

# Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



August 2023

## A Journey Through Three Rural Gardens

by Carol Cox

I grew up on a farm and, while I have liked living and gardening in Eau Claire for over 35 years, yet I am, at heart, still a country gal and really enjoyed the opportunity to get out into the rural area and tour three rural gardens on the Master Gardener "Rural Garden Tour."

The July 17<sup>th</sup> tour included three stops. The first stop that I made was at the home of Rita Gundry which was a delight with an about to turn 100 years old barn and featuring an artful and varied use of groundcovers throughout her gardens. Rita also did not let any of us leave without a bit of a quiz to test our knowledge, as Master Gardeners, on our knowledge of groundcovers.



My next stop was at the home of Judy Mitchell. In 2019 the Mitchells bought a 1.5-acre former mobile home site located directly across the road from their home and are in the process of turning it into a more



Above, groundcovers at the Gundry site. Far left, Rita standing on her moss-covered patio. To the left, the Mitchell pond. Bottom left, Monarda on the Mitchell site to be transformed.

pollinator-friendly habitat. They have begun that process with some initial native plantings but also gave those who came on the tour the opportunity to give suggestions and ideas that they might find useful to incorporate into their plans as they go forward.

Judy and her husband also have a lovely home (continued on page 6)



## 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).



**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>.

## 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.**



### 11th Annual ECAMGVA Photo Contest Rules:

1. One entry per person/member accepted. 2. The photo subject (i.e., main feature of the photo) must be garden related. 3. The one submitting the photo must be a member in good standing of the Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteer Association (ECAMGVA) for the 2023 membership year. 4. The photo must have been taken by the contestant during the 2023 calendar year. 5. Each entry must be accompanied by a short description of the photo (the "What," "Where," "When," etc. as applicable). 6. By entering the contestant gives consent for the ECAMGVA to use the photo submitted for the ECAMGVA Newsletter and/or ECAMGVA promotional purposes. 7. First prize will be \$30; second prize \$25; and the third prize \$20. At the judge's discretion an "Honorable Mention" award may also be made (no monetary award). 8. A panel of judges selected by the ECAMGVA Educational Committee will judge the contest and the panel's decision is final. Winners will be announced in the November 2023 issue of the ECAMGVA Newsletter. 9. **Submit photos via email (largest size/pixels that your email will allow to be sent) to Carol Cox at [c7w6c2200@charter.net](mailto:c7w6c2200@charter.net) by no later than October 7, 2023. Please place "Photo Contest Entry" in the subject line.**

You will be notified by email when your entry is received.



### ECAMGVA 2023 Calendar

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

- August 21: Lake Wissota Tour and potluck w/Chippewa MGVs**
- September: 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 [eauclaireareamastergardener.org](http://eauclaireareamastergardener.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

Hello Master Gardeners,

We are in the heart of summer - our vegetable gardens are producing; perennials keep delighting us with their flower displays and we have even been getting some rain. It's been fun to see you all at garden tours, at the Farmers Market and the County Fair, working at school gardens. The board met in July and reviewed Education events past and future. I'd like to call your attention to Doug Tallamy's talk at the Public Library on October 14th. He is the author of "Nature's Best Hope". He discusses what each of us can do in the conservation of native insect and plant communities.



Photo by Renew Wisconsin

We will follow up his talk with discussing the book at our own meeting on Monday, October 16th at 5 pm. Each of us has an incredible ability to make a difference and this is one of them. Please put both of these dates on your calendar. "Nature's Best Hope" is the Community Read this year. Even if you are unable to read the book ahead of time come to either of both of the events. In late summer our board will be holding a long range planning meeting looking at WIMGA grants, fundraising, communication methods, our budget and much more.

Thanks to each of you for volunteering for our various projects. Summer is when they all come together.

Ellen Terwilliger  
Board President



## Events

### WIMGA Educational Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
August 9	9 am	Cranberry Summer Field Day & Trade Show	W8510 Cty Rd O Black River Falls, WI 54615
August 19	8:30 am	Aquatic Invasive Species Snapshot Day	Statewide
August 23	6:30 pm	Deciduous Tree and Shrub Diseases	Online Webinar
August 31	1 pm	Day-Neutral Organic Strawberry Field Day	West Madison Agricultural Research Station 8502 Mineral Point Rd. Verona, WI 53593
September 27	6:30 pm	The Bad & the Ugly: Ten Plant Diseases Not to Compost	Online Webinar



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

### Fall Clean up In Your Garden. September 18 at 5 PM

Hello Master Gardeners....

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>.

All registrants will receive an email with the address of her home. It would be great if several people could bring refreshments to share.



### Come Tour the Teaching Gardens

Pictures and article by Sally Anderson



Come check out the eggplants, the tomatoes, herbs, squash, beans, cucumbers, flowers and more at the Extension teaching gardens in Altoona. The purpose is to show the variety of containers one can use in your garden. As you can see almost anything works.

Stop by to get some ideas and see the great display. You can't miss it as the Teaching Gardens surround the building where the Eau Claire County UW-Extension Office is located at 227 First Street West in Altoona, Wisconsin.

#### Did you know...

-that the world's tallest tree is the Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), which grows along the Pacific Coast of the United States, mainly in California. Interestingly enough, it's not the world's oldest growing tree; that award goes to a pine (*Pinus aristata*).

-a study showed that carbon absorbed by a 40-meter-tall spruce tree could be shared by shorter trees—including beech, larch, and pine—because the spruce's roots extend into their root zones.





**Butterfly Fest**  
**Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Wise Nature Center**  
**11:00 am to 3:00 pm**

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

Experience the wonders of Wisconsin's butterflies with a guided tour around our Butterfly House, check out our summer Caterpillar Lab where we raise all of our Monarch caterpillars from egg to chrysalis, and learn about all the different species of butterflies we have in Wisconsin. There will be custard (thank you Culvers!) and lemonade available throughout the day along with fun butterfly crafts, and so much more! Come join us for this celebration, advanced ticket sales end Friday, August 4. Pre-register by Friday, August 4 (last day to register). Walk-ins available!  
 Cost: Members: \$8/adult; \$5/youth (ages 2-15);  
 Non-members: \$10/adult; \$7/youth (ages 2-15)



Picture from BCR

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/>.



Picture by Ellen Terwilliger

**The Lake Wissota State Park**  
**Chippewa Master Gardeners have Invited**  
**The Eau Claire, Chippewa and Dunn County**  
**Master Gardeners**  
**to a Potluck and Pollinator Tour**  
**(18127 County Hwy O, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729)**  
**August 21, 2023 – 5:00 P.M.**

The park requires a vehicle admission sticker. The daily rate per vehicle is \$3 for those over 65 and \$8 for those under 65. Consider carpooling. For gardeners on the west side of Eau Claire I'm willing to drive and I have a State Park sticker.

The Pollinator Garden and Rain Garden tour will start at 5:00 p.m. Please park your vehicle in the lot near the park office and use the boot brush before entering the garden to prevent invasive plants. During the tour we will point out the various native plants in the gardens and talk about the value of pollinator gardens, explaining why a rain garden is helpful in absorbing storm water from the sidewalk and roadway. We will also talk about the use of grasses and sedges in gardens.

At 5:30 p.m. we will proceed about 1.6 miles to the Prairie Wildflower and Bluebird Trail that is on the left side of the road with a parking area. We will be seeing various blazing star species, Wild Quinine, Rattlesnake Master, tall prairie grasses, goldenrods, and many others including several invasive species such as Spotted Knapweed, Birds-foot-trefoil, and thistles.

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

Please register at <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/events#!event/register/2023/8/21/lake-wisota-tour-and-potluck> or call Andy Heren at Extension 715-839-4712. Contact Sue Crisp if you have any questions at 715-492-3824. She lives at Lake Wissota State Park during the camping season. Also, the park office phone is 715-382-4574.

Ellen Terwilliger  
 President, Eau Claire Master Gardeners



# Bits and Pieces



Pictured to the left: Teatime and tiny folks, whether of the elven and fairy kind or tiny tots playing are an intriguing mix. Here is a tea table and chairs and a wee tea set that would intrigue anyone be they fairy or elf or child or mom for in her garden. The picture is courtesy of pinterest.com.

To the right, a delightful color combo from the summer garden (Pinterest photo)



*Rural Tour continued from page 1...*

located across the road. Along with the house and perennial gardens located there they also have a good-sized pond that attracts wildlife and provides habitat for them and a place for native plantings.

My last stop was at the home of Jeanne Chromey which provided an opportunity to see a vegetable garden utilizing raised beds. Along with great looking vegetable plants, the stop also provided a look at her composting bins, fencing system (to, of course, keep out all those cute critters we gardeners have a love-hate relationship with) as well as a look at her perennial gardens, patio fence and clematis.



All in all, it was a delightful evening with the opportunity to socialize with other gardeners, gather some new ideas I might find useful in my garden and share a culinary treat or two including Rita Gundry's delightful lavender punch (there was more in it but whatever else was there it was a delight on a hot night). If you missed it mark your calendar for the Lake Wisota potluck and tour and join in with all the other gardeners who will be there (see article on page 5).



Pictures on this page are of Chris's vegetable garden.



*Pictures for the article taken by Carol Cox*



# EYE CANDY



Sansevieria cylindrica mere inches to seven feet tall. There is drawback to this family of plants- they are poisonous to animals.



Lilies have to be one of the "Queens" of the garden because of their elegance.



To the left is Rita Gundry's nearly 100-year-old barn (built in 1928 and since remodeled and repaired by her and her husband). The barn lends itself to the lovely landscaping surrounding it and is home to a bat colony (Rita is a bat counter for DNR, among many other skills and talents she has).



There is just something about a garden arch or arbor that sets off a garden.

To the right – a favorite daylily can always be Counted on to lighten up the garden.

Pictures by Carol Cox (except one to the left Is by Dana Cox)



*"There are no gardening mistakes - only experiments!" -anonymous*



### ***Coreopsis verticillate or Threadleaf Coreopsis***

This is a very lovely perennial that blooms with bright golden-yellow flowers (about 1-2 inches across) from the middle of summer until early fall if the flowers are kept deadheaded. The foliage is very fern-like and attractive, and the plant is an excellent pollinator plant that attracts butterflies, bees and other pollinators to our gardens. The plant spreads slowly by rhizomes and tolerates heat and humidity as well as drought. The plant will grow up to 30-36 inches tall and about 18-24 inches across. The plant will self-seed but is such a delight and so airy that it fits into most gardens. It is also a long-lived perennial that does best in full sun with dry to medium soils which are well drained and slightly acidic. It is a zone 3-9 plant and likes full sun. It also will thrive in poor, sandy soils and is drought resistant once established. The plant has no serious disease or pest issues although crown rot may occur in poorly drained soils. Deer do not like the plant.

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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