

The Tiller

The Gardeners Club of Green Bay, Wisconsin



May 2023
Volume 41, No. 5



Co-Presidents: CJ Janus and Patti Nellis

Setup for plant sale is Thursday, May 18, starting at 12:30 p.m. until completed for Friday's opening. Your garden club needs your help! Placing plants, labeling, pricing . . .

1st Annual Plant Sale

Calavera Springs Park Shelter
2694 Flintville Road/Cty. M
Suamico, WI 54313

Friday, May 19, 2023, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 20, 2023, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Annuals, Perennials, Vegetables, Herbs, Houseplants,
Pots with Willow Trellises, Seeds, Garden Books/Magazines, Tools,
Garden Art, Planters, and more

Tool Sharpening

Friday, May 19, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

\$10 for one tool; \$15 for two

**Your help also needed on the days of the sale—
cashiers needed, help customers, etc.
Call Veronica at 920-471-8649 for times.**

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From our Co-Presidents . . .

Hello Garden Club Members!

Big shout-out to thank Veronica and Rob Geurts in appreciation for hosting the willow trellis workshop in their awesome heated garage! All the preparations—gathering and storing willow branches, gathering and cleaning pots—buying the soil and running to get us free pots—setting up of workstations, etc. It was super fun to watch everyone's creativity in making the trellises. Thanks also to Barb Kamps for the fruit and freshly baked cookies and Shirley Winnes for kumquats and marmalade.

We will need help to transport the trellises to the plant sale from the Geurts's home. Please let us know if you can put a couple in the back of your car (or SUV).

Will be putting an article in the **Tiller** explaining a "Good Neighbor Project" to promote appreciation for beautifully cared for gardens/yards. We complain when persons do NOT care for their home gardens. So, let's all of us—promote and show appreciation for the gardens that do beautify and make our neighborhoods a nicer place to live in. See page 2 for proposal and inspiration about how we can all help!

Please support our plant sale in any way you can—our first fundraiser in many years. We need funds to support our community projects and educational programs.

Patti Nellis, Co-President

CJ adds, "Thank you to Patti for cleaning and painting pots."





No minutes this month. The April meeting was a workshop making trellises for the plant sale. There was no business meeting.

Good Neighbor Project

by Patti Nellis

A very special, happy event occurred last summer to one of our long-time members, Rose Borowitz! She found an anonymous thank you note on her front door. It read, "Expressions of appreciation of the beautiful flowers in your front garden beds. I enjoy them every morning on my way to work." Rose was so pleasantly surprised and uplifted by this small token of appreciation making all her efforts to create this flower garden so worthwhile. What a thoughtful and kind gesture! That so touched us when we heard this story.

WHY DON'T WE DO THIS?! We complain about persons who do not care for their property but usually do not show appreciation for those that do.

LET'S DO! To get started—I will provide thank you notes. During walks in the neighborhood . . . driving . . . vacationing . . . scout out properties that are cared for, looking good, and on Good Neighbor Week (September 24-30) anonymously put a thank you note

on their door knob. Let's promote good neighborhoods and friendliness.

You do not have to wait for Good Neighbor Week. We can do this any time. I am going to invite other gardening clubs to do this kind gesture, too.

Let us recognize our responsibility as gardeners. We are guardians of our earth—we need to seek out ways to protect the beautiful home that has been provided for us!



Our own Green Bay Botanical Garden is celebrating National Public Gardens Day with the kick-off of The Grand Opening of the Bell Children's Garden. Admission is free on May 12, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Go Public Garden Days continue through May 21; free admission for kids with paid adult admission.



Schroeder's and Ivy Trails have renewed their advertising in our **Tiller** this year. When shopping there, please let them know how much we appreciate their support!



Schroeder's
FLOWERS
 1530 SOUTH WEBSTER
 GREEN BAY, WI 54301
(920) 436-6363
 FAX 920-433-9685
 1-800-236-Grow
www.schroederflowers.com
info@schroederflowers.com

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—————Open—————

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Club and Member News ...



Carl Christensen has been having numerous surgeries—what started as a “tune-up” has evolved into an “overhaul”. We wish you well, Carl!

Welcome New Members!

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From Last Month's Meeting—Trellis Making Workshop



Trellises (top) ready for the plant sale. Rob and Patti (above) work together on a trellis. Rob took the photo on the left of CJ, Veronica, Patti, Barb, and Shirley after completing our projects for the day. Rob and Veronica continued making a few more after the workshop—19 ready for the plant sale!

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



The Lowly Dandelion

Editor's Note: It's spring, and soon we will see these yellow flowers dotting the landscape! I dislike the dandelions in my lawn, and I have been guilty of using herbicides in an attempt to control them. Perhaps we need to reconsider because we will never get rid of them. I have compiled information about this formidable plant to provide "food for thought". Flowers, leaves, and roots are edible in a variety of forms such as for salads, tea, jelly, and wine.



Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) is an herbaceous plant. The name dandelion comes from the French *dent de lion* or "tooth of a lion".

It does have scientifically proven medicinal properties and an extensive history of use. Research is increasingly showing its benefits for fighting diabetes, treating Alzheimer's disease and possibly cancer, as well as preventing osteoporosis.

For safe use of dandelion parts for food, please be aware of these caveats: *Taraxacum officinale* is considered safe for most people. However, some may have an allergic reaction from ingesting or handling dandelion. It also interacts with certain medications such as diuretics, lithium, and Cipro. If you are taking any prescription medications, consult your doctor before drinking dandelion tea. Also, be sure the plants have not been treated with any chemicals before harvesting.



Using roots for tea: To prepare the roots, wash very thoroughly, chop into very small pieces. Roast on high in an oven for approximately two hours. Steep

1-2 teaspoons in hot water for about 10 minutes, then strain. The roots are chock full of beta-carotene, calcium, vitamins B1, B2, B5, B6, B12, C, E, P, and D, biotin, inositol, potassium, phosphorus, magnesium, and zinc. If you don't want to prepare your own, you can find packaged dandelion root at your local health food store.

Dandelion tea has been used to soothe digestive ailments and has been known to have many positive effects on digestion, although much of the evidence is still anecdotal. Historically, it has been used to improve appetite and relieve constipation. It may also help prevent urinary tract infections.

Using the leaves: Fresh, young dandelion greens go amazingly well with hard boiled egg and bacon. There is something about the bacon fat and egg that counteracts any bitterness.



Top with your favorite salad dressing and you have a healthy, tasty treat. Dandelion greens can be used practically anywhere you would use spinach—soups, omelets, quiche. Now, don't just rush out and grab a handful of leaves and start munching. They need to be used IN something. Chop some leaves up finely and add them to your regular salad mix for a nutritious boost. Put a few leaves on a grilled cheese sandwich. Just remember, the younger leaves are good raw, the older ones can be bitter and should be cooked. Leaves grown in the shade tend to be less bitter.



Using flower petals for wine:

Harvest flowers around noon when the flowers are fully open. Remove the petals, discarding any green which would make the wine bitter.

Here is a recipe from an old cookbook, "Food that Really Schmecks" —recipes from Pennsylvania Dutch-Mennonite and German cooks.

MAGDALINA'S DANDELION WINE

6 quarts freshly picked dandelion petals
4 quarts water
4 pounds white sugar
3 sliced lemons
2 tbs. yeast

Pour the water over the dandelion petals and let stand 3 days and 3 nights. Strain through a cloth and add white sugar, lemons, yeast. Let stand 4 days and 4 nights. Strain again and pour into bottles. Cork lightly and let stand—until your curiosity gets the better of you!

The following jelly recipe is from the New Zealand gardener magazine special edition "Homegrown".

DANDELION JELLY

2 cups of dandelion petals
juice and zest of 1 lemon
2 cups of boiling water
3 cups of sugar
1/2 package of powdered pectin
a dash of yellow food colouring if desired



Steep the petals and the lemon zest in the boiling water, leave overnight and then strain through muslin cloth to squeeze out as much flavor as possible. Discard petals and zest.

In a stainless steel pot, bring infusion, sugar and lemon juice to a boil, then add the pectin and boil for 10 minutes. Take the pot off the heat and add a few drops of the food coloring if you like a nicer yellow. Keep in the fridge for up to a month.

Sources: <https://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/650>
<https://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/weeding-out-the-facts-about-dandelion-tea>

Sustainable Gardening

At a recent meeting, we learned about sustainable growing practices. New terminology has resulted with this concept. You will be hearing more about these new words in the news of the day. In fact, *food forests* are being planned locally at Chappell School and Seymour Park.

Ethnobotany - investigating plants used by societies in various parts of the world.

Permaculture - (permanent agriculture) a philosophy of working with, rather than against nature; of protracted and thoughtful observation rather than protracted and thoughtless labor; and of looking at plants and animals in all their functions, rather than treating any area as a single product system.

Guilds - preparing an ecosystem of many plants which do something for each other. Guilds include compatible animals, insects, and plants that form symbiotic relationships which produce healthier plants and ecosystems as well as useful resources for humans.

Food Forest - A food forest, also called a forest garden, is a diverse planting of edible plants that attempts to mimic the ecosystems and patterns found in nature. Food forests are three dimensional designs, with life extending in all directions – up, down, and out. Generally, we recognize seven layers of a forest garden – the overstory, the understory, the shrub layer, the herbaceous layer, the root layer, the ground cover layer, and the vine layer. Some also like to recognize the mycelial layer, layer eight (mushrooms). Using these layers, we can fit more plants in an area without causing failure due to competition. (This layering is also known as lasagna gardening.)

Our speaker, Dillon Weist, listed the website, SavannaInstitute.org, as a good place to learn about agroforestry and permaculture. The institute is based in Illinois.

To learn even more, Google “Permaculture Research Institute” and/or “Geoff Lawton” (based in Australia). The institute offers a permaculture design course online for free!



Armed Forces Day is May 20—a time we honor all who currently serve in the Military.

Garden Gate Magazine Reader Tip

Editor's Note: I recently heard from Jim Fameree, a former member of our club. He submitted and earned \$50 for his tip in the June Issue of Garden Gate. He wishes our club well and wanted to share his tip which follows:

To prevent birds from making nests in unsafe or inconvenient spots, Jim found that he could use two unexpected items: an old tuna can and a golf ball. In some spots, such as one where a gutter or light attaches to siding, he just balances a can where the birds will knock it off if they try to land. It makes a clanging noise that scares them away.

If they're trying to build nests on the flat tops of his lights, he secures the can to the top with velcro. Then he places a golf ball inside. The ball rolls around when the birds try to land and nest, startling them and sending them off to a different location.



Keeping Pests Away from Houseplants

by Shirley Winnes



Recently a friend called asking me what to do about an infestation of mealybugs. Having had a hobby greenhouse since the 1970s, I've had my share of experience with plant pests—mealybug, scale, aphids, and whitefly.

For small infestations, I use isopropyl alcohol applied with q-tips or soft tissues to control scale and mealybug. I've even put alcohol in a spray bottle to spray small areas. BUT, don't use straight alcohol on tender leaves, however, because it will burn them. For larger infestations, I use Neem oil by spraying the entire plant—you need to do this three times, 7-10 days apart, then watch to make sure the plant remains clean. All of my plants get one treatment of Neem oil as a preventative before returning to the greenhouse after being outside for the summer. Aphids are a different story! They start appearing on greenhouse plants with the arrival of spring and warmer days on tender new growth and flowers. Here again, I have a small bottle of Neem oil to spray them or sometimes I just use a soapy water spray. If I see whitefly, I remove the plant!

Language of Flowers

by Jackie Johnson ND

Summer is approaching and what woman wouldn't be happy with a bouquet her children or other special person picked specifically for her with a special message.

Here's a bouquet that's just a little bit different and far more charming. Consider the nearly forgotten art of The Language of Flowers or floriography. Send a bouquet with a hidden meaning, known only to those with the "key" (or florigraphic dictionary).

What does it mean? In Victorian times and before, meanings were given to various flowers, herbs, and even trees, and when you received a bouquet, you would sit down with your dictionary and try to decipher the intended message. The language of flowers was primarily used for romance, but bouquets were sent for any occasion—get well messages for illnesses, congratulatory wishes for births or engagements, or maybe just to tell someone you were thinking of them or were falling in love!

Of course, bouquets (or tussy mussies as they were called) were often sent in hopes of acquiring a chance to "call on" that special someone. Many times, that encounter came to pass, but I heard of an instance where a young lady let her bouquet sit for a few days and then returned it to the sender, wilted. A cold way to turn someone down! I'm sure he got the message.



Old-fashioned tussy mussy including the cloth doily.

The language of flowers seems to be making a comeback lately. More recent publications have lists of plants and ideas for messages. Why even Kate Middleton helped the royal florist choose the flowers in her bouquet with care:

Lily of the Valley: return of happiness. **Sweet William:** obvious reasons, but also it means chivalry. **Ivy:** love and friendship, fidelity. **Hyacinth:** constant love. **Myrtle:** marriage and love. The myrtle in Kate Middleton's bouquet and other royals before her, came from a sprig of myrtle bush started when Prince Albert gave Queen Victoria myrtle in a bouquet more than a hundred years ago. It was planted and through propagation, still grows today.

Many of the old books or dictionaries with the meanings of the plants still exist today. In Victorian times, new books incorporated the old meanings and added more. It is wise, however, to include a note with your message since

some of the meanings differ greatly. I've been collecting these meanings for years and currently have over 600 on an Excel spreadsheet.

How did the plants get their meanings? Some are from medicinal uses, others from religious symbolism, and still others from mythology. An example of mythology lending a meaning comes from elecampane. Helen of Troy was said to have been picking elecampane when she was abducted. The meaning of elecampane? Tears.



Elecampane, also called horse-heal or elfdock, is a widespread plant species in the sunflower family *Asteraceae*. It is native to Eurasia from Spain to Xinjiang province in western China, and naturalized in parts of North America. Botanical name is *Inula helenium*.

Some of the flower meanings (taken from various books listed in the bibliography) I have chosen that might be used include:

Angelica – inspiration
 Basil – best wishes, love
 Bluebells – gratitude
 Carnations – bonds of love, woman's love, general devoted love, admiration, good luck, sweet, lovely
 Carnations – Pink – maternal undying love, woman's love, any type of love
 Daffodil – chivalry, respect
 Daisy – patience, beauty, cheerfulness, loyalty
 Dahlias – my gratitude, dignity
 Daylily – mother
 Dogwood – love undiminished by adversity, durability,
 Echinacea – strength and health
 Ferns – confidence, magic, sincerity
 Forsythia – good nature
 Hydrangea (blue or white): devotion, remembrance, thank you for understanding, (also heartlessness – you need the note)
 Ivy – affection, friendship
 Lavender – deep attachments, success, soothing, devotion
 Magnolias – sweetness, beauty, love of nature, dignity
 Mulberry – wisdom
 Orchids – refinement, love, nobility, luxury, thoughtfulness
 Pansy – Pink – merriment, you are in my thoughts
 Pansy – White or Yellow – loving thoughts
 Peonies – beauty, welcome
 Peppermint – warm feelings

Pussy willows - motherhood
 Roses – Pink – grace and beauty, perfect happiness, appreciation
 Roses – Lavender – dignity, rarity
 Sage – wisdom
 Sunflowers – loyalty, adoration
 Tulips – memory, happy years
 Violets – thinking of you
 Zinnia – lasting affections and remembrance

Bouquets can be of any size, but many were nosegay-sized tussy mussies. Making a tussy mussy from silk flowers is fun and somewhat addictive. Equipment needed:

- Silk flowers – I watch for 50% off at our local hobby store and stock up. Armed with my lists for specific purposes, I go flower hunting.
- Florists tape (get two rolls)
- Ribbon (optional)
- Wire (optional)
- Paper doilies (optional and found in the cake baking section)
- Small floral gold stones (optional but they look nice in vases)
- Good wire cutters
- Scissors

Directions:

Start with the idea you had when you were picking out your flowers. I favor the smaller flower groupings, so I usually end up cutting the flowers so they are individual stems with some leaves. I can control the length of the stems this way.

Put your flower groupings together. I like to lay the bouquet out to check for color and height. If I'm making a bouquet with more flowers, I use an appropriately sized vase to insure I get the right effect. Then I'll add greens if I feel they are needed. Sometimes I'll add a sprig of Rosemary (for remembrance).

Next I wrap all the stems tightly using florist tape. Be sure to cover the base; you don't want any of the metal stems poking out! This takes more than you think; and working with shorter pieces is far easier than fewer longer pieces. You can add a paper doily (kids love these more than adults) and ribbons at this time. Or you can use a vase that fits your bouquet. Sometimes I'll use a wider ribbon and cover the floral tape with that for a more elegant handheld bouquet. But at times, simplicity is better.

Last, add a small note telling your recipient what it means. Sometimes I'll add the list of flowers with their meanings and let them figure it out. You can add the note with a piece of ribbon or slip it in the vase or box.

To work with fresh flowers, you will need to have a vase and arrange the flowers you are using for your message in the vase as you go, but still add the card!

I've also used the spices: cinnamon sticks, star anise and cloves in a small bouquet. The technique that worked best for me was using ½ of a styrofoam sphere. I use transparent glue and place the stars on first. Where they don't quite match up, I stick in the cloves. The cinnamon sticks I wire around the outside and use florist tape and then ribbon over the tape. They smell wonderful. The meaning? Cinnamon is love and beauty. Clove is about love (specifically I have loved you and you have not known it). Star anise means exciting, invigorating, good luck, justice, clairvoyance, protection, love and passion; take your pick.

See the importance of sending the intended message?

Bibliography

Adamich Laufer, Geraldine, (1993). *Tussie-Mussies The Language of Flowers*. New York, New York: Workman Publishing.

Kirby, Mandy, (2011). *A Victorian Flower Dictionary*. New York, New York: Ballantine Books.

Tanese, Nicolae, (2016). *The Language and Meaning of Flowers*. Kindle book.



What's Coming Up?

Plan ahead for our future meetings!

In June we return to meeting the fourth Wednesday of the month, **June 28**, at 5:30 p.m. We have a tour at EZ Swap Pots, a business in Seymour, and Debbie Schumacher has invited us to view her gardens after the tour.

July 22 will be the garden walk which we are sponsoring for fund raising. Note to members: We will have a separate date in June to visit the gardens at no cost so that you don't have to miss them when you are working at one of the gardens on July 22. June date to be set—stay tuned!

August is grape-tasting—we will visit the vineyards of Rick and Diane Buss in Abrams at 5:30 p.m. on **August 23**.

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.



The Gardeners Club of Green Bay

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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 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.



Events of Interest to Gardeners

Northern Gardeners Garden Club: 35th Annual Plant Sale, May 19, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; May 20, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Pulaski Community Park (East of the Polka Days Grounds), 448 E. Pulaski St., Pulaski, WI 54162. Shop healthy plants that you can rely on grown by our members including perennials, herbs, vegetables, houseplants, small trees and shrubs, planters, garden books and magazines, and much more.

Wild Ones – Green Bay Chapter, 2023 Wild Ones Pollinator Plants, June 3, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Stone Silo Prairie Gardens, 2325 Oak Ridge Circle, De Pere, WI 54115. Kits as advertised have all been sold, however, a small number of extra plants from the kits will be available for sale on the pickup date June 3rd. Stone Silo Prairie Gardens will also have a wide selection of native plants for sale that are not included in the pollinator kits.

GBBG - Ledgeview Farms Tour, June 6, 5-6:30 p.m., Darren Vollmar, Ledgeview Farms, Ledgeview Gardens is a small, family-owned business in De Pere, WI, specializing in sustainable, pesticide-free fruits and vegetables. They are committed to growing produce in the healthiest way possible. They use all sustainable farming practices and humane animal husbandry techniques on their amazing farm. Come see what they're all about! Location of presentation is at GBBG, 2600 Larsen Road, Green Bay. \$9/ Garden Member; \$11/General Public.

GBBG - Sanimax Concert Series: June 8 - August 17. The Pocket Kings (R&B/Soul/Funk), June 8, 6-8 p.m., 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.