

Eau Claire Area Master Gardener News



June 2023

Congratulations to our plant sale committee,

Louise, Jo, Sally, Mikel, Nina and Mary Jane, Barb on a very successful event! We had over 1800 plants and our revenue was over \$4,770.

Also, a huge thank you to everyone else who helped with the sale in any way. It truly was a group effort. Thanks to everyone who participated in our fundraiser by bringing plants, helping dig, babysit plants, working to setting up the sale and who worked during the sale.



Pictures of plant sale by Judy Mitchell

The committee have asked for us to provide some feedback on what went well and what you might consider doing differently. Think in terms of location, publicity, plants, return on our investment of time etc. We had about 1800 plants and our gross proceeds before expenses were over \$4700.

Don't forget to record your hours as volunteer hours. Digging and plant sitting count also. If you helped during the sale you can also note educating others if you talked with customers and helped them with information and advice.





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>.

THANKS

and congratulations to our plant sale committee, Louise, Jo, Sally, Mikel, Nina and Mary Jane, and Barb on a very successful event! We had over 1800 plants and our revenue was over \$4,770. A huge thank you to the committee and to everyone else who helped with the sale in any way. It truly was a group effort.



Photo from Pinterest



ECAMGVA 2023 Calendar

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

- June 3: Alternatives to Lawns tour (to be hosted by the Sierra Club)**
- June 5: Honeybee's Role as Pollinators**
- July 17: Rural Garden Tour/Fall Creek**
- August 21: Lake Wissota Tour and potluck w/Chippewa MGVs**
- September: Fall 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, 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

It feels and looks like summer. Our plant sale was a complete and total success making over \$4700. As noted in an email to our members it was a team effort led by the committee but involved many of our members. At our last meeting we reviewed where our financial needs are; where do we put money from our fundraiser? Various projects like the display gardens in Altoona, the Youth Garden on Forest Street, Lakeshore School garden all have financial needs that will receive money on a regular basis. The project leads provide that information to the board. We also have insurance, website and software annual expenses.



Photo by Renew Wisconsin

The Plant Sale committee is reviewing the feedback some of you have provided and will discuss how future sales or fundraising should occur, including frequency. We are in touch with Hennepin County, Minnesota as to how they handle their plant sale using a plant wholesaler.

There are lots of in person events coming up like the Lawn Alternatives tour, the Honeybee tour with Drew Kaiser, and the Rural Garden Tour, Lake Wissota with Chippewa County. Remember to register for our upcoming education and tours on our website at <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/>.

It's easy to register on our EVENTS page. Or you can call Andy Heren at the Extension Office Enjoy your gardening and volunteering with Master Gardeners. Hope to see you at one or more of our summer events.

Ellen Terwilliger
President



Events

WIMGA Educational Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
June 3	10:30 am	Pollinator Palooza	404 E Walworth Ave. Delavan, WI 53115
June 5	6 pm	Making Space for Pollinators	Beloit Public Library 605 Eclipse Blvd, Beloit, WI 53511
June 6	12 pm	Gardening to Protect Pollinators	Online Webinar
June 19	12 pm	What Would We Eat Without Bees	Online Webinar
June 21	12 pm	Making Space for Pollinators	Online Webinar
June 21	6:30 pm	Vegetable Diseases	Online
June 22	12 pm	A Mutual Attraction: Trees and Shrubs for Pollinators	Online Webinar
June 22	6 pm	Monarch & Pollinator Sanctuary Garden Tour	Spooner Ag Research Station 1036 E. Maple St., Spooner, WI 54801



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



Above photo and photo below by Rita Gundry.



Journey Through Three Rural Gardens

by Rita Gundry

With July being the hottest month in Wisconsin, you might be interested in a cool, country drive to attend the Rural Garden Tour east of Fall Creek, hosted by three Master Gardener Volunteers, Judy Mitchell, Jeannie Chromey and Rita Gundry. Rain or shine, the date is **Monday, July 17, 2023, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.** You may drop into any of these gardens according to your schedule.

One stop has you surveying a former mobile home parcel, 1.5 acres in size. You will see a young starter garden of native bloomers and will be asked to inject your ideas for a more pollinator-friendly habitat. This location also sports a large pond enjoyed by wildlife and a curb-appealing landscape flanking the owners' home.

Continuing on the tour, the next garden has you entering under a rusty garden arch to view an evergreen groundcover that is visually appealing, and a moss-covered natural stone patio. Have fun and play a groundcover game at this property. Groundcovers can take a few years to establish but reward you with little maintenance by suppressing weed growth, controlling erosion on slopes and serving as a haven for pollinators. Native fieldstone is prevalent at this farmstead and its use in landscaping compliments the non-manicured look to the gardens.

The final garden features a series of raised beds for vegetable gardening and effective fencing demonstrates what one can do to limit the damage caused by deer and rabbits, commonplace in a rural setting. Side attractions will be a vine



Photo by Judy Mitchell

covered patio fence and pallet compost bins. A colorful perennial display in the front yard adds to this garden's drive-by appeal.

Cool drinks and access to restrooms will be available at all three locations on this tour. Carpooling from the extension office or the Fall Creek bank parking lot is a suggestion.

So the hosts can be better prepared, we ask you to register. To register go to the events page at: <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/>.

Don't forget these early June opportunities:



Picture by Libby Stupak

Alternatives to Lawns

The tour begins **Saturday, June 3, at 9 a.m.** Meet at the City

parking lot located on the west side of the YMCA Tennis Center at 1260 Menomonie St., Eau Claire. We will carpool to the homes. For more information on the tour see page 4 of the May 2023 issue of the ECAMGVA newsletter. Cancellation policy: steady rain cancels.



This tour is just "the Bee's Knees"... Really!

Join Beekeeper Drew Kaiser for an informal and informative visit on **June 5th** to some of his hives located at Square Roots Farm.

Drew runs Kaiserson Bee Company with his wife, Ellen Sorenson and they specialize in small batch, location specific honeys. For more information check out the April 2023 edition of the ECAMGVA newsletter on page 4. Choose between a 4 o'clock or a 5 o'clock pm tour.

So the hosts can be better prepared, we ask you to register. To register for either of the two above events go to the events page at: <https://www.eauclaireareamastergardener.org/>.



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

Bees, Trees, and Cheese June 22, 2023 – 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Beaver Creek Reserve, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Pheasants Forever are partnering together to host an event celebrating National Pollinator Week and June Dairy Month. Landowners and farmers are invited to attend this special event. Multiple local conservation, sporting, and agricultural organizations will be exhibiting including the Department of Natural Resources, Farm Bureau, The Prairie Enthusiasts, Trout Unlimited, and many more. The evening will consist of the opportunity to visit booths followed by panel discussion where local landowners will discuss conservation programs they have implemented on their land and answer questions. Following the event, there will be an optional tour of a nearby pollinator field. There is no cost to attend the event. A meal will be available from Chicken chases for **cash-only purchase**.

Cost: FREE (please bring cash for a dinner meal - \$10 for pulled chicken sandwiches and sides + \$2 for soda). **Register by 11:55 PM on June 16, 2023, registration is required to attend.**

AGENDA

4:30 to 5:30 pm – visit booths. Free refreshments available

5:30 to 6:30 pm – Landowner Panel Discussion/Q&A. Meal available for purchase from Chicken Chasers

6:30 to 7:00 pm – Additional time to visit booths

7:00 pm – Optional pollinator habitat field tour. Personal vehicles will be used.

Registration is required. To register visit the Beaver Creek Reserve event calendar or call the Farm Service Agency at 715-832-6547 ext. 2

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Contact E-Mail: bcr@beavercreekreserve.org

Cancellations require a 48-hour notice prior to the class.



Flower and Plant Pressing Series (Part 2) June 24, 2023, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Didn't attend Part 1? No problem. Preserve the beauty of spring by creating a nature-inspired bookmark or card using pressed plants found here at Beaver Creek! Pressed flowers and plants will be provided for those who did not register for part 1 (supplies may be limited).

Register by Friday, June 23rd. Cost: Members \$15; Non-members \$20.

Contact email: bcr@beavercreekreserve.org. Cancellation policy requires a 48 hour notice prior to the class date to receive a full refund minus a 10 percent administrative fee per program.



Bits and Pieces

Climbing Hydrangea (*hydrangea anomala*) by Carol Cox

Want some of the larger hydrangeas but don't have room in your yard? Try climbing hydrangea which will give you the attractiveness of the traditional hydrangea bush but in vine format. Native to Asia, come summer, white lacy blooms cap the lush green ovate leaves. It is a true climber and has holdfasts (suckers) on its branches, which allows it to scale structures without the use of a trellis.

Hardy in USDA zones 4a to 8a, climbing hydrangea plants grow very slowly taking up to three to five years just to reach the flowering stage. But once established, this gorgeous plant can reach a height of 50 feet or more at maturity and produce its fragrant flowers all summer long. **Be careful where you plant it, as all parts of hydrangeas are toxic to dogs, cats, and horses.** Because the vines grow large and heavy, it's important to make sure that the host structure can support the plant's weight, and that you prune it regularly. Climbing hydrangea can also be used as groundcover as it takes root wherever the suckers make contact with the ground.



Photo from Nursery Hills

The plant grows best in full sun to part shade. However, unlike other flowering vines, this variety can tolerate quite a bit of shade although any hydrangea will bloom more vibrantly than one receiving a lot of shade.

Plant in garden in rich, moist soil with good drainage. Soil pH level is not real critical with climbing hydrangea, but it will grow and bloom best in a mixture that is slightly acidic. To help maintain moisture in the soil (and to curb overwatering), maintain a three-inch layer of mulch round the root zone. Similar to other hydrangea plants, climbing hydrangea likes the soil to be consistently moist. The plant needs to receive at least one inch of water weekly.

The plants don't like hot humid conditions and can easily be damaged by intense sun and prefers daytime temperatures that hover around 70 degrees F, and night temperatures around 60 degrees F. Additionally, climbing hydrangea vines will only set buds if they experience at least six weeks of temperatures below 65 degrees F.

Climbing hydrangeas are considered low maintenance relative to fertilizer needs. You can usually just let your plant be for the first three years but after that fertilize it in the spring before the leaves begin to bud, **only if you are noticing issues with yellowing leaves.** If so, use a 10-10-10 product just below the suggested amount on the label. Fertilizer with a high phosphorous count will also help create beautiful blooms. In the late summer or fall, make sure to spread a one-inch layer of compost around your plant, topped with an inch or two of mulch.

There are actually four types of climbing hydrangeas. **Hydrangea anomala** is the most common variety of climbing hydrangea. It yields white flowers and has excellent frost and heat tolerance. The **Miranda** variety has variegated leaves that are part yellow and part green. One of the more decorative varieties, Mirandas can grow up to 50 feet tall and six feet wide. In contrast the **Silver Lining** climbing hydrangea produces silvery-grey variegated leaves. This variety is finicky, however, preferring partial shade over full sun or full shade. The **Flying Saucer** variety is known for its inflorescences that resemble flying saucers.

These plants, while slow growing, are a worthwhile addition to the garden. Start with the largest plants possible and prune only the dead and damaged branches each year, in late spring or early summer. Once the plant is established, climbing hydrangea grows vigorously and may need summer pruning and shaping.





EYE CANDY



Above and below photos by Carol Cox



Woodland poppy – a delightful shade addition.



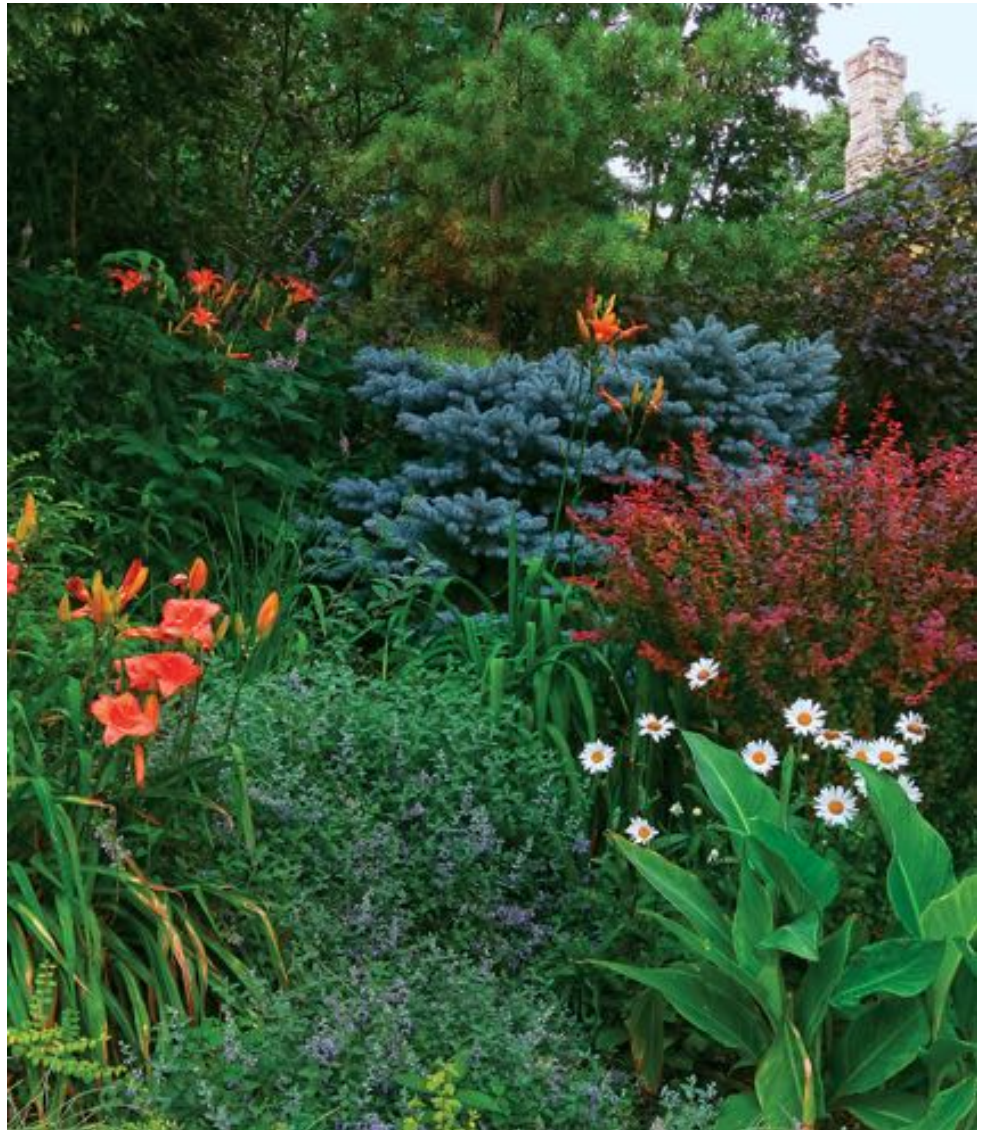
Always enchanting is the elf house as a piece of garden art. Above photo from Pinterest.



Above Photo and below from Pinterest

To the immediate left is a combo of Caladium and dichondria which is a really lovely contrast. To the far left is a picture of the Double Bloodroot in bloom. It has such unusual leaves and the flowers are gorgeous to anticipate in the early spring. If enough shade and moisture the leaves will also persist for weeks.

Below is a very pleasing planting done predominately with shrubs and a few perennials contrasting with them.



“It is easier to fight for one’s principles than to live up to them.” -anonymous



Photo from Clemson Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet 1234

Japanese Kerria (*Kerria japonica*) is an early flowering, deciduous shrub that will bloom and thrive in full to part-shade areas of your garden. The flowers are bright golden yellow with five petals. It blooms in early Spring with the blooms lasting for a couple weeks. It is also sometimes called Japanese yellow rose. The plant originated out of China and the plants are cold hardy in USDA zones 4 to 9.

Depending on the cultivar it ranges from 3 to 8 feet tall with a spread of up to 6 feet wide (plants do tend to slowly sucker and form small colonies). The branches are upright and arching and bright green. The leaves are doubly serrated and turn chartreuse in the fall. This is a very underused shrub that might bear consideration for woodland gardens in Zone 4.

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



Flag Day – June 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



June 21, 2023

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