

# Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



March 2019

## Another Successful Winter Garden Seminar...

Approximately 150 people attended the February 2, 2019. Keynote speaker, Susan Frame, gave an interesting presentation on Landscape Plant and Turf Management and even brought along a “bug house” built by one of her students (see photo at right).

Other speakers covered a wide range of interesting topics during the breakout sessions from Patty Marten of Green Oasis telling about the “New Plant Trends for 2019,” and Jerry Clark giving us the inside scoop on “how Weather and Climate Determine What We Grow,” to Ellen Terwilliger taking attendees on a vicarious tour of Costa Rica and a look at cacao growing and much more that included Monarch Butterflies, garden room decoration, local aquatic invasive species, earthworms, vegetable gardening, and even Faye Ryszkiewicz doing a succulent plant workshop on site.

A gorgeous quilt was raffled off with Anne Annis holding the winning ticket (see picture to the right). She should really appreciate that with the weather that we have been having in the Eau Claire area.

There were some interesting vendors and the overall program was well Received by those who attended with many of the speakers getting Mostly “5”s on their reviews.

If you missed it then you missed a fun event. But, mark your calendars because the CVTC facility is already reserved for next year’s Winter Garden Seminar which will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2020. And already the Seminar Planning Committee is starting to think about speakers for next year.



*Susan Frame pointing out the salient features of the “bug house.”*



*Ann Annis with her prize quilt.*



*Just some of the many beautiful door prizes that were given out.*



*An excellent meal was served and the diners enjoyed the meal in the well-lit cafeteria area. In addition, there was time for sharing gardening stories, catching up with old friends, checking out the vendors and, in general, enjoying the day. (photos by Sally Anderson 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](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!!!**

**ECAMGA Board**

ECAMGA BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO		
Name	E-mail address	Phone number
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Ellen Terwilliger	<a href="mailto:terwilset@gmail.com">terwilset@gmail.com</a>	715-839-0731
Nancy Spak	<a href="mailto:nancyspak@gmail.com">nancyspak@gmail.com</a>	715-210-7005

**Note:**

The ECAMGAV Board minutes may be accessed at <https://eauclairemastergardeners.weebly.com/ecam-board.html>.

**Local Pediatrician To Speak On Lyme's Disease to ECAMGA**

Local Pediatrician and Internist, Dr. Julia Kyle, will be discussing "Lyme's Disease and Other Tick-Borne Illnesses" at the Monday, March 18th meeting of the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener's Association (ECAMGA). She will talk about prevention, symptoms and treatment for these conditions. As an avid gardener and outdoor enthusiast, Dr. Kyle will provide tips on how to avoid contact with disease carrying ticks.



Picture by Jo-Ann Clark

This free presentation at the UW Extension Office (located at 227 1st St W in Altoona) will start at 6:30 pm and is open to the public. Refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded. Bring a friend and join us to learn more about "keeping ticks off" as we prepare for another Wisconsin summer recreation season. **To reserve a seat, please call the office at 715-839-4712.**



***There are two ways to be fooled. One is to believe what isn't true; the other is to refuse to believe what is true. - anonymous***

**ECAMGVA**

**2019 Calendar**



*All meetings at Extension Office unless otherwise noted*

**March 18, 2019: Dr. Julia Kyle, "Lyme's Disease and Other Tick-Borne Illnesses"**

**April 15, 2019: Jerry Clark, "Preparing Your Garden Soil"**

**May 20, 2019: TBA**

**June 2019: Annual Plant Sale**

**June 17, 2019: TBA**

**July 15, 2019: TBA**

**August 19, 2019: TBA**

**September 16, 2019: TBA**

**September 30, 2019: Hours due in**

**October 7, 2019: Deadline for MG Photo Contest entries**

**October 21, 2019: TBA**

**November 18, 2019: TBA**

**December 16: Annual Holiday Party**



## **The Quest** by Judy Mitchell

This is the final Quest article of the season. If you have followed along since October, you have read UWEX publications on soil conditioners, a new insect pest, tree selection, lawn maintenance and what not to eat. Today, we take a look at strawberries.

UWEX Lawn & Garden Publication A1597, Growing Strawberries in Wisconsin (available at <https://learningstore.uwex.edu>) starts out saying that strawberries are "quite easy to grow" and then goes on for **23 pages (!)** explaining what, when, how and where to plant strawberries and how to care for strawberries once planted.

Your progress through this publication will be greatly simplified if you select one type of cultivar (page 3) for your closest attention. I selected Junebearing strawberries because they produce years longer than Everbearing or Day-Neutral ones.

The basics are indeed pretty simple. Plant in early spring and in full sun. Test and amend the soil. Always purchase new plants. If you don't plant right away, heel the plants in or refrigerate them (instructions on page 6). Use a matted row system for Junebearing plants (diagram provided). Mulch and use mechanical methods for weeding. Give plants an inch of water a week, just like your lawn.

Junebearing plants need to get established the first year: add nitrogen and pinch off blossoms. Thereafter, the plants are susceptible to cold and frost and need the usual weed, fertilize (but not in early spring), and water routine.

The publication devotes three pages to insects (pages 12-15) and six pages to diseases (pages 16-21). Insects are said to generally not be a problem. Best practices for disease prevention include replanting relatively frequently, rotating to a different part of the garden, and planting newly purchased plants and disease-resistant cultivars.

You can start picking Junebearing plants in the second year. The plants should be productive for 3 to 6 years. There are right and wrong ways to pick and store berries. Read about them on page 11.

Eating strawberries is the simplest job of all. If you have any trouble eating your fresh strawberries, give me a call. (*Editor's note: I would also be more than happy to help out on this last chore!!!*)

## Events



Early Bird Fee until March 1: \$49  
 General Fee after March 2: \$59  
 Lunch is provided  
 For more info and to register go to:  
<https://www.ntc.edu/calendar/2019/03/16/beekeeping-conference-2019>

## *Beekeeping Conference 2019*

**Saturday March 16, 2019**

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Conference

(8:15 a.m. check in)

NTC Center for Health Sciences

1000 W Campus Dr, Wausau, WI

### **Keynote:**

"Mite Management", Gary Reuter

"Better Queens: Nature and Nurture", Gary Reuter

### **Break-out Sessions include:**

- "Beekeeping Equipment & Tools", Chris Hansen
- "Products of the Hive", Dan Schneider
- "Wintering Hives/Deadout Evaluation", Rich Schneider
- "Beekeeping Sustainability", Alex Zomcheck



and more...



S1 County Road K, Fall  
Creek, WI 54742  
[beavercreekreserve.org](http://beavercreekreserve.org)  
Phone: (715) 877-2212

### Owl Prowl – March 12 - 7:00 to 9:30 pm

Join a staff naturalist for a hootin' good time. The evening will begin with a short walk outside to listen and hoot for owls, after which we will return inside to discover some of the unique traits of the owl family. A guest appearance by BCR's non-releasable owl is expected toward the end of the program. **This program is appropriate for upper elementary school-age children to adults.** Please dress appropriately for the weather. Price range: \$3.00 up to \$8.00. **Registration and full payment required by March 10.**

**Bird Banding 101 – March 13 and 14**  
(2 separate sessions). Day 1 from 800 am – 1:00 pm; Day 2 from 7:30 am – 12:30 pm.  
At the Wise Nature Center

Are you interested in joining Beaver Creek Reserve's Bird Banding Crew? Join us for an introduction to bird banding. This workshop is for those with little or no bird banding experience. Participants will learn how to safely capture and release birds. They will learn techniques to hold, band, and take measurements on birds in the hand. Discussions will also include Beaver Creek's Avian Monitoring Program, benefits of bird banding, bird identification, and banding safety.

**Registration and full payment required by March 10** for either session. Friends and Nonmembers \$55 per person.

Spring will come and summer will follow and this is one of the beautiful lilies that were purchased at the Winter Garden Seminar. Called 'Passion Moon,' it is a trumpet lily that should look gorgeous in the August garden.



## Classes and Events:

### Saturday, March 2, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm:

**Winter Farmers Market in the Greenhouse:** Support local farmers while shopping in the beauty and warmth of our greenhouse. Beef, pork, bison, honey, produce, microgreens, preserves, baked goods and more! The area's favorite farmers are Down to Earth vendors!

### Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>: 10:00 am: 3Bs: Baskets, Brunch

**& Boutique:** Forget winter and think spring – at least for a couple hours! Come enjoy a delicious brunch in the greenhouse, then discover the joy of creating your own hanging basket. Our greenhouse pros will guide you in choosing and planting baby plants in your hanging basket. Then DTE will care for your baskets until they are ready to go outside – and until outside is ready for them!! You'll be able to pick up your baskets in May, to take home and enjoy. Feel free to come visit and check on the status as they grow. You'll also receive a valuable Boutique coupon to be used anytime that weekend. **Cost:** \$60; includes breakfast buffet and one 12" hanging basket, as well as a valuable boutique coupon. Additional baskets may be planted at \$50 per basket. **Registration Required – limited to 30 people.**

### Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am: Spring Miniature Garden Workshop:

Design and create your very own Spring Miniature Garden! With just a few plants, a selection of miniatures and a touch of fairy dust, you will have a sweet little miniature garden! Choose from our wide variety of containers, plants, and miniature collections to create your one-of-a-kind miniature garden. Miniature gardens make perfect indoor gardens, but can be enjoyed outdoors as well! **Cost:** Build your own; only pay for what you take home. Bring your own container or purchase one here.

### Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 am: House Plant Care & Transplant Workshop:

Love the look of indoor plants but not sure how to keep them thriving? We can help! This class will cover what plants work in which environments, how to care for them, and even how to transplant. A must attend class for everyone with indoor plants!

### Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am Succulent Planter

**Workshop:** Our greenhouse staff will lead you in creating a beautiful succulent planter. You can choose from the HUGE variety of succulents we carry in the greenhouse to create something perfect for your home or office! **Cost: Build your own; only pay for what you take home.**

**NOTE:** Pre-registration is preferred for all classes and workshops.

6025 Arndt Lane  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
715-833-1234  
[www.dwntoearth.com](http://www.dwntoearth.com)

# GARDEN "U" 2019 PRAIRIES, BERRIES AND TREES

## Saturday March 16

### Hudson House Grand Hotel

1616 Crest View Drive, Hudson, WI

(I-94 to Hudson, take exit 2 south, then west on CrestView Dr.)

9:00 to 3:00 pm (8:30 registration)



### Featured speakers:

**Alex Bouthilet**, Star Prairie Seed Farm, on "PRAIRIES"

**Jerry Clark**, Chippewa County Ag Agent on "BERRIES – Home Berry Production"

**Rachel Henderson**, on "FRUIT TREES — Organic Mixed Fruit Orchard"

Registration fee: \$40 payable to SCVMGA (Includes lunch on-site at Hudson House).

Website: <https://scvmga.weebly.com/>

Mail Registrations to: SCVMGA – Barrette, 1358 County Rd V, Houlton, WI 54082

For questions: Phone: 715-549-6438 or Email: cbarrette1@outlook.com



"Do you know the difference between education and experience? Education is when you read the fine print. Experience is what you get when you don't." .....Pete Seeger



"Where you believe there is magic...you will find it!"

unknown

# Hydrangeas

Saturday, March 16  
11 a.m.

2 p.m. (repeat program)  
Eau Claire Room

L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library  
400 Eau Claire Street, Eau Claire

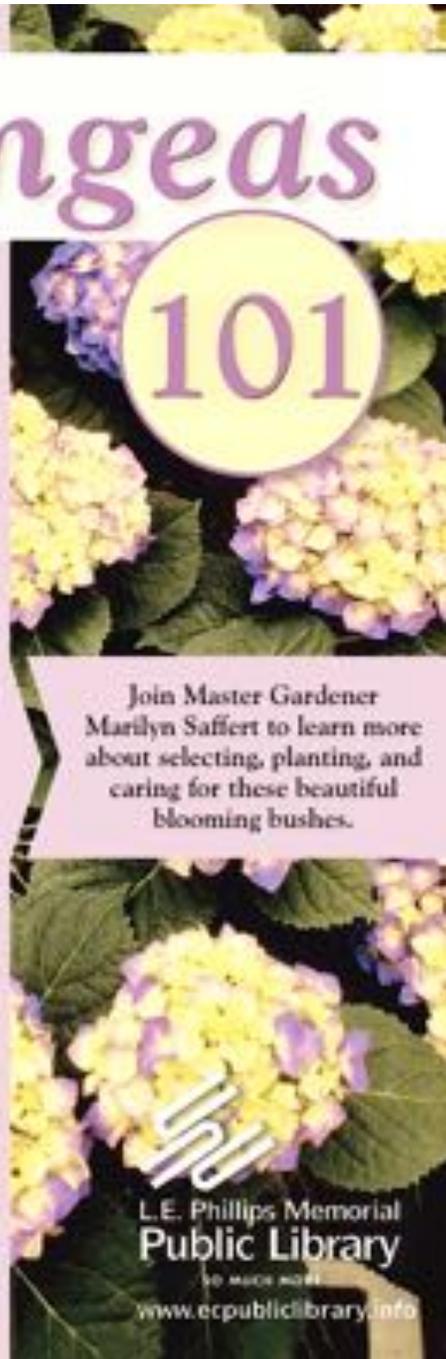
Hydrangeas are a favorite subject amongst gardeners. While many believe that the Wisconsin climate may be too harsh, there are some great varieties available that will truly prosper in our northern gardens.

Marilyn Saffert has been a Barron County Master Gardener for 24 years, and a member of the Rice Lake Area Garden Club for 25 years. Marilyn and her husband Paul garden at their rural Rice Lake home. Their garden was a winner in the 2011 Country Gardens magazine contest. The Saffert garden was also featured in the Eau Claire Leader-Telegram in August 2017.



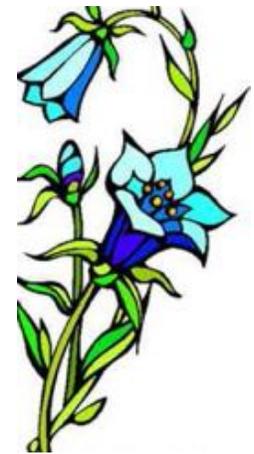
No registration required.  
Co-sponsored by Eau Claire Garden Club.

715-839-5004 • librarian@eauclaire.lib.wi.us



Join Master Gardener Marilyn Saffert to learn more about selecting, planting, and caring for these beautiful blooming bushes.

L.E. Phillips Memorial  
Public Library  
100 MAIN ST  
www.ecpubliclibrary.info



## Garden Dreams

March 30, 2019

Lettie W. Jensen  
Community Center  
487 North Main Street  
Amherst, WI

Speakers:

**Alan Haney:** "Bird-friendly Backyards"

**Katey Pratt,**  
"Bee-utiful Design"

**Jeff Epping,** "Creating a Garden Sanctuary"

Registration Deadline  
Monday, March 25th  
Conference Fee ~ \$30  
Includes a hot lunch.

For more information and the registration form/brochure go to:

<https://portage.extension.wisc.edu/horticulture/2019-garden-dreams/>

Questions? Email:

[66hornets@gmail.com](mailto:66hornets@gmail.com)

Or call: 715-345-9776

Portage County  
UW-Extension MG  
Volunteers

Common sense



is a flower  
that does  
not grow  
in everyone's  
garden!



## Barron County Master Gardener Volunteers

# Spring Expo

Saturday, April 6, 2019  
WITC Conference Center

Featured speakers:

**Mark Dwyer,** Rotary Botanical Gardens, "Basics of Landscape Design" (keynote address) and "Sensational Seasonals" (morning breakout session)

**Mike Racette,** "Vegetable Gardening"

**Tim Fehr,** "What's New In Daylilies"

For more information and to register go to: <http://barron.uwex.edu>. Cost is \$30 per person including continental breakfast and lunch. Tickets at the door \$35 with no lunch guarantee.



# Bits & Pieces



## Eye Candy



### What household foods to feed your garden birds

Raisins and currants

Fat, which is enjoyed by thrushes and wrens  
Cooked, unsalted rice

Grated mild cheddar cheese, a treat for  
robins, blackbirds, wrens and thrushes

Cold, plain potatoes in all forms except chips  
Pieces of apple and pear, even if they have  
started to get old.

Pastry, cooked or uncooked

Peanuts sold for the purpose of feeding the  
birds.

### What NOT to feed your garden birds

Cheap peanuts. (they may contain toxins that  
can prove fatal to some birds)

Dried coconut (It can swell the stomach and  
kill some birds)

Spicy or salty food

Salted nuts, bacon, crisps and  
snacks

Margarine or vegetable oils

Food with mold on it

Chocolate



*From the Curious Gardener's Almanac*





*Where will we put any more snow? We all wonder that BUT... Spring will come – just 20 more days!!! Do not despair – there is hope despite the size of the snowbanks!*



**EAU CLAIRE AREA MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER**  
 A newsletter for the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Association members.

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



**March 10, 2019**

For more Eau Claire County UW Cooperative Extension information go to our website:  
[www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/eauc Claire](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/eauc Claire)  
 Phone: 715-839-4712  
 Fax: 715-839-6277  
 M-F 8AM-5PM



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**Eau Claire County  
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