



EAU CLAIRE AREA MG NEWS



August 2006

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August ECAMG Meeting:

ECAMG Plant Sale

Saturday, August 19th 9am to 3pm, Expo Center

Please remember our sale when you're in your garden! Volunteer seedlings of flowers - coneflowers, penstemon, bergamot, allium, coreopsis, dianthus, cranesbill, veronica. . .

Divisions - peonies, bleeding heart, sedum, rhubarb, daylilies, hosta. . .

Fruit bushes - blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, currants, elderberries, gooseberries . . .

Bulbs - iris rhizomes, lilies, daffodils, can be brought bagged.

Rootballs of large plants can be carefully wrapped in dampened newspapers and put into plastic bags to keep them moist until they can be planted.

Tag everything with horticultural name, common name, and any special growing instructions.

Named, labeled items sell better than unidentified or "generic" plants. If you know the cultivar name, please add it. People like to buy special, local plants or cultivars. (Adding any other information of interest, for instance, that a daylily was the Stout Medal Winner in 1990, or Plant of the Year in 2003, makes the plant very desirable to gardeners.)



Daylily Red Fanfare
in Helen Mabrey's garden.

Mostly, we need a good array of plants of all sorts to sell.

Donations may be dropped off at the Expo Center, East end of the Expo building, Friday, from Noon until 7 pm and Saturday from 7 am until the start of the sale. If you are unable to get your plants out there, please call Nina Logan, at 878-4585, or Carla Pelzl, at 835-6628.

Garden Art & Compost Bins

Other items welcomed at the Plant Sale are:

- *decorated bird houses
- *bird feeders
- *garden ornaments
- *garden-related art
- *trellises

- *decorative pots or planters
- *hypertufa trough planters
- *benches
- *garden furniture
- *gardening books
- *gardening magazines (bundled by year)



Prickly pear cactus in
Carol Cox's garden.

Gardening presentations (by some of our local MG members) and tours of the gardens all day.

MGs at the Farmers Market

Intern Amy Ripley joins MGs Ashlie Wallo and Gayle Kleppe in answering questions at the grand opening of the new Farmers Market, July 1. As you have probably heard by now, the new Farmers Market is an undiluted success, with an estimated 6,000 people attending each of the weekends it has been open, according to Judith & Phillip Chute, "guardian angels" of the market.

Deb Theusch is the new "go-to" person for scheduling us to work at the MG booth. Give her a call at 726-1702 or email her at ctheusch@execpc.com.



Volunteer Opportunities

Plant Sale Helpers Needed

- Lots of MGs willing to post flyers at their work places and businesses – and to share them with acquaintances. (The more people we can reach with the information, the better the turnout will be.) To have flyers delivered to you for posting, contact Carla Pelzl at 835-6628.
- MGs to receive & price plant donations at the Expo Center, starting Friday noon until 7:00pm, and Saturday morning from 7 to 9am.
- People to help set up the sale area Friday afternoon and evening (12 noon - 7 pm) & early Saturday morning (7 - 9am) - putting up tables & chairs, and setting out promotional materials & displays.
- MGs at the "Ask a Master Gardener" table, where folks can stop by with gardening questions, pick up some gardening hand-outs, and get information about the Master Gardener program
- General assistance, helping folks get their purchases back to their cars, and serving water and lemonade (no bars or cookies this year).
- People to work at the cash/sale table during the sale.
- Someone familiar with the Ideas Gardens and the work being done at the Expo Center, who is willing to walk through the gardens with visitors, explaining the project and answering their questions.
- People willing to stay and help with clean-up.

From the Plant Sale Committee. . .

Please consider how you might help with this event, which not only helps fund the Master Gardener program and projects, but also presents a wonderful opportunity to familiarize the community with the Landscape Demonstration and Ideas gardens and share gardening information and resources with them. All hours you put in for the event (advance committee planning work, digging and potting and labeling your plants, helping before and after the sale, or on the sale floor the day of the event) can be counted as volunteer hours.

If you want to offer help, please call or email - we look forward to seeing you there!

The Plant Sale Planning Committee:

Carla Pelzl 835-6628, or jcpelzl@gmail.com; Nina Logan, 878-4585; Lori Kempen, 832-8088; Carol Cox, 833-2200; Deb Theusch, 726-1702; Cheryl Gavin, 830-0540

Compost Site Coordinator Needed

Our compost demonstration site has been cleaned and repaired—it looks great! Now we need someone or a group of gardeners to help maintain the site and develop suggestions for improving its educational function. If you are interested, please call Tom at 839-4714, Carla at 835-6628 or Rolf at 839-3755.

Time to Begin Plans for Winter Gardening Seminar

Every February, our Master Gardeners host a wonderful, Saturday educational event, the Winter Gardening Seminar. It's time for us to begin making plans and finding speakers for our next seminar. Please join us to plan the event. Fresh ideas are always welcome. To join the committee, please contact Darren at 456-0690 or Tom at 839-4714.

Upcoming Events

Specialized Master Gardener Training

Every fall, the state hosts training on a specialized subject. This fall's training is on Houseplants and Outdoor Flowers. MG class participants are required to have completed the General Master Gardener training and be active MGs before participating in this next level of training.

Training will be conducted via fiberoptics, similar to the way training was conducted this spring. Programs will be broadcast live to UW-Eau Claire using PowerPoint, slides, overheads and video in their presentations. We will have the opportunity for direct interaction with the speakers.

The tentative program includes presentations on houseplant care, garden design, water gardens, native plants and wildflowers, bulbs, pest management, roses, container gardening, annuals and perennials. The program will be held on Tuesday evenings from 5:45 to 9:00 pm beginning on September 19 and continuing for 12 weeks, until December 5. Fees are yet to be determined by the state, but we should expect the fees to be similar to those charged at the general training. Look for your invitation in your mail in early August. If you have questions, please contact Tom at 839-4714.

General Master Gardener Training

For those of our friends who haven't been able to take spring MG training in Eau Claire, fall general Master Gardener classes will be held in Chippewa Falls, at the Courthouse, on Tuesday evenings beginning September 19 through December 5. Classes will run from 6 to 9pm. Anyone can take fall general training in Chippewa, if they cannot take Eau Claire's general training in spring (just like many Chippewa MGs took their general training in Eau Claire). Info: Jerry at Chippewa Falls Extension Office, 726-7950, or JRClark@co.chippewa.wi.us.

Carpool Coordinator

If you are planning to drive to any classes or events, why not call Helen Mabrey at 834-0118 and tell her what you are planning and how many people you can take with you -- or, if you need a ride and hope that someone else is planning to go, too, call Helen. This service is for MGs in western Wisconsin only. Money exchanges for these trips are between individual drivers and riders. Helen just keeps track of who, when, and where, to help coordinate us all.

July 27 – Water Gardening

6:30pm Potting Shed, 1804 Rudolph Rd, Eau Claire

Jan Vergeer of Langeveld Bulbs will be the featured speaker. The class is free. For more information, call Nancy Skelley at 831-4000.

July 30 - Hemerocallis Society of Minnesota Tour

9am to 1pm Tour daylily gardens during peak bloom by air-conditioned coach bus in the south metro area. Lunch included. Advance reservations required. \$10 for HSM members; \$15 for nonmembers. Contact HSM president, Kris Henning, phone 715-689-2333 or e-mail henning@grantsburgtelcom.net

Upcoming Events continued

August 3 – Houseplant Repotting Clinic

11am to noon Minnesota Arboretum Gardening School, Chanhassen, MN

Join us for a free session in the Keating Greenhouse, across from the Home Demonstration Garden, to learn how simple it is to repot your houseplant. Bring your root-bound plant and a larger container for repotting. Bring a bag of potting soil if you wish. Free with admission. Info: 952-443-1422.

August 3 – Planting for Fall Interest

6:30pm Potting Shed, 1804 Rudolph Rd, Eau Claire

This presentation will show you how to keep your gardening looking colorful until frost. \$5 fee. For more information, call Nancy Skelley at 831-4000.

August 3 –13 – Wisconsin State Fair, West Allis, WI

Cows, cream puffs, amusement park rides, and many horticultural exhibits and programs, including SEW MGA displays at the DNR park. For details, see State Fair at www.wistatefair.com/home/2006_website/

August 5 - Henke Farm Hike: Looking for Birds and Butterflies

8 to 10am Henke Farm, north of Fall Creek, WI

Beaver Creek Reserve Director Rick Koziel and a volunteer naturalist lead a hike to visit the MAPS bird banding station located at the Henke farm to observe a few feathered friends in hand and look for a variety of butterflies located on the diverse habitats of the farm. (Note: Once every ten days from June to August, the Henke Farm is the site of a MAPS long-term bird population survey. The standardized operation of eleven nets set up throughout the Henke farm acreage provides valuable information about the life cycles and breeding patterns of local songbirds.) Bring binoculars, bug spray and field guides. Registration required with fee by August 1. Cost: Friends Members \$3; Nonmembers \$4. Info & registration: 715-877-2212

August 5 – Edina Garden Council Hidden Gardens Tour

10am to 7pm Edina, MN

Tour five Edina gardens, including an extensive rose garden with a pond, a water garden and bog, a wildlife garden, and an 1887 farmhouse surrounded by hostas and perennials. Proceeds go to the Edina Garden Council, for park beautification programs. Tickets are \$12 in advance, available by calling 612-866-1116. On the day of the tour, tickets are \$15, available at Arneson Acres Park, 4711 70th St. W., Edina. Info: 612-866-1116.

August 5 – Landscape Demonstration Center

9am to noon, Expo Center, Eau Claire, WI

Scheduled work session. Info: Rolf Utegaard, <bigutehort@prodigy.net> or 834-0065

August 5 – Perennials for Sun and Shade

10am to 12:30pm Minnesota Arboretum Gardening School, Chanhassen, MN

Find out which perennials will thrive in sunny and shady sites in zone 4. Native plants and cultivars will be covered. Speaker Shirley Mah Kooyman is a botanist and the Adult Education Manager at the Arboretum. Fee: \$30 member / \$40 nonmember; Info: 952-443-1422 or education@arboretum.umn.edu.

August 6 – Gardening with Hardy Lilies

1 to 3pm Minnesota Arboretum Gardening School, Chanhassen, MN

Learn about lily history, culture, care, propagation techniques (such as scaling), sources, and which lilies do well in Minnesota in this class. Speaker Dennis Drews is owner of Oak Valley Farms in Elk River, Minnesota and former bulb chairman for the North Star Lily Society. Fee: \$20 member/ \$30 nonmembers. Info: 952-443-1422 or education@arboretum.umn.edu.

August 6 – Waseca Garden Club Garden Tour

1 to 5pm, Waseca area, MN

After touring a public historical garden at the Bailey-Lewer House Historical Garden at Fourth St. and Second Ave. NE, Waseca, and enjoying light summer refreshments, check out five or six contemporary gardens throughout the Waseca area. Free. Info: 507-835-5144.

Upcoming Events continued

August 8 – Snake Oil & Sound Practice: Evaluating Garden and Landscape Remedies

6:30 to 8pm Center for Northern Gardeners, 1755 Prior Avenue North, Falcon Heights, MN

In this class, we will be looking at remedies from the kitchen shelf that are passed down over the years to figure out whether they really work. Have you tried beer as slug bait or as a fertilizer? Have you made deer and rodent repellent in your blender? Find out when should you use garlic, and when would mouthwash be a better choice! "Fearlessly conducting original experiments and harvesting wisdom for the scientific literature, horticulturist Jeff Gillman assesses new and historic advice and reveals the how and why - and sometimes the why not - for more than 100 common and uncommon gardening practices. The results will surprise even experienced gardeners." Jeff Gillman, Ph.D. is an associate professor in the Dept of Horticulture Science at the U of MN where he researches plant production and teaches courses on nursery management and pesticide use. Fee: \$20 non-members. Pre-registration & info: 651-643-3601 or 800-676-6747, ext 211

August 10 – Late Summer and Early Fall Lawn Care & Weed Control Strategies

6:30 to 8:30pm Minnesota Arboretum Gardening School, Chanhassen, MN

Re-seed in fall to out-compete weeds and reduce herbicide use. This is also the time to treat perennial weeds such as dandelions. Learn what to do and why fall is prime time to green up the yard from a home lawn expert. Bob Mugaas, Professor and Regional Extension Educator with the U of M Extension is a turf specialist. Fee: \$30 nonmember; Info: 952-443-1422 or education@arboretum.umn.edu.

August 12 – Herb Symposium: A Fancy Summer Tea Highlighting Scented Geraniums

8:30am to 12:30pm, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chanhassen, MN

Cosponsored by the MN Herb Society and the Arboretum, this symposium features keynote speaker Steve Kelley who will do a topiary demonstration and share tips on growing various cultivars of the 2006 Herb of the Year: Scented Geraniums. The food demonstrations and tasting sessions will show how easy it is to have an elegant summer tea with edible scented geraniums. Fee: \$50 Info: 952-443-1422 or or education@arboretum.umn.edu.

August 12 – Growing Roses in Zone 4

10am to 12:30pm Minnesota Arboretum Gardening School, Chanhassen, MN

Discover how easy it is to grow both tender and hardy roses in our cold climate. Learn general rose care, cultivars, insects and diseases, winterizing, safe uses of pesticides and herbicides and a trip to the Arboretum's Wilson Rose Garden. Jim Beardsley, Past-President of the Minnesota Rose Society and a consulting rosarian in Rose Judging, maintains a garden with over 200 roses. Fee: \$30 member / \$40 nonmember; Info: 952-443-1422 or education@arboretum.umn.edu.

August 13 – Succulent Bonsai Workshop

2 to 4pm Deerfield, WI

Create a sculptured and pruned succulent in a bonsai pot using a Jade or other "fat plant". The workshop includes a 5" bonsai pot, soil and an assortment of African succulents to choose from. At The Cactus Patch, 226 N. Main St., Deerfield. Pre-register by August 6. Fee: \$27. Info: Wolfgang or Pat Werk 608-764-8446 or wolfgang@inthecactuspatch.com

August 13 – Container Water Gardening

1 to 3pm, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chanhassen, MN

Water gardening in containers makes it possible to have a water garden with limited space. Learn what types of containers to use, how to keep the water clean, types of plants to grow, where to place these water gardens, and how to over winter such a garden. Soni Forsman is owner of Water Lilies by Forsman in Eagan, Minnesota. She has created many water gardens in containers. Fee: \$20 members / \$30 nonmembers Info: 952-443-1422 or education@arboretum.umn.edu.

August 17 – Dahlias in the Summer Garden and in the Field

10am to noon, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chanhassen, MN

Enhance the summer garden with the many flower colors, shapes, and sizes of dahlias. The class includes a review of culture and care, over wintering the tender tubers. Speaker Sue Bagge is a Dahlia judge and past director of the Dahlia Trial Garden at the Arboretum. The Dahlia Trial Garden is maintained and provided for by the Minnesota Dahlia Society. Fee: \$20 members / \$30 nonmembers. Info: 952-443-1422 or education@arboretum.umn.edu.

Upcoming Events continued

August 17 – Favorite Garden Recipes

6:30pm Potting Shed, 1804 Rudolph Rd, Eau Claire

Staff will prepare and share their favorite recipes made from tomatoes, beans, zucchinis and other garden vegetables. Come taste their favorites and bring a recipe of your own to share if you wish. Recipes from the staff will be printed at the end of class. Fee: \$5. For more information, call Nancy Skelley at 831-4000.

August 19 – ECAMG Plant Sale, Expo Center, Lorch Ave., Eau Claire, WI

Details on pages 1 & 2 of this newsletter

August 19 – Hostas and Companion Plants

10am to 12:30pm Minnesota Arboretum Gardening School, Chanhassen, MN

Hostas are best appreciated for their distinctive foliage. Learn how to grow, propagate and select them for effective combinations with other shade-loving plants. Includes a visit to the Hosta Glade. Duane Reynolds, former President, MN Horticultural Society, has gardened with hostas for years. Fee: \$40.

August 19 - Heirloom Festival

10am to 1pm Dowling Community Garden, 46th Avenue So. at 39th St., Minneapolis, MN

A community celebration dedicated to growing and enjoying heirloom varieties of vegetables, fruits and flowers. Come taste flavorful and colorful tomatoes, tour our demonstration garden, learn about saving seeds and where to find heirloom seeds and plants. This year's festival features old-fashioned flowers, with floral demonstrations, crafts, recipes and more. Dowling Community Garden is one of two known remaining "victory gardens" in the US and is a member of Seed Savers Exchange and Seeds of Diversity Canada, saving and distributing seeds of heritage vegetables and flowers internationally.

Info: www.DowlingCommunityGarden.org

August 19 – Native Shrubs and Trees for Native Landscaping

1 to 3 pm University of Wisconsin – Madison Arboretum

Learn about the trees and shrubs used in our native plant gardens and restorations that homeowners can choose for their own home landscapes. Fee: \$13.50 Registration required. Info: www.uwarboretum.org or 608-263-7888.

August 22 - Twilight Garden Tour

5pm to dusk Spooner Agricultural Research Station, Spooner, WI

Stroll through the garden to see the various trials and plantings, listen to presentations by UW-Extension Hort Specialists and Master Gardeners. Free. Info: the Spooner Agricultural Research Station, 715-635-3735 or <http://www.ars.wisc.edu/sitehome.aspx?siteID=35> click on "Spooner"

August 22 – Tour the Eco-Yard Midtown

6:30 to 8pm Midtown Greenway, 2801 21st Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN

Corrie Zoll of the Green Institute will give us a personal tour of this attractive urban landscape with plants that thrive with minimal amounts of pesticides, fertilizers, water and time. Once established, this approach requires less maintenance than a traditional landscape! You will see a Rain Garden, a Prairie Garden, a Bird and Butterfly Garden, a Fescue Lawn that only needs mowing 1-2 times a year, and more! A complete plant list will be available. We will also get a tour of the Green Institute's Green Rooftop Garden. Then, join us for lemonade and snacks under the tent! Fee: \$15. Pre-registration required. Info: 651-643-3601 or 800-676-6747, ext 211

August 25 – Brown Bag: Curing and Storage of Vegetables

12 to 1pm Eau Claire Extension Office, Altoona, WI

Have an overabundance of produce that you'd like to save for later use? Join Bob Tomesh as he discusses how to properly treat various vegetables that are ready for harvest to promote maximum storage life. Sign up at the Extension Office 715-839-4712.

August 26 - Designing for the Water's Edge

9am to 1pm Minnesota Arboretum Gardening School, Chanhassen, MN

Gain the knowledge for creating sound ecological designs for living by the water's edge. Information includes dos and don'ts about fertilizer applications, runoff, appropriate plant selections and a visit to sites at the Arboretum for examples in this class. Speaker L. Peter MacDonagh, owner of The Kestrel Design Group, Inc. in Edina, Minnesota, is a licensed landscape architect, arborist, and horticulturist. Fee: \$45 nonmembers. Info: 952-443-1422 or education@arboretum.umn.edu.

Upcoming Events continued

August 27 - Growing Orchids

1 to 3pm Minnesota Arboretum Gardening School, Chanhassen, MN

Find out which orchids do well in Midwest homes. Topics include identification, care, repotting, insects, and diseases. Each participant receives an orchid plant in this class from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. \$40 (\$30 members). Speaker Bob Bulthuis, President of the Minnesota Orchid Society, is an award-winning orchid exhibitor and grower. Fee: \$30 members / \$40 nonmembers. Info: 952-443-1422 or education@arboretum.umn.edu.

August 31 – Ideas Garden Design Committee

6pm, Expo Center, Lorch Ave., Eau Claire, WI

The County Expo Grounds is our greatest resource for educational programs. We have made great strides in developing an Ideas Garden and in establishing a series of rain gardens, wildflower beds, tree plantings, and a compost demonstration site. Now we need to develop a coordinated vision on how these beautiful plantings can be used for educational purposes. The objective of Ideas Garden Design Committee meetings this fall is to develop a long-term vision for the site. We are investigating what other MG groups do around the state to learn what may work for us. Anyone interested in helping to develop an overall design for the grounds is very welcome. Questions: call Tom at 839-4714 or Carla at 835-6628.

August 31 – Hot Plants

7:30 to 8pm On WI Public Television (check local listing to confirm date/time)

Horticulturist Jim Nienhuis shares his favorite peppers and pepper roasting secrets. Learn what's new and hot in the world of perennials and more; learn how to make and use vinegars including chili peppers and balsamic vinegar; and take a look at mushroom gardening.

Planning Ahead

August 19	Plant Sale; 9am to 3pm
August 20	Deadline for next <i>ECAMG News</i> .
August 21	ECAMG Board Meeting; 6pm, Extension Office.
August 31	Ideas Garden Design Committee, 6pm, Expo Center
September 18	General Meeting at Extension Office Richard Zondag, Jung Seed Co. Latest in fall perennials and bulbs and "putting the garden to bed" for winter.



A visitor relaxes at Carol Cox's "Open Garden".

To Contact ECAMG Board Members

Co-Presidents:	Darren Lochner:	456-0690	dwl73@hotmail.com
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ECAMG website: www.eauclairemastergardeners.com/

Eau Claire Area MG News: email event dates, information, articles to editor Annie Grewe at mgnews@charter.net or mail to 3705 Glen Crest Ct., EC 54701.

EC County Extension Office address: 227 1st Street, Altoona 54720 Hort: 839-4714; office: 839-4712

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