

# Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



July 2023

## Honeybees' role as Pollinators article and photos by Judy Mitchell

Have you ever wondered what it takes to feed a community of 80,000 and put a little aside for later? If so, you should have attended the June 5 presentation by Beekeeper Drew Kaiser.

Beekeeper Drew Kaiser demonstrated how he checks on the health of his hives and the adequacy of their supplies. He showed those in attendance larvae being tended and one of his queen bees and explained the honeybee's role as pollinators and honey producers.

Honeybees are after nectar and in the process, they pollinate flowers and collect a little pollen (a protein source for babies). Every day, scout bees go out to survey what nectar is available and to bring back samples. Then the colony (60 to 80,000 bees) decides what nectar is to be collected and sends forager bees to spend the day collecting it.

The foragers go back to the specific place where the scouts found the food and collect only that food. That makes honeybees the ideal pollinators for commercial orchards: once an orchard is chosen, the foragers spend the day going from blossom to blossom, pollinating the flowers in the process.

The further the forager bees go the less food they collect so the scout bees are looking for a large quantity of food nearby. Pollen and nectar producing trees, clover, goldenrods and asters are good sources. Any surplus is set aside for the future. Beekeepers like Kaiser can accurately gauge their needs and harvest a little of that surplus to produce honey for human consumption.



## Lawn Alternatives - Urban Garden Tour pictures and article by Aruna

Lawns are the pride of urban homes in America. They occupy about 45 million acres (residential, commercial sites and golf courses) which amount to three times the size of the state of New Jersey. While they look welcoming, Lawns consume 3 trillion gallons of water, 200 million gallons of gas and 70 million pounds of pesticides a year across the country. They do not provide habitat for pollinators and animals that make up a healthy diverse ecosystem. We are just creating a green dessert!

Lawns are not sustainable in Ecosystem gardening. Why???

1. We are using a huge amount of water (30-60% of available water on East Coast and West Coast respectively) for lawn irrigation.
2. Mowing using gas mowers, produces air pollution that is equivalent of 43 new cars driving 12,000 miles each..
3. Pesticide use for lawns is about 10 times more per acre than is used for agricultural crops.
4. Fertilizer use contaminates ground water, and impairs ecological health of rivers, lakes, And ponds.

What are more sustainable alternatives to a Grass Lawn... let's go on the tour organized by The Sierra Club in collaboration with Master Gardeners. We visited five different urban (continued on page 7)



## 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](mailto: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).



**MGV**

**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 <a href="mailto:eauclaireareamastergardener@gmail.com">eauclaireareamastergardener@gmail.com</a>	
Phone: 715-839-4712	

#### Note:

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

### News from the ECAMGVA Board...

At the June 19, 2023 Board Meeting, the Board approved a proposal to use our available treasury funds to assist ECMGV state approved local groups and their projects. If any ECMG chairpersons are interested in requesting funds, please email Barbara Huggins at [barbahuggins@gmail.com](mailto:barbahuggins@gmail.com).

Also, the ECAMGVA Board is planning to create a Hospitality Committee to coordinate refreshments for ECAMGVA meetings. If you are interested in helping, email Barbara Huggins at [barbahuggins@gmail.com](mailto:barbahuggins@gmail.com).

### Nature's Best Hope by Sue Waits

Want to learn more about how to re-establish biodiversity one home at a time? Consider reading Doug Tallamy's seminal book, "Nature's Best Hope," a 2023 LE Phillips Memorial Public Library One Book, One Community selection. One Book, One Community is a community-wide reading initiative aimed at encouraging the Chippewa Valley to turn their attention to a single book in order to understand how the issue affects us and to start conversation about how we can take positive steps toward change.

There will be more information this fall about potential Master Gardening Book Groups and Douglas Tallamy's presentation at the library on October 14th. In the meantime, if you are looking for a great read that will change how you view your yard and our community green space, I recommend "Nature's Best Hope".



### ECAMGVA 2023 Calendar

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

**July 17: Rural Garden Tour/Fall Creek**

**August 21: Lake Wissota Tour and potluck w/Chippewa MGVs**

**September 18: Fall Garden Clean Up**

**October 7: Photo Contest deadline**

**October: TBA**

**November: TBA**

**December: Annual Holiday Party and meeting**

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

## What's Happening with your Association Board? 2023

by Ellen Terwilliger, President

We all become Master Gardener Volunteers for a variety of reasons. The last few days as I've talked with people about an editorial in the Leader-Telegram that I co-wrote I'm reminded about why I became a Master Gardener. It's the opportunity to have discussions about gardening and horticulture that can make a difference.

At our board meeting today, we talked about upcoming education. We hope you can attend our own MGV rural garden tours on July 17. August 21 we get together with Chippewa MGVs at Lake Wissota. September 18th Judi Robison is inviting us to her home to talk about Fall Clean up and Garden work. October 14 we'll be encouraging all of us to attend author Doug Tallamy's talk on Nature's Best Hope.

As always please register online <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/events#!event-list> or by contacting Andy Heren (715-839-4712). Your board will be doing some more in-depth planning in September and will be reaching out individually to our members about different topics such as fundraising, how we use our money, how best to share and communicate information with you. If you have questions feel free to reach out to any of the board and we'll try to help you out. Happy Summer Solstice and enjoy your time in the garden!

Ellen Terwilliger  
President



Photo by Renew Wisconsin

## Ask a Master Gardener by Andy Heren

We started our season off on Saturday, May 27, Memorial Day Weekend and will be at the Saturday Morning Farmers Market every Saturday until the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. The only other exception will be July 28 & 29 when we will be at the Eau Claire County Fair from 10-3 each day.

In our first month we have fielded 107 questions. These questions cover quite a spectrum of gardening topics. They include:

- Some of my tomato plants are wilting. Why? What can I do?
- When is the next Master Gardener Volunteer class being offered?
- Where can I buy milkweed seeds?
- How can I keep squirrels out of my potted plants?
- I may have jumping worms.
- How can I raise monarchs?
- How do I compost?
- Can you make it rain?
- What do I do about Japanese Beetles?
- Rabbits are eating our hostas. What can we do?
- I have a bug in my garden. It's kind of curved and reddish.  
I caught one on a piece of tape.

As you can see, we get quite a variety. We do our best to answer these questions with the knowledge of the group, we have. There have been times when we need to get the person's email address and get back to them.

What do you think? Sound like fun? It is! And is a fun place to be! If you have a free Saturday morning and want to join us, come on down and look for us and our table. No need to sign up. We'd be glad to have more of our fellow MGVs! We're there from 8 until noon.

If you have questions, please contact Andy at [Rcktnut007@aol.com](mailto:Rcktnut007@aol.com).



We have a pretty steady group of volunteers. Pictured here are Andy Heren, Kasey Benson, Sally Anderson, Kris Nelson, and Mikel Reise. Others who have helped us this year are Gary Mathis, and Mary Jane Griffin.

Photo provided by Andy Heren



# Events

## WIMGA Educational Events

For WIMGA educational events offered for July and for more information and to register go to: <https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/events/>.



Photo by Judy Mitchell

## Come to the Rural Garden Tour!

Master Gardeners are invited to drop in and explore three gardens in rural Fall Creek: July 17 from 4 to 7 pm, rain or Shine. Rural gardens present unique Challenges so this will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about ground covers, pollinator-friendly habitats and deer-proofing a vegetable garden, etc. See an effective method for excluding deer from a vegetable garden, learn about using ground covers, perennials and woody plants to add interest to a large yard, and explore ways to



Above photo by Rita Gundry.

create welcoming spaces for people and pollinators. Participants should come prepared to discuss lawn alternatives and your favorite pollinator friendly plants. (For a fuller description of the tour content check out page 4 of the June 2023 ECAMGVA newsletter on the ECAMGVA website.)

You and any family and friends are invited to attend. While it is not being advertised to the general public you are welcome to sign up your guests online at: <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/events#!event/2023/7/17/rural-garden-tours> or call Andy Heren (715-839-4712) with the following information which will **help us to plan by answering the following questions:**

1. Do you plan to attend? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
2. How many other guests might attend? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Would it help you to attend if you could ride with someone else? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

The venue is 3 to 5 miles outside of Fall Creek. Maps and directions will be sent to registrants (Starts Monday July 17, 2023, 4:00 pm CDT; ends Monday, July 17, 2023, 07:00 pm CDT).



Photo by Rita Gundry.

## Registration Now Open for A Fall Clean Up Presentation

Judi Robison has invited the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteer members 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. Interested? Go to <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/> and select the events page to register.



**Lake Wissota Potluck & Tour**

18127 Co Hwy O, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729.  
Park office 715-382-4574

The Chippewa County Master Gardeners Association will host a tour and potluck dinner at Lake Wissota State Park for all Eau Claire and Dunn County Master Gardeners starting at 5 PM on August 21.

The Pollinator Garden and Rain Garden tour will start at 5:00 PM. Plan to park your vehicle in the lot near the park office and to use the boot brush before entering the garden to prevent invasive plants. During the tour, Chippewa Master Gardener Sue Crisp will point out the various native plants in the gardens. There will be a discussion of the value of pollinator gardens and why a rain garden is helpful in absorbing storm water from the sidewalk and roadway. Also, the use of grasses and sedges in gardens be addressed.

At 5:30 PM the tour will proceed about 1.6 miles to the Prairie Wildflower Trail that is on the left side of the road with a parking area. This is also a bluebird trail where tour participants will be seeing various blazing star species, wild quinine, rattlesnake master, tall prairie grasses, goldenrods, and many others. We will also see several invasive species such as spotted knapweed, bird's-foot-trefoil, and thistles.

At 6:00 PM there will be a potluck dinner at the Riverview Shelter, next to the nature center and the bathrooms. It is about 1.5 miles down the road on the right from the Prairie Wildflower Trail. The shelter has power and lights, and we will be able to use the nature center if there is bad weather.

Interested? Go to <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/> and select the events page to register. Carpooling is recommended. The park requires a vehicle admission sticker. The daily rate per vehicle is \$3.00 for those over 65 and \$8.00 for those under 65.



*Picture by Sue Crisp*



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

*Butterfly House Opens July 5*



*Marketplace with Garden  
Art, Crafts & Plants*

**EAU CLAIRE**

*Gardens  
in Bloom*

Presented by the  
**Eau Claire Garden Club**

*July 22, 2023*

**9am - 4pm** 🌻 **Tickets \$20**

**Tour Eight Area Gardens**

- Enjoy the beauty of a classic shade garden with a meadow that attracts bees.
- Marvel at the hybridization process of hostas and day lilies in a well established garden.
- Appreciate the use of Square Foot Gardening in a setting that will charm you with its moveable, solar chandelier.
- Discover the choices used for a shade garden that includes vertical growing, lawn art and recycled items as budget-friendly options.
- Stroll through a heavily wooded garden that leads to Lowes Creek where buckthorn is being replaced by native ferns.
- Experience well-planned fruit & vegetable gardens, many pollinator plants, and a greenhouse
- Delight in a She-Shed and an ingenious waterfall in a country setting.
- Contemplate the implementation of sustainable organic lawns, flowering lawns and native plants in a neighborhood setting.
- Learn about invasive plants, jumping worms and Monarch butterflies.

Tickets are available after June 1st at all three Eau Claire Festival Foods, or the garden tour locations on July 22nd.

Lawn Alternatives continued from page 1...

gardens that have used different native and nonnative but pollinator friendly plants that are easy to maintain and utilize less resources.

We visited the first one which was a who planted the yard with a seed It looked green despite the around were turning yellow. White Creeping Thyme was not. There is bloom. After the first year, almost or twice a month and it stays green is not native, it is known to attract about 56 species of bees!



“Bee Lawn.” The owner worked with a local company mixture of White clover, Self-Heal, and Creeping Thyme. 90-degree days and dry weather, while the grass lawns Clover was in bloom, some Self Heal was also but the a humming sound that is heard when the lawn is in no watering is required. Mowing high can be done once and fragrant when walked on. Even though White Clover

The second garden was a corner lot the area with the help of a neighbor the sidewalk and the road were torn planted late Summer last year. It was lush green and soft to touch. Iris, grasses of varying heights, and native plants was mulched and it



in Putnam Park where the owner had planted clover in after the sod placement by the city a few times between up multiple times. It had been only a year! It was had good rains and weather post seeding, and the area The lot itself had many native plants including Siberian some bushes like Hydrangea. The area between the was weed free!

The third garden used to be a lawn when the new owner bought it three years ago. She decided to plant a garden that has something blooming throughout the season. Plants chosen were mostly native perennials mixed in with some annuals. It was tastefully done, mulched, and weed free. A very small portion of the lawn was maintained with stone steps to walk through. It was one of a kind in the neighborhood.

The fourth one was a home on a home on a sloping hill. Despite the time of the day, about 10:30, and the temperature being close to 90 degrees Fahrenheit, it was cool, the owners had planted a couple of trees on their Southwest facing front yard. variety of native plants including done by the homeowners over a the use of the space was efficient



The trees provided shade and the plants below were a geranium, coreopsis, lupins, to name a few. This was period of time. The back yard was also sloping and yet and pollinator friendly. No grass lawn!

Lastly we came to the garden gardeners. Where an invasive plants, sedges, bushes and except for weeding once a week We also saw the pollinator eye with various colorful blooms



that is developed and maintained by the four master species was replaced by a variety of native and nonnative hostas. This is also pollinator friendly, low maintenance and watering only when there was a long dry/hot spell. friendly native plants that were not only pleasing to the that also provide excellent habitat for birds.

One doesn't have to get rid of the whole lawn. Parts of it may be converted to “Bee Lawn,” or a pollinator friendly garden. Bee Lawns provide areas to walk and play, provide the look of a manicured lawn while being environmentally friendly and sustainable.

There are two ways of converting your existing lawn into a bee lawn. You can either take out the sod completely and plant the seed mix or the existing lawn can be mowed short followed by using an aerator with seed mix.

Minnesota started a program through the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) called “Lawns to Legumes,” and ran a pilot program in 2019 offering workshops, coaching, planting guides and cost-share funding with individual grants. This is a wonderful resource for those interested (<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/l2l>)



Original photo



AI generation



Original



AI generation

Original photos by Dana Cox which she then ran through the AI Image Generating software.



Photo by Carol Cox

### **Tiny Tree Frogs** by Carol Cox

*Imagine my surprise when I looked at the enlargement of the photo I had taken of this Black-eyed Susan vine flower. A tiny, tiny frog was nestled in the fold of the flower. In checking the internet, I found that the world's smallest tree frogs are less than an inch (2.5 centimeters) long! Tree frogs are found on every continent except Antarctica, but they're most diverse in the tropics of the western hemisphere. About 30 species live in the United States, and over 600 can be found in South and Central America. Although tree frogs can grow to be a range of sizes, most arboreal species are very small because they rely on leaves and slender branches to hold their weight.*

*So, be sure to check closely on your plants and you also may find one of these wee ones nestling there.*

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:

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Phone: 715-839-4712

Fax: 715-839-6277

M-F 8AM-5PM



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