SNOW & GLOW AT THE GARDEN
Since their inception in 1997, the Green & Gold Hosta Society has maintained one of the first gardens that our visitors see when they arrive. Their members are typically in the Garden weekly to care for the hostas — from weeding and watering to deadheading and mulching. This group is committed to donating and adding new, different and unusual hosta varieties as well as companion plants. This year they’ve also expanded the visitor experience by including hostas that are American Hosta Growers Association winners, which have gone through rigorous trialing and durability testing. The Green & Gold Hosta Society goes above and beyond to make their hosta garden here one of the best in Northeast Wisconsin.

If you’ve visited the Garden, you’ve likely had a conversation with Linda Schulze who volunteers in the Fischer Visitor Center. A full-time employee at a local bank, Linda still helps out at our front desk and volunteers during WPS Garden of Lights and other special events. She engages guests and shares her Garden knowledge with enthusiasm and a smile. She also volunteered nearly every other Saturday this summer during our popular Nature Connects exhibit. Linda has been a valuable ambassador since 2010, and we’re so thankful she’s here.

Laura Davister has volunteered at the Garden since 2012 and has accumulated more than 650 hours! She volunteers in the Fischer Visitor Center helping guests when they arrive at the Garden. For the last three years she’s also hand crafted beautiful items for our TasteBud Silent Auction and volunteers multiple nights during WPS Garden of Lights with her husband, Clarence. Laura also assists with special projects and mailings. We’re so fortunate to have Laura on our volunteer team.

Jan LaSota has been leading school tours and story time at the Garden for eight years and she’s been invaluable! She helps during our Girl Scout Days teaching nearly 90 scouts about nature and assists with our outreach programs. She has even gone beyond her comfort zone to lead butterfly tours with second graders as well as after school tours for elementary students. Jan also trains new volunteers by sharing her experiences first-hand. We praise Jan for her continued support of the Garden and its littlest visitors!
The Garden would not be what it is today without all of the pretty flowers, and all the pretty flowers would be smothered by weeds if not for our dedicated horticulture volunteers! **Barb Perrus** is here on a weekly basis, often multiple days per week. No matter the weather, the work conditions or the number of weeds, Barb is here with a smile on her face and an overwhelming passion to get the job done, often inspiring and motivating the rest of our volunteer crew. Our staff know and trust her to do a thorough job, no matter the project. It’s an honor to have Barb as part of our team.

**Robert “Bob” Stark** is typically one of the first to arrive and gets to work, no matter the job. What makes Bob unique are his multiple talents including his horticulture degree and expertise from working at the Domes in Milwaukee. Bob kindly shares his knowledge and teaches us about new weeds and plants, and also helps with planting trees, shrubs, mulching and hauling brush. Bob also enjoys maintenance projects, setting up for WPS Garden of Lights and many other events. Through his involvement with the Green Bay Area Great Lakes Sports Fisherman Club, he keeps our pond stocked with fish for various youth fishing experiences. You name it, Bob’s done it, without complaint or hesitation.

**Mary Borley** has been an invaluable part of our volunteer team this year! When we changed the entrance point for wedding guests on Saturdays throughout the summer, Mary helped direct them through the donor gate in order to ease visitor traffic in the Fischer Visitor Center. She greeted guests with a friendly smile and a warm welcome, even during hot summer days, all while directing them to the correct ceremony site in the Garden. Toward the end of our outdoor season, she even handled angry bees! We truly appreciate her time and commitment to our wedding guests this summer.

**Tom Aerts** is a staple at the Garden, to say the least. He’s been volunteering for more than 10 years and helps during many of our events including Fall Family Festival, Garden Fair, Nature Connects, Sanimax Concerts and the Schneider Family Grand Concert Series. He also signs up for a number of shifts during our largest event, WPS Garden of Lights, without a second thought. We appreciate Tom’s willingness to open his heart to us, his homemade treats and giant hugs after a long event. His dedication and commitment mean so much to all of us and to our visitors here at the Garden.
Event Highlights

NEW! 2018 Light Display: Veggie Tails
Get your veggie fix with our new “Veggie Tails” display! Located along the Partnership Garden below the Belvedere Hillside, this garden patch is made with almost 10,000 lights and features carrots, corn, pumpkins and more, including a furry friend stopping for a quick snack.

Photos with Santa
Every Friday, Saturday & Sunday before Christmas | 5–9 pm
Santa is making his rounds to check in on every child and has not forgotten about our visitors at the Garden! Be sure to stop by to see him and get your photo taken by Ambrosius Studio.

Meet & Greet with Mrs. Claus & Letters to Santa
Sunday, November 25 | 5–8 pm
Every Saturday before Christmas | 5–8 pm
Come inside to meet Mrs. Claus! Bring your letters to Santa or write one at the Garden to place in his North Pole Mailbox. Visit with Santa’s two elves to receive a free candy cane.

G-Gagers Train Club Display
Every Event Night | 5–9 pm
Enjoy a festive model train exhibit sure to delight everyone in your family.

Family Night
Sunday, November 25 | 5–9 pm
Children 12 and under in the same household receive FREE walking admission with one paid adult. Wagon rides are an additional $5 per person (child & adult). Discount available at the door the night of the event only.

Join Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elves for a night of family fun in our winter wonderland! Families can write a letter to Santa, visit with Mrs. Claus, get their picture taken with Santa and receive candy canes from his elves. Dazzling winter-themed Face Painting by Lori and balloon twisting by Mischief & Magic Entertainment will be available for purchase.

Glow Necklaces
Multi-colored, flashing glow necklaces with snowflakes and holiday lights will be available at the door, the concessions building and WPS Trellis Gift Shop for $8.

For event details or to purchase tickets, visit GBBG.org/Lights.

Members
Sundays & December 26-30
Member Pricing
Garden Members Only | $3
Horse-drawn Wagon Tour | $8

Discount and benefits only available on Sundays and December 26-30 at the door. Cannot be combined with other offers. Must present valid membership card.

In addition to discounted admission, members will receive a coupon at the door for FREE hot chocolate or popcorn on Sundays and December 26-30.

Volunteers
Volunteers Needed
What better way to get into the holiday spirit than by volunteering for WPS Garden of Lights? We need your help to fill more than 1,050 volunteer shifts over the course of the event. Volunteering is fun and, best of all, volunteers receive FREE admission to enjoy the beauty of the Garden the night of their shift. This is a great opportunity for families and friends to volunteer together, corporate groups to support their community or for students to fulfill required service hours.

For more information, or to sign up to volunteer, contact our Membership & Volunteer Coordinator at 920.491.3691 ext. 105 or volunteer@gbbg.org. You can also sign up online at GBBG.org/Lights.
Adult & Family Education

Throughout the winter, the Garden offers programs for adults, youth and families. These programs include:

**Family Programs**
Hands-on Garden Sprouts Preschool Program and snowshoe hikes.

**Adult Programs**
Workshops related to gardening, cooking, crafting and more.

**Winter Discovery S.E.E.D. Packs**
Get to know the winter garden with your family! Check out a S.E.E.D. Pack to help you Search, Explore, Experience and Discover the Garden. Within the pack are short lessons accompanied by hands-on activities that will introduce you to concepts of winter ecology and help you explore our winter features while developing a deeper appreciation for the natural world.

S.E.E.D. Packs are available during our regular business hours and can be checked out for no additional charge after paid admission.

**Snowshoe**
Experience a winter adventure by exploring the Garden on snowshoes! Starting in January, snowshoes are available to use onsite and are free with Garden admission. We have sizes suitable for kids (6 years and older) and adults, as well as marked paths in the Garden.

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**Save the Dates**
Coming Summer 2019

Butterflies and Blooms

A live butterfly experience showcasing native pollinators and the plants they love

**Summer Camp Preview**
Kids ages 6–12 can participate in half-day, day-long or week-long camps featuring games, activities, crafts, songs and more. Here’s a sneak peek at adventures that lie ahead this summer:

**Outdoor Adventures**
Learn more about the adventure sports of letterboxing, geocaching and backpacking. At the end of the week, test your skills during an exciting adventure race.

**Story Book Adventure: The Lorax**
Bring the adventures of Dr. Seuss’s book, *The Lorax*, to life! Explore the story through games and projects while learning about the effects of pollution and the importance of trees. Plant a Dr. Seuss–inspired garden to take home.

**Butterfly Biologist**
Become a butterfly biologist as you collect and identify caterpillars and butterflies at the Garden, discover which plants they love and learn how to attract them at home.

**KIDchen Cooking**
Tie up your aprons and be ready for hands-on cooking in the KIDchen with Bridget Lowery of 416 Cuisine! Mix and munch many delicious recipes as you learn kitchen etiquette, knife skills and the importance of eating the rainbow.

Watch our website for more details and dates to come!
December

**Winter Calendar**

**Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays | 5-9 pm**

### November 23–25, 30

**Family Night: Kids Free with one paid adult admission. Discount at the door only.**

#### December 1–2

#### December 7–9

#### December 14–16

#### December 21–23

**Closed Dec. 24 & 25**

#### Wednesday–Sunday December 26–30

- **Walking Tour**
  - $10/Adults (13 & up)
  - $5/Children (3–12)
  - Free/Children (2 & under)
- **Horse-drawn Wagon Tour**
  - $15/Adults (13 & up)
  - $10/Children (3–12)
  - Free/Children (2 & under)

**GBBG Member Pricing**

Every Sunday & December 26–30: Discount at the door only.

- **Walking Tour**
  - $3/GBBG Member
- **Horse-drawn Wagon Tour**
  - $8/GBBG Member

*Horse-drawn Wagon Tour includes Walking Tour.

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**Don’t delay!**

Register right away as classes may fill quickly. We also value our instructors’ time, so classes may risk being canceled due to low early enrollment. Thank you!

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**Friday, December 14**

**Garden Sprouts: Gingerbread Fun**

(YF/R) | 10–11:30 am

GBBG Education Volunteer

$8/GBBG Member

$13/Non-Member

Price per one adult and one child, age 3-5. Additional children half price.

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**Tuesday, January 15**

**Homemade Pasta**

(W/R) | 6–8 pm

Bridgett Lowery, 416 Cuisine

$32/GBBG Member

$38/Non-Member

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**Thursday, January 24**

**Insect Threats**

(L/R) | 3–4 pm

Lindsay Hendricks, GBBG Assistant Director of Horticulture & Kate Miller, GBBG Horticulturist

$5/GBBG Member

$7/Non-Member

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**Friday, January 18**

**Garden Sprouts: Silly Snowmen**

(YF/R) | 10–11:30 am

GBBG Education Volunteer

$8/GBBG Member

$13/Non-Member

Price per one adult and one child, age 3-5. Additional children half price.

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**Monday, January 21**

**Snowshoe Hike**

(R) | 1–2:30 pm

All Ages

GBBG Education Staff

FREE/GBBG Member Family:

$5/Non-Member Family

Program will be held as a hike if there isn’t enough snow for snowshoes.

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**January**

#### Wednesday, January 9

**Snowflake Fantasy on Fabric**

(W/R) | 1–4 pm

Birgit Ruotsala, Designs By Birgit Ruotsala

$36/GBBG Member

$42/Non-Member

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#### Saturday, January 12

**Snowshoe Hike**

(R) | 10–11:30 am

All Ages

GBBG Education Staff

FREE/GBBG Member Family:

Full series:

$40/GBBG Member

$45/Non-Member

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*Horse-drawn Wagon Tour includes Walking Tour.

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**Saturday, January 26**

**Winter in the Garden**

10 am–1 pm

Snowshoe hikes, scavenger hunts and self-guided family activities.

Free Admission

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**February**

#### Tuesday, February 5

**Chocolate Nirvana**

(W/R) | 6–7:30 pm

Chef Shelly Platten, Healthy Chef Shell, LLC

$27/GBBG Member

$32/Non-Member
Wednesday, February 6
Travelogue:
Pomeranian Roots
(L) | 12–1 pm
Dale Bartel,
GBBG Member & Volunteer
Free Admission

Saturday, February 9
Snowshoe Hike
(R) | 10–11:30 am
All Ages
GBBG Education Staff
FREE/GBBG Member Family
$5/Non-Member Family
Program will be held as a hike if there isn’t enough snow for snowshoes.

Tuesday, February 12
Beginning Beekeeping
(L/R) | 6–7:30 pm
Ken Sikora, 25+ years of Beekeeping Experience
$10/Person
Presented in partnership with UW-Extension and N.E.W. Master Gardeners’ Association

Friday, February 15
Garden Sprouts:
Hot Chocolate Fun
(YF/R) | 10–11:30 am
GBBG Education Volunteer
$8/GBBG Member
$13/Non-Member
Price per one adult and one child, age 3-5. Additional children half price.

Tuesdays, February 19 & 26
Quilting: Flower Power
(W/R) | 1–3 pm
Birgit Ruotsala,
Designs By Birgit Ruotsala
$48/GBBG Member
$58/Non-Member

Wednesday, February 16
Travelogue: Four Great & Glorious English Gardens
(L) | 12–1 pm
Steve Schultz,
Steve’s Leaves
Free Admission

Thursday, February 21
Proper Tree Planting
(L/R) | 6–7:30 pm
Steve Johnson,
Selner Tree & Shrub Care
$5/GBBG Member
$7/Non-Member

Friday, February 22
Snowshoe Hike
(R) | 2–3:30 pm
All Ages
GBBG Education Staff
FREE/GBBG Member Family
$5/Non-Member Family
Program will be held as a hike if there isn’t enough snow for snowshoes.

Wednesday, March 5
Shade Gardening with Hostas
(L/R) | 6–7:30 pm
Kyle Gigot,
GBBG Member & N.E.W. Master Gardener Volunteer
Pre-registration: $7/Person
At the Door: $10/Person
Presented in partnership with UW-Extension and N.E.W. Master Gardeners’ Association

Tuesday, March 12
Repotting Orchids
(W/R) | 6–8 pm
Mary Stewart,
Goin’ To Pot Orchids
$10/GBBG Member
$12/Non-Member

Thursday, March 14
Spring Suppers
(W/R) | 12–2:30 pm
Bridgett Lowery,
416 Cuisine
$32/GBBG Member
$38/Non-Member

How to Register
Registration required for all classes and programs except where noted.
Register online at GBBG.org or by phone at 920.490.9457. To hold your space, payment is due with registration.

After You Register
We will contact you the week of the class to confirm your enrollment. Please dress according to the weather for all outdoor programs. No rain dates are planned.

Cancellations & Refunds
Classes canceled due to low enrollment or hazardous weather are refunded automatically. You will be notified by phone about class cancellations. In cases of inclement weather, call 920.491.3691 ext. 122 to check the status of the class. If you must cancel your registration, your fees will be refunded if notice is received at least five days prior to the class. Green Bay Botanical Garden cannot refund fees requested on or after the start date of a class or for sessions missed due to student illness or other personal situations.

March

March

Tuesday, March 19
Seed Starting 101
(L/R) | 6–7:30 pm
Lynn Clark,
GBBG Member & N.E.W. Master Gardener Volunteer
Pre-registration: $7/Person
At the Door: $10/Person
Presented in partnership with UW-Extension and N.E.W. Master Gardeners’ Association

Wednesday, March 20
Travelogue: Wisconsin’s Great River Road National Scenic Byway
(L) | 12–1 pm
Melinda Anne Roberts,
author of “Little Wisconsin”
Free Admission

Thursday, March 28
Herbal Breads: The Leavening of Literature
(W/R) | 6–8 pm
Jackie Johnson & Kristin Urban, Northeast Wisconsin Unit of the Herb Society of America
$27/GBBG Member
$32/Non-Member

Wednesday, March 6
Travelogue: Autumn Gardens of the Midwest
(L) | 12–1 pm
Jerry Clish,
GBBG Member
Free Admission

GBBG Botanical Garden
4100 West Mason St.
Green Bay, WI 54304
920-491-3691
www.GBBG.org
Here are some of our favorites from fall. Post your photos of the Garden on social media with #mygbgarden. They may end up in our next newsletter!

Fan Photos

Don’t delay! Register right away as classes may fill quickly. We also value our instructors’ time, so classes may risk being canceled due to low early enrollment. Thank you!

**April**

Mondays, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

**Hatha Yoga** (R) | 5:30–6:30 pm
Tree Janzen, Tree’s Yoga
Full series: 
$40/GBBG Member; 
$45/Non-Member
One Day: $10

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**Thursday, April 4**
**Pruning Shade Trees**
(W/R) | 6–7:30 pm
Doug Hartman, N.E.W. Master Gardener Volunteer & Vijai Pandian, UW-Extension Horticulture Educator
Pre-registration: $7/Person
At the Door: $10/Person
Presented in partnership with UW-Extension and N.E.W. Master Gardeners’ Association

**Thursday, April 11**
**Pruning Shrubs**
(W/R) | 6–7:30 pm
Dan Mitchell, N.E.W. Master Gardener Volunteer & Vijai Pandian, UW-Extension Horticulture Educator
Pre-registration: $7/Person
At the Door: $10/Person
Presented in partnership with UW-Extension and N.E.W. Master Gardeners’ Association

**Tuesday, April 9**
**Street Food Cart Favorites**
(W/R) | 6–7:30 pm
Chef Shelly Platten, Healthy Chef Shell, LLC
$27/GBBG Member
$32/Non-Member

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**Tuesday, April 2**
**Repotting Orchids**
(W/R) | 6–8 pm
Mary Stewart, Goin’ To Pot Orchids
$10/GBBG Member
$12/Non-Member

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**Tuesday, April 30**
**Murder, Mayhem & Madness**
(L/R) | 6–8 pm
Melinda Anne Roberts, author of “Little Wisconsin”
$15/GBBG Member
$18/Non-Member

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**Tuesday, April 16**
**Hats & High Tea**
(W/R) | 6–8 pm
Northeast Wisconsin Unit of the Herb Society of America
$18/GBBG Member
$22/Non-Member

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**Wednesday, April 24**
**Vegetable Gardening for Beginners**
(L/R) | 6–7:30 pm
Vijai Pandian, UW-Extension Horticulture Educator
Pre-registration: $7/Person
At the Door: $10/Person
Presented in partnership with UW-Extension and N.E.W. Master Gardeners’ Association

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**Friday, April 12**
**Garden Sprouts: Super Seeds**
(YF/R) | 10–11:30 am
GBBG Education Volunteer
$8/GBBG Member
$13/Non-Member
Price per one adult and one child, age 3–5. Additional children half price.

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Price per one adult and one child, age 3–5. Additional children half price.
Because of Garden Lovers Like You
Green Bay Botanical Garden can offer something for everyone.

Children stretch their imaginations and discover the magic of Mother Nature, visitors find peace and tranquility while strolling through the Garden, couples begin their lives together surrounded by the beauty of nature, and friends and families share moments of joy while creating lasting memories. The Garden is a place for exploration, inspiration, rejuvenation and celebration. Whether gathering with friends or simply gathering your thoughts, there isn’t a better place to enjoy an intimate moment than in the company of beautiful plants.

Those are only a few of the reasons why we need your help. Your support allows us to continue to provide more than 150,000 yearly visitors the opportunity to connect with the outdoors, learn something new through our outstanding educational programs and experience exciting and engaging events and exhibits. By supporting your Garden, you’ll give so many in your community and beyond exceptional experiences that will continue to grow memories for years to come.

Ways of Giving
Monetary Gifts
Visit GBBG.org/Give to donate online or complete and mail the enclosed envelope.

Gifts of Stock
Gifts of appreciated securities may provide significant tax benefits.

IRA Gifts
Congress has renewed the opportunity for individuals to give through Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) under the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act.

Employer Matching Gifts
Many companies match gifts to the Garden made by their employees. Some companies match 2:1 or even 3:1 which means your gift is doubled or tripled in your name. Some companies also match donations of their retirees! To find out if your company matches donations, contact your human resources department.

For more information on how you can support the Garden or how to transfer Gifts of Stock or IRA gifts, contact Cindy Berton, Director of Development at 920.491.3691 ext. 104 or cberton@gbbg.org

Let’s Grow Together
Whether you love the Garden for its educational programs and events, its natural beauty and peacefulness, or its positive impact on the environment, your support is essential to our continued growth and positive impact. BECAUSE OF YOU, we’ll continue to be that special place where plants grow people!

Cindy Berton
Director of Development, Proud Garden Member
Leadership News

At its October annual meeting, Garden members elect new directors to lead Green Bay Botanical Garden. An anomaly this year has no new board members, but several returning for second or third terms.

Directors elected new officers for the 2018–2020 term:
- Chair: Judy Nagel
- Vice Chair: Diane Conway
- Secretary: Rob Servais, D.C.
- Treasurer: Bill Larsen
- Past Chair: Jonie Paye

Please join us in congratulating and thanking all directors for keeping the Garden growing!

Returning for their second three-year term:
- Diane Conway–Diane has been an avid community volunteer and leader for many years. She currently chairs the Membership Committee and has been recently nominated as Vice Chair of the Board.
- Kathy Hartman–Retired from WPS, Kathy served the organization as Board Chair from 2010–2012. She and her husband, Doug, were Co-Chairs of the Perennial Performance Campaign in 2016 that helped raise more than $5 million for the Donald J. Schneider Family Grand Garden.

Returning for their third three-year term are:
- Lise Gammeltoft–Lise is a retired family law attorney and was responsible for drafting the Garden’s articles of incorporation in 1982. She’s helped with rewriting the Garden’s bylaws over the years and is a member of the Garden Development Task Force and the Governance Committee.
- Julia Johnson–Julia is a Senior Manager for HR Consulting at Wipfli, LLP. She currently chairs the Garden’s Governance Committee and has been very instrumental in developing a compensation philosophy and policy, and regularly reviewing the Garden’s Employee Handbook.
- Pat Koleske–Pat is Director of Retail Sales for Schreiber. Currently a member of the Entertainment Task Force, Pat has served on several other committees since becoming a board member.
- Rob Servais–Rob is a doctor of chiropractic and owns Servais Chiropractic Pain Relief Clinic. Rob currently serves as the Garden’s Secretary, is chair of the Entertainment Task Force and a member of the Fund Development Committee.

Leadership News

WPS Garden of Lights Tickets
Tickets make great gifts for family, friends, clients and employees. Discounts apply for ticket purchases of 25 or more.

Make Your Holiday Event Glow
Looking for an unforgettable venue to hold your holiday event? Give your guest a memorable experience and book your private event during WPS Garden of Lights. Rental space is anticipated to sell out for this one-of-a-kind experience. Make sure to book early!

For more information about group discounts, or to book your event, contact our Sales & Rental Coordinator at 920.491.3691 ext. 113 or rentals@gbbg.org.

Gift Happiness

Shop holiday gifts at the WPS Trellis Gift Shop! Pick up a unique ornament like these adorable plaid hat snowmen, refresh your home with locally handcrafted art or treat yourself with unique gardening items. Stop in while you’re here for WPS Garden of Lights or visit during the week—shop hours are the same as the Garden’s.

Give the Gift of the Garden
Looking for that perfect gift for your family or friends? Your loved ones can enjoy the Garden’s beauty all year long with the gift of membership starting at just $45. Benefits include discounted admission on Sundays and December 26–30 at WPS Garden of Lights, free admission to our 2019 Summer Exhibit: Butterflies & Blooms and free admission to Sanimax Concerts.

Special Offer! Join by December 14 and receive a free gift valued at $20: 2 complimentary adult walking tickets to this year’s WPS Garden of Lights.

For more information, visit GBBG.org/Membership.
So you’ve heard about Farm to Table, but have you heard about Seed to Table? Instead of buying fresh veggies from your local farmers market, why not grow them yourself?

All you need are a few basic ingredients and you’ll have a recipe for success!

Why start my veggies from seed?
While most vegetable plants are available at your local nursery or greenhouse, they typically only carry a limited selection. By purchasing seeds, you have control over which varieties you grow. Not only can you extend the season of cool season crops, but you can also get a head start on growing warm season crops.

What do I need to start my seeds?
Growing Medium—Use a soilless media, a potting mix that doesn’t include soil, but has a variety of organic and inorganic materials, as it’s best suited for growing in containers. At the Garden, we use a product called Fafard® 3B mixed with a slow-release fertilizer, Osmocote®.

Container—Purchase pre-made growing kits or reuse containers (old flowerpots, sour cream containers, paper cups, etc.). Make sure they’re clean (sterilize with a 10% bleach solution) and have drainage holes.

Light—A sunroom or south facing window provides the best light. Seedlings need 6-8 hours of direct sunlight or 12-15 hours of supplemental lighting (ex: an overhead shop light). Insufficient light leads to tall, leggy plants that won’t transplant well.

Warmth—Seeds need heat to germinate. Use heat mats, a warm windowsill or the top of the fridge.

Water—Water helps germination and growth.

How do I plant my seeds?
1. Fill your container with moistened soilless media.
2. Plant seeds according to the directions on the packet. Most seeds like to be planted 1-2 times as deep as they are wide. For small seeds, cover with a dusting of fine grade vermiculite. Don’t forget to label which plant is growing where with craft sticks or small plastic label stakes.
3. Water seeds with a fine mist and keep the media evenly moist until germination occurs. Cover the container with a clear plastic lid or plastic wrap to keep the growing environment humid. Once seedlings have emerged, remove the cover.
4. Place planted containers on a warm growing surface. Once seedlings have emerged, remove from heat and move into a cooler room. Make sure the room receives at least 6-8 hours of direct or 12-15 hours of supplemental light per day.

When do I start my seeds?
Because there are many vegetables and hardiness zones, use a calendar (like one found on the Old Farmer’s Almanac website) and search by zip code to find the most accurate start dates for your region.

Based on our USDA Hardiness zone of 5a, most cool season veggies such as lettuce, cabbage, kale or onions can be started indoors in March. Peas, carrots, radishes, beets, lettuce or spinach can be planted outdoors in late April to early May. Most warm season veggies like peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, herbs, squash or pumpkins can be started indoors in April. Corn, zucchini, cucumbers, squash and pumpkins can be planted outdoors in late May to early June, once the soil is warm.

Warm season veggies will not grow in cool soil and most benefit from an early start since they need a long growing season to set fruit. If we waited until the soil warms in late May to early June to plant tomato seeds in the Garden, we may get fruit to set by the end of the season but would likely see a killing frost before the fruit ripens. So, we start our tomato seeds early indoors to give the plants the best chance to ripen in time for harvest.

It’s never too early to start planning your vegetable garden for next year. Make a list of your favorite recipes, grow all your ingredients right at home and share with your neighbors or local food pantry. You’ll quickly discover how amazing it is to see a tiny tomato seed transform into your favorite spaghetti sauce!
What’s Inside
Partners & Volunteers of the Year
Winter Calendar of Programs & Events
Rooted Together
From Seed to Table
Fan Photos & More!

Upcoming Events
WPS Garden of Lights
Winter in the Garden
Snowshoe Hikes
Travelogue Series
Homemade Pasta & More!

For the latest on what’s happening at the Garden, sign up for our weekly e-newsletter and follow us on:

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