

# The Tiller

The Gardeners Club of Green Bay, Wisconsin



September 2023  
Volume 41, No. 9

## "Tour and Tasting" at Members Diana and Rick Buss' Vineyards 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 27, 2023 2379 Horse Road, Abrams, WI 54101



Get ready for a grape and wine tasting adventure! This club meeting will take place in Abrams at the vineyards of members, Rick and Diana Buss. Rick will guide us through the vineyard and possibly view the processing area. He will also have a short presentation on the origins of the vineyard, types of grapes, etc.

Tables and refreshments will be set up in the garage for grape and wine tasting. Please bring a lawn chair for seating. Also, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a jacket or umbrella based on the weather. Our business meeting will include two very important topics—nominations for president and secretary for 2024 and discussion/approval of the amendments to the bylaws.

We have also planned to have carpooling available from both the east and west sides of Green Bay. Please call or email Sue Rohan (920-336-3004/drfeelgoodmd@new.rr.com) if you would like to carpool from the CV & Hoffman Road Park and Ride—will plan to leave Park and Ride by 5 p.m.—please plan accordingly. Please call or email CJ Janus (920-362-5609/cj.janus57@gmail.com) if you would like to carpool from the Fleet Farm parking lot at 213 Taylor Street.

### From our Co-Presidents . . .



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

### Happy Autumn, Fellow Gardeners!

My purple coneflowers have faded but the dahlias, zinnias, and ligularia are going strong, and the sweet autumn clematis and all the mums are ready to pop! Patti and I are waiting for our dragon tongue bean pods to dry so we can turn them into the Seed Savers program at the library. They were kind of blah tasting but they sure were fun to show people!

Thank you, Corey Behnke, for hosting last month's meeting in your beautiful Packers house "in the shadow of Lambeau Field"! I'm so sorry it was such a marathon business meeting (the next one will be very short). Since Corey had to rush through his PowerPoint presentation so we could tour his wonderful pollinator garden, we've asked him to give us a more in-depth presentation next winter when we meet at GBBG.

Thank you for the deluxe refreshments Corey and Rachel, and Rose Borowitz, Veronica Geurts, and Sue Rohan!

At our meeting at Rick and Diana Buss' vineyard on Sept. 27th in Abrams, we'll have a quick vote on the bylaw update and will talk briefly about nominations for president and secretary. We aim to be finished before 7:30 since it'll be dark then.

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## Meeting Minutes - 8/23/2023

Our meeting was held at Corey Behnke's house at 5:30 with 20 members and 2 guests. With many new members CJ Janus asked each one to introduce themselves and say how long they've been in the club. She passed around an emergency contact list for members to fill out that we'll have at each meeting. She also encouraged everyone to fill out the survey online.

**Garden Walk:** CJ thanked VP Veronica for doing the majority of the work to put on the garden walk. And thanked all the volunteers especially those who worked double shifts. The co-presidents delivered \$100 gift certificates to the five garden hosts which were purchased from either Rosehill Gardens or For His Majesty Gardens. Veronica and Rob's was presented at the meeting. Next year's appreciation certificates will come from our sponsors. A vote was taken if we should also gift the hosts an engraved commemorative stone (\$21 each—Patti's idea) since we are not giving out silver trowel awards this year. The vote was yes, 13-4. Another vote was taken whether we should buy \$10 gift cards from our sponsors (Ivy Trails and Schroeder's) for the 10 family and friends volunteers

who worked since we didn't have enough club members. That was also a yes majority.

**Board meeting:** A lunch meeting will be open to any member to attend at 11:15, Aug 30th at Gallagher's Pizza West. Discussion will be survey results, how much to donate, sheds for Community Gardens, nominations for officers.

**New officers:** We are looking for a new president, secretary, and treasurer. Nominations at Sept. meeting.

**Banquet:** Nov. 15.

**Good garden neighbor cards:** Patti Nellis had the cards ready for members to choose from 12 different photos (submitted by club members). Everyone was welcome to take a few home to deliver to someone with an attractive yard. Our club info is printed on the back.

Diana Buss won the door prize, a wild blue indigo plant.

Corey presented an informative Power-Point presentation on pollinators he's attracting to his garden and then gave us a tour of his garden.

Agnes Schussman, Secretary

## August 23rd Club Meeting at Corey Behnke's Pollinator Gardens



Corey Behnke presented a slide show on pollinators.



This is Corey Behnke's pollinator garden "in the shadow of Lambeau Field"!



Club members gathered in Corey's entertainment room for the slide presentation and club business meeting.



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## The Gardeners Club of Green Bay Officers and Chairpersons

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

## 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!

### TGOA News

No report submitted.



The \$100 gift certificate for being one of the five  
hosts for the garden walk was presented to Veronica  
and Robert Geurts at the August 23 meeting.



*Good Neighbors Make Great Neighborhoods!*

**Good Neighbor Week** in Green Bay is September 24-30.  
Our garden club is participating 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 were available at the  
August meeting and will again be available at the  
September meeting. Your message can be anonymous or  
you can sign your name if you wish. Please participate if  
you can.





Co-presidents' message continued from page 1

We are having our traditional silent auction again this year at our banquet on Nov. 15th. Start thinking about what you'd like to donate—garden decor or accessories, plants, home canned goods (Agnes' pickled peppers!), homemade goodies (Sue Rohan's toffee—Hint, hint!) ...

We hope to see you in the vineyard Sept. 27th!

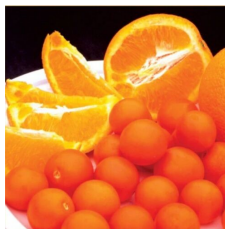
Co-presidents CJ Janus and Patti Nellis



Four of our officers at Corey Behnke's pollinator gardens. CJ Janus, Patti Nellis, Veronica Geurts, and Sue Rohan.

## Seed Saving Adventure

by Patti Nellis



This gardening season I decided to try a new variety of cherry tomato called 'Orange Paruche'—this variety was a favorite of a good garden friend. She was always bragging about its flavor! She can no longer garden because of health reasons, so I decided to plant them so could share them with her. Wow, was she right—kind of like “popping” candy in your mouth. I had difficulty finding this variety so bought seeds from a catalog—they were expensive—so decided to see if I could save these seeds. I have never saved vegetable seeds before so started researching how to do it. The following instructions in a book called *The Vertical Veg, Guide to Container Gardening* by Mark R. Smith were very helpful:

continued —→

## Save This Date—Wednesday, November 15, 2023

*Harvest Banquet  
Swan Club  
875 Heritage Road  
De Pere, WI 54115*



*Family Style Chicken  
Cost: \$15 per person  
Reservation and  
payment due by  
October 25, 2023.  
More information  
in the October Tiller.*

## Harvest Banquet Silent Auction November 15, 2023

Members, plan ahead and please bring an item for our “fun” fundraiser. Homemade canned items and baked goods are usually very popular items.

When you arrive, you will be given a bidding sheet to place with your donated item. The bidding sheet will have a place for your name as the donator (optional) and a suggested minimum bid (optional). You will place the item and the bidding sheet on the tables provided for the items. Please come by 4:45 p.m. or before so that the items are in place for our participants to begin writing in their bids at 5 p.m.

After our dinner and program, there will be additional time allowed to enter final bids, then the time will end. Winners of the items will proceed to the treasurer with the bidding sheet(s) and item(s) (unless too big to carry) to pay for their new treasures. Cash or check only.

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

- Choose the strongest, healthiest-looking plants to save seeds from and avoid any that look feeble or are diseased (the disease can be carried in the seed).
- Focus your seed saving on heritage (and other open-pollinated) varieties. Seeds saved from 'F1 plants' will usually not grow true to their parents.
- Ensure seeds are properly dry before storing—dry them on a plate as they can stick to paper.
- Put the dry seeds in paper envelopes and label and date them.

Saving tomato seeds is easy and you will get plenty of seeds from just one or two tomatoes. It's a great way to have a constant supply of your favorite tomato seed to grow and share.

Tomato seeds are coated in a gel that prevents them from germinating, so this needs to be removed first. Choose two or three ripe and healthy-looking

continued on the next page

Seed Saving Adventure, continued from p. 4

tomatoes (the riper the better), cut them in half and remove the seeds and the tomato pulp with a teaspoon.

Put the seeds and pulp in a glass jar or mug and add a similar quantity of water. Then just leave this mixture in a warm place to ferment for three or four days. It should soon start to go moldy—this is what you want (the mold helps remove the gel). Rinse the mixture with lots of water, separate the seeds (a kitchen sieve or tea strainer helps), then dry the seeds well on a plate. Your seeds are now ready to pack, label, and store.

I am going to try this advice—is anyone interested in trying these? Would so enjoy sharing experiences with you.

Patti Nellis  
Your Fellow Gardener



## Amending the Bylaws

This month's **Giller** includes a considerable amount of "business" that needs to be completed before the end of the year. Our bylaws are clearly out of date, having been amended the last time in 2014. Much has changed since then. At one time, our

membership numbers reached 100. Many of our senior members who belonged to the club for 20 years or more have passed away. We worked hard last year and this year to acquire 23 new members!

Because it is time to nominate and elect new officers, the most important item to update in the bylaws currently concerns the description of the treasurer's position. Sue Rohan and Agnes Schussman, our current treasurer and secretary, have served numerous years over the past 20 years and are "burned out"! Veronica Geurts will continue her two-year term as vice president. Our co-presidents, CJ Janus and Patti Nellis, are stepping down but will continue serving as past co-presidents. We need "new blood"! Nominations must be made for president and secretary. We recommend having the Board appoint a treasurer who has record-keeping ability to maintain financial records and to ensure that annual reports are filed to maintain our nonprofit status.

The following changes were emailed to all members 30 days prior to our September meeting as required by our bylaws and is repeated here in the **Giller** to be discussed and hopefully voted on at our September meeting. If there is a need to change any wording, then it must wait another 30 days before it can be voted on at the October meeting. The underlined words represent words to be added to the current bylaws. Strike-through words are to be deleted from the current

bylaws. We recommend that you print this part of the **Giller** to bring with you to the meeting.

## ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers of the Club shall include the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the immediate Past President. The office of Treasurer will be appointed by the Board.

- (d) The Treasurer shall keep the financial records, receive funds due the club, and keep them safely in the Club's official depositories. The Treasurer shall make a report at each monthly meeting, prepare a year-end report of all income and expenses for the year to be used to prepare a budget for the new year, at the Annual Meeting of the Club and at such other times as the President or Board of Directors may request. The Club's account books shall be available and open at all times for inspection by the President, Board of Directors, and any other authorized persons. The Treasurer will file annually with IRS on or before May 15 to maintain 501(c)3 status. The Treasurer will file an annual report with Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions on or before June 30 to maintain the Certificate of Incorporation.

*Editor's Note: A three-ring binder has been prepared with all instructions and samples of the reports to be filed with IRS and the State of Wisconsin. These are simple online forms to show that we continue to operate as a nonprofit organization. It is important to note that not filing for three years in succession results in the dissolution of the club's existence. Our club, with the help of our national "parent", The Gardeners of America, dealt with this issue this year and resolved the matter just in time to legally hold our plant sale fundraiser.*

## Descriptions of Officers' Duties

If you are nominated for an office, you, of course, can decline or accept the nomination. "What", you ask, "is expected of me?"

As stated in the bylaws:

**"The President shall be the executive officer, presiding over meetings of the Club and Board of Directors. The President shall be a member ex-officio of all Standing and Special Committees and shall perform such other duties as usually pertain to the office."**

As stated in the bylaws:

**"The Vice President shall preside at all Club meetings in the absence of the President. The**

Vice President shall also perform such other duties as usually pertain to that office, or as may be assigned by the President or Board of Directors."

Because Veronica will continue holding this office, she wishes to continue her leadership with fund raising activities. This, however, does not mean that a future vice president must continue with this duty. The talents of the individual in this officer's role must be considered and applied accordingly and agreed to by the President and Board of Directors. It is recommended that the vice president serve two years to maintain continuity in the club and with the possible intent to succeed as president.

As stated in the bylaws:

**"The Secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings of the Club and Board of Directors, and perform such other duties as usually pertain to that office."**

The secretary records the minutes and submits them on a timely basis to be published in the **Giller**. Having a computer, keyboarding skill, and know-how to send and receive emails/attachments are recommended.

*Editor's Note: Rather than repeating the description of treasurer, please see the position description for the treasurer in the "Amending the Bylaws" article in this issue of the **Giller**.*

And now, we interrupt all this business with some items of interest to gardeners!

### Juniper Tree's DNA Solved a Murder Mystery

No, this is not fiction! A suspect's boots were taken into evidence having been soiled with mud and juniper leaves/needles stuck in the soles of the boots. The victim's body was discovered in a wooded area of juniper trees. Just as humans have unique DNA, so do juniper trees; the suspect was easily found guilty of the murder.



Source: 48 hours TV show

### Why Deadhead?

Deadheading improves a plant's appearance in more than one way. First, you're getting rid of dead flowers, which more often



than not look shriveled, brown and generally unsightly. You are also stimulating the plant to send out healthy, new foliage. Most importantly, you're preventing the plant from setting seed. In the case of many perennials, setting seed causes the plant's foliage to look bedraggled for the rest of the season. In other flowering plants, particularly annuals, forming seeds contributes to the plant's decline and even causes it to stop producing blooms altogether. Deadheading interrupts the plant's singular goal, which is reproduction. By thwarting a plant's ability to form seed, you can often coax a second, smaller bloom from a perennial. In the case of annuals, you can create wave after wave of bloom all season long.

### When Not to Deadhead

There are times that you may want to avoid deadheading. Leave at least a few flowers untrimmed if you plan to collect seeds for future planting or just want to encourage the plant to self-sow. If you have the sort of roses that develop attractive rose hips, discontinue regular deadheading of these plants at the end of the summer, leaving late-season flowers on the plant. Other flowers you may want to leave untrimmed for their interesting seed heads include astilbe, liatris, clematis, sedum and yarrow. Some flower seeds are highly attractive to birds, so leaving the flower heads remaining at season's end is an economical alternative to purchased bird seed. Stems of echinacea, rudbeckia, helianthus, and hosta will make your winter garden inviting to finches, sparrows, chickadees, juncos and more.

Source:

<https://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/3822>





# Survey Results

We thank 18 of our 38 members for responding to our survey. Since one of the biggest concerns was to determine whether members wished to again do two fundraisers, the results are presented below.

- 5 Repeat both the May Plant Sale and July Garden Walk knowing that both brought great financial income, awareness to the community, and new members to the club.
- 1 Two fundraisers were too much. I would like us to repeat the Plant Sale but not the Garden Walk
- 1 Two fundraisers were too much. I would like us to repeat the Garden Walk but not the Plant Sale.
- 10 Let's do both in the future but alternate them so only one each year.
- 1 No response.

At the August 30 board meeting, Veronica Geurts suggested that we plan for a 2024 garden walk rather than a plant sale. A garden walk is much less work for club members being only one day and a few hours for volunteers to collect fees and be available to welcome guests and answer garden-related questions. Also, Veronica has already scouted possible gardens for the walk. With regard to volunteer hours, 5 members indicated they would volunteer 2-4 hours for an event, 7 indicated they could do 4-8 for an event, 1 indicated more than 8 hours per event, 4 indicated they cannot volunteer due to health issues.

Because we are a nonprofit organization, we are required to donate to charitable organizations when money is earned from the general public through fundraisers. Our survey asked what members would like to see done with the earnings. Here are the comments from the survey:

Donate to groups that encourage plant growings. Keep a good portion to fund the startup of future projects.

Donate to the Community Gardens. Hopefully we can give enough to make a difference.

Build garden sheds for Community Gardens; raise awareness for pollinators.

I am not sure what options to suggest, but wonder if a banquet would be a possibility instead of the proposed potluck; is a silent auction planned that night? I always enjoyed that evening and being a part.

Cover cost—donate the rest.

Community gardens—a shed and provide tools for the shed—be sure to place a “donated by” sign on the shed; keep enough funds to cover expenses of the club, cover speaker fees, etc.

Give most to community gardens and some to Baird Creek Preservation Foundation.

Wisely spend the money that we have and make good choices with our resources.

This was discussed at meeting.

The Baird Creek Preservation Foundation would be good. It's sad if we put a lot of hard work and money into a project and then see it go back to nothing in a few years. I have seen it happen, and when it does, you lose interest.

Sheds are a good idea. Is there a need elsewhere in the community that could use our help?

Garden sheds for those Community Gardens who want them. However, I suggest contacting the NWTC Apprenticeship program for carpenters or builders, to construct these out of building materials to withstand storms. The reason is the plastic involved with the large garden sheds is not indestructible. A shed like that was twisted and blown down, at the Maple Street Gardens, during a “severe thunderstorm”/tornado. It was broken beyond repair and was discarded. However, the first shed they have at this site, built out of materials with flexibility, like wood and plywood, remains intact.

(1) Suggestions for community gardens “storage sheds” very appropriate. (2) Emphasizing to Community Gardens “gardeners” they may attend Education meetings free of charge—also opening Ed. meetings to members of ADRC. — Also allowing those members to submit “topics of interest” for our approval.

Keep it.

Do community projects of local interest!

Providing garden sheds for Community Gardens was mentioned most frequently. There are concerns to investigate as to the type of construction, the cost, who owns the property on which a shed is placed, etc. Research will continue with reports to the club as progress is made.

Stay tuned for more coverage of the surveys in the next issue of the **Giller**.

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



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**—Harvest

Banquet at the Swan Club 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 **Giller** and your email for up-to-date details.



## 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](http://www.gardenersofamerica.club)  
Local website: <http://gardenclubgreenbay.weebly.com>



## Events of Interest to Gardeners

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 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.

**GBBG - Member-Only Tour: The Art of Dried Flowers**, Sept. 26, 5-6:30 p.m. Go behind the scenes to get an exclusive look at late fall blooms in the Garden and discover how you can transform this season's flowers and plants into beautiful, dried art. Led by Hayden Strecker & Alyssa Carwardine, Horticulturist. Free to members only.

**GBBG - Summer Uncorked: The Art of Wine Tasting**, Sept. 26, 6-7:30 p.m. Great Wine Made Easy! In this tasting, we set off to explore the great indigenous wines of Italy. Like Barolo, revered as "the king of wines, the wine of kings", each selection unique and stunning in its own way. Reservations required as space is limited. Cost: \$30/Garden Member; \$35/General Public.

**GBBG - Fall Garden Primer**, Sept. 27, 6-7:30 p.m., Rob Zimmer. To clean up, or not clean up? That is the question. Best practices when it comes to preparing the garden for its winter slumber, as well as making the decision whether or not to clean up perennials and annuals as they provide many benefits for winter wildlife and native pollinators. We will discuss it all in this fun and informative program. Cost: \$13/Garden Member; \$16/General Public

**GBBG - Cooking in the Garden with Chef Ace Champion**, Oct. 4, 5-7 p.m., Chef Ace Champion. Join local celebrity chef, Chef Ace Champion for a Garden cooking demonstration! He'll prepare a 2-course meal with some audience participation, and everyone will enjoy a light tasting. Cost: \$49/Garden Member; \$55/General Public

**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

To reserve your spot at GBBG, visit their website at [gbbg.org](http://gbbg.org) or call 920-490-9457.