

The Tiller

The Gardeners Club of Green Bay, Wisconsin



March 2024
Volume 42, No. 3



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



From our President ...

Hello My Fellow Gardeners,

We had a great presentation from Lindsey Bender on growing mushrooms. I found it to be very interesting along with many other members and guests. We had a very large number of guests at our meeting, and they were very interested in the program. Great turnout!

This month our own member, Debbie Schumacher, will be giving a presentation on starting seeds. This, I think, will be an outstanding program for this time of the year. You should be able to get a head start with your garden plants.

Next month we will have Cory Behnke doing a slideshow on pollinators which will be a great program.

At our February meeting, the Club gave a \$1,000 donation to the Green Bay

Community Gardens that CJ Janus was working with. Great job, CJ!

This month the board members will be updating the bylaws that are long overdue. Some of the wording is very outdated and needs updating. Please watch for the changes which will be available soon for members' approval.

So again, I have a short message for you, and I hope to see you all at the March meeting.

Carl Christensen, President

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Meeting Minutes—2/24/2024

The meeting was held at the Green Bay Botanical Garden. 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 a.m. He announced what the agenda would be for this meeting of The Gardeners Club of Green Bay and welcomed all who were in attendance. Several (29) guests as well as members of the club (18) were in attendance.

Carl introduced Rachel Quintas, Brown County Community Gardens Coordinator. The gardeners club 2024 budget included money for the Brown County Community Gardens to be used for the "Planting for a Purpose" program. CJ Janus presented a check for \$1,000 to Rachel Quintas. Rachel will keep us informed as to how the money is used and will also send us photos later this summer.

Carl then introduced our speaker/guest: Lindsey Bender. *See page 5 for a summary of the presentation.*

Gardeners club vice president, Veronica Geurts, was introduced to give more details about the garden walk that is taking place in July.

We broke up for 15 minutes at 10:50.

Rob Geurts announced that all present should sign the attendance sheet being passed around to be eligible for a drawing for a door prize. Brian Pierce won the door prize which was a \$20 gift certificate from Karcz's Gardens.

The meeting resumed at 11:05.

Lindsey donated a bag of mushroom growing medium (spawn) for another door prize. Max Wilkinson won this door prize!

Carl asked if there were any corrections to the minutes in January. No corrections and minutes approved.

Veronica was next to speak on the garden walk. She explained that six gardens have agreed to participate, and members of the gardener's club will assist at the garden walk. She had sign-up sheets for the various shifts of work hours during the garden walk.

Past garden club advisor and UW-Extension Horticulturalist, Paul Hartman, passed away recently. It was agreed after discussion that the gardeners club will be giving the family a \$100 memorial gift and sympathy card.

The next meeting on March 16 will feature Deb Schumacher presenting her program on seed starting and winter sowing. Deb has extensive experience in this and grows most of her own garden plants from seed. The March meeting will take place at the GBBG in the meeting room located in the lower level.

Carl asked if there was other business; motions were made to adjourn the meeting. Guests were asked to give their name and email address to Shirley Winnes if they were interested in receiving our monthly newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

The next board meeting is March 11, 2024 (Monday), to be held at Gallagher's Pizza on W. Mason St., Green Bay, starting at 11 a.m.

Mary Watts, Secretary

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

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Club and Member News ...

Welcome New Members!

Jason Switalski
1369 Cherry Street
Green Bay, WI 54301
920-366-9393
theeyeguy101@yahoo.com

Kellie DeBaker and
Travis Reinhart
1115 Berner Street
Green Bay, WI 54302

Jason's garden is featured on our
July garden walk!



Donation of \$1,000 Made to Community Gardens

CJ Janus presented a check to Rachel Quintas, Brown County Community Gardens Coordinator, to be used for their "Planting for a Purpose" program. Donations from our fundraisers are made to nonprofit organizations that participate in horticulture activities.



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: March 16 and April 27. 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.

Refreshments at Club Meetings

Our refreshments coordinator is Agnes Schussman. Sign-ups for March refreshments are CJ Janus and Debbie Schuette. We ask you to bring your own water, coffee, soda . . . which you can enjoy while visiting with members and guests.

Articles for next month's Tiller are due by April 10. Please send to Shirley Winnes at sawrrw@hotmail.com or saw301517@gmail.com.

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

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!

Photographer/Historian

We need a photographer who can record our activities of the club with photos to be used in the **Giller**, 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.

Sunshine

Thank you, CJ, for volunteering to fill this position!

2024: The Year of the Cicada

This spring, two different broods of cicadas—one that lives on a 13-year cycle and the other that lives on a 17-year cycle—will emerge at the same time from underground in a rare, synchronized event that last occurred in 1803.

Billions of the winged insects will make an appearance across the Midwest and the Southeast, beginning in some places in late April, for a raucous mating ritual that tends to inspire fascination and annoyance in equal measure.

This year's dual emergence is a once-in-a-lifetime event. While any given 13-year brood and 17-year brood can occasionally emerge at the same time, each specific pair will see their cycles aligned only once every 221 years. What's more, this year's cicada groups, known as Brood XIII and Brood XIX, happened to make their homes adjacent to one another, with a narrow overlap in central Illinois.



The insects themselves are harmless to humans, but with billions of them set to emerge from underground, it can make for a noisy few weeks before the cicadas reach the end of their life cycles. Once that happens, it can also mean a lot of insect carcasses scattered on the ground.

Source: NBCnews.com, Author: Denise Chow

Editor's Note: Our northeastern Wisconsin area should not experience this phenomena to the extent as southern Wisconsin and Illinois. In the past, Chicagoans used shovels to pick up the carcasses. In our area, we will hear and perhaps see the annual cicadas known as the "dog day cicada" during the warm months of July and August.

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The Plant Doctor



Intro to Growing Mushrooms February Program

by *Mary Watts*

Our speaker, Lindsey Bender, is the mycologist at Field and Forest Products in Peshtigo where she focuses on research and development. She enjoys spending much of her free time birding, gardening, camping, and traveling.

Linsy presented an amazing PowerPoint show to describe the methods, greenhouses, and containers which can be used to grow mushrooms. She went into great detail about this subject. For instance, the Blewit mushroom uses compost to grow mushrooms and they grow best in the fall. The growing of mushrooms and plants together also works very well. They use the same growing medium as the garden. The tomatoes grown with mushrooms produced more fruits. The members and guests all received a Field and Forest Products 2023 Spawn & Supply Catalog to view as she lectured.

Log inoculation was explained in detail. The PowerPoint slides showed logs being drilled, which are then planted with mushroom spores. They have about 6,000 logs on their property. They have community events to involve the public to drill and fill logs for mushrooms.

After inoculation, you wait a while to see mushrooms growing. Sometimes, up to a year for Shitake mushrooms. The Oyster mushrooms have a different growing cycle. Lindsey explained in detail the requirements for each variety of mushrooms as they appeared in her presentation.

Lindsey also showed indoor growing of mushrooms. Indoor growing requires water, plastic for holding in humidity, the correct temperature, fresh air, and light.

Growing in straw was explained by Lindsay, and many photos were shown to demonstrate this method.

Commercial growing of mushrooms was also described in detail. Blocks of spores of varieties can be purchased and grown commercially.

Morel mushroom slides were particularly interesting to the audience. Lindsey asked if anyone had seen or gathered morel mushrooms, and several people had done so.



Questions from the audience were taken and answered by Lindsey in detail. She really knows her subject!

Q. What type of wax can be used in this process? The wax used can be a variety—but it should be adjusted with mineral oil to keep it soft.

Q. How long do spores/spawns stay good? Several months, up to 6 months, in refrigeration.

Q. Shitake grows on a log and they're having trouble with animals eating them. First, Lindsey identified the types of animals who may eat them: deer, squirrels, mice, chickens, etc. Then how to prevent this.

Q. Sawdust blocks: there was mold on the second fruiting: how to deal with it. This happens sometimes indoors, so depending on the variety, wipe down the blocks, clean the area. Outdoors is best.

Q. Chaga mushrooms brought in by participant: These are medicinal, and Lindsey expanded on this topic. The Eastern world has used the mushroom for medicinal purposes for a very long time. The Western world is just getting into this. Lindsey used the question to explain medicinal uses for the Chaga mushroom. There are compounds in mushrooms that benefit and are in research to develop its uses.

Q. Participant explained using hot water to tincture the mushrooms for medicinal purposes. Lindsey explained this in detail.

Gardeners Club President Carl Christensen asked for the speaker to stay to answer questions while we took a break before the business meeting.

Photos above are of Lindsey Bender and her presentation of spawn growing medium as a door prize.

What Is It? Shamrock? Clover? Wood Sorrel? Oxalis? Trifolium? - It's Complicated!

We are familiar, especially at this time of the year, with shamrocks, the three-leaved plant representing the Holy Trinity, with each leaf depicting the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Modern four-leaf shamrocks have added God's Grace as the fourth leaf.

The word "shamrock" comes from the Irish word Seamróg, meaning "little clover" or "young clover," but there isn't a consensus on which species of clover is the "true" shamrock. In fact, there are a few plants that go by this nickname!



In Ireland, the plants that are most often associated with the name "shamrock" are the suckling clover (*Trifolium dubium*) and the white clover (*Trifolium repens*). Both clovers are native to Europe but can be found throughout the world today. Their genus name, *Trifolium*, means "having three leaves"—an appropriate description!



Plants called shamrock include the wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) of the family *Oxalidaceae*, or any of various plants of the pea family (*Fabaceae*), including white clover (*Trifolium repens*), suckling clover (*T. dubium*), and black medic (*Medicago lupulina*). Wood sorrel is shipped from Ireland to other countries in great quantity for St. Patrick's Day.

Wood sorrel looks very similar to clover, though the plants are not related. Tropical relatives of wood sorrel are often sold in stores as "shamrock" houseplants since they're better suited to the indoor environment than clover species.

The last piece of the shamrock puzzle is a houseplant that also goes by the name "shamrock." It usually crops up in grocery stores and nurseries around St. Patrick's Day. This plant is not related to clover (the "true" shamrock) but is in the same genus as wood sorrel (*Oxalis*).



Sometimes called False Shamrock, *Oxalis regnellii* are native to South America. Pictured at right, they have heart-shaped leaves instead of the clover's oval-shaped leaves. Purple Shamrock (*Oxalis triangularis*) is a subspecies of *O. regnellii* that hails from Brazil. It has large, handsome purple leaves and pale lavender-pink flowers.



Lucky Leaf or Lucky Clover (*Oxalis tetraphylla*) is also known as four-leaved sorrel. Native to Mexico, it has four split green leaves with a dark maroon eye. The trumpet-shaped flowers of 'Alba' are white, and 'Iron Cross' has pink flowers.



Oxalis can be grown outdoors in the spring and summer, but they also make for great houseplants year-round. They like bright, indirect light and tend to bloom in fall, winter, or spring. The whole plant is photophilic, meaning the leaves and flowers close up at night and open wide again in the morning.

Since they are grown from bulbs, let them dry out a bit between waterings to prevent rot. Don't fret if your indoor *Oxalis* loses all its leaves in summer. It isn't dead. It just needs a dormant period, so let it dry out and put the pot in a dark place until it decides to resume growth in a few weeks. As soon as new leaves appear, bring the plant into the light and resume watering. These plants are low-maintenance and long-lived.

Source: <https://www.almanac.com/clover-shamrocks-and-oxalis-whats-difference>

More from the editor:



These are the bulbs (corms) of *Oxalis* plants. Plant one inch deep outside or in containers and cover with soil and water in. Plant them vertically with the narrow end pointing up. They can be cut in half with the bottom half planted cut side up. Another source indicates they can lay sideways, upright, or upside down—doesn't matter, they will still grow.

For more information about clover, see p. 7.

The Value of Clover



In recent years, the idea of growing clover has been making a comeback. White clover (*Trifolium repens*) is well known for crowding out broadleaf weeds while growing harmoniously with grass. It will thrive in areas that are poorly drained or

too shady for a conventional lawn, making it a great grass alternative.

As a legume, clovers have the ability to convert nitrogen into fertilizer using bacteria in their root system (a process called “nitrogen fixation”), practically eliminating the need for additional fertilization.

Despite today’s push for perfectly green lawns (which often involves a lot of chemicals), clover was not always viewed as a “weed.” The

University of Minnesota Extension Service points out that, until relatively recently, it was standard practice to include clover seed in lawn seed mixes:

“Until the 1950s, clover was included in lawn seed mixes, as it was regarded as a prestigious lawn plant. It may be considered an attractive, low-maintenance ground cover that is soft to walk on, mows well and will fill in thin spots in a yard.”

Today, it seems clover is returning as a more eco-friendly lawn alternative. Since it is nitrogen-fixating, it can supply its own nutrients to poor soil. Overseeding clover seed into your existing lawn is an easy way to establish a clover lawn. For lawns, the most popular is the white clover because it is relatively low growing, tolerates close mowing, and outcompetes weeds.

Source: <https://www.almanac.com/clover-shamrocks-and-oxalis-whats-difference>

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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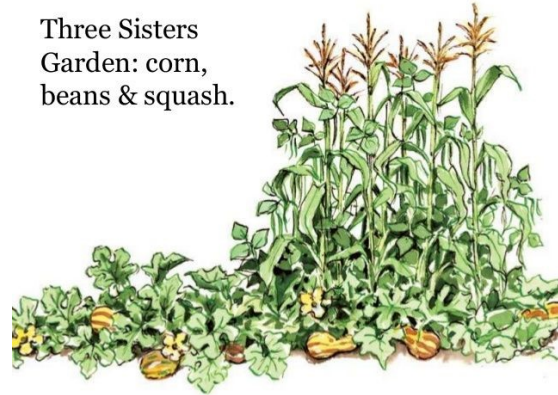


The Gardeners Club of Green Bay

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

Three Sisters
Garden: corn,
beans & squash.



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.



Events of Interest to Gardeners

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

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*

GBBG - T.I.L.L. Talk*: Garden Trip to the Pacific Northwest, 03/27/24, Noon - 1 p.m. Dale Bartel, GBBG member. Discover observations and reflections on a recent trip through gardens in Seattle, Vancouver Island, and Vancouver, British Columbia. In this Garden-sponsored trip, we also took the Sea to Sky Highway to Whistler. Some gardens we will dive into include the Chihuly Glass Sculpture Garden, Butchart Gardens, and a Chinese Garden. Come join us in an adventure through the Pacific Northwest! *Free/Garden Member & General Public*

GBBG - Three Sisters Garden, 04/09/2024, Noon - 2:30 p.m., **Kathleen Ratteree, Ed.D., Sweet Willow Herbals & Café.** Corn, beans, and squash. The Three Sisters. An ancient trio that has sustained Indigenous communities for millennia. Join Dr. Kathleen Ratteree (First Nations Education, UWGB) as she shares what these amazing plants have taught her and what they can teach all of us about traditional ecological knowledge, climate resilient agriculture, and plant-human relationships. Seeds and growing instructions will be provided. Limit one seed package per participant. *\$24/Garden Member; \$29/General Public*

GBBG - Earth Day: The Winged Garden, 04/22/2024, 6-7:30 p.m., **Rob Zimmer, Rob Zimmer Outdoors.** Tips to turn your yard into a butterfly oasis. We'll cover butterfly identification, host plants for monarchs and many other butterfly species, best nectar plants and more. *Participants will leave with a packet of wildflower seeds to grow at home. \$13/Garden Member; \$16/General Public*

Reserve your spot at GBBG. Visit their website at gbbg.org or call 920-490-9457.

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