



## WHPS COMING EVENTS!

**Wednesday, November 14, 2007**, Olbrich Gardens, 3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison, 6:30 p.m. social and *Seed Exchange*, 7:00 p.m. *Annual Meeting and Member Potpourri*.

**Wednesday, December 5, 2007**, Olbrich Gardens, 6:30 p.m. social, 7:00 p.m. program. *Guest speaker Mark Dwyer* horticulturist/landscaper for Janesville Rotary Gardens *will discuss plant combinations*.

**Sunday, January 20, 2008, Potluck Brunch**, Olbrich Gardens, 10:00 a.m.-noon. *WHPS President Frank Greer will show slides from Brookgreen Garden in South Carolina* ([www.brookgreen.org](http://www.brookgreen.org)).

**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 (contact info on back of newsletter).

**Upcoming Meetings/Events**—Meetings held at Olbrich Gardens, 6:30 p.m. social; 7:00 p.m. program.

- **Wednesday, February 20, 2008**, speaker TBD
- **Wednesday, March 19, 2008**, speaker TBD
- **Wednesday, April 16, 2008**, speaker TBD
- **Saturday, May 21, 2008 WHPS Plant Sale**
- **June 7-16 WHPSTrip to Ireland** (see itinerary and info starting on page 4)
- **Wednesday, August 20, 2008 Evening Potluck**
- **Wednesday, September 17, 2008**, speaker TBD
- **Saturday, September 20, 2008 Member Plant Exchange** at the home of Jan Minardi in Fitchburg
- **Wednesday, October 15, 2008**, speaker TBD
- **Wednesday, November 19, 2008, Annual Meeting, Seed Exchange and Member Potpourri**
- **Tuesday, December 9, 2008**, speaker TBD

### New Membership Coordinator

Jane LaFlash has taken over the duties of Membership Coordinator. If you have a change in your contact information (address, email, phone) or a question about your membership, please contact Jane at [jlaflash@wisc.edu](mailto:jlaflash@wisc.edu) or 243-1208. And if you know of someone who might be interested in joining, please let Jane know so she can send out a brochure and membership form.

And if you haven't yet given us an email address to use to contact you, please send it to Jane. It allows us to communicate much more quickly and efficiently with our members!

### November 14 Annual Meeting— Lots of Seeds and Lots to See

#### It's Member Potpourri Time!

Bring your photos to the November 14 meeting to share with Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society members. The November meeting will be focused on sharing photos that you've taken throughout the year.

You are welcome to bring prints, slides or digital photos.

Please contact Stephanie O'Neal at 608-256-6108 or e-mail [SONE2@aol.com](mailto:SONE2@aol.com) to let her know that you'll be bringing some pictures and what media you'll be using.

Plan to present for 5-10 minutes max. We will have a slide projector and a laptop computer with a projector available. *If you plan to bring digital images, please use .jpg format and bring them on a CD, DVD or USB Drive.* Please plan to arrive at the meeting 20-30 minutes early so that we may load the images onto the laptop. If you have any technical questions, you may contact Bill Hoernke at 608-235-1122.

We look forward to seeing the gardens that you saw through your lens.

**Member Seed Exchange**—great starts for your garden, from annuals to perennials. The WHPS Seed Exchange will be held at 6:30 p.m., just before the business meeting and members slide show, and at the end of the evening after the program.

We will spend a few minutes arranging the seeds and admiring them, then begin taking small amounts of those we are interested in. Small envelopes for storing seed will be provided, but remember to bring a pen for writing labels.

Come even if you don't contribute seed. There is usually enough for anyone interested. Extra seed will be available at the December and January meetings, and new contributions can be made at any time.

For a complete article with information on saving seed, go to the WHPS Web site at: <http://www.madison.com/communities/wisconsinhardyplantsociety/> Then look under the "Newsletter Articles" link, *2002 Seed Exchange FAQ*.

## Thank you to departing board members

As we close out this year we take a moment to thank those who are leaving the board after many years of service. They will all remain WHPS members and will continue to volunteer and be an integral part of WHPS.

Thank you **Sandy Allen**, who has been invaluable to the board as a coordinator of so many trips, for lending us for many years the use of The Pet Lodge for our plant sale and for her great enthusiasm in all things conifers—we can't look at a *Taxodium distichum* without thinking of Sandy!

Thank you **Phyllis Sanner**, for continuing to open your garden to WHPS members and for continuing to contribute wonderful plants from your garden to our plant sale.

Thank you **Mary Trewartha**, for your insights on key issues and for continuing to offer great assistance at our plant sale and with other events.

Thank you **Laurie Zimmerman**, for stepping in as treasurer three years ago, having just joined WHPS. Your efforts in keeping up with both the membership and the treasurer position in spite of a hectic personal schedule is very much appreciated! And as stated in the article at right, we'll continue to count on your good efforts with the plant sale and other activities.

### Would you like to become a member of the WHPS board?

We have some openings on our Board of Directors. If you think you may be interested in serving on the board, *now or in the future*, please contact Jane LaFlash at [jlafash@wisc.edu](mailto:jlafash@wisc.edu) or 243-1208.

### Other Plant/Garden Items of Note

**Dane County Farmers Market** continues through the winter indoors at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center starting November 10.

**Saturday, November 10, Herb Fair**, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Olbrich Gardens. Sponsored by Madison Herb Society.

**December 1-31, Olbrich's Holiday Express—Flower and Model Train Show**. Olbrich Gardens. Members free; \$3.00 General public, \$2.00 children 3-12.

**Janesville Rotary Gardens Winter Wonderland Walk**, December 7,8,9 14,15,16 21,22,23 26,27,28,29,30,31. 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville. 5:00-8:30 p.m. (last ticket sold at 8:15). \$6 adult; \$3 child.<http://www.rotarygardens.org/>

## About the Board—Laurie Zimmerman



*Where are you from?* I grew up in inner city Milwaukee and moved to Madison about 25 years ago. Seven years ago we moved to McFarland.

*How long have you been gardening?* Since I was little. I used to plant and weed the next door neighbor's garden, which was mostly annuals. Now, I try my best to design our

empty canvas of yard—it takes a lot of time and work but it's getting there. The WHPS garden tours have given me lots of inspiration.

*Earliest memory in the garden?* Planting marigolds. Yes, they were yellow.

*What do you do for a living?* I'm postmaster of the Deerfield, Wisconsin Post Office. I have a great crew and love spending time with my customers. I started at USPS thinking that I could bring them some hope (at the time, the public image was of a lot of disgruntled postal workers), but they have brought *me* much hope—it's a great place to work. Although it's a far cry from teaching high school math and art, which I did for many years.

*How long have you been a member of WHPS?* 3 years.

*How long have you served on the board?* Three years. I volunteered to be treasurer about three months after joining, thinking that it would be a good way to meet all the members, and it has been.

*Family?* I'm married and my husband Jim, who is the manager of Mounds Pet Food Warehouse on the East side, has been my rock and support for the last 20 years. We have two lovely daughters: Tesha, who is studying ethno botany at Mt. Holyoke college out east; and Sara, who will graduate from McFarland High School this year and will pursue a degree in journalism/photography/interior design.

*Pets?* We have a lovable but goofy Pembroke Welsh Corgi named Cari (short for Cariaad—Welsh for sweet-heart) She is very entertaining.

*Favorite hobbies outside of gardening?* I dabble in a lot of things—crocheting, knitting, drawing, calligraphy.

*Favorite garden visited?* I really don't have a favorite. Just show me any garden, and I'm in heaven.

*Laurie will be leaving the board at the end of the year and her treasurer's post as well. Thank you, Laurie for all of your hard work as treasurer. She will continue to work as a valued member of the WHPS Plant Sale team, keeping our checkout area running like clock work!*

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## The Neglected Garden (from the driveway)

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Well, it hasn't been totally neglected, thanks to an emergency crew of gardening friends who came one morning and pulled a truckload of weeds. Still, being laid up for a couple of months has left a lot of dangling ends: darn, I never got around to moving that big clump of Siberian Iris from behind the rose bush, or putting that little hosta more toward the front of the bed, or cutting back the asters one more time. And now the phlox and monarda are over and should be cut back; I wish I were able to get out there!

But, out here, this sunny day, sitting in my driveway in the electric go-cart, I see so much beauty, so much that is right. The results of good planning, I congratulate myself, though a lot of it's luck. Look at the Miscanthus out there, the tall zebrinus all feathered out at eight feet or more, with glossy red plumes waving above the banded leaves. I love the way those gold bands look like streaks of sun. What a back-ground! The shorter, almost-white striped ones haven't bloomed yet, but they make a big, cheerful greeting at the end of the drive. And I didn't know how well I chose when I picked up those little pale yellow single zinnias, with their brown eyes. They have filled out and fluffed up and made a sweet border under the massive grasses. I'll do that again!

And over there, the Belgian asters are blooming in a real color mass of rich blue, just like the books say. Closer inspection shows off their golden centers, which make the blue all the more alive, and they look all the richer in front of the bank of feathery grasses. Then there are the good old sedums. Back along the corner, two big ones, one three feet tall and a deep rose, with a full, overflowing pale mauve one in front, are just perfect under a spray of miscanthus. I adore sedums. They never disappoint—unless you don't plant enough of them. They don't mind a little shade, they don't need care, they will come along just fine in sand, gravel, or clay, filling in the fading garden in August and September with generous, fat leaves and full panicles of the most amazing colors, in any size you prefer. To top it off, they come back and get better every year! And such new colors: from here I can see a brilliant pink one, a deep wine, a rich dark red, and the white leaves and pink blooms of one of my old favorites. I am especially glad, this year of all years, that

I have invested in so many of them. They bloom throughout the whole front garden.

I love variegated leaves. The three *Iris Pallida* I put in this spring are doing fine on their well-drained mound, standing tall and white-spiked above several of the new peach-colored heucheras. That was a lucky combo. I hope Pallida survives the winter in this ideal spot; I've lost it so often, no doubt to poor drainage. Oh, that mound makes me think of all the brilliant red-and-yellow streaked tulips that are under there!

I am glad the tricyrtises have done so well on the front mound. This is their time of year. Their wands of speckled "orchids" back up the big tree peony, setting off its autumn-colored leaves. That was the perfect spot to settle them: feet in the shade, long stems in the sun, and small hostas to fill in below.

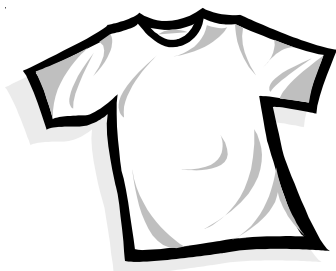
There are colchicums on the front berm, I can see them from here: tall lavender cups bunched together. I have to say, though, that the Begonia grandis are the showiest things of all right now. Standing three feet tall, taller and thicker than I have ever seen them, they crown the front garden with their pinky-green angel wings and huge, drooping panicles of little pink purses, just like the "blooming fools" in my grandma's kitchen when I was a kid. This crazy drouth-cum-flood summer must have been just right for them. Every little seedling must have grown, and now I will have more seedlings to share next year.

You bet I have fussed because I have had no control of what is happening out here, and worried that it would get out of hand entirely, but, strangely, that doesn't seem to be happening. Maybe it's because I can't get close enough to see the flaws, but it seems to me my garden has never looked lovelier. In spite of yellowing leaves and brown stems here and there, everything I can see from the driveway is beautiful. And that's a very healing thing.

—Joan Severa, Fall 2007

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## 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](mailto: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 info at the Nov. 14 WHPS meeting. Thanks!

—Jane Gahlman



## WHPS Goes to Southwest Ireland June 7-16, 2008

Following is a detailed itinerary. Cost and registration information is at the end of the itinerary.

WHPS has planned two tours of Ireland, one to be taken in 2008 concentrating on Southwest Ireland, followed by a second tour in 2010 which will encompass Northern Ireland, Dublin and the rest of County Wexford and Wicklow. These tours will be very different in flavor and atmosphere from the tours we've taken in Britain. Many more small gardens for the fun of it, rather than the large National Trust gardens surrounding stately homes, staffed by teams of gardeners. Several of these gardens will stock similar plants—but the charm of meeting the owners and head gardeners will make each visit special and individual. Ireland has probably changed more in the last ten years than in a few hundred, so take the chance to see it, whilst it still has its own unique Irish character. You'll fall in love with the people, the Irish coffees and, of course, the beautiful gardens.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 7**—On arrival you'll meet Grainne O'Mally, your Irish guide, who'll be with you all the way round. Grainne is not a horticulturalist—she'll leave the owners to show you their gardens—but she has many years experience working as a professional tour guide in her own country, and will be sure to teach you much about Ireland, and take good care of you, along with your Irish driver in his air-conditioned luxury coach.

As the U.S. flights arrive so early we've included three gardens today, all very relaxing to visit with very little walking, and all close to each other on the River Shannon estuary. We won't be able to check in until the afternoon, but will stop at our hotel to get the bags off so they'll be waiting in our rooms when we return later. If we have any extra time we'll offer a stop in Limerick town centre, where we recommend a visit to St. Marys Church of Ireland Cathedral (admission not included).

First we visit Glin ([www.glincastle.com](http://www.glincastle.com)) with Head Gardener Tom Wall. The Knight of Glin runs his home as a small exclusive hotel, but we can visit the formal garden behind the hotel and the productive walled garden, where all manner of fruit and veg are grown for the castle table. We continue a short distance to: Boyces Garden ([www.boycesgardens.com](http://www.boycesgardens.com)) for lunch with Phyl and Dick Boyce. This is a one-acre, award-winning garden containing many plants from the Southern Hemisphere, rockeries, herbaceous beds, a vegetable garden and greenhouse. Phil is a gardening correspondent, and she and Dick recently published a book, *Irish Gardening for All Seasons*. Our last visit today is to Knockpatrick ([www.limerickgardentrail.com](http://www.limerickgardentrail.com)), with Helen O'Brien (and spaniel). This is a family garden that's been in existence for more than 70 years. Three generations of the family have worked and developed the three-acre garden, which overlooks the estuary. Helen and Tim have been expanding on the traditional collection of camellias and azaleas that thrive in the acid soil by adding exotics and perennials.

We'll overnight at the Radisson SAS ([www.limerick.radissonsas.com](http://www.limerick.radissonsas.com)), located some two miles

from Limerick town centre. The hotel is set back from the main road in landscaped gardens and has an award-winning restaurant. We include dinner this evening.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 8**—Take it easy with the black pudding at breakfast, as we are setting off to tour of the Ring of Kerry. We won't be the only ones doing this, but no visit to southwest Ireland would be complete without taking this world-famous scenic tour around the coastline of County Kerry. If the weather is kind, you'll have sweeping views out to sea and inland to Macgillycuddy's Reeks, which have a grandeur out of all proportion to their height. Much of this wonderful scenery is contained within the Killarney National Park.

Grainne will find us a coffee and loo stop somewhere, before we arrive at Derrynane ([www.heritageireland.com](http://www.heritageireland.com), same website for Muckcross and Ilnacullin) for lunch. We've included homemade soup and apple crumble with cream. We'll have a tour with James O'Shea, head gardener for nearly 30 years. Derrynane wouldn't claim to have one of the great gardens of Ireland, but as it's so conveniently located just minutes from our route we thought it the perfect lunch stop, and this modest man is keen to show you what he has achieved in clawing this garden back from the dead, with help only this last ten years.

Further along the route we stop at Sneem for you to peep into the Garden of the Senses! Our last stop is at Muckross Abbey to see the Walled Garden (just a wander on your own). We have included a Jaunting Car ride and walk to a waterfall, part of the essential visitor experience when in Killarney ([www.killarneyjauntingcars.com](http://www.killarneyjauntingcars.com)), no translation provided. We'll overnight at The Malton ([www.themalton.com](http://www.themalton.com)), a large Victorian hotel in Killarney town centre that's been welcoming visitors since 1854. Dinner included. You may even get a chance to hear some Irish music tonight!

**MONDAY, JUNE 9**—First we visit Derreen with Head Gardener Jacky Ward (subject to availability), whose father was head gardener before him. The 5<sup>th</sup> Marquis of Lansdowne planted 400 acres of woodland to shelter a collection of shrubs and specimen trees, many of them brought back from his sojourns as Viceroy of India and Governor General of Canada. The estate, now owned by the Hon. David Bigham, is in the same family. This is a large domain with subtropical conditions where exotic trees and shrubs flourish, its most famous feature being the large number of Dicksonia Antarctica tree ferns.

Next on to Ilnacullin / Garinish Island (37 acres), including return boat trip. Head Gardener Finnbar O'Sullivan will take us round this small island of 37 acres known to horticulturalists all over the world as a garden of rare beauty. The gardens owe their existence to the creative partnership of Annan Bryce (the then owner) and Harold Peto. We cross to the island on a small ferry boat past basking seals. Next, Bantry House ([www.bantryhouse.com](http://www.bantryhouse.com)), where Mr. Shelswell-White hopes to greet you. This house and garden have been in his family since the mid 1700's,

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when Richard White bought it from the Earl of Anglesea. Theirs is one of the finer gardens in the country, being imaginatively restored and revamped by the enthusiastic family after almost sixty years of neglect. The restoration started in earnest ten years ago. The Martime ([www.themaritime.com](http://www.themaritime.com)), our hotel for the next two nights, lies just underneath Bantry House, located on the waterfront just a few minutes stroll from town. The hotel is decorated in contemporary style, with smart air-conditioned rooms. We include dinner this evening.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 10**—Our first visit is to Carraig Abhainn Gardens, a tranquil and relaxing two-acre garden in a woodland setting surrounded by a river and mill stream and accessible only by unique bridges. Other features include a wetland garden and natural rock garden. Next to Kilravock ([www.kilravockgardens.com](http://www.kilravockgardens.com)). This two-acre terraced garden is home to collections of sorbus, acers, tree ferns, hostas and restios. Enjoy the contrast of the cool woodland to the hot Mediterranean Garden. The garden has been featured on Irish and American TV. Free time for lunch at the pub in Durrus!

Lastly, we'll visit Cois Cuain ([www.aseasidegarden.net](http://www.aseasidegarden.net)). Mary and Bob Walsh may have had to use a pick axe rather than a spade to plant in their garden, but growing conditions are incredible. Little paths wind between features, allowing you to admire the myriad tender and unusual plants. These paths lead to viewing points, with seats made of driftwood where you can sit and drink in the glorious scenery. You'll meet the owners of these three gardens and there may even be some free time in Bantry later this afternoon! Back to the Maritime. We haven't included dinner, to allow you the opportunity to go out for supper in one of the many charming pubs or restaurants just a few minutes walk from the hotel.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11**—Glebe Gardens ([www.glebegardens.com](http://www.glebegardens.com)), with Jean Perry. Glebe have created a new courtyard garden and redesigned their potager and herb garden. With interesting plantings, as well as the amphitheatre and meadow, there is something for everyone. Five acres of tranquillity overlooking the seas. There's a café, and plants are for sale. We'll next visit the 20-acre Lisselan Estate Gardens ([www.lisselan.com](http://www.lisselan.com)) with the Head Gardener. Designed in the 1800's, it's a beautifully sculpted garden set in the valley, with the river flowing throughout. Flagstone pathways and rustic bridges add character and charm to this Robinsonian garden.

On to Lakemount with tea and cake ([www.lakemountgardens.com](http://www.lakemountgardens.com)) and a tour with Brian Cross, the "High Priest" of Cork horticulture (and two spaniels...). Brian and Rose's garden has been a winner of the Shamrock All Ireland Gardens Competition many times, and he is now a member of the judging panel. Perched in a village above Cork city, this two-acre garden revels in bold flower and foliage, colour and architectural shapes. You can be sure to find the latest must-have plants in divine conditions. Brian was very helpful to us in planning our itinerary and recommended our last visit of the day to Maraid Harty at Poolacurry. The 18<sup>th</sup> century house is now surrounded by a

ten-year-old garden. Mrs. Harty has created a wonderful semi-formal garden with Brian Cross's help. Summer is glorious, with both old and modern roses in endless varieties. Long paths with mill stones are overhung with acers. A gravel garden has bulbs and grasses. The tree fern is underplanted with moisture-loving plants, and there's a wild meadow.

Our next two nights are at the newly rebuilt Jurys Cork, with a sense of luxury throughout and interior space taking full advantage of its riverside backdrop. Bedrooms enjoy superb views of St. Finbarrs Cathedral, University College Cork and the medieval street and cityscape. ([www.jurysdoyle.com/cork](http://www.jurysdoyle.com/cork)). Dinner tonight at Hyrts Cork.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 12**—Annes Grove ([www.annesgrovegardens.com](http://www.annesgrovegardens.com)) guided tour, probably by Patrick Annesley. Annes Grove has many blessings, among them a long history in which generations of the Annesley family have enhanced the gardens, plus a happy freak of nature which offers both lime and acid conditions in a sublime location. Within 30 acres of pleasure grounds is the walled garden with a curious viewing mount. Later additions include a double herbaceous border. The ornamental glen was first planted in the 1770's in the Robinsonian manner, and some rhododendrons were grown from seeds collected by Frank Kingdon-Ward. A new fernery is being created at the end of a woodland walk.

Ballymaloe Cookery School Gardens ([www.cookingisfun.ie](http://www.cookingisfun.ie)) The gardens date back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and have been carefully restored. The outstanding herb garden, with its array of culinary and medicinal plants, is the largest in Ireland. Other attractions include the formal vegetable and fruit gardens, Celtic maze and pond garden. All are managed organically. We include a three-course gourmet lunch (not including wine) at Ballymaloe ([www.ballymaloehouse.ie](http://www.ballymaloehouse.ie)), part of an old Geraldine Castle which has been rebuilt and modernised, located in the middle of a 400-acre farm. It is owned and run by the Allen family and is now established as one of Ireland's best restaurants. The food is based on the produce of the farm, gardens and surrounding district. It has won many awards (and has a nice shop – but don't tell Frank!).

After lunch, we'll visit Cedar Lodge with Neil Williams. An award-winning garden of two acres, specialising in rare and unusual plants, with mixed borders of shrubs and herbaceous perennials. Special features include a large bed of exotic grasses, a 100-foot pergola draped with climbers, and a "figure of eight" pond with rockery and bog garden. A profusion of colourful shrubs and herbaceous beds keep the garden interesting throughout the year. Our last garden of the day will be Fox Covert with the owner. This garden is on a quiet lane just outside Cork and is full of colorful flowers and shrubs and is held together by a lacework skeleton of white-barked betula and solid stone walls. Despite the relatively small size of the garden there are secret spots, little tunnels of greenery that you have to go through in order to see more and discover surprises!

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Return to Jurys for bed and full breakfast only. After lunch at Ballymaloe we expect you may only want a light supper so have allowed you free time for a quiet evening with room service, or a rowdy evening at a pub in Cork city!

**FRIDAY, JUNE 13—Hillside**

(www.hillsidegardens.org) with Mary Byrne, owner and golfing supremo! The garden is a mature, sloping woodland garden of four acres. It has won the National Award for large gardens 1996-2000 and is filled with rare and unusual tender plants. There are two ponds, a rockery with waterfall, scree beds and gravel areas, mixed borders and alpiners.

Then on to Ballyvolane (www.ballyvolanehouse.ie) with tea and cake. This garden is a mixture of mature deciduous trees, formal, semi-formal and a walled and woodland garden, originally laid out in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The planting was undertaken by Thomas Pennefeather, a cousin of the Pyne family, who came to stay for a fortnight and remained forty years as land agent. We'll have time to grab a sandwich in Lismore village, probably around early afternoon.

We'll then visit Lismore Castle Garden (www.lismorecastle.com), hopefully with the head gardener. The gardens are set in seven acres within the 17<sup>th</sup> century outer defensive walls and have spectacular views of the castle and surrounding countryside. You'll discover contemporary sculpture, and a herbaceous border gives an impressive show of colour through the summer months. The upper enclosure dates from the 1620's, with typical Jacobean raised terraces for strolling. Lismore is the Irish home of the Dukes of Devonshire. We can recommend the ice creams here and there's a beautiful place to sit and eat them!

The next two nights we'll spend in Wexford at The Talbot Hotel (www.talbothotel.ie) on dinner bed and breakfast basis. Overlooking the quay in the heart of Wexford, the Talbot dates back to 1905, but has been extensively rebuilt and renovated.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 14—Four gardens today!** Woodville with Gerald Roche, founder member of the famed Wexford Garden and Flower club. The Roches started work on the garden in 1951. For all its natural look Mr. Roche has counted plants of 37 countries in the wood and water garden. The Victorian walled garden is full to bursting with great plants Coolaught with the Deacons. Winner of Best in Wexford 2005, this country garden is home to many unusual plants. Features include a front garden layout unchanged in 100 years, a fragrant rose and clematis pergola and a laburnum walk to a heavily under-planted orchard and Egyptian garden. Planting of a new 1.5 acre woodland garden continues.

Wickow (www.visitwickow.ie), includes Tombrick. Free time for lunch in Enniscourthy, then to Tombrick, with Walter Kelly and his ornamental poultry. This garden is part of a working farm overlooking the River Slaney. It extends to 1.5 acres of trees, shrubs and perennials. Winding gravel paths lead to a large duck pond, decoratively planted. A winner in 2006 of the Viking/Irish Garden Award. On to the Bay

Garden (www.thebaygarden.com) for tea and bickies (dont get excited, these are just cookies) with Frances and Iain Macdonald, who have designed and built many gardens around Ireland. They contribute to various TV and radio series, offer lectures, and Frances is a judge in the All Ireland Gardens Competition. This garden has six stunning compartmentalised designs, each offering a complete change of mood, with the real attention grabber being the Barn Garden, planted in prairie style. Frances was a big help planning this day. Dinner again tonight.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 15—Mount Congreve** with Michael White, the curator. This represents gardening on a very grand scale indeed. And in early summer the 100-acre demesne is surely one of the wonders of the floral world. The estate overlooks a bend in the River Suir, and the wooded hillside provides perfect growing conditions for more than 300 types of rhododendron and 250 types of Japanese maple. The walled garden evokes previous eras, with greenhouses dedicated to growing nectarines, grapes and flowers for the house, along with collections of exotic plants.

We'll next visit Terra Nova, with Deborah Begley. This is a smaller and more intimate garden, covering half an acre and started in 1933. It is full of rare and interesting plants, many of which can be purchased from the small mail order nursery operating from within the garden. The garden is packed with rare wild plants from the Himalayas, Japan and China. Terra Nova (www.terravanovaplants.com) won the Viking/Irish Garden Award for Top Garden in Ireland in 2005.

For our last night we return to the Radisson SAS near Limerick, but dinner will be taken at Knappogue Castle Medieval Banquet, and we'll arrive 45 minutes early to enjoy free time in the newly restored 10<sup>th</sup> century walled garden, set against the beautiful backdrop of the castle (www.shannonheritage.com).

**MONDAY, JUNE 16—Transfer back to Shannon** for your flight home. We include one transfer only.

**The tour includes:** all entrances as above, services of Irish guide, air-conditioned coach with loo, portorage of ONE bag per person at hotels, dining room tips, two lunches (one of these a three-course culinary epic at the world famous Ballymaloe), full cooked breakfasts throughout and seven dinners, one of which will be your last night at Knappogue Castle with Irish music.

**The cost—**provided there are 30 participants—1390 Euros, which on Oct 7, 2007, is equivalent to approximately \$2000. Single-room supplement is 220 euros, or \$325. Please note, as this costing is in Euros—which is what we have to actually pay—the cost is likely to be a little higher if the current relationship between the Euro and dollar continue. Note: this does not include airfare to Shannon airport—somewhere between \$750 and \$1000. There are a

continued on next page



## Garden fans from afar, unite!

by Barbara Blossom Ashmun (as originally published in the *Portland Tribune*, 8/21/07)

As I groom a few last roses, the big tour bus thunders up my street. It pulls to a stop, and I race down the driveway to greet my visitors. Thirty-four members of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society have flown here from Madison to spend five days touring Portland gardens and nurseries.

Gardeners in hats—cameras around their necks and big smiles on their faces—pur out of the bus like happy bees. "Welcome to my garden!" I say.

The visit I've been preparing for all week—deadheading, weeding and watering—now is in motion. I'm not dressed for photographs, since I've just been gardening, but everyone insists that tour guide Ed Hasselkus and I stand in the shade together so they can capture the moment.

Hasselkus slings his arm around my shoulder, I put my arm around his waist in a cozy pose, and the group clicks away. "We only just met. Is this a little too familiar?" I ask, laughing. "We're gardeners, we're friends," he says.

And that's the truth. Before long the visitors and I are chatting like long-lost cousins. The love of plants brings us together as a family. Excitement builds as they recognize familiar varieties of clematis they've grown in their own gardens. "Isn't that 'Rooguchi'?" a woman asks, pointing to a pendant purple clematis.

A man in a Hawaiian shirt recognizes the cutleaf alder and enunciates its name in botanical Latin, *Alnus glutinosa* 'Imperialis'. When gardeners declaim the names of their beloved plant, it's like know the words to a favorite Beatles song. Warm feelings arise through this shared passion.

We may not know the details of one another's lives, but we recognize that we are members of the same tribe, the plant nerds. It doesn't matter that we live in different regions, or that our ages range from 30 to 80. We are all in this consuming hobby together.

"Is that your stash?" a white-haired woman asks. She points to dozens of potted trees, shrubs and perennials sitting on the patio, which has become a holding area for plants I've collected for years. Someday I will plant them in the garden, but meanwhile I pot them up into larger and larger containers until I find the right spots.

"Yes, and there are some other stashes in the potting shed, and on the bench in front of the shed, too," I confess. The woman laughs with sympathetic understanding. At ease with this compelling obsession, we will never join a 12-step group for plant addicts.

### Our gentle winters are exotic

The group is most smitten with my assortment of hebes, probably because they simply can't winter over in Wisconsin. It's always what you can't grow that you covet. The one they like best is 'Amy', with glossy dark leaves and purple flowers.

I tried every hebe I could get my hands on, and they all died," says a man who looks like Clark Gable, without the mustache. "It's only the last few years, as our weather has gotten milder, that I can winter them over," I say, trying to console him. I silently count my blessings for living in the temperate Pacific Northwest.

Another big hit is the flowering pomegranate, exploding with showy orange flowers. "I'm sure it's not hardy for us, but maybe I can grow it in a pot and take it in for the winter," Clark Gable says.

### Brief bloom is worth it

That's the way it goes. We'll find any way to grow a plant, even if just for the summer. It's such a thrill to watch these bright blossoms unfurl that even where it's not hardy, gardeners will drag pots in and out of the greenhouse, the basement, the garage—whatever it takes.

Many gardeners own handtrucks and bungee cords just for this purpose. I've learned to walk heavy pots of dahlias and agaves, very slowly, rocking them from one side to the other, as I move them into the greenhouse each fall.

I ask my guests what they can grow well in the Midwest. Daylilies are very hardy there, and so are lilacs. "You'll have to come and see our lilac collection some time," Hasselkus says. "What I'd really love is to go on a garden tour with your group," I reply.

Each year the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society travels either overseas or to an American destination. I'm ready to hit the road with these new friends.

*Look for a WHPS perspective on the Portland trip in the January newsletter.*

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### WHPS to Ireland—continued



number of nonstop flights from O'Hare which arrive at 7:00 a.m. or earlier.

If you are interested and would like to reserve a space for yourself, please send a check for \$200 made out to WHPS to Frank Greer, 925 Waban Hill, Madison, WI 53711. If you have questions, email Frank at [frgreer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:frgreer@sbcglobal.net) or call 608-233-4686 evenings.

Note: trip does not include tips to guide or driver.

PLEASE note: making arrangements in Ireland is an "interesting experience." It may be that one or two of these gardens/owners may not be available to visit next year but suitable substitutions will be made. Well try and let you know of any changes/alterations.

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

**A tip to carry the garden through winter**

Here's a great tip to make a long-lasting winter container that stands up to the elements. Wedge chicken wire in the container (with rocks in the bottom if the container is lightweight) and then arrange cuttings from ornamental grasses, red and yellow twig dogwood, evergreens or any other plant cuttings that will last. You'll have a great display to remind you of this beautiful fall and the promise of spring to come.

**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.

**Recipe from Portland**

While on our Portland, Oregon trip, Barb Berend's daughter, who lives in Portland, brought us some brownies. We of course loved them and there were many requests for the recipe.

**German Chocolate Bars (Barb Berend's daughter)**

2/3 c. butter  
1 pkg. Betty Crocker SuperMoist German Chocolate Cake mix  
1 cup semisweet chocolate chips (I think she may have used dark chocolate?)  
1 tub coconut pecan ready-spread frosting  
1/4 cup milk

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly spray bottom of 9" x 13" pan. Cut butter into cake mix. Blend together with fork. Press 2 ½ cups of cake mixture into greased pan and bake for 10 min. Mix remaining batter and 1/4 cup milk.

Remove from oven and sprinkle with chocolate chips. Drop frosting over chocolate chips by spoonfuls and then batter/milk mixture.

Bake for 25-30 min., or until the cake portion is slightly dry to touch; cool completely. Cover and refrigerate until firm. Cut into bars and refrigerate any remaining bars.

—Jill Hynum

**WHPS Web site: [www.madison.com/communities/wisconsinhardyplantsociety/](http://www.madison.com/communities/wisconsinhardyplantsociety/)**

*Wisconsin Hardy  
Plant Society*



**November 2007  
Newsletter  
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**Someone you know interested in joining WHPS/have a question about your membership?**

Contact Jane LaFlash at whps05@yahoo.com, 243-1208