



Perennial Notes

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Inc.

Nov. 2018



The Mighty Oak

By Linda Kavelaris

No tree symbolizes strength and longevity more than the mighty oak. It has been revered by people all over the world for thousands of years. Druids considered the oak tree a bearer of good luck, fertility, potency, healing and health and they distinguished the oak as a sacred tree. Oaks are mentioned in ancient mythology, and in Celtic, Norse and Greek writings. Ancient kings wore crowns made from oak leaves to symbolize or represent Greek gods. The United States Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps all use a golden oak leaf to designate the rank of major, implying a connection with power and bravery. There are many symbolic meanings associated with the great "king of trees" and in keeping with its soaring height and strength, oaks serve as symbols of sovereignty and power, as well as justice, honesty and bravery.

(continued on page 3)

WHPS coming events!

All regular meetings are at 6:30 pm. social time, 7 pm. program, at Olbrich Gardens Commons, 3330 Atwood Av., Madison unless otherwise noted.

Questions about our events? Email wisconsinhps@gmail.com for specific info.

Wednesday, November 14 – WHPS Program – Flowering Shrubs for All Seasons. David Stevens, Curator of the Longenecker Horticultural Gardens at the UW Arboretum, will highlight his favorite flowering shrubs from their Living Collection. The gardens contain Wisconsin's premiere collection of woody ornamental plants, with over 5,000 specimens representing over 2,500 taxa. Prior to his current role, David spent 14 years working in the field of forest tree genetics with the University of Wisconsin Forest and Wildlife Ecology Department. David has a Bachelor's degree in Horticulture from Virginia Tech and a Master's degree in Horticulture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



CANCELLED – Wednesday, Dec. 5, WHPS Meeting – Due to past low attendance no doubt created by demands of the season, this year we are cancelling our December meeting and combining our January Potluck with our Annual Meeting and Seed Exchange. See January 20, 2019 for more information.

Saturday, January 19, 2019, WHPS Workshop: Recording your Garden (BOTH WORKSHOPS ARE FULL – can sign up for waiting list),

9-11:00 am., Second Offering 2-4:00 pm., 5804 Hammersley Rd, Madison. When it comes to your garden, you are the expert; the only person who has been there from the beginning. But memory is an unreliable way to keep track of your plants and all your work, the constant changes you see, the weather and whatnot. Linda Brazill has been journaling about her garden and other subjects for many years. She'll share ideas and her inspirations about the myriad ways you can record and interact with your garden on this deeper level. Mainly print, some digital but not spreadsheets.

Sunday, January 20, 2019, Potluck, Annual Meeting, Seed Exchange, Speaker (TBA) and Free Garden Items. We have cancelled our December meeting and will be holding our Annual Meeting and Seed Exchange in conjunction with our January Potluck and Speaker, along with the addition of a giveaway of garden items. Additional information in January newsletter.

Friday-Sunday, February 8-10, 2019, WPT Garden Expo. WHPS will once again host a booth and a speaker at the Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo. Opportunities to work in our booth will be emailed to members and published later this year.

Wednesday, February 20, 2019, 40 Years of Gardening: A Madison Gardener's Reminiscences, with speaker Frank Greer. Frank will discuss his favorite plants, people, places and recommendations for gardening success. More (continued on page 2)



Symposium

Allen Centennial Garden, see p. 5.



Aging gardens

see p.4.



Hardy ageratum

see p. 2.

WHPS Coming Events (continued from p.1)

importantly, he will discuss thoughts for preparing for garden enjoyment later in life by simplifying a gardener's world. Frank has been with WHPS since its inception, serving as President from 1996-2016 and now serving as Immediate Past President. He has organized and arranged the WHPS biennial trip to England for over 20 years and currently is Chair of the WHPS Program Committee. Frank is known for his Nakoma shade garden, his love of epimediums and the beautiful containers of annuals that share his driveway each year.

Wednesday, March 20, 2019, *Prairie Plants for the Urban Garden, with speaker Neil Diboll, Consulting Ecologist and President of Prairie Nursery.* A pioneer in the native plant industry and recognized internationally as an expert in native plant community ecolo-

gy, Neil Diboll has guided the growth of Prairie Nursery for 30 years. He has dedicated his life to the propagation of native plants and their promotion as uniquely beautiful, ecologically beneficial and sustainable solutions for landscapes and gardens. In 2013, Neil was the recipient of the Great American Gardeners Award from the American Horticultural Society. Neil's love of native plants and their habitat is contagious, and we look forward to his thoughts on the use of prairie plants in our urban gardens.



Wednesday, April 17, 2019, *Abelia to Ziziphora: 30 Years of Plant Evaluation at Chicago Botanic Garden, with speaker Richard Hawke.* The Chicago Botanic Garden has been evaluating and recommending superior garden plants to home gardeners and the green industry since 1988. Richard Hawke will give an overview of the evaluation program and present a variety of proven plants from 30 years of trials, including new selections and old favorites. Richard Hawke is responsible for the comparative evaluation of over 1,000 perennials and woody plants each year. He is the principal au-



thor of *Plant Evaluation Notes*, an author and contributing editor for *Fine Gardening*, and writes for other horticulture publications such as *Perennial Plants*, *The American Gardener*, and *Nursery Management*.

Other programs/events. Please note that the Workshop Committee will be meeting toward the end of this year to plan Workshops for 2019. We thank the members who attended these free events in 2018 and encourage those who have thoughts/ideas for future Workshops to contact Workshop Committee Chair Emily Buckingham at emilycbuckingham@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendar

Additional Meeting dates for 2019 (speakers will be announced in future newsletter)

- Wednesday, August 21 – Member Potluck and Walk Through Olbrich Gardens
- Wednesday, September 18 - Speaker TBA
- Wednesday, October 16 – Speaker TBA
- Wednesday, November 20 – Speaker TBA

2019 Workshops and Dates for Trips and Garden Tours will be announced in the January 2019 Newsletter.



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Native Ageratum

– From French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust Facebook Page, September 29 – contributed by Sally Averkamp

Did you know there is a perennial native ageratum (Zone 5-10) - Wild Ageratum - and it is much more showy and beautiful than the kind usually found at garden centers? It has been named of special value to pollinators, so planting this fall beauty (it blooms from July to frost) will help bees, butterflies and songbirds with its nectar! It also goes by the names of Blue Mistflower and Blue Boneset. It will spread, so it makes a great ground cover for places you don't want to mow. It is a perennial, it does prefer a slightly moist soil,

and is happy in sun or partial shade. *Conoclinium coelestinum*



WHPS Grant Program

The Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society will award up to \$500 to a community group, school, or other organization for a project that promotes the use of herbaceous perennial plants in the landscape. *Applications are now being accepted for calendar year 2019.*



Funds may be used for educational purposes, plant material, hardscaping, or tools and supplies. Priority will be given to projects in the state of Wisconsin that are supported by WHPS members and to organizations with nonprofit status who have not re-

ceived previous donations or grants from WHPS. Grant requests can be submitted at any time and will be reviewed by the board members of the WHPS or a designated subcommittee of such group. If the grant is awarded, a progress report is requested six months after the award funds are received. A verbal report of your project may be requested at the January annual business meeting of the WHPS.

To apply, complete the Grant Application located at our Website - <http://www.wisconsinhardyplantsociety.org/grants.html>

And just a reminder that you can donate at any time to WHPS by visiting the Donation Page on our website - <http://www.wisconsinhardyplantsociety.org/store/p28/WHPS-Donation.html>

Fundraising for WHPS

You can help the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society raise money with any order you place with Brent & Becky's Bulbs. With hundreds of gorgeous blooms to choose from, you'll be sure to find something you just can't live without. Simply visit www.bloominbucks.com and select "Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society" from the organization drop down menu. Hit "GO" to be sent to the Brent and Becky's Website, where you can order any item, in any quantity - bulbs, tools, books, supplements, gift certificates and more - and 25% of your purchase will be donated to the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society. This option applies to phone and mail orders as well - just be sure to mention WHPS or write us in as the organization you would like to support. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, donations like these are essential to continue our mission.



Thanks to everyone who has participated in this opportunity so far - we have raised almost \$500 in the first nine months. You do not have to be a member to participate, so tell your friends. Now is the best time to shop for your 2019 bulb display!

Mighty Oak *(cont. from p.1)*

Oak trees play an important role in the ecology of the Midwest and are native to Wisconsin. Its huge limbs and lush canopy provide shelter to many birds and mammals. Acorns are the most important wildlife food in deciduous forests. Acorns are a nutritious food for animals and birds through winter and they feed birds and animals the following spring when other food sources are scarce. Some of the wildlife that depend on acorns are wild turkeys, white-tailed deer, squirrels, ruffed grouse, wood ducks, woodpeckers, nuthatches, and blue jays. Oaks also serve as a host for some butterflies. The insects and their larvae that inhabit oak trees become sustenance for the wildlife around them.

While the oak tree's importance to wildlife cannot be diminished, oak wood is prized for its use in furniture and flooring because of its appealing look and sturdy composition. It is also preferred for wine barrels, as it adds complexity to flavors.

I admire oak trees because they are both beautiful and majestic. No two are alike. The strength, long lifespan and regal stature of oak trees give them a monument-like quality. The presence of these giants in the landscape give me reason to pause and reflect on their history and importance while I enjoy a pleasant, relaxed feeling in their presence.

Oak trees stand tall, strong and rooted in the earth, becoming a vital part of the place they live, a contributing member of the biotic community.

2018-19 Other events of note

November 16-January 7, 2019, Nutcracker in the Castle, The Paine Art Center and Gardens. There are three different ways to visit and enjoy the fantasy experience of Nutcracker in the Castle: Self-guided Tours, Candlelight Tours, and Guided Tours, with each style of tour offered at separate times. For more details about the types of tours, their dates and times, and the hours of the café: <https://www.thepaine.org/events/nutcracker-in-the-castle-2018/>

November 24 & 25, December 8-10, 14-23, 26-31, Rotary Botanical Gardens Holiday Light Show, 4:30-8:30 p.m., 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville. Tickets \$5 per person, ages 2+. More info at: <http://www.rotarybotanicalgardens.org/holiday-light-show/>

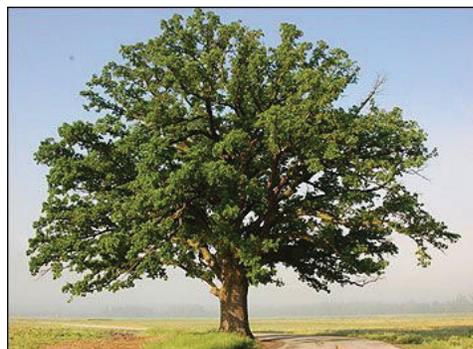
December 1-31, Olbrich's Holiday Express: Flower and Model Train Show, 10 am.-4 pm. daily (closes 2:00 pm.). <http://www.olbrich.org/>

Green Bay Botanical Garden, Garden of Lights, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays - Nov. 23-Dec. 23, Dec. 26-30. For more information and tickets: <https://gbbg.org/things-to-do/wpsgardenoflights/>

January, 2019, Advance order forms for the 2019 Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale will be available by mid-January. Order forms will probably be due mid-February. Contact Karen Deaton (director@foamadison.org or 608-571-5362) for more information.

February 2-3, 2019, Orchid Quest, sponsored by Orchid Grower's Guild, <http://www.orchidguild.org/orchid-quest.html>

February 8-10, 2019, Wisconsin Garden Expo, Alliant Energy Center - <https://www.wigardenexpo.com/>



Curating the Aging Garden

– This article is at

<https://www.chicagobotanic.org/plantinfo/smartgardener/curating-the-aging-garden>

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Having just celebrated our 40th anniversary Garden-wide in 2012, we are quietly marking the 30th “birthdays” of several individual gardens in 2014: the Home Landscape, Aquatic, Bulb, Native Plant, Heritage, and Regenstein Fruit & Vegetable Gardens all opened in the summer of 1984. This got us thinking about the issue of maturing gardens—a topic that every gardener deals with sooner or later.



While a mature, lush, beautifully maintained landscape is every gardener's dream, Mother Nature (and time) aren't always on the same page that you are.

Are portions of your landscape already showing signs of age? Perhaps it's fully grown trees that have turned your sunny yard into a shady one. Shrubs gone wild after a season or two of missed pruning. Hedges revealing bare spots as some evergreens “age out” before others.

Or perhaps it's yard/garden structures that are showing the passage of time. Mortar crumbles and bricks tumble. Sidewalks and slabs tilt as tree roots flex their might. Wooden structures cry “uncle” after decades of service.

Sound familiar? Then it's time to become the curator of your own garden.

1. Start with a fresh eye. The first step is to go outside, walk around your prop-

erty, and take a good look at what's going on. Stand back and look at the overall composition of your yard: overgrowth happens slowly, and landscapes change incrementally each year. How does yours make you feel? Do you wish it was sunnier? Simpler? More colorful? Are you craving more privacy, or feeling claustrophobic? Think about the goal for your garden and curate toward that goal.

2. Make a simple map. A basic layout of your space (including key measurements) will prove invaluable for reference over time, whether you use garden-planning software or a simple piece of drawing paper and a few photos. Draw in your hard-landscape elements: structures and paths, water features and light fixtures, large trees and hedges, and the outlines of beds.

3. List and assess. Next, create a working list of each landscape plant and hard-landscape item, noting age (if known), location (sunny spot? under the downspout? surrounded by concrete?) and overall health or condition. Work from the top down (trees and tall items, shrubs and medium-sized features, perennials, bulbs, annuals). For plants, indicate where diseases or pests are a problem and where a better cultivar might be an improvement. For structural elements, note where repairs/replacement are necessary.

4. Rate and rank. Now ask yourself the difficult questions: Has your favorite shrub overwhelmed the rest of the bed? Did that pretty accent plant turn out to be invasive? Can the garden gate last one more year, or is it maintenance time?

Use your garden map and assessment list to rate and rank the issues in your yard. Think of your ranking as a plan for updating the yard, a few chores at a time. Work in phases so you can budget in advance.

5. Consult the experts. Some issues may require outside help: call a pro for infrastructure repairs like brickwork and tuckpointing (they'll match the mortar correctly) or major carpentry work.

Mature tree questions? Consult your local forester or arborist first, and request an on-site visit. Their expertise and knowledge of the neighborhood “forest” will give you fresh insight into your tree's issues.

Pruning can work magic on an aging yard. Hard pruning—reducing by half, or even down to the ground—can restore/renovate many deciduous shrubs.

6. Build scenarios toward a master plan. No one can revitalize an aging garden in just a year's time—it's a process. As you prune, remove, transplant, or start afresh, you'll have many opportunities to tweak, re-think, and revise. All are possible scenarios; add those ideas to your assessment list and review them during a winter planning session.

To curate is to choose carefully, to organize meaningfully, and to have the courage to edit. By becoming your garden's curator and addressing the issues in an organized way, you'll be prepared for the really big, garden-changing decisions to come, such as removing a beloved tree... or planting a new one.

Karen Zaworski is a garden writer and photographer in Oak Park, Illinois.

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Announcing

ALLEN CENTENNIAL GARDEN SPRING 2019 SYMPOSIUM

Resilient Landscapes Symposium

March 22–23, 2019

Mendota Room of the Dejepe Residence Hall at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Allen Centennial Garden presents their Resilient Landscapes Symposium, featuring a full day of exceptional lectures by four



leading industry experts. Resilient Landscapes will be the fourth installment of the Garden's signature spring symposium, an event exploring cutting-edge, provocative ideas and emerging trends in

horticulture and design. This year we explore resiliency in the landscape, discovering the robust and adaptable ideas and individuals that are navigating an uncertain frontier. We'll explore a "new garden ethic" and discover intuitive methods to manage our landscapes with "know maintenance." We'll find inspiration in two of the greatest contemporary public landscapes on earth; Millennium Park in Chicago and the High Line in New York City. And, we'll hear from a panel of local change makers and trendsetters who are pioneering resilient landscapes in the Madison community. All of this, plus a special showing of the award-winning documentary, *Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf*.

PROGRAM

Friday, March 22: Marquee Theater, Union South, 3:30–5:00 pm.
Film – *Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf*

An immersive and meditative documentary that reveals how the revolutionary landscape designer, Piet Oudolf, upends our conventional notions of nature, public space, and beauty itself.



Saturday, March 23: Dejepe Hall, UW-Madison

8:30–9:00 am. Registration and Refreshments

9:00–9:15 am. Welcome and Announcements

9:15–10:15 am. Benjamin Vogt: *A New Garden Ethic*



Benjamin is an award-winning garden writer and designer based in Nebraska. His gardens have been featured in *Fine Gardening* and *Garden Design*, and he is a regular contributor to *Houzz*.

In a time of mass extinction and climate change, how and for whom we garden matters more than ever. In this deeply reflective and candid talk we'll traverse science, ecology, psychology,

philosophy, religion, and personal experience as we ask what gardens really mean. How does reviving wildness through native plants wake us to a profound compassion not only for other species, but for one another? In the end, gardens are not just an artful form of expression – they are a revolution of justice for all life.

10:15–10:30 am. Jeff Epping: *Olbrich Botanical Gardens*

10:30–10:45 am. Morning Break

10:45–11:45 am. Roy Diblik: *Know Maintenance*



Roy is a noted plantsman, designer and owner of Northwind Perennial Farm, a nursery in Burlington, Wisconsin. He is best known as the plantsman behind Piet Oudolf's Midwestern garden designs, including the Lurie Garden at Millennium Park in Chicago. Roy will discuss the developing partnership

between the gardener, the plants, and nature, always knowing the beauty is in the doing.

11:45–12:00 pm. Tony Gomez-Phillips: *Discovering Wrightscapes: Interpreting an Architect's Legacy In Today's Landscape*

12:00–1:00 pm. Lunch Break, Book Sale and Signing

1:00–2:00 pm. Scott Stewart and Austin Eischeid: *The Landscape Master Plan Without a Plan*

Dr. Scott Stewart serves as the Executive Director of Millennium Park Foundation and is passionate about the value and role



of public space. Scott holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Horticulture from the University of Florida, and a bachelor's degree in Biology and Chemistry from Illinois College. Austin is an

emerging garden designer and plantsman, with newly installed designs in Millennium Park and Midwest Groundcovers.

Millennium Park is a world leader in bringing free and equitable art and architecture to its 20-million annual visitors, all amongst an iconic, highly designed public space. Chicagoans and visitors, alike, are on a first-name basis with the monuments of Millennium Park—Cloud Gate or 'The Bean', Crown Fountain, Jay Pritzker Pavilion, and Lurie Garden. Despite the nearly universal recognition of these public artworks, the landscape design of Millennium Park is far too often overlooked and underappreciated. Beginning in 2017, Millennium Park Foundation initiated a landscape redesign program that has come to be known as the "landscape master plan without a plan".

The goal of this "plan" is to elevate the artfulness and inventiveness of the Park's landscape to be the equal of those icons so recognizable as Millennium Park. Vision, talent, and resourcefulness—along with a good measure of rebelliousness—are required to accomplish such an ambitious goal. In this presentation, you will hear from the two visionaries behind Millennium Park's "landscape master plan without a plan" and learn how,



211 S. Fair Oaks Avenue, Madison, WI 53704
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Dues Notice – 2019 Membership Renewals

In late December we will be sending each member an e-mail. It will either let you know you need to renew or will let you know you already paid ahead and don't own 2019 dues. About half our members renew for multiple years, so there is a good chance you don't have to renew. Please wait until you hear from us before sending forms and checks.

Have questions about your membership? Contact Jane LaFlash at wisconsinhps@gmail.com or (608) 243-1208.

ACG – SYMPOSIUM (cont. from p. 5)

once complete, artful landscape redevelopment will add to the Park's economic and cultural place making power, landscape design aesthetic, and ecological function.

2:00–2:15 pm. *Briana Frank: Tree Health Management*

2:15–2:30 pm. *Afternoon Break*

2:30–3:30 pm. *Andi Pettis: Emulating Nature on the High Line*

Andi is the Director of Horticulture at the High Line, where she leads a world-class team of gardeners in caring for a unique and sophisticated urban landscape. Her horticulture career in New York City spans nearly two decades, and includes gardening in both private and public gardens, managing parks, and teaching at the New York Botanical Garden. She was a founding member of the Parks Volunteers Administrators Roundtable of New York City, and sits on the board of directors of Metro Hort Group.



The High Line park was born of a city that is constantly changing and reinventing itself, and this is reflected in the dynamic landscape built on a mile and a half

long elevated railroad on the west side of Manhattan. From the location and the linear nature of the structure itself, to the design inspired by the industrial history of the city and the tenacity of plants, to the changing environment surrounding the park and

our ecological approaches to fostering a functioning ecosystem in an intensely urban space, there are unique challenges in caring for the gardens in this park in the sky. Requiring adaptability, agility, a keen sense of aesthetic and, at times a willingness to not take ourselves too seriously, horticulture on the High Line is itself an exercise in changeability and reinvention.

3:30–3:55 pm. *Benjamin Futa: What's Next for Allen Centennial Garden*
3:55–4:00 pm. *Closing Remarks*

Symposium Sale Dates

January 14, 2019: Friends of Allen Centennial Garden
January 21, 2019: Garden stakeholders and select sponsors
January 28, 2019: Public

Ticket Prices

Early bird: January 14, 2019-February 18, 2019. \$95
February 19-March 20, 2019. \$115

General admission tickets include:

- Morning refreshments and lunch on the day of the symposium
- One *Five Seasons* screening ticket (Additional tickets to the *Five Seasons* screening are \$10)

**Friends of Allen Centennial Garden members and UW-Madison students enjoy a reduced rate of 20% on general admission tickets.

<https://uwccs.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/acg-19symp/info>