



Perennial Notes

June 2015

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.

Friday, June 19, 4:00-6:00 p.m., Allen Centennial Gardens. *Ed Lyon*, Growing The Midwest Garden *Book Signing*.

Saturday-Sunday, June 27-28, Bus Trip to Chicago
Registration closed.

Tuesday, June 30, 6:30 p.m. *Tour of Epic Grounds with Jeff Epping*. Details page 5.

Tuesday, July 14, WHPS Evening Tour of Gardens in Maple Bluff—Cannon/Fritsch, Tensfeldt, Erickson and Sanger Gardens—info on page 5.

Thursday, July 23, WHPS Evening Tour of Gardens in Far West Madison area—Grosz, Ondrejka/Rudy, Sherry, Kriege/Robinson-Myers, Watson-Newlin Gardens—info on page 6.

July 30-August 4, Portland Trip **SOLD OUT!**

Wednesday, August 19, WHPS Summer Potluck Dinner, 5:30 p.m. setup; serving at 6:00 p.m. A great chance to share a beautiful evening at Olbrich with fellow members. Bring a dish to share, along with your own utensils and plate. Lemonade/juice and coffee will be provided.

Wednesday, Sept 9, 6:00 p.m. Tour of Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville with Director of Horticulture Mark Dwyer. Details TBA.

Wednesday, September 16, On Design, Dan Benarcik, Horticulturist, Chanticleer Garden, <http://www.chanticleergarden.org/>



With his mother a florist and father a co-owner of a DIY home center, Dan inevitably grew up with plants and carpentry; this apple did not fall far from the family tree. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Plant Science at Mt. Cuba Center, dedicated to the research and protection of native plants. He attended the University of Delaware and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Science. Fresh from the University he started work as the Woods Path Gardener at Mt. Cuba Center, dedicated to the research and protection of native plants, and developing a real love of native plants. During his time as a sales representative for a large East Coast re-wholesaler of landscape plants, Dan was able to build a network of horticultural professionals that led him to his work at Chanticleer Garden, which emphasized innovation through the exploration of ideas and artistry in the garden. Overseeing the Courtyard Gardens, with an emphasis on tropical, sub-tropical and tender perennials for seasonal display, he dedicated himself to creating and maintaining visitors' first and last impression of the garden. Dan's enjoyment of sharing information regarding plants and design has led to his second career as a Regional Director with Garden Writers Association, contributing to Fine Gardening, Horticulture, Martha Stewart Living and Rodale's gardening books. On television, he has promoted plants on QVC for Cottage Farms Nursery, and has been featured in epi-

sodes of *Cultivating Life*. His enthusiasm for design has led him to teach chair building workshops, in addition to working with the continuing education program at Longwood Gardens and volunteering on the Plant Selection Committee of the Delaware Center for Horticulture's Rare Plant Auction.

Saturday in October (date TBA), Tour of Lonegecker Horticultural Gardens at the UW Arboretum by their Curator, Professor Emeritus Ed Hasselkus.

Wednesday, October 21, The Evening Garden, Zannah Crowe, Horticulturist, Monches Farm, <http://www.monchesfarm.com/>

Wednesday, November 18, Cool, Non-wimpy Plants You Haven't Heard of, Joseph Tychonievich, author, *Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener* and a new book on rock gardens due in 2015, and former manager of Arrowhead Alpines, <http://www.greensparrowgardens.com/>

Wednesday, December 9, Annual Meeting, Member Potpourri and Seed Exchange.

May 31 Green Bay Bus Trip

Beautiful day for a bus trip to Green Bay: two nurseries, two private gardens and a tour of the Green Bay Botanical Garden, including the last day of their Annual Garden Fair. Lots of shopping (oh those dwarf conifers!) and even some time at the Green Bay Botanical Garden to stop and sit on a bench and enjoy the blooming tree peonies, baptisia, geraniums and alliums.



Pictured here: two propane tanks welded together to form giant globes in the Vanden Heuvel self-made quarry garden (left); "Serenade" at the Green Bay Botanical Garden (top).



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

2015 Plant Sale Tops All

This year's sale was another great success. In fact, we did better this year than ever before!

This year, in addition to having plant digs hosted by some of our members, we also asked each of you to contribute three plants to our sale. The response was amazing. We also worked very hard to get the word out on our sale, and we had the most reaches through our Facebook page since it began in 2013. Over 140 members volunteered to work the sale this year, from hosting and working the digs, to transporting plants to the sale site, to helping to set up on Friday and work the sale on Saturday, to final cleanup.

In a basic overview of who attended the sale, it appears that a little over half of those attending were members, which means we are reaching out to the community at large and they are responding and shopping at our sale.

As we move forward to the next sale, we encourage those who did not volunteer to sign up next year. It's a great way to meet fellow members, learn more about the plants in the sale, and find wonderful bargains for your garden. Take a look around your garden this year to see if you will be able to contribute three plants to next year's sale. Your interesting and special contributions can increase word of mouth and in turn bring more profits to our sale.

And the profits? We donate everything over expenses to noteworthy garden entities in the area. Donations are announced at our December Annual Meeting.

Norma Briggs Passes Away

Some of you may have heard that Norma Briggs passed away April 30 while working in her garden.

Norma and Mike Briggs have been long-time members of WHPS, hosting many tours and garden events at their home on Storytown Road in Oregon. At the December 2014 Member Potpourri, Norma and Mike presented a video of their garden taken by a drone directed by their son-in-law John Mueller (jtmueller88@gmail.com). This lovely view of the garden that she and Mike created can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ntwmz80ruXE>



Norma's good humor, her willingness to donate time and plants and her participation and company on trips will be greatly missed.

Wisconsin Gardeners Lose a Friend



Dennis Ledvina, introducer of cold-hardy cultivars of magnolia, died May 26 in Green Bay at 76. Andrew Bunting, past president of Magnolia Society International, considered Dennis "the most prolific hybridizer of magnolias in the world." My personal favorite is *Magnolia* 'Rose Marie', with perfectly

formed rose-pink flowers, named by Dennis in honor of his mother.



Thanks to his generosity, the Longenecker Horticultural Gardens displays many of his introductions.

— Ed Hasselkus

Thank you to the over 150 Volunteers contributing to our Plant Sale Success

Special thanks to this year's Plant Sale Team: Jan Blakeslee, Linda Brazill, Emily Buckingham, Donna Freiman, Jim Gentry, Jeannette Golden, Kathy Haupt, Ellen Henningsen, Ellen Karlson, Linda Marx, Stephanie O'Neal, Marty Petillo, Evelyn Shimshak, Laurie Zimmerman.

Wendy Adams	Leslie Johnson
Jennifer Allen	Louise Karpinski
Lois Anderson	Vickie Kaufman
Aleta Barmore	Steven King
Lynn Belanger	Lois Kinlen
Chris Biedermann	Jane LaFlash
Carole Blemker	Phyllis Lathrope
Richard Bloomquist	Mike Lester
Stephanie Bloomquist	Vickie Lester
Caroline Bohler	Mary Anne Long
Suzu Bowditch	Barbara Mathis
Norma Briggs	Kate McWhirter
Pat Bunders	Rose Messina
Ruth Cadoret	Nancy Mohs
John Cannon	Nancy and David Nedveck
Maggie Carrao	Nancy Nikora
Carolyn Coffey	Donna Nosek
Mary Collet	Joan Nugent
Tom Cottingham	Barbara Obst
Pat Crabtree	Elizabeth Ogren Erickson
Jane Cramer	Carol Olsen
Judy Crandall	Jennifer Ondrejka
Phil Crawford	Dave Peterson
Karen Crawford	Mary Polancih
Nell Cummings	Nancy Ragland
Marijane Curry	Ritchie Rheaume
Shirley Damon	Cathy Richards
Gary Davis	Marla Robinson
John Dickinson	Eleanor Rodini
Rick Diehl	Mary Jo Schiavoni
Laura Jursa Dille	Mark Schmitt
Bob Erickson	Nancy Schoenmann
Susan Francis	Shirley Scriver
Dale Freiman	Theresa Seeley
B'Ann Gabelt	Peggy Sharpe
Catherine Gloeckner	Jayne Squirrell
Frank Greer	Maggie Steele
Greta Gribble	Judy Stevenson
Christine Griffith	Georgene Stratman
Linda Grosz	Rita Thomas
Shirley Haidinger	Nellie Vallarta-Ast
Katie Harriman	Margie Van Handel
Ed Hasselkus	Shari Voss
Kathy Haupt	Eve West
Deb Hayes	Barbara Wetzel
Tom Henzler	Bob Wetzel
Margaret Henzler	Connie Williams
Bill Hoernke	Jackie Winchester
Cindy Hoffland	Martha Worcester
April Hoffman	Conrad Wrezinski
John Hoffman	Linda Yates
Libby Howting	Linda Zelewski
Christl Iausly	Laurie Zimmerman
Jean Jelacic	

**And thanks to all who
shopped and made this sale
the biggest success ever!**

A Passing — Joan Severa

As we noted in our April Newsletter, Joan Severa, a great gardening friend and member of WHPS passed away March 5. **There will be a celebration of Joan's life at Olbrich Gardens, on August 8, 2015, (her 90th birthday would have been August 7th) from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.**

Memorials may be made to Olbrich Gardens, or the Costume Society of America Endowment, PO Box 1723, Mendocino, CA 95460-1723.

We asked our members to contribute some remembrances of Joan.

Rita Thomas

Interesting how some friendships begin. Joan is a case in point. *One of my sisters, who was visiting, returned from a walk in the neighborhood all excited. "You have to come with me," she said. "You won't believe the garden I just saw." So I went and saw, not only the garden, but the gardener who was out working in it. Being a little shy, we just sort of hung around until she noticed us. The next thing I knew I was following her all around that gem of a garden, botanical names of plants sliding off her tongue like the names of old friends. At one point I asked if she would use common names because I was unfamiliar with the botanical names. "I will not," she said, sounding like my 8th grade teacher. "You just learn them." So I did. I told her I wanted to start gardening myself but didn't know how or where to start. She agreed to come to my house and give me a few pointers. Standing on my backyard deck, she surveyed the rings of hosta I had planted around the bases of two large maples. "Now Rita," she said, articulating the consonants clearly as she always did, "look at the size of those trees and the size of your house. You need to make your gardens in proportion." So I did. That was 20 years ago. As I look around my garden today, I see Joan everywhere, in areas that she helped me design and in the loads of plants that she gave me. Joan and I shared many wonderful and some heartbreaking experiences. I miss her and am honored to have been her friend.*

Stephanie O'Neal

Joan's spirit, energy and interest in life and gardening has guided me and provided me with inspiration since I met her almost 20 years ago, and that will always be remembered. The Allium caeruleum given me from her garden are just about to bloom, and the fragrance from my Hosta plantaginea, another gift from Joan, will have a tinge of sadness to it this year.

Ed Lyon

As I am working to prep my new Iowa garden in order to move my Wisconsin plants next week, I am digging ostrich fern out of one of the main beds where they are perniciously snaking their way to dominance and my thoughts turned to Joan Severa. Her gorgeous shade garden that inspired me for years was backed by ostrich fern and, in spite of my annoyance of having to transplant these misplaced regal denizens of the woodland to a narrow strip between the neighbor's and our garages, I fondly remembered her telling me that as capricious as they were, she would not be without them due to the dramatic backdrop they provided the rest of her perennials. But then I can hardly look at many plants in my garden and not think of Joan. My Iris 'Gingerbread Man', Carex siderosticha, Sanguinaria canadensis 'Multiplex' - they all came from her garden; Joan delighted in sharing the plants that gave her joy. But she left me with so much more than plants. I met Joan when I first started struggling with gardening in the shade and, at the time, heavy soils; she was my first true mentor for understanding how to take advantage of low light but, even more importantly, the importance of soils and compost. I followed her advice on adding organic matter to my gardens twice a year and turned a so-so shade garden into a spectacular display area in a matter of a few years. Today I am considered a respected instructor and author and much of the "sage" advice I impart on the importance of soils and compost is based on the early instruction I got from

one of the most special gardeners I've had the privilege to know. Joan wrote a book and I followed her example but there is no substitute in garden education over standing in the garden with another gardener and talking plants and gardening one on one. Like everyone who knew her, I will miss those times, her exuberance in a planting combination that worked, her delight in the unfurling of a special plant but, most of all, her joy in sharing. She taught me that is what gardening is about.

Theodore Stresemann

Several years ago Joan Severa gave me a clump of Double Bloodroot from her garden. The plants thrived and formed an expanding colony that blooms every Spring...a beautiful and enduring remembrance of Joan.

Jane LaFlash

Joan always gave you the impression that you were special and that she was so glad to see you. On my first bus trip with WHPS in 1999 to the Missouri Botanic Garden, Joan and I happened to each be walking alone in the rock garden. We started talking and spent the rest of the day together. I have plants she gave me and advice and suggestions from her that I use all the time in my garden. She was incredibly optimistic. More than once I heard her say, "Every time I think this garden might be too much for one old lady, I create a new bed." The last time I saw her was a week before she died when she couldn't even lift her head off the pillow. Even then, when I told her I was thinking of having an open garden, she said, "Oh, I hope I can come."

Diane Scharkey

One of her sayings I have repeated many times is "You move plants like furniture."

Jeannette Golden

I didn't know Joan personally, but I certainly loved her garden, which I saw on WHPS tours. I could wish for no better death experience than to have lived in my garden till the age of 89, remaining lucid till the end, and dying peacefully amid family and friends. She is actually so lucky.

Barb Herreid

The first time I became aware of Joan was at an Olbrich plant sale. I was extremely new to growing perennials (to me gardening meant a vegetable garden) and she was telling someone how lucky she was to have mostly shade in her yard. It took me by surprise since I had only gardened in full sun with my veggies. Over the years I was so very fortunate to be a part of the Fitchburg Garden Club - the club Joan belonged to. She was always very sharing with her knowledge and with her plants. I devoured her book and used many of the plants she favored, as well as the cultural information that was required to make them shine. I've always thought of her as a kind of evangelist - someone who truly enjoyed being a "recruiter of converts to shade." Joan, you will be missed!

Chris Biedermann

As many of us do, I have 20 years worth of memories and they are difficult to boil down. The first day I met Joan set the tone for the next 20. The plant sale was at her house that May in, I believe, 1998. We had driven by the house we had purchased and saw the plant sale going on. Our older daughter, Greta, was up on my husband Blaine's shoulders as we walked up to the cash table. On inquiring as to the owner of the house, Joan replied, "I am." I said, "Great, we're your new neighbors. I love to garden too, and can't wait to get started." She was excited to have a gardening neighbor and we were excited to have someone so friendly next to us. That was just the start. Over the years she gave me untold plants. The first couple of years

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Joan Severa - continued from previous page

I managed to kill most of them. She always had good garden advice and eventually my gardens grew. One of her favorite tales was of the garden we put in over 2 days on the Fourth of July weekend. We moved half a ton of rocks, 3 yards of garden soil and enough plants to fill the new bed. It was 98-100 degrees. We must have drank gallons of Gatorade. We both love to garden in the shade. Over the years we consulted each other on placement of plants at least weekly and perused each other's gardens more often. We talked of past lives, troubles, happy days, and adventures. We drank tea and talked. Joan's enthusiasm, can do attitude, vitality, and stories were always a breath of fresh air. She always had more to give. She was a great grandmother to my children. We all miss her. Every day I'm in my garden I look. I look to see her out front pulling weeds, talking to passerbys, and to just be there as she has been for twenty years. I still look.

Jennifer Allen

The story of how Joan and I first met is one that each of us enjoyed sharing. It was in the fall of 1996, and my family had just moved into a home a mile or two from hers. I was jogging then, and having chanced upon her lovely garden, I made a point of including it on my route. I never spotted the gardener at work and longed to make contact, so I decided to use snail mail. I addressed the envelope to "The Green Thumb" at her Pembroke address.



In my note, I wrote that I had been admiring her (or his?) garden, and hoped that they might be willing to allow me a closer look. (Note: My teenaged daughter found my action alarming. What if the gardener was a dangerous lunatic? I assured her that the person behind all that beauty was surely a kind and generous spirit, and her front yard a cheerful greeting card to the world.) A day or two later Joan called me and volunteered to visit my garden. She arrived in high spirits, and couldn't wait to show me a (copy of a) book she had just received from her publisher(!). It was "Dressed for the Photographer" and I found her enthusiasm both endearing and contagious. It was the beginning of a delightful relationship. Of course, we did get around to sharing our love of gardening. She was always generous with her knowledge, and is well represented by a number of charming plants that now grow in mine...lovely green reminders of the much-loved woman whose friendship I was blessed to enjoy for almost two decades.

Linda Brazil

Joan Severa was the woman who gave us the ability to make clothing using patterns based on historic Wisconsin examples from the 1800s. She was the person who showed us how to date photographs by studying what the people captured in them were wearing. But most of all, Joan Severa was the woman with the garden.

Joan's death leaves a gaping hole in the Madison gardening community. If you are a perennial gardener in this area, it is more than likely that you had met Joan, toured her garden and perhaps taken home a plant or two that you'd admired. Joan visited my garden last summer and we spent some time talking about the day when we would each have to downsize and leave our gardens behind. Though Joan admitted that time was

fast approaching for her, she left clutching a clump of my most prolific *Epimedium*.

Joan's garden is where I first saw a mature specimen of *Kirengeshoma palmata*. It was where I snapped a photo of her garden shed that managed to be in the thick of things, yet still remained a subtle presence that did not detract from the beauty of the garden. She was a master at combining foliage plants, as well as teaching us how to garden in the shade and on a slope. Joan also introduced me to the idea of merging my garden with my neighbor's when I saw how she and her neighbor had paths and beds and borders that seamlessly flowed from one property to the other.

Joan leaves us memories, stories, plants and her knowledge and experience contained in her 1999 book, **Creating a Perennial Garden in the Midwest**. If you don't already own this wonderful publication, it is still in print and well-worth adding to your garden library. Below is the review I wrote for *The Capital Times* newspaper when Joan's book first came out.

Creating a Perennial Garden in the Midwest (Trails Media Group, \$ 24.95, 171 pages) by Master Gardener Joan Severa will appeal to the novice as well as the advanced gardener. Severa, former curator of costume and textiles at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, brings the same sense of color, texture and detail to the garden that she employed in her long tenure at the Historical Society.



I was immediately taken with Severa's book for a number of reasons. First on the list must be the clear and evocative photographs of her garden and its plants. Good pictures draw the reader in and are a critical selling point. Severa admits to getting a good camera but she used neither a tripod nor a close-up lens.

"The secret to good garden photographs is living with the garden," Severa emphasized. She's available to take pictures every day, in every weather and kind of light, and the book is proof. There are few photos that fall prey to the biggest problem of capturing a garden on film — too strong a contrast between sun and shade in one shot.

Next is the tone of the book — friendly, chatty and knowledgeable as Severa herself. The book is very personal, since Severa's Madison garden is the laboratory where she's taught herself the principles of design as well as planting techniques. All of which she shares.

Finally Severa has divided the book into chapters that cover both the chronology of creating a garden (How My Garden Began, Beginning Your Own Garden), the basics (Care of the Soil, Now You Are Ready to Plant) and then the plants themselves organized by sun, shade and so forth. But the best part is that each chapter is subdivided into bite-size pieces of information.

They're the perfect length for a beginning gardener to ingest without getting overwhelmed yet have enough information to keep more sophisticated practitioners interested. You could read a short piece with your morning coffee or before bed or if you're hungry for more, you could probably gobble up the whole book in a weekend.

Severa said her goal in writing the book was to share her expertise "in a simple way" and to let beginning gardeners know "there's nothing to fear" about gardening. Severa's book is a worthwhile addition to the growing number of books dedicated to Midwestern gardeners.

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WHPS/MAMGA Maple Bluff Garden Tour

Tuesday, July 14, 2015, 4:00 PM - dark

Directions to all

Heading north on N. Sherman Ave, turn left on Lakewood Boulevard at the Village of Maple Bluff sign and Lakewood entrance garden.

These directions are just one option for the order of the gardens. We encourage people to use various orders to prevent overcrowding.

Marge and Jim Sanger – 29 Cambridge Ct, Madison

After finishing a complete remodel in 2002, this beautiful lake home needed a transformation in garden design from the original intent as a weekend get-a-way. These gardens have evolved over time into a butterfly and bird haven, a special treat for the grandchildren. The front mixed border gardens of vibrant colors are packed with perennials and annuals. There are beautiful hemerocallis, echinaceas, amsonia, peonies, iris, salvia, geraniums, buddleias, heuchera, and phlox just to name a few. A flagstone walk filled with shade perennials on the northside of the home leads you to the lakeside gardens filled with textures and color, along with a stunning view.

Directions: After turning onto Lakewood Blvd, continue to Cambridge Rd and turn left. The Sanger garden is on the corner of Cambridge Rd and Cambridge Ct.

John Cannon and John Fritsch – 232 Kensington Dr, Madison

A mixed border of evergreens and deciduous shrubs, herbaceous perennials, and bulbs surrounds an island bed and goldfish pond. Plants of various colors, textures, and structures have been chosen to provide year round interest.

Directions: After turning onto Lakewood Blvd, Kensington Dr is the first right off Lakewood. Their garden is on the right, in the middle of the second block of Kensington, between Roxbury Rd and Oxford Pl.

Barb and Bill Tensfeldt – 408 Farwell Dr, Madison

A relaxing backyard retreat complete with bubbling waterfall and rocky outcrops highlight this garden. The rocky outcrops are found in both the back and front yards showcasing mixed borders of perennials, evergreens and deciduous trees and shrubs with a special emphasis on the colors, textures and shapes of foliage over flowers.

Directions: Continue on Lakewood Blvd. There is a stop sign at the corner of Lakewood and Farwell Dr. Turn left on Farwell. After a short way on Farwell, the Tensfeldt garden is on the right.

Elizabeth and Bob Erickson – 825 McBride Rd, Madison

A winding paver walkway leads to originally designed American Cottage gardens. The gardens, surrounding this charming cape cod home, were designed to be viewed from every window in the home, and by neighbors passing by on the street. The gardens include perennials, conifers, grasses, water elements, and hardscaping designed to be both aesthetic and to support the perennials. A composition of hostas of varying textures and colors create an artistic vignette. Favorites include the "Roy Diblik"-inspired native perennial gardens designed by the homeowner.

Directions: At the stop sign at the corner of Lakewood Blvd and Farwell Dr, stay to the right and continue (north) up Lakewood. Take the first left turn onto New Castle Way. Go three blocks and turn right on McBride Rd. The Erickson garden is immediately on the left at the corner of McBride Rd and Magdeline Dr.

Epic Grounds Tour

Tuesday, June 30, 2015

6:30-8:30 pm

1979 Milky Way, Verona WI

WHPS members (sorry, no guests - **members only** for this event) are invited to a garden tour at Epic's Intergalactic Headquarters.

Enjoy an evening walking tour of the gardens on the Epic corporate campus in Verona. The tour will be led by Jeff Epping (Jeff Epping Design & Consulting, LLC) who has been involved in the design and planting of the gardens since 2005.

Driving/Parking Directions

From Hwy 18 & 151/Verona Road, take Exit 76 (MV/Epic Lane/West Verona Avenue) to Epic Lane. At the first intersection (rock wall), turn left to stay on Epic Lane. Turn right onto Milky Way (Epic's driveway) and continue to the Visitor Parking Lot. Park under the solar panels, then walk back across the driveway to gather on the sidewalk outside the main reception area.

Questions:

No need to RSVP for this event, but, if questions, contact Emily Buckingham, WHPS member and Epic employee, at ebucking@epic.com.

WHPS/MAMGA FAR WEST GARDEN TOUR THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2015, 4:00 PM – DARK

The five gardens on this tour are large, with lots to see. We suggest people get started early to be able to see everything. The complete driving distance is only 8 miles.

These directions are just one option for the order of the gardens. We encourage people to use various orders to prevent overcrowding.

Joanne Kriege and Ted Robinson-Myers – 7679 Greenwood Rd, Verona WI

Our gardens evolved as respite and plant playground. Ted's free-wheeling native prairie, with its informal meandering paths, contrasts with JoAnne's planned mixed beds and borders. Her beds combine exuberant plantings offset by formal layout; with emphasis throughout on lavish use of common and uncommon annuals grown from seed. The borders are generally color-themed, with the East bed emphasizing pure hues of red, yellow and orange, the large South bed purple and pink, and the front beds lime green and peach (this year). Lavender and blue are tossed into everything for harmony. The center of the front yard has a formal oval vegetable and cutting garden where plantings can be changed yearly. A garden of contrasts: wild and tame; formal and exuberant; hot colors and cool pastels. This is one way to have a lot of garden cake and eat it!

Directions: Heading west on Mineral Point Rd (County Rd S) turn left on Pioneer Rd., then right on Valley View Dr, left on Mound View Rd. and right on Greenwood Rd.

Karen Watson-Newlin and Rob Newlin – 7699 Almor Dr, Verona WI

This garden is an American Hemerocallis Display Garden and was featured in the July 2012 Better Homes and Gardens magazine. While about 600 daylilies are the large attraction in July, the garden also features more than 450 different perennials, conifers, deciduous plantings, etc. A favorite tree in the garden is a tricolor beech. As an artist, Karen designed the gardens with an eye for color combinations and textural interest. Several themed garden beds along with a Koi pond, whimsical sculptures, and a small orchard will give you many areas to explore and enjoy.

Directions: Return to Mineral Point Rd (County Rd S) and turn left (west). Turn right on Welcome Dr (directly across from Tumbledown Golf Course), left on Sonnet Dr, and right on Almor Dr. It is the first house on the right.

Jill and Tim Sherry – 4189 Rose Ct, Middleton WI

Settled in a quiet cul-de-sac on 5 acres of land, our 7 informal gardens and 1 acre prairie bring lots of butterflies and birds. Simple and low maintenance is our motto. We have a unique sumac that is fun all year round. The gardens display ordinary varieties of plants and flowers to encourage the average gardener to get interested in starting a garden. A walking path through the prairie allows you to get up close to a variety of flowers. Wear comfortable shoes!

Directions: Return to Sonnet Dr and turn right, then right again on Swoboda Dr. Turn right on Old Sauk Rd, left on Twin Valley Rd, and right on Blackhawk Rd. Rose Ct is a left (north) turn off Blackhawk. The Sherry garden is at the end of the cul-de-sac, up a long driveway on the left hand side. Park in the cul-de-sac and walk up the driveway.

Linda and Phil Grosz – 4258 Blackstone Ct, Middleton WI

When we built our home 18 years ago, our goal was to transform our vacant lot into a beautiful, tranquil, and wildlife-friendly environment. A colorful native prairie wrapping around the property was the first element added to the two acre landscape. A stream cascading into a large pond would soon become the focal point of the back yard and a magnet for visiting birds. Sunny perennial borders, serene shade gardens, as well as a diverse collection of Japanese maples, conifers, other woody plants, and garden art were added over the years. The gardens are constantly evolving, and recent additions include a rock garden, kitchen garden, Asian-inspired garden, and a whimsical fairy garden set among the gnarled box elders.

Join us for wine and light refreshments on the back deck which overlooks our pond, prairie, and the adjacent Pleasant View Golf Course.

Directions: Return to Blackhawk Rd and turn left (east). Blackstone Ct is another left (north) turn off Blackhawk. The Grosz garden is the second on the right.

Jennifer Ondrejka and Tom Rudy – 8418 Blackwolf Dr, Madison WI

We moved here when most of the area was still undeveloped. We've kept most of the mature trees, giving us a woodland sanctuary in the midst of busy Madison. We're at the top of a very steep hill above City rainwater retention ponds that bring us a wonderful variety of birds and other wildlife. Our garden is the result of years of challenges: transforming full shade to dappled; replacing a massive buckthorn thicket with native plants, 30 varieties of hosta, and other perennials; and taming the steep grade. First we added wide stairs down the hill. A few years ago, Tom built a 100-foot stone walkway, culminating in a small patio in front of our water feature, which he also built. Then the two of us set 100 boulders to create six terraces with additional walkways. Finally, we've added a Zen garden, a rock garden with a crystal stream, and a small desert garden. Cookies and beverages will be provided.

Directions: Return to Blackhawk Rd and turn left (east). Continue to Pleasant View Rd and turn right, then turn left on Old Sauk Rd. Turn right on Junction Rd and left on Blackwolf Dr.

Directions from Ondrejka/Rudy garden to Kriege/Robinson-Myers garden in case you are making a circle that starts in a different spot: Travel west to Junction Rd and turn right on Junction. Turn right on Valley View Rd, left on Mound View Rd, and right on Greenwood Rd.

Frank Greer

I am not sure exactly when I first met Joan - sometime in the early 1990's. Tom Cottingham was a member of the WHPS at the time I joined and his mother and Joan had been close friends of Madison Central High Class of '43; Joan and Tom have shared gardening and plants for over 50 years, and, as Tom says, "Joan was like a second Mom to me." It seems likely that he would have introduced us. In any event, I made many trips to her garden in the ensuing years that typically included lunch afterwards. One of our first WHPS plant sales was on her driveway, and in these early years the plant sale included a tour of the host's garden. Much of her mature garden was shady/woodland and we exchanged many plants for the shade over the years. One never left her garden without a new plant or two to try. We both loved epimediums, and she wrote this poem on the bus on one of our WHPS England trips:

The Elegance of Epimediums

What graceful thing is this that lies
At garden's edge and multiplies
With clouds of stars in May
And in summer sets its leaves
In gently overlapping sheaves
Like roof tiles in Cathay.

— Joan Severa, 1996

The better part of ten years ago, she visited the garden with a friend while I was out of town. Leaving a nice complimentary note, she mentioned that she had left a gift of an epimedium I had recently admired in her garden—a tall hybrid grandiflora type, with large red/purple, spurred blossoms. The hooker was that she had also planted it for me and I was challenged to find it! All these years later it has remained in the perfect spot Joan selected, growing into an imposing clump. Neither one of us could identify the name of this species, but no matter. Its name will always be 'Joan's Epimedium' for me.

No distance of place or lapse of time can lessen the friendship of those who are thoroughly persuaded of each other's worth.
—English Author & Poet Robert Southey

Carex eburnea

Is there a dark corner of your garden in need of a bit of brightening? *Carex eburnea*, aka Ivory Sedge or Bristle Leafed Sedge, might be a solution. It is a small, cool season sedge, greening up so early in the spring as to seem almost evergreen. At 6" high with narrow blades, it brings a bright, delicate tuft of green to dark areas. The color is maintained all season.



Native to much of northern North America, it is usually found in dry to average moisture soils along limy bluffs or shores, often under cedars. In gardens it is reported thriving in a wide range of conditions, including full sun and acid soil, although it does not compete well.

In my garden it does best tucked between stones and pavers. Plants not adjacent to rocks have died, although I have seen successful mass plantings in open soil in several public gardens.

Although not well known, *Carex eburnea* is easy to find on line and at several local nurseries.

— Ruth Cadoret

Taking Care of Your Body While Taking Care of Your Gardens

We love our hostas, we love working in our yards, but we do not love the aches and pains that comes along with our hard work. Common gardening activities, such as digging, planting, weeding, mulching and raking can cause stress and strain on muscles and joints. Different body areas such as your shoulders, neck, back and knees can be vulnerable to injury during gardening.

The following tips can help minimize or prevent injuries:

- Warm up before gardening. A 10-minute brisk walk and stretches for the spine and limbs are good ways to warm up.
- Change positions frequently to avoid stiffness or cramping
- Be aware of how your body feels while you are working. If a part starts to ache, take a break, stretch that body part in the opposite direction it was in, or switch to a different gardening activity. For example, if you've been leaning forward for more than a few minutes, and your back starts to ache, slowly stand up, and gently lean backwards a few times.
- Make use of a garden cart or wheelbarrow to move heavy planting materials or tools. Be sure to keep your back straight while using a wheelbarrow.
- If kneeling on both knees causes discomfort in your back, try kneeling on one and keep the other foot on the ground. Use knee pads or gardening pads when kneeling.
- If kneeling or leaning down to the ground causes significant pain in your back and knees, consider using elevated planters
- Use good body mechanics when you pick something up or pull something, such as a weed. Bend your knees, tighten your stomach muscles, and keep your back straight as you lift or pull things. Avoid twisting your spine or knees when moving things to the side; instead, move your feet or pivot on your toes to turn your full body as one unit.
- Avoid bending your wrists upwards when pulling things or using gardening tools. Instead, keep your wrists straight and use your shoulder muscles to pull and lift.
- End your gardening session with some gentle backward bending of your low back, a short walk and light stretching, similar to stretches done before starting.

Then sit back, relax and enjoy your beautiful hostas.

— Marlene Rosenberg, PT

Marlene is a Physical Therapist and also co-owner of Uniquely Hostas in Elroy, WI, with her husband Jonathan and son Seth. Sited on a natural bluff, Uniquely Hostas allows you to view hostas from above and below. They moved to Wisconsin in 2009 when Marlene was offered a position as Director of Rehab services at Mile Bluff Medical Center. Since moving here, not only have they built Uniquely Hostas, but Marlene has also been awarded the Director positions of Home Health and Audiology.



Uniquely Hostas

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Tel: 608.462.4662

2015 Calendar of Gardening Events

Tuesday, June 30, 6:30 p.m. WHPS Tour of Epic Grounds with Jeff Epping. Details on page 5.

Tuesday, June 30, Rotary Botanical Gardens Evening Garden Seminar - Container Gardening, 6:30-8 pm. 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events>

Saturday, July 25, Clean Lakes Alliance 9th Annual Clean Lakes Festival, Law Park, Lake Monona and Loop the Lake, Starts & ends at Law Park (at Clean Lakes Festival)

Friday, July 10, 10 am-4 pm, Saturday, July 11, 9 am-3 pm, Olbrich Home Garden Tour. Tour exquisite private gardens created and maintained by talented home gardeners. Included is the neighborhood of Middleton Hills--a model of new urbanism--where smaller, intimate lots are built around generous shared greenspaces. On the other end of the spectrum, large suburban lots and historic farm property showcase fruit orchards, organic vegetable gardens, backyard chickens, and beekeeping. Native plants and prairies, composting and permaculture techniques, and cleverly recycled materials are also featured. Olbrich members: \$12; general public: \$14. <http://www.olbrich.org/events/homegardentour.cfm>

Friday, July 10-Saturday, July 11, Central Region of the American Conifer Society Annual Member Conference, Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Green Bay. The annual meeting is an occasion to discuss rare and unusual forms of conifers, tour outstanding area gardens in the company of conifer experts, and participate in two lively and entertaining auctions of dozens of conifers. This year's garden tours include the Green Bay Botanical Garden, Rose Hill Gardens and five private gardens showcasing not only conifers, but a range of hardy companion plants. Well-known plant propagator and entertaining speaker Mike Yanny will discuss conifers he has helped introduce through Johnson's Nursery. For registration and hotel information: www.conifersociety.org

Tuesday, July 14, WHPS Evening Tour of Gardens in Maple Bluff. - Cannon/Fritsch, Tensfeldt, Erickson and Sanger Gardens - info and directions on page 5.



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Thursday, July 16, Rotary Botanical Gardens Evening Garden Seminar - Gardening Vertically, 6:30-8 pm, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events>

Thursday, July 23, WHPS Evening Tour of Gardens in Far West Madison area. - Grosz, Ondrejka/Rudy, Sherry, Kriege/Robinson-Myers, Watson-Newlin Gardens - info on page 6.

Saturday, August 15-Sunday, August 16, Wisconsin Daylily Society Daylily Sale Sat, 10 am- 4 pm, Sun, 11 am-3 pm. Tent in the parking lot at Olbrich Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave, Madison, WI 53704.

Wednesday, August 19, WHPS Summer Potluck Dinner, Olbrich Gardens.

Wednesday, August 26, Rotary Botanical Gardens Evening Garden Seminar - Tough Perennials, 6:30-8 pm, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events>

Wednesday, Sept 9, 6:00 p.m. WHPS Tour of Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville with Director of Horticulture Mark Dwyer. Details TBA.

Saturday, September 12-Sunday, September 13, Rotary Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale, 9 am-4 pm, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events>

Wednesday, September 16, WHPS Program - On Design, Dan Benarcik, Horticulturist, Chanticleer Garden, <http://www.chanticleergarden.org/>

Wednesday, September 16, Rotary Botanical Gardens Evening Garden Seminar - Loving Lavender, 6:30-8 pm, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events>.

Sept 22-25, 2015 International Master Gardener Conference, Council Bluffs IA. The 2015 IMGC will be hosted by Iowa State University and University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Master Gardener Programs in Council Bluffs, IA. Non-master gardeners may attend. See the IMGC conference website for more details: <http://mastergardener.unl.edu/imgc2015>

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continued on next page

Saturday in October (date and time TBA), WHPS Tour of Longenecker Horticultural Gardens at the UW Arboretum by their Curator, Professor Emeritus Ed Hasselkus.

Sept 27-Oct 1, 2015, Gardens of New York City - Tour to NYC
Join Olbrich Botanical Garden's Director of Horticulture Jeff Epping for a five-day tour of delightful gardens in and around New York City, including Wave Hill in the Bronx, a spectacular 28-acre public garden overlooking the Hudson River; New York Botanical Garden, a National Historic Landmark with one of the world's greatest collection of flora; Central Park Conservatory Gardens; and High Line Park. For more information download the brochure - <http://www.olbrich.org/events/documents/OlbrichNYCbrochure.pdf> Contact Burkhalter Travel at (608) 833-1525 to make your reservation.

Wednesday, October 21, WHPS Program - The Evening Garden, Zannah Crowe, Horticulturist, Monches Farm, <http://www.monchesfarm.com/>

Wednesday, October 28, Rotary Botanical Gardens Evening Garden Seminar - Bulbs in the Landscape, 6:30-8 pm, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events>

Tuesday, November 17, Rotary Botanical Gardens Evening Garden Seminar - Late Season Interest, 6:30-8 pm, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events>

Wednesday, November 18, WHPS Program - Cool, Non-wimpy Plants You Haven't Heard of, Joseph Tychonievich, author, *Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener* and a new book on rock gardens due in 2015, and former manager of Arrowhead Alpines, <http://www.greensparrowgardens.com/>

David Stevens new curator of Longenecker Horticultural Gardens

Excerpted from "Meet David Stevens: a new chapter opens for the Longenecker Horticultural Gardens," in the current issue of *NewsLeaf*, published by the Friends of the UW Arboretum

David completed his bachelor's degree in Horticulture at Virginia Tech and his master's in Horticulture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, working with the previous curator, Edward Hasselkus.

He has extensive career experience, including work in industry at Agracetus in Middleton and in the horticultural world at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. Most recently, he held the position of state forest improvement research specialist in the UW-Madison Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology.

When asked what attracted him to the curator position, David said, 'As a horticulturist with a love of woody ornamentals, I would have kicked myself for the rest of my life if I hadn't applied for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work with the preeminent woody ornamental collection in the state. I came to Madison 25 years ago specifically to pursue my master's degree with Dr. Ed Hasselkus. I spent many hours in the gardens doing research for my master's project and always came away with a sense of awe for the beauty, robustness and diversity of the collection.'

Looking ahead, David says his short-term goal, other than maintaining and enhancing the collection at the highest level, is to work with other staff to make the plant collection available online in a searchable form.

WHPS welcomes David Stevens and looks forward to the continued growth and expansion of this valuable horticultural resource.

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2015 ARBORETUM GARDEN TOURS

Spring and summer tours are Wednesday evenings, from 7 p.m. until dark

June 17 — Native Plant Garden Tour: What's Blooming? Find, compare, and learn about flowers on native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants, and see what's blooming in our collection of plants native to southern Wisconsin.

July 8 — Longenecker Horticultural Gardens Tour: Summer Highlights Led by Jeff Epping, director of horticulture at Olbrich Gardens, this tour will include summer-flowering cultivars.

July 15 — Native Plant Garden Tour: Native Gardens for Pollinators This tour will feature summer-blooming species in our diverse native plant garden. We will highlight plants and gardening practices that support essential pollinators in urban/suburban landscapes.

August 12 — Native Plant Garden Tour: Native Grasses We will take a closer look at color, size and features of native grasses, from tiny mustache grass to big bluestem.

Fall Garden Tours are Saturday Afternoons, 1-3 pm

September 5 — Native Plant Garden Tour: Fall in the Native Plant Garden Color, fruits, seeds, late blooming plants, late-season insects—we will find these and more in the varied gardens around the Visitor Center.

Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Inc.



**June 2015
Newsletter**

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

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

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

Having an Open Garden

Have you ever thought your garden was looking particularly good and you would love to share it with other members? Like right now? Or at least real soon? You can do that.

I had thought about having an open garden this spring, but wanted to wait to see how everything was looking, what the weather would be like, and when things were blooming. I chose to have one on two different dates, but the e-mail about them went out just two days before the first one. I'm guessing that between the two dates, over 100 people stopped by.

So if sometime this season you think you would like to have an open garden, I'll be happy to send an e-mail out about it. Think about the date(s) you would like to have it (date and time), maybe a paragraph about the garden, and directions. Get me the information and I will send out the e-mail. It would be best if you could give me a week's notice as it takes a long time to send to over 800 people. Also please check our calendar and don't schedule it in conflict with one of our other events.

Don't be shy. We know we have lots of members with wonderful gardens!

Jane LaFlash

WHPS T-shirts available!



WHPS T-shirts available for purchase (sizes S-M-L-XL-XXL-XXXL) \$12 each. Please send an email to Jane Gahlman at jmgahlman@hotmail.com, or call Jane at 608-837-2317 if you would like to buy one. Great for volunteers!

Buy shirt; volunteer for Expo or Plant Sale; wear shirt

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Wisconsin Gardening magazine, May/June 2015 issue has an article about the Rosemary and Tom Kleinheinz garden written by Ed Lyon. And Jeannette Golden's garden will be featured in the July/Aug issue, also contributed by Ed Lyon.

Member Tip - Clean Edges

An easy way to make clean edges in your bed is to use a pruning saw. Cut straight down in your bed next to the current edging material along the path. Instant neat!



Visit our website: <http://www.wisconsinhardyplantsociety.com>