



Perennial Notes

January 2008

WHPS COMING EVENTS!

**NEXT SUNDAY! January 20, 2008,
WHPS Potluck Brunch** →

February 8, 9, 10, 2008 WPT Garden Expo. WHPS will once again have a booth at the Expo. Signup sheets for volunteering will be at the January Potluck, or you can call or email Stephanie O'Neal. See article on page 2 for more info.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Meetings are held at Olbrich Gardens, 3330 Atwood Avenue, 6:30 p.m. social; 7:00 p.m. program.

Wednesday, February 20, 2008, *Building a Successful Shade Garden*, with speaker Ed Lyon, Executive Director, Janesville Rotary Gardens. There's no lesson like experience. Ed Lyon has built two shade gardens over the course of 10 years and has learned valuable lessons through trials and tribulations that he will share with you in this presentation. He has documented the construction process of both and the development of the first over a nine-year time period. If you find shade challenging, it may go well beyond plant selection and availability; cultural conditions can mitigate success. Ed addresses audiences both public and professional, and tells audiences that you'll always learn more from the mistakes than you will from the successes! Come see what he learned in real-life from hands-on experiences.

Wednesday, March 19, 2008, *The Influence of English Gardening on American Gardening in the 20th Century*, with speaker John Elsley of Klehm's Song Sparrow Farm.

Wednesday, April 16, 2008, *Plant Trials for Midwest Gardens—an Update*, with speaker Richard Hawke of the Chicago Botanic Garden.

Saturday, May 17, 2008 WHPS Plant Sale, 9-noon, Middleton-Cross Plains District Gym, 7106 South Avenue (off Park Street in Middleton).

Saturday, May 31, 2008, "Plant Buying Spree" at Klehm's Song Sparrow Farm is scheduled for 9:00 to 10:30 am. A map will be included in the next newsletter

June 7-16 WHPS Trip to Ireland

Wednesday, August 20, 2008 *Evening Potluck*

Wednesday, September 17, 2008, speaker TBD.

Saturday, September 20, 2008, *Member Plant Exchange* at Jan Minardi's home on the Southwest side.

Wednesday, October 15, 2008, speaker TBD.

Wednesday, November 19, 2008, *Annual Meeting, Seed Exchange and Member Potpourri*.

**Sunday, January 20, 2008
WHPS Potluck Brunch**

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

Tasty Food

Lots of 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 from *A Visit to Brookgreen Gardens, Murrell's Inlet, South Carolina* with WHPS President Frank Greer (<http://www.brookgreen.org/>).

People

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

The Gardens

Snow is questionable and temperatures have been mild, just right for a walk through Olbrich Gardens—rose hips, grasses and some great ideas for landscaping a winter 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 Sunday, January 20!

Host a plant dig for the plant sale?

It's hard to think about digging plants when we aren't even half-way through winter, but if you know you are going to have enough plants to divide in the spring to create six or more flats, think about hosting a dig and donating plants to the WHPS Plant Sale.

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, contact Dig Coordinator Bill Hoernke at 608-873-4994, bhoernke@chorus.net.

WHPS at Garden Expo February 8-10

WHPS will once again participate in the Garden Expo sponsored by Wisconsin Public Television at the Alliant Energy Center. **Members can volunteer to help at the booth** (contact Stephanie O'Neal at 608-256-6108; sone2@aol.com), or stop by and sign up for the prize drawing and see some great photos of member gardens.

We will once again be hosting a presentation at the Expo, with this year's speaker Tibi Light, a long-time member of WHPS and owner of Fine Gardening and Design, presenting *Plant Combinations for Year-Round Interest*. She will speak on Saturday, February 9 at 9:00 a.m. in Mendota 4.

Tibi is presenting some simple design techniques and formulas to help you create an attractive dynamic garden that looks interesting throughout the year...even winter! It will be a compilation of plant combinations that are found to be especially winning in the garden at certain times. These are some of the same techniques and combinations she uses in her own garden design business, as well as suggestions compiled from experienced gardeners in our area. It will be fun and useful for gardeners of all skill levels.

Tibi Light has been a garden professional in the Dane County area for over twenty years. She runs her own business doing garden design, consulting and coaching, and project co-ordination for landscape and garden installations. She teaches in the Master Gardener Programs and at area botanical gardens. Along with Cheryl Schmid, she has been doing garden designs at the Allen Centennial Gardens on the UW Madison campus for the last 16 years. She is dedicated to uniting people and plants to create a blossoming of earth and soul.

With a strong roster of seminars and more display booths than ever, the Garden Expo is a great way to spend a winter weekend! *For more info, go to www.wpt.org/gardenexpo.*

Do you have a photo to contribute to the WHPS display at the Garden Expo?



We are building a great store of photos of member gardens and we try to display as many as we can each year at the WHPS booth at the Garden Expo.

If you have a photo or two you'd like to contribute, please email a jpeg of the photo(s) to Stephanie O'Neal at sone2@aol.com, or mail the pictures to Stephanie at 1850 Baird Street, Madison, WI 53703.

Color, black & white, winter, spring, summer, fall—all are welcome!

About the Board—Conrad Wrzesinski

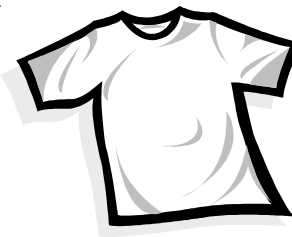


My interest in plants began at an early age while helping in my parent's garden in Wisconsin Dells. My grandfather also had a large garden, which I would often visit and help pick raspberries. To be honest, I suspect I ate more than I picked. In the summer I would go with my father to Adams County, which is north of Wisconsin Dells, to pick wild blueberries.

After graduation from college, marriage and having a place of my own in Middleton, I had the good fortune to meet Ed Hasselkus. With Ed's encouragement, I developed a strong interest in trying exotic woody plants growing here in USDA Zone 5a. This interest resulted in registering a hardy white form *Rhododendron dauricum* 'Madison Snow', which is available in the trade.

Living on a city lot with limited space for woody plants, I began to acquire more perennials. This interest in perennials has resulted in a collection of over 270 different daylilies and companion plants. My garden may best be described as an eclectic collection of texture, color, fragrance, flower and form. Currently I serve as President of the Wisconsin Daylily Society. Mary, my wife, is the Web master for the Wisconsin Daylily Society. I have three grown children, all who share an interest in plants.

WHPS T-SHIRTS



I am looking into ordering short-sleeve green T-shirts for the WHPS, with our logo in white on the front left chest and also on the center back of the shirt.

Cost per shirt will be \$10.

If you for sure want a T-shirt, please email me at jmgahlman@hotmail.com with the word T-shirt in the subject line and **send me the number of shirts and sizes** you want. (Or call me at 608-837-2317 and leave a message.)

This will help me decide on the number of T-shirts to order in each size. I will have more information at the January 20 WHPS Potluck.

Thanks!

—Jane Gahlman

GARDEN TRAVELS – PORTLAND AND BEYOND

Jeannette Golden and Jane LaFlash went on the WHPS trip to Portland in August and continued on a garden-themed trip to Seattle and Vancouver. They each wrote up summaries of the trip and have combined them in the following.

AUGUST 1

JANE—I had gone two days early to visit friends and met the rest of the WHPS group when they arrived at the Portland airport. Our first visit was the private garden of Thomas Vetter—my favorite private garden of the Portland part of the trip. Not a very large garden, but crammed full of interesting and beautiful plants. It made me feel that instead of getting rid of some of the crowding in my own garden, I should put even more in. We then visited the private garden of Bruce Wakefield and Jerry Grossnickle (called Old German Gardens, as they are on Old German Road). This was much larger, with many areas that were named and mapped; a beautiful modern house, wonderful plants, a Mediterranean garden and beautiful trees.

JEANNETTE

Thomas Vetter Garden—This was my second overnight trip with WHPS. I was really looking forward to this trip, but I could hardly believe my excitement when the very first garden we saw in Portland was one of the most beautiful, artful and moving garden compositions I've seen. Thomas Vetter did not have a particularly large space to work with, but he is clearly an artist who combined layer upon layer of plants so that each area had mysteries to unfold. The garden wrapped around you with, what seemed to me, to be just the right proportion of lawn and garden. As I enjoyed each area, I could easily imagine how different plants which were now in the background had taken center stage at earlier points in the season. Of course, I drooled over the many plants in this garden that we cannot grow here. I especially loved the lace-cap hydrangeas in many shades of purple and blue, and the mimosa tree (*Albizia*), both of which we would continue to see in many gardens on the trip.

AUGUST 2

JANE—We visited Monrovia Nursery and walked around their lovely display gardens. Their building was also

beautiful and there was a welcome sign for us—of course one of Ed Hasselkus' former students works there and welcomed us. Then we went on to the Oregon Garden, exploring by both a tram ride and walking. My favorite area was the gorgeous conifer garden. In the late afternoon we visited Bishop's Close gardens, owned by the Episcopal Church—a lovely natural area—a nice, cool, shady walk on this very hot day.

JEANNETTE

Monrovia—The display gardens were lovely, but actually, one of my favorite parts of this part of our tour was the building that houses the Monrovia offices. I felt that between the gardens and the beautiful architecture I'd be ready to be an employee any time. It was also nice to see that in choosing to put money into a beautiful work space, clearly the folks who are making decisions for this company place a great deal of value on aesthetics rather than just the bottom line.

Oregon Garden—The Conifer Garden was breathtaking. I fell in love with a group of several *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* 'Strict Weeping'. I'd love to have that plant in my garden, but I'm not sure I'll choose to buy it because I don't imagine that in our zone it would ever look as great as those beautiful specimens in Portland. (Of course, I certainly may eat those words if I happen upon this plant at a nursery and it just hops on its own into my wagon.) Another very beautiful plant at the Oregon Garden was a cultivar of mimosa called Summer Chocolate. Mimosa has very fine textured compound leaves and the leaf color of this cultivar is perfectly described by its name...delicious.

AUGUST 3

JANE—First stop today was Iseli Nursery. Display gardens were spectacular, with fabulous conifers and other woody plants. Then we went on to Stanley and Sons Nursery in Boring, Oregon. Larry Stanley

gave us a great tour—he is so passionate about his plants. We had lunch scheduled there and we all thought it would be box lunches or hot dogs or something. Imagine our surprise when we turned the corner and saw tables set up with cloth tablecloths and napkins and real dishes! Their staff served us appetizers, a delicious salad, salmon, corn on the cob, desserts and wine, and kept coming around to refill plates and glasses. It was a wonderful meal.

Afterward we continued to Porterhowse Farms (named for owners Don Howse and Lloyd Porter). Don took us on a guided tour of his huge place, absolutely overflowing with various types of plants—conifers, sempervivums, and many, many others. It was sad to hear that his life partner of 30+ years was dying of cancer (and in fact died the next week). It was all the more touching that he toured us around at such a sad time in his life.

We then drove to Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood. We were given a guided tour of the beautiful lodge (built as a WPA project in the 1930s and now a national historic landmark) before a great dinner there.

JEANNETTE—Iseli Nursery Iseli's display garden was far more than just a collection of the plants they sell. It was a garden that was breathtaking in its composition. I wrote down the names of several conifers I especially liked and a couple may just appear in my garden next year, most especially *Larix kaempferi* 'Nana' which would look great next to my pond, and *Tsuga canadensis* 'Summer Snow', which was a beautiful cloud of white.

AUGUST 4

JANE—Our first stop today was Joy Creek Nursery, where we got a guided tour and then were able to shop. Many people bought plants. They had wonderful display gardens and especially lots of clematis. I saw one that I had been trying to find the name of (*Clematis x triternata*

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'Rubromarginata'), so was happy about that.

After lunch we traveled to Washington Park in Portland to visit the Rose Garden and the Japanese Garden. The Rose Garden is spectacular—so many roses it's hard to imagine and so many blooming (considering its August) and such a beautiful setting. We had a guided tour in the Japanese Garden, which was lovely. A woman was selling Japanese maples outside the gift shop at the Japanese Garden and somehow I bought two of them ('Bene Otake' and 'Ukigumo') and had them shipped home.

Our next visit was the private garden of noted garden writer Barbara Blossom Ashman. There were lots of interesting plants, and she was a very warm and lovely person. Gail and Ken Austin's private garden was next. They do their own daylily hybridizing and it was interesting to see their names on labels, though the daylilies were pretty well finished. They had just downsized their garden and transplanted 80 clematis, so that gives an idea of the number of plants they had.

JEANNETTE

Joy Creek—This was especially fun for me because this past spring was the first time I had ever heard of this nursery, and I mail ordered *Salix alba* 'Britzensis' from them. Their display gardens were lovely, and I plan to order several more plants from them next spring, including *Vitex agnus-castus*, which has beautiful late summer blue flowers on a dieback shrub (for us). I also admired several St. Johnsworts, mostly for their beautiful fruits. Of course, they were all zone 6 or 7 plants, but one of the staff members encouraged me to try them and see if they will make it as dieback shrubs as well. Many folks on our tour came back to the bus with a box full of plants they had purchased. I was AMAZED at my self control.

Gail and Ken Austin—A lovely garden and a love affair with clematis. I can already see many new ones climbing shrubs in my garden next year.

Portland Rose Garden—Even though I'm not that much of a rose person, this rose garden was so beautiful and full of color beyond one's imagination, that I felt like I was in a dream.

AUGUST 5

JANE—This morning we walked the few blocks from our hotel to the Chinese Classical Garden, which was as beautiful as I remembered it from last year. It would have been nice to have a guided tour, but it was too early for that. This was Jeannette's favorite garden so far.

When the bus took everyone to the airport, Jeannette, Barbara Obst and I picked up our rental car and headed north. We dropped Barbara off near Seattle, where her cousin picked her up and Jeannette and I continued on to Vancouver. Traffic was very bad en route and it also took two hours to travel the last mile before the border and go through the border control there. By then it was dark and it was a bit tricky finding our way, but we arrived at our North Vancouver hotel about 10:00.

JEANNETTE

Portland Chinese Classical Garden—Another absolute work of art! The sense of peace in this garden was incredible. The central pond looked and felt totally different from different vantage points, and yet each view was perfect. Among the plants to drool over at this garden were the Lagerstroemias, another gorgeous plant we cannot grow. Gardeners must be tough enough to deal with many heartbreaks.

AUGUST 6

JANE—This morning we drove to the UBC campus and visited their botanic gardens (which had a nice "managed" woods) and Nitobe Japanese Garden. Then we drove to Van Dusen Botanic Garden and were very disappointed to learn they were closed due to a two-week long strike of all outdoor city workers in Vancouver. We ate lunch there and looked into what little we could see of the gardens, which looked wonderful.

We made an unplanned stop at Queen Elizabeth Park, which turned out to be very nice. There were fountains, a rose garden, a conservatory (also closed due to the

strike), and two quarry gardens, which had gorgeous overlooks into the gardens and wonderful woody plants (though a few too many annual bedding plants).

Next we visited Stanley Park, which had a lovely drive, beautiful overlooks and an interesting display of totem poles. It was a holiday in Canada that day and everywhere we went was packed with people in a happy holiday mood, so all seemed very festive.

JEANNETTE

Van Dusen (Vancouver)—Speaking of heartbreaks...From what we could see in the entryway, and over the fence at the outdoor seating area in the restaurant, it was clear that this was a fantastic garden. We sat through at least half of our lunch absolutely dumbfounded by the fact that, after researching online and dreaming, we were actually there and couldn't get in. I sized up the height of the fence and I think Jane and I could have easily climbed over and sneaked in while the waiter wasn't looking. I can just see the headlines—"Crazed middle-aged Midwestern garden ladies busted for breaking into botanical garden."

AUGUST 7

JANE—We left Vancouver today and drove to Minter Gardens near Chilliwick. The gardens were in a fabulous setting of mountains, had wonderful woody plants, nice water features, a maze, a collection Chinese Pinjing (similar to bonsai), lots of hardscaping—a generally lovely place. Unfortunately, for me, they were also filled with gaudy displays of annual bedding plants—even made into designs like the Canadian flag, floral ladies, peacocks, etc. But if you could just close your eyes to that aspect, it was a nice garden. We had made reservations for their buffet lunch, which was fabulous.

We continued to Seattle and visited Bellevue Gardens, where there were a fuchsia collection, a rock garden with switchback paths, a Northwest native garden, a waterwise garden, a beautiful blue border, wonderful containers and a "jungle" garden, with a path through tall perennial and woody plants, which

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made you really feel a part of the garden. We went through this twice, as Jeannette loved it so much.

JEANNETTE

Minter Gardens—Jane's description is much the same as mine would be—beautiful surroundings, beautiful woodies and poorly designed or outright tasteless use of annuals. What was amusing about our conversation as we walked through this garden was the comical banter between us as Jane voiced her disappointment in the annuals, and I attempted to convince her that actually annuals were great when used artfully. I'm not sure my arguments won her over, but then it probably was hard to have someone extol the value of annuals while you were looking at a bed of annuals planted to form a peacock.

Bellevue Botanical Garden—My favorite part of this garden was a large mixed border with a "jungle" feel to it that somewhat reminded me of parts of my own garden. We had been gone for close to a week. I think I was missing my garden.

AUGUST 8

JANE—We headed to downtown Seattle early this morning and took the ferry to Bainbridge Island. We had a 9:00 a.m. reservation at the garden of Little and Lewis, sculptors who have a garden full of tropical plants and their sculptures. The garden was fabulous, and we had to alter our opinion of which was the best private garden on the trip. They were very nice too, and gave us cuttings of a variegated tropical *Tradescantia*, which Jeannette babied for the next four days and then accidentally left in the last hotel room.

Just as we were leaving, Barbara Obst called us and said she was coming to Bainbridge the next day. We told her about this garden and she visited the following day too. (On the way home, I coincidentally met John Cannon and John Fritsch in the Minneapolis airport on their way to Seattle and recommended this garden, which they then also visited).

We then drove to the Bloedel Reserve (once the estate of the Bloedel family) for our 10:00 a.m. reservation. It was wonderful—a fabulous Japanese garden

(designed to be viewed from indoors), moss garden, lovely house, wonderful natural woods, beautiful woody plants—just an all round great place, which we explored for over three hours.

JEANNETTE

Bainbridge Island, Little and Lewis—Their garden was a display area for the garden sculptures they sell. It was also a paradise I felt I could have stayed in forever. The sculptures were exquisite, and the tropicals breathtaking. And yes, our host graciously gave us cuttings of a variegated *Tradescantia* 'Maiden's Blush', which I treasured, nurtured and, in typically absent-minded fashion, left behind when I left for the airport bleary eyed at 6:00 a.m.

Bloedel Reserve—One of the most incredible managed woods I've ever seen. The huge conifers, ferns and mosses were overwhelming in their beauty. The Japanese garden was possibly my favorite of the trip, and that's saying a lot, because we saw five Japanese gardens on this trip, and let's just say—none of them were shabby.

AUGUST 9

JANE—Our first stop today was Kubota Japanese Garden, which was designed by the same person who did the Bloedel Japanese garden, but we did not like it nearly as well. It was very large, some parts maintained better than others. Parts of it were quite old, and parts were built for the 1964 World's Fair. There were a few very nice bridges.

Next we drove to Woodland Park and visited the Rose Garden, which is next to the zoo. A volunteer told us about their experiment of not spraying chemicals but instead the controversial compost tea, which did not seem to be working, as there was lots of black spot. The topiaries were lovely though.

Next was the Carl English Garden near the Chittenden Locks. We took a pleasant walk on the grounds and there were lovely plants. We also watched some boats come through the locks.

The Japanese Garden in Washington Park was next, and I think was my favorite Japanese Garden of the trip. The garden itself had smaller trees but was entirely surrounded by huge trees, which gave it a nice enclosed feeling. The plant palette was interesting and beautiful. We drove through the huge arboretum, which was divided by genus, only stopping at a couple areas—the *Sorbus* (mountain ash, further divided by simple and compound leaves) and *Acer* (maple). It would have been fun to spend an entire day there. The park also has some lovely overlook areas.

The Seattle Art Museum is open late on Thursdays so we decided to spend the evening there. It was a wonderful museum with lots of folk art, European art, a Botticelli, art glass, modern and contemporary art and a wonderful shop.

JEANNETTE

Washington Park Japanese Garden—This Japanese garden was tied with the one at Bloedel for my favorite Japanese garden of the trip. The sense of peace combined with beauty was wonderful.

Washington Park Arboretum—We didn't get to see much of the arboretum, because it is huge and we were at the end of a long day, but I'd love to return there some day. The interesting thing for me as I walked through the *Sorbus* collection (and saw many many species of *Sorbus* I'd never heard of before) was time traveling back to my student years when I took plant taxonomy and remembering how much I loved it.

Seattle Art Museum—Great museum, great museum store.

August 10

JANE—We headed toward Tacoma and just north of that city visited the Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection and the Rhododendron Species and Botanic Garden. They were both wonderful. The RSBG had way more than just rhododendrons—also a fern collection and many, many woody and herbaceous plants. It would be so beautiful in the spring. We felt that way

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about many places we saw—wouldn't they also look beautiful at other times of the year.

We drove into Tacoma and met Barbara Obst and her cousin at the Tacoma Art Museum, where we had arranged a docent-led Dale Chihuly walk. (He's a very well-known glass artist originally from Tacoma and who went to graduate school in Madison.) The Chihuly pieces in the museum were fabulous, especially "Ma Chihuly Floats"—many glass spheres in an outdoor area in the middle of the building with multiple reflections. We went inside the Union Station next door, and fortunately a Chihuly employee was there and talked to us about the five pieces in the lobby. The "Bridge of Glass" nearby was built to house Chihuly pieces and it was fantastic—hundreds of sea-inspired pieces overhead, and many more on enclosed shelves along the side.

After this feast for the eyes, we headed toward Portland, where we stayed the last night before catching our early morning flights.

This was really a wonderful trip—each day filled with beautiful and unique sights.

JEANNETTE

Chihuly walk and Tacoma Art Museum—Dale Chihuly is an incredible glass artist, and many of his creations were interpretations of natural objects, sea life and plant life. Every now and then it's good for us obsessive gardeners to remind ourselves that gardens are not the only kind of beauty on earth, and Dale Chihuly is someone who can certainly be used to make that point.

What a great ending to a great trip!!

Paxinity*

*a place where peace begins
by Julie Fitzpatrick 2007

Turning point: take a breath,
Love or war, life or death,
Faith or fear, sing or shout,
Give or take, now let it out.
Turning point: stop and think,
Seek or hide, swim or sink,
Grow or die, stand or run,
Tilt your head back, feel the sun.
Turning point: take your time,
Measure every step sublime,
Higher plane, learn your way,
Growing knowledge day by day.
Turning point: look within,
Rest here from the wordly din,
Let peace and love illuminate

—Julie Fitzpatrick presented this poem along with photos of the construction of her labyrinth at the November Member Potpourri.

WHPS Donates

Each year the WHPS Board reviews the proceeds from the annual Plant Sale and makes a recommendation to the membership that the proceeds be donated to worthy garden-related entities.

In November, the members approved the following donations:

- \$3,000 to Olbrich Gardens
- \$2,000 to the UW-Arboretum Longenecker Endowment Fund
- \$1,000 to Janesville Rotary Gardens
- \$1000 to HospiceCare Garden in Fitchburg

It's great to know that the fun we have each year at the Plant Sale and the money we spend ultimately goes to such good causes.

Gardener's Version of The Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the yard
the branches were bare and the ground frozen hard;
The roses were dormant and mulched all around
to protect them from damage if frost heaves the ground.
The perennials were nestled all snug in their beds
while visions of 5-10-5 danced in their heads.
The new-planted shrubs, had been soaked by the hose
to settle their roots for the long winter's doze;
And out on the lawn, the new fallen snow
protected the roots of the grasses below.
When what to my wondering eyes should appear
but a truck full of gifts of gardening gear.
Saint Nick was the driver—the jolly old elf
and he winked as he said, "I'm a gardener myself.
I've brought wilt-pruf, rootone, and gibberellin, too.
Please try them and see what they do.
To start new plants, a propagating kit.
Sparkling new shears, for the old apple tree.
To seed your new lawn, I've a patented sower;
in case it should grow, here's a new power mower.
For seed-planting days, I've a trowel and a dibble,
and a roll of wire mesh if the rabbits should nibble.
For the feminine gardener, some gadgets she loves;
plant stakes, a sprinkler, and waterproof gloves;
A chemical agent for the compost pit,
and for pH detecting, a soil testing kit.
With these colorful flagstones, lay a new garden path,
for the kids to enjoy, and bird feeder and bath.
And last but not least, some well-rotted manure.
A green Christmas year round, these gifts will ensure."
Then jolly Saint Nick, having emptied his load,
started his truck and took to the road.
And I heard him exclaim through the motor's loud hum
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a green thumb!"

—Submitted by Rita Thomas, adapted from
The Gardener, November-December, 1983

WHPS Annual meeting elects officers and new board members

At the November Annual Meeting, members were presented with and approved the Board's recommendations for the slate of directors and officers for the coming year.

Officers

Frank Greer, President
Jane Gahlman, Vice President
Diane Scharkey, Treasurer

New directors elected to the board

Jeannette Golden
Edward Lyon
Conrad Wrzesinski

For a complete roster of the board and their contact information, see the back page of this newsletter.

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Member gardens on display at Member Potpourri!

Thank you to the following members who presented photos at the November meeting.

John Cannon—Photos of a trip to Seattle and the gardens toured there. So many lovely and interesting containers!

Norma Briggs—Photos of the continued growth into new areas of her large garden in Oregon, this year focusing on new rock walls and expansion of the prairie garden.

Rita Dupuis—Beautiful close-up photos of flowers in her Waunakee garden, taken by Rita and Courtney Lapor.

Julie Fitzpatrick—A lovely poem (see previous page) read while showing photos of the conversion of a huge bed in her back yard into a quiet, contemplative labyrinth.

Bill Hoernke—Bill took us skin-diving in the Caribbean with some gorgeous photos of undersea garden life.

Christa Iausly—Photos of her garden in Spring Green and a hearty recommendation for the purchase of a digital photo album/frame.

Ed Lyon—Ed moved from an established country setting to an Oregon main street and described the challenges and rewards of designing a new garden for his small lot. An amazing amount of work in a very short time.

Ted Stresemann—A beautifully designed garden in the Whitney Way area full of shade plants, small trees and conifers. Everyone wants to tour this garden!

A big thank-you to Ed Lyon for coordinating the setup of the projector and facilitating the presentations.

If you have 10-15 photos of your garden or a special garden trip you'd like to share, think about presenting at this year's Member Potpourri November 19.

EVENTS OF NOTE

Classes, talks and Workshops at Olbrich Gardens

Olbrich Gardens is offering a plethora of programs over the next few months, ranging from painting in the garden, to nature and journaling, to easy home composting. But two series may be of particular interest to our members: the Spring Lecture Series and the Sustainability Lecture Series.

The Spring Lecture Series "addresses all elements of a complete garden." Series cost is \$66 members/\$78 public (includes one free lecture) or each program is \$11 members/\$13 public.

February 5—*Creative Garden Design Solutions*

February 19—*Container Gardening*

March 4—*Better Trees and Shrubs for Residential Gardens*

March 11—*Color and Plant Combinations*

March 18—*The Beauty of Ornamental Grasses*

March 25—*Stone in the Garden*

April 1—*Perennials Everyone Should Have*

The Sustainability Lecture Series shows "how to make choices that promote a sustainable use of our shared resources." Entire series is \$77 members/\$91 public (one lecture free), or individual programs \$11 members/\$13 public.

January 31—*Sustainable Water Use for Gardeners and Homeowners*

February 21—*Birdscaping*

March 6—*Sustainable Garden Design & Maintenance*

March 13—*Organic Vegetable Gardening: More Than Just No Chemicals*

March 20—*Natural Lawn Care*

April 3—*Rain Barrels for Sustainability*

April 8—*Creating a Home Rain Garden*

All of the above programs run from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

For more info, go to www.olbrich.org.

Madison Area Master Gardeners Road Trip to the Chicagoland Flower & Garden Show.

On Saturday, March 8, departing at 8:00 a.m. from the Dane County Extension lot, the Madison Area Master Gardeners will Road Trip to the Chicagoland Flower & Garden Show, returning at 4:00 p.m. later that day.

This premier indoor show gathers top garden landscapers, designers and enthusiasts creating a venue full of color and fragrance: theme gardens; garden marketplace; gardening seminars; garden gourmet; teaching garden; floral tablescapes and a popular photography garden. New this year is an Art Festival and a Home Lifestyle Expo.

The \$36 fee includes the bus ride and admission, but not any food or beverages. Sign up by February 15.

To download the brochure, go to:
www.madison.com/communities/mamga

For more information, contact
mamgaprogram@yahoo.com or call 608-224-3721

..... **Member News, Tips etc.**

A lively winter garden

If you are trying to attract birds to your garden and keep them coming over the winter, I highly recommend the addition of a heated birdbath. I bought an inexpensive heated birdbath a few years ago at Farm & Fleet that each fall I place under my front picture window a few feet from the suet feeder. It sits nicely on top of a round concrete planter placed between the purple-leaf sandcherry and the bench, so the birds have a kind of staging area when using the birdbath. I also put a thin limestone rock in the birdbath to weight it and offer another spot for the birds to easily access the water. How great it is on a cold winter day to see the birds coming and going only a few inches from my view!

—Stephanie O'Neal

Send us a tip/write an article

Members are encouraged to submit articles or tips for publication in the newsletter. If you've something garden-related—a poem you've written, a photo you've taken that will duplicate well in black and white, or if you have a few paragraphs to offer on a favorite plant, plant combination, garden you've toured or trip you've taken—send it to sone2@aol.com, or mail it to Stephanie O'Neal, 1850 Baird Street, Madison, WI 53713.

DUES NOTICES MAILED THIS WEEK

Members whose membership is up for renewal in 2008 will be receiving their dues notices this week. Please return your dues payment, along with the membership form, by no later than March 31, 2008. Don't forget to include your email address, since we send out meeting reminders regularly via email.

Members who have already paid their dues for 2008 will not receive a notice. You can tell which year your dues are paid through by looking at the mailing label below. It will say "PD (year)."

Importance of emails

It's very important to keep us apprised of any changes in your email address. And if you haven't yet provided us with an email address, you can do so by contacting us at whps05@yahoo.com.

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

*Wisconsin Hardy
Plant Society*



**January 2008
Newsletter**

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