



# Perennial Notes

January 2015

## 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 18, WHPS Potluck Brunch**, 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. Coffee, juice and lemonade will be provided. 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. *Special video presentation by John Fritsch and John Cannon of the WHPS England Garden Tour 2014.*

**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.* To sign up to work the WHPS booth and receive free admission to the Expo, contact WHPS Garden Expo Display Coordinator Eleanor Rodini at 608-576-7099, erodini@library.wisc.edu

**Wednesday, February 18, A Carex for Every Garden**, Jeff Epping, Director of Horticulture, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, [www.olbrich.org](http://www.olbrich.org), and Roy Diblik, Northwind Perennial Farm, <http://northwindperennialfarm.com/main.html>.

**Wednesday, March 18, Growing the Midwest Garden** (based on the book by the same title) Ed Lyon, Director, Reiman Gardens, <http://www.reimangardens.com/>

**Wednesday, April 15, Clematis**, Richard Hawke, Plant Evaluation Manager, Chicago Botanic Garden, [http://www.chicagobotanic.org/research/ornamental\\_plant\\_research/plant\\_evaluation](http://www.chicagobotanic.org/research/ornamental_plant_research/plant_evaluation)

**Friday, May 15, Setup Day for Plant Sale; Saturday, May 16, WHPS Plant Sale**, 9:00 a.m.-Noon, West Madison Agricultural Research Station, 8502 Mineral Point Road

**Saturday, May 30, 9:00-11:00 a.m., Song Sparrow Buying Trip**

**Tuesday, July 14, WHPS Evening Tour of Gardens in Maple Bluff**

**Thursday, July 23, WHPS Evening Tour of Gardens in Far West Madison area**

**Wednesday, August 19, WHPS Summer Potluck Dinner**, Olbrich Botanical Gardens

**Wednesday, September 16, On Design**, Dan Benarcik, Horticulturist, Chanticleer Garden, <http://www.chanticleergarden.org/>

**Wednesday, October 21, The Evening Garden**, Zannah Crowe, Horticulturist, Monches Farm, <http://www.monchesfarm.com/>

**Wednesday, November 18, Cool, Non-wimpy Plants You Haven't Heard of**, Joseph Tychonievich, author, *Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener* and a new book on rock gardens due in 2015, and former manager of Arrowhead Alpines, <http://www.greensparrowgardens.com/>



## 2015 WHPS Bus Trips

**Sunday, May 31: Green Bay**— Green Bay Botanical Garden, Garden Fair at GBBG, Mayflower Greenhouse, Rose Hill Gardens, and two private gardens

**Sat/Sun, June 27-28: Chicago**—Blumen Gardens Nursery, Gethsemane Garden Center, Garfield Park Conservatory, Grace-land Cemetery tour, Bloomingdale Trail, Bahai Temple, Millennium Park, and a private garden.

**NOTE:** Brochure for May and June trips will be out in early March for sign-up then. Destinations on all trips subject to change.

**The brochure for the Portland Trip July 30-August 4 was sent out the first week in January.** Registration opens Wednesday, January 21 at 9:00 a.m. CST, with a credit card deposit of \$200 required to secure your spot. Spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Other Events of Note

**Saturday, January 31 & Sunday, February 1**, Orchid Growers' Guild of Madison *Orchid Quest 2015 - New Venue: Madison Marriott West*, 1313 John Q. Hammons Drive, Middleton, FREE PARKING <https://www.facebook.com/OGG.Madison>

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

**March 7-22**, Olbrich Botanical Gardens *Spring Flower Show*, 10 a.m.-4:00 p.m. daily.

*Our Master Calendar for gardening events will be listed in the April newsletter. If you know of a plant sale, garden tour, garden walk, etc., please email Stephanie O'Neal at some2@aol.com by March 15, 2015.*



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

## Member Potpourri— From Drones to Waterfalls

WHPS members turned out December 10 for the Annual Meeting, Member Potpourri and Seed Exchange. As always, there were a wide range of presentations from members:

**-Norma & Mike Briggs** presented a drone's eye view of their Oregon garden. Members were impressed by the crisp, clear beauty of the images.

**-Stephanie O'Neal** showed a brief video with music tracing the 18-year development of her garden

**-John Cannon and John Fritsch** wowed with photos of recent travels, including spectacular waterfalls in the karst region of Croatia

**-Jane Gahlman** presented photos of her favorite garden in England, York Gate Garden

**-Marlette Larson** showed photos of her visit to the Dale Chihuly glass exhibit at the Denver Botanic Garden

**-Terry Watters** amazed members with his one-year transformation of the garden at The Old Lone Rock High School

**-Rita Thomas** has fallen in love with irises and presented beautiful photos of those she recommends

**-Frank Greer** showed photos of his garden travels, including the rarely open Abby Rockefeller Garden in Seal Harbor, Maine

**-Ed Lyon** gave everyone a view of Reiman Gardens at Iowa State University and discussed his plans starting in January 2015 as Director of the Gardens.

## New Directors Join WHPS Board

WHPS welcomes **Emily Buckingham** and **Caroline Bohler** to the Board!

You can meet Emily on the last page of this newsletter, and we'll learn more about Caroline, who owns Homegrown Flowers, in the April Newsletter.

We're very excited to have these new voices and perspectives on our Board as we constantly work to improve benefits to our members and grow our organization.

*If you would like to submit your name for consideration to serve on the board, contact Stephanie O'Neal at sone2@aol.com*

## Ed Lyon to Reiman Gardens

We learned in December that Board Director Ed Lyon has accepted the position of Director of Reiman Gardens at Iowa State University. We will miss Ed's amazing contributions to our programming and his generosity and creativity as Director of Allen Centennial Gardens. Ed will appear as speaker at our March 18 meeting, and we intend to take him up on his offer of a tour of Reiman Gardens soon. We wish Ed the best as he begins this new challenge.

## WHPS Membership and Treasurer's Report

### WHPS Membership

As of December 2014, the WHPS has 820 members (including 26 business memberships)

Wonder where all these people live? Here's a general breakdown:

Members who live out of Wisconsin - 29

Illinois - 22	New York - 1
Minnesota - 1	North Carolina - 1
Ohio - 2	Washington - 1
Nebraska - 1	

Members who live in Dane Co or a Nearby County

Dane Co - 606	Rock Co - 14
Iowa Co - 8	Green Co - 18
Columbia Co - 10	Jefferson Co - 15
Sauk Co - 6	

Members who live in Wisconsin but outside any of the above counties - 114

Of those who live in Dane Co - Where do they live?

Belleville - 1	Middleton - 41
Black Earth - 4	Monona - 18
Cambridge - 3	Mt. Horeb - 8
Cottage Grove - 7	Oregon - 28
Cross Plains - 2	Stoughton - 19
Deerfield - 1	Sun Prairie - 20
DeForest - 6	Verona - 20
Fitchburg - 24	Waunakee - 10
Madison - 363	Windsor - 2
Marshall - 2	
McFarland - 20	
Mazomanie - 6	

Jane LaFlash, Membership Coordinator

### Fiscal Year

16,175.37  
7,550.00  
66,730.00  
14,448.99  
6,346.00  
360.00  
**95,434.99**  
(6,500.00)  
(5,619.75)  
(1,010.00)  
(408.78)  
(121.94)  
(65,199.74)  
(12,539.13)  
(666.52)  
(605.77)  
(2,418.62)  
**(95,090.25)**  
16,520.11

### Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society

Beginning Balance Nov 1, 2013  
Income Membership Dues  
Income England  
Income Local trips  
Income Plant Sale  
Income Misc.  
**Total Income**  
Expenses Donations  
Expenses Speaker  
Expenses Non-speaker Programming  
Expenses Newsletter  
Expenses Office  
Expenses England Trip  
Expenses Local Trips  
Expenses Garden Expo  
Expenses Plant Sale  
Expenses Misc.  
**Total Expenses**  
Ending Balance, Bank Stmt. 10/31/2014

### NOTES:

- Misc Expenses include: projector, insurance, T-shirts, and a few small items
- As the board feels it is the society's best interest to use membership fees to benefit our members, donations are made with proceeds from our plant sale.
- There was both England income and expenses in the previous fiscal year. All money taken in was used for the England trip.

Respectively submitted  
Treasurer Diane Scharkey

## WHPS Tour de Jardin—June, 2014

What a special trip it was for the WHPS's 11th tour of English gardens, focusing on the northeast of England (Derbyshire, Yorkshire, and Northumberland) with its more rural and rugged countryside. Its highlights were made even more special by three—unanticipated—coinciding summer events.

None of the WHPS hardy souls (27 gardens in 9 days) realized before our arrival that the Tour de Jardin would reflect the rigors of the Tour de France. The "Grand Depart" occurred in Yorkshire a couple of weeks after our own grand departure. It was the most northern starting point for the bicycle race in history and only its second time in England. On our Tour de Jardin we repeatedly criss-crossed the route lined with strings of doll-sized, hand-knitted green, yellow and white/red polka dot jerseys. In addition, all along the route yellow painted old bicycles and bursts of yellow flowers were incorporated into roadside landscapes in some of the most unexpected places (like on the roof of a public loo). Our own "riders" also spent evenings recouping in Harrogate, the official ending point of the Grand Depart of the Tour de France, where we shared in the excitement of the local folks for the big race, as well as in their exuberant restoration of the city's central garden.

Another unexpected coincidence of the 2014 Tour de Jardin was the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I. In preparation for this event, in typical English fashion, the government distributed large quantities of red poppy seed for sprinkling across the green fields of England by local school children. The effect was stunning as we rolled across field after field decorated with dots and swaths of bright red poppies. As the poem goes, "In Flanders fields the poppies blow, Between the crosses, row on row...."

The third coinciding event of the summer of 2014 was the death of the Duchess of Devonshire (b. 1920), the savior of Chatsworth house and gardens. The last survivor of the six eccentric Mitford sisters (one of her sisters married a Nazi with Hitler in attendance), she was married to Andrew Cavendish, who became the Duke of Devonshire in 1950, inheriting a 35,000-acre post WWII run-down estate in Derbyshire. Surrounded by 105 acres of gardens designed by Capability Brown, the manor house had 297 rooms, with 68 bathrooms and 32 kitchens. Though the \$20 million inheritance tax (\$285 million in today's dollars) and huge maintenance costs were formidable, the estate was saved by the Duchess, who made it into a self-sustaining family business, essentially her life's work. (It did not actually generate its annual operating costs of \$6.5 million until 2002).

A number of the riders on this year's tour wondered why we bypassed Chatsworth on our route through the gardens of Derbyshire? It was clearly related to the Duchess's business acumen. On previous visits, yours truly was frustrated by the agony of traversing all 297 rooms of European decorative arts (absolutely no opportunity for shortcuts) before reaching the entrance to the garden, with its immense 18th century glass houses and perhaps the most renowned water cascade in England. All that wasted time that could have been spent in the magnificent garden and eating in the award-winning restaurant!

That brings us to perhaps the most memorable new garden of our 2014 tour, Alnwick (pronounced An-ic, rhymes with tanic). There are many things that make a memorable garden. Sometimes it is the colossal expanse with endless profusions of glorious color and architectural detail (think Chatsworth WITHOUT the 297 rooms), or a garden with a string of perfect jewel-like garden rooms (think York Gate, Yorkshire, or Hidcote, Gloucestershire), but sometimes it is the garden creators themselves that are the most unforgettable (think Christopher Lloyd or Beth Chatto). Alnwick Garden fits into the latter category.



Alnwick is figuratively a restored 12-acre kitchen garden. The August 2014 issue of *Gardens Illustrated* pays homage to restored walled kitchen gardens in England, which fell into neglect after WWI and all but disappeared after WWII. We visited a number of reinvented kitchen gardens on this trip, including Scampston Hall, Yorkshire, redesigned by the legendary Dutch plants man Piet Oudolf, featuring ribbons of grasses and large masses of single cultivars of distinctive perennial plants. On previous WHPS tours we visited restored kitchen gardens, including the ones in the famous Lost Garden of Heligan, Cornwall, West Dean Garden in Sussex, and Cottesbrooke Manor in Northamptonshire. However, the most innovative and thought provoking of all of these is Alnwick!

The garden is approached by a bit of a drive through the wild countryside of the far reaches of Northumbria, over steep hills and through valleys covered with heather and gorse—real English moorland. Imagine our surprise at the town of Alnwick, which rises up out of no where and is dominated by its dramatic, stereotypic Walt Disney-like castle (actually featured in the first two Harry Potter films). The castle has been the ancestral home of the Duke of Northumberland since 1309 and is the second largest inhabited castle in England today. The Duke of Northumberland's inherited wealth is exceeded only by the House of Windsor and the Duke of Devonshire (Chatsworth) among English aristocratic families. The castle grounds (120,000 acres), like Chatsworth, had been landscaped by Capability Brown in the 17th century—old Capability Brown, very capable indeed, who certainly made the rounds, to say nothing of the grounds!

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## WHPS Tour de Jardin

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The creation of the new garden began in 2000, thanks to the vision of the present duchess, born not into the British aristocracy (unlike Deborah Mitford Cavendish). When Jane Richard (age 21 years) married Ralph Percy in 1979, she had no idea of the fate in store for her. She certainly was not a gardener. Her fate was sealed when Ralph's older brother, who had inherited the estate in 1988, tragically committed suicide in 1995, without any direct heirs. Overnight, Jane, the adoring mother of four young children, became the 12th Duchess of Northumberland, taking up residence in Alnwick Castle. But this was to be no fairytale.

The castle's walled garden (12 acres) had been all but abandoned after WWII (like Chatsworth) and the duchess had the idea of reopening it with the urging and support of the Duke (little did HE know!). The local garden enthusiasts were very supportive of the restoration of the historic walled garden, clearly anticipating another Chatsworth, but the duchess had other ideas. In fact, she was quoted as saying at the time: *It's an unbelievable place and we can do something wonderful here. I think we can make this an extraordinary success. I'd like a garden where children can run around and touch things, no rules, with water everywhere—using the latest technology to make it move in the most exciting way. I've got a clear vision of how the Garden could be.*

Needless to say, Jane's vision was not what the local (as well as national) gardening enthusiast had in mind and her ideas were received with much controversy, criticism, and downright scorn. This was not to be another Chatsworth, despite her "moving water idea."

Though she had done some gardening at the family's first home in London, she began by seeking advice with site visits by such gardening notables as Tim Smit (Lost Garden of Heligan) and even the Prince of Wales himself. She interviewed countless landscape garden designers, water engineers and lighting designers to create her magical garden. But the most formidable task was raising the necessary funds. Who would expect the Duchess of one of the wealthiest families in England to walk around with a tin cup? And who in their right mind would drop anything into it? But, \$60 MILLION later...and the marriage did survive!

Imagine the outrage of English gardening society when Jane awarded the contract for the design to Jacques and Peter Wirz from Belgium and Louis Benech from France, who imported most of the plants from nurseries on the continent! But Jane was quoted in response to the negative commentary: *Why does everyone in this country respect the same dull British designers when others can do it ten times better?*

Well, I suspect by now you have some idea of why this garden, which opened Easter weekend in 2006, is so memorable and why it clearly made a lasting impression. Though we never got to meet Lady Jane (she was presumably away fund raising), her head gardener read us a personal note addressed to the group, thanks to Ed Hasselkus's former student (now deceased), Bruce Rigsby, a consultant and strong supporter of the garden.

Despite the snub, I think we all realized what a remarkable visionary she was, when upon entering the garden gate, the

first thing you encounter is a Krispy Kreme donut shop, and the second thing you see is a fish and chips walk-up window! Can you imagine anything more fun for kids, to say nothing of the world's largest tree house and a serpentine water garden featuring a dozen or so water sculptures which invite children in to play? Do you not realize this is a garden toured by children dressed in raincoats and wellies? That no where in this garden are there "keep off the grass" signs, and in the ornamental flower and vegetable gardens children are encouraged to pick the fruits and flowers? Is there such a garden anywhere else in the world?

There are many wonderful features in this garden, including the poison garden (more like a haunted house), a dark bamboo labyrinth, a rose garden, a cherry orchard, a reflective quiet garden and a senses garden. However, I could not write about this garden without commenting on the monumental cascade that does all but take your breath away. With a 7,260 gallon per minute flow, a series of 21 weirs stretching nearly a hundred yards, 158 timed erupting water jets, all completely outlined by a massive 40-foot-tall, fenestrated pergola composed of 1,000 *Carpinus betulus* (hornbeam) trees, it yet again welcomes children and adults alike to play in its oxymoronish pristineness. Though perhaps reminiscent of the grand cascade at Chatsworth, it truly thumbs its nose at the Duchess of Cavendish's more traditional cascade, where playing in the water is "strictly forbidden."

Though an example of contemporary gardening excellence, the Alnwick Garden is more than a garden with both a Disney World like feeling and a strong gardening educational component. It is a registered charity that places children at its heart. It attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors with their children and employs hundreds of people in this relatively depressed area, which could not be any further away from London and the prosperous southeast of England. And the vision continues—a children's adventure land is planned, a frozen grotto with ice sculptures, seasonal transformation of the cascade into a cascade of ice, both winter and summer light displays, and the vision goes on and on.

The monumental roadblocks and potholes that were thrown down as Lady Jane created her garden are immortalized by a quote at the entrance to the bamboo labyrinth: *Dead fish swim only downstream.* And my final, most treasured memory of this garden on our Tour de Jardin is the dozen or so miniature green and yellow John Deere toy earthmovers, joyfully ridden by children into the water at bottom of the grand cascade. Oh, wouldn't my grandkids have a ball!



—A. Hort Hound

P.S. If you want a good read: ***The Making of The Alnwick Garden*** by Ian August. August was *The Clerk of the Works of the Northumberland Estates*, a long-term employee of the Percy family, who assisted Lady Jane all along the way. It was published by Pavilion press in about 2007. Available on both U.S. and British Amazon for a song. (Or you can borrow my copy after Ed Hasselkus finishes reading it!)

## Caretaking for a Native American Burial Mound—In Your Garden

In 2008, the Wisconsin state archeologist was marking Native American burial mounds in my neighbor's yard at her request. I saw him in the backyard and he offered to mark the extension of the mounds into our yard. My husband and I were completely surprised to hear that these are burial mounds, as we were told when we bought the property in 1989 that they were not burial mounds but simple linear mounds.

The rules in the Burial Sites Preservation Program, as explained to us by the state archeologist, are that we may not dig on the sites, that trees may be cut down but no holes dug to replace them, that paths that are existing due to our previous lack of knowledge may remain but no new ones built or added. This caused a complete shift in my approach to gardening and maintenance of these areas.

Our double city lot is about 160' square with 20 large oaks and hickories and numerous smaller trees on it, and there are two mounds. One mound covers about 50' by 35', and the other 80' by 35'. I want to define the mounds naturally, with consideration of the people who created them.

So how do I maintain the area without letting it go to weeds? No digging, but I am allowed to use systemic plant poisons to control things like garlic mustard, bishop's weed and other undesirables.

I have researched native WI plants with the help of these books: *Our Native Plants* by Victoria Nuzzo, *Gardening in Shade* from AHS, *A Handbook of Native American Herbs* by Alma Hutchins, and *Woodland Gardening* by Richard



Bird. These books are available to borrow from the Olbrich Gardens Schumacher Library. I developed a list of plants that seemed to be indigenous to the area and might have been used by Native Americans when they visited this area of Monona in the spring and summer. Some of my choices have been made, as you'd expect, by what is growing happily already.

The more northern mound is largely shaded, so I decided to define it with Canadian wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*), as there were many clumps of ginger growing on the mound. I have been spreading the ginger by thinning it from other parts of the yard and laying it down on top of the ground with a handful of mulch. It doesn't take more than watering a couple of times to get it to take hold. It is a slow process, but it's working.



The southern mound gets more sun, due to the loss of several trees in the last ten years. It has been invaded by dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*) and "ditch daylilies" (*Hemerocallis fulva*). There are also many ostrich ferns (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*). I can't dig out the lilies, so I do give them a shot of Roundup regularly (whenever I have the sprayer out). Right now I don't seem to be making much headway, but I'm hoping the ferns will overwhelm the lilies. I will lay down more ginger on that area but will also sprinkle seeds of wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*), lobelia (*Lobelia cardinalis*), columbine (*Aquilegia canadense*), and Black Cohosh (*Actaea racemosa*).

Like most gardeners, I'm always looking for ideas. If you have suggestions, please let me know.

Some spring I will devote myself to getting the whole mound covered...but there are always the vegetable gardens, the front yard gardens, the grass and mowing, you know...

—Libby Howting,  
WHPS member from Monona

# Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Inc.



## January 2015 Newsletter

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

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

### Welcome Emily Buckingham to the WHPS Board of Directors

I was raised in the Fond du Lac area and graduated from UW-Whitewater with a degree in business. I work at Epic as an events manager, and recently celebrated my 10 year anniversary with the company.



My husband and I live with our dog on Madison's West side in a 50's ranch that has a generous city lot. Over the years, we've filled the yard with as many fruit trees and shrubs as we can fit, including pears, apples, plums, apricots, sweet cherries, raspberries, currants, and blueberries. We also use the square foot gardening method to grow many varieties of vegetables in raised beds. Someday soon we hope to buy land outside the city where we can expand our "orchard" and keep bees.

In 2012, I became a Master Gardener Volunteer, which both fueled my passion for gardening and opened my eyes to the many resources and volunteering opportunities available. When I'm not gardening, I enjoy reading, cooking, international travel, and playing violin with the Middleton Community Orchestra.

### 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](mailto:jmgahlman@hotmail.com), or call Jane at 608-837-2317 if you would like to buy one. Great for volunteers!

**Buy shirt; volunteer for Expo or Plant Sale; wear shirt**

*From December to March, there are for many of us three gardens—the garden outdoors, the garden of pots and bowls in the house, and the garden of the mind's eye.*

—Katherine S. White

### DUES FOR 2015

Just a reminder that those who owe dues for 2015 were sent a notice for renewal in December. In order to continue your membership, please return your dues form and payment by March 1, 2015.

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