



Perennial Notes

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Inc.

April 2024



Amelanchier in Autumn.

Amelanchier for Southern Wisconsin Gardens

by Steve Lesch Landscape Designs, Inc.
© 2024

Amelanchier is derived from their French Provençal name, amalenquière or amelanchière. They belong to the Rosacea Family, which began to evolve in the Eocene Epoch some 50 million years ago. The Rosacea also contains apples, roses, peaches, pears, strawberries, plums, raspberries, etc. There are about 17 Amelanchier species in North America, two species in Asia and one in Europe (see note below). The numerous common names include: shadbush, shadwood, shadblow, serviceberry, sarvisberry, juneberry, saskatoon, sugarplum, wild-plum, and chuckley pear.

Foliage and form: Typically, their foliage is smooth, alternate, with serrated edges. The bases of the

(continued on page 11)

WHPS coming events!

Questions about our events?
Email wisconsinhps@gmail.com for specific info.

NOTE: In-person meetings are at Olbrich, unless otherwise stated, links to Zoom meetings are sent the week of the scheduled meeting.

Wednesday, April 17, 6:30 pm social time, 7 pm - WHPS Meeting (IN PERSON and via ZOOM): A Gardening Journey – Olbrich to Epic Gardens, with Speaker Jeff Epping.

When Nancy Ragland brought Jeff Epping on board at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in 1993 and shared her dream of creating a world-class botanical garden in Madison, little did Jeff know that he'd be spending the next 28 years on the journey to make her vision become a reality. Join Jeff in looking back to the beginning and through the years, as he and many talented individuals joined together to slowly, but surely, transform the lawn-laden landscape into the award-winning, intricate and beautiful garden that it is today. Over the last 18 of those 28 years, Jeff also worked with Judy Faulkner and her team of skilled and creative professionals to craft one of the most remarkable corporate landscapes in the country – Epic Systems in Verona. He'll share some of that gardening journey as well.



Jeff Epping started Epping Design & Consulting in 2009 and just recently retired after 28 years serving as Director of Horticulture at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison, Wisconsin, where he has always practiced and preached environmentally conscious garden-

ing. His designs put plants at the forefront to create gardens that are not only beautiful, but also ecologically sound, providing habitat for insects, birds and all the wild creatures they help support. His garden designs celebrate the region, support nature, enhance the senses and satisfy one's innate desire to connect with the natural world.

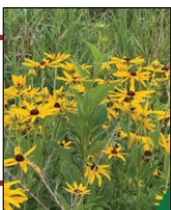
A native of southern Wisconsin and graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Epping holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Ornamental Horticulture and regularly lectures and teaches throughout the country on great garden plants and designs for northern gardens. His garden designs have been featured in *The New York Times*, *Fine Gardening* and *Southern Living*, among others, and he's been interviewed on many local radio and television programs, as well as numerous podcasts. He just recently received the Award of Merit from the American Public Gardens Association for his contributions to public horticulture over his career, and his home garden was recently featured in *American Roots*, written by Nick and Allison McCullough and Teressa Woodard.

NEWLY ADDED! - Wednesday, April 24, 7-9 pm - WHPS/MAMGA/Friends of Allen Centennial Gardens Meeting (IN PERSON and via ZOOM): A Balanced Perspective on Gardening in the Future, with speaker Ed Lyon,

Dane County UW-Extension, 5201 Fen Oak Dr., Madison, WI 53718. Given a changing cli-



(continued on page 2)



Plant sales

see p. 6



Grants

see p. 8.



Self-Guided Tour

see p. 14.

WHPS Events (cont. from p.1)

mate and spreading urbanization, our gardens can play an increasingly important role in maintaining species and functions that previously were done by unaltered natural communities such as forests and prairies. Many gardeners want their gardens to help support the ecosystem we live in but what should we do? Some advocate planting only native species, doing what we can to preserve an intact community. But others point out that non-native plants may be able to survive in our changing conditions and fill the same roles in the natural community as the natives used to, maintaining ecosystem function. Ed Lyon will discuss these issues and new information on the many ways gardeners can be eco-

logically responsible and have a garden that brings them joy.

Ed Lyon is the director of Reiman Gardens. For 20 years he has inspired and taught public, student and professional audiences through lecturing and writing and through Spellbound Garden Writing & Consultation. He writes for garden magazines and has created on-line classes for *Fine Gardening* and *Garden Gate*. He authored the book *Growing the Midwest Garden*, published by Timber Press in 2015. He serves on the executive board of the Perennial Plant Association. Throughout his roles in public garden administration and hands-on experience in the green industry, he has been as passionate about education as he is horticulture.

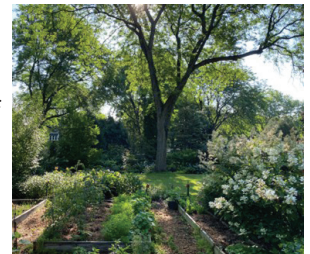
This event is co-sponsored by Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Madison Area Master Gardeners Association and the Friends of Allen Centennial Gardens. Membership in one of these organizations is required for attendance. In-person attendance will be limited to 60 people. The talk will be held in the Driftless room at UW Extension. This program is free, but registration in person is required through this [Eventbrite link](#). If you register and cannot attend, please cancel your registration thru Eventbrite.

This program will be available on Zoom at the time of the live presentation, as well as recorded and sent to the memberships of these three organizations. The Zoom link will be sent to all members a few days prior to the event.

May 19, 2024 - WHPS Spring Plant Sale - 10 am-2 pm, West Madison Agricultural Research Station. Join us for the WHPS

Spring Plant Sale featuring Intrinsic Perennials, Agrecol Native Plant Nursery and Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries on Sunday, May 19th. The sale will feature gorgeous perennials selected by Brent Horvath of [Intrinsic Perennial Gardens](#) and over 100 varieties of native plugs from [Agrecol Native Plant Nursery](#) and [Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries](#). There will be something for every gardener - sun lovers, shade plants, hard-to-find natives and grasses, pollinator magnets and more! A complete list of plugs will be available before the sale. The sale will take place at the [West Agricultural Research Station \(8502 Mineral Point Rd\)](#) just two blocks west of Menards.

Tuesday, June 18, 6 pm, FREE WHPS Workshop: Sustainable Movement in the Garden. Join Anna DePauw of [Botannaca](#) as we learn sustainable movement practices for gardening longevity! For the first part of the workshop, we'll apply principles of functional movement to gardening tasks like pushing a wheelbarrow/pulling a cart, pruning, raking, and weeding. For the rest of the evening, we'll move through a functional yoga flow emphasizing stability and mobility to support your body in the garden and other activities. Participants will take home new strategies for movement in the garden and feel refreshed from an evening of yoga (wear comfortable clothes and bring a



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2545 Dahle St, Madison, WI 53704

President, Stephanie O'Neal, 608-256-6108, Publications/Newsletter Committee., Grants Committee, Facebook Committee, Tech Committee

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Cheri Schweitzer, Olbrich Liaison, Garden Expo Committee

WHPS Board members can be contacted at wisconsinhps@gmail.com

WISCONSIN HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

Spring Plant Sale

Featuring Intrinsic Perennials & Agrecol and Taylor Creek Nursery

- + Over 100 varieties of native perennial plugs
- + Perennials selected by Brent Horvath
- + Advice from WHPS plant experts

10AM - 2PM Sunday, May 19
West Madison Agricultural Research Station
8502 Mineral Point Rd, Verona, WI 53593

WHPS Events (cont. from p.2)

yoga mat). Workshop will be held in the garden of Caroline Bohler on the near west side of Madison. Attendance will be limited. Look for more info in Eventbrite invitation to be emailed to members in May.

Saturday, June 22, 10 am Tour of Landscape Designs Nursery,



3290 Elvehjem Rd., McFarland. There is no better way to spend a Saturday morning in the summer than exploring a wonderful nursery. So plan to join fellow

WHPS gardeners for a tour of Landscape Designs Inc. with owner Steve Lesch. While exploring his expansive nursery, which includes a large number of hardy native, nativars as well as hybrid nativar plants from North America, Steve will help us better understand, "Just How Big Does It Get?" describing trees, bushes and herbaceous perennials and their annual growth patterns. This is particularly valuable information as we design new beds, move plants around established beds or just try to "fit in" that new plant we just fell in love with. Best of all, armed with this new information you are invited to browse throughout the nursery at the conclusion of the tour and choose all the new plants you now know you can fit in your garden (or your vehicle). Steve is extending a generous 20% discount to WHPS members who shop immediately after the tour.

Tuesday, June 25 and Tuesday, July 16 - Near Eastside Madison Evening Garden Tours.

This year, WHPS is excited to be showcasing small east-side gardens on two dates. We have six home gardens planned for June 25 and four home gardens plus a stop at nearby Period Garden Park (shown right) with a docent for July 16. More information with links to maps will be included in the June newsletter and emailed to members in late May. Co-sponsored by Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society and Madison Area Master Gardeners (MAMGA).



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Upcoming Calendar NOTE: WHPS member program and event opportunities can occasionally arise on fairly short notice. We encourage our members to always check your email for any communications from WHPS in order to maximize the value of your membership and take advantage of these opportunities when they become available.



The Flower Factory Nursery will be selling only on Saturdays at the Dane County Farmers' Market for the 2024 season starting April 13. Selections include natives, pollinator, rain garden and proven-hardy plants.

www.theflowerfactorynursery.com

"My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece." – Claude Monet



Locally grown annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs

Open year round: M-F 9-6, Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4

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www.kleinsfloral.com

2024 – Other gardening events of note

Key events of interest listed but please visit the following websites for more info on events:

- [Allen Centennial Garden](#) in Madison
- [Boerner Botanical Gardens](#) in Milwaukee
- [Chicago Botanic Garden](#) in Chicago
- [Green Bay Botanical Garden](#) in Green Bay
- [Lynden Sculpture Garden](#) in Milwaukee
- [Mitchell Park Horticultural Park \(The Domes\)](#) in Milwaukee
- [Monk Botanical Garden](#) in Wausau
- [Morton Arboretum](#) in Lisle, IL
- [Olbrich Botanical Gardens](#) in Madison
- [Paine Art Center and Gardens](#) in Oshkosh
- [Rotary Botanical Gardens](#) in Janesville
- [University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum](#)

March 30 - May 27, Show Dome Spring Show, Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (the Domes), 524 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee.

Sunday, April 7, 1:30 pm-2:30 pm, Family Nature Walk: Science Expeditions for Families, UW-Madison Arboretum, Madison. This walk is a fun, fascinating way for families with children elementary age and younger to explore the natural world. Adults must attend. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, April 20, 1 pm-3 pm, Magnolias Garden Tour, UW-Madison Arboretum, Madison. Celebrate the return of spring on a flower-filled stroll through Longenecker Horticultural Gardens' dazzling collection of over 100 magnolia trees. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, April 20, 8 pm-9:30 pm, Night Walk: Sky Dance, UW-Madison Arboretum, Madison. Listen for frogs and other night animals, like woodcocks. We can't guarantee that wildlife will appear, but if they do we may see the woodcock's fascinating mating ritual known as sky dance. Meet at the Visitor Center. Free, register through Eventbrite by April 16 (uw-madison-arboretum.eventbrite.com).

Sunday, April 21, 10 am-2 pm, Earth Day Celebration, Rotary Botanical Gardens, Janesville. Join RBG for an Earth Day Celebration, an event with three live exotic animal shows and lots of other family friendly activities and education.

Wednesday, April 24, 10 am-11 am, What's In Bloom? Tour, Rotary Botanical Gardens, Janesville. Director of Horticulture Michael Jesiolowski provides a behind-the-scenes look at what's blooming this month and answers your questions. Registration required. Fee for non RGB members.

Saturday, April 27, 12 pm-1:30 pm, Yes, You Can Grow Rhododendrons in Wisconsin, with Tom Horner, Rotary Botanical Gardens, Janesville. \$10 RBG members; \$15 non-members. Register by April 17.

Saturday, April 27, 1 pm-3 pm, Early Signs of Spring Garden Tour, UW-Madison Arboretum, Madison. As trees begin to leaf out, Dutchman's breeches, twinleaf and rue-anemones might be blooming in the woodland gardens, and prairie-smoke in the prairie gardens. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, April 27, 9 am-noon, Annual Garlic Mustard Pull Party & Luncheon, Hawthorn Hollow Nature Sanctuary & Arboretum, 880 Green Bay Rd., Kenosha. Join us to help remove this invasive species and restore the native spring wildflowers to the Hawthorn Hollow woodlands. After the pull, we sit down to lunch and dine on a variety of dishes all made with this tasty plant. More info (hawthornhollow.org/garlic-mustard-pull/).

Sunday, May 5, 1:30 pm-2:30 pm, Family Nature Walk, UW-Madison Arboretum. This walk is a fun, fascinating way for families with children elementary age and younger to explore the natural world. Adults must attend. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Sunday, May 12, 1 pm-2:30 pm, Nature Hike in the Wingra Oak Savanna, UW-Madison Arboretum. Learn about the land, plants, animals, fungi, phenology, and ecology. Geared for adults, these longer walks may cover some sloping terrain. Meet at Arbor Dr. parking lot, off Monroe St.

Sunday, May 19, 1:30 pm-3:30 pm, Family Nature Program: Flower Power, UW-Madison Arboretum. This program is a fun, fascinating way for families with children of elementary age and younger to explore the natural world. Nature walk: 1:30-2:30

(continued on page 5)

BREEZEWAY IRIS GARDEN 2024 Events



WWW.BREEZEWAYIRIS.COM • GEORGE BACON

BLOOM SEASON OPEN HOUSE: 9 AM – 5 PM, MAY 24-26 & MAY 31-JUNE 2
2024 SUMMER SALE: AUG 2 & 3, 10 AM. - 4 PM.

ORDERS BY WEBSITE: MAY 1-JULY 15, 2024

4600 ROME CORNERS RD, BROOKLYN, WI 53521

Other Events (cont. from p.4)

p.m., activities: 2:30–3:30 p.m. Adults must attend. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Tuesday, May 21, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm, The Japanese Garden, with Stan & Kristin Kresal, Rotary Botanical Gardens, Janesville. \$10 RBG members; \$15 non-members. Register by April 17.

Wednesday, May 22, 10 am-11 am, What's In Bloom? Tour, Rotary Botanical Gardens, Janesville. Director of Horticulture Michael Jesiolowski provides a behind-the-scenes look at what's blooming this month and answers your questions. Registration required. Fee for non-RBG members.

Saturday, May 25, 8 pm-9:30 pm, Full Moon Night Walk, UW-Madison Arboretum, Madison. Let your eyes adjust to the moonlight, listen to the night sounds, and experience the darkness on this naturalist-led walk (full moon May 23). Free, register through Eventbrite by May 21 (uw-madison-arboretum.eventbrite.com). Meet at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, June 1, 10 am-11:30 am, Captivating Containers Workshop, Rotary Botanical Gardens, Janesville. Learn how to create impactful, eye-catching containers overflowing with color using summer annuals. Registration required. Fee.

Saturdays, June 1 to August 3, 9:30 am and 11:30 am, Saturday Tours, Allen Centennial Garden, UW-Madison. Tour the garden's many diverse spaces and learn the gardener's sense behind each. Join the 45 – 60 minute tour. Fee.

Thursday, June 13, 6 pm-7:30 pm, Asian Maples, with John Miyazaki, Rotary Botanical Gardens, Janesville. \$12 RBG members; \$16 non-members. Registration required.

Wednesday, June 19, 10 am-11 am, What's In Bloom? Tour, Rotary Botanical Gardens, Janesville. Director of Horticulture Michael Jesiolowski provides a behind-the-scenes look at what's blooming this month and answers your questions. Registration required. Fee for non-RBG members.



Opening March 22!

- Annuals, perennials, trees & shrubs
- Locally grown vegetable plants & seeds
- Houseplants, pottery & gift ideas
- Home garden services
- Custom seasonal container design
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avantgardening.com

PLANT SALES

Tuesday, April 2 thru Tuesday, April 9, 9 am-3 pm daily, Dahlia Sale to Benefit the Healing Garden and Hospital Auxiliary, Edgerton Hospital and Health Services, 11101 N. Sherman Rd., Edgerton. 45 varieties of dahlias, bagged tubers, 2 per bag. More info (www.edgertonhospital.com).

Tuesday, April 16, 10 am start, Perennial Plant Sale - Online Order Only, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison. Curbside plant pickup, Friday, May 10 to Friday, May 17. More info (www.olbrich.org/calendar/perennial-plant-sale).

Thursday, May 2, 4 pm-7 pm, Spring Plant Sale - Members Only, Rotary Botanical Gardens, Janesville. Shop a wide variety of beautiful heirloom plants. We have a selection of vegetables including outstanding and unusual varieties of tomatoes and peppers, herbs, perennials, woody plants, bagged mushroom compost, obelisks and more. See next entry for public sale days and website for more information.

Friday, May 3 & Saturday, May 4, 9 am-5 pm, and Sunday, May 5, 9 am-noon, Spring Plant Sale - Open to Public, Rotary Botanical Gardens, Janesville. See above description.

Saturday, May 11, 10 am-2 pm or until sold out, Orchid Growers Guild Blooming Orchids Sale, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison. A variety of different blooming orchid species just in time for a Mother's Day present or for an every day present for yourself!

Saturday, May 11, 9 am-1 pm, Plant Sale & Bird Walk Fundraiser, Hawthorn Hollow Nature Sanctuary & Arboretum, 880 Green Bay Rd., Kenosha. Event will feature an extensive native and ornamental plant sale, guided bird walks hosted by the Hoy Audubon Society, a bake sale, live music, and much more! More info (hawthornhollow.org/birds-and-plants/).

Saturday, May 11, 9-11 am, Grant County Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale, Schreiner Memorial Library, Ryland Park, 113 W. Elm St., Lancaster. The sale will include perennials, shrubs, vegetables, fruits and house plants. We also have a children's potting area. More info (grantcountymastergardeners.weebly.com/plant-sale.html).

Saturday, May 18, 9 am-noon, Ozaukee Master Gardeners Plant Sale, Ozaukee Co. Fairgrounds, Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Expo Center, W67N890 Washington Ave., Cedarburg. 10,000+ healthy plants for sale - native, pollinator, ornamentals, grasses, vegetables and herbs. More [info](#).

Saturday, May 18, 8 am-2 pm, Outagamie County Master Gardeners' Annual Plant Sale/Garden Expo, 3365 W. Brewster St., Appleton. More [info](#).

Saturday, May 18, 9 am-4 pm, Paine Art Center and Gardens Festival of Spring, 1600 block of Congress Avenue, Oshkosh. The Paine's annual spring plant sale and more with numerous vendors of original art, fine crafts, plants, and garden supplies. Enjoy free admission to the Paine mansion and gardens, an art activity for kids, tasty food, and live entertainment.

Saturday, May 18, 10 am-2 pm, Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale, UW-Madison Arboretum, Madison. More than 200 species of native grasses, woodland, prairie, and savanna plants for sale. More [info](#).

Sunday, May 19, 10-2 pm, WHPS Spring Plant Sale (see page 2 for more info).

Sunday, May 19, 11 am-3 pm, Dane County Master Gardeners Plant Sale, Dane County Extension, 5201 Fen Oak Dr., Madison. The sale includes hundreds of perennials for both shade and sun, native plants, houseplants, as well as vegetables, herbs and annual flowers now grown in their new greenhouse. More [info](#).

Friday, May 24, 5-7 pm, Door County Master Gardener 'First Pick' Early Bird Plant Fair, UW Peninsular Agricultural Research Station, 4312 N. Highway 42, Sturgeon Bay. Ticketed event will give people first pick access to plants. Tickets are \$10 and limited to the first 100 attendees. Tickets [here](#). See next entry for free event. More [info](#).

Saturday, May 25, 8:30 am-noon, Door County Master Gardener Plant Fair, UW Peninsular Agricultural Research Station, 4312 N. Highway 42, Sturgeon Bay. This year's events will include hundreds of varieties of flowers, vegetables, herbs as well as perennials and native plants. There will be live music and a marketplace of garden themed arts and crafts and garden accessories. More [info](#).

Saturday, June 1, 7:30 am-noon, Daylily Society of Southeast Wisconsin Annual Plant Sale, Brookfield Farmers Market, 16900 W. Gebhardt Rd., Brookfield. Plant list on website. More [info](#).

Tuesday, June 4 thru Friday, June 21, all day, Summer Pollinator Plant Sale - Online Order Only, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison. Plant pickup, Wednesday, June 26. More [info](#). (www.olbrich.org/calendar/summer-pollinator-plant-sale).

June 20, 4-6 pm, Lake Superior Master Gardener Association Annual Plant Sale, Fairlawn Mansion, 906 E. 2nd St., Superior in the parking lot. More [info](#).



10th ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE

Sunday, May 19th, 11 am to 3 pm

SPONSORED BY DANE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
Parking Lot of Dane County Extension Office at 5201 Fen Oak Drive Madison

From our garden to yours, we offer hundreds of perennials for sun or shade, Wisconsin natives, in addition to vegetables, herbs, annual flowers & houseplants grown in our new greenhouse. Master Gardeners will be available to answer your gardening questions. Plants are reasonably priced. Cash, check and credit/debit cards accepted.

A list of available plants will be posted a week before the sale at:
<https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/horticulture/plant-sale>



Follow us on Facebook for plant sale updates:
facebook.com/uwexteachinggarden

Scan the QR code
for more details!



WHPS new members

The following members have recently joined WHPS:

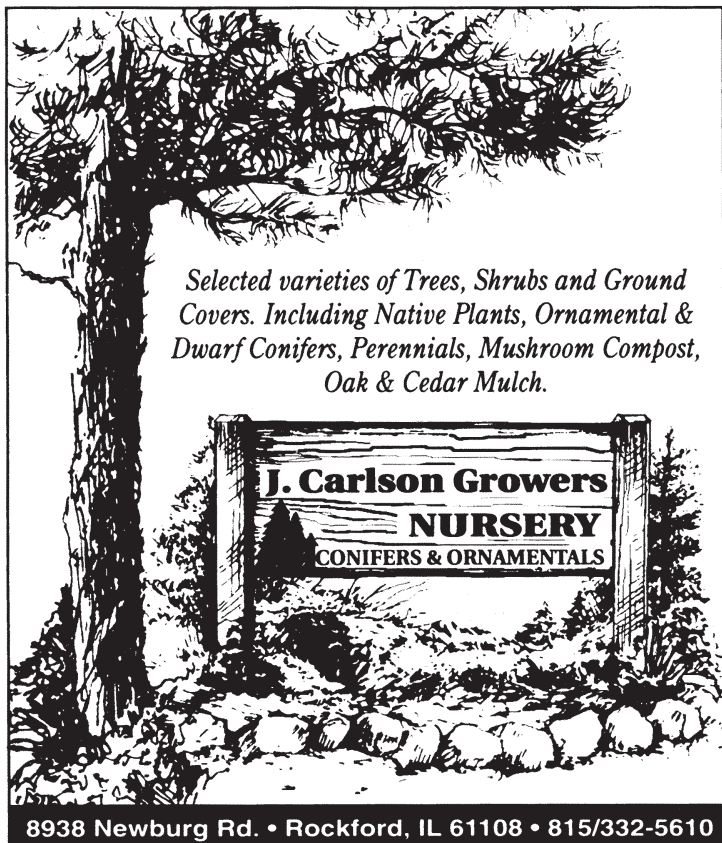
Gina and Mark Bailey, Madison, WI; Amy Bates, Delavan, WI; Patrick Belton and Soo Koon Lee, Middleton, WI; Susan Churchill, Madison, WI; Karin DeLaitsch, Ellicott City, MD; Marty Detering, Madison, WI; Catherine and Josh Erdman, Janesville, WI; Kurt and Michelle Grajkowski, Sun Prairie, WI; Mary Beth Hayes, Fond Du Lac, WI; Monty Heinrich, Minneapolis, MN; Jackie and Fred Hyde, Cottage Grove, WI; Sue Klein - Klein's Floral and Greenhouses, Madison, WI; Josh Smith - Kopke's Greenhouse, Oregon, WI; Samantha Malone, Pardeeville, WI; Susan Milleville, Mukwonago, WI; Elliott Duemler - National Nursery Products, Monroe, WI; William Nuelle, Trempealeau, WI; Amy Schultz, Madison, WI; Jeannie Taylor, Lake Mills, WI; Barry Weispfennig, Minnetonka, MN; Chuck Wilder, Williston, ND; Sarah Wilkin Gibart, Madison, WI; Myrra Windau, Wauwatosa, WI; Jill Zimdars, Madison, WI.

Welcome!

Members in the news

Mark Dwyer - "Garden Talk: Adding Color and Texture with Foliage Plants," *Larry Meiller Show*, February 16, 2024..

Richard Hawke - "New Heucheras That Aren't Just Hype," *Fine Gardening*, April 2024, pp. 44-51.



Selected varieties of Trees, Shrubs and Ground Covers. Including Native Plants, Ornamental & Dwarf Conifers, Perennials, Mushroom Compost, Oak & Cedar Mulch.

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- Events and Classes

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Help Us Raise Needed Money!
Bloomin' Bucks
with Brent and Becky's

Your Shopping Matters

Bloomin' Bucks with Brent and Becky's Bulbs is a progressive fundraising program designed to earn select nonprofit organizations cash for every order received through the Brent and Becky's Bulbs website. WHPS is one of the participating 387 organizations. Thanks to our members and other shoppers for shopping at Brent & Becky's and for selecting WHPS for your support!

To participate, simply go to bloominbucks.com and select "Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society" and hit "GO" to be sent to the Brent and Becky's website Bloomin Bucks.

Grants Update

by Kitty Rankin

UPDATE: Historic Hixon House Garden, La Crosse County Historical Society

In July 2023, the Hixon House Garden Committee was elated to receive your generous grant in the amount of \$993.00 for development of a Late Victorian-style perennial border. The border that currently exists on our site post-dates the house's "interpretive period" and, to the best of our knowledge, has never been the subject of a formal plan. Efforts to restore the rest of the grounds to their ca. 1900-1910 appearance have been underway for several years, and it was decided last spring to finally address this "south border," as it is called. After careful thought and deliberation, we decided to plan a Late Victorian perennial border such as Ellen Hixon, the matriarch of the family who built this historic house, might have seen at her friends' homes or elsewhere in the city. It would be historic in character and in plant selection so, while not original to the site, would still be "of the period."

Background

Ellen Hixon (1837-1913) was an avid gardener, and an early member of the Northwest Horticultural Society. We have good documentation of her plant choices and the locations of her various garden beds, including a kitchen garden. But we also know that the area south of her prized "rose garden" was open land extending all the way to the neighboring property. Sometime in the late 1940s or 50s, long after Mrs. Hixon was gone, Hixon family descendants planted lilacs along this property line. In the early 1960s, the Hixon family gave the house and grounds



View of South Garden.

to the La Crosse County Historical Society. Since then, the lilacs have been surrounded by a variety of plant splits and odds and ends; we have been unable to locate any formal plans for this south border.

We worked with Western Technical College landscape planning students a year ago to develop some ideas for this border, as well as with a local nursery. Synthesizing many of the ideas presented, we devised a planting scheme that would maintain the large, historic lilacs, create mid-level interest with new period-appropriate shrubs, and feature heirloom perennials filling in around the lilacs and other shrubs.

Grant

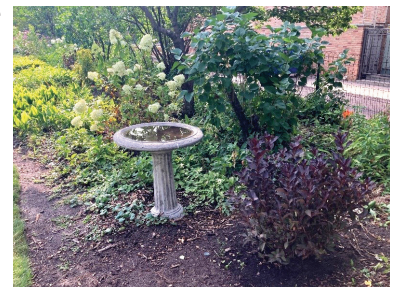
The awarding of your grant allowed us to purchase 13 shrubs to space along the border among the lilacs. These include five hydrangeas, five winterberry and three weigela, and between them the garden will now have a greater variety of foliage color and four-season interest. These three types of shrubs were very popular in the late 19th century. We were able to procure free mulch, so did not purchase that when planting the shrubs last fall. This spring, we will continue to clear out unwanted plants, amend the soil, and purchase asters and astilbe to complement the perennials we already have. We plan to acquire five cubic yards of mulch with the balance of your grant funds. One can see in the attached photographs the process of clearing out overgrown and invasive plants, mulching, and edging the undulating front edge of the bed, as well as the newly-planted hydrangeas, winterberries and weigelas.

Summary

With this project we are tightening up the presentation and interpretation of our historic site. It is both exciting and gratifying! While there are still a few corners of the property that need more attention, and we continue to tweak the kitchen and rose gardens, we anticipate being able to present a more unified and attractive south border to our thousands of visitors this summer. Our Hixon House Garden Committee continues to grow in number, so we will have plenty of hands ready to finish the primary construction of this border.

Many, many thanks again for your generous contribution to our project. We are extremely grateful!

– Margaret Lichter, Hixon House and Guides Manager



View of South Garden.



Full-service design and installation
Patios, walkways, and retaining walls
Renovation of existing landscapes
Low-voltage landscape lighting
Drainage correction and grading
Year-round maintenance and snow removal



Ganshert Nursery & Landscapes LLC

5284 Lacy Road Fitchburg, WI 53711
608-274-2443



ganshert.com

Garden Expo Wrap Up

by Stephanie O'Neal

This year's Garden Expo was greeted on Thursday setup day with 60+ degrees and a light rain in the afternoon - WOW! The Expo itself was a success and provided an opportunity to catch up with gardening friends (and meet some new ones) while enjoying the seminars and a unique mix of gardening products, decor and services.

We'd like to thank Samantha Malone for her WHPS-sponsored seminar "An Inside Look at Olbrich's Garden Scouts."

Big thank you to Lynn Belanger for her help in planning for the booth setup this year, and Andrea Diss-Torrance was a terrific addition and a huge help with the organization and setup this year (and how about her 20+ year-old blooming rosemary plant brought for the display?).

We had a great combination of experienced and first-time booth volunteers and we thank them for donating their time to talk to visitors about WHPS programs and membership: Nancy Ahlquist; Barbara Bendlin; Christine Biedermann; Taylor Blair; Stephanie Bloomquist; Andrea Diss-Torrance; Beth Holden; JoAnne Kriege; Patty Kriege; Monica Maccara; Lolita Martens; Amanda Mravec; Nancy Nedveck; Barbara Obst; Stephanie O'Neal, Sandy Reinsel; Julie Sparks; Brad Terp; Mary Tremaine; Pat Tuchscherer.

Congratulations to Cindy Schwierske of Mount Horeb on winning the post-Expo drawing for a \$50 certificate to purchase plants at our May 19 Plant Sale!

Attendance at the Garden Expo was up from 2023:



2024: Friday (4,112), Saturday (7,096), Sunday (3,705), Total (14,913)
2023: Friday (3,883), Saturday (5,778), Sunday (3,923), Total (13,584)
2022: Friday (2,872), Saturday (5,245), Sunday (2,654), Total (10,771)
2020: Friday (4,601), Saturday (8,474), Sunday (2,563), Total (15,638)

Looking forward to seeing even more members and visitors at next year's PBS Wisconsin Garden and Landscape Expo (dates TBA).

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Grants (cont. from p.8)

Root-Pike Pollinator Project

The WHPS Board has recently awarded a grant of \$1,500 to the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network. Their overall goal is to improve the water quality in the Root-Pike river basin in Kenosha County, Wisconsin. The grant funds will enable them to purchase plants for two new "pollinator patch" gardens at Bradford High School in Kenosha. One will be a 500 square foot wet prairie installed in the courtyard of the high school. The other will be a 2,500-square-foot shade garden with spring ephemerals and shade loving native plants in a woody part of the high school grounds. It is planned that this area will become a seedbank where students will collect and propagate plants each year to be planted under other trees on the grounds or elsewhere within the watershed.

Thinking of applying for a grant?

Have you or someone you know thought about applying for a grant but are unsure of the types of information you need to provide on the application? The grants page on the WHPS website now has a link to [three sample grant applications](#) that are intended to demonstrate the level of detail you need to write a successful request.

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Prepping for a Tour of Your Garden

by Linda Brazill

There's nothing more enjoyable than touring the gardens of WHPS members on a summer evening — unless the garden in question is yours.

The tours are low-key events filled with ideas, information and lots of garden chat. But if you've never done it, the idea of hosting a tour can be a bit overwhelming.

Over the years my gardening partner (my husband Mark) and I have hosted every size and type of garden tour including busloads of out-of-towners. As a result, we've come up with a list of what we can do to make our garden look its best. We might do everything on the list — or not.

We try to achieve what I call "reasonable perfection." How the garden will look at tour time depends on weather, critters, the size of one's garden and the age and energy of the gardeners. Here are some suggestions if you are wondering what other gardeners do.

A lot of tour prep is obvious, like weeding. I always concentrate on edges of the paths or special plantings; anywhere that is most likely to be looked at more closely. Cut the grass if you have any; that always makes everything look better. If the driveway, garden paths or deck have debris on them we blow that off.

Our garden has plantings on both sides of a long driveway, so we put a pair of orange traffic cones out at the street so people don't park in the driveway and obscure the plantings.

Our garbage cans are right outside our garage door, so they get scooted into the garage temporarily. They're not the prettiest things in the garden and we don't want them distracting from the view. Ditto any animal waste that critters may have left in the garden overnight.

We always walk through the garden to see if there's anything that might be a safety hazard. We have extensions on our gutters, for example: long rubber tubes that extend across a major path. We pull them off on tour day and hide them behind a hedge. We roll up hoses that are weaving about and get wheelbarrows and tools out of the way.

We have some spots that are off limits. We put out bamboo hoops or a big potted plant to indicate it's not part of the tour route. Our garden has two areas with stone steps that may be difficult for some folks, so we always try to let people know that they can navigate the entire garden on easy paths without taking the stairs. We may also refresh the pine needle paths if we have any needles saved from the previous year.

We always have people exit the garden through our work area so we usually clean that up a bit as well and take any debris to Madison's drop off location closest to our house. I like to line up my unusual watering cans there as it makes it look less messy.

We also do a number of things that are particular to our garden like cleaning and refilling all the different water containers. We make sure the garden furniture is presentable, that cushions are on all the seating, and we rake the decorative gravel features

into novel patterns. We also have a Japanese style Tea House that gets cleaned, has a scroll and art objects in place, and has its vase filled with a fresh display.

We set out a couple of photo albums showing "before" pictures which are always fun to see when you've been walking through the "after." Refreshments are optional but water or lemonade is nice on a hot day.

I admit this is a long — you might even say obsessive — list. Every gardener's list is different and you may decide you don't need one. Instead, you can sit back and do nothing. It's not a contest and the people coming to see your garden are gardeners, too. We all live in the real world in our gardens and know what it takes to keep up with a garden of any size. We're just happy to spend a little down time in someone else's haven.



Photo by Linda Brazill

Left, path with gutter extension. Below, some of a busload of folks from the Pacific northwest.



Photo by Mark Golbach

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Amelanchier (cont. from p.1)

leaves are usually cordate – heart-lobed. Autumn colors are seasonally variable but range from simple yellow to glorious shades of deep-red, orange, rust, and apricot. They range from spreading, colonizing shrubs to 65' trees. Some of the larger growing types may be pruned into very attractive smaller trees – but they may sucker at their bases. Their bark is gray and often smooth, aging to ridged and scaly. All *Amelanchier* are very tolerant of pruning. Its wood is hard and tough, making it ideal for tool handles. Curiously, heating the wood makes it even harder and it may be molded when it's hot.

Soil: Moist soils but quite adaptable within the various species. They may suffer from chlorosis when grown on very alkaline soils. All species dislike heavily compacted soils.

Habitat: Full sun to deciduous shade. Commonly found growing along forest edges.

Mulching: 2-3" of mulch either in very early spring or late autumn.

Flowers: Born in pendulous to vertical racemes of white to pale pink. The flower buds can be blushed with a bit more red. Their flowers are perfect, with male and female parts in one flower. They bloom in April or early May in our area - one of our very first native blooming woody ornamentals. Some species are nicely fragrant, while others are a bit malodorous. Numerous bees, butterflies and other insects are attracted to the flowers and to the entire plant. The flower budding stems may be cut for forced arrangements. After cutting from the plant, recut about 1" off the bottom of the stems while they are under water. This will make the cut stems last longer. All *Amelanchier* flowers are very valuable for wildlife.

Fruits: The berry-like mostly round pomes are wonderfully delicious, especially in the *A. arborea* and *A. alnifolia* groups, for us as well as for numerous birds, mammals, etc. If you are able to beat the wildlife to eating them, they are excellent fresh, in smoothies, with ice cream and yogurt, jams, jellies, pastries, pies, etc. Some noted cultivars are selected for superior fruits. One of our first native fruits to ripen. Their fruits are also highly nutritious. Apomictic fruits/seeds are produced in a number of species – development of seeds or embryos without fertilization, resulting in identical offspring.

Winter: No special treatment is required. However, rabbits, mice, deer and other herbivores often damage them, so I recommend protecting them for the first 2-3 years. Mulching for the first few years at a depth of 2-3" is recommended but optional thereafter.

Fertilization: They enjoy a comprehensive time-release fertilizer.

Planting: Anytime from when the ground is thawed in the spring to four weeks before the ground freezes in the autumn.

Propagation: Seed in the species, but requires cold stratification in most species. Most cultivars are raised by cuttings or by grafting, even onto roots of *Crataegus* – hawthorn and *Sorbus* – mountain ash.

Pests and diseases: Rabbits (one of their favorites), deer, rodents, etc. dine on *Amelanchier*; after all, what do you expect? They are native to their environments. Diseases are numerous, but they are very tolerant if kept in healthy growth. They dislike newly disturbed soils, which often stresses them to death. I recommend at least five years before planting in new construction sites and then plant with mycorrhizal fungi. Most *Amelanchier* are sensitive to medium-to-high air pollution, especially sulfur dioxide and ozone.

Hardiness: All of the listed species and cultivars are hardy to at least Zone 4.

Amelanchier is quite an enigmatic genus, with the individual species not being very well defined. Many have undergone numerous scientific name changes in the past 50 to 100 years.

Amelanchier alnifolia – alder leaved serviceberry, Saskatoon serviceberry is native to our Great Plains, from southern Canada to Nebraska and westward. Maturing in the 8-10'+ height, with our national champion around 41' high and wide, they are mostly multi-stemmed spreading shrubs. Erect racemes of white fragrant flowers are about ¾" diameter. Juicy edible bluish-purple fruits are excellent however they are enjoyed. Autumn colors are highly variable but rarely fail to please with reds, oranges, and yellows. Japanese beetles may be a problem on some of the following cultivars.

'Honeywood' is like the species but with extra tasty fruits with few seeds.

Later flowering and vigorous.

'Martin' bears copious delicious large berries and matures in the 12-16' tall range.

'Northline' bears abundant sweet bluish berries; 5-8' tall range.

'Pembina' matures in the 9-12' range with large tasty sweet fruits.



Amelanchier in bloom.

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Amelanchier (cont. from p.11)



Amelanchier in fruit.

'Regent' is more compact, maturing in the 6' range and much less spreading-suckering than other cultivars. It has excellent foliage and extra tasty sweet seedless fruits.

'Smokey' matures to 8-12'. It's very productive with fleshy, medium-sized sweet fruits. We don't carry this as it is very susceptible to rust and rapidly suckers, producing large colonies.

'Theissen' is like the species but taller, growing in the 15' range, with larger and more abundant, tastier fruits that don't all ripen at once.

'Standing Ovation,' aka 'Obelisk,' is an upright columnar form maturing in the 15' range and about 4' wide. Soft green summer foliage turns orange and red in the autumn. Its fragrant flowers and tasty fruits are a bit smaller than the species. A bit more prone to foliar diseases.

Other cultivars, extolled for their fruit attributes, that may be found include 'Altaglow', 'Success', and 'Parkwood'.

Amelanchier arborea – downy serviceberry, juneberry, shadbush, shadblow, service tree or sarvis tree is native to much of the eastern United States, Southeastern Canada and from Minnesota to Texas. Growing to 40+ ft. in ideal locations, it is commonly in the 15-25' range in the residential landscape. The growth pattern is more upright with horizontal lateral branches - very picturesque especially with a light snowfall tracing the twigs.



Its foliage emerges grayish green due to tomentose (fuzzy) hairs and matures to a splendid array of bright autumn colors of red, oranges, and yellows. In our area, they are often the first to color-up in the autumn and to also drop their leaves. The slightly pungent fragrant pendulous racemes of flowers range from pure white to creamy white and pale pink. Purple fruits are typically tasteless

Amelanchier in bloom.

and dry. Native to open forest and forest edges. They dislike hot dry conditions and alkaline soils. Cultivars are numerous and I have noted the best ones for our area.

'Autumn Blaze' selected for superior foliage, flower, fruit and autumn colors.

'Rainbow Pillar' ('Glenn Form') PP#9092 is a good tight upright form maturing in the 25' range, with bright white flowers. Its autumn rainbow of colors include yellow, orange and red. Excellent for screening and tight landscapes.

Amelanchier canadensis – shadblow, or thicket serviceberry is native to Eastern North America from Maine to S. Carolina. Often combined with *A. arborea* in the nursery trade as they are so very similar. *A. canadensis* is a suckering, colonizing shrub with erect stems 6' to 20' in height, and enjoys very moist to swamp conditions and even tolerates heavier clay soils. Erect 2-3" racemes of white flowers are followed by delicious juicy sweet black fruits. Autumn color is highly variable with yellows and occasional orange-red. *Amelanchier ovalis* is often included here as *A. canadensis* var. *ovalis*.

Amelanchier x grandiflora – apple serviceberry is a naturally occurring hybrid between two of our native species, *A. arborea* and *A. laevis*. The newly emerging leaves are blushed bronzy-purple and are somewhat fuzzy. Flowers are a bit larger than both of its parents. Pinkish buds open larger than other species with white, slightly malodorous flowers and are followed by sweet edible berries. Autumn foliage colors are as noted in the cultivar selections.

'Autumn Brilliance' is considered one of the finest tree types of *Amelanchier* on the market. Growing to about 25' tall with a 10-15' feet spread. Clean, disease-resistant foliage with excellent autumn colors in the red pallet that persists longer than the many other *Amelanchier*. Delicious fruits. Very resistant to Entomosporium leaf spot.

'Ballerina' is another one of the finest bushy types of *Amelanchier* on the market, growing to about 15-20' high and about 1/2 as wide. Its new foliage emerges bronzy and matures to a glossy green, finishing the season with purple-bronze autumnal colors. Its flowers are a bit larger than the species at 1 1/4 to 1 1/2" in diameter and with larger, tasty, sweet fruits. Very resistant to Entomosporium leaf spot and fire blight.

'Cole' or 'Cole's Select' is an upright yet more spreading form, growing into the 20' high and wide range. Glossy green summer foliage with exceptional orange-red autumn color.

'Cumulus' is sometimes available, but is highly prone to fire blight. I don't recommend it.

'Princess Diana' PP# 6041 was discovered in Milwaukee, WI. Growing to more than 30' in height and almost the same in width, this wonderful, heavily white-flowering form is followed by delicious fruits. Its autumn color is an outstanding red. It may be raised either as a multi- or single-trunked tree; however, it may sucker. Very resistant to Entomosporium leaf spot.

'Strata' was selected at the UW Arboretum for its horizontal branching on vertical main trunks. Very floriferous. Autumn color is tinged orange on yellow.

Amelanchier laevis – smooth leaf serviceberry, Allegheny serviceberry is native from Newfoundland to Georgia to Alabama and west to Michigan and Kansas. This is a small tree, maturing in the 15-35' range with trunk diameters up to 12-18" range. The newly emerging foliage is bronzy and smooth. White flowers are born on nodding racemes and are followed by black, sweet, highly

(continued on page 13)

Amelanchier (cont. from p.12)

edible fruits. Autumn colors are noted below in the cultivars. Intolerant of salt.

'Majestic' - aka 'Snowcloud' - is occasionally available and is a vigorous grower to about 30' tall and about half as wide. The thicker new foliage emerges dark reddish orange and matures to a dark green, ending the season with rich scarlet. Large pure-white flowers in ~5" racemes. More resistant to diseases.



Amelanchier in bloom.

'Prince Charles' (PP# 6039) a more upright form in the 25' high range and a bit less in width, it blooms with white flowers before the foliage. Bronzy red emerging spring foliage matures to a medium green in summer and an orange-red in the autumn. It has one of the best tasting fruits.

'Prince William' (PP# 6040) is probably a hybrid with *A. canadensis*. This is an upright shrubby, slowly spreading form maturing in the 8' -10' range and nearly unlimited in width. The reddish tinged emerging foliage matures to a rich glossy green and culminates in orange-red in the autumn. Sweet edible fruits. Selected in Madison, WI.

'R. J. Hilton', introduced by Agr. Canada Research Station, is a prolific bloomer and very sweet fruits. Hard to find.

Amelanchier lamarckii – Lamark serviceberry (commemorating J.-B. Lamarck, a French naturalist), juneberry, snowy mespilus is a bit of an enigma. This may be a hybrid between *A. canadensis* and *A. laevis*. Hybrid or not, it is an apomictic form that has its genetics along the eastern half of North America, but was taken to Europe in the 1700s. Since it is apomictic - producing seeds without fertilization - all of its offspring are virtually identical. Growing about 30', it produces a quite handsome tree with few if any suckers. White flowers are followed by sweet, edible purple-black edible berries. Autumn colors are orange to brick-red. Quite resistant to fire blight.

Amelanchier stolonifera – running serviceberry is native to our east coast from Nantucket to Maine, New Jersey and New York. Growing 4-6' high as upright stiff stems forming a thicket shrub with a highly stoloniferous habit. This makes it excellent for slope stabilization and natural "snow fencing." Drooping racemes of white flowers are born with emerging silvery hairy leaves that mature to a medium rich green. Its fruits are purplish-black, smooth, sweet, juicy and delicious. Autumn colors are in shades of yellow, orange and reds. Tolerates non-alkaline drought heavier clay soils.

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Open Gardens in 2024

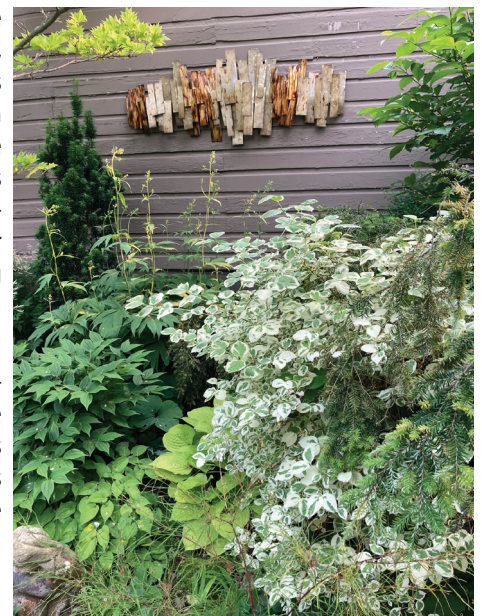
Each year, the WHPS offers organized evening tours of a group of member gardens in selected areas. We also provide the opportunity for individual members to open their garden to visitors, which is always a positive experience for host and visitor. Hosting an open garden gives you the opportunity to invite people to visit your garden at very short notice, when you think it's looking especially good.

All you have to do is contact us a few days to a week (or more) ahead at wisconsinhps@gmail.com with your name, address, a short description of your garden and the date and times you will be open, and we will send out an email invitation to our members. Over the past couple of years, over 20 member's gardens have been opened (some more than once) on dates ranging from April - August, with visitor attendance ranging from 30-100.

Feel free to email us with any questions. We know we have many members with lovely gardens and we'd like to see them!

Jane LaFlash garden in 2023.

April 2024



« Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Inc.

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Road Trip to the Amish Area - Friday, April 26, 2024

by Jane Gahlman

I'm planning to take a road trip up to Amish country again this year on Friday, April 26, to check out their greenhouses, country store, bakery and cheese factory. See below for the destinations. **Jane Gahlman – Coordinator; Cell: 608-575-6630; email: jmgahlman@hotmail.com**

Note: This is NOT an organized road trip where we would all meet at one location and carpool from there; this is a “you are on your own and if we meet up that would be great, but if we don't that's okay, too.” I'm fine with answering any questions you have about these destinations beforehand, but I am not “leading” this trip.

A couple of additional things to note before you go:

- GPS may not work in Amish country.
- Bring lots of cash with you as the Amish usually don't take credit cards or checks.
- I've found in the past that no matter how much cash I bring along I spend it all.
- Also take a big enough car as you WILL fill it up, especially if you carpool with others – then some of you will probably be holding plants on your laps by the time you are ready to head home.
- If you go on a different day, avoid Sundays and Thursdays as these are their days off work. The Amish never work on Sundays as it is their worship day.
- I recommend going before Mother's Day weekend as their greenhouses may sell out and close down shortly after that.

Destinations map

Link's Greenhouse - N9905 Link Rd., Portage, WI 53901, phone 608-742-6758. Not Amish-owned, but a family-operated greenhouse and farm since 1967.

Drive 7 miles; 10 minutes to:

Millers Greenhouse & Shop - (note: sign out front says “Schwartz Greenhouse”) W2214 Barry Rd., Pardeeville, WI, 53954, phone 608-429-3392. Annuals, herbs, perennials, potted fruit trees, rhubarb.

Drive 0.7 mile; 1 minute to:

Otto's Produce & Greenhouse - Barry Rd., Dalton, WI 53926. Annuals, herbs, perennials, potted trees and shrubs.



Mishler's Country Store - W5115 Barry Rd., Dalton, WI 53926. At Mishler's Country Store you will find a huge variety of bulk foods, bulk spices, produce, canned and jar goods, kitchen utensils, oil lamps, herbal medicines, doilies, cookbooks, candy, gifts, toys, and more. Be prepared with cash or your checkbook. Please note - there are no phones in the Amish community.

Drive 2 miles; 5 minutes to:

Pleasant View Bakery - N9541 Kiefer Rd., Dalton, WI 53926. Amish bakery featuring fresh homemade baked goods including cinnamon rolls, a variety of breads, cookies, pies, jams, jellies, noodles, and much more.

Drive 10 miles; 15 minutes to:

Kingston Creamery/Salemville Cheese Factory - 4481 Co Trunk Hwy GG, Cambria, WI 53923, phone 920-394-3433/ 920-394-3435. Today their expanded product line includes a Rocky Meadow brand of cheese, Amish blue, gorgonzola, a reserve aged blue and a smokehaus blue. They also carry a large selection of hard cheeses, honey, snacks, etc.

Drive 2 miles; 3 minutes to:

Salemville Greenhouse - Inglehart Rd., Cambria, WI 53923. In 2023, this greenhouse had more trees (including fruit trees) and shrubs for sale than some of the others. Also had potting soil for sale, along with the usual annuals and vegetable starts.

The Crooked Branch Coffeehouse – Excellent breakfast or lunch stop. 134 N. Main St., Pardeeville, WI 53954, phone: 608-429-8282. They serve egg bakes and baked oatmeal every day and now serve soup and panini sandwiches. 6:30 am – 1 pm Tuesday-Friday, 7 am-noon Saturday-Sunday.



Have questions about your membership?
Contact Chris Neumann at wisconsinhps@gmail.com
or see [membership information](#).

