

Perennial Notes

The Newsletter of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society
October , 1997

Most gardeners, I suspect, would plant more bulbs were it not for two big fears: First, the worry about the work involved in planting. It's a daunting task to dig holes for a couple hundred tulips or daffodils. It seems worth it when they bloom, but then there's the second big fear--the flowers fade and foliage goes into an extended death scene more tragic than anything in grand opera.

Gardening shouldn't be a form of punishment. Follow your own rules. I look back at the spring, remembering my damp, muddy clothes, raw hands, and throbbing sore muscles. Autumn planting is no picnic either. A staff would come in mighty handy, but bulb gardeners wear their dirty fingernails and calluses like badges of valor. I'm more than willing to pay the price for the untold pleasures the blooming bulbs bring me.

Rob Proctor, Naturalizing Bulbs, Henry Holt & Co, 1997

Coming Events

October 22, 1997, 7PM, Olbrich Gardens, Upstairs Meeting Room. Annual business meeting and election of officers. Ed Hasselkus and a representative from Convention Plus Tours will present the basic details of our tour of the gardens of southern England in preparation for our June/July, 1998 tour. We'll also have a slide show on highlights of the gardener's year. From the wilds of the Rockies, the prairies of Wisconsin, the mountains of Korea, to the gardens of England. Our members have done it all this year!

October 25, 1997 1PM Olbrich Gardens, Upstairs Meeting Room. Carson E. Whitlow, Orchid hybridizer and propagator, Adel, Iowa, will be the guest speaker of the Wisconsin-Illinois Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society. He began working with native terrestrial orchids, mainly *Cypripediums* (the lady's slipper family) and *Calopogons* (from the Greek for "beautiful beard) (swamp pinks--I once saw *C. tuberosa* in Adams County, blooming in a roadside swampy area, amongst the royal ferns) in 1973 and produced the first registered artificial *Cypripedium* hybrid in 1987 and a *Calopogon* hybrid in 1991. His presentation will include almost all of the 44 *Cypripedium* species and many of the 24 hybrids which have bloomed. Don't miss this one--after all, there will be nothing else to do but rake leaves and plant bulbs!

November 19, 1997, Olbrich Gardens, Upstairs Meeting Room. Mary Ann Leigh of Timber Ridge Gardens, Elizabeth, IL, (South of Shullsburg in SW Wisconsin) will speak on "New, Underused, and Unusual Perennials for the Garden in 1998". Some of you may have heard her wonderfully, exuberant talk at the Garden Expo this year, and visited her nursery with the WHPS in September.

February 1, 1998 11 AM, Atrium, Olbrich Gardens. Annual brunch with the hosta society. Our featured speaker will be Professor James Steakley, UW Professor of German. His topic will be "German Gardens--Their Reflection of German Culture". John Frisch and John Cannon also promise to produce another fabulous slide and music show. The theme of this year's presentation will be "Plant Marriages in Madison Area Gardens". If you have suitable slides of great plant combinations, please let them know.

February 18, 1998. 7 PM, Olbrich Gardens, Upstairs Meeting Room. Jeff Epping, WHPS member and Horticulture Director at Olbrich Gardens, will speak on "Gardening with Containers".

February 21,22 1998 WHA TV Garden Expo, Dane Country Forum. We will have a booth and a slide presentation entitled "To Make A Garden".

March 18, 1998, Olbrich Gardens, Upstairs Meeting Room. 7PM "Gardening with Groundcovers", Cathy Freeland, Midwest Groundcovers, St. Charles, Illinois.

April 15, 1998. Olbrich Gardens, Upstairs Meeting Room. 7 PM Members potpourri. A repeat of last year's popular format. Select members will be asked to present slides of exciting new plants in their gardens

May 24, 1998. Members and friends plant sale. In the garden of Teresa Countryman.

June, 1998 Tentatively planning a tour of Milwaukee area nurseries--Johnsons and Leeds to be included.

June 24-July 2, 1998. Tour of the gardens of England. (See information attached)

July, 1998. Tour of area gardens. Details forthcoming.

August, 1998. Tentatively planning for a pot luck supper at Olbrich Gardens.

September 5, 1997. Second annual "Great Perennial Divide" for members only. Details to be announced.

October 10, 1998, Saturday, Olbrich Gardens. "Gardening with Bulbs". A one day symposium co-sponsored with Olbrich Gardens. Speakers will be Brent Heath of the Daffodil Mart ,Gloucester, Virginia , Mike Heger, Ambergate Gardens, Chaska Minnesota, Scott Kuntz, Old House Gardens (specializes in heirloom bulbs), Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Galen Gates, Director of Plant Collections, Chicago Botanical Garden. Details will be available soon.

A Bulb Myth: Deep planting discourages tulips from splitting. Not in my experience. Plant tulips slightly deeper in sandy soil (6-8") and slightly higher in clay soil (5-6") The good varieties are nearly indestructible; the poor ones would split if they were buried in the Grand Canyon and backfilled with Mt. Rainer.

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