



Perennial Notes

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Inc.

January 2016



Kousa dogwood by Stephanie O'Neal

Member Potpourri

A variety of member interests and photos were on display at the December 2 Annual Meeting. The Member Potpourri and Seed Exchange included the approval of Plant Sale Income Donations to the following organizations: \$2500 – Olbrich Botanical Society; \$1250 each to Allen Centennial Gardens, UW-Longenecker Gardens, Janesville Rotary Gardens; \$750 to West Madison Agricultural Research Station.

Nine members presented photos/videos at the Member Potpourri, including Marijane Curry's photos of gardens in Quebec, Deb Pienkowski of Wisconsin Heights Community Garden (see p. 5), JoAnne Kriege's photos of plants providing seeds for the Seed Exchange, Terry Watters' photos of progress on his garden at the Old Lone Rock High School, Stephanie O'Neal's video of images from her garden (above), Nancy Nikora's images from her garden and others, Mike Maddox' photos of healing gardens visited, and Jane Gahlman's photos from 2015 WHPS Trips to Green Bay and Chicago. It was a full night of variety and lovely photos.

WHPS coming events!

All regular meetings are at 6:30 pm. social time, 7 pm. program, at Olbrich Gardens Commons, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison unless otherwise noted.

Sunday, January 17, 2016, WHPS Potluck Brunch and Winter Walk Through Olbrich Gardens. Bring a dish to share and your own plates and utensils. Coffee, juice, and water will be provided. Potluck opens at 10:00 am. with setup of items by 9:30 am. John Cannon and John Fritsch will present photos from the 2015 WHPS Trip to Portland, OR.

Friday-Sunday, February 12-14, 2016, WHPS Booth at Garden Expo and sponsor of speaker Roy Diblik, Northwind Perennial Farm. Volunteers who sign up for a 2½ hour shift at the Garden Expo receive free admission! To volunteer, contact Shirley Scriver at scrivs@charter.net, or call her at 608-467-2870.

Wednesday, February 17, 2016, History of the Chicago Botanic Garden with speaker Kris Jarantoski, Executive Vice President and Director, Chicago Botanic Garden.

Over the last 43 years, the Chicago Botanic Garden has developed into one of the great botanic gardens of the world. This presentation will show photos of and describe the thought processes behind the evolution of the Botanic Garden, with a brief look into its future. Jarantoski develops and directs the horticulture, plant collections, and facilities and planning of the Garden. He has worked at the garden for 39 years. www.chicagobotanic.org/info/senior_staff/jarantoski



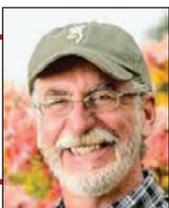
Wednesday, March 16, 2016, Epimediums: Jewels of the Shade with speaker Karen Perkins, Garden Vision Epimediums. Known by many as a simple ground cover for dry

woodland shade, Epimediums are finally getting the appreciation that they deserve. This "perfect shade perennial" possesses a delicate beauty that belies its surprisingly tough, long-lasting nature. Karen will illustrate the many and varied types now commercially available, including some of the exciting new evergreen species from China. Characteristics, growth habit, growing and propagation, pests and diseases, and combining Epimediums with other shade perennials in the garden will also be addressed. We will even get a glimpse into the collecting trips to China made by Darrell Probst. www.epimediums.com/

Wednesday, April 20, 2016, Gardening in the City with Angela Mason, Associate Vice President, Windy City Harvest Chicago Botanic Garden. Angela Mason oversees the Youth Farm and directly manages Windy City Harvest. In 11 years with the Garden, she has grown the Youth Farm from one farm and 13 students to 90 students at four sites utilizing interns and justice-involved youth participants. She will show ideas on productive urban gardens including balcony and rooftop gardens.

May 20, Setup Day; May 21 WHPS Plant Sale, 9:00 am.-noon. Can you contribute three plants? Do you have enough plants to host a Plant Dig? Contact Stephanie O'Neal at sone2@aol.com.

(continued on page 5)



David Stevens

answers questions about weather
– see p. 3



Garden Expo

Friday-Sunday, Feb. 12-14, 2016 at Alliant Energy Center (see above)



Reflecting on 2015

with Nancy Nedveck, – see p. 4

The Artful Garden Symposium

on Saturday, April 02, 2016

Allen Centennial Gardens Symposium sponsored by the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society and Madison Area Master Gardeners Association.

Join us for an exciting and inspirational day as we explore the concept of the Artful Garden. Top-notch speakers, industry leaders, and award-winning authors will present their unique perspectives on garden design, plant selection, and more. Morning refreshments and lunch are included, and each author's books will be available for purchase.

Online Registration Dates:

January 15: Friends of Allen Centennial Garden members

January 22: Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society



wing of the Art Institute of Chicago. He is best known as the plantsman behind Piet Oudolf's midwestern garden designs, including the Lurie Garden at Millennium Park in Chicago. He will discuss the developing partnership between the gardener, the plants and nature, always knowing the beauty is in the doing.

Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes

Thomas Rainer is a registered landscape architect, teacher,

and writer living in Arlington, Virginia. Thomas' passionate advocacy for an ecologically expressive design aesthetic has made him a leading voice in planting design. He is best known for his influential and provocative blog, *Grounded Design*. In addition to writing, Thomas has designed landscapes for the U.S. Capitol grounds, The New York Botanical Garden, and over 100 gardens from Maine to Florida. Perhaps the greatest challenge facing gardeners & designers today is the need to balance beauty with environmental concerns. This talk will reveal how plants fit together in nature and how to use this knowledge to create landscapes that are resilient, beautiful, and diverse.

The Art of Gardening at Chanticleer

Bill Thomas is the Executive Director and Head Gardener of the Chanticleer Foundation and has led the talented and creative Chanticleer staff for 13 years. The relatively young, 48-acre pleasure garden outside of Philadelphia is now in its 22nd year. Bill holds a B.S. and an M.S. in Ornamental Horticulture from the UW-Madison. Join Bill for a visual tour and behind-the-scenes look at what the Washington Post calls "one of the most interesting and edgy public gardens in America." Chanticleer is known for its plant combinations featuring foliage textures and colors, its wide variety of containers, and its imaginative home-made furniture.

– Ben Futa, Garden Director,
bfuta@wisc.edu

Editor's note: For full text see:
<https://allencentennialgardens.org>

members, and Madison Area Master Gardener Association members.

February 1: General Public

Tickets will range from \$20 for UW Students to \$80 for General Admission to \$120 for a special VIP package. <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-art-of-gardening-symposium-tickets-19781677530>

The online registration invite will be sent to you in an e-mail when its available.

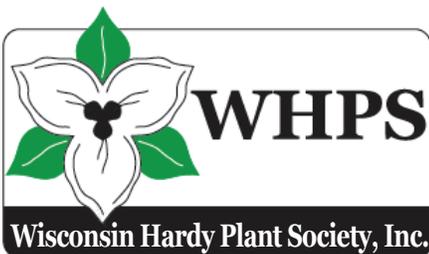
Presentations:

Plants with Style

Kelly D. Norris is a 20-something, award-winning author and plantsman from Iowa and the first director of horticulture at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, a newly revitalized 14-acre public garden in Des Moines, IA. Gardeners need chic, sustainable, thriving plants for modern lifestyles. Plants after all are the very essence of fashionable gardening. In this spirited, provocative lecture, Kelly calls for a garden revolution: out with boring plants and in with stylish alternatives that captivate and enthrall. A passionate horticulturist and lifelong gardener, Kelly shows you how to forge a personal style in harmony with your garden's setting and local environment.

The Know Maintenance Perennial Garden

Roy Diblik is a noted plantsman and designer who has spent more than 30 years studying, growing, and enjoying plants. His passion for native plants and other perennials has been cultivated through his establishment of Northwind Perennial Farm, in Burlington, Wisconsin. Roy's recent work includes a planting of the new Oceanarium at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago and a garden for the modern



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David Stevens Answers Questions Regarding Weather and the Future of Our Gardens

I believe your questions are on every Midwest plant aficionado's mind. My observations follow.

Why is this happening?

While global warming is part of the mix here, the dramatic shift in this year's winter weather patterns are undoubtedly being induced by one of the most severe El Niño events since 1950, when records on the phenomena were first kept. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), this is already one of the worst recorded El Niño's with a good chance of it being the worst. To quote: *While the warmer-than-average ocean waters are likely reaching their peak about now (December 2015), they will remain a huge source of warmth for the next several months to drive the main impacts on temperature and rain/snow over North America, which typically follow the peak. The main impact season is December–March, so we're just at the beginning of finding out what this El Niño event will bring to the U.S. There's no doubt that El Niño 2015–2016, which has already shown its power around the world, will have a significant effect on the U.S. winter.* (Source: <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/enso/december-el-ni%C3%B1o-update-phenomenal-cosmic-powers>)

The NOAA website has a nice synopsis of the name, cause and effects of El Niño: "El Niño means The Little Boy, or Christ Child in Spanish. El Niño was originally recognized by fishermen off the coast of South America in the 1600s, with the appearance of unusually warm water in the Pacific Ocean. The term El Niño refers to the large-scale ocean-atmosphere climate interaction linked to a periodic warming in sea surface temperatures across the central and east-central Equatorial Pacific."

Have plants already been through their dormant period?

This is generally measured as the number of hours below a given temperature needed for flowers and leaf buds to develop normally. Using common lilacs (*Syringa vulgaris*) as an example, various references note that they need between 1,748 and 2,000 hours below 45°F to bloom. (This explains why the species doesn't bloom in warmer parts of the U.S.) While this number is different for each genus and species, in general we have not met the chilling requirement for most spring flowering trees and shrubs hardy in Wisconsin. Recent research has shown, however, that as winters become warmer, the amount of heat needed to induce spring leaf out and bloom has also gotten larger and is amplified by rainy winter weather. The findings are reported in the March 6, 2015, journal *Global Change Biology*: Increased heat requirement for leaf flushing in temperate woody species over 1980–2012: effects of chilling, precipitation and insolation. (Fu, Y. H., Piao, S., Vitasse, Y., Zhao, H., De Boeck, H. J., Liu, Q., Yang, H., Weber, U., Hänninen, H. and Janssens, I. A. (2015), Increased heat requirement for leaf flushing in temperate woody species over 1980–2012: effects of chilling, precipitation and insolation. *Glob Change Biol*, 21: 2687–2697. doi:10.1111/gcb.12863) <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.12863/full>

This report was summarized nicely on the USA National Phenology Network: <https://www.usanpn.org/node/21694#>

In a nutshell - Temperate woody plants require a certain amount



David Stevens

Curator-Longenecker
Horticultural Gardens
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of heat, called a heat requirement, to begin leaf growth after their period of winter dormancy. For many plants, it appears that this heat requirement is related to temperatures in the preceding winter. If the winter is long and cold, less warmth in the spring is needed to bring the plant out of dormancy. Conversely, a warm winter characterized by few cold nights ends up delaying leaf out, as

these plants require more spring warmth to prompt leaf growth. Under increasing temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere, many temperate woody plants may no longer be exposed to the necessary cold temperatures in winter to meet their chilling requirement, leading to delays in leaf-out.

This study used on-the-ground phenology observations, including the USA-NPN's long-term lilac dataset, to determine the heat requirement for leaf-out in different woody species. Over the period of 1980–2012, the timing of leaf-out in the 13 woody species studied advanced by 13 days. However, the heat requirement increased by 50%, which actually offset some of the trend in earlier leaf out.

And how does heat requirement interact with other environmental cues, such as day length, light intensity, and precipitation, to affect spring phenology? The authors found a positive relationship between precipitation and heat requirement, implying that, *under wetter conditions, more heat is needed to trigger leaf-out.*

I think the biggest fear is a repeat of 2012, when we experienced prolonged, extreme high temperatures in early March, which induced early flowering trees and shrubs to begin blooming, only to be frozen later. This phenomenon, referred to as a false spring, was looked at recently by researchers at UW-Madison, who predict that by the end of this century, spring will appear approximately three weeks earlier across the continental U.S., and false springs are likely to increase in the Great Plains and portions of the Midwest. (Allstadt, A.J., Vavrus, S.J., Heglund, P.J., Pidgeon, A.M., Thogmartin, W.E., Radeloff, V.C. 2015 Spring plant phenology and false springs in the conterminous US during the 21st century. *Environmental Research Letters*.) <http://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/10/10/104008/pdf>. At this point, it is not possible to predict whether we'll have a false spring in 2016.

Spring flowering shrubs blooming or leafing out: Are there double buds on all trees and shrubs? Are the buds only for leaves or flowers too? Will spring blooming shrubs bloom again (lilacs)?

In general, flower buds on early spring flowering trees and shrubs (magnolias, azaleas, common lilacs, crabapples) are produced the previous year and if damaged or destroyed do not have the capability of regenerating the same season. The secondary/axillary buds on these plants are vegetative and allow the plants to continue to grow if the primary vegetative buds are damaged. We saw this most vividly in 2012 when all the apple blossoms froze, destroying the apple crop while the trees themselves survived and put on growth.

Reflecting on a night so dreary, about the year's weather so queery

As if the year's weather couldn't get more curious, here I am writing this winter solstice night with temperatures in the upper 40's and rain. Shouldn't we have inches of snow on the ground and freezing temps? Last week, I heard sandhill cranes, and David saw a dandelion in bloom in the yard. The animals don't know whether to fly south or hibernate. What are the plants doing in response to this zone 4... 5... 6... no, 7 weather?

The plants used to long winters are still asleep, waiting for the longer days and longer periods of warm temperatures before growing. The danger is in the plants that are day neutral and think it's spring at the first warm days. With no snow and or mulch the ground warms and grow they will. When it does get colder and snow comes (this is Wisconsin, folks), the plants could be damaged or die outright. If it snows first before the cold (we gardeners are always the optimists), that will be a good insulating blanket. Spring will come and the no-show winter will be forgotten as we look for those first snowdrops, crocus, and aconites.



Throughout the whole year I had wondered about the weather. Even the winter of 2014-2015 was comparatively mild. We had low snowfall but made it up with a cool, wet spring. The plants loved it, developing slowly, gaining volume and height with every rainfall. The challenge was getting the newly purchased plants in the ground. "Don't dig in the soil when it is too wet or you can ruin the soil structure" kept echoing in my ears. Customers would come looking for new plants, confessing they hadn't yet planted the ones from the previous visits.

The spring and early summer were great for the plants and sales. The sun came out



Nancy Nedveck

*WHPS Member
and co-owner, The
Flower Factory*

and so did the people – new customers and gardeners. Our displays never looked so vivid. Salvias, Coreopsis, Delphinium, Heuchera, Echinacea and Phlox were a riot of color.

And then the first heat wave came. Ouch. Where did the sunscreen go? I can't get enough water, long sleeves and sandals, gravitate towards the shade. The plants weren't ready, having developed large, thin, shade leaves. Not having sunscreen, they blanched, browned, burned, and some blackened. We moved the yellow foliaged Heucheras under shade cloth for protection, and trimmed up the Delphiniums as the leaves bleached out from the sun. The heat wave was short-lived, and again we had rain and lower temps.

The second one came and stayed longer. The faucet of steady rain turned off and David was hauling hoses to water the gardens and the rest of us watered twice a day, only to see those big lush plants of spring wilt in the late afternoon sun. But we are a hardy, tough, and caring lot, making sure the plants are watered, trimmed, and fed; waiting for the cool fall to come. Mother Nature loves to test the limits – on humans and plants. Those that can, adapt and survive, and the others, well let's just say the compost pile had a lot of new material to work with.

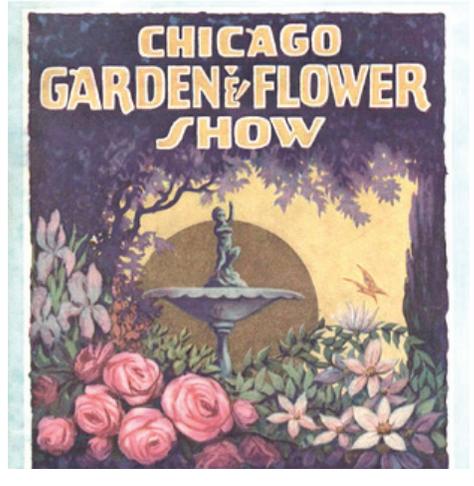
The fall was dry and long but oh so wonderful to work in. I ripped up two overgrown gardens and didn't feel rushed to get plants in the ground before the cold hit. Fall colors were brighter, more intense, (add your own superlatives) and lasted well into October. *Aster oblongifolius* 'Raydon's Favorite' was the last blue aster to bloom. I planted even in mid-November, since it felt like late September.

We finally got seven inches of snow on November 20, and I thought ahh, now we can settle down to book work and winter duties, sitting by a crackling fire –

Bus Tour

Monday, March
14, Chicago
Flower and Garden Show Bus
Trip. Seats still

available; \$39. See <http://www.wisconsinhardyplantsociety.com/>



oops no fireplace, a heater will have to do. Mother Nature changed her mind, she likes fall weather too.

Now instead of resting and recharging our batteries, we are worrying about early growth, rotting under mulch that is too heavy, and frost heave. What is a gardener to do? I am going to sit back and relax, since there isn't much you can do. I will not have sugarplums dancing in my head, but designs for new gardens and new varieties to add color to my palette of flowers.

Keep calm and plan for spring, see you at the Garden Expo!

The April 2016 newsletter will include our Annual Calendar of Plant Sales, Trips, and Gardening Events in the area. If you have an item to submit, please email Stephanie O'Neal, sone2@aol.com by March 25.

Dues for 2016 - If you owe dues for 2016, you were sent a notice for renewal in December. To continue your membership, please return your dues form and payment by March 1, 2016.

Wisconsin Heights Community Garden in Need of Support and Advice

The Wisconsin Heights Community Garden (corner of Hwys 14 and 78 between Black Earth and Mazomanie) has existed since 2012. It was spearheaded by Sauk Prairie Hospital, as they have clinics in the area and wanted to focus on a healthy living initiative. The garden exists on one acre of land owned by New Heights Lutheran Church.

Our garden is small in number, just 18 gardeners, but we are very active. This year, we offered three educational programs to the area: Seed Starting, Organic Gardening Techniques, and Food Preservation. The Wisconsin Heights High School Tech Ed class built a shed for us and delivered it to the site. We had a tool drive at the local hardware store. The Black Earth 5th grade Girl Scouts took full responsibility for our Food Pantry Garden in its first year of existence, harvesting 450 lbs. of produce that was delivered to local food pantries. We

Board Responsibilities Shift

Newsletter Update – WHPS thanks Sally Averkamp for volunteering to work on layout for *Perennial Notes*. We are looking forward to Sally bringing a new look to the newsletter as she and editor Stephanie O'Neal work to keep the newsletter relevant and interesting to members. As always, suggestions for articles and comments are welcome – contact Stephanie at sone2@aol.com, or Sally at aversigg@sbcglobal.net.

Website – Caroline Bohler has taken on the role of Webmaster, responsible for making improvements in our Website and its accessibility to our members. A huge thank you to Cindy Hoffland, who has guided our on-line presence for the past few years and who will continue to serve as backup to Caroline.

WHPS Presence at Wisconsin Garden Expo – Our newest director Shirley Scriver has taken on the coordination of the WHPS booth and volunteers for the Wisconsin Garden Expo. Eleanor Rodini has led this effort since 2012, with help from Director and continuing booth designer Lynn Belanger. Thanks Eleanor for all of your help and coordination of this key exposure of our organization to the garden community.

grew pumpkins that were sold to the community. In all, we estimate that we touched or were touched by 500 people – a nice percentage of the small local communities.

The soil in the garden is awesome: dark and loamy; however the water source is not ideal. We have had water tankers donated by local Ag companies in the past, refilled by the Black Earth Fire Department. The pressure is not high enough to be able to use a hose, so all the gardeners have to haul buckets to their site. Those in the back garden often don't bother.

Our goal is to put a sand point well in (a well consisting of a pipe with a solid steel point and lateral perforations near the end, which is driven into the earth until groundwater is reached). We started purchasing some of the supplies by holding a Brat Fry at the Shoe Box. The remaining cash outlay will be approximately \$1000. We are searching for grants, but since we



The Girl Scouts after their last food pantry harvest at the garden.

are not 501(c)3 they are rare to find. Do you know of a generous business/organization that may support a community garden? Do you know anyone with expertise on wells? If so, please contact me at deb.pienkowski@gmail.com.

Once we get this accomplished we will be putting in a pollinator garden, utilizing perennials that attract bees and butterflies to increase our yields. Donations will be welcome for that too!

– Deb Pienkowski, WHPS Member and Coordinator of Wisconsin Heights Community Garden

<https://www.facebook.com/wisheightscommunitygarden/>

Events (continued from p.1)

Saturday, May 14, Spring Buying Opportunity at Klehm's Song Sparrow Nursery, 8:00-11:00 am.

Wednesday, May 25, Tour of Fitchburg Gardens: Chris and Blaine Biedermann; Cherith Bruckner and Roger Fish; Sarah and John Hasselkus.

June 10-19, 2016, WHPS English Garden Tour, contact Frank Greer at 608-233-4686 or frgreer@sbcglobal.net

Thursday, June 23, Tour of McFarland Gardens: Todd and Wendy Meicher; Sue Okas; Carlene Rohde.

Wednesday, June 29, Tour of Fitchburg/West Madison Gardens: Linda Brazill and Mark Golbach; Cindy Fillingame; Rita Thomas.

Wednesday, August 17, WHPS Summer Potluck Dinner.

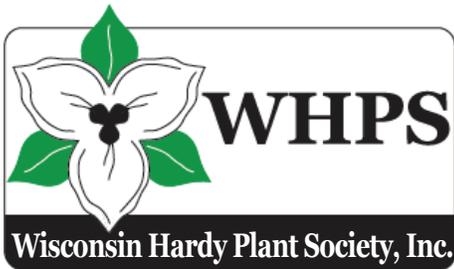
Wednesday, September 21, Irvin Etienne, Horticultural Display Coordinator at Indianapolis Museum of Art.

New WHPS Director

Shirley Scriver grew up in South Dakota, where her father was a farmer and her mother was a nurse. She graduated with a degree in medical technology. She and her husband moved to Two Rivers, WI, where she worked in the hospital laboratory and did landscape design for McKay Nursery in Manitowoc County. She became a Master Gardener in Manitowoc County and got an Associate's Degree in Horticulture from NWT. They moved to Madison six years ago to watch their grandson, bought a house, and started landscaping their yard. For fun, she does gardening-type volunteer work, plays with her two grandchildren, attends UW sporting events, and travels on WHPS trips.



Editor's note: Shirley has taken over coordination of the WHPS participation in the Wisconsin Garden Expo.



211 S. Fair Oaks Avenue, Madison, WI 53704
January 2016 Newsletter

Have questions about your membership? Contact Jane LaFlash at whps05@yahoo.com or (608) 243-1208.

Other Events of Note

Saturday-Sunday, January 30-31, 2016, Orchid Quest 2015. This annual mid-winter show and sale of the Madison Orchid Growers Guild will be from 10:00 am. to 5:00 pm. on Saturday, and 10:00 am. until 4:00 pm. on Sunday at a new venue, Marriott West Conference Center, 1313 John Q. Hammons Dr., Middleton, WI. No parking fee. For more info call (608) 592-7906. www.orchidguild.org/orchid-quest.html

Beekeeping Classes – You are invited to attend one of the day-long classes to be held at the Dane Co. Extension Building, 5201 Fen Oak Dr, Madison, WI 53718. **Beginners Classes** start on Jan. 30 – from 9:00 am.-4:00 pm. The fee is \$50. For information, contact Jeanne Hansen at 608-244-5094 or jeanniealabeannie@yahoo.com

Friday and Saturday, February 19-20, Luminous at the Allen Centennial Garden, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Escape the winter doldrums as you see the garden under the light of graceful luminaries, with six custom-made luminary and lantern installations. Admission is free, and donations are welcome. Parking is free

on campus after 4:30 pm. at a number of nearby locations, including: Lots 35 and 36 (Observatory Drive Ramp) – Ben Futa, 608-576-2501; bfuta@wisc.edu

Feb 12-14, 2016 Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo, Exhibition Hall, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI. Hours are Fri. 3 am.-9 pm., Sat 9 am.-6 pm., and Sun 10 am.-4 pm. www.wigardenexpo.com/

UW Extension 2016 Green Thumb Gardening Series, February 25-April 14, 6:30-9:30 pm. Programs include: February 25 – **Soils & Composting** (Joe Muellenberg & Lisa Johnson); March 3 – **Vegetable Garden Planning & Techniques** (Claire Strader); March 10 – **Vegetable Families, Pests & Diseases** (Joe Muellenberg & Lisa Johnson); March 17 – **Native Plants for Gardens & Pollinators** (Frank Hassler); March 24 – **Shrub Selection & Care** (Lisa Johnson); March 31 – **Wildlife in the Garden** (David Drake); April 7 – **Annuals & Perennials** (Lisa Johnson); April 14 – **Landscape Design** (Ben Futa) <http://dane.uwex.edu/horticulture/greenthumbclasses/>

WHPS T-shirts available!



WHPS T-shirts available for \$12. (Sizes available are S-M-L-XL-XXL-XXXL.) Please email Jane Gahlman at jmgahlman@hotmail.com or call Jane at (608) 837-2317 if you would like to buy one. They are great for volunteering!