



# Notes from the Baraboo Buds Garden Club September 14 & October 12, 2021

## September 14 Meeting.

Present: Pat Wester, Pat Taylor, Joan Wheeler

The September 14 meeting of the Baraboo Buds Garden Club met at the Baraboo School District offices. The agenda for the meeting included discussing our garden highpoints from the (nearly) past growing season, lessons learned, and how we will proceed for the next growing season.

We began with the vegetable garden. Pat W. had previously used the City's Community Garden plots at Attridge Park on 2nd Ave. She found that there was not enough soil in the beds. Lately, Pat has been growing vegetables and herbs in pots at home. She currently has zucchini, basil, dill, and Brandywine tomatoes growing in pots.

Pat T. has been growing Early Girl and cherry tomatoes, eggplant, green beans and cucumbers in her backyard veggie garden. Earlier in the season she dug out her raspberries and gave them to her neighbor.

Joan has drastically cut down her vegetable gardening, growing only lettuce and butternut squash to feed to her chickens.

For ornamental gardening, Pat T's highpoints have included her **New England Asters**, which grew very tall and really attracted lots of bees. She plans to move them to partial shade this fall. Her **Hummingbird Mint** or **Anise Hyssop** also grew well, attracting many bees. They grew so well she will have to move them to a different location.



New England Aster ~ Wikipedia



Anise Hyssop ~ Johnny's Seeds

Pat W. loved growing Morning Glory and New England Asters in the past, but stopped growing them because they attracted so many Japanese Beetles. This year, she had excellent luck with the following potted plants: **Sun Impatiens**, which likes full sun, and has been continuously blooming with flowers 2 inches across; **Rio**

**diplodenia**, which is related to Manzanilla vines but resembles a bush rather than a vine, with glossy leaves; and **Thunbergia**, with yellow and orange blooms on a single plant.



Pat Wester's Sun Impatiens



Pat Wester's Rio



Pat Wester's Thunbergia

## October 12 Meeting.

Present: Pat Wester, Kathy Calabrese, Patti Nesthus, Joan Wheeler

The October 12 meeting of the Baraboo Buds Garden Club met in room 12/14 of the Baraboo Civic Center, which has been reserved for our group through April 2022.

Kathy started us off with sharing a children's book she received from a friend. It is Grandma's Gardens by Hillary and Chelsea Clinton, and Kathy highly recommends it.



We asked Patti to tell us about the damage done to her trees and other plants by the storm that hit some areas in Baraboo hard in July. Patti and her husband were with their grandchildren at the Sauk County Fair when the storm hit. They spent some time hunkered down in one of the buildings there, then hurried home. When they got there, they found the scene in the photo Patti sent. They lost 10 mature trees, including the walnuts that were the keystone trees in the walnut guild Patti had described at our meeting a week earlier. She is considering going with a different garden design in the now sunny areas opened up by the loss of these trees.



Patti's yard after the destructive July storm blew through Baraboo.

Speaking of tree removal, Kathy had to remove a pin oak tree from the middle of her backyard last spring because it did not allow much room for her grandchildren to play there (which they often do). She also removed a curly willow, which she considers a really messy tree. She, too, is considering how best to make use of the increased sunny space in her yard. She has been wondering how cost-effective it is to grow vegetables in another very sunny area of her yard, since she loves going to the Farmer's Market for produce. She thinks she might focus more

on growing flowers, rather than veggies, next season.

Patti interplants nasturtiums, marigolds, zinnias and herbs with her vegetable plants in her potager garden. She likes to take a break from thoughts of gardening in December, and then in January start planning the new garden.

Pat W. has simplified her own gardening and makes use of lots of pots, mixing all kinds of ornamental plants in them. Besides the Sun Impatiens, Rio, and Thunbergia she described at the September meeting, Pat's pots also display purple millet, petunias, lobelias, vinca, Angelonia, and Lofus.

Pat tried the Angelonia this year because she hoped it would make a good "thriller" plant in a potted arrangement containing a "thriller, a filler, and a spiller". It didn't grow as tall as she had hoped.



Patti's 2021 potager garden

Pat also has a narrow garden bed along the side of her garage where she grows tomatoes, hydrangeas, and day lilies. This bed is the result of hard work, since when she and her husband moved into the house, the bed had two layers of river rock which she dug out.

### **Prepping for Winter**

Pat's strategy for preparing her garden for winter used to be just ignoring the garden after the first frost.

After Labor Day weekend, Patti stops adding plant matter to her "hot" composter that requires frequent turning. This is the composter where she puts fruit and vegetable scraps, as well as oak and maple leaves for brown matter. The other compost area is near her woods, and is where she puts other garden waste, including matter from her walnut trees (which contain juglone).

Kathy wraps her climbing roses with the flossy type of fabric used in row covers. This year her climbing rose is about three times bigger than it was last year. She learned not to cut back her climbing roses because they bloom on old wood. For her regular roses, she cuts them back, and puts a small fence around them, which she fills with fallen leaves and straw. For peonies she cuts them all the way down. She digs up her dahlia bulbs and puts them in a bucket filled with wood shavings. She leaves wildflowers like rudbeckia standing all winter. Kathy leaves her Annabelle Hydrangea all winter.

### **You Won't Want to Miss Our November Meeting!**

Spread the word about our special speaker, **Sauk County Master Gardener President Jeannie Manis, who will present "Using Native Plants in your Home Garden" at the time of our next meeting at 6 :30 PM on Tuesday, November 9.** Jeannie's presentation will be in lieu of a regular meeting.

featuring JEANNIE MANIS,  
President, Sauk Co. Master  
Gardeners Association

# Using Native Plants in your Home Garden

**Tuesday, Nov. 9 at 6:30 PM**

**RM. 12/14, BARABOO CIVIC CENTER**  
**124 2ND ST., BARABOO**

Masks are required.



City of Baraboo Parks, Recreation  
and Forestry Department



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