

# Perennial Notes

May 30, 1996

A gardener in a proscenium  
Was terribly bothered by tedium  
He subjected his brain  
To a horrible strain  
And invented a blue Epimedium!

Joan Severra

(Now I ask you, does this sound like anyone you know??)

## JUNE EVENTS OF THE PERENNIAL SOCIETY

Thursday June 6, 6-8 PM. Tour of Dan Thurman's and Julie Burke's gardens located in Oregon, a very short distance from each other. Dan and Julie are members of the Iris Society. Dan's large garden features all kinds of Iris. The Iris Society is sweating it out as this weekend is their show at Olbrich Gardens (June 1 & 2) and members do not have a surfeit of blooms due to the weather. Perhaps they should have a late tulip show instead?? To get to Dan's house proceed down Rimrock Rd, County MM south of the Beltline (Hwys 12/18). When you get to County B, go East (left) for a short distance. At the top of the hill you will see a grove of pine trees and the entrance (on your left) into the subdivision of Oregon Heights. Turn in here. The roads in this subdivision more or less make a circle, but the roads making up the circle all do not have the same name. Dan's place is around on the right at the bottom of the hill--2411 White Oak Trail. Again, this is a large garden--you can't miss it. The plan is to proceed to Julie Burke's garden a block away at 7 PM.

Saturday, June 15. Northern Illinois Nursery Tour with the Illinois-Wisconsin Chapter of the Rock Garden Society. This tour has been organized by our own Jack Ferreri. The plan is to meet at Alexander's Restaurant in Elgin, IL at 0930. If you would like to carpool with someone from the Madison area call Jack at 845-8674. This is the better part of a two hour drive from Madison. To get to Alexander's, take the Elgin exit from the NW tollway (I-90). Go North on Hwy 31 a short distance. Alexander's is on your right. The tour will include Midwest Groundcover's and The Natural Garden in the St. Charles, IL area. The group will then proceed to the Planter's Palette in the Wheaton area and to The Growing Place in Naperville. Coming back towards Madison, the final stop will be Rich's Fox Willow Pines (garden conifer heaven) in Woodstock. This tour will take all day, but will be a wonderful opportunity to find some unusual stuff and see some beautiful nurseries and their display gardens.

Tuesday, July 16 7pm. A garden tour of Marilyn Boyle's garden in the Cherokee Marsh area of Madison. Details will follow in a postcard mailing in July.

### Other events of Note

Sunday, June 23, 10 AM to 4 PM The University Heights Garden tour. Tickets (\$5, children free) can be purchased that day at the Randall Elementary School on Regent Street. Proceeds will benefit garden projects in the Regent Street neighborhood. 9 gardens will be on the tour this year, most of which show some designer influence and include the garden at Olin House. New for this year will be experts giving out advice at each of the gardens based on something highlighted in the garden itself. One of the gardens will actually be under construction. Two of the experts on site will be Jerry Minich (author of Wisconsin Garden Guide) and Tibi Light, head gardener at the Allen Centennial Garden.

July 19,20. 10AM to 4 PM Olbrich Gardens annual tour of Maple Bluff and Brentwood areas. Gardens of our membership (Cannon & Frisch, Reese & Gordon) will be featured.

### PAST EVENTS

Our third annual sale for members' and their friends was held on May 25 in Frank Greer's garden. For those of you who were unfortunate enough to be out of town, too bad. It was a wonderful event and we took in \$1490 between 0900 and 1200. As most everything was priced at \$4.00 or less, we sold a lot of plants at prices second to none. Talk about bargains!!! And as every single plant was donated from a member's garden, all were guaranteed to be hardy. (Except for Frank's special selection of tender pot plants.)

There were plants left over. The clean up committee loaded up a truck full of sun loving plants to donate to Todd Moore's Wisconsin Perennial Trust at the Jefferson County Humane Society. What a nice way to pass along the extra plants. A few flats of plants for the shade were taken to the Hosta Society for their sale on June 1.

The number of people who lent a helping hand for this event was really overwhelming!! I believe that 25-30 members contributed in some way to the sale's execution and this was extremely gratifying. Everyone got some really great plants too. The dig's at Joan Severra's, Steve Harsy's, Tom Cottingham's, and Frank Greer's in the weeks proceeding the sale were a big success and enjoyed by everyone. I cannot begin to thank everyone for their generous contribution of time and plants. The society is to be congratulated for pulling this off.

Well, it is not too early to be thinking about next year's sale which will be held on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. Would you like to have the sale at your house? Would you like three or four members to come to your house to dig and divide plants for the sale? Save all of those plastic pots--we will need them all. I have already started a personal list of plants that need dividing and will be available for next year--the woodland geraniums *G. maculatum* 'alba' and *G. maculatum* 'Regal' (extra large, dark magenta flowers), my collection of white, blue, and purple woodland (shade loving) asters, and the late summer blooming Japanese anemone 'Robustissima'. What do you have that you might share with others next year?

**Dues are past due.** If you don't see a "96" next to your name on the label, this is your final mailing. See past issues of Perennial Notes for the renewal form or send a \$5 check to Richard Bloomquist, 5743 Wilshire Drive, Madison, WI 53711 (Tel 274-8326)

Otherwise, so long and goodby. Happy gardening. Thanks for your past support.



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