



Perennial Notes

January 2006

COMING EVENTS!

WHPS Potluck Brunch THIS SUNDAY!, January 15, 2006,

10:00 a.m.-noon
Olbrich Gardens Commons
3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison

Four great reasons to attend

Food

Lots of tasty treats from hors d'oeuvres to salads to entrees to sinful desserts. Bring a food item (with serving utensil) anytime after 9:00 a.m. Lines form to start eating at 10:00 a.m. Beverages provided; bring your own table service.

Entertainment

Slides of England Trip by John Cannon and John Fritsch. John and John provide a great show, with beautiful photos and music to match.

People

A chance to meet, mix and mingle with fellow WHPS members.

The Gardens

Snow is questionable, but temperatures are expected in the low 30s, just right for a walk through Olbrich Gardens—a good opportunity to get some ideas for adding winter interest to your garden.

(We need to be completely finished, cleaned up and have chairs arranged for the Olbrich winter concert by 1:00 p.m., so clean-up help will be appreciated.)

See you this Sunday!

WHPS Goes to England June 2006



If you are interested in taking the WHPS trip to England June 9-16, 2006, but have not yet sent in your deposit for \$100, contact WHPS President Frank

Greer (608-233-4686, fgreer@sbcglobal.net) to see if space is still available. The tour will proceed West from London and reach Lands Inn at the very tip of SW England in Cornwall. The gardens have been carefully selected to cover the best of both large and small private gardens in route. (See the September 2005 newsletter for itinerary.) The cost will be about \$2600 per person, not including airfare.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE FUTURE PROGRAM DATES

Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo February 10-12, 2006, WHPS will have a booth at the Expo. Members can attend the Garden Expo free (although you pay for own parking) if you sign up to volunteer at the WHPS booth. Shifts average 2 1/2 hours, which leaves plenty of time for sitting in on lectures and viewing displays. Sign-up opportunities will be available this Sunday at the Potluck Brunch, or you can contact Stephanie O'Neal at 608-256-6108, or email her at sone2@aol.com to discuss available openings for volunteers.

Wednesday, February 15, 2006, 6:30 p.m. Social, 7:00 p.m. program. Speaker will be *Kris Jarantoski, Executive Vice President and Director of the Chicago Botanic Garden.*

Wednesday, March 15, 2006, 6:30 p.m. Social, 7:00 p.m. program—*Dennis Buettner will discuss Art in the Garden.*

Wednesday, April 19, 2006, 6:30 p.m. *WHPS meeting at Janesville Rotary Gardens.* Rotary Gardens promises a spectacular display of bulbs and a tour by Mark Dwyer. If you are interested in joining other members in taking a bus to Janesville, contact Sandra Allen at DSAMR@chorus.net.

Saturday, May 13, 2006 Klehm's Song Sparrow Farm, Avalon, Wisconsin will welcome members of the WHPS for a buying spree between 9:00-10:30 a.m. More information and possible carpool opportunities will be noted in the next newsletter

Saturday, May 20, 2006 WHPS Plant Sale from 9-noon at the Pet Lodge in Middleton.

We are presently collecting information on plant sales and plant tours for our annual guide to sales and tours that will be published in the April newsletter. If you have information on a plant sale or garden tour you would like us to know about, send your info to Stephanie O'Neal at sone2@aol.com, or mail it to Stephanie at 1850 Baird Street, Madison, WI 53713.

WHPS DONATES FUNDS

At the end of each year proceeds from the WHPS Plant Sale in May are reviewed by the Board and recommendations are made to the membership for donations to worthy garden programs in Wisconsin. In December 2005, the board recommended, and members approved, the following donations:

\$2,000 to Olbrich Gardens
\$1,000 to the Lonegenecker Endowment Fund
\$1,000 to Janesville Rotary Gardens

We thank again all of the members who participated in the plant sale and purchased plants, allowing us to continue to make these contributions.

And here is a note received recently from Janesville Rotary Gardens.

Dear WHPS,

On behalf of Rotary Gardens, I would like to thank you for the wonderful donation of funds last fall. The continued support of your wonderful organization has allowed us to further expand and improve our collections for the benefit and enjoyment of our 100,000+ annual visitors.

The recent donation allowed us to add over 2,500 fall-planted bulbs, representing 23 taxa new to Rotary Gardens. Look for new drifts of Fritillaria, Ipheion, Scilla sp. and Ornithogalum next spring.

Thank you again for helping make plants the focus at Rotary Gardens.

Sincerely,

*Mark Dwyer
Rotary Gardens*

Do you have a favorite photo of your garden?

This year's Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society display booth at the Garden Expo February 10-12 plans to feature photos from member gardens for inspiration and to encourage non-members to join.

If you have a favorite photo from your garden, we'd like you to send the 4" x 6" or 5" x 7" photo to Stephanie O'Neal at 1850 Baird Street, Madison, WI 53713, or email a jpeg of the photo to Stephanie at sone2@aol.com. The photo will not be returned, but we are hoping to gather enough photos to offer a "wall of member gardens" in the display.

Photos must be received by no later than February 1, 2006.

New Board Members Appointed

At the December 2005 meeting, members approved the appointment of two new board members: Bill Hoernke of Stoughton and Susan Robertson of Madison. We plan to provide profiles of Bill, Susan and the rest of our board in coming newsletters. In the meantime, if you have any suggestions for future programs, trips, donations or improvements to WHPS, please contact the Board (complete contact list is on back of newsletter).

And many thanks to...

Outgoing board member Joan Severa, who has been an excellent provider of energy and ideas for our board over the past few years. We look forward to Joan continuing as an active member of WHPS.

Dues notices will be sent soon

Dues statements for 2006 will be sent within the next month. We thank all of our members for your continued support and encourage everyone to attend meetings, volunteer for events and contribute articles to the newsletter. You are all fountains of knowledge and you bring experience and abilities that allow WHPS to improve each year its programs, services and information.

Thank you in advance for your renewal in 2006!

Members are guest speakers at November program

This year's Member Potpourri provided a variety of images from gardens near and far. Despite some initial technical difficulties (for which we apologize and we promise will not be repeated at next year's event), members were treated to a lovely PowerPoint presentation by Norma Briggs, some images by Terence Gilles and others by John Cannon. Ed Hasselkus also presented Frank Greer's slides of Long Vue Gardens in New Orleans and also had some images of wonderful *Acer pseudosieboldianums* (Korean Maples) in glorious fall color display.

As you take photos of your garden throughout the year, keep in mind our annual Member Potpourri and plan to show a few slides, a PowerPoint presentation or a video next fall!

Job Opportunity with Morningwood Farm

- WHPS member Morningwood Farm is looking for an experienced, energetic and self-directed individual to help manage their small grower/retail nursery business.
- They offer a casual work environment in a beautiful country setting close to Madison's West side. Please send your CV to Morningwood Farm Nursery, 8910 Domini Road, Mount Horeb WI 53572-1252 or to info@morningwoodfarm.com.

Top Trends in Gardening for 2006

Ed Lyon, Executive Director of Janesville Rotary Gardens and Spellbound Garden Writing and Consultation was the speaker at the December WHPS meeting, discussing current trends in gardening. Here is a summary of his comments.

"Outdoor living" is the biggest trend in gardening. Higher fuel prices are spurring consumers to stay closer to home for entertainment and relaxation, with a focus on decorating the outside of the home.

What's in and what's out for 2006

Lived in gardens are in. Showplace gardens out. Gardens reflect the individuals personal life-style; easy gardens with low maintenance and full of color.

Simple elegance is in. Fussy gardens are out. Less is more. Buzzwords are post-modernism, new minimalism and modern American Classics.

Gardens in small spaces are in. Colossal landscapes are out. Consumers are gardening more in less space, on patios, decks, rooftops and in containers. Vertical gardening is in.

Pot-scaping is in. 1-D containers are out. Container gardening is showing up in beds and borders or standing alone, as a way to splash color throughout the yard.

Adventuresome is in. Safe is out. Cottage gardens are safe and comfortable. Zen gardens are edgy. Look for plants with architecture and texture. Expect to see lots of red, purple and gold.

Boom without bloom is in. Flowers only are out. Large, leafy plants without flowers provide drama and color without the upkeep.

Mixing containers is in. Mixed containers is out. Trend is toward grouping single-plant containers.

Indoor living color is in. Plant-less houses are out. Homes with open space and porches are being filled with houseplants.

Fountains in. Ponds out. Containers and fountains used to keep sound, motion and water in the garden in a simplistic way.

Home grown is in. Fast food is out. Reflecting society's current enthusiasm for health eating and a desire for fresh fruits and veggies, vegetable gardening is coming back en vogue.

Safe gardening is in. Reckless gardening is out. There is a shift to get plants off chemicals and on a healthier, holistic life-style.

Other Events of Note

Join Shirley and Joe Remes on the trip they are offering this spring: "**Williamsburg and Virginia Garden Week,**" April 25-30. The Remes's write a weekly gardening column for a Chicago suburban daily, and Shirley is a field editor for *Better Homes & Gardens* magazines. The tour includes several days in Williamsburg visiting the gardens there and nearby Yorktown, as well as several days in Richmond, traveling to see several of the early plantations, then visiting selected private homes during the renowned Virginia Garden Week. Cost of the 6-day trip is \$2190, including airfare from Chicago. For information, call (847) 697-4796 or visit shirleyremes.com. Registration is limited, so early sign-up guarantees you a spot.



Special Invitation to a Series of Winter Public Education Events—HOW TO MAINTAIN YOUR NATIVE WOODS AND GARDENS

These workshops will be funded in part by an urban forestry grant from the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Forestry Program.

Location: Shorewood Hills Village Hall, 810 Shorewood Blvd, Madison, WI 53705

February 22, 2006, 6:30-8:30 p.m. **What's Bugging My Oak Tree?** Mark Guthmiller, Regional Gypsy Moth Coordinator and Kyoko Scanlon, Forest Pathologist, WI Department of Natural Resources. Focus will be on current and future disease and pest problems for the oak tree population. Snacks and drinks provided.

March 1, 2006, 6:30-8:30 p.m. **Invasive Plants in Your Woods and Gardens?** Fred Clark, President and Consulting Forester of Clark Forestry Inc., Baraboo, WI. Shorewood Hills is currently developing a list of invasive plants that are wreaking havoc within the Village. A major concern is the loss of plant diversity resulting from an invasive plant's ability to out compete beneficial native plants. Different abatement techniques will be discussed for particular invasive plants. Snacks and drinks provided.

March 8, 2006, 6:30-8:30 p.m. **Getting Back to Our Roots with Native Vegetation** Dr. Laura Jull, Assistant Professor and Woody Ornamental Extension Specialist, Department of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin-Madison. This workshop is a great follow-up to the "Invasive Plants" workshop. The speaker will educate us on what to plant (with an emphasis on woody plants) after the removal of invasive plants. Snacks and drinks provided.

For more information, contact Terence Gilles at terence@shorewood-hills.org.

Start thinking about the Plant Sale now!

Think about that last walk you took through your garden before the snow fell in December. Are there plants that you know you will need to divide and give away this spring? Are there so many that you are wondering how you are going to get all of the dividing done and still enjoy planting new plants and taking care of other spring chores?

Worry no more. You can host a plant dig and donate plants for the WHPS Plant Sale May 20. We can provide volunteers, pots, potting soil and plant markers for your dig, turning an all-day job (or more) into a 2-3 hour fun project.

If you would like to host a dig in early spring and donate plants to the plant sale, contact Ruth Cadoret at rcadoret@wisc.edu.



For your consideration... Perennial Plants of the Year

Here's a list of perennials that have been selected by the Perennial Plant Association as Perennial Plant of the Year over the past 16 years.

- 2005 *Helleborus xhybridus*
- 2004 *Athyrium niponicum* 'Pictum'
- 2003 *Leucanthemum* 'Becky'
- 2002 *Phlox* 'David'
- 2001 *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster'
- 2000 *Scabiosa columbaria* 'Butterfly Blue'
- 1999 *Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *sullivantii* 'Goldsturm'
- 1998 *Echinacea purpurea* 'Magnus'
- 1997 *Salvia* 'Mainacht' (May Night)
- 1996 *Penstemon digitalis* 'Husker Red'
- 1995 *Perovskia atriplicifolia*
- 1994 *Astilbe* 'Sprite'
- 1993 *Veronica* 'Sunny Border Blue'
- 1992 *Coreopsis verticillata* 'Moonbeam'
- 1991 *Heuchera micrantha* 'Palace Purple'
- 1990 *Phlox stolonifera*

Do you have a garden tip or idea for our members? Contact Stephanie O'Neal at sone2@aol.com

WHPS Web site: www.madison.com/communities/wisconsinhardyplantsociety/

Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society



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Newsletter
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Someone you know interested in joining WHPS?

Contact WHPS Treasurer Laurie Zimmerman at whps05@yahoo.com, (608) 838-4477