



Perennial Notes

January 2013

Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society—an unincorporated nonprofit association

WHPS COMING EVENTS!

All regular meetings are 6:30 social time, 7:00 p.m. program at Olbrich Gardens Commons, 3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison, unless otherwise noted.

Sunday, January 20 Potluck Brunch, setup after 9:00 a.m., serving at 10:00 a.m. *Special showing of photos with music of 2012 WHPS Trip to England*, courtesy of John Cannon & John Fritsch. Catch up with fellow members, enjoy some wonderful food, take a winter walk through Olbrich Gardens and then warm up with a walk through Bolz Conservatory. Members bring a dish to share and their own plates/cutlery. WHPS provides water and juice (soda machine available). *Remaining seeds from the December Seed Exchange will also be available.* Join us!

February 8-10, WPT Garden Expo Eleanor Rodini—erodini@library.wisc.edu, 608-257-2984—is coordinating the WHPS booth at the Garden Expo, and volunteers who sign up to work a shift at the booth will receive a free entrance ticket to the Expo—contact Eleanor if you are interested. WHPS is also sponsoring a speaker at the Expo, **Roy Klehm**, noted peony hybridizer and founder of Beaver Creek Nursery and Song Sparrow Farm and Nursery. His presentation, *My Mentoring Horticulture Heroes: Key people who mentored me and their contributions to gardens and landscapes*, will no doubt be one of the highlights of the Garden Expo.

Wednesday, February 20, *The Plant Forum*

Join the horticultural directors of four of Wisconsin's premier public gardens for this forum on plants new and old. Sharing years of knowledge and experience, this panel includes **Jeff Epping**, Director of Horticulture, Olbrich Botanical Gardens; **Mark Dwyer**, Director of Horticulture, Rotary Botanical Gardens; **Mark Konlock**, Director of Horticulture, Green Bay Botanical Garden and **Ed Lyon**, Director, Allen Centennial Gardens. You can expect a mixture of opinion, humor and knowledge earned through experience as they banter about plants they consider the "good do'ers" for Midwest gardens and the plants that excite them for 2013 release. There aren't many opportunities to hear four horticulturists interact and disseminate a lot of plant information in a short period of time. This group includes involvement as magazine and book authors, radio and television guests, national speakers, networks with other experts across the country, visits to many gardens across the country and, most importantly, hands-on horticulture as careers. You are sure to walk away with an exciting perspective that should influence your 2013 gardening. The gardens they represented include: www.olbrich.org, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org>, <http://www.gbbg.org>, and www.allencentennialgarden.org.

Wednesday, March 20 *The High Line Project*

One of the most exciting new projects with botanic focus developed in recent years has to be the High Line, a public park built on an historic freight rail line elevated above the streets on Manhattan's West Side www.thehighline.org. It is owned by the City of New York, and maintained and operated by Friends of the High Line. Founded in 1999 by community residents, Friends of the High Line fought for the High Line's preservation and transformation at a time when the historic structure was under

2013 GARDEN TOURS

Thursday, June 13 - Nakoma
Thursday, July 25 - Oregon

the threat of demolition. It runs from Gansevoort Street in the Meatpacking District to West 34th Street, between 10th & 11th Avenues. The first section of the High Line opened on June 9, 2009. It runs from Gansevoort Street to West 20th Street. The second section, which runs between West 20th and West 30th Streets, opened June 8, 2011. Friends of the High Line are now advocating for the preservation and transformation of the High Line at the Rail Yards, the third and final section of the historic structure, which runs between West 30th and West 34th Streets. Several WHPS board members have visited the site and Ed Lyon, who has walked it twice, says, "It is extraordinary to walk above the streets of Manhattan through paths lined with plants, trees and water features, viewing the hustle and bustle below while enjoying serenity and spectacular views with thousands of urbanites taking refuge from the hectic nature that is New York City." Friends of the High Line's former Vice President of Horticulture and Park Operations, **Patrick Cullina**, will speak about the High Line as a dynamic and emerging landscape and how it was developed to highlight human interactions with plants and the natural world in an urban environment. Cullina, a highly-regarded horticulturist, lecturer and photographer, is known for his work in public horticulture. He joined Friends of the High Line in 2009 after serving as vice president of horticulture and science at Brooklyn Botanic Gardens and associate director of The Rutgers Gardens. His contributions in design and plant selection for New York City's High Line Park—a nearly 1.5 mile park built on a former elevated historic freight railroad on Manhattan's West Side—demonstrate a new urban perspective on human interaction with nature in contemporary society.

Wednesday, April 17 *Lovely Long-lasting Lilies and Awesome Alliums* Most Midwest gardeners are familiar with bulbs that represent the harbingers of spring. Bulb exuberance does not need to end with the last gasp of tulips and daffodils, there are bulbs that brighten the garden right through the season to snowfall. Two of the most spectacular extend bulb season into summer. As spring turns to summer, a real garden treat awaits you as alliums and lilies unfold their myriad of colorful and often fragrant blossoms. Several local public gardens have learned that alliums are a valuable "transition" plant, provid-

continued on next page

Dues Notices have been mailed

Dues notices have been mailed to those who have not paid through 2013. Payment is due by March 1, 2013.

Coming Events......continued from previous page

ing color after spring bulbs have faded during the “down time” when perennials are still emerging and annuals are just going in the ground. And ornamental alliums are more than just the early purple “puffballs on a stick”; there are other colors and forms that bloom all season until snow fall. The second group, lilies, includes an enormous array of sizes and colors, from lovely delicate species to new cultivars with flowers so impactful they look like they are on steroids. We will look on overall samples of each genus and discuss best cultural practices to keep them blooming repeatedly for years. We will also include the most effective design uses for the garden and landscape. **Brent and Becky Heath**, owners of the nationally popular Brent and Becky’s Bulbs, in Gloucester, VA, have co-authored *Daffodils for North American Gardens* and *Tulips for North American Gardens*. Each book is an award winner which has over 300 color photographs, are marvelous sources of inspiration for the novice and are valuable references for the professional. Brent was also a consultant of Time Life’s book, *Complete Gardener: Bulbs*, *Ortho’s All About Bulbs*, *Organic Garden’s Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening*, *The American Horticultural Society’s Flower Finder* and numerous other books with chapters on bulbs. Brent and Becky have both been featured guests on National Television programs; Brent on *The Victory Garden* and *Karen’s Garden* and Becky on *Martha Stewart*. www.store.brentandbeckysbulbs.com.

Saturday, May 18 WHPS PLANT SALE (volunteer setup May 17) West Madison Agricultural Research Station. Make this sale your number one stop for new plants this spring!

Sunday, June 2, 2013 Bus trip to Lake Geneva/Burlington Area Nurseries and Private Gardens

Thursday, June 13, WHPS Garden Tours in Nakoma.

June 25-29 WHPS Brandywine River Garden Tour! Public and private gardens galore! See page 3 for specifics—tour brochure will be mailed later.

Thursday, July 25, WHPS Garden Tours in Oregon.

Friday, August 2, WHPS Bus Trip to Sheboyan Area.

Wednesday, August 21 Summer Potluck Dinner and walk through Olbrich Gardens

Wednesday, September 18 Chic Plants for Modern Gardens: A Commentary on New Plants. In this commentary-style lecture, plantsman **Kelly Norris** will share his views on the current state of ornamental horticulture, provide an overview of new varieties in some of the hottest perennial categories, while encouraging the audience’s feedback and sass—that’s right, some new plants just aren’t all they’re cracked up to be. Join Kelly for a rousing discussion on what makes a great garden plant and why we all need to demand more from the people that make them. Kelly D. Norris is a 25-year-old horticulturist, plant breeder, and plantsman from Iowa. He is the awardwinning author of three books including the Iowa Gardener’s Travel Guide, the first travel guide to Iowa’s public gardens and nurseries, and *A Guide to Bearded Irises: Cultivating the Rainbow for Beginners and Enthusiasts* just released from Timber Press. As a speaker he has garnered national acclaim for his high-energy, zealous presentations, leading many to call him one of the rising stars of American horticulture. He currently serves as Horticulture Manager for the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, and formerly managed Rainbow Iris Farm, a seven-acre nursery owned by his family, edits *Irises: The Bulletin of the American Iris Society*, and serves in several leadership capacities throughout the horticulture industry. Kelly is the youngest person to receive the Iowa State Horticultural Society’s Presidential Citation, Award of Merit and Honor Award in the organization’s 150 year history, awards that exemplify service and contributions to horticulture in Iowa. In 2011,

he was also honored by the Perennial Plant Association with the Young Professional Award, recognizing early contributions to the advancement of herbaceous perennials in American horticulture. Kelly’s unique 10 years of experience in the industry began at age 14 when he talked his parents into buying a nursery. In that time he’s become one of the few go-to experts on marketing horticulture to emerging demographics.

Wednesday, October 16 Joint Meeting with Hosta Society, SPECIAL TIME: 6:00 p.m. Social; 6:30 pm. meeting—*Ferns for Gardeners* One of the most comprehensive and useful resources for garden ferns is the *Encyclopedia of Garden Ferns*, by Sue Olsen. With their beauty and versatility, often combined with a toughness that belies their appearance, ferns are among the most useful and rewarding plants that any gardener can grow. Ranging from diminutive rock-garden gems to the stately tree ferns of the southern hemisphere, ferns offer a staggering variety of habit and shape, with foliage comprising endless variations of green as well as bronze, pink, silver and blue-grey. It all adds up to a dazzling array of choices, with new introductions pouring in from Asia and Central and South America to augment the already plentiful choices to be found among the more familiar species. **Sue Spooner Olsen** has been studying, photographing, and writing about ferns for more than four decades. She developed a love of ferns in the late 1960s and has been studying, propagating and writing about them since. Her nursery, Foliage Gardens, has introduced numerous ferns to horticulture and is the oldest mail-order nursery in the United States for spore-grown temperate ferns. A founding member and first president of the Hardy Fern Foundation, Sue is editor of the Hardy Fern Foundation Quarterly. She is a graduate of Cornell University and lives in Bellevue, Washington.

Wednesday, November 13 Why Grow That, When You Can Grow This? The recently released *Why Grow That When You Can Grow This?: 255 Extraordinary Alternatives to Everyday Problem Plants* is garnering much praise and for good reason. It’s a tired turn of phrase, but the grass is always greener on the other side. And for gardeners, it’s not just the grass—it’s the flowers, the shrubs, and the trees. No longer! Pining to grow lilac but lack the full sun? Try the fragrant pink and white flowers of Korean spice viburnum. Love the drama of canna but need something hardier? Try the bold foliage of variegated fleece flower. Boston-based author, garden designer and lecturer **Andrew Keys** offers hundreds of all-star alternatives that replace—and often outshine—popular problem plants. He makes it easier than ever to skip over the fussy plant prima donnas and move toward the equally gorgeous understudies. Each profile in his book shows the problem plant and offers three alternatives that include three or more of the original plant’s characteristics—hardiness, shape, color, texture, light, and size. Join us as he presents some of that information in an entertaining lecture. Andrew Keys is a writer, designer, consultant, and lifelong gardener. The host and producer of *Fine Gardening’s Garden Confidential* podcast, his writing has appeared in *Fine Gardening* and other magazines, as well as on his blog, Garden Smackdown. Descended from Mississippi cotton farmers, he first fell in love with plants in the woods of his childhood home. Today, his gardening philosophy centers around our role as stewards of the earth, and he’s accredited as an organic land care professional by the Northeast Organic Farming Association. Andrew is a member of the Garden Designers Roundtable and Garden Writers Association, and has lectured for the New England Wild Flower Society. You may also be interested in his Web site, GardenSmackdown.com.

Wednesday, December 11, Annual Meeting, Seed Exchange and Member Potpourri

The WHPS Brandywine River Garden Tour! by Ed Lyon, Tour Director

SAVE THE DATES—June 25-29!

Join us for an intensive five days packed with some of the finest public and private gardens in the world. The Brandywine River area has the largest concentration of public gardens anywhere in the world outside London. It is steeped in history, with estate gardens, particularly those owned by the du Ponts. The moderate climate allows private gardeners to use a plethora of plants we don't see in the Midwest. The end of June will be an ideal time to see gardens at their best. The trip starts Tuesday, June 25 and wraps up Saturday, June 29, and we utilize every bit of our five days. Participants will be responsible for their own travel to and from the area; this is specifically a garden tour, so we will not include any site-seeing in Philadelphia. We encourage adding a few days to include further exploration of this deeply historic and scenically beautiful area of the U.S. Our HQ will be in Delaware at the Brandywine Valley Inn, Best Western, located conveniently in the area with the heaviest concentration of du Pont estate and private gardens. Mark your calendar now make this a great vacation! Watch for detailed info with pricing for all three of our trips in 2013; this fabulous opportunity will be offered for less than \$600 (not including travel to and from PA/DE; hotel includes Tuesday and Sunday).

Highlighted destinations you can count on include:

- The du Pont Gardens
- Hagley (<http://www.hagley.lib.de.us/index.html>) is where the du Pont story begins and features the original du Pont Eleutherian mills, estate, and gardens, founded by Eleuthere Irenee du Pont and extending over 235 acres along the Brandywine River. The tour will explain how the family fortune started with manufacturing gunpowder; the site now recreates life as it was at that time. This will put the DuPont family history in perspective as we later tour the estate gardens of his descendants.
- Nemours: A French chateau estate set in America! Alfred I. du Pont showered his second wife, Alicia, with gifts, including a spectacular new mansion built for her on a 3,000-acre plot of land in the late-18th-century French style that Alicia adored. He was one of the most innovative inventors of his time and the house tour with all of his creations and devices is fascinating. A four-year, \$39-million restoration of this 1909, 47,000-square foot chateau and gardens was completed in mid 2009. <http://www.nemoursmansion.org/>
- Longwood: Probably the most famous du Pont estate, developed by Pierre du Pont, a great-grandson of Eleuthere. Today the 1,077-plus acre gardens consist of 20 outdoor and 20 indoor gardens within 4.5 acres of heated, massive conservatories, with 11,000 different types of plants and trees, as well as elaborate fountains, topiary gardens and extravagant displays. It is considered this country's premier botanic garden. <http://www.longwoodgardens.org/>
- Founded by Henry Francis du Pont, Winterthur is the premier museum of American decorative arts, housed in a 175-room mansion with a 60-acre naturalistic garden is among the country's best. Three generations of the du Pont family gardened at Winterthur, each building on the previous generation's work; all preferred a garden that made the most of the natural landscape, with most formally landscaped areas closest to the house; the tame, cultivated garden gives way to the freer wild garden style as one wanders the wider property. <http://www.winterthur.org/>
- Mt. Cuba Center started as the vision of the late Mr. and Mrs. Lamont du Pont Copeland, centered around their Colonial Revival mansion, with formal gardens, woodland landscapes, pastures and fields. Mt. Cuba's well-documented plant collection is focused on the study of Delaware Piedmont flora, with well over 4,600 accessions representing more than 1,800 taxa,

of which roughly 75% are of Piedmont origin. Horticultural research focuses on cimicifuga, cypripedium, helonia, hepatica, hexastylis, stewartia and trillium. <http://www.mtcubacenter.org/>

- The "Non du Pont" Gardens
- Chanticleer: I make no bones about telling people this is my favorite public garden and most visited. I am not alone in thinking this garden exemplifies creativity at its best. Chanticleer has been called the most romantic, imaginative, and exciting public garden in America; its 35 acres are a study of textures and forms, where foliage trumps flowers, the gardeners lead the design, and even the drinking fountains are sculptural—a garden of pleasure and learning, relaxing yet filled with ideas to take home. <http://www.chanticleergarden.org/>
- Morris Arboretum: formerly the estate of John and Lydia Morris, who purchased and landscaped much of the arboretum's current site starting from the 1880s. The Arboretum's 92-acre lush and colorful gardens contain 13,000 labeled plants, trees and flowers of over 2,500 types growing in the Arboretum's living collection in a variety of gorgeous settings. <http://www.business-services.upenn.edu/arboretum/index.shtml>
- The Rockwood Park and Museum will be the site of one of our lunches (in the lovely carriage house), with time to wander the grounds around the lovely estate house to view a collection of labeled trees that make up a mini-arboretum. I have visited this site twice just to photograph tree species far larger than we can find in the Midwest, including magnificent specimens of European beech, weeping hemlock, tupelo, white beech, ginkgo and others. <http://www2.nccde.org/rockwood/default.aspx>
- The Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College: The 357-acre campus is home to one of the finest arboreta in the country. The arboretum was established in 1929 in honor of Arthur Hoyt Scott and today contains over 4,000 kinds of ornamental plants, labeled with scientific and common names and grouped in collections for ready comparison. The major gardens include the 200-acre Crum Woods, the Dean Bond Rose Garden with over 650 roses, the James R. Frorer Holly Collection with over 350 different types of holly and a Pinetum. <http://www.scottarboretum.org>
- There will be one or two more public gardens added to the itinerary by the time the formal registration forms are available!

Because of the difficulty in bringing plants home, this tour will focus on gardens rather than nurseries and garden centers. One must-see garden center on the itinerary is Urban Outfitter's venture into high-end garden centers—Terrain at Styers <http://www.shopterrain.com>.

One of the most valuable parts of our bus trips will be access to private gardens and their owners! I am working on seven exceptional private gardens that will include an evening cocktail party in the home gardens of Dan Benarcik (Chanticleer) and Peggy Anne Montgomery (North Creek). Others have been recommended by the Mid-Atlantic Hardy Plant Society, including authors and horticulturists from some of the finest public gardens in the world.

One of the best values of Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society trips is heavy emphasis on education. Most of the sites will include organized tours, behind-the-scenes access not available to the public and direct contact with the gardens' owners and/or horticulturists with the knowledge and information you can bring home to your own gardens!

Excited yet?! You should be! Clear your calendars for these dates—they are set in stone—and watch for details when we release the registration materials very soon!

Assessing a Bad Summer

Yes, it was a bad one, but it's all cleaned up now, and we have all had time to assess our losses. They were many and sore. But I'm talking to gardeners here, and that isn't the way we look at things! We look to find what survived, so we can plan forward into climate change. I am looking out over my back garden as I write, checking the layout. While it makes me recall the hostas that dwindled and the ferns that scorched, I take heart from what survived.

One loyal plant actually has done just as well as ever: my hellebores are staunch, widespread, and green, some almost doubled in size since last year! There are six whoppers in my shady back berm. Yes, I watered them, but I watered everything, and many plants withered away from the heat. I have perhaps a dozen hellebores, most in rosy colors, plus one thriving *H. niger* which will give me forty-five or fifty large out-facing clean white



blossoms early next spring. Some of mine were new this year, notably *H. 'Banana Cream Pie'*, from Klehm's. They like their soil nice and rich, but are quite xeric and trouble-free, doubling in size every year. Keep them out of prolonged sun and they will bring you a sense of woodland all season long, the big glossy leaves enlarging week by week. In lieu of feeding them, I apply a third-cup of

Epsom Salt in a pailful of water some time after blooming, as I do for my (few) shrub roses and my clematis. It makes blossoms!

Epimediums too are thrifty, xeric plants that can thrive in part to almost full shade. Again, I already have many varieties of this delightful plant, which fills early summer gardens with delicate, mysterious little flying flowers, and lines the paths with pointy leaves like a thatched roof, often with red or orange edges, and expanding all summer. One in particular really came into its own this strange year, with hundreds of delicate little spurred flowers in tall flights that kept coming all summer! Its leaves are variegated and splotched a bit, giving them a life of their own. This is *E. 'Dominoe'*. I feel it is the spirit of the entire species, come to life. It is slow to start, but in its third year it is a fairyland treasure.

The same can be said of tiarellas, a modest, small, spreading plant with sweet brushes of white-and-pink blooming in spring and often repeating. These will thrive even under greedy maples and are also xeric, usually needing no watering after once established. Scratch that this last summer. I even had to water my cacti and sedums this year!

Two seldom-used plants have accented my back garden of variegated hostas for years, and they too proved drought tolerant: the tall *Persicaria 'Painter's Palette'* that lifts slender arcs everywhere, displaying leaves with maroon V's, and, in late summer and fall, thin, thin wands of teeny red flowers, extending the height to perhaps thirty inches.



The other is a grass I rarely see used: *Hakonechloa 'All Gold'*, a pure golden-yellow that stays all season, growing substantial,

showy foot-high clumps that light up the border. I dot it randomly along opposing borders, with my "grass river" rolling between. After trying for three years to grow the striped *H. macra*, I found it died every winter in my situation.

The many-colored sedums are a very good bet for a hot, dry climate too. In wet years they grow too much and flop open—this year they mostly stayed more erect and showed off their big flat composite blooms just when everything else was colorless. They like the same conditions as my native *Opuntia* cactus do—open, well-draining sandy soil and full sun.

Growing with them in their same stretch of garden, out by the curb, I have dozens of small species tulips, which multiply every year, spreading bulbs and seeds. There, too, thrive lavender and sage and lemon thyme and Kensington Ivy.

Grasses are not too dependent on water, either, and seem to love heat: my tall miscanthuses at the foot of the brick driveway have been lovely, if not quite their usual height. For a garden increasingly low-maintenance, I urge you to turn over some turf to grasses. They lift the eye and the heart, and you only have to

get someone to cut them down in March, before the new green shows. I set in a few more 'Karl Foerster', the slender soldier-like columned grass that begs to be set in straight rows, in an area where even daylilies have been shrinking. Now I will have five of them, footed with myrtle and spaced with tall red daylilies and *Monarda 'Raspberry Wine'*, and with a rail fence behind. The sprawling pink climbing rose, whose name I've forgotten, which climbs on the fence, is aggressively pretty in its season, and has a clematis or two for when it's out of bloom.



I fortunately have gotten into the pleasant habit of saving over bulbs of the various "Elephant Ears" and cannas, in big pots which I shift around where needed. A very good habit in tough conditions. This year I saved the bulbs in an open-sided plastic crate, tucked well up to the house in the garage.

The last thing I want to say is that a burning summer like this was ideal for many richly colorful annuals, and for the first time in my life, I went wild with them this year! Many wonderful coleus, tall and short, big pink zinnias, yellow coreopsis, a lantana, purple and blue petunias, and a stand of mixed cosmos made a giant "windowbox" of the narrow space between the house and the brick sidewalk on the East. Across the walk, a glorious black-leaved dahlia with huge, four-inch yellow single daisies with black centers wound into a pair of variegated hydrangeas, right where the huge miscanthuses backed up the whole arrangement.

Like all of you with the true "gardening gene," I say there is never a garden disaster without its lessons, and its new opportunities. We live because we always look ahead to next spring.

— Joan Severa

Other events of note

Saturday, February 2-Sunday, February 3, Orchid Quest 2013, presented by the Madison Orchid Growers' Guild, will be held in the Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way, Madison, WI. Orchid Quest is one of the biggest orchid shows in the Midwest. The show is open on Saturday, February 2 from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Sunday, February 3 from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. One day entry fee is \$7.00 and two day pass is \$10.00. Children 12 and under are free. huge orchid displays in the exhibit area filled with thousands of exotic orchids, and many beautiful orchids for sale. Orchid Quest also offers educational seminars, artwork, painted porcelain, and a raffle and silent auction. Please contact: 608-231-3163 with questions, or visit: www.orchidguild.org for more details about this year's show.

April 22-26, Olbrich Trip—GRAND GARDENS OF CHARLESTON

Exclusive visits to several private gardens with Charleston Horticultural Society guide; Wine & cheese reception at a private home; Exclusive visits to private plantations in the ACE Basin that are rarely open to the public; Guided tours at Magnolia Plantation & Middleton Place; Guided sightseeing tour of Charleston; Olbrich's Director of Horticulture, Jeff Epping, as your host; Private motor-coach & driver in Charleston; Daily breakfast, 2 lunches & 2 dinners highlighting local cuisine; Round-trip motorcoach to Chicago; Round-trip airfare from Chicago; Three nights first-class accommodations; All guide, driver and meal gratuities. Per person double: \$2,399 (singles + \$50). Save \$25 if you book by February 8, 2013/\$60 cash discount also available \$150 deposit due at booking. Call Burkhalter Travel at 608-833-1525 or 800-556-9286 (Ext 260 or 261) for more information.

May 20-30, Rotary Botanical Gardens Tour—100th Year Anniversary Chelsea Flower Show & English Gardens Tour, May 20, depart Janesville for Chicago O'Hare, board overnight flight to London. May 21—London and Windsor Castle. May 22—Chelsea Flower Show: 100th Year Anniversary. May 23—Hampton Court: Royal Palace & Gardens & RHS Garden Wisley. May 24—London Free day. May 25—Chartwell: Family Home & Gardens of Sir Winston Churchill. May 26—Maidstone, Kent: Canterbury & Goodnestone Park. May 27—Great Dixter & Sissinghurst Castle Garden. May 28—Leeds Castle & Chapel Down Vineyard. May 29—Penshurst Place & Gardens & Hever Castle, Home of Anne Boleyn. May 30—Depart for airport and return flight to Chicago and transport home. Cost is \$4,799 (minimum of 20 participants. Prices per person, based on double occupancy; subject to change. Some restrictions may apply. Private tour includes: round-trip airfare from Chicago to London; 9 nights accommodations in Four-Star hotels; continental breakfast daily - lunch and dinner where noted; private coach and guide services daily; admissions to gardens and activities; round-trip airport transfers, taxes and fees; travel insurance. Deposit 1) \$500 due by 1/15/13; Deposit 2) \$1,000 per person due by 2/15/13; Final payment due 4/1/13. For complete information: <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/England2013.pdf>

OLBRICH PUBLIC MEETINGS

You're invited! ... to a series of community meetings to help inform the development of a schematic plan for the Olbrich Botanical Gardens Public Facilities All meetings will be held at: Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Avenue, 608.246.4550 | www.olbrich.org. **Public Stakeholder Meeting 1**, Tuesday, January 15, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Pre-Design: Evaluate & Refine Planning Concept **Public Stakeholder Meeting 2**, Thursday, February 21, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Pre-Design: Final Planning Concept Presentation **Public Stakeholder Meeting 3**, Monday, March 25, 5:00–7:00 p.m. Schematic Design: Initial Concepts (*Meeting will end by sunset in observance of Passover) **Public Stakeholder Meeting 4**, Monday, April 22, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Schematic Design: Evaluate & Refine Concept **Public Stakeholder Meeting 5**, Monday, May 20, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Final Schematic Design Presentation Olbrich is working with an architectural firm, HGA, to evaluate Olbrich's space needs—which there are many. We anticipate the recommendation of possible addition(s) and/or renovation of the current facilities (buildings) to better accomplish our mission. It is always helpful to have users—such as the WHPS—involved in this level of the planning. They expect a turnout of neighbors to these meetings—not all of whom are familiar with our mission and programs and who only see (and complain about) the cars and the parking lot—so it will be helpful to also have users of our facilities provide input as well. The meetings will not be boring—HGA is good at keeping things moving and providing different ways to elicit feedback from participants. Information will also be available on the Olbrich website including notes from the meetings, so that there is an opportunity for those unable to attend to keep in touch with what is being discussed.

Planting the Seeds for Sustainability

A new Friends of the Allen Centennial Gardens' board is introducing a membership program with a brochure, which you can find on our web site at www.allencentennialgardens.org. ACG's operational budget, including salaries, is 100% self-funded. We are proud to offer the facility and its horticultural splendor free to the public 365 days a year. An ACG membership will help provide funding that will allow us to expand offerings in education and events. Of particular interest to WHPS members may be access to director Ed Lyon's winter lecture series starting in January (previously available to volunteers only). Additional benefits of membership are listed below. In 2014, Allen Centennial Gardens will celebrate 25 years of free admission to a highly respected Midwest public garden that is an asset to the community and region. Help support those efforts for the next 25 years and join us to help expand our offerings! **BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP:** support of Allen Centennial Gardens annual operations; reciprocity with over 200 public gardens and arboreta through the American Horticultural Society; special invitation to member only events and member discounts; discounts with select area businesses (listed on web site by Jan. 1 launch of program); 20% discounted subscription to *Wisconsin Gardening* magazine, which also includes a discount card for WI businesses; member newsletters and educational forums. Membership year is January through December: \$25 single; \$45 family membership). Go to <http://www.allencentennialgardens.org/membership.html> for the membership form.

Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society



January 2013 Newsletter

211 S. Fair Oaks Avenue
Madison, WI 53704-5822

President Frank Greer, 608-233-4686, frgreer@sbcglobal.net
Vice President—Jane Gahlman, 608-837-2317,
jmgahlman@hotmail.com, Seed Exchange Coordinator
Secretary—John Cannon, jtcannon@wisc.edu, Trip Committee
Treasurer—Diane Scharkey, dscharkey@aol.com
Lynn Belanger, 608-215-9127, lynnbelanger7300@gmail.com
Linda Brazill, 608-278-1587, lbrazill@gmail.com
Jeannette Golden, 608-767-3736, jgolden4142@gmail.com,
Plant Sale Volunteer Coordinator
Ed Hasselkus, erhassel@wisc.edu
Cindy Hoffland, 608-233-8083, hofflc@chorus.net, Webmaster
Jane LaFlash, jlaflash@wisc.edu, Membership Coordinator
and Trip and Tour Co-Coordinator
Edward Lyon, 608-658-3456, eslyon@wisc.edu, Program
Coordinator and Trip and Tour Co-Coordinator
Terri Maliszewski-Kane, 608-513-4189, terrimk1@hotmail.com,
Olbrich Liaison
Linda Marx, 608-249-7717, ljmarx@chorus.net, Plant Dig Coordinator
Stephanie O'Neal, 608-256-6108, sone2@aol.com,
Publications and Plant Sale Coordinator
Eleanor Rodini, 608-257-2984, erodini@library.wisc.edu,
WHPS Garden Expo Display Coordinator
Conrad Wrzesinski, 608-231-3279, conradw@charter.net

Do you have a question about your membership? Contact Jane LaFlash at whps05@yahoo.com, 608-243-1208.

..... Member news, tips, etc.

A New Look for WHPS!

We hope you've noticed the new look for our logo on our newsletter masthead. It's the first of many uses of the new logo you'll find rolling out this year, including our Website, T-shirts, signs, etc.

Our brand refreshment began last summer, thanks to several meetings of a committee from our board—Lynn Belanger, Linda Brazill, John Cannon, Jane Gahlman, Cindy Hoffland and Stephanie O'Neal.

Discussions regarding WHPS identity, perceptions and goals led to a review of other logos and ideas. The group agreed that it was important to keep the trillium image (the original was designed by member Betsy True) as we joined the past with the future.

After much work and many iterations created by Lynn Belanger, the group presented final recommendations to the board at its November meeting, and the board approved the images you'll see in the coming weeks and months.

As always, your thoughts and comments are welcome, and we look forward to surprising you with some additional new projects to improve communication with you and to get our members communicating with each other.

Here's to a Happy New Year for all of us!



In a way, it surprises me that I do so little advance planning in the garden nowadays. I've read books on landscape architecture, the kind that urge you to get out the graph paper and draw diagrams of beds filled with amoeba shapes representing "drifts" of different kinds of flowers. I resist this advice. Garden planning, like family planning, takes some of the spontaneity out of the act. Now that my life has room in it for the unexpected, I don't care to chase it away.

I once read somewhere that most gardens will disappear within three or four years after the gardener ceases to tend them. This idea haunts me as I grow older. I sometimes think of it at particularly trying moments. Such as when the raspberry canes slash my arms and draw blood, or when I wrestle with a large stone, or when I teeter on the edge of a gully trying to yank out a weed that is my only means of support. "Why am I doing this?" I ask myself. "It'll all be gone as soon as I'm dead." Then I remind myself that this is true of most human endeavors, and I go on gardening.

—Excerpts from *The Invisible Garden*,
Dorothy Sucher, Counterpoint,
Washington DC, 1999

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