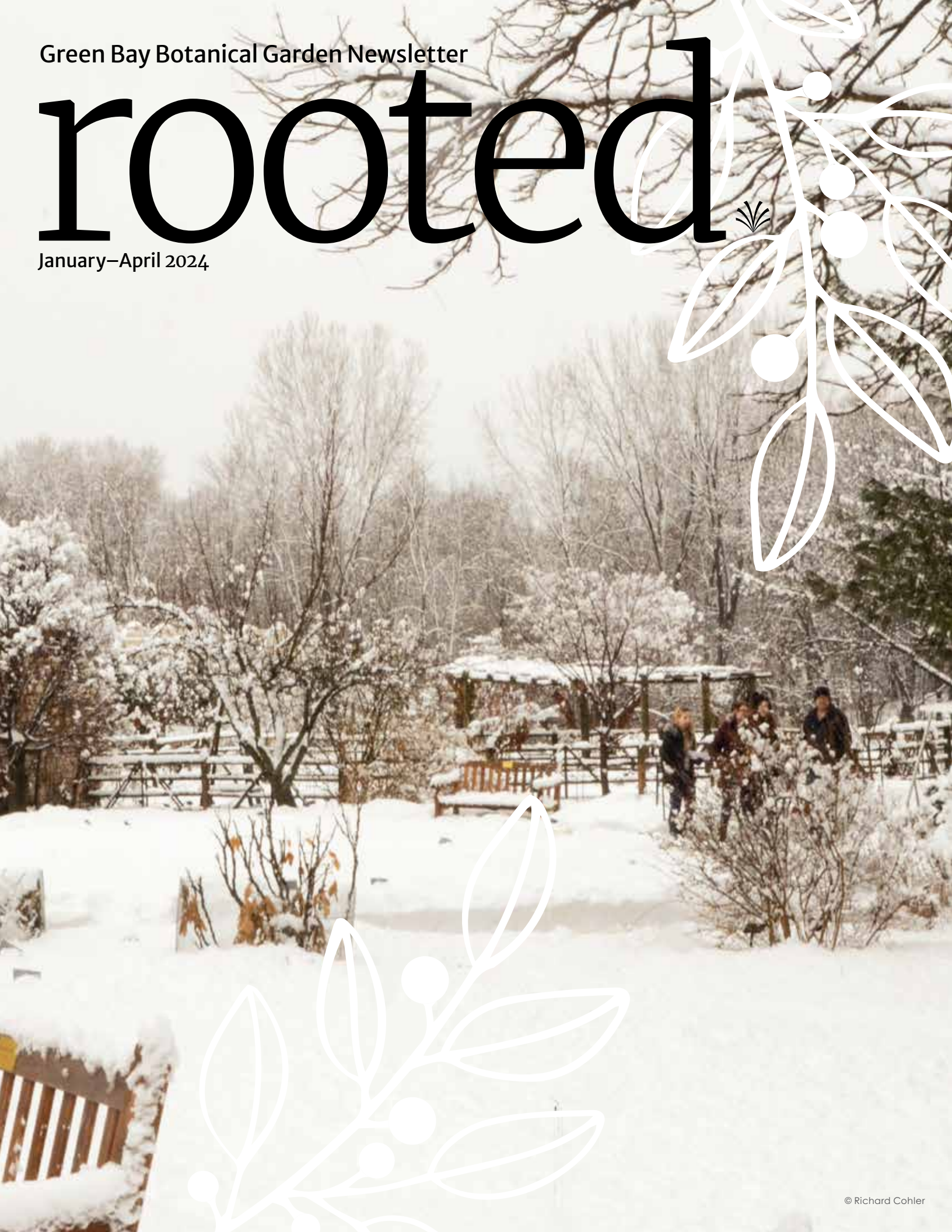


Green Bay Botanical Garden Newsletter

rooted

January–April 2024



“The beauty of life lies in the little moments, enjoy each season as it comes.”

— Anonymous

Dear Members & Friends of the Garden,

Every year, we welcome back, say farewell, and introduce new Board Members to you at our Annual Meeting. This year, Sarah Landwehr, Judy Nagel, Murphy O’Hearn, and Steve Taylor are stepping down from the Board after completing their terms.

Returning for her final three-year term is Laura Nelson, M.D., and returning for a second three-year term is Nicole Polarek.

Sean Elliott is our newest Board addition. He currently serves as the CEO of the Greater Green Bay YMCA, and has been with them for the past five years. Originally from Philadelphia, he was also the Vice President of Operations & Capital Development at the Greater Philadelphia YMCA for 14 years prior. During his time with the Garden he “hopes to serve honorably, and help support strong strategic community partnerships in the spirit of collective impact.”

Earlier last year we also shared that our current President & CEO, Susan Garot, will formally retire this spring. It’s truly hard to fathom that we only have a few short months left with her in the role before we transition to a new era for the Garden.

I’m happy to share that Susan’s final year as the Garden’s leader has been a blockbuster one, especially with the grand opening of the Carol & Bruce Bell Children’s Garden and WPS Garden of Lights putting on another dazzling show. What a finishing touch on such a fine career, Susan!

As we look back on Susan’s vast accomplishments from this year and from the last 15 years, I invite you to read some of her own reflections from her time at the Garden.

Rachel Mueller, PR & Content Coordinator, sat down with her for a casual and memory-filled conversation in early November on her career, the Garden, and what comes next for Susan.

Warm Regards,

Terri

Terri Trantow
Board Chair

A Look Back:

15 Years of Garden Growth with Susan Garot

15 years is quite a stretch. Looking back, what originally drew you to the Garden?

After a twenty year stretch building and operating hotels, I found myself in a position of starting over.

My first jobs out of college were with nonprofits: first Denver, then the Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. The position at the Garden was open and after encouragement from Jan Wos of Mayflower Nursery and Joan Mills, a former Garden Board Member (both now deceased), I decided to toss my hat in the ring. I liked the idea of working with boards, committees, and volunteers. The job at the Garden seemed like the perfect fit.

What encouraged you to stay on as the Garden’s Executive Director and now President & CEO?

From day one, I would say what’s kept me here is just the joy that I feel every day when I drive into work. Being surrounded by not just the beauty of the plants, but the beauty of the people. I love our staff, our donors, our volunteers. I get to work with so many cool people in the community and couldn’t ask for anything more.

Any memories that make you think “I made the right choice to join this community”?

The joy that this garden brings to people! If I could put a cuff on a guest when they walk in the door, and then test them again when they leave, I bet their visit to the Garden would lower their blood pressure by 10 points or more!

I really felt embraced by the staff and the Board too. We had three directors in less than 10 years prior to me, and we had a very small staff. We bonded very easily because we all worked closely together.

The Board was very welcoming, and I really felt like I belonged. Can I pinpoint exactly why I felt that way? It’s kind of hard! I just knew I belonged here. I would go home at the end of the day feeling very fulfilled.



© Lindy J. Gilson Images

15 years means you’ve worked with such a wide variety of people. There’s likely too many to name, but is there anyone in the Garden community that has been most influential to you, as the Garden’s leader?

It’s like being a mom, I can’t! I’ve had staff members who have been here as long as me or longer than me, right? I think that’s just a wonderful testament to the Garden’s staying power, if you will, and why people want to be here. One of the things I’m really proud about with our core Leadership Team, with the exception of a few new people in this last year, is that they have been here for seven years or more! I think that’s really a testament to what we’re doing.

I think it’ll be really helpful to the next President & CEO who comes in, that they’ve got a solid team.

I feel like every Board Chair I’ve ever had has given me some takeaways. And one in particular reminded me that it’s really about the people. You have to take care of the people. The people are first and everything else will come after.

What’s your favorite spot at the Garden, the place you’ll likely come back to visit in the future?

I have to say that the Bell Children’s Garden right now is nearest and dearest. It was on the master plan when I started here 15 years ago, but we decided to do a couple of other things first to help prepare for the Garden’s future. Now look where we are! A new Children’s Garden that had an amazing grand opening year.

Next to that, literally, is the King Shade Garden. It’s one of my favorite places because I love the peace and tranquility of that space.

Throughout your time at the Garden, what would you consider as your highest accomplishment(s)?

Two things. One, the Bell Children’s Garden. We raised \$13.3 million, which was twice what we raised for any other project, and we did it post the height of COVID.

To this day, I can’t believe we did this, we got it built, and we got it open! It’s amazing!

And then the second thing would be back when I first started. It was 2008, and the stock market was crashing, and we had a very small endowment that was going down for about six months at that time.

Our endowment dipped below \$1 million, and I was pretty nervous. Today, we just surpassed \$10 million in October.

When I was first hired, Board members sat me down and said, “You have to grow our endowment. We’ve got to get this place to be sustainable.” The ultimate goal was three times operating revenue... we’re there!

The Garden has seen incredible growth the last several years. What do you attribute that to as the person who sees this place from a high level?

It’s everything from the marketing and the messaging that we do, to what we offer at the Garden. I think we have a very solid, really warm, inviting message, and I think the reach that we’ve been able to achieve has been amazing.

But, that just gets people here, right? You have to welcome them when they come in the door. They have to feel like they belong here, like they’re part of the Garden.

I think we do a great job of it, from our Guest Experience Team and volunteers to our Horticulture Team working in the Garden and Education staff leading programs, and so much more.



What do you think is next for the Garden?

As we've talked about this growth, we're kind of busting at the seams with office space and indoor guest spaces. Our Fischer Visitor Center can get packed many months out of the year.

So, expanding the visitor center and providing more office space is probably the next key thing.

What do you hope for the Garden's next President & CEO?

I hope they come in and take some time to get to know their team, their Board, their volunteers, and the Garden organization. We've got a master plan that will be updated in the next year, and there will be opportunities for the next leader to have input into that.

One of the things that we did talk at length about when we did our futuring sessions with Envision Green Bay was taking the Garden out to the community. We have 47 acres here, and we obviously want people to come to the Garden because of that, but we also need to understand not every person can get here, for whatever reason. We need to find ways to take the Garden to the community!

Whether that's donating to community gardens or helping plant landscapes or even virtual visits of some kind, we can create ways for people to enjoy it from their home or wherever they are. I think that's really important, to take a look at how we grow the Garden outside of our physical 47 acres.

If you had to describe your tenure at the Garden in just a few words, what would they be?

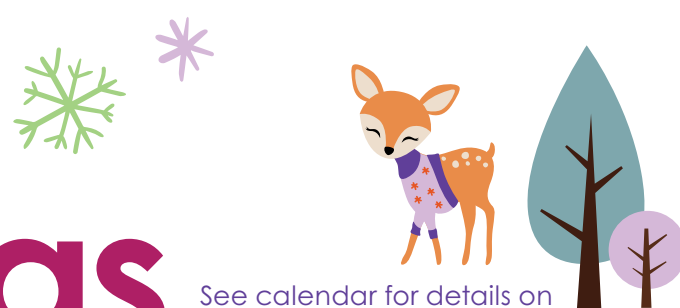
Well, I think it's been life changing for me, personally.

Being able to work with such amazing people to accomplish what we've accomplished has been the hallmark of my career.

What are your plans after you're officially retired?

I'm on a couple of boards in the community, which will keep my mind engaged. I want to volunteer in the community in a thoughtful way so I'm trying to figure out what that means. I'm not necessarily a maker. I'm not a craft person. I like to garden. I love to dig in the dirt. But it's one thing to just weed a garden, and it's another thing to design a garden that really brings you the peace and joy or whatever you're trying to accomplish. Thank you Diane Conway for that insight!

Garden Happenings



See calendar for details on dates, times, and prices.

CAROL & BRUCE BELL CHILDREN'S GARDEN

Open during Garden business hours | 9 am–5 pm, Monday–Saturday

Included with Admission

Free for Garden Members

Stomp in the snow and frolic in the flowers...

Play, learn, and explore in 2.5 acres of outdoor adventure!

Discover a hillside tunnel, treehouses, and uncover Wisconsin's natural world in all four seasons.

No snowshoes allowed in the Bell Children's Garden.

Buy Online & Save

Buying your ticket(s) online saves you \$1 per ticket.

When you arrive, we'll simply scan your tickets, and you'll be on your way into the Garden.

Tickets can be used for daily admission at any time during regular Garden hours (excluding special events and classes) and are valid for one year from the date of purchase.



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Winter Celebration

Saturday, February 17 | 9 am–5 pm

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 fun winter facts
- Uncover winter surprises on a scavenger hunt
- Try your skills at snowshoeing (pending 6+ inches of snow, ages 6 and up)
- Take home a winter craft kit while supplies last

Visit [GBBG.org/WinterDay](https://www.gbbg.org/WinterDay) for more details.

Sponsored in part by



Stitches & Stems

Friday, March 22 | 9 am–5 pm

Saturday, March 23 | 9 am–4 pm

This free event will showcase a love of needle art and feature fiber arts, embroidery work, free demonstrations, a community stitch, a silent auction, raffle baskets, local vendors, and so much more!

Presented in partnership with the Green Bay Area and Fox Valley Area Embroidery Guilds.

Visit [GBBG.org/Stitches](https://www.gbbg.org/Stitches) 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, please consider updating your email preferences at [GBBG.org/Email](https://www.gbbg.org/Email).

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Adult & Family Education

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

These programs include:

Tap into Life & Learning (T.I.L.L.)

Talks Lecture Series

T.I.L.L. Talks is a free lecture series open to members and the general public.

Snowshoe Hikes

Step into the Garden with snowshoes! During the winter months, snowshoes are available to use on site and are free with Garden admission (with at least 6+ inches of snow). We have sizes suitable for kids (6 years and older) and adults, as well as marked paths in the Garden.

2024 Camps

Registration Now Open

Kids ages 3–12 can participate in nature-themed daylong camps or weeklong/half-day camps featuring games, activities, crafts, songs, and more.

Visit [GBBG.org/Camp](https://www.gbbg.org/Camp) for registration and camp details.

Weeklong Camps

Budding Buddies

Session 1: Fridays, April 5, 12, 19

Session 2: Fridays, June 7, 14, 21

9:30–11 am

This nature day camp is specially designed for 3–5-year-olds along with their adult buddy. Loaded with nature-themed stories, crafts, hikes, and hands-on exploration, each day is a new adventure!

Storybooks Come to Life

March 25–29 | 9:30 am–12 pm | Ages 6–9

Once upon a time in a garden far, far away lived a camp where storybooks come to life! Join us all week long as we crack open mysterious cases, dive into fairytale fun, and have a Garden Gala Party.

Creative Construction

June 24–28 | 9:30 am–12 pm | Ages 6–9

July 15–19 | 9:30 am–12 pm | Ages 9–12

Calling all architects, designers, and builders! Discover some of nature's master builders, and use your creativity on new projects and build challenges each day. We'll work with a variety of materials and tools while learning to think like animals and engineers.

Art in Nature

August 5–9 | 9:30 am–12 pm | Ages 6–9

August 12–16 | 9:30 am–12 pm | Ages 9–12

Get inspired by nature's beauty and create art at the Garden! We'll practice artistic techniques, including painting, music, and hand crafts. Take home many new creations to continue your artistic journey!

Day Camps

Mad Scientist

June 18 | 9:30 am–3:30 pm | Ages 6–9

June 19 | 9:30 am–3:30 pm | Ages 9–12

Transform yourself into a science wizard as you create strange potions and perform unbelievable experiments! Don't be frightened, most of our ingredients can be found in your own home. Be ready for some messy fun – each experiment is an exciting new adventure.

Water Heroes

July 30 | 9:30 am–3:30 pm | Ages 6–9

July 31 | 9:30 am–3:30 pm | Ages 9–12

Water, water everywhere, and many drops to drink! Water is essential for all living things. Learn about our watery habitats at the Garden, especially in the Bell Children's Garden. Dive into questions about water habitats and how we can clean and protect our waters. Chart a course to the Garden, and get ready to set sail for fun.

Sponsored in part by



Calendar

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!

R=Registration Required | W=Workshop | L=Lecture | YF=Youth/Family



January

Monday, January 22 Celestial Sound – Gong Bath Meditation

(R) | 12–1 pm
Brenda Brayko,
Celestial Sound
\$13/Garden Member
\$16/General Public

Thursday, January 25 What's New in Gardening in 2024

(L/R) | 6–7:30 pm
Rob Zimmer,
Rob Zimmer Outdoors
\$13/Garden Member
\$16/General Public

Mondays, January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 26 Hatha Yoga

(R) | 5:30–6:30 pm
Tree Janzen,
Tree's Yoga
Full Series:
\$40/Garden Member
\$45/General Public
One Day: \$10

February

Thursday, February 1 Creative Valentines from Handmade Paper

(W/R) | 12:30–3 pm
OR 5–7:30 pm
Hilarie Rath,
Arnold Grummer Certified
Hand Papermaker
\$25/Garden Member
\$29/General Public

Tuesday, February 6 Food is Medicine

(L/R) | 10–11:30 am
LaReina Tipping,
Brain Center of Green Bay
\$5/Garden Member
\$7/General Public

Thursday, February 8 Guided Snowshoe Hike

(YF/R) | 1–2:30 pm
Garden Education Team
Free/Garden Member
Family or Adult
\$5/General Public Family
or Adult

Wednesday, February 14 T.I.L.L. Talk: Water Plants

(L/R) | 12–1 pm
Melissa Maurer-Ford,
Garden Horticulturist
Free/Garden Member
and General Public



Saturday, February 17 Winter Celebration

(YF) | 9 am–5 pm
Free/Garden Member
and General Public

Tuesday, February 20 Starting Seeds Indoors

(L/R) | 6–7:30 pm
Rob Zimmer,
Rob Zimmer Outdoors
\$13/Garden Member
\$16/General Public

Friday, February 23 Guided Snowshoe Hike

(YF/R) | 10–11:30 pm
Garden Education Team
Free/Garden Member
Family or Adult
\$5/General Public Family
or Adult

Wednesday, February 28 T.I.L.L. Talk: Gardens & Sights of Iceland

(L/R) | 12–1 pm
Diane & Steve Lenz,
Garden Members
Free/Garden Member
and General Public

Thursday, February 29 Leap into Winter Pruning

(W/R) | 1–3 pm
Jimmy Van Meter,
Garden Horticulturist
\$5/Garden Member
\$7/General Public

March

Friday, March 1 Guided Snowshoe Hike

(YF/R) | 1–2:30 pm
Garden Education Team
Free/Garden Member
Family or Adult
\$5/General Public Family
or Adult

Mondays, March 4, 11, 18 Breath Work for Better Health

(R) | 5:30–6:30 pm
Cujo,
Exercise Physiologist
Full series:
\$29/Garden Member
\$35/General Public
One Day: \$13

Wednesday, March 6 Cooking in the Garden with Chef Ace Champion

(W/R) | 5–7 pm
Celebrity Chef Ace
Champion
\$49/Garden Member
\$55/General Public



Wednesday, March 13 Guided Snowshoe Hike

(YF/R) | 1–2:30 pm
Garden Education Team
Free/Garden Member
Family or Adult
\$5/General Public Family
or Adult

Evening T.I.L.L. Talk: Brain Awareness Week Event

(L/R) | Come anytime
from 3–7 pm
Brain Center of Green Bay
Free/Garden Member
and General Public

Thursday, March 14 The Many Tastes of Teas

(L/R) | 6–7:30 pm
Jackie Johnson,
Northeast Wisconsin
Herb Society
\$15/Garden Member
\$18/General Public

Wednesday, March 20 Hand-Stamped Tea Towels

(W/R) | 4–6 pm
Kasey Hock,
Mama + Maker
\$33/Garden Member
\$39/General Public

Monday, March 25– Friday, March 29 Camp: Storybooks Come to Life

(YF/R) | 9:30–12 pm
Ages 6–9
Garden Education Team
\$85/Garden Member
\$105/General Public
Register by March 18

Tuesday, March 26 Celestial Sound – Gong Bath Meditation

(R) | 5:30–6:30 pm
Brenda Brayko,
Celestial Sound
\$13/Garden Member
\$16/General Public

Wednesday, March 27 T.I.L.L. Talk: Garden Trip to Pacific Northwest

(L/R) | 12–1 pm
Dale Bartel,
Garden Member
Free/Garden Member
and General Public

April

Thursday, April 4 Papermaking Retreat

(W/R) | 9 am–4:30 pm
Hilarie Rath,
Arnold Grummer
Certified Hand Papermaker
\$59/Garden Member
\$68/General Public

Fridays, April 5, 12, 19 Camp: Budding Buddies

(YF/R) | 9:30–11 am
Garden Education Team
Full Series:
\$35/Garden Member
\$40/General Public
One Day: \$15

Tuesday, April 9 Three Sisters Garden

(L/R) | 1–2:30 pm
Kathleen Ratteree,
Ed.D., Sweet Willow
Herbals & Cafe
\$24/Garden Member
\$29/General Public

Wednesday, April 10 T.I.L.L. Talk: Sleeping Through the Ages

(L/R) | 12–1 pm
LaReina Tipping,
Brain Center of Green Bay
Free/Garden Member
and General Public



Wednesday, April 17 Cooking in the Garden with Chef Ace Champion

(W/R) | 5–7 pm
Celebrity Chef
Ace Champion
\$49/Garden Member
\$55/General Public

Monday, April 22 Earth Day: The Winged Garden

(L/R) | 6–7:30 pm
Rob Zimmer,
Rob Zimmer Outdoors
\$13/Garden Member
\$16/General Public



Saturday, April 27 Bonsai for Beginners Workshop

(W/R) | 12–5 pm
Bay Area Bonsai Society
Members
\$99/Garden Member
\$109/General Public

Monday, April 29 Celestial Sound – Gong Bath Meditation

(R) | 5:30–6:30 pm
Brenda Brayko,
Celestial Sound
\$13/Garden Member
\$16/General Public

How to Register

Pre-registration required for all classes and programs except where noted. Register online at GBBG.org or by phone at 920.490.9457. Please register early; class sizes are limited or classes may be canceled due to low early enrollment. Please register early as class sizes are limited and classes may be canceled due to low early enrollment. To hold your space in class, payment is due with registration.

After You Register

We will contact you the week of the program to confirm your enrollment. Please dress according to the weather for all outdoor programs. No rain or snow dates are planned. Classes open one half-hour before starting time.

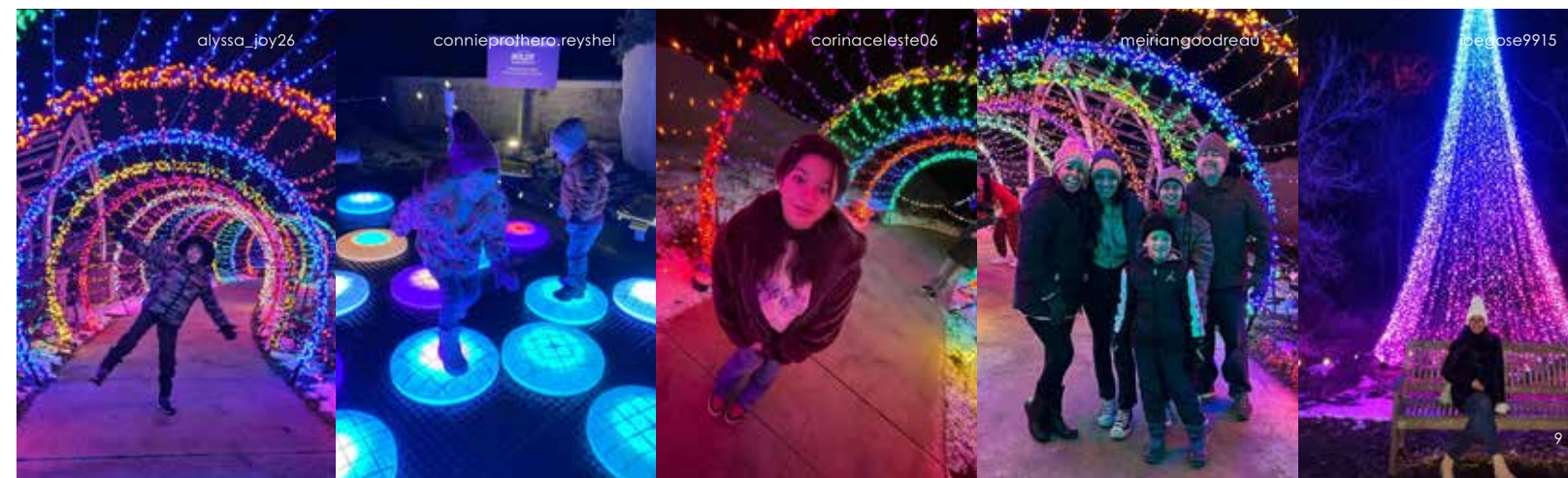
Cancellations & Refunds

Classes canceled due to low enrollment or hazardous weather conditions are refunded automatically. You will be notified by phone if a program is canceled. In cases of inclement weather, call 920.490.9457 to check the status of the program. If you must cancel your registration for a program, your registration fees will be refunded if notice is received **at least five days prior** to the program. Green Bay Botanical Garden cannot refund fees requested on or after the start date of a program or for sessions missed due to student illness or other personal situations.

Fan Photos



Here are some of our favorite shots from WPS Garden of Lights. Remember to post your photos of the Garden on social media and tag us as your location. They may end up in our next newsletter!



Wisconsin's Natural Beauties: Native Plants at the Garden

Mikayla Albrecht, Marketing & Communications Intern



In recent years, plants that are native to Wisconsin have been sprouting up in just about every corner of the Garden. This follows national trends as organizations and homeowners alike have been prioritizing plants that are endemic to their region. But, do native plants really make that much of an impact?

The Garden's Director of Horticulture, Mark Konlock, says that they absolutely do, and it's all about adaptation.

Since native plants have been a part of our local ecosystems for ages, they've adapted to our climate, regional diseases, and insects. This means that they'll return annually and be very low maintenance because of their drought-resistance and deep root systems. This conserves water and reduces household fertilizer use.

Additionally, they're integral parts of Wisconsin's food chains and provide habitat for other local species. This makes them an important part of maintaining biodiversity in our state.

In fact, Mark says that it's a good thing if your native plants "get chewed on a little bit" because that means that they're contributing to the ecosystem and the insects and other animals it supports.

Our Horticulture Team has made native plants a top priority. The opening of the Carol & Bruce Bell Children's Garden last spring was momentous for the Garden, and 75% of the plants (3 out of every 4 plants) it contains are native to Wisconsin.

Thanks to Horticulturist & Plant Recorder, Sarah Pingel, the plant identification signs in the area also feature a graphic outline of the state of Wisconsin to indicate if the species is native. The Horticulture Team has also been hard at work converting areas of turfgrass to native meadows. This includes the landscaping in parking lot areas and by the donor gate outside the Fischer Visitor Center. These areas will rarely need to be watered and fertilized, and they'll also never need to be mowed, saving time and fossil fuels.

While it's fantastic to completely overhaul your yard, Mark recognizes that it's most realistic to start small. He says to "just incorporate some [native plants] into your existing garden" and "don't worry about making a special area".

For starters, he favors grasses like sideoats grama, prairie dropseed, and the flower rattlesnake master for their texture, color, and versatility.

Some other options to consider include:

- **Oaks** (*Quercus*): These trees create the most habitat for caterpillars.
- **Pagoda dogwood** (*Cornus alternifolia*): This shrub tolerates part shade and has a nice horizontal branching habit.
- **Eastern redcedar** (*Juniperus virginiana*): A deer-resistant shrub optimal for a hedge, screen, or windbreak.
- **Wild ginger** (*Asarum canadense*): This perennial tolerates dry shade and works well with ornamental plants like hostas and other shade lovers.
- **Milkweed** (*Asclepias*): Support declining Monarch butterfly populations!

Speaking on biodiversity, he says to strongly consider your use of nativars, which are native cultivars. While they can boast the allure of larger and more frequent blooms, they may not serve the same function in the ecosystem. Their selective breeding can result in the plant being sterile and reduces plant genetic diversity.

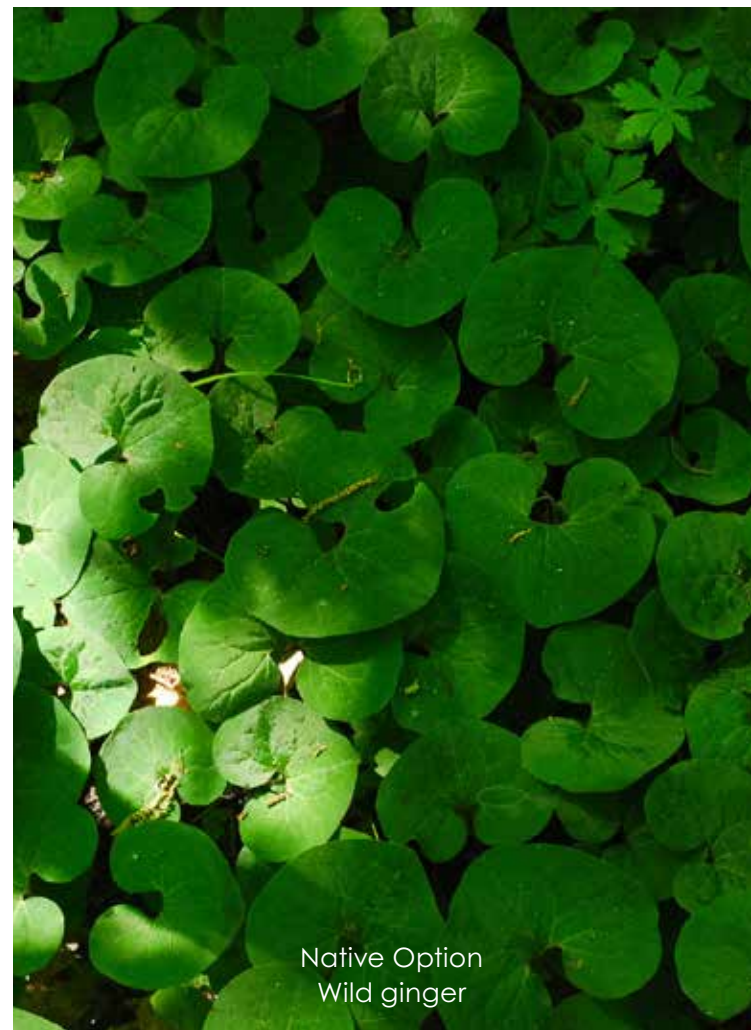
Some nativar traits to avoid include:

- **Purple Foliage:** This color is caused by chemicals called anthocyanins, which were shown in a Mt. Cuba Center study by Dr. Doug Tallamy to statistically be less used by insects for food.
- **Double Flowers:** Prettier for humans means less useful for insects and pollinators! To get more petals, the sexual parts of plants that produce pollen and nectar become petals.
- **Less Diversity:** Nativars are generally plants that are propagated asexually so all plants have the same traits. This means there is not diversity in the gene pool. Diversity helps make plants more resilient and able to adapt to changing temperatures, precipitation, and insects and diseases.

Native plants are beautiful in their own right, and there are so many to choose from that there's sure to be something for every gardener.

Mark reflects, "Everyone needs to have these native plants in their yard to make an impact." Development has been so extensive in the Midwest, and there's so little public land to convert that individuals incorporating natives in their private land is critical for conservation.

Discover more about native plants and native gardening at [GBBG.org/GardenTips](https://www.gbbg.org/GardenTips).



Native Option
Wild ginger



Nativar to Avoid
Pink Double Delight coneflower

2023 Partners & Volunteers of the Year

Corporate Partner of the Year



US Bank began its support of the Garden in 2016 with its first contribution to the Perennial Performance Capital Campaign, which helped build the Schneider Family Grand Garden and Billie Kress Amphitheater. From there, US Bank Corporate has provided sponsorship support for not only a number of our exhibits and WPS Garden of Lights, but they also stepped up in 2021 to take on the Lead Sponsorship of the Sanimax Concert Series.

In addition to US Bank Corporate, the US Bank Foundation has also provided significant grant support over the years, including a number of our youth and family educational programs as well as school field trips and our nonprofit ticketing program which provides general admission passes to the Garden through our collaboration with our nonprofit partners. These passes enable low-to-moderate income members of our community the ability to enjoy all the Garden has to offer and provide guests quality time to spend together in nature. Over the past two years, the Foundation has also supported our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives including our Access Membership program.

US Bank also believes in the importance of volunteerism in our community and the impact it makes for area nonprofits, encouraging and allowing their employees and employee groups to volunteer in the community and at the Garden. We're honored and humbled by the generosity of time and treasure US Bank has provided to the Garden over the years.

Founder's Award Recipient



Dr. Jeff Rafn

The Founders Award was created to honor a group or an individual who has made a difference in helping the Garden achieve its mission. Dr. Jeff Rafn, now retired president of NWTC, has fostered a very successful relationship between the Garden and the college.

As our landlord, Jeff and the college have helped the Garden be successful in many ways since our beginning. They provide a variety of services annually, such as printing, parking assistance and overflow space, public safety services, and a variety of other training programs for our team. Then, there are the many, many hours of student internships, community service, and a number of trained employees that have to come work at the Garden.

In return, the Garden pays a \$1 per year lease, plus 10% of our general admission revenues to the Foundation, which goes back to the students as scholarships. Since 2010, that equates to over \$177,000!



Budding Volunteer
Horticulture

Dan VerBruggen

Dan is a consistent, hardworking new contributor to the Horticulture Team, bringing his can-do attitude to every task asked of him, in all weather conditions. His plant identification skills make it easy to get on the same page with the task at hand. When Dan walks through the door, we know it will be a great day for the Garden!



Budding Volunteer
Education

Nan Pahl

Nan began the season with Story Time, entertaining young guests with nature stories, and then jumped in to help with our Discovery Stations when staff members were unavailable. She also helped train new Story Time volunteers. We appreciate Nan sharing her time, talent, and enthusiasm this season and look forward to more to come.



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Guest Experience

Mike Malchow

Mike is a valued longtime events volunteer, and this year he joined the Guest Experience Team. Throughout his twice weekly shifts, he shares his love of the Garden and ensures each guest has a wonderful experience. He strives to learn all he can to assist guests and has contributed so much to making things run smoothly during this very busy summer.



Horticulture

Sue Ellingson

Sue is here almost every week with a smile on her face and ready to take on the next project. She is instrumental in creating holiday magic with the natural holiday trees displayed throughout the Fischer Visitor Center, collecting flowers for them throughout the season, creating floral ornaments, and decorating the trees for WPS Garden of Lights. Tried and true, we can always count on Sue!



Education

Diane Lenz

Diane has been a Garden volunteer since 2017, leading both youth field trips and adult tour groups. This season, she led 14 youth trips! After the opening of the Bell Children's Garden, we could not have gotten through the season without her expertise in leading groups and helping to train new volunteers. We thank Diane for sharing her love of the Garden and connection with nature!



Events & Rentals

Dale Bartel

Dale frequently jumps in to assist the Garden's Events Team in the key role of Wedding Guest Relations volunteer. Dale's smiling face greeted our guests so kindly and welcomed them to the Garden all season long, sharing his extensive knowledge to enhance their experience. Dale is also an integral member of our Education volunteer group, sharing his knowledge through adult tours.



Special Events

Cookie Oryall & Mary Vandermause

If you attend any of the Garden's summer concerts or special events, you are sure to see our "Dynamic Duo" parking team, Cookie Oryall and Mary Vandermause. Dressed in neon yellow vests, they help safely direct our guests to parking spots with their flashing orange wands. They are seasoned parking experts who train and welcome new volunteer parkers. Cookie and Mary are here in any weather and always with smiles on their faces!

Volunteers Who Gave 100+ Hours September 1, 2022–August 31, 2023

Maureen Ackerman
Kathy Amenson
Gene Arendt
Dale Bartel
Terese Boeck
Larry Boehm
Mary Borley
Dan Brunmeier
Mike Duncan

Sue Ellingson
Donald Giese
Barb Griffin
Scott Jacobe
Don Jensen
Glenn Landis
Mike Malchow
Liz Obenberger
Tim O'Brien (deceased)

Barb Perrus
Mary Roerig
Linda Schulze
Mary Silha
Bob Stark
Cathy Stone
Dan VerBruggen
Ann Wasurick
Bob Yashinsky

Gardens & Castles of Central Europe

September 6–17, 2024

Hosted by Mark Konlock, Director of Horticulture

Explore Central Europe Through its Gardens & Castles

Embark on an 11-day journey through Central Europe, where historic wonders and botanical treasures await. From the enchanting streets of Prague to the UNESCO-listed gems of Czechia and Slovakia, immerse yourself in the rich culture of the region, explore exquisite gardens, and visit magnificent castles.

For questions or to reserve your spot, contact County Travel Discoveries at 855-744-TRIP or email Reservations@CountryTravelDiscoveries.com.

Tour Details | 12 Days | 23 Meals | September 6–17, 2024

Price Per Person

Garden Member

Double: \$5,197

Single: \$5,870

General Public

Add \$55 per person or \$75 per couple

Depart/Return

Chicago (Roundtrip motorcoach transportation included from Green Bay to Chicago)

Highlights

- Enjoy dinner on the Vltava River Cruise
- Explore one of the prettiest gardens in Prague – Wallenstein Garden
- Visit Puhonice Castle and its park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Experience a folk music presentation in a local restaurant

Inclusions

- Round-trip airfare from the U.S.
- Professional, English-speaking Tour Director
- Welcome Dinner and meals as indicated (B=breakfast | L=lunch | D=dinner)
- Fees and tips for included attractions and meals
- Luggage handling at most hotels
- Free bottled water on coach
- 24-hour emergency call service

Accommodations

- Nights 2–3 | Hotel Grandior, Prague
- Nights 4–5 | Hotel International, Brno
- Nights 6–8 | Hotel Park Inn, Bratislava
- Nights 9–11 | Hotel Stefanie, Vienna

Full Tour Itinerary

Days One & Two

Welcome to Prague

Following our overnight flight, we arrive at the Prague airport and transfer to our hotel where we will take a rest before a walking city tour of Prague Old Town with our English-speaking guides. Tonight, enjoy a festive group welcome dinner. **D**

Day Three

Castle Tour/Wallenstein Garden

Begin your day with breakfast at the hotel before embarking on a tour of the Prague Castle area, focusing on its exterior beauty. Today's highlight is a visit to one of Prague's most picturesque gardens, the Wallenstein Garden – a stunning early Baroque masterpiece designed during the construction of the Wallenstein Palace.

Enjoy lunch at your leisure before returning to the hotel for free time before dinner on a Vltava River cruise, offering a unique perspective of Prague's illuminated skyline. **B, D**

Day Four

Puhonice Castle/Brno Gardens

Explore Puhonice Castle and its park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and National Cultural Monument. As you wander through Puhonice Park, you'll experience a true work of art, carefully crafted over the years by Count Ernst Emanuel Silva-Tarouca and his successors.

After lunch in a local restaurant, transfer to Brno. Take a leisurely walk through the Open Gardens of Brno, exemplifying urban green spaces that serve the local community.

After checking into our hotel in Brno, take part in an optional walking tour to discover the charms of this vibrant city. **B, L**

Day Five

Lednice Castle/Valtice/Wine Tasting/Mikulov

Embark on a tour of Lednice Castle, including a visit to the greenhouse. The Lednice-Valtice area, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site since December 1996, spans 283 square km near the Austrian border, making it the largest composed landscape in Europe and possibly the world.

Transfer to Valtice for a delightful lunch before experiencing a wine tasting at the National Wine Salon of the Czech Republic, featuring a degustation of wines from the best 100 wines of the Czech Republic for the year 2024.

Afterward, transfer to Mikulov, where you'll have free time to explore this city with a rich viticulture tradition. Return to your hotel in Brno, where you can enjoy dinner on your own. **B, L**

Day Six

Flower Gardens of Kromeriz/Tour Bratislava

Visit the Flower Gardens of Kromeriz, one of the most important gardens in the world. It is a discourse late Italian Renaissance with early Baroque French-style gardens. Enjoy lunch together and free time to explore castle gardens before transferring to Bratislava.

Take a guided walking tour of Bratislava before dinner on your own. **B, L**

Day Seven

Rosarium of Medolandia/Red Stone Castle

Journey to the Small Carpathian region and begin the day at the Rosarium of Medolandia in Dolná Krupa, where the rose-growing tradition flourishes. Indulge in a tasting of locally produced mead, including their award-winning Barique mead, crowned 'The Best World's Mead for 2023.'

Explore the vast rose garden, a living testament to the legacy of Countess Maria Henrietta Chotek, known as 'the Rose Countess.' After lunch, visit Red Stone Castle and its gardens.

Perched on a quartz hill in the Small Carpathian Mountains, this magnificently preserved castle, originally from the 13th century, once played a vital role in the fortified castle line on the west border of Austria. **B, L, D**

Day Eight

Banska Stiavnica/Folk Music Presentation/Local Garden

Travel to the Banska Stiavnica region, known as the 'SOHO of Slovakia,' for a day rich in history and culture. Explore Banska Stiavnica's beauty and history with a walking city tour and an intriguing falconry presentation. Recognized by UNESCO, this town flourished during Maria Theresa Habsburg's reign, marked by the establishment of the world's first technical university.

Lunch today includes a folk music presentation, a highlight of the day! Next we'll visit a local family and their gardens near Zvolen, indulging in coffee, cake, and drinks.

As the day concludes, return to Bratislava for dinner and a restful overnight stay. **B, L**

Day Nine

Bratislava City Tour/Baroque Garden of Bratislava Castle

This morning experience a tour of Bratislava and a visit to the Baroque Garden of Bratislava Castle.

After a delightful lunch at a local restaurant, we'll transfer to Schlosshof. Enjoy a guided visit to its Baroque gardens. This garden, inspired by the French model, became one of the most splendid in the German-speaking regions.

Continue to Vienna, where you'll check in to your hotel for this evening. Tonight experience a classical music concert in Kursalon Vienna (or similar concert hall). **B, L**

Day 10

Kittenberger Garten/Garten Tulln an der Donau

Experience the beauty of Austria's Kittenberger Garten, nestled in the gentle hills of Schiltern near Langenlois. This captivating garden, a testament to artisan pride and passion, features 40 imaginative themes, a bright restaurant, and a well-stocked shop.

Enjoy lunch together in the garden before continuing to Garten Tulln an der Donau, a unique showcase project in Europe which has become a model for many garden shows in Austria. **B, L**

Day 11

Vienna City Tour/Botanical Garten Wien

Take part today in a tour of Vienna. Austria's capital along the "Blue" Danube merges Baroque and art nouveau, showcased in the stunning architecture of the Ringstrasse. See landmarks like the Opera House and Natural History Museum.

After lunch in the city center, visit Botanical Garten Wien. This diverse collection of endangered and exotic plants supports academic research and provides a habitat for local wildlife. **B, L, D**

Day 12

Travel Home

After breakfast transfer to the Vienna airport and travel home with treasured memories and new friends. **B**



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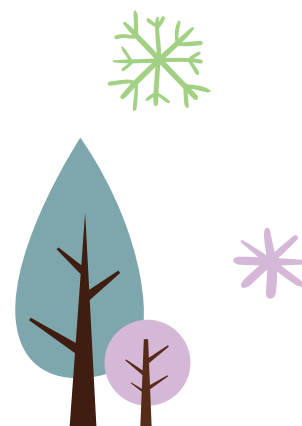
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PERMIT NO. 165

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



What's Inside

A Look Back:
15 Years of Garden Growth with Susan Garot
Wisconsin's Natural Beauties:
Native Plants at the Garden
Partners & Volunteers of the Year
and More!



Upcoming Events

Winter Celebration
Stitches & Stems
Camps & Classes



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