

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News

December 2021



ECAMGVs Tour UW-EC Greenhouses

by Carol Cox

On November 15, 2021, two groups of Master Gardeners got to tour the UW-Eau Claire greenhouses (in split shifts) under the guidance of Dr. Kristina Beuning.

As the reader can see, there is just a fabulous plant collection from all over the world. It goes without saying that those on the tour really could have spent hours and hours there and then

not have really gotten a thorough look at all the greenhouses contained.

New greenhouse facilities are being built and, when finished, the plant collection will be moved. That is exciting and will, I am sure, allow for an expansion of the collection. However, the downside is that some of the biggest and most glorious of the plants (such as the giant Fan Palm shown in the picture at left) will have to be left behind and sacrificed since they are too large to move. The giant plant at left has actually, at one point, grown through the roof of the greenhouse.

There were many strange and wonderful plants including a "tropical" and giant version of our native Pitcher Plant (see photo on page 3) along with a very strange plant that has no leaves but carries on photosynthesis in its branches (also on page 3). A tour of the UW-EC greenhouses certainly gives one a glimpse of the magnificence of and the diversity of the created order. WOW!

Thank you, Dr. Beuning for inviting us into this world of interesting plants. (continued on pages 3 and 4)

Pictures by Ellen Terwilliger and Carol Cox





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-

ECAMGA Board

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Note:

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



Bulletin Board Postings Stories and Opportunities!!!



This is 2 weeks earlier than our third Monday meeting date, but we all know how busy things get the closer we get to the holidays.

ECAMGV
 2021
 Calendar

December:
 Annual Meeting and Christmas Party

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Association

COOKIES AND COCOA HOLIDAY PARTY!

Bring your favorite holiday cookies to share! Cocoa and cider will be provided.

DECEMBER 6 + 6:00-8:00PM

St. James The Greater Catholic Church
 2502 11th St, Eau Claire, WI 54601

Mask are recommended



Greenhouse Tour continued from page 1...

Meet a Master Gardener - Louise White- Roach

“I have been gardening forever! My favorite thing about it is the fact that you can never know it all. There's something new every day. Very excited about landscape design and planning. It's always an adventure!”



An absolutely gorgeous fern.



Photo by Jo-Ann Clark



A huge Ponytail Palm



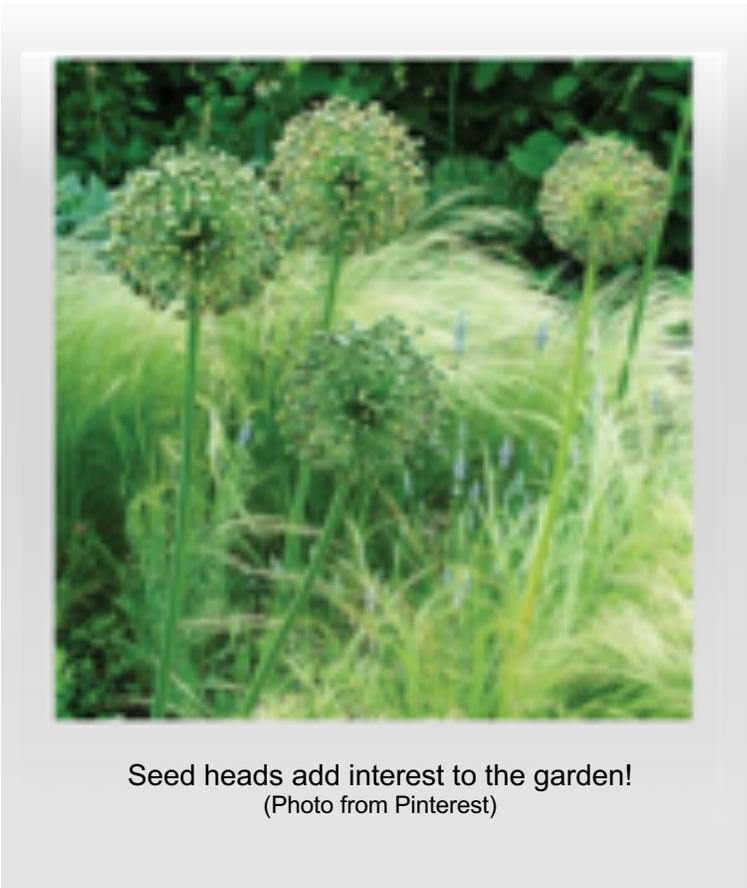
A tropical "Pitcher Plant"



No leaves needed here!
More on page 4.



Living Stones in bloom!



Seed heads add interest to the garden!
(Photo from Pinterest)



The Quest

By Judy Mitchell

When I heard Diana Alfuth's voice on a recent episode of Garden Talk (Larry Meiller's show on WPR), I paid attention. Diana is the UW-Extension Horticulture Outreach Specialist who spoke at our September ECAMGVA meeting. After Garden Talk ended, I went looking for a publication Diana referenced.

The publication was said to be a UW Extension publication about black walnut toxicity that included a list of plants that will grow under black walnut trees. That seemed like a good publication to feature here but I couldn't find it at the Learning Store (<https://learningstore.uwex.edu/>). The only relevant publication there was a 1997 publication, A3182, Walnut and Butternut Toxicity, and that didn't include a plant list.

My next stop was WPR and sure enough, Diana had provided a link that took me to the Wisconsin Horticultural Division of Extension home page (<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/>). There, my search turned up Landscaping in Spite of Black Walnuts by Susan Mahr as well as Garden Fact Sheet XHT1017 Black Walnut Toxicity (May 2010). It was Susan's article that Diana had in mind. It has the plant list. You can find it here: <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/landscaping-in-spite-of-black-walnuts/>.

What gives? Why are Susan's article and the Garden Fact Sheet not available at the Learning Store, our go-to place for research-based horticultural information? For an answer, I turned to our UW-Extension Horticultural Outreach Specialist, Margaret Murphy. Margaret was able to tell me there is work in progress to move publications to a centralized hub. For now, her advice is "for updated and user-friendly articles and links to other resources go to our Extension Horticulture page first."

All of this is a long explanation for why I will be expanding the scope of this Quest series going forward to include articles available at the Extension Horticulture home page. Just one more change in a year of changes. I hope you can adjust.



Greenhouse
tour
continued...

More
gorgeous
plants from
the UW-EC
greenhouse
tour including
the gorgeous
orchid at
right.

Dr. Beuning
also invited
us back
(individually)
on Tuesdays
– call first





Events



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

Night Lights: Bioluminescent Insects and other Creatures that Glow Date:

Date: Mon. December 20, 2021 **Time:** 10:00 - 11:00 AM **Cost:** FREE *This is a virtual program

You don't have to travel to the deep ocean to find bioluminescence - there are many species of insects around the world that have the same properties! Learn about the science behind bioluminescence, what insects glow and why they developed these mechanisms. Discover how scientists are using biomimicry to research the different ways bioluminescence could be used for humans - and their challenges and accomplishments. The program link will be sent to the registrant's email prior to the start of the program.

Last day to register is December 19.

[Register now!](#)

Geology of the Driftless Region

Date: Wed. December 22 **Time:** 1:00 - 2:00 PM **Cost:** FREE

*This is a virtual program.

An untouched "island" amidst a frigid ice-covered landscape. Join us for an introduction into the geologically unique lands we reside on. Let's explore the beauty the driftless region provides and how it became! Learn about why this area is different from the surrounding regions and what that means for our hydrologic systems and landscape. This interactive course is offered for participants 14 years old and above. The program link will be sent to the registrant's email prior to the start of the program.

Last day to register is December 21.

[Register now!](#)



End of Owl Season



The Owl Banding season officially ended on November 2nd with 72 Northern Saw-whet Owls and one Barred Owl that we captured and banded. While these numbers are lower than in past years, some other banding stations in the Midwest also had a drop in the number of owls caught. Some of the Saw-whets were "recaptures" that already had been banded at other banding stations, including one owl that had been banded near Grand Marais, MN. A big thanks to all the volunteers who gave their time and effort to make this a successful

owl banding season. We look forward to seeing you next year!

First Barn Owl Nest Documented In Wisconsin In 20+ Years ...

MADISON, Wis. - he Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reports a rare barn owl nest was documented in Wisconsin for the first time in more than 20 years. The nest was spotted in September after a young barn owl fell out of a dead tree ...

[Read more](#)

dnr.wisconsin.gov



Photo by Karla Bloem/BCR



Bits and Pieces

Velvet Viking Is a Hardy Red Japanese Maple

MEGHAN SHINN (article [from www.hortmag.com/plants/velvet-viking-japanese-maple](http://www.hortmag.com/plants/velvet-viking-japanese-maple))

MAY 12, 2020

Virtues: Velvet Viking Japanese maple offers stunning red purple, finely cut foliage from spring through fall. Its dramatic weeping/spreading form provides interest over the winter when its branches are bare. This cultivar is lauded as hardier and more tolerant of full sun (outside of the South) than other cut leaf varieties.



Image credit: courtesy of Monrovia

Common name: Velvet Viking cut leaf maple.

Botanical name: *Acer palmatum* var. 'Monfrick'.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade.

Foliage: The deciduous leaves show reddish-purple color throughout the growing season. The colors intensify in the fall. The leaves offer incredible fine texture, thanks to their deeply cut segments.

Habit: Velvet Viking Japanese maple is a very compact tree, growing just three feet tall and five feet wide, with branches that spread outward and then weep. Its short stature and dramatic shape make it a candidate for foundation plantings or to anchor a bed.

Origin: This cut leaf Japanese maple comes from Minnesota, where it was discovered by Craig Frick, co-owner of Superior Lawn and Landscape, a garden center in St. Bonifacius. It was introduced by Monrovia in 2019.

How to grow it: Situate Velvet Viking Japanese maple in full sun or part shade. It is more accepting of full sun in cooler, northern climates; a part-shade location would be better in the South, particularly one that protects it from hot afternoon sun. It requires regular water, so provide some during dry spells and intense heat. USDA Zones 4–9.

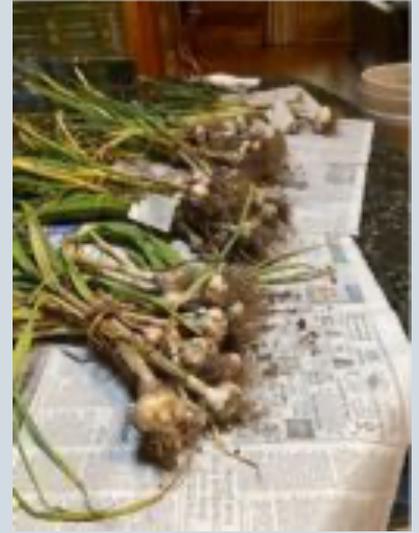


Golden Mop Cypress



Sue Waits took the picture at left and said, “ I just put some seeds down two years ago, and kinda forgot about them until I got these beautiful blooms this year. It was a welcome surprise.”

She also took the picture to the right and indicated she was “New to planting garlic but enjoyed this year’s harvest.”



Eye Candy

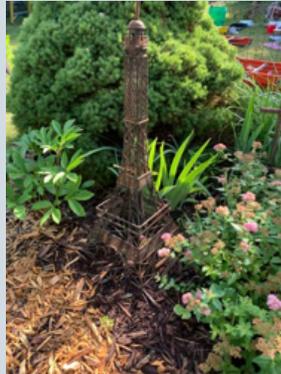


To the left is Jeannie Chromey’s photo contest entry of which she says, “My Autumn Clematis exceeds my expectations.”

To the right is Jo-Ann Clark’s entry in the Master Gardener Photo Contest. Concerning it she says, “This iris perfumes the air with the fragrance of grape soda. Can you almost smell it when you look at this photo?”



Below right, Lori Kempen must have been drooling when she sent in this submission for the photo contest. She says, “This is ‘Hungarian Heart,’ my favorite tomatoe from the garden, weighing almost a pound, its rosy, red, juicy texture makes a perfect BLT.”



Then, below middle, a mini-Eiffel Tower thrift store find now in the garden of Carol Cox.

The last picture (immediate left) is a glorious planter combo found on Pinterest.

Optimism is a cheerful frame of mind that enables a teakettle to sing though in hot water up to its nose.”

-Quoted by Harold Heifer in The Optimist



A big “THANK YOU” to one and all for all the effort put into working on behalf of the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteer Association programs in the past year that was beset with numerous difficulties that hindered carrying out the mission of the organization.

Special thanks are due to our Board and Andy and Margaret and all the leadership they provided throughout this past, very difficult, year.



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



2022

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