

# The Tiller

The Gardeners Club of Green Bay, Wisconsin



February 2024  
Volume 42, No. 2



One \$20 gift certificate from our advertisers given as a door prize at each meeting.



## From our President ...

To my fellow gardeners,

I have to thank Darren Vollmar for the great presentation on Ledgeview Gardens—very awesome. Thank you.

This month we will have a talk on growing mushrooms that will be very interesting. I hope that everyone can come and enjoy.

I think that this time of the year we have to take inventory of what seeds we have and check to see what we need for the spring planting. There is still time to order new seeds, and maybe you can try some new varieties. I do, and it can get very interesting on what you expect and what you get, but it is always fun.

We will have a representative from the Community Gardens this month to receive the check that was to help them with the

garden project they have. Last month we gave a check to Heritage Hill for their planting of new trees in the park. These are all community projects that your garden club sponsors. We still have the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary to finish up, so those are just some of the projects going on.

We have our garden walk coming up in July which is the only fundraiser the club is doing this year. Veronica and Deb are working very hard to get everything in order, but they cannot do it alone, so let's get behind them and give them our support and help. There are six fantastic yards included in this year's garden walk.

I hope to see you all Saturday, February 24th.

Carl Christensen, President

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## Meeting Minutes—1/20/2024

January 20 meeting was held at the Green Bay Botanical Garden at 10 a.m.; 16 members attending, no guests. Officers present: President, Carl Christensen, Vice President, Veronica Geurts, Treasurer, Barb Kamps; Past Co-president, CJ Janus; Secretary, Mary Watts.

Carl opened the meeting at 10:03 a.m. and introduced Darren Vollmar from Ledgeview Gardens (see p. 4 on details of his presentation). After the presentation and questions from members, a 15-minute break was taken with muffins brought by Agnes Schussman and an Uncle Mike's pastry brought by Barb Kamps.

Business meeting resumed at 11:15 a.m. Treasurer's report given by Barb Kamps. Carl reviewed the budget and the activities for each month of 2024.

**Door Prizes.** The \$300 set aside for door prizes is too much for the budget. We could possibly use the money for the summer picnic instead. Further talk about giving a gift certificate for the door prizes from our advertising sponsors. The members discussed at length what it means to give and receive a gift certificate from our sponsors. Loyalty to those sponsors is built when they receive our business. A suggestion was made to have a membership committee. Rose Borowitz said she could use the help to get more members. Why have door prizes and what was the purpose of giving them: to attract new members. A motion by Rob Geurts, was made to have ten \$20 gift certificates for the year (2024). There are 10 meetings, and the door prizes will be from the Tiller advertisers. The motion was seconded by Marsha May and passed unanimously by the members.

**Recruitment of New Members:** The discussion next went to how to recruit new members and who was receiving the Tiller, and how many joined. The draw of joining this garden club was brought up: speakers, lively programs, and lots of ideas for gardening. Further discussion among members on how to recruit new members at the Farmers Market on Saturday. We could even have pre-sales of Garden Walk tickets for 2024.

Carl said there is a calendar of events in the January 2024 Tiller. May and June are still open for suggestions of activities/speakers.

### Committee Openings

**Refreshment Committee.** Agnes Schussman volunteered to be the committee chairperson for refreshments. She passed a sign-up sheet to members who would like to bring refreshments.

**Sunshine Committee.** There are occasions when a card is sent after being signed by members, such as birthdays or get well cards. This committee chair is left open currently.

**Membership Committee.** Rose Borowitz oversees this committee. Name tags were discussed, and it was decided to get name tags for any new members. Carl made a motion and it was passed unanimously to get name tags for members who paid for membership and attended two meetings.

**Request for Change of Meeting Site:** Request brought up to Carl at the meeting to change the meeting site in winter to the ADRC. The meetings at ADRC had cost \$35 each time in previous years. There is free parking at the ADRC and meeting rooms available. The months of January – April would be the months of winter we could possibly meet at ADRC. Discussion took place and vote was taken to continue to meet at the Green Bay Botanical Garden.

**Budget/Donations:** Question on the \$500 budget for planting trees at Heritage Hill. Discussion took place with Steven Lambert who explained the removal of nuisance trees such as buckthorn. Heritage Hill is using volunteers to do this job. It is being done slowly but surely. They'd like to fill that now empty space with new plantings of trees. Suggestion by Steve of using native trees, (oaks, hazelnut, dogwood) which would be taken care of by the volunteers at Heritage Hill. The \$500 would be used for the purchase of those trees. A \$500 check was presented to Steve Lambert to be presented to Heritage Hill.

Also, the Green Bay Community Gardens' "Planting for a Purpose" program was designated to receive money (\$1,000) from our budget. The Planting for a Purpose program donates food to the local pantries. The donations would be used to buy garden tools, plant seeds, and other items as seen fit, by the Community Garden coordinator. Carl asked CJ Janus to contact the Community Garden coordinator to explain our club's donation and to request feedback from the Community Garden about how the money was to be spent.

**Garden Walk:** Discussion on using the garden walk as a tool to "sell" our club. The club members decided to think about how and what to do to increase the membership in 2024. Lots of ideas and discussion on promoting the club. To be discussed further at next month's meeting.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 12:05 p.m. The meeting was adjourned; a name was drawn for a door prize. Deb Schumacher won the door prize.

Mary Watts, Secretary

## The Gardeners Club of Green Bay Officers and Chairpersons

### President

Carl Christensen, 920-606-8807  
c.christensen14@outlook.com

### Vice President

Veronica Geurts, 920-471-8649  
vageurts48@yahoo.com

### Secretary

Mary Watts, 920-819-1897  
whato@new.rr.com

### Treasurer

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### Past Co-Presidents

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cj.janus57@gmail.com

Patti Nellis, 920-288-7166  
pattinellis@gmail.com

### Membership and Public Relations

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rrborowitz@gmail.com

### Sunshine

—————Open—————

### Tiller Editor and Website Manager

Shirley Winnes, 920-499-4441  
sawrrw@hotmail.com  
saw301@att.net

### Photographer/Historian

—————Open—————

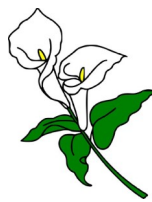
### Civic Projects and Fund Raising

Veronica Geurts, 920-471-8649  
vageurts48@yahoo.com

### Refreshments

Agnes Schussman, 920-327-1138,  
gschussman@hottmail.com

## Club and Member News ...



Our sympathy to the family, friends, and horticulture community in the loss of Paul Hartman who served as the Brown County Horticulture Agent for 30 years and served pivotal roles in the creation of the Green Bay Botanical Garden and the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation. He became a member of our club in 1976 and served many years as our advisor and advocate until his health declined.



### New Member:

Brandon Buechner  
1812 11th Ave.  
Menominee, MI 49858  
920-492-9248  
ezswappots@gmail.com

## We Need Help With ...

### Facebook and Instagram

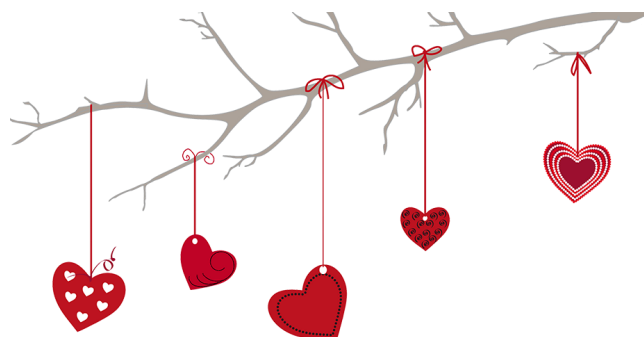
We are looking for a member (or members) who might like to take over the Facebook and/or Instagram accounts. Interested? Let us know!

### Sunshine

Would someone please volunteer to chair the Sunshine Committee. This involves mailing one of our appreciation cards or an appropriate message to members when a little cheer is needed. If possible, arrange to have cards at club meetings to obtain signatures of members.

### Photographer/Historian

We need a photographer who can record our activities of the club with photos to be used in the Tiller, our website, Facebook and Instagram. Our historical records are housed at the UWGB archives. An occasional visit would be necessary to drop off current historical documents.



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

What's up in your world? Please share your news with us. Articles contributed to the Tiller are always welcome!

## Refreshments at Club Meetings

Our new refreshments coordinator is Agnes Schussman. Sign-ups for February refreshments are Diana Buss and Deb Schumacher. We ask you to bring your own water, coffee, soda . . . which you can enjoy while visiting with members and guests.



## Hydroponic Gardening at Ledgeview Gardens

*Editor's Note: Our secretary, Mary Watts, not only took minutes of our business meeting, but as an interested gardener, Mary also took notes on the presentation. If you missed coming to the meeting, you can learn about hydroponic gardening here.*

Darren Vollmar, co-owner and manager of Ledgeview Gardens LLC, De Pere, is a small-scale organic farmer, interested in permaculture, organic produce, and regenerative business/agriculture as well as sustainable energy. Darren has been in business for 23 years.

A PowerPoint presentation of the garden greenhouses showed the setup, and Darren explained the basis for doing hydroponics as a growing method at Ledgeview Gardens. Nutrients are moved from the water to the plants every 15 minutes. This is known as the “ebb and flow” system.

The medium for growing is perlite for the plants. Darren went into detail about his growing system and the number of plants and crops generated by this method.

Space, water, light, and disease and pest control were explained in detail by Darren. Tomatoes produce one ton of fruit (King fruit) in a week. The PowerPoint show was accompanied by his explanation, and his knowledge of the hydroponic system is remarkable. There is a great deal of computer knowledge and systems used throughout the operation.

It takes 45 days turnaround from start to finish of a plant (in this case, lettuce) to harvest.

Darren explained the way the cement floor, which is white, reflects light and the heat, from underground heating pipes. Cool, wet air and fans are utilized throughout the operation of the greenhouses. Pruning and disease control were explained. Aphids are a big issue, and lettuce gets these. Eggplants have been discontinued inside since these attract aphids.

No sprays (except organic) are used. At this time, there's enough crop to replace any that's lost due to disease. 1,860 hydroponic tomatoes were grown last season. There are plants that have 36- to 38-foot-long vines of branches. All plants get a heavy

prune in May just before they start to produce. After the first fruit is picked at 10" off the ground, then the next fruit is higher up from the ground.

Dutch bucket /Bato buckets are used with perlite/vermiculite. Drain-out system (NFT) is nutrient fill technique used in the Dutch bucket/Bato buckets. The romaine lettuce was shown on the growing system and was very large and packed into the growing system.

Any waste gets composted. They have chickens who eat the waste that is unusable.

The USDA does regular inspections for sanitary systems in the production of the crops grown.

The seeds are specifically produced for hydroponic growing. They can use regular seeds, too.

The lettuce is not washed, isn't dirty, and lasts for three weeks refrigerated.



Darren explained various crops which have been grown and shown to attract too many pests and diseases. Powdery mildew, white flies, aphids, gray mold were explained in detail and how these affect the crops.

Darren answered questions about salmonella from members. Tours are given, but considering how busy they've been, there's not a lot of time for tours.

Q. Are the nutrients, in comparing soil grown and hydroponic-grown tomatoes, different? Yes, because there are controlled nutrients in hydroponics.

Q. Lettuce grown in jars. Can a person grow lettuce in a floating mat, in a stream, or pond? Water must be tested for nutrients.

Q. Do you still have a store? Yes, open at the CSA store, TWTH, at the Ledgeview farm location. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) works for 22 weeks to sell shares of produce for families. Every week, produce is available to be picked out by customers using a point or dollar value on it.

The business has expanded to sell products to businesses and schools locally. A website and Facebook page are the best options for information on Ledgeview Gardens.

We thank Darren Vollmar for a very interesting program about his hydroponics business.

## Donations Approved for Heritage Hill and Community Gardens' Planting for a Purpose Program

Members approved the Board's recommendations to donate \$500 to Heritage Hill and \$1,000 to the Planting for a Purpose program promoted by Community Gardens. Being a 501(c)(3) organization, we are required to help other community nonprofit organizations with their horticulture endeavors by means of financial help. Our fundraising activities provide the support for this.



Our treasurer, Barb Kamps, presented a \$500 check to Steve Lambert, club member and a volunteer with Heritage Hill, who will turn the check over to Heritage Hill. The donation is earmarked for purchasing trees to be planted on the property after removal of invasive plants such as buckthorn and honeysuckle.

CJ Janus contacted Community Gardens to indicate that we wish to donate \$1,000 and for them to determine what their needs are and in particular to help with the Planting for a Purpose Program.

We look forward to hearing from these two organizations as to how our donations have helped them carry out their objectives.



### Baird Creek Preservation Foundation 27th Anniversary Banquet

Comfort Suites  
1951 Bond St., Green Bay

February 21, 5 p.m.

Program: The Importance of Habitat Restoration and Land Management with Bill Volkert, naturalist and wildlife educator for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at Horicon Marsh for 27 years.

Make your reservation at  
<https://givebutter.com/bairdcreekbanquet27>



## 2024 Dues

Dues are overdue! 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:

Barbara Kamps  
2397 Horse Road  
Abrams, WI 54101





**Peach Fuzz—Color of the Year**

The Pantone Color Institute named PANTONE 13-1023 Peach Fuzz the 2024 color of the year, describing it as a heartfelt peach hue bringing a feeling of kindness and tenderness.

Pantone Executive Director Leatrice Eiseman said in a statement the company was searching for a color that captured the desire to nurture ourselves and others.

The 2023 Pantone color of the year was Viva Magenta (PANTONE 18-750) according to the company's color matching system. Each year's feature color can be used in interior design and home decor, digital design, in hair and beauty products, or in apparel and accessories among other uses.

Other uses include the plant world! When gardening with color, use the color wheel to help choose complementary and contrasting tones. Peach works beautifully with shades of pink, yellow, and orange, or even a bold red or blue-purple can have a striking impact.

Here are a few flowering and foliage plants which feature this color hue: Tulip 'Apricot Beauty', Rose 'Just Joey', Daylily 'Luxury Lace', Icelandic poppy 'Giant Peach', Dahlia 'Apricot Desire', Foxglove 'Sutton's Apricot', Geum 'Mai Thai'. Coneflower 'Fresco Apricot', Coleus 'Peach Julep', Coral Bells 'Northern Exposure Amber', New Zealand Flax, 'Indigo Pearl'.

We have five new advertisers, Wery's Blossom Creek, Karcz's Gardens and Greenhouse, Kimps Ace Hardware & Rental, and two of the businesses that were featured on our 2023 garden walk, For His Majesty Daylily Nursery and Rose-Hill Gardens. When you shop there, please identify yourself as a club member and let them know we appreciate their sponsorship of our garden club. Thank you to Veronica Geurts for obtaining these advertisers!

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**Wery's Blossom Creek**



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## Six More Weeks of Winter? Or Not?



Germanic peoples were responsible for weather-predicting animals. The Celtic peoples celebrated Imbolc and the Druids celebrated cross-quarter days, which the Christians changed to Candlemas to help transition the pagans to their belief system. The Germanic folks were responsible for introducing an animal into the custom, although they used a badger or bear that woke up to predict the coming of spring. All these animals predict six more weeks of winter if they see their shadows. Supposedly, this scares them so much they return to their burrows and hide for the remainder of the season. If there is no shadow, they feel confident enough to remain outside and look for spring. Weather services have charted their predictions over the years, and it seems they have about a 30 to 35% accuracy rate in their forecasts, although their fans claim a much higher percentage. It's all in good fun.

Source: Melody Rose, author, davesgarden.com

## Toadstool or Mushroom?



If you were asked to picture a mushroom and toadstool side-by-side, what would come to mind? Possibly something bright and colorful on the left, and then maybe your standard cooking mushroom on the right? Toadstools are sprinkled throughout literature as a symbol of fairylands and magical universes (Alice in Wonderland, anyone?). As children, we were told to look for fairies under spotted mushrooms in the garden (and were careful not to trample them while we were playing). So, despite these magical connotations, is there a difference between toadstools and mushrooms?

Well, uh, no.

Not in a scientific means, anyway. There's no widely accepted way to tell the two apart; it's just become acceptable in common speech to use the word toadstool to refer to toxic and inedible mushrooms, whereas mushroom describes the fungi we all love to cook with.

Source: 5 Surprising Mushroom Myths, [naturalmushrooms.com](http://naturalmushrooms.com)



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

Meeting dates have been scheduled dependent upon GBBG and speaker availability—please mark your calendar for these dates: February 24,

March 16, April 27. The March meet-

ing will feature our member, Deb Schumacher, who will explain how she starts seeds for her summer gardens. Corey Behnke is scheduled for April and will talk about our precious pollinators.

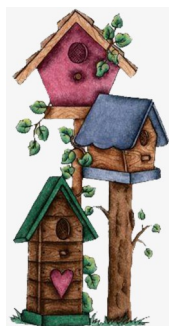
Plan ahead! July 20 is our garden walk.

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 Plant Doctor





## The Gardeners Club of Green Bay

Shirley A. Winnes  
Tiller Editor  
301 David Drive  
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>



## 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 2024 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.



**Winter Farmers Market on Military**—Locally grown, raised, made, created and crafted! 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturdays of the month, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (2/17, 3/2, 3/16, 3/30, 4/6, 4/20). Located in the Green Bay Plaza at the corner of W. Mason and Military Avenue.

**GBBG - T.I.L.L.\* Talk: Fall in Love with Water Plants**, 2/14/2024, Noon-1 p.m. **Melissa Maurer-Ford, Garden Horticulturist**. Join Horticulturist Melissa Maurer-Ford as she wades through the beautiful and wet world of water plants and other soggy bottom dwellers. Take home a few ideas on how to create your own mini water plant container and pick up tips on growing some of the native H<sub>2</sub>O-loving plants from the garden. *Free/Garden Member & General Public*

**GBBG - Starting Seeds Indoors**, 2/20/2024, 6-7:30 p.m. **Rob Zimmer**, Visit Rob Zimmer Outdoors on Facebook. *\$13/Garden Member; \$16/General Public*

**GBBG - T.I.L.L. Talk: Gardens & Sights of Iceland**, 2/28/2024, Noon-1 p.m. **Diane and Steve Lenz, GBBG members**. Iceland is a land of extremes – filled with dramatic landscapes. Join us as we show you the majestic scenery and share stories plus information about this remarkable island known as “the land of fire and ice.” *Free/Garden Member & General Public*

**GBBG - Leap into Winter Pruning**, 2/29/2024, 1-3 p.m. **Jimmy Van Meter, Garden Horticulturist**. On this leap day, leap outside to prune! Winter is a great time to tidy up those overgrown trees and shrubs in your yard. Learn the proper way to prune a variety of species. This class will be outside so please dress for the weather. *\$5/Garden Member; \$7/General Public*

**GBBG - Cooking in the Garden with Chef Ace Champion**, 3/6/2024, 5-7 p.m. Chef Champion will prepare a two-course meal with some audience participation, and everyone will enjoy a light tasting. First Course: Bourbon Braised Beef-Mushroom Port Sauce-Glazed Carrots-Basmati. Dessert Course: Bavarian Cream Key Lime Pie with Chocolate Rum Sauce. Website: [chefchampion.com](http://chefchampion.com) *\$49/Garden Member; \$55/General Public*

**GBBG - The Many Tastes of Teas**, 3/14/2024, 6-7:30 p.m. **Jackie Johnson, Northeast Wisconsin Herb Society**. Have you ever wondered if one brand of tea tastes different from another? Or is there a difference in taste between decaf and regular? Join us as we taste-test several varieties of well-known teas in various brands to determine your favorite! In Part 2, we will taste various herbal infusions (teas) and learn their uses and how to grow them in your backyard. *\$15/Garden Member; \$18/General Public*

*Reserve your spot at GBBG. Visit their website at [gbbg.org](http://gbbg.org) or call 920-490-9457.*

\*T.I.L.L.— Tapping Into Life and Learning