



# Perennial Notes

January 2014

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.

**Sunday, January 19, 2014 *Member Potluck***, 10:00 a.m.-noon. Enjoy great food, take a walk through the tropical conservatory and, with some cooperation from the weather, take a walk through the winter gardens. *The buffet opens at 10:00 a.m., so plan on setting up your potluck items by 9:30 a.m.* Juice and lemonade will be provided (there is also a soda machine available). Bring your own plates and utensils. It's a great chance to get together with fellow members and compare notes on the events of the past year. Also available will also be leftover seeds from December's Seed Exchange. **Special Program: Ed Lyon will present photos from the 2013 Brandywine River Garden Tour.**

**February 7-9, 2014, WHPS Booth at Wisconsin Garden Expo** Eleanor Rodini—erodini@library.wisc.edu, 608-576-7099—is coordinating the WHPS booth at the Garden Expo, and volunteers who sign up to work a shift at the booth will receive a free entrance ticket to the Expo—contact Eleanor if you are interested. WHPS is once again sponsoring a speaker at the Expo, **Roy Klehm, noted peony hybridizer and founder of Beaver Creek Nursery and Song Sparrow Farm and Nursery, Saturday, February 8, at 9:30 a.m.** His presentation, *My Mentoring Horticulture Heroes: Key people who mentored me and their contributions to gardens and landscapes*, will no doubt be one of the highlights of the Garden Expo. <http://www.wigardenexpo.com/>

**Wednesday, February 19, Mike Yanny, JN Plant Selections, LLC, Menomonee Falls, WI. *Thirty-three Years of Plant Breeding and Introduction.*** Wisconsin can boast one of the finest plant propagators in the world with our own Mike Yanny. Mike spent 32 years propagating plants for the highly respected Johnson's Nursery, and in 2013 branched off with his own plant development and introduction company JN Plant Selections, LLC. He still works for the nursery part-time, but he purchased the rights (patents and trademarked names) to all of the plant introductions that originated at Johnson's Nursery. We have already seen a number of exciting new releases in trees such as *Carpinus caroliniana* and shrubs like *Viburnum carlesii*, and we can expect many more to come. Mike will take us through over 30 years of plant development in an entertaining style that includes his own poetry.

**Wednesday, March 19, Gene Bush, Munchkin Nursery & Gardens, LLC, Depauw, IN. *Trilliums in a Midwest Garden.*** Munchkin Nursery is well-known for specializing in native and non-native rare and unusual shade perennials. Gene spoke to our group a number of years ago and response was so positive we had to have him return and share his knowledge on some of the less frequently grown shade plants. Slides and content of this presentation began originally as an article for **Fine Gardening Magazine**, which appeared in the September 2006 Issue. Both text and photos taken in his garden proved to be very popular, so he created a lecture with more in-depth information on how to grow these jewels of the forest floor and to select companions which make good neighbors. Trilliums will be divided into sections according

to regional origins, so the gardener can begin with what grows in the woods next door. Once successful with the local region, the gardener and collector can reach out to regions other than their own. Companion plants are discussed and illustrated in the final section, along with adapting trillium to a garden habitat.

**Wednesday, April 16, Chris Hansen, Great Garden Plants, Holland, MI. *Goosebumps—New Plants.*** We look for it every year and here it is, the new plants for 2014 talk. If you want to get excited about plants, no one generates enthusiasm like Chris. After his talk you will want to run right out and find everything he talks about. Great Garden Plants was founded in 2007 by Mary Walters & Chris Hansen, industry veterans with a broad range of experience in plant breeding and introduction. Come join Chris for a fast-paced look at the most exciting new perennials, shrubs, & groundcovers. You'll see how Chris goes about visiting a wide variety of plant breeders, botanical gardens, backyard breeders, & universities in search of the next "Goosebump" plant for American gardeners. For more than 15 years, Chris has scoured the United States and Europe for the newest and best to introduce thru various online mail-order plant companies including Wayside Gardens and Terra-Nova Nursery. Chris guarantees "GOOSEBUMPS" as you enjoy a sneak preview of tantalizing new plants for 2014.

**Friday, May 16, 2014, *Volunteer to help setup for the WHPS Plant Sale.*** We'll have sign-up sheets starting in February. Your help working at plant digs, transporting plants to the sale site, helping to set up for the sale and working the day of the sale will assure the continued success of this key WHPS event. **Questions?** Contact Overall Plant Sale Coordinator Corrie Norman at corrienorman1959@yahoo.com.

**Saturday, May 17, 2014, 9-Noon, *Stop by the WHPS Plant Sale*** and find great buys on hundreds of perennials for sun and shade, woody plants ranging from vines to shrubs to trees. And there are always a few interesting annuals, bulbs and other gardening surprises!

**May 31, *Song Sparrow Nursery Buying Opportunity!***

**Sunday, June 1, 2014, *WHPS Buying Trip to Milwaukee Area***

**June 13-22, 2014, *WHPS Tour of Northern England.*** Contact WHPS President Frank Greer at frgreer@sbcglobal.net, 608-233-4686, for more information.

**Monday, July 14, 2014, *WHPS Tour of Gardens in Windsor***

**Monday, July 21, 2014, *WHPS Tour of Gardens in Black Earth/Mazomanie***

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Continued from previous page—**WHPS UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Saturday, August 9, 2014, WHPS Trip to Chicago Botanic Garden**

**Wednesday, August 20, 2014, Member Potluck and Evening Tour of Olbrich Gardens**

**Friday-Saturday-Sunday, September 12-14, 2014, WHPS Trip to Iowa**

**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. It is a cooperative program administered by Denver Botanic Gardens and Colorado State University in concert with horticulturists and nurseries throughout the Rocky Mountain region and beyond. 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 xMexicali penstemon that was 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.

**Wednesday, October 15, Mike Kintgen, Senior Horticulturist, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, CO. *Topic TBD.*** 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 since a young age have allowed him to observe alpinists 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 "Teaming with Microbes: The Organic Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web," reviewed as one of the most important garden books written in the past 25 years "and perhaps ever." It has revolutionized gardening for many of us and now he follows it with "Teaming with Nutrients". Just as he demystified the soil food web in his ground-breaking first book, in this new work Jeff 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. Jeff Lowenfels is one of America's most engaging speakers. A trained lawyer with a bit of the Harvard Lampoon in him, he is not only engaging, but down right amusing and clever. Jeff is an international proponent of organics. Writing garden columns is Jeff's religion. His weekly column has appeared in the Anchorage Daily News for over 37 years, never missing a single week, even for vacations.

**Wednesday, December 10, 2014, WHPS Annual Meeting, Member Potpourri and Seed Exchange**

## **Corrie Norman New WHPS Director and 2014 Plant Sale Overall Coordinator**

I grew up in Georgia, went to college in Florida and then did graduate work in Boston and Europe before heading back South to teach. I had no experience of the Midwest except for marrying into a midwestern family until I moved to Madison with my husband in 2008.

I was excited about moving to Madison primarily because it's such a great food town. (My academic work often focuses on food and I've been a professional cook and food writer along the way.) But, as it turns out, I like snow, cheese with beer, fish fries, teaching Badgers, and gardening in zone 5a too.

My husband Jonathan (Grieser) and I bought an old cottage just far enough away from his work (he's the priest at Grace Episcopal downtown) and my work at UW and slowly we are trying to make progress on the house and garden. Since I'd been an avid vegetable gardener down South, I started out growing a lot of vegetables but soon figured out that it's more fun to go to Madison's farmers' markets (although I still baby a few favorite Italian and southern heirlooms). So I'm enjoying learning more about growing hardy plants.

WHPS has helped make putting roots down in Madison even more fun for me-- quite literally. I've been close to first in line at the Spring Plant Sale for the past three years and volunteered with set up as well. I'm excited about being more involved with the Plant Sale and WHPS. Stephanie and the team have done such a great job in the past and have set up things so well for me and other new team members that the sale will practically run itself.



Anyway, I have a lot of experience herding cats--again, literally: we share our home with four felines. Here's a photo of my "very-much-in-progress" three year old garden--at least, I hope it's making progress; I promise my organizational skills are better than it indicates so far!

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## **2014 Plant Sale Team**

**WHPS is pleased to announce your team for the 2014 Plant Sale:**

- Corrie Norman - Overall Sale Coordinator
- Linda Brazill - Arrangement of Plants for Sale and Pricing
- Judy Crandall - Coordinator of Holding Area
- Jan Blakeslee - Plant Signs Coordinator
- Jeannette Golden - Setup Day and Day of Sale Volunteer Coordinator
- Kathy Hauptert and Laurie Zimmerman - Cashier Coordinators
- Ellen Henningsen & Jim Gentry - Breaking Down Setup and End-of-Sale Cleanup
- Linda Marx - Dig Coordinator
- Diane Scharkey - Plant Sale Late Arrivals Table Coordinator
- Evelyn Shimshak - Physical Setup the Day Before the Sale



## A Message from Shelley Ryan



I wanted to take this season (and a slower time of year for most gardeners) to express my thanks to Master Gardener Volunteers, Extension Horticulture folks and Public Garden staff throughout Wisconsin for all their support of myself and *The Wisconsin Gardener* television series over the past many years.

We are coming up on the Garden Expo season, when I look forward to seeing many of you in person, (it's a gardening family

reunion!), but I will not be there this year and will greatly miss laughing, brainstorming and sharing with you.

As many of you know, I was originally diagnosed with breast cancer in 2008. I retired last January, 2013, when my cancer returned with a vengeance so that I could better focus on my

health. Friends and fellow gardeners say they see me on television on *The Wisconsin Gardener* and are happy to see how well I look.

Ahh, the illusion of television! Sadly the shows you see on-air are repeats. Production of new episodes of *The Wisconsin Gardener* ended with my retirement.

Physically, I am struggling now, my cancer has spread and I have visited the inside of the hospital more times than I'd like since retirement. I hope to be around for a while, but we have discontinued chemo and I'm enjoying the rest from that treatment for the moment.

However, it gives me a wonderful opportunity to say thanks to all of you for generously sharing your time, your ideas, and your gardens with me for the past 22 years. Thank you so very much, all of you, for a wonderful 22 years. Literally, I couldn't have done it without you.

With love and friendship,  
Shelley Ryan

## Friends and Fans Respond

*Shelley Ryan is a peer I have been privileged to call friend. She conceived the idea of The Wisconsin Gardener show and "sold" the idea to WPTV while she was volunteering at ACG 22 years ago. I had the chance to be part of it a number of times and I loved it for her down-to-earth style and practical questions and advice; it was the iconic gardening advice forum for Midwest Gardeners.*

—Ed Lyon, Director, Allen Centennial Gardens

*I met Shelley Ryan 20 years ago when I was asked to do a Master Gardener training video on landscape plants for use by Co-operative Extension in the Midwestern states. Shelley posed as a Master Gardener in asking questions and interacting with me. After that great success, I could never turn down her requests for me to appear with her on The Wisconsin Gardener. Shelley always claimed that I was so easy to work with. The opposite was really true, she was such a delight to work with!*

—Edward R. Hasselkus, Professor Emeritus,  
Horticulture, UW-Madison, Curator, Longenecker  
Horticultural Gardens

*Such sad news about Shelley. I worked with her at several Garden Expos over the years when I used to be seminar assistant. She was always so knowledgeable and gracious. I hope that she can be made comfortable. She remains one of my garden "heroines."*

—Terri Maliszewski-Kane, WHPS Director

*I first met Shelley Ryan in the early 1980's in the first years of the Dane Co. UW Extension Master Gardener program. It was immediately apparent that she was full of enthusiasm for gardening, had an abundance of personality and humor and was ambitious to share her love of gardening. She mentioned her idea of producing a Wisconsin Public Television gardening show and I thought, can someone really do that? Well, Shelley could and did, and the world of Wisconsin gardening was never the same. I was a guest on one show, and around the filming of several others, and it was such outright fun to be a part of the whole production. And people watching the episodes could feel*

*the humor and fun of gardening and learning about gardening with Shelley.*

—Ann Munson, Horticulture Assistant,  
Madison Area Master Gardener Association

*Shelley has not only become one of my best buddies, she was the best marketing force for encouraging and expanding gardening in Wisconsin and beyond. She also exposed Rotary Botanical Gardens (RBG) to a wider audience that ultimately have become visitors and supporters of RBG. I can't even count the number of times I heard, "We saw the gardens on Shelley's show..." from new visitors. Shelley has been a true force of nature!*

—Mark Dwyer, Director of Horticulture,  
Rotary Gardens

*I'm not sure if everyone knows that not only was The Wisconsin Gardener television show originally Shelley's idea and she made it happen, but the WPT Garden Expo was built on the success of the television show and Shelley played a key role in everything connected with the project. What wonderful gifts to all of us. Thanks, Shelley!*

—Jane LaFlash, WHPS Director

*I don't think I can go into an India-buffet restaurant in town without thinking of Shelley. She and I would always turn to one of those for some of our creative planning sessions.*

—Mike Maddox, Director, Wisconsin Master  
Gardener Program

*Shelley Ryan's Wisconsin Gardener has been a brilliant celebration of gardening in the state—the secret gardens, the nuggets of terrific info, the fun personalities, new plants, new pests, the amazing locations and businesses—the whole enchilada! And through it all, Shelley is the constant, leading the viewers' journey of discovery with her unique sense of humor and having a great time. There is nothing else like it. Here's to Shelley, my friend and mentor!*

—Lisa Johnson, Horticulture Educator, Dane County  
UWEX Horticulture Program

**Rotary Botanical Gardens Tour**  
**Gardens of American History**  
**August 15-24, 2014**

**Highlights:** New York City, New York Botanical Gardens, High Line Garden, Chanticleer Gardens, Philadelphia, Brandywine Valley, Longwood Gardens, Ladew Topiary Gardens, Shenandoah Valley, Monticello, Colonial Williamsburg, Washington, D.C., United States Botanic Garden, Hillwood Estate & Gardens, Dumbarton Oaks

**Cost:** Double - \$3,499; Single - \$4,699; Triple - \$3549

- Included in Price: Round Trip Air from OHare Intl Airport, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers
- Not included in price: Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$175 per person

**Day 1:** Friday, August 15, 2014 New York City, New York - Tour Begins Explore America's heritage, history and scenic gardens on this in-depth tour of the eastern United States. An RHS specialist will accompany you throughout your journey.

**Day 2:** Saturday, August 16, 2014 New York City Start your trip with exclusive early access to the New York Botanical Garden. Board a private tram and enjoy a narrated tour through the 250 acre grounds. Stops include a visit to the Nolen Greenhouses, not open to the public, and the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory for a guided "ecotour" of this Victorian-style glasshouse. Then, take in some of the landmarks of Manhattan as you journey to the High Line garden. The High Line is a non-profit conservancy built on a historic raised freight rail line which was slated for demolition, saved, and turned into a spectacular public space. This evening, enjoy dinner with your fellow passengers.

**Day 3:** Sunday, August 17, 2014 New York City - Wayne, Pennsylvania - Philadelphia Depart New York and travel to Wayne to visit Chanticleer Gardens, also known as the Pleasure Garden. Next, travel to "the Birthplace of a New Nation," Philadelphia. Embark on a tour of the city, known for its art and culture. See what gardens this city has to offer. In addition, take in the outdoor sculptures and murals, the most within any American city.

**Day 4:** Monday, August 18, 2014 Philadelphia - Brandywine Valley Your day begins in the beautiful Brandywine Valley and the impressive Longwood Gardens, an internationally-renowned center of horticultural excellence covering 1,050 colorful acres. Enjoy a privately-guided tour of their greenhouse and gain an insider's perspective on their research and production facility.

**Day 5:** Tuesday, August 19, 2014 Philadelphia - Monkton, Maryland - Shenandoah Valley, Virginia Journey to Monkton and the Ladew Topiary Gardens to see Harvey S. Ladew's 15 thematic "garden rooms" on this 250 acre property. Enjoy a tour of the Manor House guided by a local expert as well as a tour of the extraordinary topiary gardens with Ladew's Head of Gardens. This afternoon, travel to Shenandoah National Park via the Skyline Drive. This famous roadway runs along the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains where scenic expanses of the Shenandoah Valley wilderness extend in all directions.

**Day 6:** Wednesday, August 20, 2014 Shenandoah Valley - Charlottesville - Williamsburg Visit Monticello, the beautiful home and gardens of Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson was not only the third U.S. President and author of the Declaration of Independence... he also had a lifelong interest in gardening and botany. As a result, Jefferson turned Monticello into a botanic showpiece. Enjoy a guided tour of Jefferson's home and explore the gardens with a Master Gardener. This afternoon, arrive in the historic town of Williamsburg.

**Day 7:** Thursday, August 21, 2014 Colonial Williamsburg Spend the day exploring Colonial Williamsburg, one of the largest and best living history museums in the world. A horticultural expert member of staff from Colonial Williamsburg guides you through their gardens of gentility, a great illustration of how gardens reflected the lifestyles and ideals of people living in this 18th-century town.

**Day 8:** Friday, August 22, 2014 Williamsburg - Washington, D.C. Travel to Washington, D.C. and visit the United States Botanic Garden. This garden was established by the U.S. Congress in 1820 and is one of the oldest botanic gardens in North America.

**Day 9:** Saturday, August 23, 2014 Washington, D.C. Begin your day by exploring Hillwood Estate and Gardens This afternoon, journey to the historic estate of Dumbarton Oaks\*. A local expert will lead you through a tour of the 26-acre estate – including the Ondine Garden and the Dell areas not open to the public. Toast the end of a wonderful trip this evening at a farewell dinner.

**Day 10:** Sunday, August 24, 2014 Washington, D.C. - Tour Ends in Washington D.C.

**To download the complete brochure,** go to:  
<http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events/gardens-of-america>

**For important reservation information** visit:  
[www.collettevacations.com/link/59260](http://www.collettevacations.com/link/59260)

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## **Become a Master Gardener**

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Many of our members have become Master Gardeners. If you want to learn more about gardening and make yourself available to assist with gardening efforts in your community, you may want to participate in the Madison Area Master Gardener Program.

A Master Gardener Volunteer is an individual who provides service to his/her community by assisting people in addressing horticultural problems.

Any resident of Wisconsin 18 years or older is eligible to be a Master Gardener Volunteer. Potential Master Gardener Volunteers should be interested in horticulture (but a formal degree is not necessary), dependable, unbiased and open-minded, and willing to help people with their horticultural concerns. Participants are expected to provide volunteer service to their community. Although the program is statewide, some counties may choose not to offer the program.

Master Gardener training is offered through the local UWEX County Extension offices (training varies by location; not all counties offer all types of training). To participate, you must contact the office where you would like to take Level 1 training and follow their procedures if they are offering the program. (You do NOT need to reside in a county to participate in their program.)

To learn more about becoming a Master Gardener in our area, contact Lisa Johnson at the the UW-Extension Master Gardener Program, 608-224-3715; <http://dane.uwex.edu/horticulture/master-gardener/>

