

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



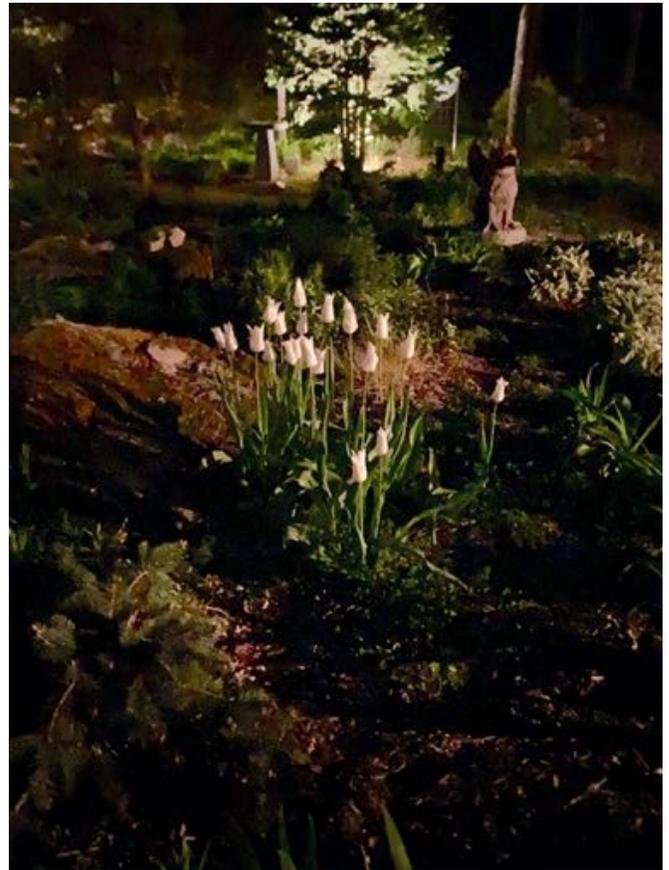
November 2020

2020 Photo Contest Winners

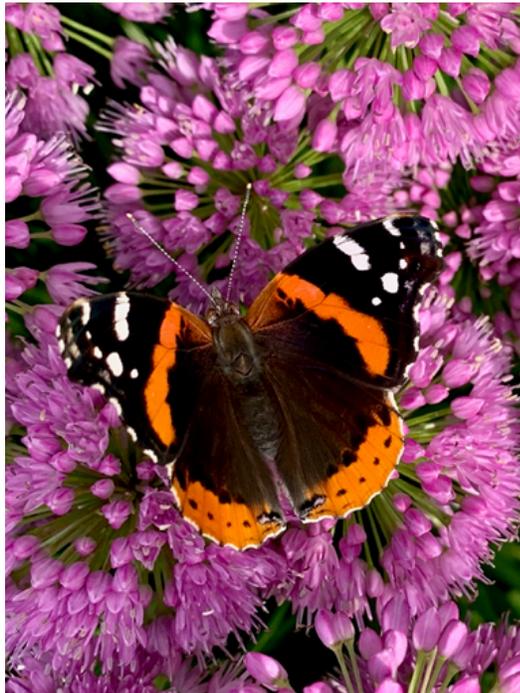
First Place...

The contest judges commented how each year the quality of the photos submitted gets better and better. In the end Nancy Spak's photo, "Twilight Tulips" was awarded first place.

Nancy had this comment to make concerning her photo: "Photo taken May 16th, 9:30 p.m. in my front garden while walking dogs out for potty. I took it because the Tulips looked so white to me, and I was impressed."



Second Place...



Again this year, second place was awarded to Paula Bonnin for her photo, "Butterfly On Blossom." While Paula had no comments to go with it, the contrast of the butterfly doing its thing on the blossom is spectacular.

Third Place...



The third-place winner was Jo-Ann Clark with
(Article continued on page 4)



Local Master Gardener News

Changing e-mail? Moving?

If you do, please remember to notify the ECAMGA 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!!!**



Winter Tree Identification ECAMGVA Educational Meeting Monday November 16th by Jim Schwiebert. 7 pm on Zoom

Join your fellow Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteer Association (ECAMGVA) for another Zoom Continuing

Education opportunity. Jim Schwiebert is a retiring naturalist from Beaver Creek Reserve, Fall Creek, WI. His past work experience has included jobs in the fields of fisheries, forestry, and wildlife management. In his 13+ years as a naturalist at Beaver Creek, Jim has had the good fortune to be able to develop programs in special areas of interest. One of those interests is winter tree ID. Leaves are one of the biggest clues for tree and shrub identification - so what do you do when there are no leaves? This program will point out unique bud, twig, branching, and bark characteristics of nearly 30 native hardwood trees, making identification possible even in winter. Join in for a fascinating look at trees in winter!

Join us for our annual meeting. Board elections and the Digger Award will be announced, as will winners of the 2020 photo contest. There will be a couple of activities. Everyone will need to provide their own holiday treats and beverages.

*Be patient with yourself. Nothing in nature
blooms all year.
-Anonymous*

ECAMGA Board

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Note:

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



ECAMGVA

2020 Calendar

All meetings during the COVID19 pandemic will be held by Zoom invitation.

- November 16: Winter Tree ID**
- December 16: Annual Holiday Party**
- December 31: Volunteer hours due**

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



ECAMGVA Board Candidates



Judy Mitchell has experience in project management and governance. Before retiring, she held several senior management positions at Canadian Pacific Railway and served multiple terms as a member of the Board of Directors of her credit union. After becoming a certified MGVA, she volunteered at the North River Front Youth Garden, serving as Volunteer Leader since 2018. She is a lifelong gardener who values the educational benefits of the MGVA program.



Barb Huggins has been a Master Gardener Volunteer since 2010. She began her gardening experience when she was six years old as she helped her parents plant and tend their Victory Garden in the 1950s. Since then, she has had a flower or vegetable garden in her yard wherever she has lived. After moving to Eau Claire and receiving her Master Gardener Volunteer certification, she has helped with the plant sale, the Farmer's Market "Ask a Master Gardener" table and also helped tend the Schlegelmilch gardens. For the past four years, she has had a vegetable plot at the Southside Gardens at Fairfax Park. Barb says, "I don't know all of the answers to creating a successful garden, but I have enjoyed the benefits of outdoor planting, tending and winter planning for a new season of growth and harvesting fresh vegetable."

Food Preservation THE Topic For The October 19th ECAMGA Zoom Meeting

By Jeannie Chromey

We had a very informative zoom meeting on Monday, October 19th presented by Becky Gutzman. She is retired from UW Extension and an active judge for Wisconsin County fairs. By her estimate, she has judged at 2/3's of the counties so far with a goal of covering them all. Her presentation was on Food Preservation/Inspiration with the aim to educate on how to preserve safe, high quality food. The discussion covered methods for freezing, drying and canning with some helpful tips and instructions for each.

Freezing

- Blanching is not necessary for food safety, but rather to preserve quality
- Foods with high water content (onions, tomatoes) need not be blanched
- Use proper packaging materials

Drying

- A quality dehydrator is critical
- <http://www.uga.edu/nchfp/> is a good resource for drying foods

Canning

- Use up to date recipes and instructions – prior 1994 are considered outdated
- Steam canners work much like hot water bath and are more efficient
- You should test your pressure cooker gauge each year – EC County extension office has tool to do this.
- DO NOT alter or guess at canning recipes, methods and times. This could affect safety of foods.

Additional resources are available at:

- the UW Learning Store www.learningstore.uwex.edu and
 - from the Ball company at <http://www.freshpreserving.com/>
- (Also see Margaret Sprague's added comments on page 6...)



Don't harm your family with these canning methods!

- Boiling water canning of meats or vegetables
- Eliminating the canning step
- Dishwasher or oven canning
- Steam canning of meat or veggies





Events



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



Wisconsin Reaches New Milestone In Avian Citizen Science

Wisconsin's avian citizen scientists have submitted more than one million checklists to eBird, the online platform which reports bird observations. These observations are important to avian research and conservation as scientists track the birds they see over the years. The data helps reveal birding hot spots for different species, as well as their migration throughout the state. Wisconsin is ranked second nationally in birdwatching participation as well as bird monitoring, conservation, and citizen science. This is great news because there is a citizen science avian monitoring program right at Beaver Creek Reserve!

Wanting to learn more about birds, specifically raptors? Register for our program "RAPTORS" [here](#), which will be led by Beaver Creek's very own Citizen Science Center Director.

Read more about this big accomplishment [here](#), and visit [WI DNR's website](#) for more information on birding and bird conservation.

Also for those looking for more educational opportunities, Beaver Creek Reserve is offering many short virtual subjects. These subjects last about five or ten min each and include unusual natural events we often see and wonder about. Just go to bcr@beavercreekreserve and click on Trailside Treasures

Photo contest winners cont. from page 1...

her photo of her white peony, "Miss America." Jo-Ann indicated that she likes the way it is growing in her garden among the hosta with their white edges for contrast.

Honorable Mention



This photo was submitted by Judy Mitchell. Judy comments on the photo saying, "This is a photo of a Wentworth Viburnum festooned with berries in the winter."

This large shrub is situated outside our front door where, enhances our view of the evergreen trees across the street.

Thanks to everyone who entered the photo contest. The quality of the photos increases each year with the judge's comments reflecting the fact that there were some very difficult choices to make in selecting the winners. (The judging panel consisted of Dana Cox, Jolene Bain, Aubrey Wygralek, Betsy Schrubba and Kristy Anderson, all having worked at various times as professional photographers).

The remaining photos will be used in future issues of the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News so keep an eye out for them. In light of COVID19, the award certificates and prizes will be mailed out to the winners sometime in late November. The photos will also be featured on the ECAMGA website at <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org>.

First prize is \$30; second prize is \$25; and the third prize is \$20. All winners will receive a certificate.



Bits and Pieces

Red Shiso, An Interesting Asian Plant -article and pictures by Jo-Ann Clark

This is Red Shiso, an Asian herb that looks similar to basil and even tastes a bit like it but also like a mint and licorice, even cinnamon. I chop the leaves and put it in my salads for extra flavor. If you Google it they have recipes also. I bought the original plant about four years ago at Chippewa Valley Growers before the new people took over. It has reseeded every year since then and grows best in hot dry places like the cracks in my cement driveway. I have had Red Shiso since 2017.



Some sources for Red Shiso are :

1. Red Shiso – Herb Seed - Johnny's Selected Seeds – www.johnnyseeds.com/herbs/shiso/red-shiso-herb... Distinct cinnamon/clove flavor and aroma, with the spiciness of cumin. Used in Asian cooking, sushi and salad mix. Red Shiso adds brilliant color to radish pickles and umeboshi plums. Also known as perilla. • Edible Flowers: The flowers are a flavorful addition to salads and Asian dishes. Pairs well with fish, rice, noodles, and cucumbers.

2. Red Shiso Tonic – Forrest Green Farm - www.forrestgreenfarm.com/shiso-drink
Red Shiso Tonic Health Benefits of Shiso (green or red): anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antiviral, antibacterial, high in iron, calcium and carotene (10 X more than that of pumpkin), good for respiratory tract and those with asthma, improves immune function, excellent for stomach aches and digestive upset.

Below is a winter photo of the birds eating the seeds. This was the plant in a pot at the back door.1/2017





The Quest

By Judy Mitchell

It is not unusual to search on a gardening topic in the Learning Store and have the search come up with one or more publications addressed to farmers and commercial growers, not the home gardener.

When my Learning Store search turns up such an article, I usually bypass it. There are a lot of scientific terms and formulas in those publications. The pictures are not of flowers but of graphs and tables that I don't understand, and the recommended solutions often involve machinery and equipment that is not for sale at my local lawn & garden store.

This month, I searched for an article on soil compaction and turned up a great-sounding article that turned out to be addressed to farmers. This time, I read it anyway. It is titled Soil compaction: causes, concerns, and cures, UWEX Publication 3367 (available at <https://learningstore.uwex.edu/>).

A friend of mine used to joke that farmers work two days a year (one to plant and one to harvest) and spend the rest of their time complaining. I am from a farming community and I never found that funny. Reading **Publication 3367** reminded me how much science a farmer needs to know and apply to his or her business. Soil compaction is just one small problem they have to consider.

Soil compaction is often caused by wheeled traffic or heavy machinery and it reduces plant health and yield. It restricts root penetration of the soil and reduces the water and air in the soil. If you remember your MGV Level 1 training, plants absolutely need water and air to live and thrive. I actually found **Publication 3367** to be a very interesting read. It explains what causes compaction, how compaction effects plants, how to diagnose it and then what to do about it.

Some of the solutions involve selecting the right machinery and equipment for your conditions and planning your traffic patterns. If all your wheeled traffic uses the same path in and out of your field, that path may become significantly compacted. That might be your best plan but there are other options depending on your circumstances. For instance, it might be worthwhile to take more trips with lighter loads to lessen the compaction, or to create a circular route for trucks entering and leaving the field.

As Master Gardener Volunteers, we are not called upon to advise farmers and are unlikely to be in a situation to recommend **Publication 3367** to a farmer. At the same time, it won't hurt us to study a few charts and tables and think about soil science and the farmers that use them. Give it a try by reading this publication on soil compaction.

Food Preservation continued from pg 1...

Additional comments/writeup from Margaret Sprague on the presentation by Becky Gutzman:

Educator and Past WIMGA President Becky Gutzman presented the many principles of food preservation to twenty-four Eau Claire and Chippewa residents at a Zoom meeting, October 19, 2020. Canning, freezing and drying options were discussed at length. One very valuable segment explained the new pectin products for pickles, jellies and freezer jams. Another handout listed the UW Extension-Approved Food Preservation publications for further information and help in the days ahead. Thanks to all who participated and a special thank you to Becky for the delightful and informative class!

Did you know...that parsley is a natural breath freshener? That lavender is not only perfect for bath time before bed but is said to repel fleas. And did you know that cilantro and coriander come from the same plant? Yes, ma'am! The first leaves are used as cilantro (think salsa), but if you let it continue to grow and flower, you'll find yourself with a whole host of coriander seeds.



EYE CANDY



Even kitties like the garden...photo by Dana Cox of her cat, Reese (a Wobbly Kitten Syndrome cat).



A pretty fall container arrangement found in Fine Gardening's fall e-mail newsletter.



Summer Lingers, but just barely!

Photo by Dana Cox



The frost is on the pumpkin - I mean the mum! Photo by Dana Cox



An interesting rock painting from Pinterest.

"A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in." – Greek Proverb

38th Annual Eau Claire County Sapling and Native Sale is starting SOON!

Email [Jenna](mailto:jenna@lcv.org) to be placed on the mailing list or to request a copy of the order packet.

Every April since 1983 the LCD has offered a selection of native trees and shrubs for purchase. To date the LCD has sold over 1 million trees! Order your trees today.

- [2021 Sapling Descriptions and Rules](#)
- [2021 Native Plant Order Form](#) [2021 Sapling Order Form](#)
- [2021 Complete Ordering Packet](#)



The 2020/2021 Tree Program runs from November 1, 2020 thru January 31, 2021
Call (715) 839-6226 or email [Jenna](mailto:jenna@lcv.org) to be placed on the mailing list or to request a copy of the order packet.

TREE SPADE RENTAL

Still have trees to plant???

Eau Claire County Land Conservation has tree planting spades available for rent. \$5/week + \$45 deposit required (deposit fully refunded at time of return).



What can be a lovelier reminder of summer past than this yellow peony blossom photo taken by Lori



Seasons come and seasons go and, oh, the memories...

Please note new location 2020 - 2021 Winter Market Season Eau Claire Downtown Winter Farmers Market Lisamore Hotel 333 Gibson Street Eau Claire, WI 54701 Main floor ballroom 2nd Saturday November through April 9:00a.m. - 12:30p.m. November 14 December 12 January 9 February 13 March 13 April 10

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 Phone: 715-839-4712 Fax: 715-839-6277 M-F 8AM-5PM



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Extension Office 227 First Street West Altoona, WI 54720