



# Perennial Notes

September 2012

Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society—an unincorporated nonprofit association

## WHPS COMING EVENTS!

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

**Wednesday, September 19,** For our September meeting, we have a special treat. One of the country's foremost propagators of hellebores, **Barry Glick, Sunshine Farm & Gardens, Renick, West Virginia** is not only telling us the background of hellebores and how they are propagated but he is providing plants for sale! These will be plugs that the audience can buy cheaply at \$5 per plant (as you may know, hellebores still remain one of the pricier



perennials), as well as other special woodland plants. There will be 250 hellebores and 250 other woodland plants (10 each species) for purchase before the talk. **NOTE:** In order to provide this ability to obtain plants, we need to accomplish this before he speaks. The room and plants will be available by 5:45 p.m. and we will sell plants until 6:45 p.m. so we can start the presentation on time. Plants WILL NOT be sold after the presentation, per our agreement with Olbrich to be out of the building by 9:00 p.m. for their staff. Barry will accept cash and checks, and since everything is \$5, having cash in increments of \$5 will be most helpful! *No credit cards!* (If you aren't interested in purchasing plants, speaker presentation will be at the regular 7:00 p.m. start time).

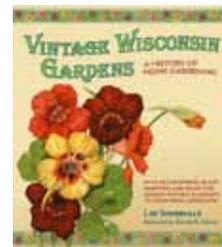
### Destination Helleborus

Unless you've been living in a cave for the last few years, you recognize that hellebores have become America's favorite shade perennial. Join Barry Glick of Sunshine Farm & Gardens, noted breeder of *Helleborus x hybridus* 'Sunshine Selections' and self-proclaimed "King of Helleborus" for an educating and entertaining tour of the genus from hybridizing to propagation.

**Sunday, September 23, WHPS Plant Exchange, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** Join us at Allen Centennial Gardens. Bring plant(s), get plant(s)! Members bring extra plants dug from their gardens, purchased and not-used perennials, woodies, annual bulbs, even a few houseplants. Street parking is free on Sundays, and this is a great time of year to tour Allen Centennial Gardens. We enjoyed a great display of hummingbirds in action at last year's exchange.

**Wednesday, October 17,** Lee Somerville of Sturgeon Bay, WI will discuss her book, *Vintage Wisconsin Gardens*, in this joint meeting with Madison Area Master Gardeners. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, as Wisconsin's population moved from farmsteads into villages, towns and cities, the state saw a growing interest in gardening as a leisure activity and a source of civic pride. In *Vintage Wisconsin Gardens: A History of Home Gardening*, Wisconsin Historical Society Press Author Lee Somerville introduces us to the region's ornamental gardens of that period, showcasing the "vernacular" gardens created

by landscaping enthusiasts for their own use and pleasure. The Wisconsin State Horticultural Society, established during the mid-19th century, was the primary source of advice for home gardeners. Through carefully selected excerpts from horticultural society articles, Somerville shares the excitement of these gardeners as they traded cultivation and design knowledge, and explored the possibilities of their avocation. Women were frequent presenters at the horticultural society annual meetings, and their voices resonate. Their writings, and those of their male colleagues, are a remarkable legacy we can draw on today—learning how Wisconsinites past created and enjoyed their gardens helps us appreciate our own.



**Wednesday, November 14, Plant Introduction Process: Do You Have the Hot New Plant?** with speaker Angie Treadwell-Palmer, Plants Nouveau. Treadwell-Palmer (a.k.a. Plantweenie) has a Bachelor of Science in Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Design from the University of Delaware. Her career has spanned almost every aspect of gardening, garden design and teaching folks how to garden with plants—especially natives. She's the founder and now team partner in Plants Nouveau, LLC., in Charleston, SC. She travels around the world searching for new plants to introduce. The Plants Nouveau motto is "Responsible introductions. Making tomorrow's gardens possible." Plants Nouveau is known for its wild and colorful marketing, yet is very thoughtful and jam-packed with information to help growers and consumers succeed with their new plants. It is the fashionista of the new plants world. Before embarking on her own, she managed the staff and development of half of the collections at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, DC, as well as their Elite Plant Introduction Program. She also curated the Introduction Garden. She was a perennial buyer/grower for one of the largest retail garden centers on the East Coast, Homestead Gardens/Growers, in Davidsonville, MD. For three years, she managed the Plant Introduction Program for Chicagoland Growers®, Inc., the plant introduction program of the Chicago Botanic Garden and the Morton Arboretum. She served an even longer term as the Director of New Products for one of the largest wholesale nurseries on the East Coast, The Conard-Pyle Co.

**Wednesday, December 12, Annual Meeting, Member Potpourri, Seed Exchange.** Show us your garden, or a garden you have visited, at our Member Potpourri. Contact Stephanie O'Neal at [sone2@aol.com](mailto:sone2@aol.com) to sign up to present. This is a favorite program each year—we want to see your photos/videos!

## It all comes down to leaves and microbes

Well, our beloved gardens have had a historic time of it this year. Most of us have spent more time behind a hose than ever before... I go to sleep fantasizing about future irrigation schemes! But as gardeners and gardeners have managed to survive this summer, we now begin considering how we are going to put what's left of our gardens to bed.

I always begin by making sure I cut down all diseased plants and keep them out of the compost. Next in importance is to remove any large weeds, especially if they still have seeds or rapidly spreading root systems. I also remove perennials that I am sure I don't want in the garden anymore.

At this point, I usually tidy up a garden to the taste of the client. As long as plants and soil are protected and nurtured, anything goes as far as how one chooses to leave a garden looking. Personally, I leave most plants standing to give shelter and food to creatures great and small, as well as providing me with the pleasure of watching the plants shift thru the winter.

My primary attention goes to the soil and how I can best support the soil food web—that truly amazing community of soil microbes and related tiny critters and worms who form the necessary foundation of a healthy garden. Ideally, I spread 1-3" of some yummy compost. If the garden is composed of plants that like a rich fertile soil, I like to use composted animal manures. For lower maintenance gardens, which are composed of plants and ornamental grasses that like leaner soils, I use a plant-based compost. Over this I put a 2-4" layer of well-shredded leaves. The leaves are easy to get this time of year—make them yourself with leaves from your trees and a power mower, or gather them from the curb of someone who collected them with a mower-bagger. Look for maple, as they are rich in sugars and critters love them. Avoid walnut leaves, as they are toxic to many garden plants. With both the compost and shredded leaves, I am careful not to suffocate the plant crowns, and only cover them lightly, concentrating the bulk of the material on the immediate surrounding soil.

I prefer the shredded leaves because they provide a ready source of food for the worms and other citizens of the soil, which in turn enrich the soil by insulating the soil and plant crowns from extremes of temperature and protecting the soil from dehydration in the event of little or no snow. It also keeps spring weed seeds from sprouting. (One downside is that they don't allow for the spreading of wanted plants by seed, and are not good for hostas, if slugs are a problem) I also collect a lot of leaves, which I save to use throughout the garden season next year.

A final thing I always recommend is to put chicken wire, (for rabbits), hardware cloth set several inches deep into the soil, (for voles), or deer-fencing (for deer) around vulnerable plants or beds, to prevent harmful foraging during the winter.

With compost, mulch and fencing in place, I have little left to do in the garden for the rest of the year but to watch the miraculous flow of winter to spring, while I dream about next year's garden.  
—Tibi Light

*Tibi Light is a professional garden and landscape designer offering consultation, design and installation services in the Dane Co. area. She worked for 18 years as one of the two designers at Allen Centennial Gardens, prior to Ed Lyon. Catering to a desire to assist people handling injury and rehabilitation, as well as senescent gardeners, she has just started back to school for occupational therapy. [www.tibilightgardens.com](http://www.tibilightgardens.com)*

## Tips for BUYING HEALTHY PLANTS

Whether drifting through local nurseries and garden club sales, driving the countryside searching for roadside stands, or visiting the local farmer's market or retail outlet, the home gardener joins the bustling activity of spring and fall plant buying.

Plant pathologists and entomologists suggest that within this seasonal activity, when gardeners are stocking up for the season, plant shoppers integrate a little homework and skillful observations before and during the buying fervor.

Care must be taken when buying plants for home and garden. Are we buying plants that will do well for the location we have chosen? Are the plants healthy? Are they housing unwelcomed hitchhikers? And, last but not least, are the plants we bring home safe for the inhabitants of our home? Elizabeth Meils, Plant Pest & Disease Specialist with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture recommends, "Make sure the plants you're considering are viable and don't buy a plant that looks diseased or infested with pests. Know the plant's needs and hardiness zone."

The focused plant buyer will pick up a potted plant and examine the plant carefully for signs of insects, disease, or environmentally induced problems—examining above and below the soil level. The attentive plant buyer looks closely for symptoms and signs of insect infestation, such as eggs, larvae, nymphs, pupae, adult insects, frass (feces), webbing, and chewed, skeletonized, or discolored leaves. It is well worth the time taken to stop during the buying frenzy, take a breath, and thoroughly examine the plant to prevent hitchhikers from becoming full-time residents in your home or garden.

When asked about recent insect activity on plants, UW-Extension entomologist Phil Pelliteri observed that, "Only two critters come to mind: Aphids, which normally do not do well when the plants are planted out; and Whiteflies, which can become a big issue. I have seen some broad mite problems from some greenhouses on some plants—they work much like cyclamen mite on African violet."

Often times, symptoms like yellowing leaves or wilting might be caused by a pest, disease, or damage due to careless handling or poor maintenance. Without wasting valu-

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### Contribute your pots by November 1

Now is the time to get us your pots for next year's Plant Sale. We are looking primarily for 4-inch wide pots that are 4- and 5-inches tall, but the shorter round pots and regular gallon pots are also needed.



Please get your pots to us by November 1—no pots will be accepted after that date until spring.

If you have pots to contribute, email Stephanie O'Neal at [sone2@aol.com](mailto:sone2@aol.com).

able shopping time trying to make a diagnosis of the cause, the plant buyer should simply put the plant down and walk away. If the plant displays these, or added symptoms such as wilted leaves, spindly growth, or poor overall color—put it back! Even if it is late in the season and it's a good buy, it may not be worth the money or the energy put forth to drag it into the house or garden just to watch it perish. These symptoms could be caused by fungi, bacteria, a virus, or an insect—all of which you want to treat like poison ivy, leave it be!

Look for scars and nicks, particularly in woody plants. These could indicate that the branches or stems have been damaged in handling. These scars and nicks can become future openings for disease issues or plant weakness. This type of mechanical damage can occur when plants are being shipped and handled. Other non-living factors causing poor plant health are temperature extremes, light extremes, chemical damage, or lack of nutrition. If it looks like it has been mishandled or abused, put it back on the rack!

U.W.-Extension plant pathologist Brian Hudelson recommends that plant buyers, "Inspect plants carefully for any indication of disease, and avoid obviously diseased plants.



On herbaceous plants, look for spots on leaves that might indicate a fungal or bacterial leaf spot or blight. Odd leaf discolorations, such as a mosaic or line pattern, might indicate a viral infection. Watch for any signs of fuzzy fungal growth on leaf surfaces that could indicate a powdery or downy mildew problem. On woody ornamentals, watch for galls and branch dieback."

After carefully looking over the foliage, the plant buyer can certainly tell a lot about the plant's condition, but this partial observation only tells half of the story. It's time to get to the root of things!

Now is not the time to feel shy about gently pulling the plants out of their

nursery pots for a full inspection. If you receive a complaint from the clerk about your detailed inspection, consider buying elsewhere. In most cases, sales folks invite your investigation and inquiries.

Healthy roots will be white and numerous. Unhealthy roots will be brown, easily broken, and often foul-smelling. It is here where our friendly Extension plant pathologist Brian Hudelson again advises that, "The browning of roots could indicate a root rot problem."

Look to see if the roots are extending from the bottom of the pot. This means that the roots have filled every available space and are most likely growing around in circles trying to find water and nutrients. If the roots are wound tightly around and around in a circle at the bottom of the pot, this could cause an ongoing root girdling problem. It is highly likely that this root-bound plant will suffer from transplant shock and its survival is questionable.

The watchful plant buyer should also note if there are few roots and lots of soil. This could indicate that either the plant has not grown as strongly as it should, or that it was recently repotted. Here again, the plant could suffer from added transplant shock and may be considered unhealthy.

Check for very dry soil and root ball. Unless the plant you are holding happens to be a succulent, there is a good chance it is on an inevitable path to dying.

Are there weeds in the pot? We work hard not to bring more weeds into our garden and weeds are definitely robbing the plant of water and nutrients.

The observant plant buyer should consider the plant's suitability. The "suitability of a plant" is determined by knowing the conditions of where you would like to place a plant and by knowing the plants needs for healthy growth. Consider size, both current and potential of the plant, and the available light, air temperature, moisture, and airflow of its intended location.

The plant buyer who does a little research ahead of time on the desired plant or cultivar—that includes

the suitability of the chosen site—will make a better educated purchase. This advanced inquiry is critical in assuring the plant's health and longevity in that location.

Brian Hudelson continues his suggestions to plant buyers by advising that consumers, "Be careful about what cultivar you buy. Some varieties tend to be more disease-prone than others and the disease-prone varieties tend to be less expensive. I'd check to see what a local supplier has in terms of varieties and spend some time researching the available varieties on the Internet before making a purchase."

When it comes to the purchase of a tree or shrub, Hudelson continues, "Also make sure that the particular tree or shrub is well adapted to the soil type and pH of the location where it will be planted. You can reduce problems oftentimes by simply starting out with a well-adapted tree or shrub for a particular site."

To help the plant buyer determine suitability, it is recommended that the plant tags be studied carefully; they are a key tool in assuring the future health of the plant. These plant tags are not just there to attract the buyer's attention or for the purpose of marketing the plant, they provide valuable information from the grower that needs to be noted: mature size, spacing, soil needs, and light and moisture requirements are there to help the consumer in determining the location of the plant and greatly aid in the plant's ongoing healthy maintenance. In addition, the buyer is provided added information on planting instructions and, at times, a bit of plant background.

USDA Plant Hardiness Zones can be found on plant tags as well. For buyers who are not familiar with our local zones and wish to view the updated Plant Hardiness Zone map, a current map may be found at <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov>. Experts recommend erring on the side of caution and selecting plants proven to be suitable, or hardy, for the site where the plants are being placed.

Although the main objective of this article is to aid the reader in purchasing healthy plants, this author would be remiss in not reminding readers that the

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health of those living at home, including our beloved pets, should be considered when making a plant purchase.

Many common plants found in the house and outdoors can cause problems if eaten or handled. Some can be quite irritating, while others can cause stomach distress, skin rashes, hallucinations or irregular heartbeats. It is very important to know the common and botanical names of all your plants, whether they are indoors or outside.

A printable list of toxic plants is available from the Wisconsin Poison Center at <http://www.wisconsinpoison.org>, or call 1-800-222-1222 with questions on plant safety. Also, the ASPCA has a detailed list of plants toxic to cats and dogs at <http://www.aspc.org>. If the plant buyer is not too anxious to hop onto the shopping trail, a quick check for the toxicity of the plants on the shopping list would help safeguard the inhabitants of home and garden.

Occasionally, when shopping for plants, we buy spontaneously—we buy on a whim—while at other times we have something definite in mind. In this case, knowing the plants we are about to purchase, we can take time prior to doing the footwork by doing some clicking on the Internet. We can also open up our garden books, or check with the many available sources to learn more about the needs and suitability of the plant we have chosen for that special location. A good resource for the plant buyer to start out with is the UW-Extension's Wisconsin Master Gardener Program site at <http://wimastergardener.org/>, which has some great links to horticultural information and resources.

Once the research, detailed observations, and shopping is complete, the knowing consumer has pride in having been a sharp-eyed plant buyer. We all share this confidence and pride when we can assure ourselves that we have purchased the healthiest plants for our home, garden and family.

—Dave & Carol Harnisch, Tomah, Wisconsin

*Dave and Carol Harnisch are members of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, the Parkway Garden Club of Tomah and the Bluff Country Master Gardener's Association.*

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Look for me at: **Bethany United Methodist Church Craft Fair, Sat. Nov. 3, 9 AM - 2 PM**, 3910 Mineral Point Road, Madison  
**Arboretum Local Products Expo**, Arboretum Visitor's Center,  
**Sun. Nov. 25, 10 AM - 4 PM** or [www.rvjdesigns.com](http://www.rvjdesigns.com)

### Two little ditties from the England Trip

Marilyn, our wonderful guide on this year's trip to England, told us the following as a way to remember the hierarchy of English royalty:

Does Monica Ever Visit Bill  
Duke Marquis Earl Viscount Baron

She also recounted their somewhat darker version of the poem *Mary had a little lamb*:

Mary had a little lamb,  
Her father shot it dead.  
She now takes it to school with her  
Between two bits of bread

—Jane Gahlman

## List of 2012 Plant Sales, Garden Tours and Events

**Thursday-Saturday, September 20-22, *Habitat For Humanity of Dane County Plant Sale.*** Habitat for Humanity of Dane County will have its third and final plant sale of the year September 20-22 at the Habitat ReStore East, 208 Cottage Grove Rd, Madison. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Featured this sale are a wide variety of perennials such as daylilies, iris, phlox, monarda, rudbeckia, hosta and sedums. Groundcovers such as vinca and pachysandra are for sale. Some shrubs, herbs and edibles are also available. Plant prices are \$4 each or 3 for \$10, unless otherwise marked. Members of the Madison Area Master Gardeners Association will be available to answer plant questions. All proceeds are used to help build homes for Habitat families in Dane County. Donations of hardy perennials and plastic planting pots are welcome. To donate, please contact Ann Eaves at 442-8768 or e-mail at [aeaves@charter.net](mailto:aeaves@charter.net).

**Sunday, September 23, *WHPS Plant Exchange FREE!***, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Allen Centennial Garden. Bring plant(s), get plant(s)! Members bring extra plants dug from their gardens, purchased and not-used perennials, woodies, annual bulbs, even a few houseplants. Free street parking.

**Saturday, October 13 and Sunday, October 14, *African Violet Show and Sale***, Saturday, noon-5 pm, Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Olbrich Gardens. African violets will be on display and for sale in the Evjue Commons. Starter plants, soil, pots, and handouts with growing tips will also be available. Sponsored by the Wisconsin State Council of African Violets. Portion of proceeds benefits Olbrich Gardens. Questions? Call 608-833-5552.

**Monday, October 15, *Fall Quilt & Flower Show Plant Sale***, Olbrich Gardens. Beginning at noon, while supplies last. Proceeds benefit the Gardens.

**Friday, October 19, *Crackle – Fire & Froth***, 7:00-10:00 p.m. Olbrich Gardens. Watch flames from bonfires dance on the Great Lawn, groove to live music, savor tasty foods from Food Fight restaurants, sip frothy Wisconsin brews. Tickets: \$15-Olbrich members; \$20-public. Food and beverages are an additional cost above ticket price. If inclement weather, event held indoors.

**Saturday, November 3, *Fall Garden Symposium: The Winter Garden***, Rotary Botanical Gardens, Janesville, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. For more info, go to [www.rotarybotanicalgardens.org](http://www.rotarybotanicalgardens.org).

**Saturday, November 3, *Madison Herb Society Herb Fair***, Olbrich Gardens, 9 am-2 pm. Speakers, vendors, demonstrations, Q&A station. Free! Visit [www.madisonherbsociety.org](http://www.madisonherbsociety.org).

**Saturday, December 1-Monday, December 31, *Olbrich's Holiday Express: Flower and Model Train Show***, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. daily. Members free. Admission general public-\$3 for adults, \$2 children ages 3 to 12. Children 2 and under-free. Admission to the tropical Bolz Conservatory is included.

**Fall & Winter, 2012-2013, Olbrich Botanical Gardens** will be offering a broad range of programs and workshops for all levels of interest. For more information, go to <http://www.olbrich.org/education/classes.cfm>

And don't forget the **Dane County Farmers Market** (<http://dcfm.org/>), which will be open on the Capitol Square through November 10 and indoors November 17-December 15 at Monona Terrace, and January 7-April 14 at the Madison Senior Center.

**New this year!**

**Longenecker Garden & Arboretum Fall tours will be held on Saturday afternoons, 1-3pm. at the McKay Visitors Center at the Arboretum**

**September 29—Native Plant Garden Tour: *Fall in the Native Plant Garden.*** Color, fruits, seeds, late-blooming plants, late-season insects—find these and more in the varied native plant gardens around the Visitor Center.

**October 13—Longenecker Horticultural Gardens Tour: *Featuring Fall.*** Don't miss the lovely range of fall color in the woody plant collection. Leaves, fruits and form will be highlighted in this tour.

### A worthy effort that could use your help!

I want to tell you about a gardening project on Russet Road I've helped with this summer. Mostly I have donated plants and helped a little with watering—a daunting task this year. There are raised beds planted with vegetables and flowers in front of one building that is headquarters for *Joining Forces For Families*. Then there are strips cultivated inside the public sidewalks in front of apartment buildings—maybe as many as seven of them.

On Facebook you can look for *Meadowood Front Yard Garden Project*. There is an email newsletter, too, at <http://frontyardgardenwi.wordpress.com/2012/07/18/a-few-garden-ideas/>. The second-to-last one gives you an idea of the struggle with the weather—no surprise there. There are a few of the “ribbon gardens” in front of apartments on Leland also, just south of Raymond Road.

Emily is an intern with the city public health department. She supervises two teenagers on Tuesday and Thursday and there are five boys just out of middle school (called the clean-and-freshies) who work Thursday afternoons on the gardens, picking up trash and other projects. She has had trouble getting access to water as the apartment buildings do not seem to have outside faucets.

They planted hundreds of annuals in June, almost none of which have survived. I'm hoping to give these spaces a boost by planting sun-tolerant perennials in September or early October so that they will come up in place next spring.

***We'd welcome not only plant donations but an hour or so of help planting them.*** We are aiming for September 22, from 10:00 a.m.-noon.

If you would like to help with this project by contributing plants or working on September 22, please contact Jan Minardi at [bjminardi@hotmail.com](mailto:bjminardi@hotmail.com), or phone 274-1162

—Jan Minardi



# Nurseryman

Those nurserymen are all the same:  
Can any one of them resist the temptation  
to load a departing visitor with  
a coneflower, a chrysanthemum, a tiny tree,  
a cutting, or seeds?  
Likewise, can any turn down such offerings?

The tall man in corduroys  
with his cane hooked to the lectern,  
justly proud of his 42 years curating  
horticultural gardens  
and faintly incredulous of his 80 years,  
does not beg the question.  
Instead he brags that most every specimen -  
the 175 taxa of crabapples,  
the 600 taxa of conifers -  
has come free to the Arboretum  
through his friendships and his efforts.

Scientific nomenclature rolls  
off his tongue like children's names.

These woody plants are his children  
He is proud of his part in producing them:  
*Acer x 'Hasselkus' Northern Glow™*, a  
hybrid of those delicate Japanese and  
hardier Korean maples;  
*Betula populifolia* 'Whitespire' the birch  
with a shape and lofty height of the nation's Christmas tree;  
*Cercis canadensis* "Columbus Strain,"  
the hardiest redbud in the country;  
*Phellodendron lavallei* 'Longenecker'  
Eye Stopper™, the corktree with its ridged gray bark on whose  
flat surfaces are etched  
parallel vertical lines. Like an empty sheet of notebook paper,  
they beg to be written on.  
Write this note: *Phellodendron* - a  
substitute for our insect-threatened ash.

But careful!  
*Phellodendron* is dioecious.  
Favor the males and eradicate the females  
or you'll be sorry!  
Be sure to give that guy a good life,  
or in his stress he'll turn to female  
and flood you with offspring!

Like a parent, the curator puts forth a favorite photo: pretty balls  
of pink and white dotted on  
the green, green grass of spring,  
the chenille equivalent of the new baby  
in her cutesy tutu pulled out of a well-used billfold.  
Thirty-two years from its year of taking,  
he tells us he can identify from this airview  
each ball of color - genus and species - all 175!  
Like a farmer with his barn of black and white cows others  
might think alike,  
this nurseryman knows his charges  
from any distance. He is all relationship, and  
they are his babies, every crabapple species picked by himself,  
each staked out by himself personally.

He will fight for his trees too.  
Our Visitor Center's design was altered  
to save *Nyssa sylvatica* 'Carolyn'  
the rarest tupelo in Wisconsin,  
named after his granddaughter.

But he will also cold-heartedly cut a tree.  
He ordered his Whitespire Birch down  
last year for looking "shabby."  
Touring the gardens where our feet slosh  
in water over thawing ground  
on the first of March  
he points out 2 rounds cut level with the lawn:  
ashes, inevitably doomed, a mercy-killing.  
Still, his eyes and voice light up:  
Think of what can go there now!

Finally we come to the thing  
he's promised  
the first-blooming tree of spring:  
witch-hazel. "Where?" I think, swinging  
my eyes from shrub to shrub.  
Oh, there.  
But blossoms, where?  
Tight to the branches they cling, ragged bunches  
of orange strings hanging like a jelly "spider" on a  
cedar tree. But here's a hard red 4-pronged  
center like a wild ginger flower  
holding 4 short white stamen  
like eggs in a basket, the whole package  
beautiful in a hippie sort of way.

Someone says, "Smell them."  
I do.  
A powerful perfume, full-bodied and sweet,  
reminiscent of the narcotic scent of jasmine,  
greet my nostrils.  
A final treat to a nurseryman  
and me.

— © Mary Mullen



Based on the lecture and garden tour by Ed Hasselkus,  
curator of Longenecker Horticultural Gardens in the UW  
Arboretum on March 1, 2012.

## A Couple of Notes About Trees and Shrubs

courtesy of The Bruce Company, [www.brucecompany.com](http://www.brucecompany.com)

Fall is a great time to plant shrubs and trees for bird habitat. Cedar waxwings will appreciate winterberry shrubs, which produce edible fruits for the birds, and the bright orange berries are a beautiful landscape addition. Cardinals would like arborvitae, spruce, and fir trees for cover. Chickadees relish redbud seeds in the fall. Birds flock to shrubs such as dogwoods, viburnums, and amelanchiers for the fruits, but these are also great landscape shrubs for fall color.

Here is a useful guide to show when pruning is good for certain plants.

### TYPE OF PLANT

Shrubs (blooming in Spring)  
Shrubs (blooming in Summer or Fall)  
Rhododendrons & Azaleas  
Pine Trees  
Formal Hedges  
Most Trees, Shrubs & Vines

### WHEN TO PRUNE

Just after flowers fade  
Early Spring  
Just after flowers fade  
Late Spring  
Late Spring, if necessary Fall  
Late Winter or early Spring

### Three great perennials for fall color

*Solidago rugosa* 'Fireworks'



*Chelone lyonii*

*Aster novae-angliae* 'Purple Dome'



### Leaf Mulch CLOSEOUT — BOGO (by one, get one free) at Olbrich!

Olbrich Botanical Gardens is offering a Bagged Leaf Mulch Closeout Sale while supplies last. Pay in the Gift Shop, then load the bags of mulch into your vehicle.

Olbrich Leaf Mulch is made from leaves collected by the City of Madison that are delivered to Olbrich where they're composted outside during the winter. Starting in March, the leaves are shredded and bagged. Leaf mulch is beneficial for annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees, and in vegetable gardens. It cuts down on watering and weeding, recycles local leaves, and is credited for Olbrich's healthy looking gardens. This leaf mulch is available only at Olbrich.

**Please note:** We recommend lining the inside of your vehicle with a tarp before loading bags of leaf mulch. The bags of mulch are not airtight and liquid may seep out during transport. Bagged mulch is usually available in the spring only, while supplies last.

Following are dates for the rest of the season.

**BUY ONE BAG AT \$6.50, GET ONE BAG FREE!**

Available daily while supplies last — 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

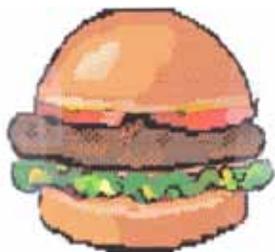
### Fall Bulk Mulch Sales

Bulk Scoops = \$40 each, plus tax  
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Saturdays: September 22, 29; October 6, 13

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

## August Potluck Fave—Hamburger Cookie!

A fun no-bake/rainy day type activity cookie  
from WHPS member Terry Watters



### INGREDIENTS

(Don't worry about how much of which item,  
I just buy one box of vanilla wafers and keep  
making them until I'm out!)

- Sesame seeds
- Vanilla wafer (bun)
- Red & yellow frosting (catsup & mustard)
- Peppermint pattie (meat)
- Green-colored (food coloring) coconut  
(lettuce)

### To Assemble:

1. Take one vanilla wafer (flat side down) and frost with white frosting
2. Put green coconut on frosting
3. Put dab of white frosting on the bottom of the peppermint pattie (so it sticks)  
and place on green coconut
4. Take one vanilla wafer and frost the flat side with a little red and a little  
yellow frosting, and place on top of the peppermint pattie
5. Brush a little honey or maple syrup on the top of the "burger bun"  
(so sesame seeds stick) and sprinkle sesame seeds on top.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**We're going to Philadelphia!**

**June 26-29, 2013**

**We'll travel to private  
and public gardens, (with a little  
shopping along the way, of course!).**



**Look for more  
information in  
this publica-  
tion after the  
first of the  
year.**

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

## Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society



### September 2012 Newsletter

211 S. Fair Oaks Avenue  
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**Do you have a question about your membership?** Contact Jane LaFlash at [whps05@yahoo.com](mailto:whps05@yahoo.com), 608-243-1208.