



# Perennial Notes

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Inc.

June 2016



Photo by Conrad Wrzesinski

## A Fern Native to the Himalayas to a Garden in Middleton

By Conrad J. Wrzesinski

Growing up in Wisconsin Dells, I was quite familiar with native maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*) found in ravines and the gorges and along the Wisconsin River and shady glens around Devils Lake State Park. The attractive fronds emerging like sentinels capped with the lacy foliage in the spring was appealing.

When a friend offered to share a plant of the Himalayan maidenhair fern (*Adiantum venustum*) from his garden, I was delighted.

The Himalayan maidenhair fern, as the name implies, is native to Himalaya Mountains and parts of China. The fern is evergreen, but deciduous in

(continued on page 7)

## WHPS coming events!

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

**Thursday, June 23, WHPS & MAMGA McFarland Garden Tour** at the homes of JoAnn and Richard Hoffman, Sue Okas, Bonnie and Stuart Allbaugh, and Carlene Rohde. More information on page 5.

**Saturday, June 25, WHPS Rockford, Illinois and area Bus Trip.** Sold out; see 2016 Trips Brochure available on our website.

**Wednesday, June 29, WHPS & MAMGA West Madison/Fitchburg Garden Tour** – at the homes of Linda Brazill and Mark Golbach, Cindy Fillingame, and Rita Thomas. More information on page 6.

**Tuesday, July 19, Evening at Northwind Perennial Farm, 7047 Hospital Rd, Burlington, WI 53105 5:00 pm.** for a tour with Roy Diblik and shopping. Travel is on your own. The nursery is open to the public before 5:00.

**Saturday, August 13, WHPS Delavan to Racine Day Bus Trip.** Sold out, see 2016 Trips Brochure available on our website.

**Wednesday, August 17, WHPS Summer Potluck Dinner, setup 5:30; 6:00 food line, Olbrich Gardens** Bring your own plates/utensils; juice/water will be provided.

**Wednesday, August 31, WHPS Tour of Allen Centennial Garden with Director Ben Futa, 6:00 pm.** Allen Centennial Garden, 620 Babcock Dr., UW-Madison.

**Sunday, September 18, WHPS Plant Exchange, Olbrich Botanical Gardens** next to Children's Garden, 12:00-12:30 pm. set out plants; 12:30-2:00 pm. pick your free plants!

**Wednesday, September 21, WHPS Program: Nativars – Strangers in a Strange Land** with Irvin Etienne, Horticultural Display Coordinator at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. See p. 2.

**Wednesday, October 19, WHPS Program: What I Learned-Gardening at Great Dixter,** with Mark Dwyer, Director of Horticulture, Rotary Gardens in Janesville.

**Wednesday, November 16, WHPS Program: to be announced,** with Ben Futa, Director of Allen Centennial Gardens.

## Other gardening events of note

**Wednesday, June 8, 3:30 pm. Common Dragonflies, with presenter Molly Murray.** Small urban ponds can provide oases for dragonflies, damselflies and other aquatic critters. Learn about dragonfly migration and find out how to participate in Pond Watch. This is the fifth lecture in the Oakwood Village *Preserving Nature* Lecture Series. Oakwood Village Arts Center, 6209 Mineral Point Rd.

**Friday, June 10-Saturday, June 11, Habitat For Humanity of Dane County Plant Sale, at Habitat ReStore East, 4207 Monona Drive, Monona.** Hours are 9 am. to 5 pm. This is the third sale of the season. Please contact Ann Wolfe at 442-8768 or plantlady123@outlook.com for information or to donate.

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### A Golden Spring

profile on *Spiraea thunbergii* 'Ogon'  
– see p. 8.



### 2016 Plant Sale

See our report on the 19th Annual Plant Sale – p. 2.



### Blair Street Garden

On Madison's east side – see p. 4.

# Another great plant sale – our 19th!

Over 125 volunteers (see thank you list) contributed plants, time and hard work to make this year's sale on May 21 fun, interesting, educational and cost-effective – most of the plants were \$2-\$6.

In addition to perennials, we had some great woody plant contributions, including two beautiful tree peonies and some conifers from the garden of the late Robert Kowal.

Special thanks go to our terrific Plant Sale Team: Donna Freiman, who organized all of the plant digs and volunteers; Jeanette Golden, who recruited and organized all of the volunteers related to Setup Day and Sale; Linda Brazill and Louise Karpinski, who organized the sorting and placing of plants at the Sale; Jan Blakeslee and Ellen Karlson, our Plant Identification Sign makers; Diane Scharkey, coordinator of our Late



Arrivals to the sale; Leslie Johnson and Kathy Hauptert who worked to make our checkout area a smooth, fast experience for everyone and Ellen Henningsen, our cleanup coordinator.

Special mention to the amazing Vickie Kaufman for donating the delicious bounty of baked goodies and fruit we offered as sustenance to volunteers over the two days of Setup and Sale.

We also want to thank the West Madison Agricultural Research Station for allowing us to expand our space this year

to offer a better shopping experience to those who attended the sale – and thanks to Assistant Superintendent Janet Hedtcke for leading a dig that contributed many new cultivars of various and interesting perennials to our sale.

Sincere and many thanks to each and every one of the volunteers who contributed plants, hosted and helped at digs, set up for the sale, and worked on the Sale Day to guarantee all of our customers a great shopping experience. It was good to see so many new faces among the volunteers this year.

And a huge thank you to the true guarantors of our success – all of you who came to shop and found excellent plants for your gardens! As a result of your generosity, WHPS will once again be able to donate the proceeds from the sale to worthy garden entities in the area.

Wishing you all another busy, happy and successful gardening season.

– Stephanie O'Neal, Plant Sale Coordinator



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

President – Frank Greer, 608-233-4686, frgreer@sbcglobal.net  
Vice President – Jane Gahlman, 608-837-2317, jmgahlman@hotmail.com, Seed Exchange Coordinator and Trip and Tour Co-Coordinator  
Secretary – John Cannon, jtcannon@wisc.edu, Trip Committee Treasurer – Diane Scharkey, dscharkey@gmail.com

Lynn Belanger, 608-215-9127, lynnbelanger7300@gmail.com  
Caroline Bohler, Homegrown Flowers, 262-483-2500, caroline@homegrownmadison.com, Webmaster  
Emily Buckingham, 920-960-6928, emilycbuckingham@gmail.com  
Jeannette Golden, 608-767-3736, jgolden4142@gmail.com, Plant Sale Volunteer Coordinator  
Cindy Hoffland, 608-233-8083, hofflc@gmail.com  
Jane LaFlash, 608-243-1208, jlaflash@wisc.edu, Membership Coordinator and Trip and Tour Co-Coordinator  
Terri Maliszewski-Kane, 608-513-4189, terrimk1@hotmail.com, Olbrich Liaison  
Linda Marx, 608-249-7717, ljmarx@chorus.net, Speakers Committee  
Stephanie O'Neal, 608-256-6108, sone2@aol.com, Publications and Plant Exchange  
Eleanor Rodini, H: 608-257-2984; Cell: 608-576-7099, emrodini@wisc.edu  
Shirley Scriver, 608-467-2870, scrivs@charter.net, WHPS Garden Expo Display Coordinator  
Conrad Wrzesinski, 608-231-3279, conradw@charter.net

## 2016 Plant Sale Volunteers – Thank You!

- |                      |                    |                     |                     |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Cynthia Albrecht     | Marijane Curry     | Leslie Johnson      | Deb Pienkowski      |
| Jennifer Allen       | Ruthann Dahl       | Dee Kanter          | Mary Polancih       |
| Lois Anderson        | Rick Deihl         | Ellen Karlson       | Ritchie Rheäume     |
| Sally Averkamp       | Anna DePauw        | Louise Karpinski    | Cathie Richards     |
| Winnie Bade          | John Dickson       | Vickie Kauffman     | Marla Robinson      |
| Rachel Baker         | Elizabeth Ogren    | Susan King          | Eleanor Rodini      |
| Aleta Barmore        | Erickson           | Lois Kinlen         | Kathy Satut         |
| Lynn Belanger        | Charles Evenson    | Barb Klasinski      | Diane Scharkey      |
| Inga Berg            | Marian Fisher      | JoAnne Kriege       | Mary Jo Schiavoni   |
| Chris Biedermann     | Donna Freiman      | Linda Krug          | Mark Schmitt        |
| Jan Blakeslee        | Jim Gentry         | Tom Kuster          | Barb Schuette       |
| Stephanie Bloomquist | Kristin Gilmore    | Mary Ellen LaChance | Shirley Scriver     |
| Richard Bloomquist   | Anna Goebel        | Jane LaFlash        | Theresa Seeley      |
| Missy Bodden         | Jeannette Golden   | Marlette Larsen     | Evelyn Shimshak     |
| Caroline Bohler      | Frank Greer        | Mary Larson         | Michael Soens       |
| Susan Bowditch       | Gretta Gribble     | Phyllis Lathrope    | Jayne Squirrel      |
| Holly Brassington    | Christine Griffith | Joan Lawrence       | Roger Stanek        |
| Linda Brazill        | Debbi Griggas      | Mike Lester         | Maggie Steele       |
| Cherith Bruckner     | Linda Grosz        | Vickie Lester       | Georgene Stratman   |
| Emily Buckingham     | Shirley Haidinger  | Joan Liegel         | Pat Tillman         |
| Pat Bunders          | Kate Hardy         | Ken Markart         | Rita Thomas         |
| Geri Buss            | Kathryn Harriman   | Linda Marx          | Margie VanHandel    |
| Maggie Carrao        | Ed Hasselkus       | Percy Mather        | Shari Voss          |
| Bruce Christofferson | Kathy Hauptert     | Barbara Mathis      | Barbara Wetzel      |
| Carolyn Coffey       | Deb Hayes          | Kate McWhirter      | Bob Wetzel          |
| Tom Cottingham       | Janet Hedtcke      | Jackie Melrose      | Melissa Whittingill |
| Jane Cramer          | Ellen Henningsen   | Rose Messina        | Jackie Winchester   |
| Judy Crandall        | Margaret Henzler   | Nancy Nikora        | Conrad Wrzesinski   |
| Shirley Culp         | Tom Henzler        | Carol Olsen         | Linda Zelewski      |
| Nell Cummings        | Cindy Hoffland     | Jennifer Ondrejka   |                     |
|                      | Christl lausly     | Stephanie O'Neal    |                     |

## Other gardening events of note (continued from p.1)

**Saturday, June 11, Posh Plants at Allen Centennial Garden, 6:00-8:00 pm.** Posh Plants tickets are \$50 available to the general public. Posh Plants is not a typical fundraiser: it will feature a night full of live music by the Paul Muench Quartet, a silent auction, and a botanical runway show live auction featuring past Garden interns.

<https://allencentennialgarden.org/>

The following link can be used for those who wish to bid but cannot attend:  
<http://POSH2016.gesture.com>

**Sunday, June 12, Wisconsin Hosta Society's Plant Sale, 10:00 am.-2:00 pm.** or while supplies last. Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison. Pick up some interesting hostas to add to your collection. These shade-loving perennials with interesting foliage, come in a variety of sizes, shapes, and colors. For more information call 608-835-3291.

**Sunday, June 19, Madison Rose Society Rose Show, Noon-5:00 pm., Olbrich Botanical Society.** The Madison Rose Society hosts this indoor exhibit of cut roses and arrangements in all sizes and colors. Members of the Rose Society will be available to answer questions. Stroll through Olbrich's two acre Rose Garden. Sponsored by the Madison Rose Society. For more information call 608-634-2146. Free.

**June 24, 29, and August 26 – Final Friday in the Allen Centennial Garden. 4-8 pm.** Celebrate the weekend with good food from the food trucks El Grito Taqueria and Underground, live music and other programming, and an exceptional *Garden Cocktail* created by Graze restaurant with ingredients sourced from the Garden.

**Wednesday, June 29, Evening Garden Seminar: Handsome Harvests – Gardening with Edible Landscape Plants Rotary Gardens, Janesville.** \$5 for non-members, \$3 for members, no pre-registration required. Speaker – Michael Jesiolowski, Chicago Botanic Garden. For more details, see:

<http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/>

**Friday, July 8-Saturday, July 9, Olbrich Home Garden Tour – Gardens of Nakoma and Arbor Hills, Friday, 10:00 am.-4:00 pm., Saturday, 9:00 am.-3:00 pm.** Olbrich's 2016 Home Garden Tour features seven exceptional gardens in the established neighborhoods of Nakoma and Ar-

bor Hills. Tickets are \$12 for Olbrich members and \$14 for the general public. [www.olbrich.org](http://www.olbrich.org)

**July 14-August 7, Olbrich's Blooming Butterflies, 10:00 am.-4:00 pm., Olbrich Botanical Gardens.** Experience the wonder of strolling through a tropical forest on a search for fleeting butterflies. Stroll through the outdoor gardens and visit the Growing Gifts shop.

**Tuesday, July 19, Evening Garden Seminar: Gardening Vertically, Rotary Gardens, Janesville, 6:30-8:30 pm.,** \$5 for non-members, \$3 for members, no pre-registration required. Presenter – Mark Dwyer. Growing plants vertically, while not a new concept, is getting increased attention for applicability in tight locations or areas that are limited in space. We will discuss a wide range of options for maximizing growing space in the garden through the use of various containers and repurposed structures.  
<http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/>

**Saturday, July 23, Hosta Open House and Sale (over 1300 varieties) 9:00 am.-3:00 pm. Ron & Deb Sharpee, W5472 Wangsness Rd, DeForest, WI** Call 608-846-4149 or [debsharpee@aol.com](mailto:debsharpee@aol.com) for more info.

**WGCF Madison District Garden Clubs Garden Tour, Friday & Saturday, July 22 & 23, 10:00 am.-3:00 pm.** Tickets \$10 for both days; proceeds benefit scholarship funds for high school seniors pursuing horticulture and related topics. Ten gardens on the tour: 2 in Middleton, 5 in Madison, and 3 in Verona. All by their owners who will be present to talk with visitors. Ticket locations: 501 Toepfer Ave., Madison & 205 Paoli St., Verona. For more info, contact [egbeecheer@gmail.com](mailto:egbeecheer@gmail.com)

**Saturday, August 20-Sunday, August 21, The Wisconsin Daylily Society 26th annual HUGE Plant Sale in a 4,000 square-foot tent at Olbrich Gardens in Madison.** There will be thousands of plants with nearly 800 different kinds to choose from. This is the largest daylily plant sale in the area, and it's the perfect place to find great daylilies from a wide selection.

**Tuesday, August 30, Evening Garden Seminar: Ornamental Grasses, Rotary Gardens, Janesville, 6:30-8:30 pm.,** \$5 for non-members, \$3 for members, no pre-registration required. Presenter, Mark Dwyer. Grasses offer color, form, texture,

and movement in our landscapes. There are many selections that will not only thrive in our gardens but will offer interest throughout the growing season and well in to the winter. Grasses and grass relatives will be discussed for all garden situations and their growing requirements.  
<http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/>

**September 2016 – Gleam: Art in a New Light, (Sept. GLEAM – Thurs, Fri, Sat 7:30 - 10:30).** This fall, Olbrich Botanical Gardens unveils *GLEAM, Art in a New Light*, a cutting edge exhibition featuring site-specific art and light installations in the outdoor gardens. Local artists and professional lighting designers will collaborate to create sculptural art, featuring light as a major component in each installation.

**Sunday, September 18, UW-Arboretum 2016 Native Gardening Conference: Native by Design: Gardening for a Sustainable Future.** 8:45 am. to 4:30 pm.; \$60 (\$54 FOA, \$30 student w/ID). Using the Arboretum's Wisconsin Native Plant Garden as an outdoor classroom, this conference offers workshops, take-home tips, and living examples to inspire you and help you become a successful native plant gardener. Lunch provided. Dress for the weather. Keynote address by Heather Holm, author of *Pollinators of Native Plants*.  
<https://arboretum.wisc.edu/visit/events/native-gardening-conference/>

**Wednesday, September 28, Evening Garden Seminar: Bulb Planting, Rotary Gardens, Janesville, 6:30-8:30 pm.,** \$5 for non-members, \$3 for members, no pre-registration required. Presenter, Mark Dwyer. As the gardening season starts winding down, it is the perfect time to consider planting spring blooming bulbs out in the gardens with visions of a colorful spring. Rotary Botanical Gardens has over 400,000 spring blooming bulbs. See more details at:  
<http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/>

**Friday, September 30, Crackle – Fire & Froth, 7:00-10:00 pm., Olbrich Botanical Gardens.** Be inspired by the beauty of a crisp fall evening in Olbrich's outdoor gardens. Watch the flames from bonfires dance on the Great Lawn, groove to live music, savor a variety of tasty foods from Food Fight restaurants, and sip Wisconsin brews. Tickets are \$20 for Olbrich members

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## Other events of note (continued from p.3)

and \$25 for the general public. Food and beverages are an additional cost above ticket price. In case of inclement weather, CRACKLE will be held indoors.

**October (throughout) 2016 – Gleam: Art in a New Light, (Oct. GLEAM – Wed, Thurs, Fri - 6:30 - 9:30.)** (see September listing)

**Tuesday, October 18, Evening Garden Seminar: Fall Gardening Tasks, Rotary Gardens, Janesville, 6:30-8:30 pm.,** \$5 for non-members, \$3 for members, no pre-registration required. Presenter, Mark Dwyer. See more details at: <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/>

**Tuesday, November 29, Evening Garden Seminar: The Best Winter Interest Plants, Rotary Gardens, Janesville, 6:30-8:30 pm.,** \$5 for non-members, \$3 for members, no pre-registration required. Presenter, Mark Dwyer. Often neglected, this “fourth season of interest” can focus on colorful conifers, plant form, ornamental stems and bark, ornamental fruiting, grasses and other features.

**Saturday, November 5, Madison Herb Society Herb Fair, 9:00 am.-3:00 pm. Olbrich Botanical Gardens.** Hear about herbs from speakers and vendors. Purchase herbal products. Make & Take projects, demonstrations, and a Q & A station. Free! Sponsored by the Madison Herb Society. Visit [www.madisonherbsociety.org](http://www.madisonherbsociety.org)

**December 3-31, Olbrich's Holiday Express: Flower and Model Train Show., 10:00 am.-4:00 pm. daily.** Members of the Wisconsin Garden Railway Society come from all over the state to show off their large-scale model trains.

**December 2016, Rotary Gardens Holiday Light Show, 4:00-8:00 pm., Janesville.** <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events/calendar-of-events>

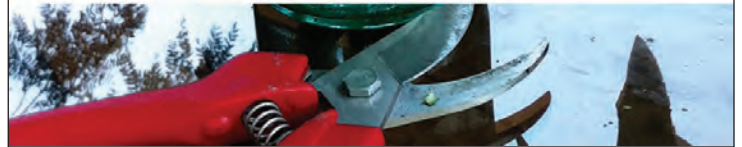
**Orchid Quest 2017 – TBA – end of January**

**February 10-12, 2017, WI Garden Expo.**



## Homegrown Flowers

LOCALLY SOURCED, GARDEN-INSPIRED FLORAL DESIGN  
[HOMEGROWNMADISON.COM](http://HOMEGROWNMADISON.COM)



## Blair Street Gardens

As reported in our November 2015 issue, the new Gateway Garden at the intersection of Williamson and John Nolen Dr. was transformed last summer and fall from a formal garden into a small park. Plantings include oak trees, a coffee tree, serviceberries, sumac, asters, goldenrod, and over 100 little blue stem grasses.

Work will be completed this spring and summer. The walkways will be finished with an application of a polymer stabilizer. Several wooden and metal benches, designed and built by local artists, will be installed. And more perennials will be planted.

Blair Street Gardens Committee, Inc., a group of volunteers, has been maintaining this area, as well as two other public gardens near the intersection, for 30 years.



The new Gateway Garden was made possible by many businesses and individuals, including the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, which donated \$500 toward the purchase of plant materials.

For photos of the new Gateway Garden, visit Blair Street Gardens' website at [www.blairstreetgardens.org](http://www.blairstreetgardens.org) or its Facebook page.

## Vote for your favorite peony



You can play a role in determining what Peony cultivar will be awarded the ALM (Award for Landscape Merit)! The American Peony Society is sponsoring a trial at West Madison Agriculture Research Station. Voting will take place in early – mid May. Scorecards will be available in a display box in the peony plot. Look for the notification on our Website/Facebook Page and help promote the latest in peony genetics.

<http://westmadison.ars.wisc.edu/>

<https://www.facebook.com/West-Madison-Agricultural-Research-Station-821179231312209/>

Ag Research Station, 8502 Mineral Point Road, Verona, WI 53593 608-262-2257

# WHPS/MAMGA McFarland Garden Tour

Thursday, June 23, 2016 – 4:00 PM – dark

Of course you may visit these gardens in any order and directions would depend on your starting point. These directions are just possibilities.

**JoAnn and Richard Hoffman – 5011 Valley Dr., McFarland** Twenty-eight years ago my garden began as a small, sunny garden in a former corn field with heavy, clay soil and unremitting sunshine. At the time, I never believed we would see a mature tree in our neighborhood. The garden has now evolved into a part sun/part shade garden with paths and a meandering dry creek bed. My record keeping of various cultivars is deplorable because focus has been on lay-out with a goal to creating a garden which, when gazed on from the porch or fire pit, is pleasing to look at, but is also fun to wander through on its various trails.

**Directions:** Take Hwy 51 south toward McFarland. Take the Siggelkow Rd exit to the right and turn left on Siggelkow Rd. Turn right on Valley Dr.

**Sue Okas – 5207 Marsh Rd, McFarland** The realtor's flyer said, "If you are a flower lover, this house has everything you are looking for."

That was four years ago. We had made the decision to sell our 1890s farm house in Mineral Point where we had lived and gardened on two acres for 40 years. It had become more than we wanted to take care of.

This ranch house had everything we were leaving behind, but it was on a flat, well-designed city lot. The former owner told me that he and his wife had planted about 85% of what designer, Steve Lesch, included in the plan made in 2002. The pond, pergola, tool shed, flower beds, trees, asparagus and raspberries, terrace garden, and lots of garden art appealed to me. In fact, it was love at first sight. I like to say that I bought the yard while my husband bought the house!

It has been my mission to maintain the gardens as they were created rather than to start over. I have added the container gardens as a way to add color to perennial beds and the sitting area under the pergola as a place to sit and smell the flowers. The McFarland School District prairie adds

a wonderful background to our property.

**Directions:** From the Hoffman garden, return to Siggelkow Rd and turn right (east). Continue to Marsh Rd. and turn right.

**Bonnie and Stuart Allbaugh – 5622 Lake Edge Rd, McFarland** "When we built our home in 1992, our lot was empty except for the cedars along the street and the oak tree on the lakeshore. Throughout the years, we have decreased the amount of grass and added flower and vegetable gardens. As you enter, our shade garden with hostas and astilbe is on the right and the heuchera collection on the left. The vegetable garden along the driveway was new last year. Our small pond welcomes water plants and fish and the teardrop garden off the pond has various echinaceas, and a redbud tree. There is a small herb garden near our front door. On the lake side, we have a rose garden in front of the deck, and various sun loving perennials in the other gardens with cactus and succulents in the rocky garden at water's edge.

**Directions:** Take Hwy 51 south to McFarland (or return to Hwy 51 via Siggelkow Rd. from the Hoffman and Okas gardens). Turn right on Dale Rd. and right on Lake Edge Rd.

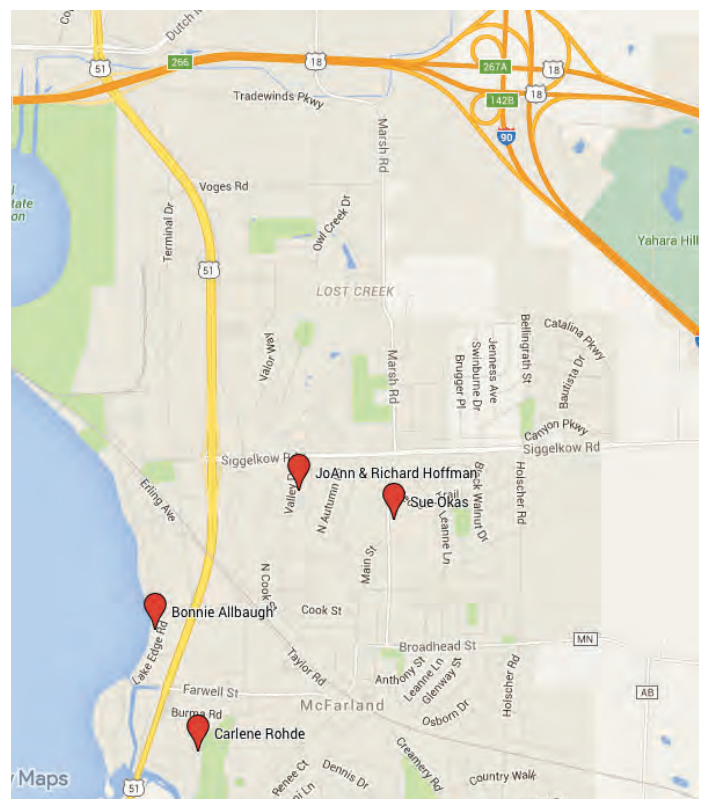
**Carlene Rohde – 6201 Indian Mound Dr., McFarland** Our home of 38 years is located at the top of Indian Mound Dr. which backs up to Indian Mound Conservation Park, a wooded hillside including seven Indian burial mounds and a village water tower site. I mention the water tower because it's overflow "spout" used to be on the only side of the tower aimed at homes. After electrical storms hit the water tower

and overflowed into our backyard for a third time they finally moved the spout. In a period of 6-7 years we dealt with unbelievable clean-up and chances to start over again.

As the trees matured maintaining grass in some areas became more of a challenge. Where it wouldn't grow I made a new garden bed. Where it washed away I added retaining walls. I learned hostas, astilbes, and Annabelle hydrangeas were not the only things I could grow, although they still are an important component of the landscape. I have always felt my yard is a study of green, so I introduced different color with glass art, statuary, and bird houses. (You may even see a school of fish swimming through the Monarda.)

Adding the garden shed created more opportunities to display old garden tools and make new pathways. Ever changing and growing, I have found a tranquil spot in this little piece of tilled and amended garden I call my own.

**Directions:** Take Hwy 51 south to McFarland (or return to 51 and continue south from the Allbaugh garden). Turn left on Burma Rd and right on Indian Mound Dr.



# WHPS/MAMGA West Madison/Fitchburg Garden Tour

Wednesday, June 29, 2016 – 4:00 pm. – dark

**Linda Brazill and Mark Golbach – 5805 Hammersley Rd, Madison** We moved to our half-acre lot 20 years ago as it was a perfect canvas on which to create a garden: a sloping site with trees and shrubs mostly at its edges. Our goal was to walk out our back door and be in a tranquil retreat that married the rocks, water, moss, and contemplative qualities of Eastern gardens, with the pines and perennials of Wisconsin. To do that, we've planted some 200 trees and shrubs, and used over 200 tons of stone in walls, paths, and boulder groupings. The garden has multiple water features, unusual trees and conifers, a birch glade, woodland peonies, a traffic island bed and a Japanese teahouse. As we've worked to create our retreat we've also created a gardening partnership that has been a mutual source of heated debates and delight.

**Directions:** Take Whitney Way south (past the beltline). Turn right on Hammersley Rd. Note the restricted parking signs on Hammersley Rd., including no parking directly in front of our house.

**Cindy Fillingame – 6609 Jacobs Way, Madison** All gardens are shaped by the terrain, exposure to sun, and drainage concerns, and mine is no exception. A desire to improve drainage led to my first raised bed in 2004. I chose concrete retaining wall blocks as an inexpensive "do-it-myself" solution. They proved to be very versatile allowing me to create fluid lines and to adjust the height and enrich the soil. This initial success has led to other raised beds designed to solve other issues, namely gardening on a severe slope and defining the property line more clearly. As my gardening knowledge has grown, I've tried to create diverse garden beds that have something to offer in each season of the year. Visitors will see many newly planted trees and shrubs, such as ginkgo, oak leaf hydrangea, pagoda dogwood, beech and stewartia. Older established trees and shrubs include river birch, Montgomery spruce, and a sprawling juniper pruned to follow the terrain. Lilies, including Martagon, Asiatic, and Orientpets, join garden sculptures to provide vertical accents among a wide variety of perennials.

**Directions:** From the Brazill/Golbach garden, continue west on Hammersley Rd. Turn left on Frisch Rd, then right on Jacobs Way.

**Rita Thomas – 5586 Cheryl Dr, Fitchburg** Gardening is always a work in progress. On an average city-size lot I arrange my sun and shade plant collections as artfully as I can; considering textures, sizes, flower colors, life cycles, and seasons. My favorite part of gardening though is collecting and trialing plants that are new for me.

I set aside a double-fenced section of my yard to protect and house my current favorite aspects of gardening: grafting tree peonies, experimenting with other propagation methods, revitalizing declining plants, growing a few vegetables, and guarding my most expensive, new, coveted acquisitions.

On a recent trip to Portland, OR with the WHPS, I was introduced to what I perceived as "extreme gardening".

I was so impressed with what I saw, I realized that there was so much more I could do to take my garden up a notch. Currently I'm redesigning sections of garden with my perception of "extreme" and

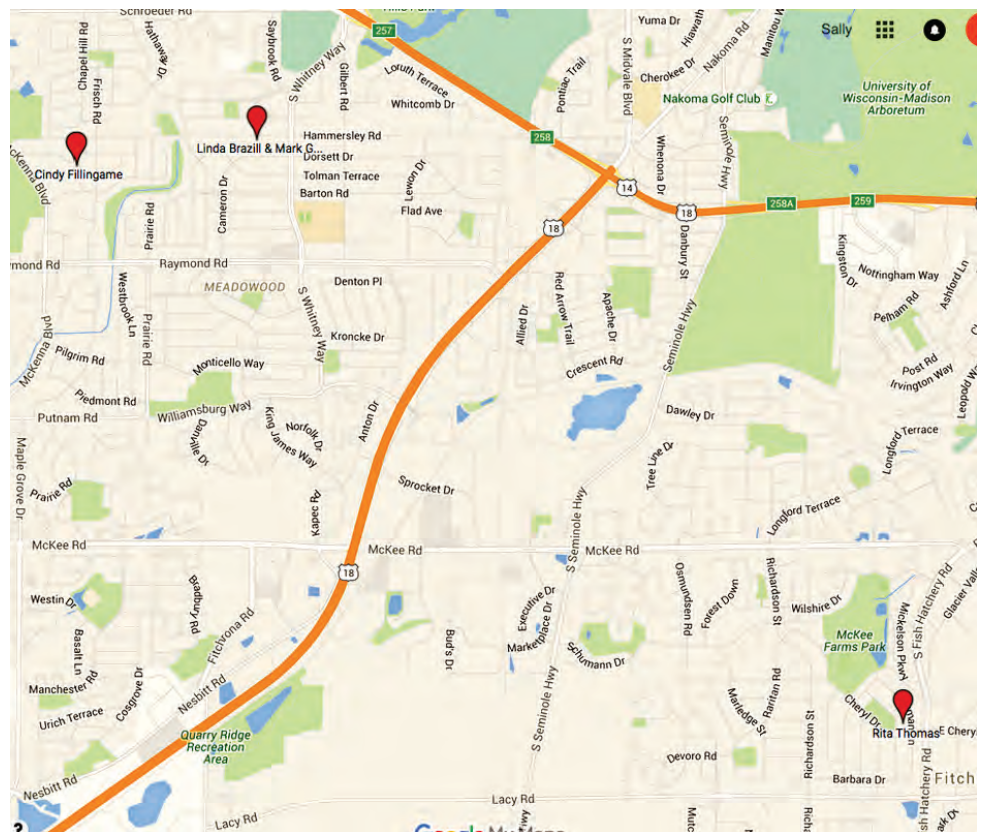
plan to continue my garden redesign, based on the western outdoor living design, modified for our long, cold winters. I can no longer expand but I can improve. It's a long term process.

I shoehorn new plants into the gardens every year and last year added new "extreme 7' lilies", more tree peonies, and clematis, some of which will be in bloom for the tour.

Welcome and enjoy.

**Directions:** From the Fillingame garden, return to Frisch Rd and turn right. Turn left on Raymond Rd, then right on Verona Rd, left on McKee Rd (Hwy PD), right on Fish Hatchery Rd, and right on Cheryl Dr. This is about a 15 minute drive.

**Directions:** For starting at the Thomas garden: Take Fish Hatchery Rd south to Cheryl Dr and turn right. Reverse the directions to the other two gardens.



## Garden Travel Events

The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon (HPSO) ([www.hardyplantsociety.org](http://www.hardyplantsociety.org)) offers many garden travel opportunities. Like our group, you must be a member to register for their trips (individual membership is \$35). Some of their 2017 trips still have openings:

### **Normandy: June 24 - July 6**

[https://hpsomemberclicks.net/assets/Tours/2017\\_normandy\\_tour\\_brochure.pdf](https://hpsomemberclicks.net/assets/Tours/2017_normandy_tour_brochure.pdf)

### **Loire Valley: July 16 - July 25**

[https://hpsomemberclicks.net/assets/Tours/2017\\_loire\\_valley\\_tour\\_brochure.pdf](https://hpsomemberclicks.net/assets/Tours/2017_loire_valley_tour_brochure.pdf)

Our two groups have exchanged newsletters for years and HPSO helped us set up all the private gardens for last year's Portland trip.

## WHPS T-shirts available!



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

## Himalayan Fern (cont. from p. 1)

exposed areas with temperatures below 14°F. The fern purportedly takes a couple of years to fully establish, which was true in our garden. The fern prefers a light to dappled shade location with a rich soil that stays evenly moist. In our garden, the height is in the range of 6 inches, compared to the native maidenhair fern, which is 12 to 18 inches in height. The fern spreads slowly and does not quickly outgrow its niche, and may be divided every four to five years.

The new fronds, which emerge in early spring, have bright bronze-pink blush. The fan-like lacy bright green foliage with contrasting black stems makes the Himalayan maidenhair fern particularly attractive, as in the picture from our garden.

In 1993, the Himalayan maidenhair fern received the Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit.

*Editor's note: Jane LaFlash says this fern was the most asked about plant during her May open gardens*

## A gift from the garden

By Thomas A. Cottington

Winter melts into spring while spring unfolds its garments in growth as summer matures. Spring's soft fresh colors mature into bold hot and passionate colors of summer; reflections of the sun and summer heat. A thunderstorm brings needed rain as a light and sound of lightning and crashing thunder startles me in a shiver of its power. The fragrance of blossoms fills the air with perfume – do I inhale the scent of the hour?

I stand amazed in awesome wonder in how so many ways His Majesty crowns creation in splendor. Whatever the moment, I yearn to observe beauty within its fleeting moments; its beauty is only temporary. I realize the source of the beauty is ETERNAL, more profound than my mind can understand.

I watch with expectation as autumn winds bring cool freshness, shorter daylight hours and the colors of leaves turning into bronze, copper and gold with fiery reds refined to perfection. As the last flowers of the year fade and turn brown with the frost, life again returns back to earth in dust as fallen leaves carpet the ground.

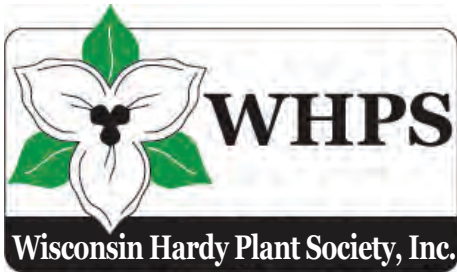
The winds of winter bring the first snow that clings to each twig, branch and tree trunk frosting the ground with a blanket of white. Hidden from my eyes, the plants lie in rest beneath the snow, with the mystery of the unknown and what lies ahead. Winter creates a unity in the landscape etched in black and white with the coolness of blue shadows and the sparkle of fresh snowflakes glistening in the sunlight. All plants stand bare, stripped of leaves and flowers. Their inner form is revealed in all its beauty, with upward reaching arms as if in prayer. This is a time for rest, peace and reflection. A snowflake gently tickles my face and seems to crash upon the stillness of absolute quiet. The soft snow cushions my every step and covers the ground with a powdery white softness. The winter storm passes and skies begin to clear, and a setting sun breaks through the clouds and light beams soar down to the earth as



the clouds turn into a rich palate of pinks, fiery reds and rich golds. The light permeates the sky with unexpected blue patches of clearing skies as nightfall brings a chill to the air. The stars appear as pinpoints of light and seem large in the cold crisp night air reaching out to beyond eternity.

What amazes me is that I have seen all these things in my garden. The show is free; it's a gift. All I need to do is take notice of the beauty that surrounds me every day. Gardening isn't just work, it brings years of seasons – full of Life, colors, moods – with time for reflection, inspiration and purpose. It is an ever-changing story, it is a song and music to my ears. Do I listen? I realize the need to reach out with an open heart and hands so that HE will fill them with Abundant Love and a rich Life. Beauty lies in the eyes and ears of the beholder. Do I acknowledge the source of Beauty? In my heart and mind my soul finds release. Looking beyond the moment, I begin to see things that last. It is then when I see ETERNITY in all these things. I know who is behind ALL THINGS!

*Editor's note: Tom plans to host an open garden for WHPS members and friends on Friday, July 15 from 1-4:00 pm. Details will sent out about a week before.*



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

## A Golden Spring – *Spirea thunbergii* ‘Ogon’

*By Stephanie O’Neal*

Spireas tend to get overlooked because of their overuse and ease of care but there is a spirea that shines bright golden yellow-green in the spring that I’d like to recommend – *Spirea thunbergii* ‘Ogon’ – or Mellow Yellow. I’ve had four of these in a couple of areas of full sun in my garden for over 10 years, and I’ve never been disappointed by them. I keep mine easily pruned to a rounded 3-4 feet (can get up to five feet), and in early May it blooms with a tiny white flower (picture), with the flowers persisting as the golden-green leaves emerge. The texture of the leaves are similar to a willow, and they become more chartreuse as the season goes along, with a very nice fall color. Like other spireas, it can be pruned almost any time you like, or cut back sharply for renewal. Occasionally, it may bloom again lightly on the new wood. Talk about goes with everything – this plant looks beautiful in almost any perennial bed.



## New Members

The following members have recently joined WHPS – welcome!

Cynthia Albrecht	Katie McEnaney
Jane Bailey	Terrie Meyer
Becky Briles	Stacey Oliker
Jacob Burns	Mary Olver
JoAnn Crampton	Mary Pinkerton
Betty Hoytink	Annemarie Schasse
Nancy Ishikawa	Pam Walker
Bill & Elizabeth Kelly	Pat Rademacher

## Olbrich Request

Olbrich Gardens has need of a flat-bottomed boat (jon-boat) occasionally between about August 1 and November 1 for setting up and maintaining one of the GLEAM art installations in the pond. They would transport it. If you have one and are willing to lend it, please call Jeff Epping at (608) 246-4683 .

