

The Tiller

The Gardeners Club of Green Bay, Wisconsin



January 2024
Volume 42, No. 1



Learn more about Ledgeview Gardens at their website:
ledgeviewgardens.com

Darren Vollmar, Ledgeview Gardens
10 a.m., Saturday, January 20, 2024
Visitor Center, Green Bay Botanical Garden
2600 Larsen Road, Green Bay, Wisconsin

The January program will feature Darren Vollmar, who is a small-scale organic farmer. His interests are in permaculture, organic produce, and regenerative business/agriculture as well as sustainable energy. Darren will be explaining the process of hydroponic gardening. Hydroponic growing is soilless culture growing vegetables in a soilless greenhouse environment (note the photo on the left of salad greens growing in soilless containers). Ledgeview Gardens sell their products at their store, the Saturday Farmers Market, through our CSA, at local retailers, and also to restaurants.



From our President . . .

We are starting off a new year and your Executive Committee met. We did the calendar of events for the year. There are very interesting programs. We will have Darren Vollmar from Ledgeview Gardens talk on growing tomatoes in their hydroponic greenhouse. You will have to listen to Darren tell you how they grow their tomatoes—very interesting. There will be a program on how to grow mushrooms—more info on that later. I think that we have a very interesting calendar for the year.

We also did the budget for the year. I hope you all take your time and look it over. There was much discussion on the budget, and after all the time spent, I hope you all approve the budget we did.

Now I hope everybody has gotten their new seed catalogs and can start planning your vegetable and flower gardens.

This is a short message, but I hope to see you all on Saturday morning, January 20, 9:30 a.m., meeting at 10 a.m.

Carl Christensen, President

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Refreshments at Club Meetings

If you wish to have refreshments at our meetings, please volunteer—you can assist Barb Kamps, our refreshments coordinator, by calling or e-mailing your desire to volunteer. We ask you to bring your own water, coffee, soda . . . which you can enjoy while visiting with members and guests.



Highlights of the Board Meeting - 1/8/2024

An official copy of the minutes prepared by our secretary, Mary Watts, may be reviewed by request from any board member.

The Gardeners Club of Green Bay Board members met at 11 a.m., January 8, 2024, at Gallagher's Pizza on Mason Street. Board members in attendance: Carl Christensen, Veronica Geurts, Barb Kamps, Mary Watts, CJ Janus. Not present: Patti Nellis, Rose Borowitz. Guests: Deb Schumacher and Shirley Winnes.

Past president CJ Janus explained the contents of the president's binder from the past two years and turned that over to Carl, our 2024 president. Membership and emergency contact forms were reviewed and plans made for revision as needed.

Calendar of Programs. Planning the programs for the year resulted in the following with some months still needing to be filled. The surveys members completed last year will be used to determine what topics might be of interest.

January 20 Hydroponic Growing Darren Vollmar Ledgview Gardens	February 24 Mushrooms Lindsey Bender, Mycologist	March 16 Seed Growing Deb Schumacher	April 27 Pollinators Corey Behnke (to be confirmed)	May	June
Saturday July 20 Garden Walk	Sunday August 18 Picnic Marsha May	September Wildlife Sanctuary (to be confirmed)	October Appreciation Dinner Silent Auction	November Program and Budget Planning	December No Meeting

Donations. Board members discussed the desire of club members to donate to the Community Gardens. The Board recommends donating \$1,000 for their "Planting with a Purpose" program. This will be discussed at the January meeting and voted on by the membership.

A request was received for a donation to Heritage Hill for trees and shrubs that will be planted after removing buckthorn, honeysuckle, and dead trees. A recommendation from the Board of \$500 was made and will be voted on by the membership.

We were reminded that the \$1,000 Vandersteen donation has not been spent at the Wildlife Sanctuary. Purchasing containers and native plants to place on each side of the Barbara Vandersteen bench is being planned. Native plants for the shade garden have been donated by Justin Kroening, so money remains to be spent.

Planning the 2024 Budget. The 2023 Operating Statement of Income and Expenses was reviewed. Using this as a guide, income and expenditures were projected for 2024. Please review the budget (printed on p. 4) to be discussed and voted on at the January meeting. The 2023 operating statement and fund-raising reports will be separate attachments emailed with the **Giller** for your information.

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

The Gardeners Club of Green Bay Officers and Chairpersons

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Sunshine

—————Open—————

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Articles for next month's Tiller are due by February 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!

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!



Our 2024 officers are Mary Watts, Secretary; Barbara Kamps, Treasurer; Veronica Geurts, Vice President; Patti Nellis and CJ Janus, Past Co-Presidents; Carl Christensen, President.

A Question for Members—Future Bus Trip

At our recent Board meeting, the possibility of a bus trip was mentioned for a club activity—suggestions were for Chicago Botanic Garden, Christopher Gardens in Sheboygan, or the West of the Lake Gardens in Manitowoc. We need to know how many members would be interested before pursuing more information. Please let one of the officers 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.



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 February

meeting will feature Lindsey Bender, mycologist at Field and Forest Products in Peshtigo. Come learn the many ways you can grow a wide range of beautiful, gourmet and medicinal mushrooms in your garden!

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 following budget for 2024 was developed by the Board of Directors. Please review and bring any questions to the January meeting. The budget needs to be approved by the membership.

The Gardeners Club of Green Bay 2024 Budget

Income

Membership Dues	\$ 500	
Garden Walk	5,000	
Advertisers	70	
Silent Auction	<u>300</u>	
Total Income		\$5,870

Expenses

TGOA National Dues	\$ 300	
Insurance	400	
Botanical Garden Member Dues	100	
Wisconsin DFI Filing	25	
Donations (Community Gardens and Heritage Hill)	1,500	
Garden Walk	1,200	
Picnic	100	
Speaker Fees	400	
Member Awards	100	
Door Prizes	300	
Hospitality/Refreshments	100	
Office Supplies/Postage	<u>80</u>	
Total Expenses		<u>\$4,605</u>
Net Income		\$1,265

"From December to March, there are for many of us three gardens: the garden outdoors, the garden of pots and bowls in the house, and the garden of the mind's eye."

—Katherine S. White

Thoughts for the New Year

"An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves." — Bill Vaughan

"Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365-page book. Write a good one." —Brad Paisley

"I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, and changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something." — Neil Gaiman

"In every changing season, may we find a reason to stand in awe, appreciate, and cherish every view." —Oscar Auliq-Ice

"Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right." —Oprah Winfrey

"Let our New Year's resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word." —Goran Persson

"In the New Year, never forget to thank your past years, because they enabled you to reach today. Without the stairs of the past, you cannot arrive at the future!" —Mehmet Murat Ildan

"A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other." —Unknown

"If you can't make up your mind this year, there's always next year!" — Anthony T. Hincks

"New Year is another opportunity to see life with a little more caring, compassion, maturity, and beauty." —Amit Ray

What's the Difference Between Heirloom, Hybrid, or GMO Seeds?

Even seasoned gardeners have trouble understanding seed terminology and knowing the different designations between vegetable seeds is important to many of us. We've heard that heirlooms are good and GMO seeds are bad, however many gardeners have no idea as to why. We're going to take a look at all of these terms so that you can make informed and educated decisions when it comes to choosing varieties to feed your family.

What is a GMO seed and can you purchase them?

GMO seeds get a ton of bad press and just about all of the seed vendors state that their offerings are not GMO. That is an easy statement to make. These genetically modified seeds are expensive to produce and the manufacturers sell to large, commercial farmers. You can't go and purchase a packet of GMO beans, radishes or cucumbers from your local garden center or on-line store. GMO seeds are field crops and are limited to corn, canola, soybeans and other commercially grown crops. Scientists have manipulated the genetic make up in labs and have inserted material from non-related organisms into the gene pool to enhance pest control, harvest, and other desirable traits. People wanting to avoid this don't want any GMO products. Be more concerned about the make up of your tortilla chips or cooking oil. The home gardener seed houses are simply responding to the public's desire to avoid GMOs, even though their products aren't even available that way. Even if the seed packet or advertisement doesn't state that it is non-GMO, it isn't. Be more concerned with growing your garden to avoid killing your pollinator insects with the chemicals you use.



is a hybrid plant and it has had a devoted following for decades. The only things I see wrong with hybrids is that they do not come true from saved seeds, sometimes flavor is lacking and the skins are tougher to make shipping easier. Since hybrid plants are a cross between two different plants of the same species, saved seed will often have unpredictable features. Out of a dozen saved seeds from our hypothetical hybrid plant, we could have just as many unrelated-looking and producing siblings. If you want to save seeds, hybrids are not for you, otherwise enjoy the harvest.

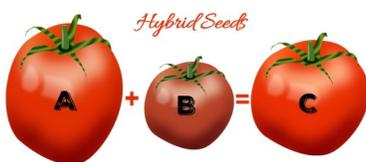
What are open-pollinated seeds?

Open pollinated seeds are seeds that produce identical offspring from season to season. You can save open pollinated seeds from year to year. However, you should properly isolate the plants from others of the same species so that they won't cross-pollinate with each other. The saved seeds will then be hybrids and the next



generation won't be identical to the parent. The *Rutgers* tomato is open pollinated, but not heirloom, even though it is listed on many heirloom sites. It was developed by Rutgers University with input by the Campbell's Soup Company in 1934 and has been a favorite of many tomato growers for just about as long. It has a thin skin, which makes it unsuitable for automated harvesting and shipping and they last only days after harvesting instead of weeks, however they are a superior choice for home gardeners. *Clemson spineless* okra is another long-time favorite open-pollinated vegetable that is not heirloom, although it often shows up in heirloom catalogs. The seeds of both of these vegetables can be saved and the offspring will be identical to the parent plant.

What is a hybrid seed?



Many people confuse hybrid seeds with GMOs and that is a false assumption as well. A hybrid is simply a cross between two

plants of the same species to hopefully bring out the best traits of both. There's absolutely nothing wrong with hybrid plants as far as human health is concerned. They have been bred to increase size, harvest, or shipability. The beloved *Big Boy* tomato

What are heirloom seeds?

Heirloom plants are all open pollinated, however, as stated above, not all open-pollinated plants are heirlooms. Heirlooms are plants that have been grown by ordinary gardeners for sometimes hundreds of years. Most times their origins are not clearly known. The *Brandywine*

tomato was offered by Burpee in their catalog in 1886, however most feel that it was originally grown by the Amish in Pennsylvania even earlier. Many similar, pink-skinned, potato leafed tomatoes



seemed to have their origins with immigrants from Germany and surrounding countries. *Kentucky Wonder* pole beans are another plant with foggy origins. First offered by James H. Gregory and Sons in 1877, it came to them known as *Texas Pole* and no one is sure how that name came about. A number of heirlooms like these have been accepted into commercial seed operations and there are a number of wonderful companies that have gathered hundreds of varieties to offer them to the public. However their roots (pun intended) were originally in family-saved seeds. Check with older relatives and church members to see if they are saving seeds. You might find something unique and special.

What are organic seeds?

Any of these seeds can be offered as organic. That simply means that the parent plants and the seeds harvested from them were grown without synthetic fertilizers or pesticides. For the plants you grow to remain organic, you'll need to do the same thing. Your soil can't be amended with any chemicals and the plants themselves can't have any chemical pesticides used on them. However, you can grow any hybrid, heirloom or open-pollinated seed organically. This results in a fruit or vegetable uncontaminated by chemicals, and I like this because I can snack on whatever is in my



garden right from the vine. I don't have to be concerned about pesticide residue when I take a bite out of a sun-warmed tomato or enjoy my peas or sweet peppers as I weed and cultivate. If you start seeds indoors, remember to purchase sterile, organic potting mix to give them the best start possible.

Prepare now for spring planting.

Whatever type of seeds that you choose, remember that the soil is the best place to start, to give them the best chance. I've always heard to dig a \$10 hole for a \$1 plant and found that it is wise advice. If you can turn your garden area over now and add amendments to the soil, you will have a huge advantage when it comes time to actually plant outside. Some people turn the soil over and cover it with cardboard to keep weeds from sprouting. The cardboard also breaks down over the next few months and helps enrich the soil. Check with collision shops in your area for large cardboard boxes. New parts such as bumpers and hoods come in large boxes that you can recycle into weed-blocking ground covers and are a sustainable way of helping dispose of potential landfill items, a win-win for the environment. Whatever seeds you choose, remember our fragile pollinator population and avoid pesticides. Let's leave the world in at least as good a shape as we found it and hopefully we'll leave it much better.

Source: davesgarden.com; author: Melody Rose, January 2022

We have three new advertisers, Karcz's Gardens and Greenhouse 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.

Karcz's Gardens LLC & Greenhouse

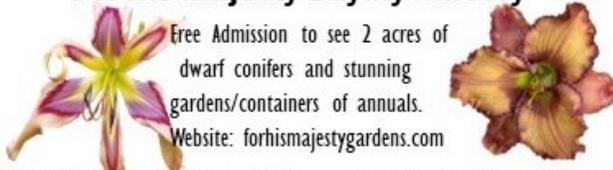
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Gardening TV Shows . . .

Can't be gardening outside? Here are some popular gardening TV shows that you might enjoy while relaxing on a cozy couch and enjoying hot cocoa or some other refreshment.

Gardeners' World: This show is available on Apple TV and Amazon Prime. It offers a wealth of practical advice, inspiring ideas, and the latest gardening trends.

The Instant Gardener: This dynamic gardening show is exclusively available on Apple TV. It transforms neglected spaces into beautiful gardens within a day.

Grow, Cook, Eat: This unique show is available on Amazon Prime and intertwines gardening with cooking. Each episode focuses on a particular vegetable, covering its cultivation and culminating in a cooking segment where a delicious dish is prepared using the featured vegetable.

The Victory Garden: This classic gardening show is available on Amazon Prime and is revered for its focus on sustainable and environmentally friendly gardening practices.

Big Dreams, Small Spaces: This gardening show is streaming on Netflix and specializes in transforming modest outdoor areas into beautiful, functional gardens.

Source of the above:
<https://ecocation.org/gardening-tv-shows/>

Go to <https://www.pbs.org/show/great-gardening/> and you can view full shows on topics such as pollinator gardens, fall harvest, watering wisdom, etc.

You can view past shows of **Wisconsin Gardener** at pbs.org/show/wisconsin-gardener/

Find episodes of **J. Schwanke's Life in Bloom** at pbs.org/video/life-in-bloom-eOgScD/ This show also broadcasts on PBS Create.

If you subscribe to PBS Passport, these shows are available there also.

Google **P. Allen Smith** to find episodes of his shows on U-Tube.

If you happen to have Roku, there are tons of gardening shows, many of them are British shows.

Gardening Programs on Radio . . .

Larry Meiller hosts the **Garden Talk** show on NPR Radio (WPNE (89.3 FM) every Friday at 11 a.m. (this show is rebroadcast on Saturdays at 6 a.m.

Catch **Outdoors with Rob Zimmer** on Fridays at 11 a.m. and Saturday mornings from 10-11 a.m. to learn about the beauty of Wisconsin (WHBY 103.5 FM, 1150 AM, 106.3 FM). Podcasts are available by searching Outdoors with Rob Zimmer - Google Podcasts.

Live Broadcasts and Webinars . . .

Go to melindamyers.com/audio-video. Click on AUDIO & VIDEO, then click on WATCH ON-DEMAND WEBINARS.

If you have a favorite garden program, tell us about it to add to this list!



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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>

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 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, communi- *
* ty 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. *
* * * * *

PBS Wisconsin Garden & Landscape—Expo, Feb. 9-11,
The Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI. This is a three-
day event celebrating the latest trends in gardening, land-
scaping, local foods and ecological sustainability. Now in
its 31st year, this event offers more than 150 free educa-
tional presentations, an exhibitor mall, UW-Madison
Extension Horticulture experts, a floral design competition,
PBS KIDS Backyard and more. All proceeds support PBS
Wisconsin. See wigardenexpo.com for all details.

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. (1/6/2024,
1/20/2024, 2/3/2024, 2/17/2024, 3/2/2024, 3/16/2024,
3/30/2024, 4/6/2024, 4/20/2024. Located in the Green Bay
Plaza at the corner of W. Mason and Military Avenue.

New Leaf Foods' Events: Seed Packing, Sat., Jan. 20,
9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Green Bay Botanical Garden, 2600
Larsen Road, to clean and pack seeds. Sat., Feb. 3, 9:30-
3 p.m. at the Brown County Central Library boardroom on
the 2nd floor to clean and pack seeds. Sign up for times at
<http://newleaffoods.org/events>.

**BCSL Winter Seed Sowing Workshop: Jumpstart Your
Spring Garden**, Sat., Jan 27, 1-3 p.m., Combined Meeting
Room 1 & 2 - CEN, 515 Pine Street. Many seeds need a
cold period to germinate, and gardeners can reuse plastic
containers to create a protected environment ideal for
sowing seeds outdoors in winter that will germinate as the
weather warms. Participants will learn what kinds of seeds
can be winter sown (natives and veggies), as well as when
and how to sow them, including seed stratification and
scarification. Following a presentation and demonstration,
participants can create their own mini greenhouses using
2-quart juice bottles. Some juice bottles as well as select
seeds and soil will be provided. Presented by Claudia
Schultz, Master Gardener Lead for the Native Locktenders
Garden in De Pere, along with Peggy Loritz, Annette
Weissbach and Kathy Amenson, also from Northeastern
Wisconsin Master Gardener Association.