Green Bay Botanical Gardens

Over the past couple of years a number of DCMV’s have suggested that we go to the Green Bay Botanical Gardens. Opened to the public in 1996, Green Bay Botanical Garden’s 47 acres of display gardens and natural areas capture the beauty of northeast Wisconsin’s four distinct and wonderful seasons. Visitors will enjoy outstanding architecture that sets the stage for an all-star performance by plants specially chosen for their ability to thrive in the Upper Midwest.

Research into the history of the property Green Bay Botanical Garden (GBBG) is developed on reveals a rich horticultural past. The Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC) property, or as it is commonly known, “the old Larsen orchard”, was originally part of a vast acreage owned by the William Larsen family of Green Bay. This acreage lay within the Town of Hobart, on what was once Oneida Indian Reservation Land. According to a 1951 edition of “The Wisconsin Magazine”, William Larsen founded a wholesale fruit and vegetable business in 1882 and marketed the produce in the surrounding Green Bay area. In 1880, Larsen expanded his business into a canning operation and founded what we know today as Agrilink Foods. Vegetables processed by the company were grown on its own farms, which by that time comprised almost 3,000 acres. The Brown County register of deed office reveals that the 65-acre GBBG site was acquired by Larsen, parcel by parcel, in the early part of the 20th century (the earliest plots were bought in 1909, the latest in 1915).

In November of 1987 the site passed into the hands of Green Bay Botanical Garden, Inc., not only was a piece of property with a horticultural tradition inherited, but the Garden was about to begin to build its own horticultural history. Green Bay Botanical Garden is the final phase for the “old Larsen orchard” and although its history is ending, the Garden’s history is just beginning.

Our tour of the Garden will be 1-1/2 hours in length and will be guided by a knowledgeable employee. This is a walking tour and will be about ¾ of a mile in length.

*** Board the Bus and proceed to Kohler, WI. ***
The American Club, Kohler
We will be escorted to one of the interior courtyards of the American Club named The Fountain Courtyard. We will have lunch served by American Club staff in this beautiful setting (see picture on registration form). After lunch we will begin our tour of the grounds around the American Club and surrounding vicinity. Again, we will have expert tour guides. The tour will be about 1-1/2 hours and will involve some walking.

In 2004 The American Public Garden Association (APGA) awarded the entire Village of Kohler membership as a registered botanical garden.

The seeds for the gardens of Kohler were planted in 1913 when Walter J. Kohler, Sr., traveled to Europe to study garden cities. He then worked with the Olmsted Brothers, whose landscape firm designed Central Park in New York City, to plan the green spaces that beautify the Village of Kohler and Kohler Co. campus – a 50-year master plan.

The idea blossomed for decades, and a second 50-year plan of growth, under guidelines established by The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, was completed in 1977. This plan actively called for continued community development in the Village of Kohler with a focus on environmental sensitivity, tree plantings and woodland and wetland preservation, making the village an ideal community for Kohler Co. associates, residents and visitors alike.

These two properties are culturally and historically rich and this is a wonderful opportunity to get an overall view of their beauty. This is a fantastic tour and although sponsored by DCMGA is open to anyone.