Like a tree that changes and matures, the character of the Garden is constantly evolving. After a challenging 2020, we couldn’t be more excited to ring in the New Year with a year-long celebration. Green Bay Botanical Garden has reached a historic milestone… we’ve been growing together for 25 years and we can’t wait to celebrate with you!

This year, the Garden will celebrate 25 years of growth and success by commemorating everyone in our community who has helped make that happen. It will be a year for festivities and ensuring that the Garden is here for the next 25 years and beyond.

All year long we’ll reminisce about the past and our journey to today, and also look to the future as we continue to grow with the Children’s Garden Expansion Project. We have a lot in store for you from throwback articles, photos and poems to monthly giveaways, an appreciation event in June and a community birthday party in September. Whether you’re a founder, member, volunteer, donor, sponsor, corporate partner or visitor, you’ve made it possible for us to grow together all these years and continue our mission to connect people with plants.

Let’s celebrate!

Safely Looking Ahead

The Garden has implemented many new safety protocols over the past year to ensure everyone has a safe experience here. We have also invested in signage, PPE, touch-free faucets in the restrooms and curated most of our indoor events. We continually monitor the ongoing pandemic restrictions, and while we hope to resume “normal” protocols by the summer, we are preparing to do whatever we need to do to keep everyone safe whenever they’re at the Garden. With limited earned revenue, we rely on you, our members and donors, for support through your membership renewals and gifts. We have a wish list, should you want to support something specific:

- Provide laptops for staff to work remotely; improve technology for remote learning ($1,000+)
- Add compost bins for events to promote more composting and less waste ($900)
- Replace grates in the Schierl Wellhouse windows (TBD)
- Install a water bottle refill station in the lower level of the Schneider Education Center ($1,100)

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

News on Children’s Garden Expansion

SmithGroup, our landscape design firm working on the Children’s Garden expansion plan, is nearing completion of the schematic design phase. We’re very excited about the concept.

We have a committee reviewing the design and helping select some of the artwork and sculptures that will be included. Led by Dr. Jack Swerstad, the committee consists of Lise Gammeltoft, Lee Hansen, Todd Kane, Ron Melchert, Judy Nagel, Terri Trantow and Bill Wangerin.

To learn more about the Children’s Garden Expansion or ways to leave a lasting legacy by supporting this project, contact Susan Garot, Executive Director, at 920.491.3691 ext. 102 or sgarot@gbbg.org.

New Year, New Faces

A board member since 2015, Diane Conway was elected chair of the Garden’s board at its November meeting. Conway succeeds Judy Nagel, who served as chair since 2018. “Under Judy’s leadership, the Garden initiated the planning for the Children’s Garden Expansion and oversaw more than $750,000 in capital expenditures and improvements. She has also helped lead the organization through the ongoing COVID–19 pandemic, ensuring we will come out of this ready to continue growing our Garden. As your new chair, I’m looking forward to continuing that progress, which will include the 25th anniversary celebration this year and hopefully beginning the construction of the Children’s Garden Expansion in 2022.”

The Garden also added two new directors and renewed terms of six others to its board.

Todd Kane

A senior architectural designer at Somerville, Kane also serves as part of the Downtown Green Bay Physical Improvement Committee. He loves to garden at home, and he and his husband and two children are members of the Garden. Kane hopes to help the Garden add more nature-inspired opportunities for children in the community.

José Villa

A commercial loan officer at Fox Communities Credit Union, Villa is a first-generation U.S. citizen and expresses a deep passion for the Latinx/a/x community. He currently assists local organizations including Casa Alba, St. Philip’s Apostle and the Green Bay Diocese. As part of the board, he’s looking forward to helping the Garden fulfill its mission of connecting all people and plants.

Returning board members are Tom Arndt, Cheri Galecke, Norbert Hill, Judy Nagel, Terri Trantow and Bill Wangerin. Referring after nine years of service is Bill Larsen. Bill and his wife, Pat, were co-chairs of the Growing the Garden Campaign in 2010. He joined the board shortly thereafter and most recently served as Treasurer for three years. Julia Johnson, Wipfi, is also retiring after eight years of service. Julia not only led our Governance Committee for the past four years, but was also instrumental in helping the Garden develop a compensation plan including wage guidelines; update its employee handbook, create job description templates and varying other human resources needs.
Change Comes in Waves:
New Exhibit About Water Pollution Drops at the Garden This May

Linda Gustke, Education Manager

A summer surge will greet you in the Garden this year: a new, never–before–seen–in–Wisconsin exhibit, Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea. Encounter eight vibrant, larger–than–life sea animal sculptures crafted from plastic reclaimed from the ocean shores as you stroll through the Garden. You’ll see some of your favorite sea creatures, including a shark, penguin, jellyfish and a brand new sculpture debuting at the Garden–Stanley the Sturgeon, illustrating plastic pollution from the Great Lakes.

With the mission to educate people of all ages on the rising plastic pollution in our oceans and waterways, Washed Ashore will help spark positive changes in your habits with plastic and waste. While the oceans may seem removed from Wisconsin, plastic pollution affects our fresh waterways too–rivers, streams and most importantly, our Great Lakes that sustain the region.

Most know that reducing the use of plastic straws has been a big movement, but how big of an issue is plastic pollution, really, and what other items in our lives are particularly troublesome? Visit the exhibit this summer to learn more and uncover the actions, big and small, you can take to reduce plastic waste and become better Earth warriors!

Visit GBBG.org/WashedAshore for more details.

Winter Celebration
Saturday, January 30

Don’t let the weather keep you in—celebrate the season at the Garden with your family! This free event will feature self-guided, outdoor activities:

• Explore the outdoors and discover intriguing winter facts
• Uncover winter surprises on a scavenger hunt
• Try your skills at snowshoeing (ages six and up)
• Take home a winter craft kit

Visit GBBG.org/WinterDay for more details.

Polar Pollinator Pop–Up
Weather pending, watch for dates in late February.

Don’t wait for summer to be inspired by the Garden. This February, toss on your warm clothes, lace up your boots and wander the Garden to gaze at pollinator–themed snow sculptures.

A handful of talented snow carvers from around Wisconsin will descend on the Garden in late February to create magnificent sculptures depicting pollination players, including butterflies, bees and flowers, spread throughout the Garden. Beyond the sculptures, enjoy a winter scavenger hunt. Mother Nature will determine the best dates, so watch e–news and social media for this pop–up weekend event in February.

Visit GBBG.org/PollinatorPopUp for more details.

Help us “Go Green”. You’re receiving the printed version of the newsletter because we don’t have an active email address on file for your household or you’ve specifically requested it. For the most current communications from us including updates on what’s in bloom, virtual learning opportunities, gardening tips and more, please consider updating your email preferences at GBBG.org/Email.
**Snowshoe at the Garden**

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

**Winter Programs**

- **Family Programs**
  - Hands-on camps, snowshoe hikes and Winter Celebration. Adult Programs
  - Lectures and 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 winter Garden. Each pack contains hands-on activities that will introduce you to concepts of winter ecology and help you explore our winter wildlife while developing a deeper appreciation for the natural world.

- **S.E.E.D Packs**
  - Available during our regular business hours and can be checked out at no additional charge after paid admission.

**Summer Fun Sneak Peek**

**Summer Camp Preview**

We’re thinking ahead to warmer temperatures and the excitement of summer camps at the Garden! Kids ages 3–12 can participate in daylong camps or weeklong/ half-day camps featuring games, activities, crafts, songs and more. Here’s a sneak peek at adventures that lie ahead this summer. For more details and registration info, come to our website in February.

**Shipwreck Salvagers**

Washed Ashore is making big waves in the Garden, and we need a team of campers to find ways to salvage materials from the wreckage humans leave behind! Chart a course to the Garden and get ready to set sail for fun.

**Polar Pollinator Pop-Up**

Weather permitting, watch for dates and times in e-news and on social media. Free/Garden Member Garden Admission/ General Public

**Budding Gardeners**

Mondays, April 5, 12, 19

- Ages 3–5 with an Adult
- Full Series: One Day: $15
- Register by March 29

- Gardening Hot Topics: Stepping Stones
  - Full Series: March 24, 31
  - Register by March 24

**Adult & Family Education**

- **Hands-on programs**
  - Hands-on programs, snowshoe hikes and Winter Celebration.

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Schneider began its partnership with the Garden in 1991. Since that time, they have been supporting all aspects of the Garden: from annual support to event sponsorship and providing in-kind support including loaning us an 18-wheel semi-trailer for storage when the Garden hosted its first national exhibit in 2018—Nature Connects®: Art with LEGO® Bricks. Schneider generously gives not only to the Garden, but also to our entire community through the Schneider Foundation, volunteerism and so much more. 

Volunteers Who Gave 100+ Hours during Fiscal Year 2019-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dale Bartel</td>
<td>200+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don Giese</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don Jensen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Tubbs</td>
<td>151–175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Zellner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maureen Ackerman</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Barley</td>
<td>126–150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Duncan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sue Ellingston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deb Freeman</td>
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<td>Jana Hudson</td>
<td>100–125</td>
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<td>Ricki Krautkramer</td>
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<td>John Oates</td>
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<td>Barb Perrus</td>
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<td>Marcia Ward</td>
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<td>Bob Yashinsky</td>
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Fan Photos

Here are some of our favorites from winter and fall. Post your photos of the Garden on social media using #mygbgarden or tag us at your location and they may end up in our next newsletter!
Vegetables

Vegetables were very popular in 2020 due to the pandemic. We all had more time at home and many took advantage of that to grow their own food. Too bad we couldn’t do that for toilet paper, right?!

The Kitchen Minis are a new collection of plants that can be grown on a windowsill inside a sunny window for those who don’t have lots of real estate. Siam tomato is the first one to hit the market. In the same vein is the All-America Selections (AAS) winning Pot-a-peno pepper—you guessed it—a jalapeno that you can grow in a hanging basket!

How about Coldasil basil? This is a basil that can handle chillier temps, down to 50°F, so that us Northern Hemisphere gardeners can enjoy an early pesto! Or if you want some heat, the new Armageddon pepper will be up your alley as there’s 1.3 million Scoville units on this early maturing super-hot chili pepper.

Foliage Galore

We love the different textures and season-long interest that foliage provides. One that struck me, because I think it has an awesome name, is Heart of the Jungle elephant ear. The dark petioles make for a dynamic plant that you can contrast with or color echo in your container combinations.

Coleus are always useful to give that boom without bloom. We trialed Main Street Beale Street coleus and it won an AAS award. This is a large red-leaved coleus that kept its color all season and did not flower until very late in the season, so no need for deadheading.

One last foliage plant to mention features silver in celebration of the Garden’s 25th year anniversary. The Silver Stitch 21 curry plant has needle-like leaves on a superior branched compact plant, and this little mound will add an elegant finishing touch to your outdoor design.

These plants are just a small sampling of many paints that you can add to your own outdoor palette as you create the canvas of your garden this year. Of course, these are just the beginning steps as we will still be planting and growing throughout the year. And together, all this is what makes gardening the joy it is!

Flower Power

Like so many events in 2020, the California Spring Trials (CAST) went virtual. CAST is where breeders show off their new plants for the next year. Here’s a sampling of what caught my eye:

I love petunias! They bloom all season and can handle the cold at the beginning and end of our growing seasons to give us more flower for the buck. One new standout is Bee’s Knees petunia, which is a deep yellow that can be grown alone or mixed in containers. Shock Wave® Purple Tie Dye petunia has variable purple and white bicolor flowers that look quite funky.

Of course, there is more to life than petunias. Another flower that looks impressive is MegaBoom Berry Blast dahlia. The MegaBoom series has gigantic flowers that are held just above the foliage on compact plants. We trialed Profusion Red Yellow Bicolor zinnia at the Garden, and it’s a 2021 AAS Gold Medal winner. The fascinating thing about this zinnia is how the colors change as they age to a salmon, apricot and rose from the original red-yellow bicolor.

Perk Up Your Passion for Plants in 2021

Mark Konlock, Director of Horticulture

As our Horticulture Team works on their own planting designs this winter, I wanted to share some of the interesting annuals and vegetables we’ve come across so far. Look for these and others as you decide on what to order for your own 2021 garden and landscape masterpieces!

See even more plant options at GBBG.org/Blog.
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Susan Garot

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Terri Tranlaw, Vice Chair
Rob Servais, D.C., Secretary
Bill Wangerin, Treasurer
Judy Nagel, Past Chair

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Cheri Galecke
Lise Gammeltoft
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Jonie Paye
Nicole Polarek
Mike Raymaker
José Villa

Advisors
Lee C. Hansen
Robert J. Janssen
Michael Salvo
Jack Swelstad, M.D.

We connect people with plants by providing year–round educational and recreational experiences for everyone in an environment that engages, inspires and refreshes.

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Partners & Volunteers of the Year
Plants to Watch for in 2021
and More!

Visit GBBG.org for details on our upcoming events, classes, activities, volunteering, membership and more.