report your hours. Please let us know! We don't want to lose members due to this!)

-Find opportunities for members to get their volunteer hours.

-If you are thinking of dropping out, just go inactive for a year so we can find ways to help.

-Become an Honored Master Gardener. Individuals with at least 10 years or 1000 hours volunteer service in Wisconsin, plus the ability to list their significant accomplishments are eligible. At this level, you can still volunteer and report hours, but you will not have to fulfill the minimum hours. I will let you know when this is open for application. You can read more about this at [Celebrating Honored Master Gardeners – Master Gardener Program \(wisc.edu\)](#)

I also see that Meg Cowden's presentation from Monday, July 25, is posted on the website. You will need to sign in with the WIMGA password. The password is the same for everyone, so if you'd like that, please email me ([Rcktnut007@aol.com](mailto:Rcktnut007@aol.com)).



## Events

Sources for educational gardening events can be found at:

WIMGA: <https://www.wimga.org/other-conferences-events>

Down To Earth (classes): <https://downtoearthgardencenter.com/events-calendar.html>

Check them out.

*Schlegelmilch tour continued from page 1...*

In addition to the help provided by the ECAMGVs, Troop 31 of the Boy Scouts have annually come out to put down the mulch (they refer to themselves as the Schlegelmulchers”).

The City of Eau Claire also was involved in the project. Back in 2004, the City took everything in the garden area back to black dirt (except for the trees) so that the project could begin from scratch. In addition, they continue to provide the mulch that is annually spread by Troop 31.

While the house and gardens are maintained much as they were in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Air conditioning has been added to the house and irrigation to the garden (to the delight of every volunteer involved inside or outside the house!).

The house and garden offer a novel setting for business meetings, smaller weddings, receptions and get togethers. The gardens can be toured at any time and the brochure is available to guide the visitor through the gardens.

## REMEMBER: 10th Annual ECAMGVA Photo Deadline is October 8, 2022

Summer is here with a lot of opportunity for gorgeous photo ops so take a few pictures and enter your best shot in the Master Gardener Photo contest. Details can be found in the July 2022 ECAMGVA newsletter (page 4). 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 8, 2022.**

Please place **“Photo Contest Entry”** in the email subject line. You will be notified when your entry is received by return email.





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

## Classes

### Project Riverine Early Detection

**Date:** Friday, August 5

**Time:** 10:00-11:00 AM

**Cost:** FREE

*\*This is a virtual program.*

Become a citizen scientist and learn how to survey for riverine invasive species! During Project RED training, you will learn which invasive species threaten your local rivers and streams, how to differentiate them from native look-a-likes, and how to keep an eye out for them by canoe, kayak, or on foot! A program link will be sent to the registrant's email address prior to the start of the program. **Register by Thursday, August 4.** [Register now!](#)



### Purple Loosestrife Biological Control

**Date:** Thursday, August 11

**Time:** 10:00-10:30 AM

**Cost:** FREE

*\*This is a virtual program.*



Learn about the Wisconsin DNR biological control program that has been keeping one wetland invader, Purple Loosestrife, at bay. This program will give an overview of Purple Loosestrife, an introduction to biological control, and offer volunteer opportunities to get involved with the control and management of the invasive species. A program link will be sent to the registrant's email address prior to the start of the program. **Register by Wednesday, August 10.** [Register now!](#)

### Mushroom Foraging & Identification Talk & Walk

**Date:** Friday, August 12

**Time:** 6:00-8:00 PM

**Cost:** Members \$10, Nonmembers \$12

**Location:** Wise Nature Center



Join Tavis Lynch to learn the basics of mushroom foraging and Identification! We will do a short presentation on the basics of mushroom identification and learn which mushrooms are in season. Then we will take a walk at Beaver Creek Reserve and put our new skills to work. Safe handling and preparation will also be discussed. Wear appropriate footwear to be in the woods. **Register by Sunday, August 7.** [Register now!](#)

## **Butterfly Fest 2022 - Sunday, August 7 - 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM -Wise Nature Center**

Butterfly Fest is back for 2022! Experience the wonders of Wisconsin's butterflies with a guided tour around our Butterfly House, check out our summer Caterpillar Lab where we raise our monarch caterpillars from egg to chrysalis, and learn about all the different species of butterflies we have in Wisconsin.

There will be custard (*thank you Culvers!*) and butterfly nectar (lemonade) available throughout the day along with fun butterfly crafts, activities, a butterfly walk, and so much more! Check-in will be at the Wise Nature Center. Buy tickets ahead of time, or buy them at the door the day of the event, advanced ticket sales end Friday, August 5. [Learn more & Register Now](#)





## Bits and Pieces



### Environmental Stewardship In Your Home and Community

by Frankie Weinberger

The Mission, Vision and Purpose Statements of the Eau Claire Master Gardener Association can be found on the website, and are as follows:

**Mission Statement:** “We are volunteer leaders in providing horticulture education, empowering community to become environmental stewards”.

**Vision Statement:** Leaders in providing horticulture education, environmental stewardship and serving our communities.

**Purpose:** The purpose of all UWEX Master Gardener Volunteer Program is to provide Horticultural Education, Community Service and Environmental Stewardship for our communities.

As Master Gardener Volunteer, we usually focus on horticulture education and projects. But as you can see, the mission, vision and purpose statements all include environmental stewardship along with horticulture education and service. Many of us integrate environmental stewardship in our volunteer work and homes. Composting is an excellent example, as well as mulching to conserve water and suppress weeds, and minimizing the use of pesticides. But what are other ways we can practice environmental stewardship in our homes and communities to help keep our air, soil, and water cleaner? Here are some ways to consider.

The NRDC (National Resource Defense Council) issues an annual scorecard for home tissue products like toilet paper, paper towels and facial tissue. A score of A+ to F is given, based on a scoring system for type of fiber and chemicals such as chlorine used in the paper products. An article “The Issue with Tissue” from September 15, 2021 explains and gives a link to the scorecard, The Issue with Tissue 2021 Scorecard. It can be found on the NRDC website at <https://www.nrdc.org/resources/issue-tissue-how-americans-are-flushing-forests-down-toilet>. Several brands of paper products scored at A+ or A are available at local stores as below:

- **Green Forest** toilet paper, paper towels, facial tissues, napkins: Woodman’s (A+)
- **Who Gives a Crap** 100% Recycled toilet paper: Eco Minded, 2919 Mall Drive, Eau Claire (A+)
- **Seventh Generation** toilet paper, paper towels: Woodman’s, Festival Foods (A)

Green cleaning and household supplies are also available locally, as well as online. Here are several local and online sources:

- **Seventh Generation** laundry detergent, dishwasher powder, cleaning supplies, paper products: Festival Foods, Woodman’s
- **Dr. Bronner’s** liquid and bar soaps, toothpaste: Festival Foods, Menomonie Food Co-op
- **Eco-Minded:** shampoo & conditioner bars, laundry soap sheets, cotton mesh bags for bulk produce, bamboo toothbrushes, toilet paper, facial tissues, and many more eco-friendly products
- **Coffee Grounds:** cotton and linen reusable coffee filters
- **All Green Janitorial Products:** [www.all-greenjanitorialproducts.com](http://www.all-greenjanitorialproducts.com)
- **Grove Collaborative:** [www.grove.co](http://www.grove.co)



Continued on page 7...



## Eye Candy



*Clematis in full bloom.*



Hosta and daylily on left and window boxes at the Schlegelmilch House in downtown Eau Claire on the right.



*An attractive planter found at the front door of the L.E. Phillips Senior Center on Bellinger Street, Downtown Eau Claire.  
Pictures by Carol Cox*

*Environmental Stewardship cont. from pg 6...*

If you like foaming hand soap, here is an easy way to refill them. Fill empty soap dispenser with warm water, leaving about 1 inch at the top. Fill remaining space with Dr. Bronner's liquid castile soap. The plastic foam soap dispenser can be re-used for years.

Environmental stewardship is an important part of the mission of Eau Claire Master Gardener Association. These are just a few ways to incorporate environmental stewardship in our homes and communities. Please share your ideas for care of creation in future newsletter articles or letters to the editor.

## Are you a member of WIMGA? Did you watch

the ZOOM with Meg McAndrews Cowden? She is a Master Gardener from Minnesota who spoke on succession planting. She was an excellent speaker and very engaging. She went over the set time, but it was well worth it! If you missed it, you can watch in on the WIMGA website, [Home | wimga](#) in the Members section until August 25. (It may not be posted quite yet) You will need a password to get into it. Simply scroll to the bottom of the website and fill in the Contact Form to get it. It will be well worth your time! If you paid WIMGA dues, you will get an email from them when the presentation is posted.

Meg was also on an episode of Growing a Greener World. This show is broadcast on PBS, but you can watch all the episodes on their website. This particular show with Meg was Season 10, Episode 12. [Seed to Fork | Growing a Cold-Climate Garden | Growing a Greener World®](#) On this episode they are in her gardens, which are incredible!

### Andy Heren

Administrative Specialist II  
UW-Madison Division of Extension,  
Eau Claire County



**Coneflowers**, aka *Echinacea*, are tough upright perennials in the daisy family (Asteraceae). Their genus name *Echinacea* comes from the Latin name for hedgehog, echinus, referring to the often-prickly lower stem. They are native to the eastern and central United States, extending from Colorado south to Texas and north to the Great Lakes. The flowers, which appear mid-summer through fall, are attractive to bees and butterflies. After bloom, the seed heads attract songbirds, such as goldfinches. Coneflowers love heat and are trouble-free once established in a traditional garden or wildflower meadow. For more information see <https://www.almanac.com/plant/coneflowers>

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:  
[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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