

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



September 2023

Chippewa Master Gardeners, The Eau Claire, Chippewa and Dunn County Master Gardeners Tour Lake Wissota State Park Butterfly, Rain and Prairie Gardens in Conjunction With Potluck by Louise White-Roach

A wonderful evening of education, visiting, and incredible food happened on Monday evening, August 21, at Lake Wissota State Park. Twenty Master Gardener Volunteers, from both Eau Claire, and Chippewa Falls gathered in this joint effort to tour the Butterfly, Rain and Prairie gardens. The tour was led by Sue Crisp, who is a Master Naturalist, and actually lives at the park all summer, providing guided tours for park visitors.

Those in attendance learned a great deal about these gardens. For instance, you need to have grasses, flowers and trees for the success of these gardens! We heard about Big Bluestem, and Little Bluestem, nodding pink onion, wild lupine (really cool!) and the ever-popular Rattlesnake Master, to name just a few of the hundreds of plants! Following the tour everyone met at a park shelter for a potluck meal, which included a lot of items from our veggie gardens! What a variety! It's hoped that these joint ventures can continue in the future! For more information on the park, check out the Lake Wissota website at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/lakewissota>. Also check out the [pollinator garden pictures](#).



Picture by Ellen Terwilliger



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@gmail.com 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!!!

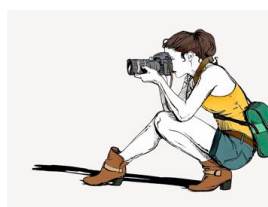
ECAMGA Board

Name	Office
Ellen Terwilliger	President
Andy Heren	Vice President
Jeannie Chromey	Treasurer
Sue Waits	Secretary
Barb Huggins	
Judy Mitchell	
Chris Southworth	
Louise White-Roach	
Contact Us	
E-mail eauclaireareamastergardener@gmail.com	
Phone: 715-839-4712	

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

Eleventh Annual ECAMGVA Photo Contest

Summer is here with a lot of opportunity for gorgeous photo ops. So, as you go about your garden (or a neighbor's or a public garden, etc.) take a few pictures and enter your best shot in the Master Gardener Photo contest. Details are listed below.



Deadline for submission of your entry is October 7th. For rules and more information on the contest see page 2 of the August newsletter. If you have questions contact Carol Cox at c7w6c2200@gmail.com or call her at 715-783-0016.

ALSO PLEASE NOTE THE EMAIL ADDRESS FOR CAROL WAS WRONG IN THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER BLURB ON THE CONTEST. THE ABOVE EMAIL IS THE CORRECT ONE. YOU WILL RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION OF YOUR SUBMISSION FROM HER.



Picture at left taken by Dana Cox at the Rotary Gardens entry gardens in Janesville, Wisconsin. The gardens are well worth visiting. For more information go to <https://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/>.



ECAMGVA 2023 Calendar

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

- September 18: Fall Clean Up**
- October 7: Photo Contest deadline**
- October: "Natures Best Hope" book discussion**
- November: TBA**
- December: Annual Holiday Party and meeting**

Note: You can now register to attend our events on our website. Go to <http://eauclaireareamastergardeners.org/>, and click on the Events tab to see the list of upcoming events.

MEMBER SURVEY – PLEASE TAKE TIME TO PARTICIPATE!

Hello Eau Claire Master Gardeners,

As the temperature and humidity continues to climb I'm happy to be indoors. On August 30th your board will have a planning meeting for our association. We'll be discussing:

- WIMGA Grants and applying for one or more
- Our communication methods with all of you and what works best
- 2024 Budget
- Membership connections
- Member telephone survey. Each of our Eau Claire members will receive a phone call during September to early October with some questions on how we can improve our Association. Please take the time to talk with us.



Photo by Renew Wisconsin

I was pleased to spend time with the Chippewa County Master Gardeners as well as Eau Claire folks on Monday evening. Chippewa MGVs shared the Lake Wissota prairie and pollinator/rain garden with us. It is beautiful right now.

One of the best things about being a Master Gardener Volunteer is the ability to meet new people and learn new skills. I hope during this next year you'll branch out and try something you haven't done before.

Ellen Terwilliger
Board President

WIMGA Report by Andy Heren

Here are a few items of interest from this summer's WIMGA Rep meeting.

The WIMGA Board is in need of five District Representatives. One of those is for the Western District, which is our district. I am our County Rep, so this is a different position. **Anyone interested?** If you are, please contact me.

WIMGA has set up some exciting presentations for the coming Months:

- Invasive Species with Matt Wallrath – WI First Detector Network - 9/27/23
- Stream & Savanna: Restoration in Progress with Dr. Susan Carpenter - 10/26/23
- Bring Your Garden to the Sun: All About Container and Straw Bale Gardening with Craig LeHoullier - 1/16/24

Watch the WIMGA newsletter for details in registering for these presentations. I'll do my best to keep you updated.



Teaching Gardens Get a Refresh by Andy Heren

If you've been by the Extension office lately you may have noticed a fresh look to the Teaching Gardens. We have a group of people who have been working in it since the spring. In late May, Judy Mitchell, Barb Huggins, Der-Fa Lu, Margaret Murphy and I spread some much-needed Cosmo Compost in the garden beds. Then Barb, Der-Fa, Jeanne Chromey, Sally & Steve Anderson, Margaret and I got planting.

In July Arunah, Stacey Bucheger Mazur (from Chippewa County MGs), Margaret and I spread 3 cu yards of a lighter colored mulch. It really brightened up the gardens! While spreading it Stacey found a small wasp nest in the publication box. They've been removed. The whole job only took a little over an hour!

We also removed the compost bins and replaced them with a new one Margaret got through the Eau Claire County Recycling & Sustainability department. When we removed the old ones, we were surprised at the amount of finished compost at the bottom of each. We put this into a small pile to be spread in the beds this fall. We placed a sign in it to teach people about compost. Garden waste and fruit/vegetable scraps (from the Extension office employees) are also added. We'll need to add more materials to balance the carbon and nitrogen.

If you haven't seen the Teaching Gardens lately, take a short drive to downtown Altoona and check them out! Take a walk around and see what we have planted this year. If you're there during business hours, stop in and say hi!

Here are the photos. If you can't get them let me know and I'll send them a different way.



It is the season for mums and asters, late blooming sedums, the false sunflower and the like. Particularly the mums add a bright fall color to our landscapes. To prolong the bloom on potted mums it is best to start with pre-blooming mums. While those already covered with blooms look really nice when brought home, they are not the best choice for prolonging bloom. Instead look for plants that are full of buds but have not yet flowered. And, if you can, purchase hardy mums that can be planted in ground and enjoyed season after season, all the better. While the mums need sun to develop bloom, to prolong bloom, placing them in indirect sunlight or partial sunlight, preferably under the protection of a porch or overhang will give longer bloom and also protect them from damage by heavy rains and wind. In addition, low humidity in fall can quickly dry out potted mums, especially those in full bloom. Mums require consistent moisture, so to keep them blooming water around the edges of the pots or below the water line rather than dousing them from the top. When mums are saturated with water, it weakens and fades then quickly and bleeds out their natural color.



Events



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

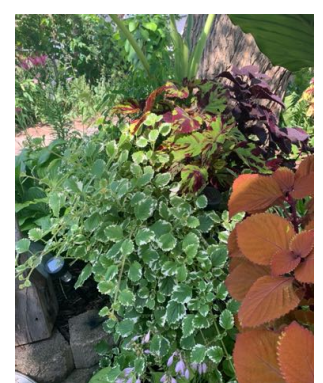


Fall Foliage Plant and Flower Pressing Series – Part 1 Saturday, September 23, 2023 – 10:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.

Experience the wonders of fall foliage and blooms by joining us on a nature hike with the intent of preserving the beauty of our plants! We will be picking different plants and flowers to press and be used in a nature-inspired craft on Saturday, October 28th. Hikers should expect about a mile walk on one of our beautiful trails. This series is geared towards those ages 8 or older. [Sign up for part 2.](#)

Register by Wednesday, September 20, 2023.
Cost: Members - \$\$8; Nonmembers - \$12
Last day to register is September 20, 2023. 10:00 P.M.

BCR is lucky to be a host site for AAW's Outdoor Wheelchair.
If you would like to reserve the outdoor chair for this event please register at <https://www.accessabilitywi.org/>.



REMINDER!!!

Fall Clean up In Your Garden September 18 at 5 PM

Photo from Google images



Have you ever wondered about how much to clean up during Fall when the gardening season comes to an end? Do you do most of the cleaning in the Spring? Or are you one of those who likes to see the garden all neat and tidy when the growing season is done? Interested?

Judi Robison has invited us to her Eau Claire garden to learn how to improve our Fall garden clean up practices. She will present and demonstrate beneficial Fall clean up procedures and answer your questions.

This event will be on **Monday, September 18, at 5 pm.** Please register at the ECAMGVA events page. Here is the link: [https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/events - !event/2023/9/18/fall-clean-up-in-your-garden](https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/events-event/2023/9/18/fall-clean-up-in-your-garden). All registrants will receive an email with the address of her home. **It would be great if several people could bring refreshments to share.**



WIMGA Educational Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sept. 6	12 pm	From Scraps to Soil: Composting Basics	Online
Sept. 9	10 am	Beyond Birdfeeders: How to be a Bird-friendly gardener all year long	Blodgett Garden Center 1222 Janesville Ave. Fort Atkinson, WI
Sept. 13	12 pm	Soil Testing – Why, When and How	Online Webinar
Sept. 21	6 pm	Soila, Composting, and Fertilizers Field Day	Online
Sept. 27	6:30 pm	The Bad & the Ugly: Ten Plant Diseases Not to Compost	Online
Sept. 28	6 pm	Fall-Planted Bulbs for Spring-blooming Flowers	Online



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



Bits and Pieces



EYE CANDY



Rudbeckia glows in the garden



Big leaf, Big raindrops! Picture by Dana Cox



A portent of things to come – fall in all it's glory! Picture source unknown?



Rita Gundry's interesting container – Pictures above, below & to right by Carol Cox



State Fairgrounds butterfly garden



Tahitian Bridal Wreath, Tuberous Begonias and a couple petunias make up container.



Artemisia x 'Powis Castle' by Carol Cox

Also known as Wormwood, this easy to grow plant is a great foliage plant with it's fine textured, almost furry, dense, silver-grey foliage. The plant makes an excellent accent plant with grasses and other perennials. It has a neat mounding habit and is drought resistant. The plant is hardy in zones 4 to 9 and likes dry to medium moisture and very well-drained soil as well as full sun. The flower is not spectacular (yellow) and often just cut off, but the foliage is great. I had a friend who would visit my garden to "pet" this plant.

The mature height is 1 to 3 feet with similar width. Along with the excellent drought tolerance the plant is also deer tolerant and low maintenance.

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



**Patriot's Day
September 11, 2023**

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



**First Day of Fall
September 23, 2023**

The University of Wisconsin Extension provides affirmative action and equal opportunity in education, programming and employment for all qualified persons regardless of race, color, gender/sex, creed, disability, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital or parental, arrest or conviction record or veteran status." If you need an interpreter, materials in alternate formats or other accommodations to access this program, activity or service, please contact 715-839-4712 as soon as possible preceding the scheduled event so that proper arrangements can be made in a timely fashion

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