

The Tiller

The Gardeners Club of Green Bay, Wisconsin



August 2023
Volume 41, No. 8



Pollinator Gardens Tour—Corey Behnke, Club Member 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 23, 2023 1213 Shadow Lane, Green Bay, WI 54304

Join us in the “shadows” of Lambeau Field to explore a 3rd-year garden by member Corey Behnke that will showcase a new 20ft x 30ft pollinator exclusive area with over 500 native Wisconsin plants with the intention to host and feed more than 17 *Lepidoptera* species as well as many other pollinator insects. Also featured this year in the garden is a space devoted to the Haudenosaunee (Iriquois) “the three sisters” planting of corn, beans, and squash.

Park on Shadow Lane between Oneida and Ridge. Feel free to bring a lawn chair but there will be some seating provided.

Editor's Note: The grape tasting at Rick and Diana Buss's vineyard originally planned for August was postponed to September so that more grape varieties would be mature for the event.

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From our Co-Presidents . . .



Co-Presidents: Patti Nellis and CJ Janus
At the garden of Rob and Veronica Geurts

Good Garden Neighbor - Appreciation Cards
Beautiful “thank you” cards will be available to all members at the August meeting to use for Good Garden Neighbor appreciation notes. Good Neighbor Week is September 24-30, but may be used any time you find a “good garden neighbor”. We are featuring local garden photos—next year we'll continue asking for photos



from members which may be chosen to put on thank you cards. A label on the back of the card will identify our club name, logo, website and facebook addresses. This card may be anonymous, or you can choose to sign your name.

Let's go gardeners—let's promote some “goodwill” in our neighborhoods!

Patti Nellis, Co-President

Hello Gardening Friends

Well, our little garden club accomplished our second fabulous fundraiser for this year! **Thanks to our hard-working VP Veronica Geurts—we wouldn't have done it without her organizational skills and promotional finesse and can-do attitude! We can't thank you enough, Veronica!**

continued on page 2



Due to the July garden walk fundraiser, no business meeting in July, so no minutes this month.

Co-presidents' messages continued from page 1

We brought in \$3,000, nearly the same as our plant sale! Two hundred sixty-four people were so happy and appreciative to be able to tour beautiful gardens in our area. This was great for our community and a great way for the community to learn about us.

We were sad we couldn't get enough volunteers to fill the slots at the five gardens so Veronica and Rob recruited four of their family members, Patti recruited three of hers, Shirley recruited a friend, and eight of us members worked double shifts (all day 8:30-3). We made it work. I'm so appreciative of **ALL** of you who assisted us!

We're especially thankful to the garden owners: Carl and Karen VandenHeuvel, "The Quarry Gardens"; Dan and Kitty Doersch, "For His Majesty Gardens"; Leo and Eileen Bordelean, "Rose-Hill Gardens"; Dan and Lisa Rocheleau, and Rob and Veronica Geurts! We can't express our appreciation enough for all the hours you shared your beautiful yards with us and all the preparation work!

Patti and I delivered thank you cards and a gift certificate of \$100 to each one on August 10.

Members—think some more about what horticultural non-profits you'd like to vote for to receive donations from our club. The Community Gardens could use storage sheds—only 4 of the 15 gardens have a shed. The Baird Creek Preservation Foundation is removing invasive plants and planting native pollinator plants. Just a couple possibilities...

And members—please fill out the survey we emailed. We really value your opinion. Thank you to Deb Schumacher who started the survey and Shirley Winnes who researched how to make a fillable form (if you have tech trouble with it contact Shirley—she's so helpful).

Another 47 people signed up for our newsletter at the Garden Walk! Welcome to the **Tiller**! We hope you'll enjoy learning about the gardening club that's been here since 1967 (Green Bay's best kept secret). Remember, after June, dues are half price for the remainder of the year for new members. Check out our website gardenclubgreenbay.weebly.com, and we hope to see you at one of our next meetings!

CJ Janus, Co-President



What's coming up? Plan ahead for our future meetings!

Next month is grape-tasting—we will visit the vineyards of Rick and Diana Buss in Abrams at 5:30 p.m. on **September 27**. According to our bylaws, nominations must take place for 2024 officers in September.

On **October 25**—Roundtable—share this season's successes and/or failures! Meeting is at GBBG. Election of 2024 officers.

Mark your calendar for **November 15**—pot luck at GBBG and the last meeting for 2023! We will return to meeting Saturday mornings starting **January 27, 2024**.

Remember, anything can happen, and programs or times may need to be changed. Always check the **Tiller** and your email for up-to-date details.



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The Gardeners Club of Green Bay Officers and Chairpersons

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Sunshine

—————Open—————

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Club and Member News ...



Sunshine wishes to Lee Hansen who fell and broke his leg—no surgery needed, but grounded for 6-8 weeks to recuperate.



Congratulations, Ritalyn Arps, for winning Best of Show in the Horticulture Show at the TGOA Convention. Her winning plant was *Pachypodium lamerei*.



New Member:

Connie Koopmans
1314 Sunray Lane
Green Bay, WI 54313
920-309-3317
conmarkkoop@outlook.com

Join Now! Half Price!

Notice!

It's not too early to think about 2024! Nominations for our officers will be in September, and election of officers takes place in October.



Patti Nellis shared this photo of a *Tamarillo* (also known as a tree tomato) that she got at our plant sale (donated by Corey Behnke). It is grown in a plant bag—note the handles on it. She also said it was labeled as a dwarf!

What's up in your world?
Please share your news on
this page. Articles
Contributed to the Tiller
are always welcome!

Articles for next month's Tiller are due by September 10.
Send to Shirley Winnes at saw301@att.net
or to sawrrw@hotmail.com.

“Up, Up, and Away” — The 2023 TGOA National Convention

Contributed by Ritalyn Arps, TGOA National Secretary and Green Bay Club Member

Editor's Note: Two of our members participated in the convention held in Dayton, Ohio, July 26-28—Ritalyn Arps and Sue Rohan.



Sue Rohan and
Ritalyn Arps

This year's national convention was, as always, a super three days of learning, enjoying old and new friends, and visiting garden sites.

Wednesday was the start of the silent auction and the Horticultural Show. There were lots of vegetables, fruits, herbs, potted plants,

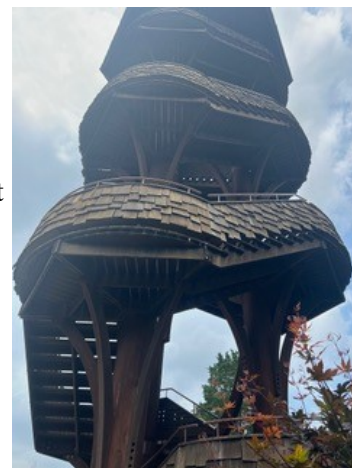
cut flowers, and more being entered in the show for judging. Our dinner was an authentic Ohio barbeque! Yummm!

Thursday morning was devoted to informational sessions. I went to “Holistic Turf Management in Shade” presented by Arly Drake, Clark State College Program Coordinator. Who doesn't want to grow grass in the shade? Drake provided essential information for success. Phytochrome is an essential light receptor in grass. For a grass to make the most of available light, it does best growing horizontally rather than vertically. Therefore, many shade grasses tend to lay down. Not my idea of the best look, but grasses know what they need. Shade produces a microclimate which encourages leaf spot, brown patch and powdery mildew. Therefore, growing grass in shade requires observation and response. If rust appears, increase nitrogen. Some other suggestions for shade include: mow very high and not often—the tips of the grass blade is where carbohydrates are produced so it is taxing for grasses to have them cut off frequently, reduce nitrogen, increase iron and magnesium, and use a growth regulator and fungicide—even when there isn't any observable fungus, it helps growth. If you still are having trouble growing grass in shade, there are a variety of shade-loving ground covers that will do the trick.

“Garden Soil Testing and Soil Health” by Clare Thorn, Central State University Extension Associate, was the next session on Thursday morning. I was excited about this one, because my new landscape is sand—not just sandy, but really all sand. Ugh! When taking a soil sample, dig straight down in four to six spots. The UW Extension suggests taking soil from the points of

a “W”. The sample can be from your garden, turf, or flower beds, but only take from one area at a time for samples to send in. Take off the top two inches of soil before putting the rest in a bucket. Mix the sample up and send about a half cup to be evaluated. The answer to my soil problem is to excavate!

Thursday afternoon was spent at the Cox Arboretum. We were first provided with information about how the land was acquired and developed. Initially, it was too far from Dayton to even be donated to the city. However, cities grow as cities tend to do. Not too far anymore! Two docents led each of our groups providing information on trees, plants, and structures. The view that unfurled from the top of their wooden tower was truly beautiful.



A memorial service was held for members who passed away during the past year at the Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum. The beautiful small chapel with its extraordinary stained-glass windows provided a sense of beauty and peace.

And then, the Mystery Bus Tour! I'll never tell. But it was fun, fun, fun!

Friday morning, Mark House, the director of Krohn Conservatory shared its history, growth, and many innovations that have taken place. They have the smallest, no seat front loader in the USA. Everybody needs one of those!

Next was a speaker, Laura Deeter, OSU/ATI coordinator of Landscape Horticulture & Horticultural Science, who has won many awards in her field. She is pure fun! Her topic was “Gardens: Great and Small.” She shared with us pictures of her yard flamingos, stories about her neighbor that always wants to know what she's up to, and the tip that those flamingos can become vultures with a bit of spray paint and black fur collars! Laura's point was that we should enjoy our gardens and quit looking at the weeds. They'll take care of themselves! Do what you love and what makes you happy. Things did get a bit crazy at the end of her talk when her flamingo shirt was auctioned off. What a good sport!

continued on the next page

A personal highlight was bringing my *Pachypodium lamerei* (from Madagascar) to the Horticulture Show. (photo below). I've had it for more than 40 years. As with most long-lived cacti, it is quite an old friend that requires little more than light and a bit of water every once in a while. There is no watering schedule, but when the leaves start falling off, I give it a shot of H₂O. The old gal surprised me by winning "Best in Show." Fun!



All in all, it was a fantastic convention. What a great time to be a part of The Gardeners of America!

Editor's Note: Thank you, Ritalyn, for this write-up sharing what you learned at the TGOA seminars!

A Member's Challenges after Moving from Many Acres to a Small City Lot

by Patti Nellis

Just a few notes about my small-scale container gardening adventure! See photos below.

Having moved from acres of gardens, (vineyard, ponds, groves of fruit trees and shrubs, massive flower gardens and hard scaping) to a 12 x 14 deck in the middle of town using only containers, I still have that desire to grow food and flowers to share—something to bring me outside and enjoy nature. Trials (and errors) have been a challenge but also a learning experience.

I found good quality grow bags that really work well for my purposes because I have difficulty lifting, kneeling, and digging. They are lightweight, store easily, and you can fill with soil suited for the plants inside (and no weeding!); downside is you must pay more attention to watering.

As I trialed vertical gardening, I learned vining plants are easier to control and safer on arched trellises. Advantages: plants do not break off in the wind and easier to pick produce, no need to tie and no weeding! Disadvantage: cost of the trellis.

I have many more experiences I would love to share, but mostly I would love to hear about your trials and errors. I will try to share short articles in our **tiller** of some of my experiences as well as yours—let's help each other navigate our gardening challenges.



Hyacinth Bean Plants on a Horizontal Trellis' Strawberry Plant on Table



Vertical and Horizontal Trellis



Green Pepper Plants in a Grow Bag

Hurrah! Great Weather! Over 200 Visitors! Funds for our Treasury! A Very Successful Garden Walk Fundraiser



Daylilies and the colors of summer
at For His Majesty Gardens

*Many thanks to all
our volunteers!*

Member Volunteers

Ritalyn Arps
Corey Behnke
Rose Borowitz
Veronica Geurts
Rob Geurts
CJ Janus
Barb Kamps
Connie Koopmans
Steve Lambert
Marsha May
Patti Nellis
Sue Rohan
Debbie Schuette
Deb Schumacher
Agnes Schussman
Mary Watts
Shirley Winnes



The Geurts' Garden



Dan and Lisa Rocheleau's Garden



Relatives/Friends of Members

Jennifer Tietyen (Rob Geurts' sister)
Tony Tietyen (Rob's brother-in-law)
Jim Geurts (Rob's dad)
Sandy Geurts (Rob's step-mom)
Michelle Davis (Patti Nellis' daughter)
Karen Kinjerski (Patti's niece)
Carolyn Martin (Patti's sister)
Joe Meulemans (friend of Dan Rocheleau)
Ann Lemens (friend of the VandenHeuvels)
Kathy Italiano (friend of Shirley Winnes)



Rose-Hill Gardens



The Quarry Gardens

N.E.W. Master Gardeners
invite you to join us for the
Mongin Perennial Garden Open House

August 17 2023 | 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

STEM Innovation Center on UWGB campus



• Over 3000 square feet of perennials across 10 gardens * Over 248 varieties of plants



The Mongin Perennial Garden has been re-created from the Bellevue site to the STEM Innovation Center on the UWGB Campus. Bob Mongin was a long-time member of our garden club.

Bob Mongin led a life of volunteerism to horticulture outside of his vocation as a landscape architect. He logged many volunteer hours with the Master Gardener program and was instrumental in the creation of perennial gardens at the Brown County Agriculture and Extension Service Center (on Bellevue Street). Designing the beds, selecting the plants, and giving direction in preparing, planting, and caring for the gardens had resulted in a beautiful area for our community and, more importantly, an outdoor classroom for learning. His efforts resulted in this garden receiving the Mayor's Beautification Award in 2004.

Bob was instrumental from 1978 to 1990 in working with teams of community leaders to select a site for a botanical garden, select a design firm for the first master plan, participate in the capital campaign, and serve on the board of directors. He again participated in revising the master plan for expansion of the botanical garden. In 1998, he was recognized with his name inscribed on a stone paver as co-founder of the Green Bay Botanical Garden.



This is a photo taken in April 2012 at the gardens created in Bob's name and celebrating his 90th birthday.



This is Bob in 2005—two benches were placed in the garden—one from our club and another from the Master Gardeners.



The Gardeners Club of Green Bay

Shirley A. Winnes
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Affiliated with The Gardeners of America
National website: www.gardenersofamerica.club
Local website: <http://gardenclubgreenbay.weebly.com>

* **The Gardeners Club of Green Bay** was begun *
* in 1967 and became chartered in 1968 by *
* the Men's Garden Clubs of America (now The *
* Gardeners of America, Inc). *

* Purpose and objectives of our club: *

- * • to educate its members and the public *
* and to promote interest in horticulture per- *
* taining to home gardening, *
- * • to acquire and disseminate horticultural *
* knowledge in regard to materials, plans, *
* and ideas in connection with home gar- *
* dens to and for the benefit of individuals *
* and communities, *
- * • and to encourage and promote civic inter- *
* est and pride in individuals and communi- *
* ties, and to encourage and promote pride *
* in individual or private gardens, commun- *
* ity plantings, and parks. *

* Membership is extended to serious gardeners *
* who have a concern for the above objectives *
* of the organization. Membership categories *
* and dues for 2023 are *

- * 1. \$25 per individual, *
- * 2. \$35 per family, *
- * 3. lifetime: \$200; \$10 annual local dues. *

* In addition to the **tiller**, members receive a *
* national newsletter. *

* At the national level, a photography contest is *
* held each year, \$1,000 scholarships are *
* presented, Youth Gardening and Gardening *
* from the Heart programs are implemented, a *
* national convention is held, and much more. *

* At the local level, members are involved with *
* community institutions through financial *
* support and contributions of labor and plant *
* materials. Silver Trowel awards are given to *
* recognize contributions to community *
* beautification in the areas of residential, *
* commercial, industrial, institutional, civic, *
* and individual. *



Arnold Grummer's Embedded Botanicals on
Handmade Paper

Events of Interest to Gardeners

GBBG - Sanimax Concert Series: August 17, 6-8 p.m.
Moonglow (Pop Soul). Enjoy live music from local musicians in the spectacular Schneider Family Grand Garden. Guests are encouraged to bring picnics, lawn chairs, blankets, and their dancing shoes! Free/Garden Member; General Public: \$26/Family (2 adults and children 17 & under in the household or grandchildren); \$13/Adult; \$11/Senior (62+), AAA, AARP, Military, & Students (w/school ID); \$5/Child (3-17); Free/Children 2 & under.

GBBG - Getaway Wednesdays, June 7 - August 30, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Explore the new Bell Children's Garden, join a guided tour from 10-11 a.m., visit the Discovery Station from 4-5 p.m. featuring nature activities. Buy one, get one admission. Free for GBBG members. To reserve your spot at GBBG, visit their website at gbbg.org or call 920-490-9457.

Ohe·Láku Farm Tour & Harvest Workshop, Tuesday, August 22 | 5-6:30 p.m. Date pending corn harvest timeline. Corn season is an exciting time; it tells of coming autumn breezes, corn mazes, and pumpkins. For the Oneida Nation, the corn harvest is an important tradition and a symbol of community resilience. Learn more about this tradition from Laura Manthe, co-founder of the farming cooperative Ohe·Láku, on our blog and sign up for the upcoming harvest workshop to get an exclusive in-person experience!

GBBG - Papermaking: Botanical Beauties, Sept. 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Hilarie Rath, Arnold Grummer Certified Hand Papermaker. Do you wish you could enjoy the beauty of your garden just a little longer? Do you wish you could share your garden with loved ones who live far away? Create a handmade card using botanicals, so you can preserve your favorite garden treasures. Learn how to form handmade paper sheets using botanical infused pulp, and how to embed pressed botanicals to create original greeting cards. Take home whatever you create! Pressed flowers will be available, but we encourage participants to press and bring their own botanicals from home. This class sold out last year, so be sure to register early! \$25/Garden Member; \$29/General Public. Also see numerous videos at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/arnoldgrummer>