

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



February 2023

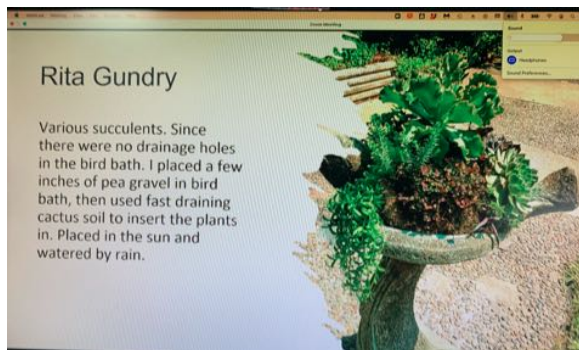
Containers the Subject for the January ECAMGVA Zoom Meeting...by Carol Cox

On January 16, 2023, the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteers met via Zoom to talk about the containers they had put together and grown in the 2022 gardening season. Members had submitted photos of their containers to Andy Heren and Andy put together a slide show of the pictures submitted. Each participant then talked about what the plants were used in the containers and things that worked or didn't work for them.

Along with the opportunity to garner new ideas about container gardening, members who were online got to view a good bit of "Eye Candy" in the form of the slide show. Some of the containers are shown to the right and below.



Photo above of Zoom screen by Jo-Ann Clark (also two below)



Above photo and one below of Zoom Screen by Carol Cox



And, the King of the Tomato, Andy Heren, and his container grown tomatoes.



Ellen Terwilliger's container utilizing the King Tut plants and Salvia. The other photo also includes some of her hanging baskets.



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 715-783-0016 - cell).



Bulletin Board Postings Stories and Opportunities!!!

ECAMGA Board

ECAMGVA BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO		
Name	E-mail address	Phone number
Louise White-Roach	White1roach@gmail.com	715-831-3352
Andy Heren	Rcktnut007@aol.com	715-831-9236
Sue Waits	waitsr@charter.net	715-829-5762
Jeannie Chromey	J_chromey@yahoo.com	715-5799607
Barb Huggins	http:barbahuggins@gmail.com	715-833-0224
Chris Southworth	Chris_southworth@yahoo.com	715-514-3358
Ellen Terwilliger	terwilset@gmail.com	
Judy Mitchell	jmitchell@pobox.com	

Note:

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



Photo supplied by Judi Robinson

Meet Master Gardener ... Judi Robinson

I grew up in small community in northern Wisconsin and wasn't exposed to gardening much as a child. I spent a lot of time outdoors in the woods and by lakes, but no gardening.

When I bought my house it was in a rural setting that had been a former corn field, I knew that I had a lot of work ahead of me to make the yard beautiful by planting trees, shrubs, and perennials which was all trial and error on my part. I asked other gardeners questions and read a lot of books and magazines. After I became a

MGV in 1998, I really got the gardening bug. Networking, attending many seminars and meetings, and garden tours have really opened my eyes to the world of gardening. I've been able to tour many public and private gardens over the years and gotten many good ideas for maintenance, design, and places to shop for more plants. I enjoy participating in the plant sales and helping with the seminars and teaching classes.

I've maintained a small gardening business that has allowed me to meet many other gardeners and use some of my creative abilities. It keeps me busy, active, and able to be with people. You're never too old to learn new techniques and learn new things from people who share similar interests.



ECAMGVA 2023 Calendar

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

February 1: Winter Sowing Workshop, 9 am to 11 am

February 28: Volunteer Launch

March 20: Workshop on seed starting and propagating plants.

April 17: Growing citrus in Wisconsin

May 20: TBA

June: 3 Alternatives to Lawns tour (to be hosted by another organization)

July: TBA

August: TBA

September: TBA

October 7: Photo Contest deadline

October: TBA

November: TBA

December: Annual Holiday Party and meeting

Chippewa County Land Conservation also has a sale. Their order deadline is April 5, with pickup May 5. Here is their link [Conservation Tree Program | Chippewa County, Wi](#)



Photo by Renew Wisconsin

A message from your President, Ellen Terwilliger

Hello Master Gardeners and Friends,

First of all, a huge thank you for Jeannie Chromey for her two years of service to our organization as President. She will continue to serve in the role of Treasurer. The next time you see Jeannie I hope you will thank her. It's a large commitment to serve on the board as President. Andy Heren will continue to serve as Vice President and Sue Waits will serve as secretary, taking over from Louise Roach-White. Thank you, Louise, for your service.

A new year is upon us. Many of us are thinking seeds, plants and planning for our summer gardens. Your board is planning seedy events as well as sowing the seeds of change. I'll be trying to provide a brief update monthly in our newsletter as to what the board is working on. By the time some of you read the newsletter you will have provided us input on long range planning. We'll keep you informed as to results.

With added insurance and software expenses our plant sale will be especially important. An active group of members headed by Louise Roach-White has scheduled the sale at the LE Phillips Senior center on Sunday, May 21st. We'll be setting up on May 20th. Put it on your calendar and watch for information on helping.

Chris Southworth is working with a group to implement software that will allow us to send messages, pay dues and do registration on our website <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/>. You can find out what educational and other events are coming up on the Events tab.

We are planning to participate in an Earth Day event at The Brewing Projekt that is being headed up by Sue Waits and her team from JONAH. We'll do some seed starting and share information about our organization.

With continued changes at the the UW Extension state level things can get confusing. If you need help with logging hours, accessing education please contact Chris Southworth, Andy Heren or me and we'll arrange to meet and help you out. If you need help with your password or accessing CANVAS you can contact wimastergardener@extension.wisc.edu

I spent a few week traveling in New Zealand with my daughters over the holidays. Several of you have asked if I would show photos. **You are invited to come to my home at 6:30 on February 15.** You'll get an email with my address before then.

Wishing you all the best New Year possible as we plan to share our gardening knowledge in the community.

Volunteer Launch Meeting

As we near the end of this snowy winter, you're probably thinking about your summer plans, maybe planning how to get in your volunteer hours. Do you like to get your hands dirty, or is doing something from your favorite chair more your style? Either way, we have projects that will work for you!



Join us **on March 28, at 5 pm**, at the Extension Office in Altoona to learn more.

Project leads will be on hand to share information about their projects and to answer your questions. Have an idea for a project but you're not sure where to start? Come talk to other MGV's who've done it.



Photo by Dana Cox – Clivia in blossom



Events

SEED STARTING & PLANT PROPAGATION

Mark your calendar for our March 20 workshop on seed starting and plant propagation. Attendees will plant pots to take home and will learn and share their knowledge. Ellen Terwilliger will kick off the meeting at 5 pm with a short presentation and then we will get to work. Materials will be provided so registration is required. To register, contact Andy Heren at rcktnut007@aol.com
Registration limited to 25.



Begonia rex, the king begonia, is a species of flowering plant in the family Begoniaceae. It is found from Arunachal Pradesh to southeast China, and has been introduced to Bangladesh, Cuba, and Hispaniola. It is a parent to over 500 cultivars in the Begonia Rex Cultorum Group of houseplants.



Down To Earth Garden
Center
6025 Arndt Ln
Eau Claire, WI 54701
715-833-1234

www.downtoearthgarde

Classes/Events

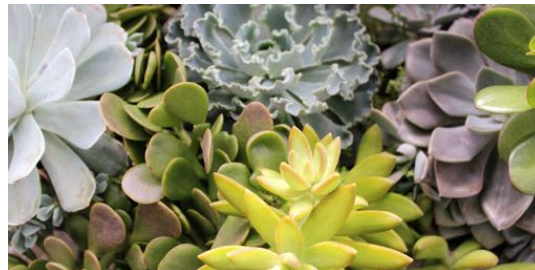
Winter Farmers Market in the Greenhouse: Feb 4 and Feb 18 and March 4: 9am to 1 pm: Down to Earth will host local farmers, selling everything from honey to beef to jams to pork! Veggies to syrup to honey to cheese! And so much more! Come stroll through the farmers' booths and enjoy the sights, sounds and scents of the greenhouse at Down to Earth.



Terrarium Workshop: February 11 – 1 am to 3 pm:

Book a time to work with one of our greenhouse pros, creating a beautiful terrarium! A simple glass container can be transformed into a self-sustained tropical oasis! Learn how to properly put together a glass terrarium that creates a perfect growing environment for humidity-loving plants, and adds life to your office desk, the nook in your kitchen or a child's room.

Workshop appointments will be scheduled on the hour, 9am-3pm, and groups of up to 6 may be scheduled together. *Register for the class by clicking the green button above, or by calling 715-833-1234, ext. 3. A \$10 registration deposit will be collected at the time of online registration and deducted from the final project cost. * No charge for workshop. Pay only for what you create that day. * Bring your own glass container or purchase one here.*



Succulent Planter Workshop: February 18th from 9a.m. to 3 p.m.: Our greenhouse staff will help you select and plant your choice of succulents to create a beautiful planter for your home or office! Classes are scheduled at the top of the hour, 9am-3pm, first come first serve.

Register by calling 715-833-1234, ext. 3 or going to the Down To Earth website and clicking on the Events Calendar (February events). At the time of online registration, a \$10 deposit will be collected and subtracted from the final project cost. We will contact you by email to schedule your class time. Workshop is Free. Pay only for what you choose that day.



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

Birding Wisconsin: Feeder birds

February 15, 2023 – 9:00 A.M.

This is a VIRTUAL PROGRAM

(a link will be emailed to you before the program starts)

Come join us for this new birding series all about finding and ID the birds of Wisconsin. Register by: February 13, 2023. **Cost:** Member: Free: Nonmember: \$5. **CONTACT E-MAIL:** csc@beavercreekreserve.org.

Invaders in 15: Knotweed

February 15, 2023

9:00 am to 9:25 am

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. This month’s feature is an herbaceous perennial that can grow right through sidewalks and other infrastructure. Find out why this AIS is justly nicknamed “backyard bamboo”!

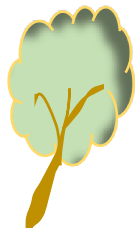
Date to register & pay by Tuesday, February 14, 2023, before 4:00 pm. **Cost:** FREE!

Type of program: Virtual/Zoom. **A program link will be sent to the registrant's email address prior to the start of the program.** Contact e-mail: bcr@Beavercreekreserve.org.





Bits and Pieces



THE QUEST

By Judy Mitchell

Now, while our lawns are dormant, is an excellent time to brush up on lawn diseases. The Lawn Disease Quick Reference guide is a great resource for this. It is available on the UW Horticulture website at <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/lawn-disease-quick-reference/>

This quick reference guide covers seven common diseases found in lawns in Wisconsin. It explains when to look for each disease, how to identify it and how to treat it. There are photos to aid in identification. Time of year, weather conditions and the presence of host plants can be clues as can the size, shape and color of the infected area. In most cases, treatment involves adjusting water, fertilizer and drainage.

After studying this guide, I feel better prepared for questions about lawn diseases. I will ask more questions than I might have: When did the symptoms develop? What was the weather at the time? How large is the infected area? Is the soil compacted?

There is also a Lawn Care Calendar for Wisconsin available on the UW Horticulture website at <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/wisconsin-lawn-care-calender/>. I can see using this calendar as an aid when discussing lawn problems with homeowners. For some, adopting this schedule of recommended lawn maintenance may go a long way toward delivering the lawn they want.

WIMGA Educational Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Feb 6	6 pm	Green Thumb Gardening – Winter Vegetable Series 2023: Weed Management in Vegetable Gardens	Online
Feb 8	12 pm	Free Webinar: Indoor Plant Care During Winter	Online
Feb 13	6 pm	Green Thumb Gardening – Winter Vegetable Series 2023: Composting in the Vegetable Garden	Online
Feb 15	12 pm	Free Webinar: Rejuvenating Neglected Apple Trees	Online
Feb 16	6 pm	Green Thumb Gardening – Winter Vegetable Series 2023: Seed Saving, Harvesting and Storage	Online
Feb 20	6 pm	Green Thumb Gardening – Winter Vegetable Series 2023: Vegetable Garden Insects	Online
Feb 22	12 pm	Free Webinar: Planning for a Seed Saving Vegetable Garden	Online
Feb 27	6 pm	Green Thumb Gardening – Winter Vegetable Series 2023: Cover Crops for the Vegetable Garden	Online



For more information and to register go to: <https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/events/>



Eye Candy

The picture immediately below (by Jo-Ann Clark) is of her back patio through the summer months this past year.



By contrast she took the picture below of her containers and patio in the wintry months. Same place, slightly different look.



Jo-Ann Clark has some strange birds cropping up in her Coleus containers. Picture above taken by her on her patio.

The below picture is from Mari Jackson. These are some veggies started early inside getting some sun on the deck.



REMEMBER...the annual plant sale!

The Master Gardener annual plant sale (May 21 in the a.m. at the Senior Center) is our biggest fund raiser of the year. Also, Louise and her committee are in need of a whole a bunch of volunteers to make this the best sale yet! So, plan what you can divide out of your gardens come spring and/or what seeds you might be able to start (or houseplants you might divide), etc. for the sale. Also, let Louise know that you will be available to help by emailing her at white1roach@gmail.com or call her at 715-831-3352.



An interesting idea from Pinterest for storing your shovels and garden tools in an easy to access way.

***“A loose tongue often gets in a tight place.”
-anonymous***



COULD YOU HUG A CACTUS?

What if a cactus felt really bad?
 Hurt and depressed and truly quite sad?
 Feeling unwelcome or feeling unliked,
 Not feeling like dealing with being all spiked.
 The desert might not be a whole lot of fun.
 A tumbleweed isn't much conversation.
 What if it started to share all its fears?
 Cry a small cry with its cactus-juice tears?
 What if it gave all your heartstrings a tug?
 Could you do the deed, could you give it a hug?

From the book "Could You Hug A Cactus" by Phillip Van Wagoner and Illustrated by Spencer Smith (<https://geekdad.com/2016/07/could-you-hug-a-cactus/>)



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



*Valentine's Day
February 14*

For more Eau Claire County UW Cooperative Extension information go to our website:

www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/eauc Claire

Phone: 715-839-4712

Fax: 715-839-6277

M-F 8AM-5PM



*President's Day
February 20, 2023*

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**Eau Claire County
Extension Office
227 First Street West
Altoona, WI 54720**