



EAU CLAIRE AREA MG NEWS



July 2006

July ECAMG Meeting:

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All About Ponds

by **Mark Prevost, the Pond Doctor**

Monday, July 17th 6 pm

3036 Leslie Lane*, Eau Claire

While admiring Mark & Christine's ponds, and to the music of their waterfalls, we'll learn all about how to begin a pond: what to consider, factors in situating a pond, how to construct it, materials to use – and not use.

Following the construction, Mark points out which plants work well inside the pond, around the perimeter, and in the gardens to enhance a pond. Common problems encountered with ponds and their solutions, as well as types of fish that work well in Wisconsin will also be described.

Mark has been constructing and creating ponds for many years. He was the originator of the local Pond Club, which disbanded when Mark began working out-of-town. We are very fortunate to have this opportunity to see Prevosts' ponds and hear Mark speak this summer because a business transfer is in their future.

*Leslie Lane is a short street just East of the intersection of Hwy 53 and Eddy Lane. Directions: Take Hwy 53 to Eddy Lane. Head East on Eddy lane ~2 blocks. Turn South, (right) onto Abbe Hill Drive & go 1 block to Leslie Lane. Go East (left) 2 blocks to 3036 Leslie Lane.

Noteworthy News

ECAMG Tammy Pellett writes that the Wilson Place garden restoration project in Menomonie has received a grant from The Greater Area Menomonie Foundation and a matching grant from the owner of the non-profit museum.

Tammy believes her research paid off. She found a "copy of the original hand drawing by Fredrick Law Olmstead, the gardens' designer, who also designed Central Park in New York."

Good going, Tammy!

Volunteer Opportunities

MGs at the Farmers Market

July 1st is the grand opening of Eau Claire's downtown Farmers Market. Let's get as many MGs as possible to participate in (and around) our booth! We'll start at 8am and continue throughout the morning. Stop by for a while or all morning & join us for this momentous occasion!

Northern Wisconsin State Fair

The Fairgrounds, located on Hwy 124, just north of Leinenkugels in Chippewa Falls, WI, is the site of the Northern Wisconsin State Fair, held July 12-16 this year. Muriel Shervey heads the Flowers & Houseplants section of the fair, and she needs help setting up for the flower show during the day on Monday and Tuesday, July 10 & 11, starting at 9 am. Help is needed as long as it takes on Tuesday evening to set up the exhibits, and on Wednesday morning to clerk

during the judging. Muriel also appreciates help during the week with watering and checking on exhibits. "Take Down Day", is another busy and interesting day when extra hands are welcome! If you have time to give, please call Muriel Shervey at 723-3172 for more information and to let her know when you can participate.

Landscape Demonstration Center

There will be a scheduled work session on July 22, 9am-noon, Expo Center, Eau Claire. Info: Rolf Utegaard, bigute-hort@prodigy.net or 834-0065.

Master Gardener Plant Sale

ECAMG's 6th annual Plant Sale will be held on **Saturday**, August 19th, from 9am to 3pm, at Eau Claire County Expo Center! Some changes this year – we're going to see how well a Saturday, day-time sale of garden perennials, garden art, and compost bins will work. Rolf Utegaard has once again generously donated the use of the Expo Center building to us – please thank him when you see him.

Carla Pelzl chairs the Plant Sale this year, and she writes: all interested MG's can volunteer their help either with advance work like planning and publicizing, or at the event receiving plants, working the cash table, answering questions, etc---or both. It is an excellent opportunity to earn hours and have a good time with a friendly group. *Note from the editor: For those who have signed up to work the Plant Sale, don't wait, just call Carla and volunteer again, she'll be pleased to hear from you - 835-6628 or jcpelzl@gmail.com*

Pot up those volunteer seedlings and divisions, and remember to keep them watered. Label each plant, using botanical and common names and any special care info. (Plant catalogs are a great source of pictures & names - clip out info and tape onto a 3x5 card stapled to a craft stick or straw.)

Please bag or pot up whole clumps in "sellable" sizes. Bulbs, tubers, corms, and rhizomes are welcome in bags or pots, with a description and picture. Houseplants are welcome too, so are old gardening magazines bundled together by year.

Going beyond the Zones

The Canadian Forest Service has embarked on an ambitious project called Going Beyond the Zones. They've set up a website (<http://www.planthardiness.gc.ca/>) where gardeners across Canada and the Northern U.S. are encouraged to report information about the hardy plants in their gardens.

The project is a follow-up to the 2001 revision of the *Canadian Plant Hardiness Zone Map*. After enough information is gathered on each plant species or cultivar, a really nifty mapping program can generate a hardiness range map specific to each type. What's really needed right now are **lots of gardeners to participate** and report on the plants that they are growing.

Registration on the site is free and only takes a few moments. Full details about the project may be seen at www.planthardiness.gc.ca/. Once there, select the language of your choice and the page will pop right up.

Making an Arbor Map

The Tree Club is interested in working on the ArborMap project... where you identify the major (and minor) trees visible from public roads and sidewalks. You create a local map of the Trees and--presto--your village, your neighborhood, your road, becomes an Arboretum, helping people "see" the land, the trees in a new way. *“taking tree walks is much like birding, except the trees stay put. Both are exercises in awareness.”* www.geocities.com/jim_rose_i/arbormaps.html

Upcoming Events

July 1 – Cranberry Blossom Day in Warrens, WI

9am – noon, tour of Wetherby Cranberry Marsh, 4.5 miles east of Warrens on Hwy EW.

Cranberries have been grown commercially in Wisconsin for over 150 years. That's a lot of history for one tiny berry. During that time, cranberry growers have adapted their production methods to the environment, changes in agricultural technology, and changes in the marketplace. In addition to developing new ways of growing cranberries, they've also created new ways of using the fruit. You'll learn all about that – and more – during a visit to the Wisconsin Cranberry Discovery Center in downtown Warrens. Info: 608-378-4878 or www.discovercranberries.com.

July 7 & 8 – 5th Annual Garden Walk, Marathon and Mosinee, WI

1:00 – 7:00pm Friday; 9:00am-3:00pm Saturday

Enjoy 5 beautiful gardens in Mosinee and Marathon organized by the North Central WI MGA. Fee: \$10 day of event. Info: 715-261-1231 or Diane Pergolski at dianep@dwave.net

July 8 - Sheboygan Area Garden Walk, Sheboygan, WI

9am-5pm. Ten gardens featured for the 10th annual garden walk, sponsored by the Sheboygan Co. MGA. Fee: \$10. Proceeds go to the Ellwood H. May Environmental Park Ecology Building addition. Info: Barb Schneiderhan at schneiderhan@bytehead.com or 920-457-4243.

July 8 - Down the Garden Path, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

The 6th annual garden walk sponsored by the Wood Co. MGA. For more information contact the Wood Co. UW-Extension Office at 715-421-8440.

July 8 - Lexington-Hamline Shuffle, St. Paul, MN

9am to 1pm. Starting location is at 1122 Marshall Ave. in St. Paul. This tour includes some 10 private gardens and features a raised vegetable garden, a large garden built on a steep slope, and a combination prairie/woodland garden, among other inventive spaces. Tour is sponsored by the Lexington-Hamline Garden Club. Free. Info: 651-647-5747

July 9 – Wingra Oak Savanna, UW-Madison Arboretum, Madison, WI

8:30 – 10 am This popular area on the northwest shore of Lake Wingra has been undergoing restoration for more than 15 years with the help of neighbors and friends. The naturalist will lead an exploration of the area and share some early Arboretum and cultural history. Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Arbor Drive and Monroe Street. Info: 608-263-7888 or info@uwarboretum.org

July 9 – Family Butterfly Walk, UW-Madison Arboretum, Madison, WI

1:30 – 2:30 pm Warm, sunny days in July are the best times for seeing lots of butterflies and other fascinating insects that visit flowers on the prairie. Meet at the Visitor Center, Longenecker Gardens, 1207 Seminole Highway, (between Lake Wingra and the West Beltline Highway). Info: 608-263-7888 or info@uwarboretum.org

July 11 – 12 - *Art in the Garden - The Garden in Art*, Marshfield, WI

Take one, two or more classes during this 2-day hands-on program at Foxfire Gardens, including wreath topiaries, moss gardens, container gardens, flower arranging, waterfall construction and more. Also attend a perennial plant sale and edible flower luncheon. Info: Office of Continuing Education, UW-Marshfield at msfce@uwc.edu or 715-389-6540.

July 11 – Ecology and Identification of Dragonflies of Western Wisconsin

11am – 4pm Beaver Creek Reserve, County Hwy K, Fall Creek, WI

DNR aquatic ecologist, Bob DuBois, will introduce participants to the biology, ecology, behavior and identification of dragonflies and damselflies of western Wisconsin. During the “dragonfly walk” specimens will be netted, examined in hand, and released. Nets and field guides will be provided. Participants should bring appropriate field clothing and knee-high boots or hip waders or be prepared to get wet. Close-focusing binoculars and a monocular hand lens (10X loupe) are extremely helpful. Also, bring a lunch.

Bob leads the DNR's dragonfly and damselfly survey and recently published a field guide to damselflies of the North Woods. Register by Thursday, July 6. Cost: Friends \$6 Nonmembers \$8

Upcoming Events continued

July 11 – 13 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, Sheboygan Co, WI

This premier exposition – the largest agricultural show in Wisconsin – is also one of the largest in the nation. The three-day outdoor event showcases the latest improvements in production agriculture, including many practical applications of recent research findings and technological developments. For more information see the [WI Farm Technology Days website](#).

July 13 - Hybrid Poplar 101 (Growing and Tending Hybrid Poplars) 5 – 8pm Public Works Building, 509 3rd Ave West, Alexandria, MN

This class covers some of the basics of growing, tending and managing hybrid poplar from site preparation and establishment to maintenance of plantings. The class is specifically designed for landowners and others (i.e., professionals, foresters) who wish to learn more about cultural practices of growing hybrid poplar for pulp and paper, bioenergy, and environmental protection. Also covered is information about various programs that can be used to assist landowners with cost sharing or financing a poplar planting projects, including the "Improved Agroforestry Advance Loan Fund with Energy Incentives" loan program, EQIP, CRP Buffer Strips, WHIP, DNR forestry, etc. Cost: Free (\$15 after July 7th) Pre-registration required. Info: Diomy Zamora 888-241-0720.

July 14 – 16 North American Lily Show, Ramada Inn Convention Center, Eau Claire, WI 3-6pm Friday, 10-5 Saturday, 10-3 Sunday

Free & open to the Public. See hundreds of lilies and beautiful arrangements. Lily photo contest winners, a display of edible Chinese lilies; N. Wis Hosta Society; Garden Creations, Trellises by Linda Culver of Bloomer, WI; Antique Emporium, Floral Fantasia, Estate Perennials, etc. For sale are many garden-related items: Plants, seeds, plant markers, garden gloves, books, tools, clothing.

July 14 – 15, - Garden Parade 2006, Stevens Point/Plover, WI

Sponsored by the Portage Co. MGA, this tour features several Stevens Point and Plover area gardens. \$10 in advance; \$12 days of Parade. Info: Portage Co. UW-Extension Office 715-341-6672.

July 15 – Karner Blue 2006 Garden Tour, Black River Falls, WI

11am-4pm. Tickets may be purchased at the Field of Honor Shelter next to the BRF Chamber of Commerce Building. Info: Beth Hilliker 715-284-4708.

July 15 – 11th Annual Duluth Secret Garden Tour, Duluth area, MN

8:30am – 2pm. Travel by air-conditioned coach bus to six rarely-seen gardens in the Duluth area. Lunch at the historic Duluth Women's Club is included in the price. Proceeds benefit the Duluth Garden Flower Society. Tickets \$30 at 218-724-4921, or online at www.dgfs.us

July 15 - Minnetonka Center for the Arts Garden Tour, Lake Minnetonka area, MN

9am – 3pm. Tour begins at the Minnetonka Center for the Arts. Admire six or more gardens in the posh Lake Minnetonka area, many facing the lakeshore. The VIP tour group will travel by bus, escorted by a master gardener. Proceeds benefit the Minnetonka Center for the Arts. Fee: \$30. VIP escorted tour is \$45. Reservations required by July 8; 952-473-7361, ext. 16.

July 15 - Bright Gardens for Fraser Tour; Edina, Bloomington, & South Minneapolis, MN

10am – 4pm. Tour eight stunning private gardens, including a Japanese-style garden, a rain garden, a hosta garden with more than 350 varieties, and the Minneapolis Garden Club's Best of 2005 winner. Hennepin County Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer questions, and informal gardening classes will be offered at some of the tour stops. All proceeds benefit Fraser, a nonprofit that serves children of all abilities and adults with special needs. Tickets \$15; available at 612-798-8343, or online, www.fraser.org.

July 16 – “Always on a Sunday” Prairie Hike, Rockland, WI

1:30pm Prairie walks on the Rockland Prairie State Natural Area with naturalist/columnist Bob Lee, who identifies species in bloom as well as other items of interest. Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. A hat to block the sun is recommended. These are leisurely walks on level terrain. Meeting places is where the La Crosse River Trail crosses county highway J (Commercial Street) next to the RR tracks in Rockland. Info: 608-337-4775 or jayne.collins@dnr.state.wi.us

July 15 & 16 - Annual St. Croix Garden Tour, Stillwater historical area, MN

10am - 4pm Tour six private gardens in the historic Stillwater area. Master gardeners will be on hand at each location to answer questions. Proceeds benefit Family Means in Stillwater. Tickets \$12 adults, children 12 and younger free. Info: 651-439-4840, or www.familymeans.org.

Upcoming Events continued

July 22 – Designing for Prairie Sites Ecologically

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

Learn what plants are appropriate for prairie sites and which ones to avoid. Class includes a visit to one of the Arboretum's sites. Lunch on your own. Dress for hiking. L. Peter MacDonagh, owner of The Kestrel Design Group, Inc. in Edina, Minnesota, is a licensed landscape architect, arborist, and horticulturist specializing in ecological solutions to land design and planning. Fee: \$35 member / \$45 nonmember; Info: 952-443-1422 or education@arboretum.umn.edu.

July 22 - Garden Expo

9am – 3pm Spooner Agricultural Research Station, W6646 Highway 70, Spooner, WI

The North Country MGA hosts this extravaganza of gardening information and horticulture education. There will be two General sessions in the morning followed by mini workshops in the Demonstration and Research Garden in the afternoon. Info: 715-635-3735 or Tony Webber at twebb100@yahoo.com.

July 22 - Arboretum Ecological Restoration Work Party, UW-Madison Arboretum, Madison, WI

9am – noon. Volunteer for restoration activities and learn about prairies and savannas. Tools and training provided. Groups welcome with advance notice. Meet at the front steps of the Visitor Center, Longenecker Gardens, 1207 Seminole Highway, (between Lake Wingra and the West Beltline Highway). For more information: 608-265-5214 or mlfarrior@wisc.edu

July 23 - Curtis Prairie Walk, UW-Madison Arboretum, Madison, WI

8:30 – 10am Celebrate a "Prairie Birthday" while examining and enjoying compass plant, prairie dock and other species that Aldo Leopold featured in his essay. Meet at the front steps of the Visitor Center, Longenecker Gardens, 1207 Seminole Highway, (between Lake Wingra and the West Beltline Highway).

July 22 & 23 and 29 & 30 - Twin Cities Parade of Ponds

10am – 5pm. Special "nightscaping" tours to be held from 9 – 11pm both Saturdays, included in the ticket cost. More than 100 ponds in the greater metro area are featured. Ponds north of Highways 394 and 94 will be showcased the first weekend; ponds to the south will be open the next following weekend. All proceeds benefit the Minnesota Water Garden Society and the Children's Cancer Research Fund. Tickets \$20 per person, children 12 and under free. Available at Hedberg Landscape Supplies, Guarantee Banks within Rainbow Foods, and online at www.tcparadeofponds.com.

July 27 – 31 Eau Claire County Fair, Eau Claire, WI

The annual Eau Claire County Fair is a youth and family focused event held at the Eau Claire County Expo Center. Emphasis is placed on youth education and recognition and family involvement. The county fair is non-commercial and has no midway or carnival. In addition to a wide variety of animal shows and hundreds of non-animal exhibits, the fair features the following special events:

- Kick-off Olympics: Wednesday evening
- Kids Days tent activities (games, face painting, make n' take crafts, petting zoo, educational exhibits): Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm.
- Style Revue and Talent Show: Friday evening
- Livestock Project Auction: Saturday evening
- Pie Baking Contest: Sunday morning
- Small Animal Fun Show: Sunday morning
- Charcoal Chicken Dinner: Sunday, 11 am to 2 pm
- Polka Band: Sunday late morning
- Antique Appraisal: Sunday afternoon
- Award Ceremony: Sunday afternoon
- After the Fair Dance: Sunday, 8 to 11 pm

For more information, call the Eau Claire County Extension Office, 715-839-4712.

Upcoming Events continued

July 28 – Horticulture Field Day Events

12 noon-1pm Brown Bag, Eau Claire County Extension Office, 227 1st Street, Altoona

Each year, UW-Extension Specialists and UW-Agriculture Research Station persons plan, organize and host several horticulture field events. Annually, vegetable, fruit, ornamental, and flower cultivar trials as well as cultural and maintenance techniques are planned and initiated for performance evaluation and a series of State-wide Fall Horticulture Field Day programs. Preview the 2006 plans for evaluating the performance of selected vegetable and flower crops. Join Bob Tomesh, other UW Extension Specialists and ARS assistants in highlights for 2006 field days. Sign up in advance: 715-839-4712.

July 28 & 29 – Artful Garden Tour, Bloomington, MN

10am - 4pm Tour several Bloomington-area gardens, each with a working artist on site. A pink flamingo sculpture contest, silent auction, raffle, and afternoon reception will be held at the Bloomington Civic Plaza on July 29th. Tickets \$15, at the Bloomington Art Center, 1800 Old Shakopee Rd. W., Bloomington, 952-563-8587, or www.bloomingtonartcenter.com.

July 29 – Prairie Fest, Fond du Lac, WI

10am – 3pm (rain or shine) A combination of environmental education, presentations, tours, and entertainment, this one-of-a-kind event is perfect for the whole family. Prairie Fest includes Fond du Lac Co. MGs answering questions, prairie tours, plant sale, presentations on cranes, raptors, reptiles & amphibians, bats, and mammals of Wisconsin; and many children's activities. UW- Fond du Lac., 400 University Drive, FDL. Free. Info: [Lynette Liepert@mercmarine.com](mailto:Lynette.Liepert@mercmarine.com) or online at www.fdl.uwc.edu/arboretum/prairie_fest.html

July 31 – August 2 International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, MN

Be a part of the oldest and most highly respected annual educational conference for tree care professionals in the world. Come for solutions to tree care challenges and to share experiences. This cutting-edge, international conference won't ever be more convenient for those of us in western Wisconsin than it will be this summer.

There are separate tracks for municipal tree managers, utility arborists, commercial arborists and those interested in urban tree research/education. The program announcement and registration information are now available at ISA's website, www.isa-arbor.com/conference. Info: Cindy Casey, Urban Forestry Coordinator, DNR, Eau Claire 715-839-1606 or cynthia.casey-widstrand@dnr.state.wi.us

Planning Ahead

- July 20 ECAMG Board Meeting; 6pm, Extension Office.
- July 20 Deadline for next ECAMG News. Email event dates, information, articles to editor Annie Grewe at mgnews@charter.net or mail to 3705 Glen Crest Ct., EC 54701.

To Contact ECAMG Board Members

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