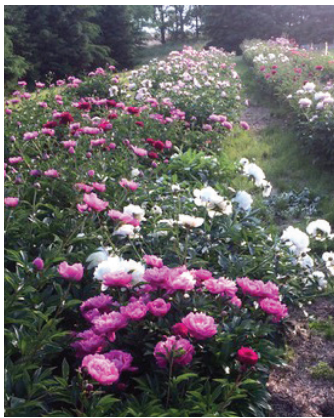




Perennial Notes

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Inc.

September 2019



Peony Fundraiser

Wednesday, Sept. 18, 6-7:00 pm. before WHPS Meeting. WHPS will be offering a gorgeous selection of peony roots and seedlings before our September meeting, with prices ranging from \$2 to \$120. With over 30 varieties to choose from, including 'Coral Charm', 'Raspberry Sundae', 'Strawberry Blush', smoothii and several unnamed stunners, there is sure to be something for every garden. WHPS members Rita Thomas and Lloyd Ravet have generously donated these plants, with 100% of profits to be split between the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society and Adelante Mujer, a program that helps Nicaraguan women become medical doctors.

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.

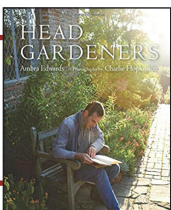
Sunday, Sept. 8, WHPS Workshop: Using the Fall Garden for Creative Arrangements, 3-4:30 pm. **SOLD OUT** – sign up for waiting list. Join Caroline Bohler, owner of Homegrown Flowers and WHPS board member, for this workshop on fall cut flowers. She will discuss the best fall bulbs, perennials and woodies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

Wednesday, Sept. 18, From the Sublime to the Contemptible: Preserving Rare Plants and Dealing with Invasive Species in the Midwest with Kayri Havens, Senior Director, Plant Science and Conservation, Chicago Botanic Garden. Chicago Botanic Garden has research programs focusing both on conserving the rarest plants of the upper Midwest through ex situ conservation and mitigating the threats to those plants in the wild. In this talk Kayri will introduce you to some of the imperiled species in our region, what factors are leading to their decline, and what is being done to conserve them. For example, Pitcher's thistle (*Cirsium pitcheri*) is a rare native thistle found



only on the sand dunes around the western Great Lakes. This plant plays a critical role in providing resources for pollinators but is being driven to extinction by several weevils introduced as biocontrols for weedy thistles. In addition, Kayri will also discuss some of the region's worst invasive plants and the voluntary codes of conduct designed to curb their use and distribution through self-governance. For instance, deciding how to treat cultivars of invasive plants led to a research project to address how fecundity of cultivars affects potential invasiveness. They modeled the effect of reducing fecundity on population growth rates of invasive species and used the results to determine our cultivar policy. Kayri Havens holds a B.S. and an M.A. in Botany from Southern Illinois University and a Ph.D. in Biology from Indiana University. She joined the Chicago Botanic Garden in April 1997. She is currently the Garden's Senior Director of Ecology and Conservation and Senior Scientist. Her research interests include the effects of climate change on plant species, restoration genetics, pollination networks, ex situ conservation, and invasion biology. She is on the adjunct faculty of Loyola University, Northwestern University, and the University of Illinois-Chicago. She chairs the Non-federal Cooperators Committee of the Plant Conservation Alliance and collaborates with a variety of academic institutions, agencies and stewardship organizations to help improve conservation efforts for plants and plant communities. **Special Pre-meeting Peony Fundraiser** (see details at left).

(continued on page 2)



Book Reviews
see pgs. 5 & 7.



War on worms
see p. 4.



Pleasing plants
see p.2.

WHPS Events (cont. from p.1)

Saturday, Sept. 28, WHPS Workshop: The Accidental Arboretum: 22+ Years of Planting and Pruning in an Urban Garden, 10 am.-noon. SPACE STILL AVAILABLE! Stephanie O'Neal started out with no knowledge of how to garden in her 8500 square feet of property in South Madison, but from over 22 years of WHPS programs, garden trips and tours as well as hundreds of library books, a great love of trees and shrubs emerged ("I never met a shrub I didn't like") which led to a kind of accidental arboretum of over 150 woody plants. Join her for a walking tour of do's, don't's and stories of woodies – past and present. Registration is required and limited to WHPS members.

Wednesday, October 16 – The Unsung Season: Gardens in Winter with speaker Karen



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, Grants Committee
Vice President – Emily Buckingham, emilybuckingham@gmail.com
Treasurer – Diane Scharkey, dscharkey@gmail.com
Secretary – Emily Buckingham, emilybuckingham@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, Grants Committee
John Cannon, jtcannon@wisc.edu, Trip Committee
Anna DePauw, anna@botannaca.com
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, lmarx@chorus.net, Program Committee
Stephanie O'Neal, 608-256-6108, sone2@aol.com, Publications, Grants Committee
Kitty Rankin, kitty.rankin@gmail.com, Grants Committee
Shirley Sriver, scrivs@charter.net, Coordinator, Trip Committee
Conrad Wrzesinski, conradw@charter.net, Grants Committee

Bussolini (garden photographer, speaker, writer, NOFA-Accredited Organic Land Care Professional, and eco-friendly Garden Coach). Ideally, our gardens should feed our souls and give pleasure 365 days a year, although somehow the warm seasons zip by, while winter seems to come too soon, stay too long and offer too few sensory pleasures. But when you quit grumbling about crummy weather and dark days, and look around, much unexpected beauty awaits. Explore the transition from fall to spring and the many possibilities for garden interest way past first frost. In this program, we will consider form, line, color, texture, plays of light and shadow, movement, sound, birds, surprises you find when you drag yourself out of the comfy fireside chair and go outdoors. Big structures carry the garden when details are buried under snow or it's too gloomy to go out – you can see them from a distance. Evergreens provide color and form, deciduous trees and shrubs create form with lines. Consider trees and shrubs with colored and textured barks, those with interesting buds and winter blooms. Before you know it, early bulbs will be pushing up. This talk is guaranteed to inspire gardeners to appreciate winter in new ways – and to place combinations of interesting plants where they will be seen and enjoyed through the unsung season.



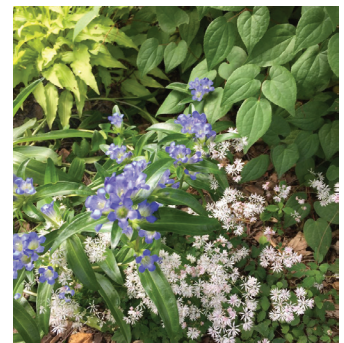
Wednesday, Nov. 20, Gardening with Wildlife with speaker David Drake, a Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research and extension programs primarily focus on wildlife and wildlife damage management in human-dominated landscapes. He is also a researcher on the UW Urban Canid Project (UWUCP), which seeks to learn about coyotes and foxes for several reasons. Traditionally, much of the knowledge and research on foxes and coyotes has



been from rural or wild settings. With urbanization continually increasing, the UWUCP studies how these animals use the urban landscape and how their life histories and behaviors change as a result. A big part of this involves their relationship with humans. The UWUCP aims to better understand these urban adapters so that citizens and wildlife managers alike can be more proactive in how they respond to these animals. More knowledge and understanding will lead to less conflicts. David also teaches an undergraduate course on wildlife damage management. He received his Ph.D. in Forestry from North Carolina State University, a M.S. degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University, and a B.A. degree in Biology from Macalester College.

Wednesday, Dec. 11, Holiday Party, WHPS Annual Meeting, Seed Exchange and Garden Item Exchange. We're moving our Annual Meeting back to December this year! In addition to the Annual Meeting (new directors to present and new officers to confirm), Seed Exchange and Garden Item Exchange, we'll have refreshments and snacks and a few surprises in store. Look for more information in the November newsletter.

June 10-18, 2020, WHPS Trip to England – Frank Greer is working to organize a WHPS Trip to England in 2020, with the following details: leave London Heathrow on June 10 and return to Heathrow the evening of June 18. Further info will follow in the November Newsletter and on our Facebook page.



Posted July 9 on WHPS Facebook Group Page – This photo is from my garden. The blue flower is a new plant for me this year - *Gentiana cruciata* 'Blue Cross', from The Flower Factory. Also in the photo is the lovely *Thalictrum kiusianum*. – Jane LaFlash

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](#)

Gleam: Art in a New Light, [Olbrich Botanical Gardens](#). 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: The Spirit of a 20th Century Garden](#) Join us for a rare opportunity to hear Fergus Garrett, head gardener at Great Dixter in Northiam, England, and holder of the Royal Horticulture Society Victoria Medal of Honour, discuss how to combine plants, considering sense of place, color, shape, texture, and repetition. Learn how to contrast plants, how to add punctuation in a border, and how to create intimacy, movement, and balance. Schedule: 6 pm. - Cocktails & reception (cash bar) + Meet & Greet with Olbrich Horticulture staff; 7 pm. - Lecture: The Spirit of a 20th Century Garden; 8 pm. - Q&A with audience; 8:30 - 10:30 pm. - GLEAM viewing (optional add-on). Tickets: Olbrich Member - \$15 (\$16.74 w/ service fee); General Public - \$18 (\$19.89 w/ service fee). [Purchase Tickets](#).

Thursday, Sept. 5, the Wisconsin Hosta Society has extended an invitation for members of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society and Wisconsin Daylily Society to join them for their September meeting at Olbrich Gardens. Social time at 6:00;

meeting at 6:30. Speaker: Jason E. Granberg, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. **Topic: Presentation on the problems invasive species cause**, specific invasive species that are common in backyards and gardens, important invasive species that occur elsewhere in the landscape, and a brief overview of the regulations Wisconsin has to help stop invasive species (NR40). If you have questions about unknown plants growing in your yard or garden, either bring them in a sealed plastic bag or bring a picture of the weed/plant. Please feel free to bring a friend as Jason would like to reach out to as many people as possible!

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, Sept. 20, [Allen Centennial Garden Fall Fundraiser](#), 4:30-7:30 pm. Join us for a fundraising evening in the UW-Madison Allen Centennial Garden. Delicious food by Pasture and Plenty, a performance by the UW Madhatters, and a live and silent auction to support UW's horticultural jewel await. Funds raised support signature programs for our community, including Plant Adoption Day and Best. Friday. Ever., the Winter Classes lecture series, student scholarships, learning and enrichment activities for volunteers, and so much more. \$35 of each \$50 ticket is tax deductible, as are all donations made at the event. The Friends of Allen Centennial Garden is an independent 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Saturday, Sept. 21, [Madison Orchid Growers Guild is offering a bus trip to the Chicagoland Orchidfest](#). The trip is open to both members and others who may be interested. Bus leaves at 8 am. from parking lot (overflow) to the right of the main entrance driveway to Olbrich Gardens. Arrive back at 7 pm. at parking lot. Trip will be to Natt's Orchids, Naperville, IL, and then to Hausermann's Orchids, Villa Park, IL. There will be opportunities to see

and buy orchids from a variety of vendors at each stop and attend informative lectures. Cost: the charge will be \$60 or less. The greater the number of participants the less the cost. Although the deadline is Sept 1, if you are interested email Gary at glmsnwi@gmail.com or call 608-244-2123.

Friday, Sept. 27 & Oct. 4, [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, Sept. 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 Visitors Center.

Saturday, Oct. 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 Visitors Center.

Saturday, Oct. 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. 2, [Herb Faire](#), organized by the Madison Herb Society, 9 am.-3 pm., Olbrich Botanical Gardens. madisonherbsociety.org

Nov. 29-Dec. 15, [Holiday Light Show at Rotary Botanical Gardens](#), Janesville.

Nov. 29-Dec. 1, [WPS Garden of Lights, Green Bay Botanical Garden](#).

Dec. 7-31, [Olbrich's Holiday Express, Olbrich Botanical Gardens](#).

Who's Winning? Linda Marx vs. the Jumping Worms

I have a yard jumping worms find particularly yummy. Every corner of my city-sized lot is home to teeming spaghetti piles of worms. It is constant war – me against them. They are winning.

I last wrote of my trials of a gardening Job in the September 2017 WHPS newsletter. The gypsy moths are under control through the efforts of professionally applied chemicals, but the worms....but the worms.... my efforts to rein in the infestation are, in my estimation, marginal at best. Either the worms reproduce more quickly than I eliminate them, or my elimination efforts could be improved.

What I'm doing

I always collect and dispose of worms when I see them. Containers with lids and plastic bags are strategically placed around the yard for spontaneous use. Plucking worms is effective but time consuming. And you can't reach everywhere.

The second control mechanism (and way more expensive) approach is to apply Early Bird fertilizer. Early Bird fertilizer is [used on golf courses](#) to control worms whose castings would ruin an otherwise perfect roll of the golf ball. The product



I attribute my dying grass to the abundance of jumping worms.

is a tea seed meal formed into pellets and then topically applied. The product, when it comes in contact with the worm, irritates the skin which leads to death. So far, it is the only hopeful, practical eliminator of worms in the home garden in my estimation. HOWEVER, it has limitations. Early Bird is to be applied and then watered in with at least an inch of water, according to manufacturer's recommendation for turf grass. In many areas of the yard I have thick accumulation of shredded bark or leaf mulch. I need a lot more water to dissolve the fertilizer pellets and to penetrate the mulch to reach the worms that reside at the intersection of soil and mulch. And as this year has had regular rainfall, I've attempted to time my Early Bird application with a heavy rainstorm. Neighbors have witnessed me in a raincoat broadcasting the fertilizer during the leading edge of a promising storm.

The golf course application recommends 3-6 lb. per 1000 square feet as needed. That's an easy application when you have a mechanical spreader. Testing and recommendations for jumping worms in the garden are not given, so I have to guess as to the amount to distribute. If I am more aggressive in distribution, the more frustrated/disgusted I am with the worms. Plus, broadcasting has more challenges. Worms will not die if they don't come in contact with the fertilizer. They can escape to an untreated area – like under a hosta, a colocasia or other large-leaved plant. So when I'm broadcasting, I have to lift up the leaves and get behind bushes for thorough application, all the while hoping for a good rainfall. I haven't gone so far as to lift up stepping stones, decorative rocks, pots and other garden objects, but those are all places the worms protect themselves. And I can't get under the decks or porches or driveway for thorough application either. A 50



lb. bag costs \$55-\$75. While I've included Early Bird in my yearly gardening budget, I want to be practical and prudent when I apply it.

Results?

I've made four applications this year. The worms made an early appearance in May and I did my first application Memorial Day weekend. I hadn't had the opportunity to drive to DHD in Juneau, WI to make a multi-bag purchase, so I went to Paradigm Gardens here in Madison and, for a 50 lbs. bag, paid \$75. The cost in Juneau is \$55 for a 50 lbs. bag.



My shallow-rooted plants are affected.



Sample collection of worms.

Worms (cont. from p. 4)

There have been some instances when the predictions were for heavy rainfall and the actual rainfall was a quarter of an inch or something insignificant for my needs. In those circumstances the fertilizer may not have leached as deep as I would have hoped. Success was elusive for my Memorial Day application. Even if this had killed many/most of the worms, additional applications are needed to attack the ongoing hatching of the worms throughout the growing season. Worms will die in winter, but the cocoons survive in the soil to hatch when the ground warms up. Another application a few weeks later met with greater success (I applied more fertilizer and there was a longer, heavier rain). But with success comes other problems. The worms come to the surface seeking relief from the irritating effects of the tea meal on their skin and then die on the surface, be it grass, soil or concrete. The worms desiccate and rot. Then the yard has an unpleasant odor of rotting worms for a couple of days. You don't want to host an outdoor dinner party on those days.

For years and years I'd gather leaves from around the neighborhood, mulched them with the lawn mower and applied to my garden beds. I think that just created a hospitable environment for the worms and an abundant food source. Now I'm in the process of switching to bark mulch with the idea the worms won't feast on the bark as much as they do on the leaf litter. Perhaps a less well-fed worm will have less offspring per season – an untested hypotheses that I hope I can prove.

This isn't over.

Suggested listening: Margaret Roach, in her blog [A Way to Garden](#), interviews Brad Herrick of the UW arboretum on the latest research he has conducted:

Early Bird Fertilizer sources:

DHD Turf and Tree Products

179 W Kindt St
Juneau WI 53039
866-343-8733

Paradigm Gardens

2025 S Stoughton Rd
Madison WI 53704
608-241-3800

Call for inventory before you go to Paradigm. They seem to be regularly out of stock.

Book Review by Linda Brazill

Head Gardeners by Ambra Edwards with Photos by Charlie Hoopkinson

I came across this book — *Head Gardeners* (from Pimpernel Press) — in the pages of Gardens Illustrated magazine and it piqued my curiosity enough to buy it. I didn't really know exactly who or what it might cover. I certainly never expected to discover a book that was fascinating, funny, moving and quite often brought tears to my eyes. Being a head gardener on the level of the men and women in this book is a back-breaking, endless job that gets little respect, offers low pay and challenges that seem insurmountable. Yet they all take it in stride and love what they do.

The book begins with a look at the subject of professional horticulture in the UK; but I think what author Ambra Edwards shares would be equally true here: fewer and fewer educational institutions are offering programs in horticulture, meaning there is no next generation ready to fill the shoes of these head gardeners. And the people profiled here often said they only knew a fraction of what the gardeners, teachers and mentors in the generations before them knew.

Gardening — in terms of cultural heritage — is a big business in the UK: 33 million people visit UK gardens annually with one-third of them coming from abroad (like WHPS members!), while gardening in its many modes adds 9 billion GBP to their economy. (That's so much money I figured a pounds/dollars conversion is moot.) Many parts of the job have changed little in a hundred years. Others are completely new: multiple types of public relations efforts, money-making schemes, getting port-a-pots and design-



ing car parks for the estate visitors — all related to the tourist aspect of the job. And in many historic gardens, the main task is to restore landscapes to their prime as it was a 100 years ago or more.

There are a few head gardeners covered here who are well-known like Fergus Garrett of Great Dixter or Troy Scott-Smith at Sissinghurst. But often it is the garden designers who get all the press as opposed to this group who do the real work on every level. I discovered I knew the names and something about many of the gardens in this book but not the names of this group of men and women.

And it is a wildly diverse group of talents ranging from recovering heroin addict Paul Pulford at Queen Elizabeth Hall in London to Martin Ogle who — with no budget and a changing band of volunteers — is implementing Dan Pearson's design at Lowther Castle to Carol Sales of Headley Court who uses gardening as therapy for veterans badly injured during their time in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The back stories of every gardener profiled are as fascinating as the work they do today. Many of them did not have an easy life growing up and it was a love of nature that helped them through difficult times. It is worth noting that while photographer Charlie Hoopkinson depicts the locations where these gardeners work, it is his portraits of these men and women that tell the story.

Given that I bought this book on impulse, I am more than glad I did. It is a small but meaningful volume that will have a permanent place on my bookshelf and will likely be taken down and delved into again and again. An absolutely invigorating and inspiring read.



Desiccated worms after treatment with Early Bird.

The Wrath of Winter 2018-2019

WHPS member and Landscape Designs owner Steve Lesch has some thoughts/comments on the survival of his plants (or lack thereof) over this past harsh/polar vortex winter. We thought these comments would be especially helpful as you purchase/plant your replacements and new trees and shrubs this fall and prep for the winter ahead.

This past winter Dane County, WI experienced temperatures in the -29°F to -39°F range.

Acer griseum and its cultivars died due to our second coldest winter in recorded history.

The bark on *Acer* 'Pacific Sunset' and *Acer campestre* 'Sparkling Burgundy' exploded off their wood. *Acer campestre* 'Carnival' died back here and there, but are coming back strongly. This also happened on *Acer palmatum*, *Lindera benzoin* and *Lindera angustifolia*. Both *Lindera* are coming back from their bases and should be fine.

Acer palmatum 'Skeeter's Broom' and 'Red Mill' both died to about 12" from ground level and are regenerating from there. 'Emperor 1' fared a bit better than 'Bloodgood', with many showing little damage. Almost everyone's *Acer palmatum* var. *dissectum* died. *Acer pseudo-sieboldianum* x *palmatum* hybrids ranged from dying outright from the bark rupture to bark damage to many being unscathed.

Acer japonicum, *A. shirasawanum*, & *A. cissifolium* did relatively well to excellent!

Fagus sylvatica, especially the 'Roseo-marginata' also took a hit this winter – including those planted at the Landscape Design nursery. As of this writing I have yet to check on one on Edwards Street that is close to 50 years old. Most of the other taxa came thru quite beautifully.

The potted *Fagus sylvatica* at our nursery fared very badly. *Fagus grandifolia* did fabulously.

Koeleruteria paniculata are slowly coming back and one will need to see how they finish growing for the season.

Spiraea japonicum and *Spiraea X bumalda* took interesting hits. Fortunately, cutting them back rejuvenates them nicely.

Many cultivars of the more compact forms of *Berberis*, especially the more columnar types, will require cutting back to encourage new growth.

Cotoneaster lucida and *C.* 'Tom Thumb' were highly variable. Where 'Tom Thumb' was protected by snow, there was little if any damage. If exposed, they mostly died. *Cotoneaster lucida* bushes were very irregularly damaged.

Cornus kousa var. *chinensis* took a very bad hit with even 30 year old trees – dead or nearly so. However, my 'Miss Satomi' of 20 years is doing great.

Even many *Euonymus alatus* are showing very irregular to very poor growth or total death. I have not yet determined if it is taxa or provenance specific.

Certain cultivars of *Magnolia*, such as some of the yellow-flowered ones and 'Galaxy' took some damage but most came thru remarkably well.

Ilex x meserveae 'Blue Prince' & 'Blue Princess' (the only cultivars I recommend for our area and should only be planted where they don't receive any winter sun) took severe hits – with some of them coming from the base.

Neillia sinensis took a very major hit, but are coming back from the base.

Rodent damage was at an all-time high, including damage on *Carpinus caroliniana* – which is usually not attacked by them.

C. betulus took a hit depending upon its provenance.

Some of our native *Juniperus virginiana*, *Abies concolor*, *Tsuga canadensis* and *A. balsamea* had severe winter burn.

Most *Buxus* cultivars, excluding 'Glencoe', 'Wilson', & 'Wee Willie', took severe hits.

Many *Paeonia suffruticosa* died back or have far fewer flowers than in years before or died to the ground, but are recovering.

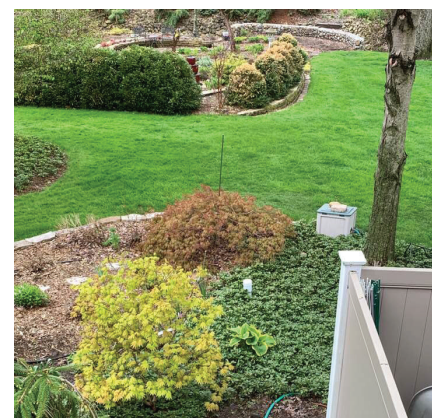
Rabbit, rodent and deer damages were very severe.

....and the list continues....

– [Steve Lesch, Landscape Designs, Madison, WI](#)

Thermal Box – A Winter Tip from WHPS Group Facebook post 5/20/19 by Judy Penticoff

We also lost many Japanese maples this winter in Rockford (-31F). The ones we protected in thermal boxes survived, including two *Acer palmatum dissectum*. Plants wrapped only in shade cloth did not survive, with just a couple of exceptions. In all, we lost about 20 Japanese maples. Anderson Gardens and Klehm Arboretum lost many prized specimens as well. The thermal box is ¾ inch thick foil-backed foam (aka Thermax) available at Menards, taped together with cold temperature rated aluminum tape. It has four sides and a top.



WHPS Grant Program Reminder

Do you know of a school, group or organization that could benefit from a Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society grant? WHPS will award up to \$500 for a project that promotes the use of herbaceous perennial plants in the landscape! Funds may be used for educational purposes, plant material, hardscaping, or tools and supplies. Now is the time to [apply!](#)

Update: \$1,000 Grant Award to Foundation for the Preservation of 108 S. Jackson St. (FP108SJ)

Following is an update from Pat Phillips of the Janesville Women's Group for landscape improvements at the Historic Women's Club Building Grounds, which is used by many groups in the community. Shown are before and after pictures of landscaping around the O.V. Shaffer "Wings of Change" sculpture:

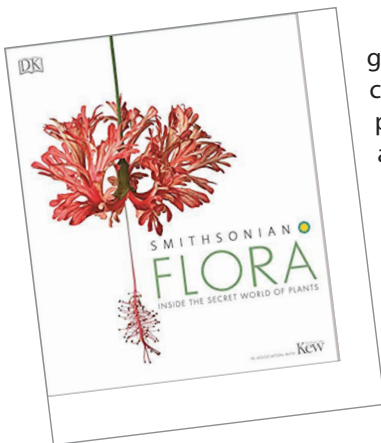
We are almost finished with phase 1 of the landscaping work. Thank you to WHPS and many other generous sponsors – it's beautiful! We've had so many people stop by (even

when we were working) to tell us what a great improvement it is. A city bus driver even stopped to praise our work! We've planted a wide variety of elegant hostas and a few kinds of grasses. We still want to add a few daylilies this fall, and we're waiting on the hand-crafted metal benches for the sculpture terrace. The brick path through the sculpture garden is being laid August 31. Now we're getting ready to tackle landscaping in the front of the building (phase 2) and hope to have the shrubs and hydrangeas planted in a couple of weeks (but waiting on some other perennials until spring).



Book Review by Jane LaFlash

FLORA: Inside the Secret World of Plants by DK & Royal Botanic Gardens Kew



I confess! I don't read the gardening books I buy or check out of the library. Oh, I page through them and usually read the photo captions and sidebars. But I never quite get around to reading the text.

With FLORA: Inside the Secret World of Plants (a Smithsonian book in Association with Kew Royal Botanic Gardens), I actually read every word of the 419 pages.

I saw it recommended somewhere so put a hold on it at the public library. It was pretty daunting when the librarian handed me this huge heavy tome. When I started paging through it I saw that every page had huge beautiful photos and drawings. And ALL the text was – you guessed it – photo captions and side bars! I could do this!

I also have never taken a botany class and have approximately a pre-K level knowledge of botany. The jacket of this book promises: "With astounding photography and clear explanations, FLORA unveils the exquisite beauty, diversity, and purpose of every type of plant, from root to tip."

I guarantee that after paging through – and hopefully reading – this book you will absolutely know that nature is a truly wondrous thing.



211 S. Fair Oaks Avenue, Madison, WI 53704

September 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: Mary Ann Baggs, Balerie Burland, Carol Edds, Judith Gervais, Connie Keator, Kim Knoche, Jennifer Niles, Lynda Paasch, Lynn Rosemann and Mark Wiesmeyer, Brittany Bovard Sabnis and Ashutosh Sabnis, Karen Schulz, Kenneth and Joyce Statz, and Ann Windell.

Welcome!

WHPS Board

We have several long-time directors leaving our Board at the end of this year. If you would like to apply to join our Board, please contact Stephanie O'Neal at sone2@aol.com.

Saving Seeds for our December Seed Exchange

There is still time to get out in your garden and collect some seeds. For more information on collecting seeds, see our [article](#). For additional information, perennials.com has an excellent list of plants from which to save seeds.

Brent & Becky's Bulbs Fundraiser

You can help the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society raise money with any fall bulb 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, like this show-stopping *fritillaria persica* (shown).



To participate, simply visit bloom-inbucks.com and select "Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society" and hit "GO" to be sent to the Brent and Becky's website. 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!

Help Us Raise Needed Money!
Bloomin' Bucks
with Brent and Becky's