

The Tiller

The Gardeners Club of Green Bay, Wisconsin



November-
December 2023
Volume 41, No. 11



Our 2024 officers were installed at the November 15 Harvest Banquet.

Secretary: Mary Watts
Treasurer: Barbara Kamps
Vice President: Veronica Geurts
Past Co-Presidents: Patti Nellis and CJ Janus
President: Carl Christensen

We won't be meeting again until January 20.
We will meet on Saturdays for the months of
January through April.

In the meantime,
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

From our Co-Presidents . . .



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

Greetings and Gratitude Garden Club Members!

We had a wonderful Harvest Banquet! Thank you to everyone who helped. Thanks to all who generously donated great items for the silent auction and thanks to those who generously purchased them. It was great to have Marlene back to manage it!

It takes a little army for a club to succeed, and I am thankful to everyone—but especially thankful for my co-president Patti and VP Veronica for all their work and generosity to the club. They made doing all the work this year so much more enjoyable!

We couldn't have accomplished as much as we did this year without the hours of help from Shirley Winnes—our Communications Director Extraordinaire! She shared so much info with us newbies and guided us—especially in getting our tax-exempt status back right before our plant sale. And she did a ton of work on our survey, the Tiller, our website, Facebook, our new rack card, and flyers for the fundraisers and innumerable other tasks . . . Please give her some appreciation for being the foundation of our club for over 20 years!

Who would have ever guessed in January that we'd make \$6,000 on our awesome plant sale and fabulous garden walk? And we were so happy to welcome 13 new members this year! We accomplished a lot and have a lot to be thankful for. I wish the best for our new officers—thank you for volunteering.

Have a wonderful holiday season! We hope to see you all at our first meeting next year on Saturday, Jan. 20th, at 10 a.m. at GBBG!

CJ Janus, Co-president

Patti's message—see page 4



Meeting Minutes - 10/25/2023

Our meeting was held at GBBG at 5:30 p.m. with 17 members and one guest attending. Our guest speaker was Doug Hartman, Horticulture Program Assistant at the Brown County Extension. He helps people with landscape and garden problems. For help you can email horticulturehelp@browncountywi.gov, call 920-391-4615, or go to Room 113 at 2019 Technology Drive.

CJ Janus opened our business meeting welcoming our guest and new member Kathy Anderson. September's minutes were approved, and Carl Christensen gave the treasurer's report in Sue Rohan's absence.

CJ had to sell a package of bamboo stakes that were not needed at the Wildlife Sanctuary planting. A get-well card for Barb Kamps who had surgery went around for members to sign. Carl handed out information on the benefits of belonging to TGOA. If our club makes a scholarship donation, TGOA will match it up to \$1,000. Carl would like to see us bring back to our club the youth gardening program.

Banquet: Patti Nellis is making place cards to put at each table. Those who would like to help her finish them can come to her home. Carl collected money for the dinner and dues for rejoining our club in 2024.

Election of new officers: Voting was done by ballot. Nominated were Carl Christensen for president and Mary Watts for secretary. Members could write in a vote for themselves or vote for someone else. Ballots were counted by Rose Borowitz and Diana Buss. Carl won for president and Mary won for secretary.

Seeds: Patti brought seeds from Seed Savers for anyone to take home. The rest of them will be at the Brown County Library. We can bring seeds there if we have some. CJ brought pink poppy seeds to give away.

Appreciation cards: Patti had cards available to take. She spoke of the responses that she has been getting from those that she has passed out.

Brag night: We had the pleasure of seeing beautiful plants from the yards of CJ Janus, Patti Nellis, Shirley Winnes, and Mary Watts.

Our meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m. Rob Geurts won the door prize, and refreshments were served by Patti Nellis and Debbie Schumacher.

Agnes Schussman, Secretary



2024 Dues

Dues are due! Please keep your membership current so that your treasurer can submit funds to TGOA Headquarters to keep your information current on the membership list.

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

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Address: _____

Check Applicable Classification:

_____ Individual Membership = \$25

_____ Family Membership = \$35

_____ Youth Membership = \$10

_____ Current Life Member = \$10 (local dues)

_____ Purchase of Life Membership = \$200 + \$10 (local dues)

Make check payable to: The Gardeners Club of Green Bay and send to:

Sue Rohan
448 Gwynn Street
Green Bay, WI 54301

The Gardeners Club of Green Bay Officers and Chairpersons

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Sunshine

—————Open—————

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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!

Messages from our Treasurer, Sue Rohan ...

☺ Thank you for all donations and purchases at the silent auction at our annual banquet. We made \$329!

📄 Dues for 2024 are due—if not already paid, please complete the form on p. 2 and mail with your check before the end of 2023.

📄 If you have any outstanding bills to be paid, please mail them to Sue Rohan as soon as possible so that we can prepare the year-end financial report.

TGOA National News

TGOA will match horticulture scholarship donations up to \$1,000.

January 8 Board Meeting

This meeting is open to all members. Members may attend as guests but only board members may vote on motions made during the meeting. Our executive board is made up of the president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and past co-presidents. Please make any requests to be put on the agenda prior to the meeting to Carl Christensen, president (920-606-8807 or c.christensen14@outlook.com). The agenda includes planning for the new year and reviewing of 2023 financial report and preparation of the 2024 budget.

The meeting will be held at Gallagher's Pizza, 2655 West Mason Street at 11 a.m. on January 8. The lunch buffet is available beginning at 11 a.m.



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

We will return to meeting Saturday mornings starting **January 20, 2024**.

The January program will feature Darren Vollmar, who is a small-scale organic farmer, interested in permaculture, organic produce, and regenerative business/agriculture as well as sustainable energy. Meeting dates have been scheduled dependent upon GBBG and speaker availability—please mark your calendar for these dates: January 20, February 24, March 16, April 27.

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.

Articles for the January Tiller are due by January 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!

Co-presidents' messages continued from page 1

Patti Nellis writes . . .

I wish to explain to our membership how CJ and I decided to divide up the responsibilities of a co-presidency (no bylaws for this kind of office—never done before)! I had refused the nomination for the presidency—mostly because of my difficulty with public speaking, but I also understood our garden club would fold without leadership. So many of us have formed such great relationships—fond memories of the camaraderie we developed while doing community projects, fundraising, and sharing of gardening experiences!

CJ reluctantly accepted the role of being the main spokesperson at the meetings, and I took on the responsibilities to plan and execute all the programs for the year. I soon realized the programs needed to reflect our higher purpose of our club—I felt our education programs should reflect current issues that are the reality in our present time that will reflect into the future—because we need to be examples of good gardening practices—for us to teach—we first have to learn!

Little did I know what an incredible learning experience and how many exceptional new horticulture concepts and people I would meet as I was searching for program ideas and speakers!

Just to let you know—leadership cannot only come as a spokesperson but can be shown by program planning that reflects our club's higher purpose! Educational program topics that we choose can encourage us to practice more earth-friendly gardening. But the same program can help our fundraisers, contribute to our community service projects, promote engagement of our new and older members, AND advertise our club.

This little “garden club” has the power (by good gardening and example) to be part of the solution to many of the horrific problems our Mother Earth is experiencing right now—e.g., global warming. We could do seed saving to help protect our food sources in the future. Severe immigration issues—these people have to eat—we need to teach good gardening practices, promote garden space, donate plants, so they may help feed themselves!

Let us be known—not only as the garden club that has awesome “garden walks”—but also for the good work we do for our community through horticulture!

We so hope that our club will continue with the new programs introduced this year to help meet our obligation for doing community service through gardening: (1) The Good Garden Neighbor appreciation cards. These create so much goodwill and fun. (2) The support of the Community Garden Program—especially the “Planting for a Purpose” endeavor to feed the hungry. (3) Support the Brown County Library

Seed Saver program—so important to our future food supply. (4) Support the local composting company that creates “black gold” for our gardens from food waste.

Despite all the challenges at the beginning of the year—low membership, having lost our tax-exempt status, resignations of two treasurers—we pulled together to build our club into a successful, purposeful member of the horticulture community. So many great members to thank—thank you for all your efforts. Hurrah!

Patti Nellis
2023 Co-President



From Patti Nellis: “A big **Thank You** to our CJ Janus for all her dedication and hard work for our club's commitment to plant beds at the Wildlife Sanctuary and all those who helped her! She is amazing!”

Editor's note: This photo is from the October 6 planting. CJ is marking the spot where a pagoda dogwood will be planted next spring.

From the editor . . .

Having joined the garden club in 1999 after retiring as a full-time NWTC instructor, I took on the editor's position in the year 2000. It has been a joy, and so many friendships and memories have been formed over the years. I encourage new members to volunteer—make new friends, give yourself a sense of purpose, serve your community, improve your mind and body . . . so many good things to be gained!

We needed new life in our club especially after our loss of a year due to COVID. Thank you to CJ, Patti, and Veronica, our officers who were ambitious, conscientious, brave, and creative to light a spark for a very successful year. It also takes a team to get the work done; thank you to everyone who helped our officers carry out the activities of this year.

Thank you

Harvest Banquet 2023

Commemorative bricks were presented to our five garden walk hosts Veronica and Rob Geurts, Karen and Carl VandenHeuvel (granddaughter, Audrey) who participated in our Harvest Banquet.

Dan and Lisa Rocheleau, Kitty and Dan Doersch, and Leo and Eileen Bordeleau received their bricks in their beautiful gardens this fall.



Always an opportunity for conversation—Deb Schumacher, Diana Buss, and Sue Rohan.



Here's Sue Rohan reading from the installation notes to induct Veronica Geurts as vice president.



Delightful donations were made for our silent auction—nonhardy bulbs, decorative garden objects, apples, brownies, toffee, wine, and more.



At the greeters' table: Laurretta Lambert, Patti Nellis, Rose Borowitz, and Marlene Bergum.

Survey Results

Here is continuing information about the results from the survey conducted this summer. Here are responses to the "Comment" section of the survey:

Plant Sale: I sent four friends, and they were well pleased and would definitely attend another sale next year. They commented positively about location, helpful volunteers, etc.

Getting new members is really important because the old ones are getting burned out.

We have done a good job fund raising this year. I think we should determine ahead of time where our funds will be spent before proceeding with another fundraiser. Prepare a budget?

Thanks for this survey and the chance to offer some input on this garden club. The officers are doing a great job, in my opinion, of managing their jobs. Each member should receive an agenda for the meetings, This would make for a group who is more prepared to share input!

Please make effort to make meetings more relaxed and friendly and fun—maybe appointing someone (long-time) member to be a mentor to a new member—so have someone to ask ? during or after meetings!

Thank you for all the hard work.

Officers and board members must be knowledgeable about what can and cannot be done by nonprofit organizations and guide the membership accordingly. In short, exact words from IRS.gov: To be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, an organization must be organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes set forth in section 501(c)(3), and none of its earnings may inure to any private shareholder or individual. In addition, it may not be an action organization, i.e., it may not attempt to influence legislation as a substantial part of its activities and it may not participate in any campaign activity for or against political candidates.

The survey also requested topics for future programs. Here are those responses:

Sorry-I can't think of anything at this time.

Native plants – pollinators helping them.

I think demonstrations are always popular.

Native habitat restoration.



A spring/summer bus trip to tour gardens and a stop at a nursery for purchasing plants! Maybe combine with another club to get enough participants and to cover the cost of this activity. (2) Have a combined meeting with another club—we attend their meeting on their normal date, then alternate—they attend our meeting on our regular date. (3) Do a hands-on project with Swanstone Gardens or Rose-Hill (if they still do the hypertufa troughs).

Landscape design is what most new members select. I think we had a good variety this year.

Plant problems or solution time at the end of meetings.

Have someone from the Wild Ones come and tell us what they are up to. We probably could get someone from the Br. Cty. Ext. to talk about what they do, or a topic that we want to know about. I would like to learn more about climate change and how it's affecting our lives. About how pesticides and herbicides are changing the way things will be in the future. What new bugs are around that weren't around here years ago.

Propagating plants. Trees. New perennials. Making best use of a bountiful harvest.

Gardening in small spaces; raised bed gardening; and gardening for seniors or handicapped individuals.

(1) Update on methods of making our gardens more sustainable;
(2) update on more earth-friendly practices to fight garden diseases and pests.

Judy Knutson

Botanical Garden

Thank you to the 18 respondents to our survey this year. We have a task ahead of us to plan our 2024 programs.

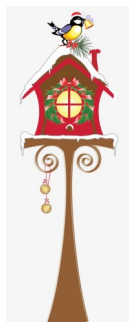
Shirley Winnes, Editor



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The Plant Doctor



The Best Things to Feed Backyard Birds During the Winter

When feeding birds in winter there are lots of options for good foodstuffs.

“Obviously it helps for the food to be as calorific as possible and seeds, nuts and fat are best of all,” writes Monty Don on his blog.



We've rounded up some of the best things to put on your bird table, hang in a tree, or scatter on the ground when feeding birds in winter.

- **HIGH FAT** options such as nuts, lard, and suet are good choices for winter as birds will benefit from the additional energy they provide.
- **BLACK SUNFLOWER SEEDS** are a one of the most popular seeds among a wide range of birds. If you are only putting one type of food on your feeder, this is the one to go for. It is loved by lots of birds including northern cardinals, tufted titmice, house finches, nuthatches, and jays.
- **BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEEDS** are also popular. The difference between sunflower seeds and black oil sunflower seeds is that black oil sunflower seeds are larger and have more calories per seed, making them a highly nutritious meal for your feathered-friends.
- **CHEESE** is a great choice for the same reason as above and is popular with a wide range of birds. Opt for a grated mild cheddar.
- **MIXED SEEDS** are a great overall option and an easy way to start feeding birds in winter. However, “avoid mixed bird seed containing mostly oats and milo - birds don't eat these grains,” advises Kathee Muzin, founder of *The Joy of Birdwatching*.
- **FRUIT** like apples and pears are a great addition to the bird feeder. Even badly bruised fruit will go down well. Chop into small chunks so it's easier for smaller birds to enjoy.
- **PEANUT BUTTER** is a high calorie food that is loved by lots of different birds. However, it must be unsalted as the salt can harm the birds. There are specific peanut butter feeders available, or

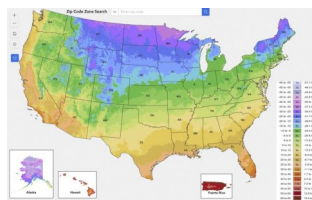
you can spread it into the crevices of a large pinecone and then hang it from a tree. There are lots of bird-friendly types of peanut butter available on the market too.

- **MEALWORMS** are not the most attractive type of bird feeder, however, they are undoubtedly a favorite for backyard birds, especially chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers, cardinals and the American robin. Live mealworms are preferred and have a higher nutritional content, however, dried mealworms are easier to store and won't crawl off the bird feeder.
- **CRACKED CORN** is a versatile foodstuff for feeding birds in winter and is often found in bird seed mixes.
- **WHITE PROSO MILLET** can come as seeds or as sprays. Hanging sprays from a bird table or on a branch of a tree gives your birds even more variety. Alternatively, you can fill a tubular feeder with the seeds. These are a particular favorite of sparrows.
- **NIGER SEEDS** are the favorite treat for goldfinches. Hang a specific niger seed feeder in addition to your main bird feeders and welcome these colorful birds into your garden.

Source:

<https://www.homesandgardens.com/advice/feeding-birds-in-winter>

Editor's Note: This is just a portion of this article—go to the site above for complete information on feeding birds.



Updated Plant Hardiness Zone Map

This year the map got its first update in more than a decade, and the outlook for many gardens looks warmer.

The 2023 map is about 2.5 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than the 2012 map across the contiguous U.S., says Chris Daly, director of the PRISM Climate Group at Oregon State University that jointly developed the map with the USDA.

It's called the U.S. Department of Agriculture's "plant hardiness zone map," and it's the national standard for gardeners and growers to figure out which plants are most likely to survive the coldest winter temperatures in their location.

Here's a website to view the map:

<https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/>



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>

* **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, commu- *
 * nity 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. *
 * *****

Events of Interest to Gardeners



GBBG Garden of Lights

Be dazzled by more than 350,000 sparkling lights transformed into spectacular scenes of nature!

EVENT DATES

November 24-26
November 30-December 3
December 7-10, 14-17, 21-23, & 26-30
4:30-9 pm

Closed December 24, 25 & 31

<https://www.gbbg.org/events/wps-garden-of-lights/>

! SCAM ALERT

Please do not purchase Brown County Community Gardens clothing or products off of any website.

Brown County Community Gardens does not have any clothing or products for sale.

