Perennial Notes

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Inc. June 2019

Photos by Conrad J. Wrzesinski

Beauty in the Thread

By Conrad J. Wrzesinski

No, this is not an article about thread, but instead the title refers to the appearance of the rare Threadleaf Arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis* 'Filiformis').

The Threadleaf Arborvitae has thread-like bright green foliage, as illustrated in the accompanying close up photo of a foliage spray from our garden. The fine threadlike sprays grow in arching pendulous branches. Full sun or part shade are well suited locations for this tree. Grown in full sun the tree develops a mounding haystack form. In part shade, like the specimen pictured in our garden, the tree is more upright with pendulous branches. Either way, the Threadleaf Arborvitae provides an attractive focal point in the garden.

At maturity the height of the tree

(continued on page 2)

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.

Saturdays, June 1 and June 15, LAST CHANCE BUYING OPPORTUNITY at SONG SPARROW FARM. See more information on page 8.

Wednesday, June 5, Bus Trip to Greenfield, Burlington and Janesville. Destinations include: private garden of Will Radler (Knock Out rose hybridizer), lunch at That's Amore, Northwind Perennial Farm and Rotary Botanical Gardens. FULL.

Saturday, June 8, WHPS Workshop: Tree and Herbaceous Peonies, 1-2:30 pm., garden of Lois Kinlen. See Lois Kinlen's collection of over 40 *Paeonia suffruticosa* or tree peony. These beauties, prized for their large blooms, interesting leaves, and contribution to a lower maintenance garden, usually begin blooming in early June. When the trees are done blooming they don't object to clematis climbing over them and providing a second bloom. A variety of Itoh and herbaceous peonies continue the peony blooming season in her garden. Event is full.

Thursday, June 27, WHPS Evening Garden Tour: Sun Prairie (Lynne & Tom Bendt, Cindy & Mike Cunningham, Lynn & Greg Belanger. Sun Prairie Community Gardens, and Oakwood Village Prairie) – details on page 6.

Tuesday, July 16, WHPS Evening Garden Tour: Middleton (Jean & Ken Nordlund, Linda & Bruce Christensen, Betsy True & Danny Aerts, Mary and Conrad Wrzesinski) – details on page 7.

Wednesday, July 17, Bus Trip to Chicago Botanic Garden and Private Gardens. (FULL)

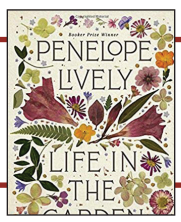
Tuesday, July 23, 6:30 pm., Tour of the grounds of Epic Systems, 1979 Milky Way, Verona with Jeff Epping. Enjoy an evening walking tour of the gardens on the Epic Systems corporate campus in Verona. The tour will be led by Jeff Epping (Jeff Epping Design & Consulting, LLC) who has been involved in the design and planting of the gardens since 2005. **DRIVING/PARKING DIRECTIONS**: From Hwy 18 & 151/Verona Road, take Exit 76 (MV/Epic Lane/West Verona Avenue) to Epic Lane. At the first intersection (rock wall), turn left to stay on Epic Lane. Turn right onto Milky Way (Epic's driveway) and continue to the Visitor Parking Lot. Park under the blue solar panels, then walk back across the driveway to gather on the sidewalk outside the main reception area.

Wednesday, July 31-Sunday, August 4, Bus Trip to Michigan. Destinations include: Frederik Meijer Gardens, MSU Horticulture Gardens, MSU Hidden Lake Gardens, Gabis Arboretum, Fernwood Botanic Garden, Mast Young Plants, Sunsparkler Sedums, Spring Meadow Nursery, Walters Gardens, Gee Farms, River Street Flowerland. ***Space is still available.*** Registration is online through EventBrite.

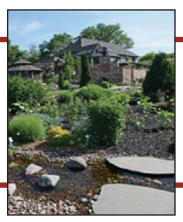
Tuesday, Aug 6, 6:30 pm., Tour of Rotary Botanical Gardens with Mark Dwyer, 1455 Palmer Dr., Janesville. Meet in the building.

Wednesday, August 14 – Member Potluck and

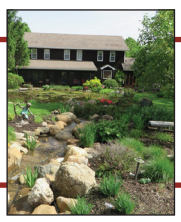
(continued on page 2)



Book Review
see p. 5.



Garden Tours
see p. 6-7.



May 21 Bus Trip
see p. 4.

WHPS Events *(cont. from p.1)*

Walk Through Olbrich Gardens. Setup 5:30; 6:00 food line. Bring a dish to share and your own plates/utensils; juice and coffee will be provided.

Sunday, September 8, WHPS Workshop: Using the Fall Garden for Creative Arrangements, 3-4:30 pm. Join Caroline Bohler, owner of Homegrown Flowers and WHPS board member, for this workshop on fall cut flowers. She will discuss the best fall bulbs, perennials and woodies for cutting, and how to condition and arrange them. Event is free, but registration is limited and required.

Wednesday, September 18, Preserving Rare Plants and Dealing with Invasive Plants with speaker Kay Havens, Ph.D., Medard and Elizabeth Welch Director, Plant Science and Conservation, Chicago Botanic Garden.

Wednesday, October 16 – Karen Bussolini will speak on the topic of The Unsung Season: Gardens in Winter. She is a garden photographer, speaker, writer, NOFA-Accredited Organic Land Care Professional, and eco-friendly Garden Coach.

Wednesday, November 20, Gardening with Wildlife with speaker David Drake, a professor of Wildlife Damage Management, Extension Wildlife Specialist in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and a researcher with the UW-Madison Urban Canid Project.

What events would you like to see from WHPS (programs/speakers, workshops, tours)? Send your suggestions to sone2@aol.com.

Our Facebook group is growing. Join us.

WHPS

Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Inc.

211 S. Fair Oaks Avenue, Madison, WI 53704

President – Jane Gahlman, jmgahlman@hotmail.com, Seed Exchange Coordinator, Trip Committee

Immediate Past President – Frank Greer, frgreer@sbcglobal.net, Program Committee

Vice President – Emily Buckingham, emilycbuckingham@gmail.com

Treasurer – Diane Scharkey, dscharkey@gmail.com

Secretary – Emily Buckingham, emilycbuckingham@gmail.com, Workshop Coordinator

Sally Averkamp, 608-235-9084, aversigg@sbcglobal.net, Newsletter layout

Lynn Belanger, lynnbelanger7300@gmail.com, Garden Expo Display

Caroline Bohler, Homegrown Flowers, caroline@homegrown-madison.com, Webmaster

John Cannon, jtcannon@wisc.edu, Trip Committee

Anna DePauw, anna@botannaca.com, Plant Sale

Donna Freiman, Donnafreiman@gmail.com, Garden Expo Coordinator, 2020

Jane LaFlash, jlaflash@wisc.edu, Membership Coordinator, Tour Coordinator, Trip Committee

Terri Maliszewski-Kane, terrimk1@hotmail.com, Olbrich Liaison

Linda Marx, ljmarx@chorus.net, Program Committee

Stephanie O'Neal, 608-256-6108, sone2@aol.com, Publications, Plant Exchange

Kitty Rankin, kitty.rankin@gmail.com

Shirley Scriver, scrivs@charter.net, Coordinator, Trip Committee

Conrad Wrzesinski, conradw@charter.net

Arborvitae *(cont. from p.1)*

is 10 to 12 feet, with a width of 5 to 7 feet. The growth rate is considered moderate, with a 6 to 10 inch average per year. The tree grows in most well-drained soil types. Though the Threadleaf Arborvitae is a relatively low maintenance, occasional pruning can help maintain the fullness of the pendulous branches.

The Threadleaf Arborvitae has a hardiness rating of USDA Zone 4. Even after the recent brutal winter capped by a polar vortex, the tree in our garden did not suffer any needle burn or other winter damage. The foliage remained green throughout the winter. According to the literature the tree is free from pest and disease problems. This has been our experience in the 20 years the tree has graced our garden. An internet search indicates the Threadleaf Arborvitae is available from at least several sources.

2019 – Other Gardening Events of Note

Key events of interest in the coming garden season are listed but please visit the following websites for more info on events.

- ***Allen Centennial Garden* in Madison**
- ***Boerner Botanical Gardens* in Milwaukee.**
- ***Chicago Botanic Garden*.**
- ***Green Bay Botanical Garden***
- ***Lynden Sculpture Garden* in Milwaukee**
- ***Mitchell Park Horticultural Park*** (The Domes) in Milwaukee
- ***Morton Arboretum,* Lisle, IL**
- ***Olbrich Botanical Gardens* in Madison**
- ***Paine Art Center and Gardens* in Oshkosh**
- ***Rotary Botanical Gardens* in Janesville**
- ***University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum***

Wednesday, June 12, Native Plant Garden Tour: Woodland, Savanna, and Prairie Gardens, 7 pm., UW-Madison Arboretum. Celebrate late spring by visiting our woodland, savanna, and prairie gardens. This tour, led by Susan Carpenter. Tour is free and begins at the Arboretum Visitors Center.

Sunday, June 16, Rose Show, organized by The Madison Rose Society, noon-4 pm., Olbrich Botanical Gardens. Free and open to public. For more information call 608-634-2146.

Wednesday, June 19, Native Plant Garden Tour: What's Blooming? 7 pm., Join Susan Carpenter to find, compare, and learn about flowers on native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. Tour is free and begins at the Arboretum Visitors Center.

Friday, June 28, Allen Centennial Gardens 30th Anniversary Celebration, 5-8 pm. You are invited to celebrate this milestone year on a beautiful evening complete with live entertainment, food and refreshments, activities and special recognitions. This event is free and open to all.

Wednesday, July 10-13, Saturday, American Hemerocallis Society 73rd National Convention, Madison Marriott-West, 1313 John Q. Hammons Dr., Middleton, hosted by the Wisconsin Daylily Society. For more details, visit the convention website.

Friday, July 12-Saturday, July 13, Olbrich Home Garden Tour: Gardens of Stoughton, organized by Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 9 am.-3 pm. Tickets are $13 for Olbrich members and $15 for the general public.

Sat.-Sun., July 13-14, Sangerhouse Gardens in Milwaukee Garden Tour, with the gardens open to the public and speakers including Melinda Myers (on 7/14). This event will raise funds for Historic Milwaukee, Brewers Hill & the Friends of the Dome, along with funding more improvements at the garden. You'll find an article on the garden – *Good Design is Worth the Wait* – in the April 2019 edition of *Fine Gardening.* Follow them on Facebook at SangerHouseGardens.

Wednesday, July 17, Garden Tour: Plants for Pollinators, 7 pm., UW-Madison Arboretum. Learn about summer-blooming native and ornamental species in Arboretum gardens. Susan Carpenter will highlight plants and gardening practices that support essential pollinators in urban/suburban landscapes. Tour is free and begins at the Arboretum Visitors Center.

July 18-August 11, Olbrich's Blooming Butterflies, 10 am.-4 pm. daily, Olbrich Botanical Gardens.

July 26-August 4, Sunflowers Days return to Pope Farm Conservancy, 7440 Old Sauk Rd, Verona. After a year's absence, this beloved event of summer returns with a few changes to assure visitor safety in light of the large crowds the event draws, including a fee for admission, parking and shuttle (free for children under 12). For more info, follow them on Facebook at FriendsOfPopeFarmConservancy.

Wednesday, August 7, Native Plant Garden Tour: Native Grasses, 7 pm., UW-Madison Arboretum. Susan Carpenter will focus on color, size, and features of native Wisconsin grasses, from tiny mustache grass to big bluestem. Tour is free and begins at the Arboretum Visitors Center.

Saturday-Sunday, August 17-18, Wisconsin Daylily Society Sale, at Olbrich Park (a bigger sale in a new location near the beach house and Biergarten!)

Gleam: Art in a New Light, Olbrich Botanical Gardens. August 28-31, 7:30-10:30 pm.; September 4-7, 7:30-10:30 pm.; September 11-14, 18-21, 25-28 7:30-10:30 pm.; October 2-5, 9-12, 16-19, 23-26, 6:30-9:30 pm.

Wed., Sept 4 - Fergus Garrett, head gardener at Great Dixter in East Sussex, UK, will speak at Olbrich Botanical Garden. Details TBA.

Saturday, September 14, Native Plant Garden Tour: Fall in the Native Plant Garden, 1-3 pm., UW-Madison Arboretum. Color, fruits, seeds, late blooming plants, late-season insects—we will find these and more in the diverse native plant gardens. Susan Carpenter will lead this tour. Tour is free and begins at the Arboretum Visitors Center.

Friday, September 27, Crackle Fire & Froth, 7-10 pm., ***Olbrich Botanical Gardens.*** Watch the flames from bonfires dance on the Great Lawn, with live music, sample a variety of foods from top-notch local vendors and frothy Wisconsin brews.

Saturday, September 28, Longenecker Horticultural Gardens Tour: Medicinal Plants, 1-3 pm., UW-Madison Arboretum. Explore the historical and contemporary medicinal uses of woody plants with Jane Hawley Stevens of Four Elements Herbals. Tour is free and begins at the Arboretum Visitors Center.

Saturday, October 5, Longenecker Horticultural Gardens Tour: Conifers, 1-3 pm., UW-Madison Arboretum. David Stevens will explore the pinetum, the largest and most diverse conifer collection in the state. Located on a glacial drumlin, the collection presents a diverse array of conifers from around the world. Tour is free and begins at the Arboretum Visitors Center.

Saturday, October 12, Longenecker Horticultural Gardens Tour: Fall Favorites, 1-3 pm., UW-Madison Arboretum. Enjoy the colorful show of trees and shrubs before winter dormancy. Michael Jesiolowski, horticulture supervisor at Missouri Botanical Garden, will highlight the best fall foliage, form, and fruit displays from Acer to Zelkova. Tour is free and begins at the Arboretum Visitors Center.

Sat., Nov. 4, Herb Faire, organized by the Madison Herb Society, 9 am.-3 pm., Olbrich Botanical Gardens. madisonherbsociety.org

Bus Tour to northern Illinois

Great trip with WHPS members on May 22 to Hornbaker Gardens in Princeton, IL, then to Anderson Japanese Gardens in Rockford, IL, followed by a quick buying trip to K&W Greenery in Janesville. The clouds that covered the bus on the way opened up to full sun as we reached Hornbaker's, and the rest of the day was lovely – 70's and breezy.

Hornbaker's was filled with beautiful specimen trees, garden art, and plantings of hosta and other spring plants in their full glory. We filled the bus bay with purchased plants at the first stop! (Don't worry, buyers at K&W held their purchases on the bus for the short trip back to Madison.)

Anderson was the centerpiece of the afternoon, incorporating so many plants that we all have in our own gardens (pachysandra, Canadian ginger, hosta, Goldmound Spirea, mugo pines, etc.), but massed and pruned and used in such beautiful flowing rivers of plants and settings for quiet contemplation. Even a bench with a yew shaped to envelope its guest. And the waterfalls and ponds! If you haven't been to Anderson Japanese Gardens, it is so well worth the trip to take a two- or three-hour walk through.

– Trip comments and photos by Stephanie O'Neal

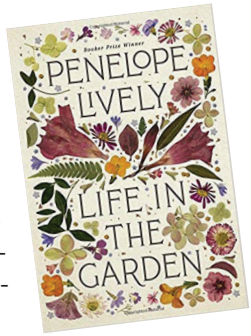
Book Review by Linda Brazill

Life in the Garden by Penelope Lively.

Penelope Lively is a winner of the Booker Prize and a Dame Commander of the OBE, no small achievements which give you a sense of the length and breadth of her career. I ordered this book from Mystery to Me, one of my favorite local independent bookstores as soon as I read about it in *Gardens Illustrated*, the UK magazine I subscribe to. The two central activities in Lively's life – alongside her writing – have been reading and gardening. Many of us are likely at an age where we might say the same.

Lively writes about many aspects of gardening but not the how-tos. She considers the written, imagined garden from Daphne du Maurier's *Manderly* to Willa Cather's prairies in *My Antonia* and beyond, in a wonderful, wide-ranging discussion that looks at reality, metaphor, art and fashion. Like many of us, she pays great attention when a writer conjures up a garden. How it's done, why it's done can make or break a story or an entire book.

Lively looks at garden style, town and country gardens and opens the book detailing her own garden history from her childhood in Egypt to her current London townhouse garden, which she still works in though she is now in her 80s. Lively's age is one of the strong suits in the book: she has experienced a lot of gardening in person and in print over the years. Gardening is in our psyche, Lively says, going back to the Garden of Eden. We garden in expectation, which is why it's so invigorating; gardening lets us leave the here and now. As most gardeners know and Lively points out, to garden "is a defiance of time…a garden is never just now; it suggests yesterday and tomorrow; it does not allow time its steady progress."



The book itself is lovely with thick paper, a cover that's a mosaic of dried flower petals and leaves and chapter illustrations by Katie Scott that are reminiscent of floral wallpaper patterns.

WHPS Grant approved for Amazing Sprouts

The Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society Grant Committee has approved a $500 grant for the 2019 Amazing Sprouts program at Allen Centennial Garden. Amazing Sprouts exposes young children to the natural world in the garden using age-specific learning outcomes. Up to 20 children are expected to participate in each of the four 2019 sessions, and the hands-on active curriculum will include such topics as the Dirt on Dirt, Seeds and Me, Fabulous Flowers, Bee Bash, and Circle of Life. ACG asked for support to purchase sustainable kid garden tools and items for the children to use during the program.

A reminder to members that WHPS 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. See details and an application form on our website.

Hosting an Open Garden

We want to see your garden!

In the past, WHPS members have hosted open gardens with attendance ranging from 20-75 people, and all found it to be a very positive experience. Hosting an open garden gives you the opportunity to invite people to visit your garden at very short notice, when you think it's looking especially good. All you have to do is contact us a few days to a week (or more) ahead at wisconsinhps@gmail.com with a date, time, address, and short garden description, and we will send out an e-mail invitation to our members.

Last year ten members were inspired to open their gardens, often in conjunction with another nearby garden that was opening. That was wonderful! It only could have been better if they had been spread out over the season. One was in May and the other nine were between July 12-26. How about other spring gardens? Or a garden with great fall color or beautiful ornamental grasses? In May of this year four people opened their gardens - thank you!

Feel free to email with questions/concerns. We know we have many members with lovely gardens and we'd like to see them!

– Jane LaFlash

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WHPS/MAMGA Sun Prairie Garden Tour – June 27

Thursday, June 27, 2019 4 – 8 pm.

HERE IS THE MAP LINK: Google map

Gardens may be visited in any order. Bendt and Cunningham gardens are next door to each other and accessible through a path.

Lynne and Tom Bendt – 3085 Bruin Rd, Sun Prairie

We live in the woods and started with creating gardens around the house, then continued with gardens bordering the woods. The gardens are full of native forest plants, a variety of hostas and ferns and shade-loving perennials, along with water fountains and several pots of annuals spread throughout the yard. We took a pond-building class and built our pond with waterfalls next to our gazebo, where we can sit and enjoy the sound of the water and the beautiful scenery. When walking through our gardens you find out that you can have lots of color in the woods.

Cindi and Mike Cunningham – 7042 Fawn Lane, Sun Prairie

We have tried to create a deep woods garden with a Japanese influence. There are multiple pathways with hostas and other shade-loving perennials with accent plantings of annuals. Also included is a multiple-stream water feature and several bubbling fountains. Moss gardens and ferns add their own texture to the layout. There is also an interesting display of textures, greens and bright accents of annuals in containers.

Lynn and Greg Belanger – 7300 Wilburn Rd, Sun Prairie

Our home is the grey ranch on the east side of the road. Some GPS navigation programs will take you to our detached garage (our house is the first house north of the garage). Feel free to park on both sides of the road along the mowed areas. The shoulder may have slope, so please take care not to get stuck! Keep two car wheels on the road.

Greg and I love the outdoors and in 2000, we purchased our rural home on twenty acres surrounded by farms, remnant woods, wetlands and nature. We have worked to create a garden and habitat to attract birds, insects, toads, frogs and all animals. Our property favorites include otters, turtles, star-nosed moles, hawks, snipe and owls. We have successfully identified 100+ species of birds.

About one-third of an acre of garden plantings surround our home and contain a blend of more than 350 different perennials, conifers, deciduous plantings and incorporated natives. Our side garden is a collection of shade and woodland plants under mature oak trees. In our backyard, we constructed a waterfall which cascades into a 4,000 gallon koi pond with rocks we collected from the property.

Informal walkways weave through several additional gardens with mixed plantings and excellent bird watching. Six raised vegetable garden beds were constructed by Greg. You will also see his woodworking creations throughout the gardens, which include a double arbor, outdoor furniture, trellises, birdhouses, feeders, shed, bridge, pier and more. I design and plant the garden beds, make all the paths, hypertufa troughs, cast concrete leaves, cement items and add whimsical outdoor décor.

Additional areas include two acres wet-mesic prairie. Greg and I restored an old field pasture with a grass forb seed mix of different native species. Bottle gentian, lobelias, Culver's root, rattlesnake master and red milkweed are some of our favorites. You are also welcome to enjoy two miles of walking trails which connect to four acres of woods (oak, walnut and pine), a three-quarter-acre spring-fed stocked fish pond and nature areas. Our property collectively has over 100 natives. Wear sturdy comfortable footware (preferably water resistant) for walking the trails.

Sun Prairie Community Gardens – 1340 Linnerud Dr, Sun Prairie

The community garden is located at 1340 Linnerud Dr. next to the Sun Prairie Public Library. The site is leased to Sun Prairie Community Garden Organization from the City of Sun Prairie and is divided into 143 plots that are available for rent to people who reside within the city limits, reside within the city school district, or work within the city limits.

The goal of SPCGO is to provide gardening opportunities for those who desire to rent space where they may grow vegetables for home use only, in an open and welcoming community environment.

Vegetable plots are 18' x 24' and returning gardeners typically rent the same plot year after year. Flower plots are available for free and surround three sides of the gardens. The gardening season runs from May 1 through about October 15, when the last produce is harvested, all fences are cleared off, and the whole area is plowed under. Garden tillers, hand tools, water and compost are provided free of charge. A raspberry patch and some rhubarb plants have been planted in separate areas near the garden plots. A pollinator garden is maintained along the path leading from the gardens to the Sun Prairie Public Library.

Oakwood Village Prairie Ridge – 5565 Tancho Dr, Madison

(see Chris Neumann's article about this garden in the April 2019 WHPS Newsletter)

As Lead Horticulturist at Oakwood Village Prairie Ridge, I've found that I really have only two main duties – to provide opportunities for residents, visitors and staff to find beauty in our landscape, and to provide residents with opportunities to get their hands in the dirt.

OVPR is a nonprofit continuing-care retirement community on Madison's border with Sun Prairie. Residents enjoy a 17-acre campus landscaped with parkland, gardens, ponds and prairie, as well as community garden plots which they can plant as they wish. Every building is ringed with mixed perennial, ornamental grass and shrub beds, creating over a mile of sun, part-sun and shade gardens. In addition to these perennial gardens, we plant thousands of annuals, tropicals and spring bulbs each year for seasonal displays. The prairie restorations, with their over 60 species of native wildflowers and grasses, give residents a glimpse into the original landscape after which the campus is named, and provide a haven for birds, butterflies and pollinators.

We are finishing a major campus expansion that will add over half-again the total garden area. Hopefully, the landscaping will be finished by the time of the tour. If it is, we can show off our new roof garden on the plaza, built over the underground parking for the new independent living buildings. Roof gardening is a new venture for us and we look forward to sharing this experience.

WHPS/MAMGA Middleton Madison Garden Tour – July 16

Wednesday, July 16, 2019 4-8:00 pm

HERE IS THE MAP LINK: Google map

Gardens may be visited in any order.

Ken and Jean Nordlund – 1030 Middleton St., Madison

(This if off Gammon Rd and does not connect with the Middleton St. in Middleton)

We moved to this house in Madison in 1989. Please note – this is Madison! While we live at 1030 Middleton Street and the other gardens open today are in Middleton, you cannot get here following Middleton Street from Middleton! You will need to head over to Park Street, which becomes Gammon Road in Madison, where you can find Middleton Street and us.

In 1989, I could distinguish a petunia from a pine tree, but little else. We had moved into a new spec house and the developer had placed a sod lawn in the front, planted a couple of saplings and half-dozen geraniums and scattered some weed seed in the back. And I needed a hobby! That first year, I happened across a book by Oehme & Van Sweden called *The New American Garden* and I was hooked. So many varieties of miscanthus and so little space! Our lot was all full-sun in those days, but the saplings have grown, shade has emerged and the gardens have developed.

I think about our lot as consisting of seven gardens. They emphasize grasses and sedges, but utilize many flowering perennials selected to stretch the season. The front of the house features a collection of ornamental evergreen trees. The pathway around the east side features golden hakonechloa grasses and an arborvitae hedge. In the sunnier southwest side is the "Bling Prairie" that emulates a prairie look with very few true prairie plants – single-flower dahlias, for example. To the west is "Chichimecha Paradise" in which a vegetable garden is protected by a rabbit-proof fence and is hidden by Carex muskigumensis, Japanese anemone, Pinky Winky hydrangea and others. More and more native plants are blended into each of the gardens each year.

Behind our lot is a community property where neighbors and I are trying our hands at restoring a three-acre prairie. Please venture across the city border into Madison and visit us.

Betsy True and Danny Aerts – 4785 Toepfer Rd, Middleton

The Functional Yard: Betsy True and Danny Aerts

We have a one-acre yard in the Town of Middleton that we have been gradually improving with garden, orchard and woodland settings. A large fenced vegetable garden occupies the main center; I am serious about vegetables, using raised beds, rotation, elevated bins and containers. Pears, quince, espaliered apples and various small fruits are distributed around. There are chickens at one end of the yard and bees at the other. A prairie covers the side yard, a pond lies just off the sun porch on the other side; there are many diverse micro-environments. We landscape with an eye for insect nutrition and habitat, extended bloom for the bees, habitat for small animals and edibles for the house. It's a work in progress and a joy to keep improving and trying new things.

Linda and Bruce Christensen – 5409 Aster Ct, Middleton

We moved to our present location in 1982, but it was several years later before we began the journey to transform a grass lawn into a more enjoyable living space. The garden design, maintenance and work required for the transformation was done entirely by us, with the exception of three water features that were designed with the help of our friend Scott (Scott Gear Designs).

Our garden is best defined as plant centric and bird and insect friendly, with sweeping mixes of perennials, grasses, annuals, shrubs and specialty trees. The front and side gardens receive lots of sun and contain a cottage garden, mixed borders, a small, bird-attracting pondless stream, numerous container plantings and large beds of annuals.

Linda starts the majority of annuals from seed in February and March, and numerous coleus cultivars have been continuously cultured from cuttings for many years. The backyard shade gardens provide a cool retreat with a waterfall-fed, moss-covered koi pond, woodland paths and an abundance of mixed foliage "greens" enhanced by flowering perennials, shrubs, trees and annuals. Container plantings can be found on patios and throughout the garden.

The loss of several large spruce in 2017 changed the sun/shade landscape somewhat but also spurred the creation of a 90' stream that meanders through the garden. Although the birds loved it immediately, this new water feature should have nicely "settled in" for your visit this summer.

Conrad and Mary Wrzesinski - 3010 Elm Lane, Middleton *(note parking info at end)*

The garden of Conrad and Mary Wrzesinski may best be described as eclectic. The 340 varieties of daylilies, which represent the introductions of over 125 hybridizers provide the garden with panoply of color, flower, form and fragrance. Interspersed among the daylilies are perennials, including peonies, coral bells (heuchera), true lilies (lilium), cone flowers (echinacea), pulmonaria, hellebores and sedum. Shaded areas of the garden include a variety of hosta and an assortment of woodland plants.

Strategically placed around the gardens are stone benches salvaged during the demolition of the old Edgewood Dominican Sisters' Convent. Each one beckons to sit and take in the garden and perhaps take a selfie to capture the moment. A large boulder resting on the top of the rock sculpture was unearthed during construction of the foundation of the house draws the eye to the surrounding. A specimen of the paperbark maple (Acer griseum) and a weeping larch (Larix decidua var. polonica) provide other inviting focal points in the garden.

The sandstone bench near the front door of the house was formerly the lintel over an entrance to a concealed chamber that was salvaged from Mapleside, the residence of Abel Dunning, which was built in 1853. Prior to the Civil War, Mapleside served as station on the Underground. The concealed chamber housed escaped slaves.

Normally there is no parking on both sides of Elm Lane. The Middleton Police Department has granted a dispensation so visitors to the garden may park on the same side of the street as they turn off county M (Century Avenue) onto Elm Lane. Parking is also available along Mendota Drive at the end of Elm Lane.

WHPS
Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Inc.
211 S. Fair Oaks Avenue, Madison, WI 53704
June 2019 Newsletter

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

New members

The following members have recently joined WHPS:

Barbara & David Bendlin; Karen Blaedow; Larissa DeLain; William Feuerhammer; Holli Hebl; Heather Kapp Holt; Gail Willert; Tim & Terry Wood.

Welcome!

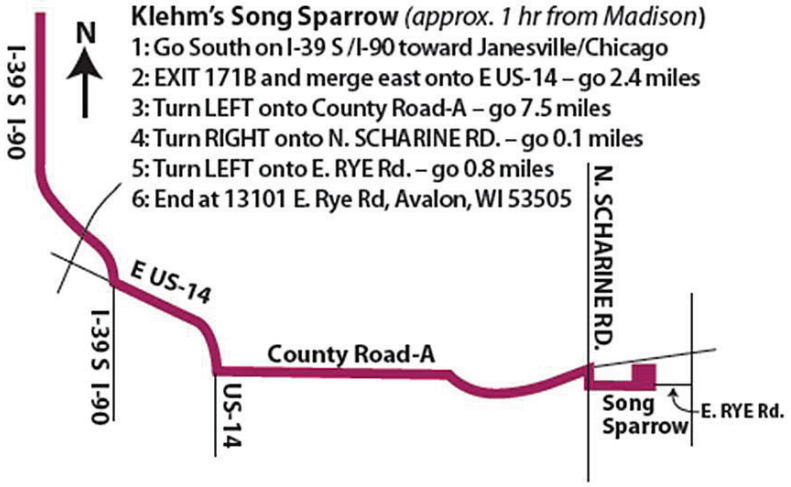
Members in print

Garden Gate Magazine Book - *Easy Weekend Garden Solutions* - Early Summer 2019

- Cover photo of the garden of Linda and Bruce Christensen in Middleton.
- *Lessons from an Art Teacher*, p. 50-63, article about the garden of Karen Watson-Newlin in Verona.

Fine Gardening August 2019:

- *Terrific Tender Salvias* by Richard Hawke of Chicago Botanic Garden (and our April speaker) - p 34
- *Conquering Collector's Chaos* by Frank Fitzgerald (we visited his garden on our 2017 bus trip to Minneapolis) - p 56.

Song Sparrow buying spree

Saturdays, June 1 and June 15, 8 am. - noon – LAST CHANCE BUYING OPPORTUNITY at SONG SPARROW FARM, 13101 E Rye Rd, Avalon WI. You can preorder online at www.songsparrow.com (click on "Pick up and Open House" dates) and have plants ready prior to arrival. Things are selling out and once they are gone - they are gone!!!