

# The Tiller

The Gardeners Club of Green Bay, Wisconsin



January 2023  
Volume 41, No. 1



**Seed Starting—Debbie Schumacher, Club Member**  
**10 a.m., Saturday, January 28, 2023**  
**Green Bay Botanical Garden**  
**2600 Larsen Road, Green Bay, Wisconsin**

Debbie Schumacher will share with us her methods of planting and caring for seeds of plants to use in her gardens and containers on a 3-acre plus yard. She begins seeds and tubers in the basement Jan-March, usually resulting in 40 plus flats that are moved out to their greenhouse as soon as possible in spring.

We are planning to have a fund-raising plant sale proposed for May 20 this year. Please come to learn when and how to plant so you can contribute to the sale . . . and "grow" some seeds for your gardens and/or containers as well!

Debbie is also planning to demonstrate how to make ice sculptures.



**Co-Presidents:**  
**Patti Nellis (with her fur baby,**  
**Chewy) and CJ Janus**

## From our Co-Presidents . . .

**A Very Happy and Healthy  
New Year to All!**

CJ and I, as co-presidents, are so looking forward to finding out from all of you what your expectations and ideas are for our club—and how to implement them into our purpose and programs! We are no longer participating in many of the past gardening activities that gave us wonderful, meaningful purpose. Now we need to find new projects and programs that will fit our present interests, talents, and ABILITIES. We have several ideas—like learning more about sustainable gardening practices—and we're anxious for your input!

Please come to our first 2023 meeting on Saturday, January 28, at 10 a.m. at the beautiful snow-laden Green Bay Botanical Garden to learn about "seed starting" from our very own

experienced garden member Debbie Schumacher. This is related to our planned plant sale fundraiser—helping to support our community gardens service project—and, of course, our own gardens!

Remember to think about suggestions for some fun, hands-on activities, or tours, or speakers you'd like to see on our calendar this year. Please feel free to email, call, or text either of us at any time (see contact info on page 3).

**Happy Gardening in 2023!**  
**Patti Nellis and CJ Janus**

*"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."*

*Edith Lovejoy Pierce*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

\$1,000 Donation to our Club 2023 Dues Registration Form	2
Officers and Chairpersons Club/Member News	3
Miscellaneous Tips and Trivia	4-5
Advertisers	5-6

## \$1,000 Donation to our Club

Early in December, Barb Vandersteen's son, Mark, contacted us through our website indicating that the family would like to make a donation to our club in honor of their mother and requested what projects we might need funds for. We responded that we are continuing to work on a three-year project at the Wildlife Sanctuary (one of Barb's favorite places to enjoy nature) and possibly assisting with the Green Bay Community Gardens. A bench is being placed at the Sanctuary in memory of Barb, so we might see if we can make a planting near that bench. We have received \$1,000; below is a copy of the note accompanying the check.

I am coming to the point of closing my parents' affairs. As a last act, I would like to make this contribution to the Garden Club on behalf of my mother. The Garden Club meant a great deal to my mother. She loved the people and she loved planting beauty throughout the community.

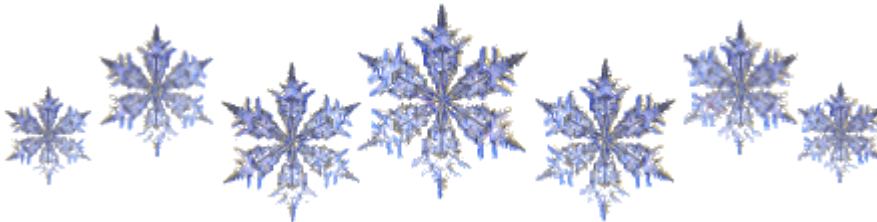
I know she would not be opposed to using the funds to host a club celebration for members. She would also feel good if the funds went towards supporting a worthy community project. I will leave it up to the board members on how to best use these funds.

I expect that come spring, the benches will be placed - one at Bay Beach and one at the Wildlife Sanctuary.

Kind regards,  
Mark

*Mark*

CJ's Garden Snow Lady



## 2023 Dues

Dues are past due! Please keep your membership current so that your treasurer can submit funds to TGOA Headquarters by January 31 to keep your information current on the membership list.

Please complete this form and include it with your dues payment for 2023.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Applicable Classification:

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership = \$25

\_\_\_\_\_ Family Membership = \$35

\_\_\_\_\_ Youth Membership = \$10

\_\_\_\_\_ Current Life Member = \$10 (local dues)

\_\_\_\_\_ Purchase of Life Membership = \$200 + \$10 (local dues)

Make check payable to: The Gardeners  
Club of Green Bay and send to:

Ritalyn Arps  
1451 Mighty Oak Trail  
Green Bay, WI 54313

# Happy Winter!

## The Gardeners Club of Green Bay Officers and Chairpersons

### Co-Presidents

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—————Open—————

### Inventory Control and Education and Plant Records

—————Open—————

### House and Program

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cchristensen14@new.rr.com

## Club and Member News ...



Here are our 2023 officers:

Co-Presidents: Patti Nellis and CJ Janus

Past President: Jill Leisgang

Vice President: Veronica Geurts

Treasurer: Ritalyn Arps

Secretary: Agnes Schussman

## Refreshments at Club Meetings

We will continue to request volunteers to provide refreshments for our meetings, however, to simplify carrying in quantities of liquid refreshment, we ask you to bring your own, be it water, coffee, soda . . . which you can enjoy while visiting with members and guests.

## Reminder!

Please be sure to pay your 2023 dues by our meeting date of January 28 because national dues of \$15 per member are due by January 31.



Thank you to Ritalyn Arps for the flowering cactus which she gave to club members at our June picnic. This little plant produced the biggest white and pink flowers I have ever seen on a plant this size!

Shirley Winnes

Articles for the February issue of the Tiller are due by February 10. Send to Shirley Winnes at saw301@att.net or to sawrrw@hotmail.com.



## Poisonous Poinsettia Plants—A Myth



We hear during the holidays to be careful with poinsettia plants because they are poisonous and can even be fatal.

According to Therese Ciesinski, GardenSMART author, if eaten, yes, eating leaves or stems of the plant may cause an upset stomach, diarrhea, or vomiting. But, in fact,

Ohio State University has done research that shows a pet or child would have to eat 500 leaves to become seriously ill. The white, milky latex contained in the leaves and stems tastes so awful, it is doubtful any person or animal is going to indulge! Many plants are nasty tasting as a means of self-defense.

For the complete article, see:

[https://www.GardenSMART.com/?p=articles&title=The\\_Poinsettias\\_Are\\_Poisonous\\_Myth](https://www.GardenSMART.com/?p=articles&title=The_Poinsettias_Are_Poisonous_Myth)



## What Is Greensand?

Glauconite (the chemical name for greensand) is an iron-potassium silicate formed 570 million years ago from mineral-rich sediment.

It's a soft rock found in and around different ocean areas across the world. Along with potassium, it contains iron, magnesium, and other trace minerals. It looks like . . . green sand! You can use it in flower and vegetable beds, around trees and shrubs, and on lawns. Since greensand releases potassium so slowly, it isn't recommended for potted plants. Greensand is approved for organic gardening. It won't harm earthworms or microbial soil life. It's non-toxic and safe for humans and animals. It can be used in both clay and sandy soils.



## Storing Garden Tools for Winter

You have cleaned your tools for their winter rest, right? Storing them in a dry place is a must. Did you know that you can protect the metal parts of tools? In a large bucket, mix dry sand and a lubricating oil (such as linseed oil or WD-40) until the mixture is moist. Place the metal parts into the mixture. For wooden parts, rub with linseed or mineral oil to protect them from drying out.



## Snowflakes—No Two Alike?

In 1988, a scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) found two identical snow crystals. Similar results have been produced in laboratories. For your trivia knowledge, there have been 121 different types of patterns categorized. You can obtain a field guide to recognize snowflakes . . . using a magnifying glass, of course.

See [snowcrystals.com](http://snowcrystals.com) for pattern charts.



### ***Aglaonema*—Can't Fail Houseplants**

Who can resist more than one especially when there are so many colors to choose from! *Aglaonema* comes in variegated shades of white, cream, chartreuse, orange, red, and pink, and they are reliable in low light. Their thick roots hold water, so they can withstand drying out. Check out the following source:

<https://www.costafarms.com/plants/colorful-aglaonema>

### **Fungus Gnats on Houseplants**



Annoyed by tiny fruit-fly-looking pests on or near your houseplants? They are more annoying than

damaging, so don't dismay. Larvae live and hatch in the moist soil. Over-watering is often the cause of this malady. You might allow the top several inches to dry between thorough waterings. Refresh the potting soil if necessary; old soil retains more moisture. Sticky yellow insect traps can be used to catch the adults. If the infestation seems completely out of control, you can use *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (BTI), labeled for controlling fungus gnat larvae by sprinkling it on top of the soil. Follow label directions to repeat as necessary; the product is safe around people, pets, and plants.



### **Bt for Safe Pest Control ... with Some Cautions**

*Bacillus thuringiensis* is a bacterium that is naturally present in our soil. Bt is used primarily for vegetable gardening, but can be used for controlling many damaging insects while not being harmful to humans, pets, bees, birds, fish, and will not harm those who ingest insects that have eaten Bt. There are many varieties of Bt, so you will need to check what to use to target the pest you want to control. For example, Bt-k (*Bacillus kurstaki*) controls the caterpillars that attack cole crops (be aware it is toxic to the caterpillars of butterflies). *Bacillus popilliae*, better known as milky spore, kills Japanese beetle grubs in lawns. One variation, Bt aizawai, used to control moths, is toxic to honeybees. Another caution to be concerned about is to check if other ingredients which may be harmful have been added to the Bt. See <http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/btgen.html> for more information.



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## The Gardeners Club of Green Bay

Shirley A. Winnes  
Tiller Editor  
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Green Bay WI 54303

Affiliated with The Gardeners of America  
National website: [www.gardenersofamerica.club](http://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 pertaining to home gardening,
- to acquire and disseminate horticultural knowledge in regard to materials, plans, and ideas in connection with home gardens to and for the benefit of individuals and communities,
- and to encourage and promote civic interest and pride in individuals and communities, and to encourage and promote pride in individual or private gardens, community 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.

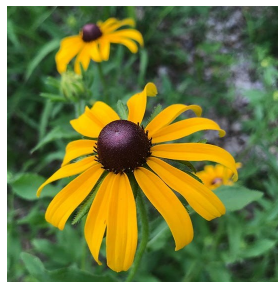
At the national level, a photography contest is held each year, \$1,000 scholarships are presented, Youth Gardening and Gardening from the Heart programs are implemented, a national convention is held, and much more.

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.



### 2023 Proven Winners Rose of the Year The Ringo All-Star™ shrub rose.

Also, the 2015 Hampton Court Palace Rose of the Year. Five color-shifting shades remind you of a beautiful sunset. Zones 4-8, 2-3' tall, 3' wide.



The Perennial Plant Association announced **Rudbeckia 'American Gold Rush'** as the **2023 Perennial Plant of the Year®**.

Zones 4-9, 22-26" tall, 18-24" wide

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