



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 17, Pat Hayward, Executive Director, Plant Select, Fort Collins, CO. *The Plant Select Program.*



Sometimes Midwest gardeners can learn from processes and programs even if all of the plants produced aren't necessarily hardy to their region. One of the largest complaints from gardeners today is failures in newly released plants due to lack of adequate trialing. Plant Select® is one of the most successful programs that selects and trials plants specific to the conditions of the region. The purpose of Plant Select® is to seek out, identify and distribute the best plants for landscapes and gardens from the intermountain region to the high plains. Pat will talk about how a regional program works: how plants come to them, plant exploration, gardening challenges of the High Plains and how they work with them. They have some exciting things happening in 2014—a new pink *Penstemon x mexicali* developed for them to raise funds for breast cancer research, a new collaboration with Audubon, and some new introductions both for 2014 and for 2015.

Sunday, September 21, WHPS Plant Exchange, 10:00 a.m.-noon, Allen Centennial Gardens, 620 Babcock Drive, UW-Madison campus. Bring a plant—get a plant! Set up your extra plants from 10:00-10:30 a.m. and then see what you can find to take home! You'll find woody plants, sun and shade perennials—even some bulbs and houseplants. Free parking on Sunday!

Wednesday, October 15, *Searching for plants in some of the most beautiful places on four continents.* Mike Kintgen, Senior Horticulturist, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, CO.

Joint meeting with the WI-IL Rock Garden Society. Mike Kintgen oversees the Alpine Collection and nine gardens including the Rock Alpine Garden, and South African Plaza. He began gardening at a young age with a specific interest in alpine and rock garden plants. Anything with chlorophyll attracts his attention but especially cushions and buns, along with the genera Eriogonum, Penstemon, Phlox, Saxifraga, Dianthus, Gentiana and Androsace. Travel opportunities from a young age have allowed him to observe alpines in Alaska, Hawaii, Argentina, Morocco, Spain, the Alps, and throughout the American West. He currently gardens in both Denver and Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The two different climates allow him to experiment with a wide range of plant material. Mike is a popular speaker in areas around Colorado on the topic of rock gardening, and botanic travel. He has lectured as far away as Sweden and Argentina on Denver Botanic Gardens and its current focus on steppe and high elevation floras found in semi-arid regions around the world.



Wednesday, November 19, Jeff Lowenfels, Author and garden columnist, Anchorage, Alaska, *Teaming with Microbes.*

Jeff is the award-winning author of the ground-breaking *Teaming with Microbes: The Organic Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web*, demystifying the soil food web and reviewed as one of the most important garden books written in the past 25 years. In his new work, *Teaming with Nutrients*,



Lowenfels explains the basics of plant nutrition from an organic gardener's perspective. Most gardeners realize that plants need to be fed, but know little or nothing about the nature of the nutrients and the mechanisms involved. A trained lawyer with a bit of the Harvard Lampoon in him, Lowenfels is not only engaging, but down right amusing and clever. Jeff is an international proponent of organics. His weekly column has appeared in the *Anchorage Daily News* for over 37 years, never missing a single week.

Wednesday, December 10, 2014, WHPS Annual Meeting, Member Potpourri and Seed Exchange—now is the time to begin thinking about collecting seeds for the Seed Exchange and pictures for your presentation at our Member Potpourri!

Coming in 2015

Sunday, January 18, WHPS Potluck Brunch

February 13-15, WHPS Garden Expo Booth. WHPS will also host Speaker Mark Konlock, Green Bay Botanic Garden, on the topic, *Choosing the Best of the New Plants Without Overlooking the Best of the Old*

Wednesday, February 18, Program TBA

Wednesday, March 18, Program TBA

Wednesday, April 15, Program TBA

Mark Your Calendar!

**WHPS Plant Sale
Saturday, May 16, 2015**



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

2014 Calendar of Gardening Events

Wednesday, September 17, WHPS Program: The Plant Select Program, 6:30 social time, 7:00 p.m. program

Habitat for Humanity of Dane County ReStore East will be moving this fall. And so will the garden. To reduce inventory for the move, the Habitat ReStore East will have a **September Plant Sale Friday and Saturday, September 19 and 20 at the Habitat ReStore EAST, 208 Cottage Grove Rd, Madison.** Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is a wide variety of perennials including daylilies, hosta, iris, rudbeckia, and more. Plants will be \$2 each, except for the many different varieties of hybrid daylilies donated by the Wisconsin Daylily Society, which will be \$4 each. Various ground covers are also available. This is half price our already low prices. All proceeds are used to help build homes for Habitat families in Dane County. This is a special "moving" sale with reduced prices. The Habitat ReStore East is moving later this fall, and the garden needs to move too. We are not accepting new plant donations at this time. Please watch for the date when we will be ready to accept donations at the new garden.

Saturday, September 20, 1:00 p.m. Make a Wreath of Bittersweet Berries. We'll teach you how & provide all materials. Reservations required, \$9. **September 16-28 Bittersweet Bash** PICK YOUR OWN FOR LESS. Cut your own at ridiculously low prices: Measured by square inches—length x widest part of your stem 2 cents (2 pennies) per square inch! While supplies last. BRING YOUR OWN PRUNERS. Call or email for reservations or questions. Heritage Flower Farm 33725 County Road L (Janesville Dr.), SE of Mukwonago 53149, 262-662-0804 badelman@wi.rr.com

Sunday, September 21, WHPS Plant Exchange, 10:00 a.m.-Noon, Allen Centennial Gardens

September 20 & 27 and October 4 & 11, Fall Leaf Mulch Sale, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 25, Rotary Botanical Gardens 25th Anniversary Free Day, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org>

Friday, September 26, Crackle – Fire & Froth in the Garden, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 7:00-10:00 p.m. 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 frothy Wisconsin micro-brews.

Saturday, September 27, Heritage Flower Farm Seed Exchange. Bring some seeds, take some seeds. Seed collecting and sowing demonstration. ALL FREE. It's not what you reap, it's the seeds that you sow. Call or email for reservations or questions. 33725 County Road L (Janesville Dr.), SE of Mukwonago 53149, 262-662-0804, badelman@wi.rr.com

Wednesday, October 15, WHPS Program with Mike Kintgen, Denver Botanic Gardens, 6:30 social time, 7:00 p.m. program.

Saturday, October 25, Rotary Botanical Gardens 25th Anniversary Free Day, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org>

Saturday, November 1, Rotary Botanical Gardens Fall Symposium, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org>

Saturday, November 8, LAST OUTDOOR Dane County Farmers Market, Capitol Square, 6:00 a.m.-2:00p.m.

Wednesday, November 19, WHPS Program: Teaming with Microbes, 6:30 social time, 7:00 p.m. program

December 7-31, Holiday Express, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. daily (closed at 2:00 p.m. 12/24, closed 12/25). Holiday gardens and large-scale model trains.

Wednesday, December 10, WHPS Annual Meeting, Member Potpourri and Seed Exchange, 6:30 social time, 7:00 p.m. program

December 12-14, 19-23, 26-28, Rotary Botanical Gardens Holiday Light Show, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org>

February 13-15, 2015, WPT Garden Expo, Alliant Energy Center, <http://www.wigardenexpo.com/>

Become a Member of Our Board

WHPS has at least two openings for new Board members.

If you have ever wanted to be a part of the decisions that guide our organization, now is the time to step forward.

At the next Board meeting in early November, the Board would like to nominate at least two new directors to serve.

As a director, you would attend three Board Meetings a year. Depending on a director's interests and/or the needs of the organization, the new director will join committees such as the Program Committee, the Plant Sale Committee, the Trips Committee, etc. By maintaining a diverse and full board, any work involved in board service is evenly maintained by the directors.

We have great volunteers and see many of our members at meetings, tours and on trips. We hope some of you will consider joining the Board.

To place your name in nomination, let us know of your interest by October 31: email Stephanie O'Neal at sone2@aol.com, or call her at 608-256-6108.

Plant Sale Overall Coordinator in Training Needed

WHPS would like to thank Corrie Norman for stepping up this year as Overall Coordinator of the 2014 Plant Sale. Corrie has found that she will not be available in 2015 to repeat as OC, so Stephanie O'Neal is going to step back into the position for one more year.

The idea is to have a member volunteer "shadow" Stephanie and assist her as Overall Coordinator for the next Plant Sale, and then take over in 2016.

Although in past years this position was quite time consuming, this year a Plant Sale Team was put in place that greatly reduced this role. Thanks to the Dig Coordinator, the two Setup Day Coordinators, the Plant Sign Coordinators, Checkout Coordinators and Cleanup Coordinators, the role of Overall Coordinator has become one of overseeing all aspects of the sale, helping to publicize the sale, answering questions and generally making sure everything is running smoothly.

No experience is needed, but volunteer experience with the Plant Sale is helpful. Contact Stephanie O'Neal at sone2@aol.com to discuss in more detail. Stephanie says, "Let's have some fun and make 2015 our best Sale yet!"

WHPS/MAMGA Garden Summer Tours—Beauty, Variety and Inspiration

July 21 was another great evening of garden tours for WHPS members!

Every summer, WHPS Board member Jane LaFlash works with members of Madison Area Master Gardeners Association to create at least two evenings of tours through area gardens. This tour was a walk through two gardens belonging to true plants people.

Judy and Dan Peterson's garden in Mazomanie epitomized how one can incorporate garden art and whimsy with a huge variety of plants and shrubs and still have a feeling of flow and cohesiveness. Members loved the use of the Peterson's own creations from found wrought iron, which they have combined with several works from Dr. Evermor. One small area along the shade path had 20 red-painted bowling balls "blooming" among the hostas, and a 15-foot *Larix 'Diana'* stood tall near the entrance to the wooded area—so many conifers and shrubs, not to mention the tropicals mixed in among shade perennials. All of this made for a lovely walk, with something to see at every turn in this 40-year-old garden.



After a beautiful country drive past healthy corn and soybean fields, Jeanette Golden's big red barn welcomed members with a walk down the hill past a bed full of *Miscanthus giganteus*, mature shrubs, dwarf conifers and daylilies in full bloom. One of the most asked about was a *Paulownia tomentosa* near the barn entrance, with leaves at least a foot across. There were neatly edged and mulched beds to walk among, blooming clematis, unusual trees and shrubs and wonderful color combinations. Near the farmhouse was an example of nature's garden art, an ancient willow with what looks like a lightning scar down the middle and many burls—refusing to give up, with fresh new growth at the top where the tree was cut off. For a more expansive discussion of Jeannette's incredible garden, visit Linda Brazill's blog at http://eachlittleworld.typepad.com/each_little_world/2014/08/a-perfect-garden.html.

The love of gardening, dedication and hard work showed in every step taken through these beautiful gardens.

July 14 was a beautiful night for the Windsor/DeForest WHPS/MAMGA Garden Tour. A bit of rain brought a cool breeze and huge rainbow after the rain. So much to see through the five gardens visited! Members of both organizations enjoyed the history and stateliness of Wisconsin's largest Black Cherry tree and over 450 varieties of hosta (and they were labeled!) on display at the Hansons. The Anderson/Zajicek garden is home to a 15-year-old *Salix tortuosa* anchoring the back garden with a trunk that looked like it would be comfortable with ancient sequoias. Jane Rouleau's native perennials were in full bloom, and many commented on the unusual variegation of *Acer pseudoplatanus 'Eskimo Sunset'* (see her article on this interesting tree on the next page). Monique Warnke's daunting (but easy to climb) amazing rock-wall terraces were filled with all manner of blooming perennials, and the Kleinfeldt's garden included a fascinating variety of fountains, stream beds, hardscaping and a wonderful breeze coming off Lake Windsor.

Each garden offered a unique takeaway and enough food for thought to send visiting members home with great new plant and design ideas.

On July 31, members turned out in "Epic" numbers as designer Jeff Epping toured the unique and varied gardens at Epic in Verona. Minds were boggled!



Forcing Bulbs for Winter — *the Time to Start is Now*

While I'm banking on a gorgeous, warm fall (too many tomatoes left!), now is the perfect time to start planning if you'd like to force bulbs this winter. Many online retailers sell out in early September, so get your order in today!



Paperwhites are by far the easiest bulb to force. They require no pre-chilling and can be grown in just about any medium: soil, pebbles—or those strange mancala stones everyone seems to have lying around. 'Ziva' is the most popular variety (never takes more than three weeks to force, always with pebbles under a grow light), but there are several more interesting (less fragrant, if that's a concern) cultivars worth seeking out: 'Inbal' has stronger stems and a sweeter smell, and 'Grand Soleil d'Or' has a cheery yellow color that makes it perfect for spring. I always force classic white paperwhites for Christmas, starting a few each week for the entire month of November. They take four to six weeks to bloom, so planting in succession ensures you'll have loads of blooms all December long.

Paperwhites tend to get very tall and top-heavy as they start to bloom, so I use diluted alcohol to keep them from flopping over. Start them normally, then about two weeks in, water them exclusively with a seven parts water to one part vodka mixture. This will reduce their final height by almost half, but still allow them to flower beautifully. And you can make yourself a cocktail while you're at it!

Other forced bulbs require a chilling period, but come late spring you'll be so glad you planned ahead. Tulips, daffodils, crocus, muscari and just about all other spring bulbs can be forced to bloom. In my mind, there's really only one bulb worth your time—the humble hyacinth. Hyacinths are unremarkable in the ground, but they are a sight (and smell) to behold on your kitchen table in February! Hyacinths 'Delft Blue' and 'White Pearl' are old standbys for forcing, but the bold purple-red of 'Woodstock' has moved it to the top of my list.

I pot them up them up at the same time I plant my outdoor bulbs—early to mid-October, or later if I've been unable to resist clearance sales. Any pot will do, as long as it has proper drainage—you'll need to water regularly for the first few weeks to help get the roots started. The chilling period doesn't technically start until the bulbs are regularly under 40 degrees, so I keep mine outside initially to speed everything up. Once it starts regularly dropping below freezing, I move them into my garage, where they sit for the rest of their chill time. I store my pots in big galvanized tubs full of leaf mulch—this keeps the squirrels away (in theory) when the bulbs are outside, and helps insulate them against god-awful temperatures like we had last winter when they're in the garage. Monitor your temperatures closely, as the bulbs themselves cannot freeze—as a reference point, my attached, unheated garage dropped to about 25 degrees last year. What temperature the bulbs will freeze at depends on how insulated they are (by soil, their pots, leaves, etc.), but keeping them in a space that's above 20 degrees is safest.

Forced bulbs require different chilling periods depending on their size and variety, but I normally shoot for 12+ weeks, just to be safe. Once the allotted time has passed, simply bring the

pots indoors and start watering. By this time you should see lots of roots and occasionally stems peaking out of your pots. If you have stems, don't worry about that scary yellow color—a few days in the sun will green them up. When you pull the pots inside, it's best to keep them as cool as possible (45 to 60 degrees) until they start blooming, or they tend to get leggy and flop. A bright porch or three-season room is perfect.

Bloom times vary, but generally I find hyacinths take four weeks, muscari take six weeks and tulips take eight weeks to bloom from the time they're pulled. Some people plant the bulbs outdoors once the flowers die back, but I've had limited success with this—I say just enjoy them for the gorgeous, fleeting bit of joy they bring into your home in the dead of winter!

—Caroline Bohler

Caroline Bohler is the flower farmer, floral designer and dreamer behind Homegrown Flowers. Visit HomegrownMadison.com to learn about her commitment to local, seasonal design (and see way too many cat pictures).

A Spring Discovery

About four years ago, on a buying trip to Klehm's Song Sparrow Nursery, I spotted a crazy, lovely tree. I had been searching for a Japanese maple that would survive our zone's winters. I ended up finding one for my sister, who gardens in Lansing, MI, which is at least a half-zone warmer. I was feeling sorry for myself until I discovered the *Acer pseudoplatanus 'Eskimo Sunset'*.



The leaves looked like someone had spatter-painted them white on green with no two sharing a pattern. The stems were red and the underside of the leaf was a reddish purple. Speed reading the tag (the bugs were biting), I saw it labeled Zone 4, with a height of 30 feet! With that info, I planned to put it in my full-sun backyard.

When I got home and the bugs were no longer biting, I read more carefully and found that the tag also said it preferred shade for better coloration. With not too many shade areas at hand, the only place that would accommodate it was the east side of the garage. It settled in quite well, and the first spring on site it surprised me by showing pink tinges in the emerging leaves.

That year was the year of heat and drought, and while I watered it regularly, the leaves dried and curled, but it survived. In following years it has shown a steady growth and the Japanese beetles do not seem to care for it. I love to watch the wind flutter the leaves, switching between the variegated top and the red underside. Fall color is not too great, but I have enjoyed it for almost half the year by that time.

In researching this tree further, I see that it is called 'Esk Sunset' (AKA Eskimo Sunset), named for the Esk Valley on the north island of New Zealand where it originated. I also have seen it listed as Zone 5, but it seems to be doing okay somewhat protected from the direct onslaught of the northwesterly winter winds. It is such fun to have it as part of my garden and needs relatively little care for all of the interest it generates. It may not have the delicate fern-like leaves of other Japanese maples, but the *acer pseudoplatanus* is a wonderful stand-in. —Jane Rouleau

England!

In mid-June I joined 28 other garden geek/plantaholic types (Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society members) for a 10-day tour of gardens in northeast England. We visited up to three gardens a day, including both large public gardens and smaller, more intimate private gardens. In addition to fantastic pink and white *Cornus kousa* dogwoods, spectacular Laburnum arches, whimsical topiaries, and gorgeous azaleas and rhododendrons in full bloom, we also saw masses of beautiful roses, clematis, lupines, delphiniums, foxgloves, salvias, and other perennials in the peak of perfection.

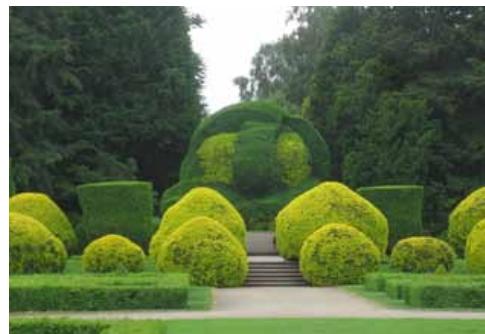


Delphiniums at Castle Howard

Lupines and delphiniums at Elvaston Castle



Rose Arbor at Castle Howard



Yew topiaries at Elvaston Castle



Boxwood parterre and yew hedges at Hererton House



Boxwood topiary and hedges at Hererton House



The Grand Cascade water feature surrounded by undulating hornbeam walls at Alnwick Garden



Ruins at Studley Royal Fountains Abbey Water Gardens



Ruins at Studley Royal Fountains Abbey Water Gardens

Almost all of the gardens we toured shared a common feature—that being the ‘Garden Room’—which was typically a space surrounded by a brick or rock wall, or more often by a hedge of plants, effectively enclosing or separating an area from the rest of the garden. Yew, boxwood, arborvitae, beech, and hornbeam were the plants of choice for hedging as they can all be trimmed and shaped to form living walls.

All gardeners live in beautiful places because they make them so. —Joseph Joubert

—Jane Gahlman

— Ten Twin-Titled Classics for Autumn —

How do you pick that magical flower for a critical spot in your garden? Do you fall for a flower blooming at that moment in a pot at the garden center? What about a luscious photo with dew dripping from purple petals in a glossy catalog? Or the latest trademarked name that caught your attention with a heavy advertising budget?

I asked these questions in the June Newsletter, describing a better way to choose plants, *Ten Twin-Titled Classics for Summer*, plants with multiple awards from botanic gardens and plant societies. See that newsletter for a list and explanations of the various plant awards.

Now it's time for late-season plants, exceptional ones to make your fall garden glow. You will know some of these jewels, and others may be new to you. These ten classic plants have received two or more awards and deserved recognition.

FLOWERS

Anemone 'Honoree Jobert' Windflower Z 4-8. Pearl-like buds open to the purest single white umbels in autumn.

One of internationally known garden designer Piet Oudolf's "100 Must Have Plants" *Gardens Illustrated* 94 (2013). 'Honoree Jobert' is a cross between Japanese anemone and *A. vitifolia*. This appeared in the nursery of Messier Jobert at Verdun-sur-Meuse in 1851. He grew it on and named it for his daughter, Honoree.

Awards: England's Royal Horticultural Society Award of Merit and Chicago Botanic Garden Plant of Merit.



Persicaria amplexicaulis Mountain fleeceflower Z 4-7.

Taxonically a mess, this plant has numerous synonyms on which even the experts cannot agree. Flora of China calls this *Polygonum amplexicaule* var. *amplexicaule* and lists seven synonyms. The Missouri Botanic Garden opines this is the same as *Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Firetail.' In China it's called "bao jing quan shen." Regardless of the name, it's a queen of flowers, with dark pink-red spikes lasting from June to October. Another of Piet Oudolf's must-have plants.

Awards: Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit and Elisabeth Cary Miller Garden Great Plant Pick

Rudbeckia triloba Brown-eyed susan Z 3-9.

This cheerful Wisconsin native sports many branches filled with dainty yellow susans from July to October, a great bouquet filler.

Awards: 1996—Georgia Gold Medal winner and England's Royal Horticultural Society Award of Merit.



Lobelia cardinalis Cardinal flower Z 3-9. Ruby, cardinal red tubes with an upper lip split in half and a lower lip like a pixie's apron encircle the spike from August to October and beckon hummingbirds. Another Wisconsin native. English botanist John Parkinson described it as "the rich crimson cardinal flower...(that) growth neere the river in Canada..." (1629) Cherokee believed it cured syphilis. Meskwaki secreted chopped roots into food of quarreling couples to make "the pair love each other again."

Awards: England's Royal Horticultural Society Award of Merit and Missouri Botanic Garden Plant of Merit.



Cyclamen hederifolium syn. C. neopolitanum Baby cyclamen, Sowbread Z 5-9. Dangling pink, purple or white shuttlecock look-alike flowers in September-October atop gorgeous marbled foliage—ephemeral, only appears in spring & fall. William Robinson, father of the mixed perennial border, called this "one of the greatest ornaments of borders and rock gardens." This is one of rare plants to thrive in dry shade.

Awards: Great Plant Pick Award from Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden and England's Royal Horticultural Society Award of Merit.

GRASSES—Many grasses shine in fall.

Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster' Feather reed grass, Karl Foerster grass Z 4-7. Completely, reliably erect grass with 5' tall, narrow, feather-like tan plumes. German nurseryman Karl Foerster's (1874-1970) keen eye spotted this natural cross of *Calamagrostis epigeos* and *C. arundinacea* in the Hamburg Botanic Garden. He listed it in his nursery catalog in 1939. Foerster called grasses "the hair of Mother Earth."

Awards: 2001 Perennial Plant of the Year; Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden Great Plant Pick; Missouri Botanic Garden Plant of Merit and Kentucky's Theodore Klein Plant Award

Calamagrostis brachytricha Diamond grass, Feather reed grass Z 4-9. Extraordinary, voluptuous, arching plumes with a pink caste, September to November, much under-used. Another one of Piet Oudolf's 100 must-have plants.

Awards: England's Royal Horticultural Society Award of Merit and Great Plants for Great Plains.



—continued on next page

Sporobolus heterolepis Prairie dropseed Zone 3-9. Chiltern Seeds catalog called this "... most elegant and refined ... the finest texture composed of the thinnest of thin, thread-like, glossy green blades,... in autumn turning deep orange before fading to a light copper for the winter. In late summer the plants bear, on very slender stalks high above the foliage, unbelievably delicate, graceful flower panicles..." Another of Piet Oudolf's 100 must-have plants.

Awards: Missouri Botanic Garden Plant of Merit and Great Plants for Great Plains

SHRUBS

Fothergilla gardenii Dwarf fothergilla Z 5-9. Foliage of many trees and shrubs turn one color in fall. But Dwarf fothergilla's leaves turn multi-jewel-toned red, purple & orange on this 3-4' tall shrub.

Awards: Missouri Botanic Garden Award of Merit and Great Plant Pick Award from Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden.



Heptacodium miconioides Seven son flower Z 5-9. Fragrant white flowers bloom in August–September, then large clusters of burgundy calyces surround the fruit (as showy as the flowers) on this large shrub or small tree in October and November. Its tan and red-brown peeling bark adds to the show. Late flowers provide an important source of pollen and nectar for bees and butterflies.

Awards: Cary Award for Distinctive Plants for New England; Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden Great Plant Pick; 2011 Great Plants Shrub of the Year; Gold Medal Plant Award PA Horticultural Society; Missouri Botanic Garden Plant of Merit; and Royal Botanical Society Award of Garden Merit.

Several of the plants profiled in Ten Twin-Titled Classics for Summer also retain exceptional beauty in fall:

- *Hydrangea quercifolia* Oak-leaved hydrangea Z 5-9
- *Callirhoe involucrata* Wine cups, Prairie poppy mallow Z 3-9
- *Eleutherococcus sieboldianus* 'Variegatus' Angelica shrub Z 4-9
- *Perovskia atriplicifolia* Russian sage Z 5-9
- *Salvia argentea* Silver sage Z 5-7
- *Verbena bonariensis* Tall verbena Z 7-10 colder areas, annual that reseeds.

—Betty Adelman

Betty Adelman owns Heritage Flower Farm, an award-winning nursery devoted to ornamental, heirloom plants, growing more than 1000 taxa of heirloom perennials, vines, trees, shrubs and ornamental grasses. Heritage Flower Farm's plants grow in gardens at the Smithsonian and Canada's Royal Botanic Garden. Betty's writings have been published in several Midwestern magazines and in California's Native Plant Society Journal.

Nanking Cherry: Plant Now for Spring Show

A shrub for shade or sun that grows to 6-10 feet tall and up to 10 feet wide and hardy in zones 2-7? With small white/light pink blooms in very early spring (before the leaves appear in the tree canopy above)? And loaded branches of edible (but tart) berries in early June, that the birds will eat before you have a chance to even try to bake a pie?



These are the joys of Nanking Cherry—*Prunus tomentosa*. Since planting five of these workhorses 16 years ago, they have served as one of the mainstays in my dry shade garden. They are very low maintenance, the berries are not messy, and even the most inexperienced pruner should be able to handle this shrub.

A great added value—seedlings! They don't overwhelm, but it's easy to propagate Nanking Cherry, and I almost always have at least a few seedling shrubs in the woody section at the WHPS Plant Sale.

—Stephanie O'Neal

Mother's Shovel

Leaning over, I hold her shovel
the long bladed one.
And sense that I, like her, find
a simple pleasure in plying
the soil with the sharp blade.
She would bend, holding the shovel
in her right hand and with her
left, reach for the object of her digging.
I do it now and feel some connection,
Or repletion of the act,
a communion with the earth
and with my mother.
The shovel is my prized possession.
It has weathered over sixty years of
turning the soil.
The handle, smooth and warm,
feels comfortable
like holding someone's hand:
a continuum.

— Marion Moran, November 2000

Marion Moran is a great Naturalist, Gardener, Teacher and was a Nature Guide at the UW Arboretum for many years. She also taught many classes for the University of Wisconsin-Extension called "The Spirit of the Land" and many others. She encouraged me to write a Journal on Nature and Gardening, which I have for many years now. She has been a close friend of mine—like a mom to me! Used with her permission, given to me in January 2003. —Tom Cottington

Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society



September 2014 Newsletter

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Eleanor Rodini, 608-576-7099, erodini@library.wisc.edu,
WHPS Garden Expo Display Coordinator
Conrad Wrzesinski, 608-231-3279, conradw@charter.net

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

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



Letter from Boerner Botanical Gardens to Will Radler

Dear Will,

Thank you for your donation of \$250 from the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society tour of your garden.

We so appreciate your thoughtfulness and support.

—Ellen Hayward, President/CEO

And thank you Will Radler, for the lovely and informative tour of your garden on the WHPS Milwaukee Trip!

Gardening Tip - A clear pond

Stuff a leg of pantyhose with straw—tie both ends securely and attach a weight before submerging in a pond to keep the water clear.

Daylily Calendar Available



The Wisconsin Daylily Society Hybridizer group put together a calendar for a fund raiser. The cost is \$10 and \$5 for shipping or, if you know anyone in the WDS who can pick it up, they will have the calendars at the annual meeting in October. Contact Genni Kleckner at f.g.kleckner@gmail.com or 608-739-9160. Here is the back cover for a sneak preview.

WHPS T-shirts available!



WHPS T-shirts available for purchase (sizes S-M-L-XL-XXL-XXXL) \$15 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!

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