



Notes from the Baraboo Buds Garden Club July 13, 2021

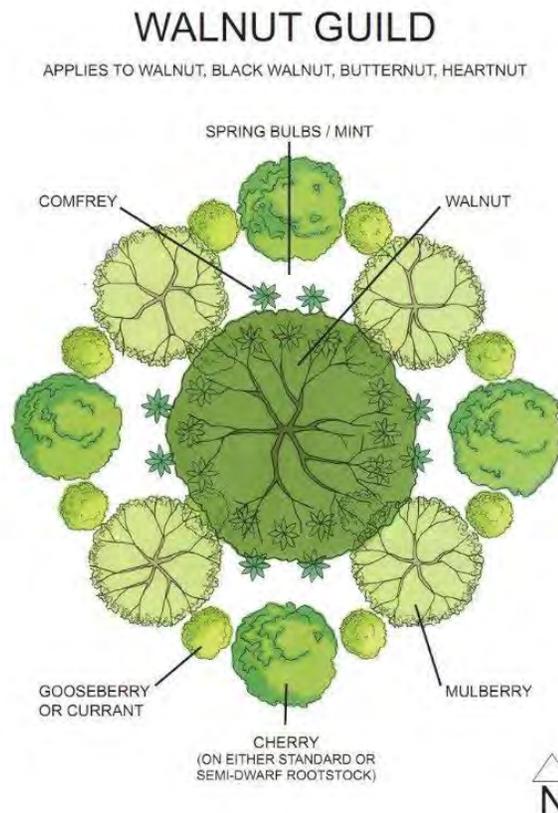
Present: Pat Taylor, Kathy Calabrese, Patti Nesthus, Leenger Vargas, Brenda Grismore, Joan Wheeler,

The inaugural July 13 meeting of the Baraboo Buds Garden Club met in the shelter at Ritzenthaler Park, Baraboo.

Joan explained that the reason for the library starting the Garden Club is to give local gardeners a way for us to share what is going on in our gardens, learn from each other's experiences, open up new paths of inquiry and experimentation, and support each other in our gardening endeavors.

We started our meeting by introducing ourselves and telling a little about what kind of gardening we are currently doing, what got us into gardening or sparked our interest in gardening, and what we would like to do with our gardens and learn about gardening and plants.

Patti described how she has been gardening in her Baraboo location for about four years. Her lot is large, with many mature Black Walnut trees, which she found caused trouble for many of the plants she planted after moving in. The chemical secreted by Black Walnuts, **juglone**, is toxic to such plants. She has made her peace with the Black Walnuts, and is in the process of creating a **guild** to co-exist with the Walnut trees. This is a grouping or community of plants that benefit each other. At right is a cool illustration I found on page 21 of a document online: <https://midwestpermaculture.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Plant20Guilds20eBooklet20-20Midwest20Permaculture1.pdf>



Leenger recently moved into a house with a large yard he is still getting to know. He has established a veggie garden patch, re-using fencing he found on the property, as gardeners love to do! He is using grass clippings to mulch in his garden, glad to be able to make use of this resource it takes him 3 hours to mow.

Brenda has little room for gardening at this time, but has long been interested in native plants, especially in learning about medicinal and other useful properties of plants that can be foraged. She has been studying plants for decades.

Pat has recently re-established her garden after moving from a house a block away. She put lots of time and effort into digging up and moving many of her prized garden plants from the old house to her new yard. She loves to have a variety of perennials, and was disappointed to discover that the rabbits have tried to take over the new garden, eating her plant babies. Pat has recently installed re-purposed fencing around her back yard to protect it from rabbit and deer depredations.

Kathy moved to Baraboo several years ago, and has been creating garden areas for her shady side yard, sunny backyard, small reclaimed veggie garden area, and butterfly habitat in her front yard, while preserving play space for her grandchildren. She loves to have time in her garden to unwind and meditate as she cares for her plants.

Joan says gardening is important to her but not her highest priority. As a result, weeds often get ahead of her. She has trouble visualizing what she can make of an area in her yard from which she recently removed overgrown bushes and is now just a patch of dirt...and weeds.

We discussed the possibility of touring each other's gardens, an activity gardeners seem to crave. Joan reported that when she sought permission to include garden tours in the Garden Club activities, it presents a liability issue for the City, so it can't be part of the Garden Club agenda. But members can certainly get together for these tours independently. Members said they would like to exchange contact information.

Members said they would be interested in having presentations by informative speakers at meetings. We would also like to start a collection of garden information resources.

We also discussed the possibility of having workshops for hands-on experience making things like the sweet gardening journals Kathy showed us. Other possibilities include sharing plants from each other's gardens.

Pat found the following articles pertaining to foraging in Wisconsin:

Foraging Resources.

"Find Your Food" - Article about foraging in Wisconsin in the Spring 2021 issue of the **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources** Magazine:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/wnrmag/2021/Spring/Forage>

"Serendipity: Foraging Southern Wisconsin" - an article about foraging in the Spring 2021 issue of **Edible Madison** magazine:

<https://ediblemadison.com/stories/serendipity-foraging-southern-wisconsin>