



Perennial Notes

November 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.

Wednesday, November 18, *Cool, Non-wimpy Plants You Haven't Heard of*, with Joseph Tychonievich. There are tons of plants you've never heard of or never grown in your garden. Problem is, most of them you've not grown for a reason: either they're just not that pretty, or they're not good growers. In this talk, Tychonievich will introduce you to some of his favorite super-cool, super-low-drama plants that will be a dependable, beautiful addition to your garden, along with some tips and ideas on where to find other great plants worth trying.



A life-long gardener and lover of plants, Joseph earned his BS in horticulture from Ohio State University, went on to work for Shibamichi Honten Nursery in Saitama, Japan, has been a repeated guest on Public radio's food show *The Splendid Table*, wrote a book, *Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener* (Timber Press, 2013), spent two years working at the famed rare plants nursery Arrowhead Alpines, and was named by *Organic Gardening Magazine* as one of "...six young horticulturists who are helping to shape how America gardens." Currently Joseph lives and gardens with his husband and an adorable black cat in SE Michigan and is working on his second book, on rock gardening, due out the summer of 2016.

Wednesday, December 2, *Annual Meeting, Member Potpourri and Seed Exchange*. If you haven't attended the WHPS Annual Meeting, Seed Exchange and Member Potpourri, you've been missing a great opportunity to network with member gardeners, pick up some annual and perennial seeds, bulbs and tubers to store over the winter (http://www.wisconsinhardyplantsociety.com/documents/Seed_Exchange_FAQ_9-2002.pdf), and show/view photos/videos of member gardens and memorable gardens visited. *What photos will you show in December?* See page 3 for more info on how to participate.

Sunday, January 17, 2016, *WHPS Potluck Brunch and Winter Walk Through Olbrich Gardens*.

Friday-Sunday, February 12-14, 2016, *WHPS Booth at Garden Expo* and sponsor of speaker Roy Diblik, Northwind Perennial Farm.

Wednesday, February 17, 2016, *History of the Chicago Botanic Garden* with speaker Kris Jarantoski, Executive Vice President and Director, Chicago Botanic Garden. Over the last 43 years, the Chicago Botanic Garden has developed into one of the great botanic gardens of the world. This presentation will show photos of and describe the thought processes behind the evolution of the Botanic Garden, with a brief look into its future.



As Executive Vice President and Director of the Chicago Botanic Garden, Kris Jarantoski develops and directs the horticulture, plant collections, and facilities and planning of the Garden. He has worked at the Garden for 39 years.

Kris earned a B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, an M.S. in Ornamental Horticulture/Botany from the University of Minnesota-St. Paul, an M.B.A. in Business Management from Lake Forest Graduate School of Management, and is a graduate of the Museum Management Institute at the University of California-Berkeley. He has served the American Public Gardens Association as chair of the Awards and Collections Committees, as a member of the Board of Directors, and currently as a member of the Design & Planning and the Plant Collections Sections. He also serves on the Screening Committee of The Garden Conservancy. Among other awards, he has received the American Horticultural Society Professional Award, the Garden Club of America Distinguished Service Medal, the Arthur Hoyt Scott Medal and Award, the George Robert White Medal of Honor – Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and the American Public Gardens Association Honorary Life Member Award.
http://www.chicagobotanic.org/info/senior_staff/jarantoski

Wednesday, March 16, 2016, *Epimediums: Jewels of the Shade* with speaker Karen Perkins, Garden Vision Epimediums. Known by many as a simple ground cover for dry woodland shade, Epimediums are finally getting the appreciation that they deserve. This "perfect shade perennial" possesses a delicate beauty that belies its surprisingly tough, long-lasting nature. Karen will illustrate the many and varied types now commercially available, including some of the exciting new evergreen species from China. Characteristics, growth habit, growing and propagation, pests and diseases, and combining Epimediums with other shade perennials in the garden will also be addressed. We will even get a glimpse into the collecting trips to China made by Darrell Probst. Karen Perkins graduated from Cornell University with a B.S. in Floriculture and



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

WHPS Coming Events...continued from previous page

Ornamental Horticulture and from the University of Delaware with a Master of Science in Public Garden Management. She has worked/interned at several botanic gardens including: the Cornell Plantations, Longwood Gardens, The Arboretum at Flagstaff, Royal Botanic Gardens- Kew, England and Royal Botanic Gardens-- Edinburgh, Scotland. She served in the Education Department of the Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, MA for 17 years. Karen is currently the owner of Garden Vision Epimediums, a Massachusetts based mail order nursery, started by Darrell Probst, and offering over 170 species and varieties of Epimediums along with other choice companion shade perennials.
<http://www.epimediums.com/>

Wednesday, April 20, 2016, speaker **Angela Mason**, Associate Vice President, urban agriculture/Windy City Harvest

May 20, Setup Day; May 21 WHPS Plant Sale, 9:00 a.m.-noon. Can you contribute three plants? Do you have enough plants to host a Plant Dig? Contact Stephanie O'Neal at sone2@aol.com.

Saturday, May 14, Spring Buying Opportunity at Klehm's Song Sparrow Nursery, 8:00-11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, May 25, Tour of Fitchburg Gardens: Chris and Blaine Biedermann; Cherith and Roger Fish; Sarah and John Hasselkus

Thursday, June 23, Tour of McFarland Gardens: Todd and Wendy Meicher; Sue Okas; Carlene Rohde

Wednesday, June 29, Tour of Fitchburg/West Madison Gardens: Linda Brazill and Mark Golbach; Cindy Fillingame; Rita Thomas

Wednesday, August 17, WHPS Summer Potluck Dinner

Wednesday, September 21, Irvin Etienne, Horticultural Display Coordinator at Indianapolis Museum of Art

Sunday, September 18, WHPS Plant Exchange, Olbrich Gardens next to Children's Garden, 12:00-12:30 p.m. set out plants; 12:30-2:00 p.m. pick your free plants!

Wednesday, October 19, Program TBD

Wednesday, November 16, Program TBD



2016 Bus Trips

Monday, March 14, Chicago Flower and Garden Show. The brochure for this was sent out Oct 5 and is available on our website. We have places left on the bus for this trip with a registration deadline of Feb 15.

We will also be offering three one-day trips during the garden season. Each trip will include nurseries and public and private gardens in the southern Wisconsin/northern Illinois area. The dates are:

- **Wednesday, June 1**
- **Saturday, June 25**
- **Saturday, August 13** (this may become a two-day trip Aug 13/14)

The brochure and registration forms for these trips will be sent out in late March.

Other Upcoming Gardening Events of Note

Saturday, November 7, Madison Herb Society 33rd Annual Herb Fair. Admission free. This year's theme - *Herbal Wisdom*. Herbal vendors, lectures and demonstrations. Speakers: 9:00 a.m. Jane Hawley Stevens - Sage and Other Herbs for Memory Function; 11:30 a.m. Sharon Brockel - Herb Gardening: In and Out of the Container; 1:30 p.m. Anna Hill - Creating Specialty Pestos, Preserves and Sauces. **Sage Cookbook** available for purchase. www.madisonherbsociety.org

Saturday, November 7, Rotary Botanical Garden Fall Symposium, 9:00 am-4:00 pm Speakers will include: Joel Karsten, author of *Straw Bale Gardening* will speak on *Building an Outdoor Room*; Jeff Epping, Horticulture Director at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison, will speak and demonstrate *How to Properly Prune Shrubs*; Michael Gaffney, Founder of the American School of Floral Design and the author of **Design Star: Lessons from the New York School of Floral Design**, will speak about floral design while he creates 5-10 arrangements live. There will also be a book-signing. Registration coming soon. Questions? Contact Kris Koch, Education Coordinator, at 608-752-3885 ext. 17 or kris.koch@rotarygardens.org

Tuesday, November 17, Rotary Botanical Gardens Evening Garden Seminar - Late Season Interest, 6:30-8 pm, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events>

Wednesday, November 18, WHPS Program - 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/>

Wednesday, December 2, WHPS Annual Meeting, Member Potpourri and Seed Exchange, 6:30 p.m. Olbrich Gardens.

December - Rotary Botanical Gardens; Holiday Light Show and Wednesday, December 16, Evening Garden Seminar - Behind the Scenes: Holiday Light Show, 6:30-8 pm, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events>

December 2015 - Olbrich's Holiday Express - Flower and Model Train Show, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison. Twinkling lights, festive poinsettias, tiny landscapes, and large-scale model trains: all aboard for Olbrich's Holiday Express! Trains travel through miniature evergreen forests and colorful poinsettias as they make their way through a detailed landscape made of natural materials by Olbrich's horticulture staff. Daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., except Dec 24 (closes at 2pm) and closed Dec 25. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children ages 3-12 (OBS members free) and includes admission to the tropical Bolz Conservatory. Admission is free each Wednesday 10 a.m. to noon. For more information contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608) 246-4550.

Saturday-Sunday, January 30-31, 2016, Orchid Quest 2015. This annual mid-winter show and sale of the Madison Orchid Growers Guild will be from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Sunday at a new venue, Marriott West Conference Center, 1313 John Q. Hammons Dr., Middleton, WI. No parking fee. For more info call (608) 592-7906. <http://www.orchidguild.org/orchid-quest.html>

Feb 12-14, 2016 Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo, Exhibition Hall, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI. Hours are Fri 3:00-9:00, Sat 9:00-6:00, and Sun 10:00-4:00. <http://www.wigardenexpo.com/>

Kowal Garden Donation to Plant Sale

In September, WHPS received a lovely gift and great start for the 2016 Plant-Sale, courtesy of the estate of the late Robert “Bob” Kowal.



Kowal, age 76, of Madison, passed away on Monday, Aug. 3. Before retiring as a professor in the University of Wisconsin Department of Botany, Kowal regularly taught a high-enrollment introductory course on general botany to an entire generation of UW students, and he won the appreciation and fondness of many undergrad majors and graduate students (including many WHPS members) who took his advanced courses on spring flora of Wisconsin, dendrology, and plant morphology, taxonomy, and biogeography.

His laboratory and field research focused on plant taxonomy and evolution, particularly of the genus *Packera*, and he was nationally recognized for his expertise in the use of biomathematics to understand the genetic variability of natural plant populations.

Working collegially with many staffers, he long headed the Botany Garden on campus. His delight in plants was also shared with friends and Westmorland neighbors alike in his exuberant home garden, notable both for its ornaments and for the range of daylily, peony, and hosta cultivars.

It was in his home garden on September 1 that four WHPS members—myself, Caroline Bohler, Rita Thomas and Conrad Wrzesinski—spent the evening digging out 30 plants, including 10 shrubs and conifers and a couple of smaller tree peonies. We were very grateful for the excellent garden soil that made the digging easy. After the dig, we all tramped with the plants to Caroline’s garden and got them planted into the raised beds that she cleared for us the previous weekend.

WHPS would like to thank Robert Kowal’s brother Norman for allowing us to collect these plants and offer them at our Sale in 2016. Many thanks as well to Caroline, Rita and Conrad!

—Stephanie O’Neal

Member Potpourri Presentation Guide

If you’ve been taking pictures of your garden or other gardens visited this year, or if you have a special garden project you’ve documented and would like to show us, we welcome you to present at the December 2 Member Potpourri at Olbrich Gardens Commons.

You will have 10 minutes maximum to present, and you are welcome to present as many or as few photos as you wish. You don’t have to be a professional photographer or presenter to be a part of the Member Potpourri.

Please contact Stephanie O’Neal (sone2@aol.com, 608-256-6108) by December 1 so she can put you on the list to present your photos.

To avoid last-minute surprises and to prevent frustration and make it easier for presenters to show their images at the member Potpourri, please bring your images in one of these formats:

1. Images (with or without music) created as a Power-Point or program on a DVD or flash drive. These can be presented slide by slide or could play as an uninterrupted slideshow program.
2. A Quicktime or Windows Live Moviemaker presentation on a DVD or flash drive. This can be played with music or you can narrate.
3. Individual numbered image files in .JPEG format and saved onto a CD, DVD or flash drive. Add sequential numbers to each .JPEG at the front of each existing file name or number in the order you want to show them. [Example: 1.jpg, 2.jpg, 3.jpg, etc.] These images can then be easily loaded onto a laptop and projected one by one using a remote or as a slideshow.

We hope members will join the presenters for this always popular program.

And don’t forget to stop at the Seed Exchange before and after the program!

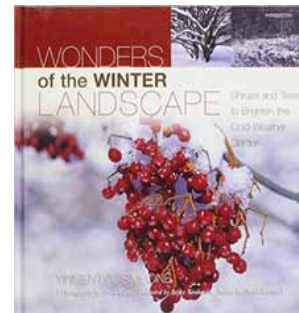
Enhancing the Winter Garden

As the growing season winds down, the weather turns colder, and we clean up dying herbaceous plants, it’s tempting to think of this as the end of the gardening season for the next five months. But given our cold climate and long winters, it would be a shame to fail to maximize enjoyment of this upcoming simpler, quieter time of year. A few years ago that’s exactly what I would have done. Then I came across two books that began to open my eyes to the possibilities of the winter garden. I reread parts of them every year for new inspiration. Even if you’re an old pro to this concept, these books might offer an idea or two.

The first book is **The Garden in Winter** by Suzy Bales. This book, filled with beautiful photographs, has lists of trees, grasses, and shrubs to plant for winter interest. It also has wonderful chapters on winter containers and decorating for winter, both in the garden and inside the house using materials gathered in the garden.



Last year I was inspired to create my own wreath using white pine branches gathered from my yard and one of these years I’m going to make ice globes. The second book is **Wonders of the Winter Landscape** by Vincent Simeone. It’s not quite as flashy as the first, but it has helpful descriptions of deciduous trees, shrubs, and evergreens along with their landscape uses and seasonal attributes. I pull it out when I’m looking to add a new tree to my yard. If you want a quick win without reading the whole book, there’s an appendix with the author’s ‘Top 15’ list of woody plants that offer the best multi-season interest.



—Emily Buckingham

Brown is a Color Too



Cutting back garden plants in the fall is a time-honored tradition for most gardeners who choose their plants based on flower color, size, and bloom time. However, when it comes to perennials, those factors are only relevant for a few weeks while the plant is in bloom. Perennials can play a much larger role in our gardens after they flower. Consider the following:

1) The structure of plants (seed heads, stems, etc.) will provide textural interest throughout the winter season. Everything from a light dusting to heavy blizzard will portray your garden

in a different way. Garden texture can also be brought indoors, and the possibilities are endless!

2) Are you a bird watcher? The seeds of your plants, particularly native species like Pale Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*) will be a treat for local birds such as Gold Finches, Chickadees, and more.

3) Consider how plants survive in the wild. There's no natural mechanism that, every November like clockwork, rolls through with hedge shears and slashes everything to the ground. Plants are designed to survive the winter with the past season's growth still attached. Come February (not November), most plant material will have been knocked down by snow, wind and ice. This old material can act as an insulator to the plant crown, protecting it from dry winter air.



4) Removing old plant material that shades the soil surface is like rolling out the red carpet for cool-season annual weeds like Lamium or Oxalis to invade in the spring. Try chopping old plant material with a mower or hedge shears and using it as mulch in the early spring, rather than haul it away. This has the added benefit of helping to feed the soil as last season's debris decomposes.

5) Finally, brown is a color too. When you begin to look at the beauty and diversity of fall color, you can arrange plants by their late fall colors; tope, terra cotta, sand, gold, red, teak, buff, black, silver, etc. This is not an approach employed by many gardeners, and to be successful, it will require a shift in thinking – learning to embrace decay and death as a healthy moment in the garden and a cycle of nature.



I challenge you to see your garden beyond the growing season and imagine new possibilities to create exciting new landscapes.

— Benjamin Futa, Director,

Beautifying the Gateway to Downtown Madison

*New Urban Park in Downtown Madison
Recruiting New Board Members*

October 25, 2015

Please stop by to enjoy the new Gateway Garden at the intersection of Williamson Street and John Nolen Drive in downtown Madison, one of three gardens maintained by Blair Street Gardens.

Transformed from a formal garden into a small park, the area now includes raised beds and retaining walls of limestone outcropping stones and native Wisconsin glacial boulders. Gravel walkways lead to a brick patio and stone seating. Plantings include oak trees, a coffee tree, serviceberries, sumac, asters, goldenrod, and over 100 little bluestem grasses. Next spring wooden benches will be installed, the walkways finished, and more perennials planted.

Blair Street Gardens Committee, Inc., a group of volunteers, has been maintaining this area, as well as two other public gardens near the intersection for 30 years. The core of the group is the five-member board of directors, who plan and maintain the three gardens. We are currently recruiting new board members for the term beginning March 1, 2016. Responsibilities include two Board meetings a year, responding to emails, and helping with spring, summer and fall gardening chores. Ideally, board members should live in the Marquette or First Settlement Neighborhoods (the neighborhoods in which the gardens are located). If you are interested, please contact Ellen Henningsen at orton@chorus.net or 608-256-1726.

The new Gateway Garden was made possible by many businesses and individuals, including the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, which donated \$500 toward the purchase of plant materials. Special thanks go to Avant Landscaping & Gardening, which donated its expertise and staff time to design the project and install the hardscape. Thanks also go to the MGE Foundation and in-kind donations from local businesses. Donors include: Avant Gardening & Landscaping, Inc., Barnes, Inc., Breezy Hill Nursery, City of Madison Neighborhood Grant, Johnson's Nursery, Jung's Garden Center, Madison Block & Stone, Madison Sand & Gravel, Midwest Decorative Stone, Moyer's Landscape Services, MGE Foundation, Proscapes, Struck & Irwin Fence, Tree Health Management, and the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society.

For photos of the new Gateway Garden, visit Blair Street Gardens' Website at www.blairstreetgardens.org, its Facebook page, or Avant's Facebook page.



**Blair Street Gardens
project on target for
completion Spring 2016**



Meet David Stevens

Stevens is the curator for the UW-Madison Arboretum's Longenecker Horticultural Gardens.

Growing up on the East Coast, first in New York and later in Northern Virginia, I was always drawn to the natural world and greenspaces. This draw eventually led me to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Horticulture at Virginia Tech and, later, a Master's degree in Horticulture at UW-Madison.



My career path has been a green one, starting with work on vegetable farms then leading to public gardens, greenhouse production and for the past 13 years, forest genetics and tree breeding with the UW-Madison Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology. Never able to get enough of a good thing, when not at work, I also run a diverse 130-acre certified organic farm with my wife Jane near Baraboo, WI.

I was first introduced to Longenecker Horticultural Gardens by my graduate school advisor and previous curator Professor Ed Hasselkus in 1991. I spent many hours in the gardens doing research for my master's project and have visited off and on through the years, always coming away with a sense of awe for the beauty, robustness, and diversity of the collection.

When the curator position was announced last January, I wasted no time in throwing my name into the hat of potential candidates for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work with the preeminent woody ornamental collection in the state. Since being awarded the position roughly six months ago, I have thrown my back into maintaining the collection through the growing season while becoming more intimately familiar with the specimens.

During the winter months I plan to continue to do needed work such as pruning, but will also shift my attention to creating an up to date, searchable database to better document both current and former plant specimens. Along with this, GPS way points will be assembled for all current specimens and eventually integrated into a searchable map to allow researchers and visitors to quickly and accurately locate plants of interest. To further enhance the experience of our visitors, I will also begin the task of making and hanging plant display tags to allow visitors to quickly discern what they are viewing.

One of the greatest joys I've had over my short time at the Arboretum has been the opportunity to work alongside a dynamic range of volunteers. I believe it is fair to say that it would be impossible to maintain the gardens without their help.

Volunteer duties run the gamut from weeding, pruning and transplanting to data entry and label installation. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me at david.stevens@wisc.edu.



WHPS Tours Longenecker

On Saturday, October 10, WHPS members were treated to a walking tour of Longenecker Gardens with Professor Emeritus Ed Hasselkus and newly appointed curator David Stevens.



Left: *Phellodendron lavalleyi* Eye Stopper™ Cork Tree. The bark is spongy to the touch. A handsome, disease-resistant, 40' shade tree.

Right: Ed Hasselkus with WHPS members at Longenecker Gardens. Beautiful day to take in *Carpinus caroliniana* 'Firespire'.



Old Playground to Garden Treasure

In 2013, one of our members, Terry Watters of Lone Rock, rented an apartment at the Old High School. Watters asked the landlord if he could do some gardening on the two-acre property, which formerly served as a playground. In just two years his has created an amazing display garden.

This year, among other things, he is offering tours to schoolchildren; a recent school tour proved quite successful. The school group was given Indian Corn, Broom Corn, gourds, pumpkins and squash to decorate and use for a class fundraiser. They were pleased to announce a \$548 sale with a little more to come later! The class is pleased to be learning, enjoying, being environmentally aware and making money all at the same time.

For more information: http://www.terrywatters.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=category.display&category_id=81 **Note:** Terry is expected to present photos of the Old High School project at the Member Potpourri in December.



Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Inc.



November 2015 Newsletter

211 S. Fair Oaks Avenue
Madison, WI 53704-5822

President Frank Greer, 608-233-4686, frgreer@sbcglobal.net
Vice President—Jane Gahlman, 608-837-2317,
jmgahlman@hotmail.com, Seed Exchange Coordinator and
Trip and Tour Co-Coordinator
Secretary—John Cannon, jtcannon@wisc.edu, Trip Committee
Treasurer—Diane Scharkey, dscharkey@gmail.com
Lynn Belanger, 608-215-9127, lynnbelanger7300@gmail.com
Caroline Bohler, Homegrown Flowers, 262-483-2500,
caroline@homegrownmadison.com
Emily Buckingham, 920-960-6928, emilybuckingham@gmail.com
Jeannette Golden, 608-767-3736, jgolden4142@gmail.com,
Plant Sale Volunteer Coordinator
Cindy Hoffland, 608-233-8083, hofflc@gmail.com, Webmaster
Jane LaFlash, 608-243-1208, jlafash@wisc.edu,
Membership Coordinator and Trip and Tour Co-Coordinator
Terri Maliszewski-Kane, 608-513-4189, terrimk1@hotmail.com,
Olbrich Liaison
Linda Marx, 608-249-7717, ljmarx@chorus.net, Plant Dig Coordinator
Stephanie O'Neal, 608-256-6108, sone2@aol.com,
Publications and Plant Exchange
Eleanor Rodini, H: 608-257-2984; Cell: 608-576-7099,
emrodini@wisc.edu, WHPS Garden Expo Display Coordinator
Conrad Wrzesinski, 608-231-3279, conradw@charter.net

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

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

WHPS Volunteer Opportunities

WHPS has several areas where you can have a direct impact on the success of our organization. Won't you consider donating some time in the next year?

- Work at the WHPS Booth at the Garden Expo
- Plant Sale—help needed in lots of areas—keep the timeline for the sale; donate plants; host a dig; work a dig; transport plants; coordinate announcements, emails and notices marketing the sale; help set up the day before; work the sale day; clean up after
- Coordinate the Fall Plant Exchange—one day a year for four hours; this event is fun and low maintenance
- Assist with production of the Newsletter—Do you like to do newsletter layout? How about editing and helping to create/locate content?
- Serve on the board

If you are interested in helping with any of these areas, please contact Stephanie O'Neal at sone2@aol.com, 608-256-6108, and she will put you in touch with those who can get you started.

WHPS T-shirts available!



WHPS T-shirts available for purchase (sizes S-M-L-XL-XXL-XXXL) **\$12** each. Please send an email to Jane Gahlman at 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

Last line from **Gardening for a Lifetime:**

Making the most of what you have left is also the older gardener's task. How beautiful can you make your garden with the resources you still have at your command? This is the question I keep asking myself. I don't have the answer, but I'm working on it.

— Sydney Eddison

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