

The Tiller

The Gardeners Club of Green Bay, Wisconsin



October 2023
Volume 41, No. 10



Doug Hartman, Horticulture Program Assistant
All About the Help Desk at Brown County Extension
Bring Your Gardening Questions for Help from Doug Hartman
Roundtable—share this season's successes and/or failures!

5:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Visitor Center, Green Bay Botanical Garden, 2600 Larsen Road, Green Bay, Wisconsin

Plan to share your success (or misfortune) from this year's growing season. Bring samples or photos on a thumb drive (computer and projector will be available), or just tell us your story! Bring your questions for answers from our local expert, Doug Hartman.

If you wish to have refreshments at our meetings, please volunteer—you can assist Barb Kamps, our refreshments coordinator, by calling or e-mailing her to volunteer (920-366-3091/barbaraayres@isu.edu). We ask you to bring your own water, coffee, soda . . . which you can enjoy while visiting with members and guests.

From our Co-Presidents . . .



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

Autumn Greetings GB Area Gardeners!

Thank you to Rick and Diana Buss for hosting our September meeting at their vineyard! It was fun to taste a variety of grapes fresh off the vine and to taste some wine! Patti made sure we had the appropriate cheese and crackers for the wine tasting☺. Thanks, Rick, for the in-depth PowerPoint story on your vineyard, and thanks Diana for the hors d'oeuvres!

We hope everyone is thinking about attending our Harvest Banquet at the Swan Club on Wed., November 15. It's a nice relaxing time to get a little dressed up, visit with fellow gardeners, celebrate our two successful fundraisers by casually viewing photos while enjoying a good old-fashioned chicken dinner for a good price! Please plan on paying at or before our meeting on October 25th. And we'd love to have you contribute something to our silent auction (because it's fun to shop!)

Thanks to VP Veronica, we have three new sponsors for next year! She asked Rose-Hill Gardens and For His Majesty Daylily Gardens who were in our Garden Walk. And she's been a customer of Karcz's Greenhouse in Pulaski—they said yes also! Thanks Veronica! Our sponsors pay \$35 a year and receive an ad in each

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Meeting Minutes - 9/27/2023

Our meeting was held at 5:30 p.m. at the Diana and Rick Buss vineyards, 2379 Horse Rd., Abrams. There were 14 members and three guests attending.

Rick presented a PowerPoint show about how they cleared their land and what it took to grow a vineyard from start to finish. He invited us to sample a variety of their grapes and to bring a few home to eat later. Rick invited members to come and help pick on Saturday, September 30.

CJ Janus opened our business meeting at 7:05. Our guests, Peggy, Monica, and Roxanne, were welcomed. The secretary's report was approved, and Sue Rohan gave the treasurer's report.

Change of Bylaws: [ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS] The office of treasurer will be appointed by the Board. This was discussed and voted on by the members and passed.

Nominations for new officers: Carl Christensen nominated Mary Watts for secretary. She will give it some thought. Rob

Geurts nominated Carl Christensen for president, and he accepted. Officer elections are held at our October meeting.

Banquet: It is being held November 15th at the Swan Club. Friends and relatives are invited at \$15 per person with a minimum of 30 people that we need to pay for. We need a head count by October 25th. Send your check to Sue Rohan, or if paying in cash you can pay at the October meeting. An engraved stone that will be given at our banquet to the owners of the gardens at the garden walk was on display for members to see.

Good Neighbor Cards: Patti Nellis encouraged members to continue submitting photos for the cards. If you get responses back from the people you gave them to, you are invited to share them.

Our meeting was adjourned. Rose Borowitz and one of our guests won the door prizes. Refreshments and wine were served by Diana and Rick Buss, Barb Kamps, Marge Labs, CJ Janus, and Patti Nellis.

Agnes Schussman, Secretary

2024 Dues

Dues are due! Why not pay your dues when you pay for your reservation for the Harvest Banquet! Please keep your membership current so that your treasurer can submit funds to TGOA Headquarters to keep your information current on the membership list.

Please complete this form and include it with your dues payment for 2024.

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:

Sue Rohan
448 Gwynn Street
Green Bay, WI 54301



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The Plant Doctor



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Sunshine

—————Open—————

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The last Tiller for the year is a combined issue for November and December. Send articles to Shirley Winnes at saw301@att.net or to sawrrw@hotmail.com by November 20.

Club and Member News ...

We are looking for a member (or members) who might like to take over the Facebook and/or Instagram accounts. Interested? Let us know!

Election of 2024 Officers

Carl Christensen was nominated for president and Mary Watts for secretary at the September meeting. Elections are held in October and installation in November. New officers begin their duties on January 1, 2024. Veronica Geurts continues as vice president. The treasurer will be appointed by the 2024 Board of Directors. CJ Janus and Patti Nellis will be serving on the board as past co-presidents.

Seed Saver Program

If you have any seeds for the Brown County Library Seed Saver program, please bring them to the October 25 meeting. Patti Nellis will take them to the library for you.



Good Neighbor Week

Patti Nellis shared this photo of one of the yards to which she presented a good neighbor card. Good Neighbor Week in Green Bay was September 24-30. Our garden club participated by encouraging members to present a greeting card with a message of appreciation to a neighbor who takes pride in their home landscape. The greeting cards were prepared with our own members' photos from their gardens. These cards can be given at any time, not necessarily during Good Neighbor Week. Your message can be anonymous or you can sign your name if you wish. Please request greeting cards from Patti Nellis.

Welcome CJ Janus
Invocation..... Rob Geurts
The Harvest Dinner with Club Photo Show
Co-Presidents' Message CJ Janus
Patti Nellis
Garden Walk Awards Patti Nellis
Installation of 2024 Officers
15-Minute Break/Final Bidding
Silent Auction Winners.....Marlene Bergum

If you have any questions,
please call Marlene Bergum
at 920-336-7472.



Address	Phone
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Co-president's message continued from page 1

issue of the **Tiller**. Remember to thank them for their support when you shop there.

And lastly, I encourage you to do a search on Doug Tallamy who has authored several books on protecting nature, fighting the loss of biodiversity, and restoring our backyards. He's teaching us to leave our perennials standing for the winter (or at least only cut them down to 12" high). Many beneficial insects overwinter in the stalks and the leaf litter below. And think about planting more natives.

I hope to see you all at our October meeting to learn from our gardening successes and problems—bring some photos on a USB drive!

CJ Janus, Co-president



Wildlife Sanctuary Progress

Justin Kroening from Stone Silo Prairie Gardens provided 80 native plants to be dug in at the Sanctuary. Corey Behnke, CJ Janus, Patti Nellis, Debbie Schuette, and Mary Watts worked many hours on October 6 to complete the task (Patti and Mary pictured below).



We are getting much needed help from others. The Conservation Corps is watering twice a week. Austin Larsen (park ranger) has ordered bigger fencing to protect the plants from animals. Kourie Mihm (city park planner) also assisted by suggesting deer resistant plants.



A memorial bench for Barb Vandersteen (first woman president of our club) is placed across the sidewalk, facing the garden. It has been suggested to get two planters that we would plant each spring with natives for each end. The Conservation Corps staff spends the first hour of each day watering the other planters they have in the park so they could do ours also. Barb's family gifted our club \$1,000 which we'll be using for this project.

Survey Results

Here is continuing information about the results from the survey conducted this summer. Respondents were asked to rank our club's greatest challenges. From the 18 respondents, the results were averaged with the ranking shown below.

1.4	getting volunteers to assist with fundraisers
1.4	leadership
1.5	getting new members
2.2	keeping interesting topics at meetings
2.2	staying financially solid
Other:	
Updating the bylaws	
Making our rules for conducting the business of meetings more realistic.	

Here are responses as to what appealed to you to become a member of our club, and can you suggest anything that we are not doing that would attract new members?

Love being with people that love plants as much as I do.

I love gardening. I am becoming a master gardener. Ability to socialize and help people who like gardening.

It will be interesting to see answers to this from the newer members!! When I joined it was to be part of a like-minded group with the sharing of information, the garden visits, the bus trips, etc. etc!! Everyone was so welcoming and friendly.

Sharing love of gardening!

Socializing with garden friends and learning from the topics presented at club meetings.

I like touring other's gardens the best. I also like the variety of presentations to learn more about gardening.

I was drawn to the club because it was a "get the hands dirty" type of club and everyone was very friendly and helpful.

Learning new methods of gardening and making attractive flower beds that will bring pollinators to the area.

I enjoy seeing other yards. I think we need to be a little bit more sociable to new members and guests to make them feel more welcomed.

A gardening friend belonged and enjoyed the club and invited me knowing I would enjoy it too.

The appeal was joining at the invitation of a friend, who I knew to be an experienced gardener. Word of mouth was used to explain what the club did, that it had a national garden club affiliation, too. Experience is gained over the years and, of course, doing gardening. New members, who may be novice gardeners, could be put off from joining this club if not given the chance to gradually learn more. I would suggest getting speakers who could talk about various forms of gardening, garden layout, good bugs/bad bugs, and other topics about plant placement and selection.

By making the club seem "more" purposeful and friendly even to novice gardeners.

With that information, we hope to have topics of interest to gardeners whether you have just developed an interest in gardening or you are a master gardener. We are here to help each other. Our October meeting, in particular, will give everyone a chance to describe experiences from this past growing season whether successful or not! Doug Hartman, our local Brown County Extension horticultural program assistant will be there to answer questions and give advice. Please come to share and learn!

Shirley Winnes, Editor



Fall Cleanup

We have been encouraged to leave our spent perennials and annuals to overwinter to provide food and shelter for our birds and pollinators. Also, leaving standing foliage through the winter can protect the crown of the plant.

There are, however, certain plants that should be cut down to the ground to prevent pests and diseases from spreading. It is recommended to cut bee balm (*Monarda didyma*), blackberry lily (*Iris domestica*), garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata*), and peony (*Paeonia lactiflora*) three inches from the ground.

If you don't want volunteers from seeds, you will want to cut the seed heads off plants such as these: black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida*), blanket flower (*Gaillardia x grandiflora*), purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), globe thistle (*Echinops ritro*), Jupiter's beard (*Centranthus ruber*), Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum spp.*), turtlehead (*Chelone spp.*).

Plants that leave a dense mat where other bulbs and plants grow should also be removed, such as hosta, brunnera, and ligularia.

Source: <https://www.gardengatemagazine.com/articles/how-to/all/how-to-clean-up-your-garden-in-fall/>



Mum's the Word for Autumn!

Who doesn't enjoy the bold fall colors of mums? There are so many pots of mums for sale being displayed at stores everywhere. What are the chances of planting your fall-purchased mum(s) to survive over our winter? Experts will tell you it is better to purchase plants in the spring labeled as "garden mums" in their vegetative state so that they develop roots which condition the plant to survive for another year. Grocery store and flower shop mums are usually not hardy types to withstand our winters.

Plant in well-drained soil and full sun, and as the plant grows over the summer months, pinch back new shoots through June or early July to encourage bushy growth. Keep them well watered but never soggy; avoid water on the foliage. Fertilize once a month with 5-10-5 fertilizer. To overwinter, deadhead, but do not prune to the ground. Lay down a thin layer of mulch being careful around the crown. Heavy mulch will hold too much moisture and suffocate the roots. Remove the mulch in early spring and then prune away the old growth.

Recommended Garden Mums

Debonair: This dwarf variety has pink-purple blooms that make excellent cut flowers. The plants don't get much bigger than 20 inches tall or wide. These mums are well suited for borders, containers, and mass plantings. They are hardy to Zone 4.

Mammoth: This trademarked series of mums was created by the University of Minnesota's mums breeding program. The hardy shrub-like plants are available in various colors, including pink, red, white, and yellow. The Mammoth series plants are perennial up to Zone 3.

Grenadine: This mum variety is known for its attractive color scheme: coral with pale yellow petals at the center. Because of their mound-like growth habit, the plants stay relatively compact and don't grow taller than 24 inches. Grenadine mums are good for cutting and hardy to Zone 5.

Source: <https://www.bobvila.com/articles/fall-mums>

Thank You Letter from NWTC Scholarship Recipient

The Gardeners Club of Green Bay received a \$1,200 donation to be used for scholarships from the Holl family in December 2019 upon Cliff Holl's death. Cliff was a member of our club from 1997 to 2015. Due to COVID shutting our club down, it wasn't decided until May 2021 to donate two installments of \$600 each to the NWTC Scholarship Foundation to be used for students in the landscape program. The first installment was donated to NWTC in October 2021. The second installment was donated in March of 2022; however, since the NWTC landscape program was discontinued, we donated to the agriculture programs instead. The 2023 recipient is enrolled in the Sustainable Food and Agriculture Systems program. His thank you letter follows:

I am writing this letter to say thank you for The Gardeners Club of Green Bay Scholarship. I am very grateful to have been chosen for this scholarship.

I am Austin Maass and I am attending Northeast Wisconsin Technical College for a degree in Sustainable Food and Agriculture Systems. I come from a family of farmers. I love being outside with animals and plants. I love working with my hands and dealing with the never ending problems of running a farm. After graduating I plan on owning my own organic produce farm. This scholarship will help me tremendously in achieving my own farm in the near future. Thank you for your generosity.

By awarding me The Gardeners Club of Green Bay Scholarship, I will now be able to focus more on school. I plan on achieving a 4.0 and I am halfway there! In the future I hope to teach people my knowledge on organic and sustainable farming. I am very thankful to be the recipient of this scholarship! Thank you!

Sincerely,

Austin Maass



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

Mark your calendar for **November 15**—Harvest Banquet at the Swan Club and the last meeting for 2023! We will return to meeting Saturday mornings starting **January 27, 2024**.



The Gardeners Club of Green Bay

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



Events of Interest to Gardeners

GBBG - The Indoor Garden, Oct. 17, 6-7:30 p.m., Rob Zimmer. When the outdoor gardening season ends, many plant lovers turn to the indoor garden. There are houseplants for all areas of the home. We'll discuss some of the most beautiful and the easiest to grow, as well as rarities and collectible plants, growing herbs and other edibles indoors, hanging gardens, and many more fun and beautiful suggestions. Cost: \$13/Garden Member; \$16/General Public

GBBG - Summer Uncorked: The Art of Wine Tasting, Oct. 24, 6-7:30 p.m. The Majestic Rhône and Its Disciples. Rhône grapes, Rhône Valley, Rhône-style wines, and the Rhône rangers! The Rhône is one of the classic French wine regions producing wines of great character; intense wines of noble birth. An ancestral home for Syrah, Grenache, and their blends. Pioneering efforts in the New World have produced their own powerfully expressive "Rhône-style" wines. We will travel from South Australia to Northern Rhone and explore their many expressions red and white! Reservations required as space is limited. Cost: \$30/Garden Member; \$35/General Public.

GBBG - Annual Report to Our Community, Nov. 2, 7:30-9 a.m. Annual meeting report and financials; election of new and returning board members. Join us in Cornerstone Foundation Hall for a light breakfast reception and business meeting to recap our past year, elect new board members, and learn what's happening next at the Garden. RSVP by October 19. Free/Garden Member

GBBG - Songbirds in the Winter, Nov. 14, 6-7:30 p.m., Rob Zimmer (Rob Zimmer Outdoors). During fall and early winter, many song birds begin to return to our area and spend the winter in our yards and gardens. Learn to identify them, ways to attract them, and tips on feeding wild birds. \$13/Garden Member; \$16/General Public

To reserve your spot at GBBG, visit their website at gbbg.org or call 920-490-9457.

* **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 all 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. *
