

# Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News

March 2022



## Non-chemical Buckthorn Removal Method by Jael Wolf

On February 21, Evan Croft gave a Zoom presentation to the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener volunteers as a part of his thesis project work on removing buckthorn in the Sportsman Lake area, WI, using the nontoxic 'Buckthorn Baggies' method.

[Common buckthorn](#) (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and [glossy buckthorn](#) (*Frangula alnus*) are two invasive woody shrubs or small trees that affect forests in several states, including Wisconsin. **They out-compete with native plants for nutrients, light and moisture.**



Picture 1. [Common buckthorn](#) (*Rhamnus cathartica*)



Picture 2. [Glossy buckthorn](#) (*Frangula alnus*)



Picture 3. Orange inner bark of buckthorn plant. Photo credit: Wisconsin DNR

There are native non-invasive trees that can resemble these invasive species. You can use [iNaturalist](#), an application to map and share biodiversity observations, to help you identify a shrub or tree.

# iNaturalist

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

## seek

by iNaturalist

Get outside, explore, and learn about the nature all around you!

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**Figure 1.** iNaturalist is an application that has an identification tool that can help you determine different species of living organisms.

Drawing from millions of wildlife observations on iNaturalist, [Seek](#) shows you lists of commonly recorded insects, birds, plants, amphibians, and more in your area. Scan the environment with the Seek Camera to identify organisms using the tree of life. Add different species to your observations and learn all about them in the process!

### Treatment methods

There are a few methods to remove buckthorn species, such as uprooting the trees and using herbicides.

An alternative to these control methods is [Buckthorn Baggies](#), invented by senior engineer Matthew Hamilton of the  
(Article continued on page 3)



## 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

#### ECAMGA BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO

Louise White-Roach	<a href="mailto:White1roach@gmail.com">White1roach@gmail.com</a>	715-831-3352
Sue Waits	<a href="mailto:waitsr@charter.net">waitsr@charter.net</a>	715-829-5762
Andy Heren	<a href="mailto:Rcktnut007@aol.com">Rcktnut007@aol.com</a>	715-831-9236
Jeannie Chromey	<a href="mailto:J_chromey@yahoo.com">J_chromey@yahoo.com</a>	715-5799607
Chris Southworth	<a href="mailto:Chris_southworth@yahoo.com">Chris_southworth@yahoo.com</a>	715-514-3358
Barb Huggins	<a href="http://barbahuggins@gmail.com">http://barbahuggins@gmail.com</a>	715-833-0224

**Note:**

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

**Join** your fellow Master Gardeners for an information sharing meeting on **Monday, March 21**, at 6:30 pm, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 3214 Golf Rd (kitty corner from Red Robin). We'll be discussing the recent changes from Madison and project leaders will be on hand to talk about their projects - what's the purpose of the project, what kind of help is needed, how to report your hours worked on the project, etc.

Having trouble loading zoom on your device, getting your Net ID, accessing OnBoarding Light? Bring your device and your problem and fellow Master Gardener Debra will be available at the meeting to help.

### ECAMGVs Are Invited On A Tour Of Chippewa Valley Growers Wednesday, March 2 at 1 pm

Chippewa Valley Growers has invited the ECAMGVs behind the scenes at their greenhouse to learn how they plant a vast array of plants at this time of year. The tour will include how they prevent, monitor, and control insect pests and diseases, and how the chosen methods of control affect quality. Growers will show us how they treat plugs as they arrive in the greenhouse, plant and care for un-rooted cuttings, and maintain consistent moisture levels. This tour will count for Continuing Education credit. It is limited to 15 EC Master Gardeners. If demand exceeds this limit we may be able to add a second tour. Pre-register with Andy (715-839-4712 or email at [Andy.Heren@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:Andy.Heren@co.eau-claire.wi.us)) to secure your spot on the tour. Masks are recommended but not required.

Chippewa Valley Growers is located at 7825 S. Prill Road Eau Claire, WI 54701



### ECAMGV

2021  
Calendar

- March 12: Growing Together Online Seminar
- April 18: Nora Mitchell on South African Plants
- May: Greenhouse visit to learn about behind the scenes
- May 22: Plant Sale with Hosta Society and EC Garden Club
- June: Visit Irvine Park wildflower garden
- July: Learn about landscaping
- August: Outdoor education
- September: Visit BCR Butterfly garden
- October 7: Photo Contest deadline
- October: TBA
- November: TBA
- December: Annual Meeting and Christmas Party

*Buckthorn Treatment continued from pg 1...*

University of Wisconsin-Madison. Buckthorn Baggies are non-toxic heavy black plastic bags placed on top of 6-inch stumps held by zip ties. The bags deprive the invasives of light so they can't resprout. You can check the stump as often as you like, and you can leave the bags for up to a year.

Depending on the recycling facilities of the area, they might be recyclable (they can't be recycled in Eau Claire).



**Picture 4.** Invasive buckthorn resprouting before using the Buckthorn Baggie method, during the application of the method and after. Photo credit: [buckthornbaggie.com](http://buckthornbaggie.com)

Instructions on how to eliminate buckthorn using the Buckthorn Baggie methods can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjirBYf-SARQ>

You can order thirty Buckthorn Baggie for \$39.99 plus shipping at [buckthornbaggie.com](http://buckthornbaggie.com).

### More about Evan

Evan will graduate in May with his master's in Conservation Biology from UW-Stout. His thesis research occurs in Sportsman Lake, Owen/Withee, WI. He studies the effectiveness of the Buckthorn Baggie method, a cost analysis between buckthorn baggie removal and chemical removal projects, among other topics.

### Pretty Enough To Eat... by Carol Cox

This Kale caught my eye in a couple of the new garden catalogs. Rainbow Candy Crush Kale is, supposedly not only lovely to look at but is also tasty to eat. It is listed with 45-50 days to maturity and is said to be ideal for both containers and traditional



planting in your garden. The colors intensify with cool nighttime temperatures and a light frost in the fall which also improves the flavor.

## ECAMGA Receive Exceptional Natural Resources Steward Award

Master Gardeners, Ellen Terwilliger, Aruna A and Jael Wolf led the way and worked tirelessly on the Menomonie Street Project to transform it to an area displaying native sedges and shrubs. The following is from the City's award ceremony.

The final award today is to Eau Claire Area Master Gardeners, under the Exceptional Natural Resources Steward category.

The purpose of all University of Wisconsin Extension (UWEX) Master Gardener Volunteer Programs is to provide Horticultural Education, Community Service, and Environmental Stewardship for communities.

Master Gardeners in Eau Claire do many things. They help run educational events and the annual springtime conference, along with supporting programs at schools and city parks. They collaborate with partners to help put on plant sales as well.

More specifically, and over the past two years, a group of their volunteers removed thousands of invasive plants like False spirea and garlic mustard along approximately a 150 ft x 25-foot strip of City Street right of way. Master Gardeners planned and planted three varieties of sedges, native ninebark and goatsbeard, hostas and non-native Taunton Yews, spirea and hydrangea for a total of over 225 plants in 2021. Education about the project was then provided.

Congrats on the award, and Great job on this good project as it looked like a lot of hard work!





## The Quest

By Judy Mitchell

Growing Together 2022 features a presentation on Creating a Bee Lawn. That has me thinking about lawns. I haven't fielded many questions from the public about lawns but the questions I have fielded have mostly been about growing grass in shade.

The people who have asked me about growing grass in shade have tended to be people who want grass. My guess is that the people who are open to growing something other than grass tend to ask different questions, like "What plants grow well in shade?" or "What will grow under my maple tree other than hostas?"

Nevertheless, when I am asked about growing grass in shade, I usually waste a few minutes talking about alternatives to grass. I have even tried telling a personal story about how I decided to plant wildflowers in a wet, shady area of my yard with poor grass. When I went out to assess the area, I found my job was already done. There was very little grass but there were lots of small white violets – native, sweet smelling wildflowers. That person was polite but really wanted to know how to grow grass.

Okay, I am pleased to tell you there's a Learning Store publication for people who want to grow grass in shade. UWEX Publication 3700, Growing Grass in Shade, is available at the Learning Store (<https://learningstore.uwex.edu/>) or on the Extension Horticulture website (<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/>).

Publication A3700 explains how to grow grass in shade, from planting the right species of grass to using reduced rates of fertilizer and cutting the grass higher (3 to 4 inches). It includes watering instructions for different types of grass and soil conditions. Common diseases are covered, as well as moss. There are also tips for increasing light penetration by pruning shade trees and removing thick layers of fallen leaves. This publication is a great resource for anyone wanting to grow better grass in shade.

## Meet a Master Gardener – Sue Waits...

I am a new master gardener having just completed the class last winter via ZOOM. I have been gardening off and on for twenty years. While I have a vegetable garden, I also enjoy my perennial flower gardens. It is a constant work in progress.



## Events

### Mark Your Calendar...



If you haven't heard yet, we are having a plant sale with the Hosta Society and the Eau Claire Garden Club. We are hoping this will be a huge sale and become an annual event.

The sale is scheduled for Sunday, May 22, probably from 9:00-noon (This is yet to be finalized). It will be held at the Phoenix Park pavilion.

If you would like to serve on this committee, please contact Christ Southworth at [christ\\_southworth@yahoo.com](mailto:christ_southworth@yahoo.com) (There is an underscore between her names) Again, this is a good way to accumulate some volunteer hours.

*"Laugh a lot so your wrinkles grow in all the right places."  
-anonymous*



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



### Breakfast & Birds

Thursday, March 10, 2022 from 8:00-9:00 am

Join Beaver Creek Reserve to learn about bird species of the Chippewa Valley. Each month we will take a different bird or group of birds and learn everything you want to know about them. Learn about bird identification, bird behavior, what to feed birds and where you might see them. Join us. Feel free to eat your breakfast as you watch and learn!

Registration required by : March 8, 2022

Free

Virtual - Zoom

CONTACT E-MAIL

[bcr@Beavercreekreserve.org](mailto:bcr@Beavercreekreserve.org)

### Maple Syrup Saturday

Date: March 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-1:00pm  
 Wise Nature Center

Bring the family to explore the tradition of maple sugaring right here at Beaver Creek Reserve! Learn how to decide which trees to tap, how to tap, and how sap is collected and boiled down to make that wonderful syrup we all love. Following a short inside program, you will tour the sugar bush where you will assist with tapping a tree, and then visit the sugar shack where the sap is boiled down into syrup. Families will each have the opportunity to "adopt-a-tree" where they will create their own tree tag to place on each sap station to leave their own personal touch to Beaver Creek's sugar bush, you may even be able to collect your own sap from that tree! Maple donuts and Beaver Creek syrup will be available to eat along with coffee and hot chocolate during the event. Please dress for the weather!



The indoor program and outdoor tour will be on rotation throughout the day. So feel free to show up anytime between 9-1pm. Donuts, coffee, and hot chocolate will be available throughout the day as well. Depending on the weather and amount of snow, rentals may be available to use during the day. You may even get a chance to meet some of our animal ambassadors in our Scheels Discovery Room!

Visitors will also have the opportunity to purchase their very own bottle of Beaver Creek Reserve maple syrup! Syrup is usually not available for purchase, but there will be bottles available to buy only at the event. Syrup will be sold throughout the day, quantities are limited, so stop by before we sell out. Find various sizes of syrup and support Beaver Creek Reserve's sugaring operation for years to come.

**Cost-** Member: Adult \$8, Youth \$4 (ages 2-10), Nonmember: Adult \$10, Youth \$5 (ages 2-10)

**\*Children under 2 are FREE**



### Invaders in 15: Curly-leaf Pondweed

Wednesday, March 23, 2022 - Time: 9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

Join us for this flash webinar series on invasive species! The Invaders in 15 webinars will spotlight one local invasive species in a flash presentation that includes the history, biology, and ecological impact of the featured species.

Register by: Tuesday, March 23, 2022: Cost: FREE! Program: Virtual

Instructor Name: Lia Landowski

CONTACT E-MAIL: [bcr@Beavercreekreserve.org](mailto:bcr@Beavercreekreserve.org)

# Growing Together

2022 Western Wisconsin Spring Garden Seminars



## SAVE THE DATE: Virtual Presentations. Saturday, March 12

### 9:30 am. Gravel Gardens -- Gardens that Rock!

*Jeff Epping* from Olbrich Botanical Gardens

The talk will look at earth-friendly gravel gardens that require less of just about everything – water, mulch, energy, chemicals and most importantly labor – but give back so much more. Jeff Epping, Director of Horticulture at Olbrich Botanical Gardens, created a number of gravel gardens at Olbrich and in his own home garden that you can easily incorporate into your home landscape, as well. Don't confuse these gardens with traditional rock or alpine gardens that look more rocky than green and require a great deal of time to maintain. These sustainable gravel gardens are as colorful as any perennial planting around, provide food and habit for pollinators and other insects and require up to 80% less maintenance than a traditional perennial planting. Jeff will show you how to replace conventional lawns, expensive annual plantings, and labor-intensive perennial beds with these easy-to-maintain gravel gardens. If you want a garden that truly rocks, look no further than a gravel garden.

### 11 am. Creating an Organic Bee Lawn

*Bob Dahm, aka Dr. Organic*

**Bob Dahm, aka Dr. Organic** is the owner of Organic Lawn Care Service in the Twin Cities. His service creates alternatives to traditional lawns including lawns that encourage bees. He believes that lawns are a barren desert to a foraging bee. Even weed flowers like Creeping Charlie and dandelions are not as healthy for bees as we once thought. Organic Bee Lawn was developed by the University of Minnesota Bee Lab to help connect habitat islands and achieve genetic diversity and increase habitat. Even a small corner of your lawn can make a difference. Plant a bee lawn today!

**These seminars are open to the public and we welcome both new and experienced gardeners to attend.**

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Registration for the Growing Together Seminar is due by **March 4**. The YouTube Live link will be emailed to you before the day of the seminar on March 12. Paid registrants will have exclusive access to the recorded presentations for a limited time after the seminar concludes. Registration is at <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/> and the \$5 fee can be paid online or mailed to the Eau Claire Extension Office at 227 First St. West, Altoona, WI 54720. **If you are sending a check email Andy Heren your email address and phone number so you receive the link.** Questions can be directed to Andy Heren at UW– Extension at 715 839 4712 or [andy.heren@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:andy.heren@co.eau-claire.wi.us).

Brought to you by Western Wisconsin Master Gardener Associations from: Barron, Dunn, Chippewa Valley, Eau Claire and St.Croix Valley.



## Bits and Pieces



*Is this (picture to the left) something like kissing a toad (or is it a frog?) to have your "prince" appear. In any case it is cute and innocent in a time when we are coming out of COVID.*

*Picture from Pinterest...*



**Eye Candy**



**What gorgeous iris we have to look forward to... (picture/Pinterest)**



*Shades of Paula Bonnin...we will have to see what unique and beautiful sunflowers she grows to delight us in this coming season.*

*Picture from the internet.*



Some interesting ideas as we look to start up another gardening season:

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/580190364483661573/> (above on the left – from A Hosting Home site)

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/580190364483661573/> (from My Cottage Garden website – 2<sup>nd</sup> picture from the left)

Also check out an interesting writeup on growing onions at <https://homesteadandchill.com/how-to-grow-onions/>.

Then, come fall, you might find the easy to make tomato drying rack design shown at <https://www.instructables.com/Easy-tomato-drying-rack/> (picture 3rd from the left.).

The fourth picture above details a number of uses for those heavy duty livestock panels, some of which I have used in my garden (some also are ideas for "homesteaders" but all are interesting including using to build a greenhouse. Go to <https://www.peakprosperity.com/5-uses-for-livestock-panels/>.



Picture: K.vanBourgondien

## Crimson Fans Mukdenia

Crimson Fans Mukdenia is a very interesting herbaceous plant with maple shaped green leaves that mature to bronze-green, and fan out to show off the bright red streaks that appear at maturity. In early spring there are sprays of small, white, bell-shaped blooms that contrast well with the heavier lower foliage below. This plant makes an excellent ground cover and a good addition to woodland areas. It also works well as a border or can be used as a container garden accent.

**Hardiness Zones** 4-9    **Mature Height** 12 - 15 inches    **Bloom Time** Mid to late spring  
**Light Requirements** Half Sun / Half Shade    **Ground Cover**    **Deer Resistant**

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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**Extension Office**  
**227 First Street West**  
**Altoona, WI 54720**