



Perennial Notes

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Inc.

January 2021



Calamintha nepeta subsp. nepeta

Perennial Plant of the Year (2021)

By Mark Dwyer

Long-deserving of more attention, the showy lesser calaminth (*Calamintha nepeta subsp. nepeta*) is eye catching in the landscape. This plant has been selected by the Perennial Plant Association (PPA) as the Perennial Plant of the Year for 2021.

Flowering for months with white clouds of blooms from early summer until frost, this low mounding, bushy perennial combines well with a multitude of other plants and is a workhorse in the garden. Pollinators, including bees, butterflies and hummingbirds, will be in abundance on this long flowering and pest-free plant which reaches 18" in both height and width. The lightly aromatic foliage is fine textured and additionally deters deer browsing. This Zone 5-7 hardy perennial, native to
(continued on page 8)

WHPS coming events!

SCHEDULING NOTE: For the foreseeable future, our programs will be virtually via Zoom. You will receive a reminder and a link to the program within the week before the event. Our schedule at present is guided by the current pandemic and our desire to do as much as we can to maintain the safety and health of our members. We are guided by the recommendations of the State of Wisconsin, Dane County and City of Madison for large events. **Please pay close attention to your email, as updates and event zoom links (announcements at 6:45 pm.; meetings at 7:00 pm.) are sent.**

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

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 – WHPS Meeting via Zoom: You got the mid-winter blues: The best blue conifers for WI and a few more (not all blue, about half are blue to blue-green), speaker Laura G. Jull. Dr. Jull has been a member of the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Horticulture and the Wisconsin State Extension Specialist of Woody Ornamental Horticulture since 1998. She currently teaches Identification and Culture of Woody Landscape Plants, Arboriculture and Landscape Maintenance, and Plant Propagation. Laura's extension responsibilities include serving Wisconsin's Green Industry, providing direction for statewide proactive programs, supporting county extension agents in implementing and evaluating programs, and advanced Master Gardener training. Her research interests are diverse and include woody plant evaluation,

tolerance of ornamentals to urban conditions, best management practices in nursery production, plant propagation, and invasive species.

Wednesday, February 17 – WHPS Meeting via Zoom: Cool, Hardy Plants for Wisconsin Gardens, speaker Karl Gercens. Gercens is Conservatory Manager at Longwood Gardens.

His passion for horticulture started at an early age while growing-up on a 10,000-acre cotton plantation in Mississippi. Karl's experimentation with different plant types and growing methods in that region sparked an interest in new and dynamic explorations on cultivation, which ultimately led to his B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture at Mississippi State University. His years of horticultural tenure include innovative design work at such world-class organizations as Longwood Gardens (Kennett Square, PA), The Filoli Estate (Woodside, CA), and Walt Disney World (Orlando, FL). His notoriety for using a pallet of colored foliage trees, shrubs, and perennials extends to the content of his professional lectures and his horticultural classes offered at Longwood Gardens. When Karl is not gardening, lecturing, or consulting, his horticultural passion extends worldwide, with frequent visits to public and private gardens in all 50 states and more than 20 countries.



Potential Spring Sale of Biochar – Biochar is now being researched and is being used by some of our members as a possible way to deal with the issue of jumping worms emerging in

(continued on page 2)



Paw Print Park
Janesville
– see p. 5.



Garden Book Favorites
see p. 6.



Dryopteris
see p. 7.

WHPS Events (cont. from p.1)

the spring garden – typically late April-June as very small-sized worms. (Biochar is an organic soil supplement that can be added to compost or dug into the soil directly a worm level; the sharp edges of the biochar appears to act as an abrasive to cut and kill the jumping worms). WHPS is working to confirm a supplier and finalize pricing, with a plan to offer this product to members later this spring. Because this event will

likely happen before the next newsletter is published, the date and details on this event will be sent to you in an email.

Wednesday, March 17 – WHPS Meeting via Zoom: Dwarf Plants for Small Spaces, speaker Dr. Mark Zampardo. Dwarf Plants are not necessarily small plants but smaller forms of the species. Newer homes are often built on smaller lots with smaller spaces to garden. The smaller spaces usually don't allow us to plant full-size shade trees and large shrubs. Large, older cultivars of popular species are less popular than some of the dwarf forms available. Dr. Zampardo's discussion will cover some new and some older varieties of shrubs – and a few trees – that work well in smaller spaces. Smaller shrubs are popular in mixed borders with perennials and annuals. They add interest to our gardens by adding some texture and often some color to all four seasons. Dr. Zampardo has served as a core instructor in the certificate programs for the Joseph Regenstein, Jr. School of the Chicago Botanic Garden since 2007. For the 28 years prior, he served as coordinator of horticulture for the College of Lake County. He is the author of several books, including *A Landscaper's Guide to Perennial Flowers*, two volumes of the *Guide to Identifying Trees and Shrubs*, and the

Guide to Identifying Annuals.

Wednesday, April 21 – WHPS Meeting via Zoom: Pollinators in the Garden (rescheduled from 4/2020) speaker Krissa Skogen. Dr. Skogen holds a Ph.D., and is Conservation Scientist at the Chicago Botanic Garden. She is also an adjunct professor in Biological Sciences at Northwestern University. Her research interests include: reproductive and pollination biology; plant insect interactions; floral trait evolution; demography; population genetics; large-scale anthropogenic threats to biodiversity; understanding the causes and consequences of plant population and species decline; and Onagraceae, Spingidae, and Microlepidoptera. She believes that understanding the diversity of life starts with uncovering the evolutionary relationships between organisms and landscapes. As a botanist, she is fascinated by the rich diversity of flowering plants (angiosperms) and the insects that interact with them – both pollinators and antagonists (herbivores, seed predators, etc.) – and how these interactions may help explain the great diversity we see today.



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Note from the President

I just wanted to take a moment to thank all of our members for your continued support and interest as we proceed through this pandemic, which will most likely be with us through most of 2021 ahead.



Our newsletters (five times a year) and emails continue to be our main communication points, and we have been pleased to see so many members join our for-the-time-being virtual programming. We even managed to have a Covid-conscious Plant Sale in September, with beautiful plants (some in full fall bloom) from Intrinsic Perennial Gardens. We are working on the possibility of another sale earlier in the year – stay tuned. Though our trips are still on hold, the Trip Committee will be rededicating

itself this year to planning some great experiences for members in 2022 and beyond. Gardening in the Madison area over the past season was amazing from spring through fall. A few of our members even offered open gardens while maintaining safety considerations. And we have ramped up communications on Facebook (over 4,600 Facebook Group members!), offering a weekly challenge through the winter that is a hit – sharing images, plans and experiences that have enriched us all.

Though I honestly believe that it will be late 2021 at the earliest before the word “normal” even begins to enter the conversation, your support of WHPS and our love of gardening and nature make me supremely optimistic for the future. Let's make this coming gardening season our best and most productive ever!

2020 – Other gardening events of note

Key events of interest are listed below, but please visit the following websites for more info on events. Many of these garden entities are offering virtual classes and other events of interest to accommodate current Covid-19 conditions.

- [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 in Lisle, IL](#)
- [Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison](#)
- [Paine Art Center and Gardens in Oshkosh](#)
- [Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville](#)
- [University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum](#)
- [Wisconsin Garden & Landscape Expo](#)

Allen Centennial Gardens - Three virtual lectures upcoming: **Saturday, January 23 - A Soil Scientist's View of Kiss the Ground**, Doug Soldat, Professor and Extension Specialist, Soil Science Department, UW-Madison; **Saturday, February 6 - Inclusion and Place: Planning and Design for the 21st Century American City**, Edna Ledesma, Assistant Professor, Planning and Landscape Architecture Department, UW-Madison; **Saturday, February 13 - Gardening Without Gravity**, Simon Gilroy, Professor, Botany Department, UW-Madison & Madison Area Master Gardeners Association. Register at the link above; free for Friends of the Garden; \$10 for public.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens - A Gardener's Call – A series of five classes/lectures. Learn how to support all life in the garden – creating spaces where all life belongs. Each will be presented on ZOOM, followed by a 30-minute Q&A with the presenter. **Thursday, January 28 - The Bombus Among Us – Bumble Bee Basics**, Heather Holm, awarding winning author of *Bees*, designer, publisher, researcher, and prairie restoration ambassador; **Thursday, February 25 - Diversifying Your Garden Design**, Fergus Garrett, head gardener at Great Dixter, and Chief Executive of the Great Dixter Charitable Trust; **Thursday, March 25 - Nature's Best Hope**, Doug Tallamy, professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware and author of the award winning book, *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*; **Thursday, April 29 - Edible Landscaping to Kitchen Gardens: Planning, Planting to Harvest**, Lisa Hilgenberg, horticulturist at the Chicago Botanic Garden's four-acre Regenstein Fruit & Vegetable Garden, educator, and host of *Weekly Gardening Minute* on WBBM Newsradio; **Thursday, May 27** - a special presentation by three Olbrich experts: Jeff Epping – Director of Horticulture; Erin Pressley – Herb, Wildflower & Pond Garden Horticulturist; and Katey Pratt, Rose & Event Garden Horticulturist. They will share their designs and time-saving gardening techniques to give you more time to appreciate the bees, butterflies, birds and living beauty that has taken up safe haven in your earth-friendly garden sanctuary. Registration at link above - \$10 off if you register for all five lectures.

Wisconsin Garden & Landscape Expo - Saturday and Sunday, February 20-21 – This year's **Garden & Landscape Expo** will be held virtually and registration is free. Two days of seminars, exhibitors, garden tours and fitness sessions. Did we mention this is free? You must register through the link above.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens - Now until February 1 - Plant Sale with the Pros 2.0 – Online. In an effort to ensure everyone's safety, this upcoming spring, Olbrich Gardens will continue to host the Plant Sale with the Pros online. The 2021 online plant sale will again include a selection of tried and true perennial varieties from Walters Gardens and Midwest Groundcovers. You can learn more and shop directly online at the link above. Remember, the order deadline for the new pre-order plant sale option is February 1.

University of Wisconsin - Madison Arboretum - Now until March 15 - Friends of the Arboretum Plant Sale - The Friends of the Arboretum Plant Sale will once again be held online (no walk-in tent sale this year). Plants need to be ordered by March 15, with curbside pickup held in May. For more information, go to "FOA Native Plant Sale on Facebook (or see ad below).

New members

The following members have recently joined WHPS:

Nancy Benninghouse (Wauwatosa, WI); Jan Brendle (Necedah, WI); Michelle & Brian Caldwell (Plover, WI); Allison Gorman (East Troy, WI); Irene Klingemann (Mauston, WI); Rommy Lopat (Lake Forest, IL); Marilyn Neiman (Madison), Kimberly North (Madison); Joyce Phillips (Madison); Margit Schiefelbein (McFarland); Barbara Swan (Menominee, WI); Brad Terp (Wauwatosa, WI); Joe & Molly Vande Slunt (Madison); Nicole Watson (Milwaukee); Tannis Woodman (Beloit, WI)

Welcome!

Friends of the Arboretum, Inc.

Native Plant Sale



Supporting the work of the UW–Madison Arboretum

- Prairie plants
- Woodland plants
- Trees and shrubs
- Citizen science kits
- Mixed garden kits

Order all plants by March 15 at foamadison.org
Curbside pickup in May
No walk-in tent sale this year
More info: "FOA Native Plant Sale" on Facebook
foamadison.org
nativeplantsale@foamadison.org
608-571-5362



Everyone's Eden: Midwinter's Garden Dreams

By A. Hort Hound

Winter is time for garden dreams. In my dreams, there are always two kinds of gardens.

One, more of a nightmare, is epitomized by a garden of classical design often viewed in the likes of *Architectural Digest* or flashy garden design magazines. The central feature is a calm, smooth, rectangular pool whose surface reflections are exaggerated by water treated with a black dye and other impurities that keep it "pristine." At most there may be a sculpted, single, bronzed leaf at the top of the pool from which a single drop of water falls onto the surface at tantalizingly, varying intervals, like a punctuation mark. The reflecting pool's wide, polished stone edges are flanked by two strips of perfectly tended green grass. At best a few boxwood balls or perfectly shaped conifer pyramids are the only other plant material in evidence. Ornamentation is limited to a sculpture of a half-nude figure from Greek mythology, or perhaps a modern, cold, stainless steel take on a sundial. All is serene, there is nary a dot of clover or a yellow dandelion flower in the grass, never a stray autumn leaf on the pool's surface, and never a flower to alter the nearly monochromatic color palette. If birds fly overhead, they never stop for a look around. There are no movements provided by the wind or erring wildlife. All is still, all is quiet. It is almost frightening, and I am always glad to wake up.

The other garden of my dreams more closely resembles that described in the book of Genesis. It contains plants of every known flora and the likes of every known garden critter, with little space for ornamentation. As it was created in just seven days, it does not require all that much work, though it is unknown how much maintenance is required. We do know that its original two gardeners messed up and were cast out, the gates locked behind them. This is reminiscent of the infamous WHPS gardener, shamed by the head gardener at Wisley for sampling the gooseberries. Yes, I understand the Garden of Eden is also a source of sustenance! The wildest part of my dream is the garden's endless double, triple-wide, perennial borders, backed by miles of shrubbery, and all underplanted with drifts of every flowering bulb known to creation. There are flowering meadows stretching to the horizon, dotted with groves of flowering fruit trees of every variety. There is a woodland garden centered around a lake with a gracefully arching stone bridge, an artful display of exquisite water lilies, and even a few swans swimming about. And, of course, one area includes a collection of interconnected small garden rooms, emulating the design of every small garden imaginable. If truth be told, most of us are just trying to recreate one of these "little" garden rooms as our own Garden of Eden, but there are exceptions. A garden of mega-proportions belonging to a WHPS member in Barrington Hills, IL, comes to mind.

My little dream garden is stuffed with plants with always enough space for just one more. How surprised The Creator would be today at the availability of an endless variety of "new" but unproven plant material. Plants provide the garden's human element, each one with people associations. It may be the gardener who shared it with us or, more likely, the person in whose garden we admired the plant for the very first time. We

may recall the visiting gardener who fell in love over a plant and went home with a division. Very special plants are also "gifts and keepsakes" from gardens of present and past family members, as well as friends who are dear to us. There may be a plant whose first flower was picked by a toddling grandchild attracted by its beauty. Perhaps we recall the nurseryman who sold the plant to us, and the circumstances that took us on some far-off journey that led to its discovery.

Each plant has its own phenology. We recall when it bloomed or did not bloom in the past several years, how early it broke dormancy, or weathered a drought. Has it been attacked by Japanese beetles or spider mites? And we anthropomorphize the plants by talking to them. There may be a few garden ornaments, typically associated with our personal interests in art, antiques or perhaps some favorite fauna. Of course, there is always room for a "few" potted plants. There is also that bench that no one ever sits on. In the dream garden there is a small water feature, with or without a few goldfish or a tinkling fountain. Wildlife is an important part of the garden and in general is encouraged. Yes, some critters create challenges, and perhaps the original Garden of Eden had enough of everything that a nibble here, or an excavation there, did not matter. Bird feeders are in place and plants encouraged that attract pollinators.

In the garden of my dreams, there is the constant chatter of chickadees and the scolding of wrens, and a tiny brown creeper scootching up and down the trunk of a hemlock in search of a tasty morsel. The passing overhead of a red-tailed hawk with its high pitched cries is welcomed, and the mournful cries of a barred or a great horned owl at night are celebrated.

Yes, I know when I wake up that the garden of Eden is forever out of reach. But gardens are made from winter's dreams, and dreams do come true. May yours come true, too!

Members in the News

Fine Gardening - January/February 2021

- *Plants That Shine in the Shade* – p. 30 - Frank Fitzgerald
- *Regional Picks - Plants to Build a Bed Around* – p. 75 - Mark Dwyer

The American Gardener - November/December 2020

- *Stunning Stems* – p. 13 - Ed Lyon

WHPS Grants Program

The Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society offers grants to community groups, schools, or other organizations for projects that promote the use of herbaceous perennial plants in the landscape. Grants can only be awarded to a nonprofit organization or a group that is associated with a nonprofit organization. For more information, go to our website: <http://www.wisconsin-hardyplantsociety.org/grants.html>

Paw Print Park Grants Report

The following is a report by Cathy Erdman to the WHPS, which contributed funds for a garden project at the Paw Print Park in Janesville:

Earlier in 2020, Paw Print Park was the recipient of a WHPS grant to plant “the Nursery.” I am excited to be able to update you on this project.



The Paw Print Park Pack (Paw Print Park’s citizen volunteer/advocacy group) planned to utilize the funds you made available to install an education garden. The garden, besides showcasing examples of native prairie plants found at the park, would also be used as a nursery and seed bank as we worked to repopulate Paw Print Park with native prairie plants. After a rocky spring, the Pack was able to install the first round of plantings into an approximately .07-acre area located just outside the park fencing. The Paw Print Park Pack worked with Agrecol Native Seed and Plant Nursery to choose appropriate plant species for the area and for the park. The first round of plantings included 248 individual plugs, representing 37 native species. It was installed in early June. A second round of plantings, totaling 128 plugs (4 native grass species), was installed in September once the weather cooled down. Volunteers from the Pack were also able to provide additional native seedlings and plants from their own gardens to supplement the plugs provided through the WHPS grant.

All told, over 400 plants were installed. Volunteers provided over 125 hours of labor on the installation, care and management of the area. The weather presented us with challenges all summer – heat and inconveniently spaced rain events required volunteers to supplement Mother Nature frequently. Additionally, the presence of an existing seed bank of weeds and non-natives kept volunteers very busy. Thanks to volunteer efforts to address these challenges as they arose, the site looks great

for next year. Multiple newly installed plants produced both flowers and seeds, and weeds were kept to a minimum so that the plantings had an opportunity to establish good root structure. The work is not yet complete; volunteers will monitor this site closely once spring arrives to ensure that noxious weeds and invasives are kept at bay. We will also use the winter months to work on education materials for the site. It is our goal to be able to teach others about the benefits of native plants populating the park; ensuring that there are reference materials available to assist is critical to this effort.



I’d like to take this opportunity to thank you, the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, for funding this project. We are excited to see this site develop over the next few years. We hope you’ll stop in to see our progress.

I would also like to thank Agrecol Native Plant Nursery for their assistance. Their greenhouse staff provided high-quality, well-rooted, healthy plugs that established quickly in our site. As gardeners, you are well aware that working with good stock is half the battle. Their office staff was knowledgeable, helpful and supportive. I look forward to seeing their company thrive.

Finally, I can’t say enough about the volunteers involved with this project. Their time, effort and energy and sweat equity was, and continues to be, critical in moving this project forward. Their advocacy and service demonstrates local commitment to a sustainable environment at Paw Print Park. I’m so proud to know and work with each of them. They represent the best that our park community has to offer.

Chris Neuman appointed to WHPS Board

Chris Neuman has been appointed to serve the remaining two years of the director term vacancy resulting from the resignation of Ben Futa at the end of 2020. Chris has volunteered to serve on both the Newsletter Committee and the Plant Sale Committee. Chris gardens in Madison on a standard city corner lot. He lives with his wife, Pam, also an avid gardener, and their indoor cat, Mojo, who has never shown any interest in gardening except to bite the ends off of spider plants. Here is his biography.



I grew up in the city of Chicago in a beautiful 1920s brick six-flat. Its best feature, at least to me, was its foot-wide window sills — lots of space for houseplants. My first garden experience was at my grandfather’s house in Evanston where he grew vegetables and flowers. At home I built a tiny garden in the area next to the land-

lord’s garage. Moss roses did well there. An influence on a larger scale was the summer home of my great-uncle and aunt on Lake Geneva. Much later in life I learned that the landscape had been designed by the “Dean of American Landscape Architecture,” Jens Jensen. My great-uncle added a great variety of additional trees to make it a private arboretum.

My undergraduate degree is in Geology from Carleton College and my master’s work was at UW-Madison in Landscape Architecture with a focus on native plant communities. I recently retired from 17 years as the manager of horticulture and landscape at Oakwood Village Prairie Ridge, a nonprofit, continuing care retirement community. Besides Oakwood, I have worked as a retail clerk, store manager, photographer, garden designer, handyman, teacher, and DNR consultant. Although allegedly retired, I plan to keep a hand in some of these areas.

I consider it a privilege to serve on the WHPS board. I have learned so much from the WHPS with its meetings, trips, and other resources that I am happy to give back to help in its efforts.

Garden Book Favorites

As part of our series of WHPS Facebook Group Challenges, in mid-November we asked group members to post their favorite gardening books. The responses and recommendations were excellent (and overwhelming). Below is a list from those posts for your winter reading enjoyment.

- A Field Guide to Terrestrial Invasive Plants in Wisconsin*, edited by Thomas Boos, Kelly Kearns, Courtney LeClair, Brendon Panke, Bryn Scriver, & Bernadette Williams
- A Starter Garden*, Cheryl Merser
- A Year at North Hill: Four Seasons in a Vermont Garden*, Joe Eck and Wayne Winterrowd, Alice & Brian McGowan
- American Gardens in the Eighteenth Century*, Ann Leighton
- American Gardens of the Nineteenth Century: "For Comfort and Affluence,"* Ann Leighton
- American Horticultural Society Encyclopedia of Plants & Flowers*, Christopher Brickell/
The American Horticultural Society
- Art and the Gardener: Fine Painting as Inspiration for Garden Design*, Gordon Hayward
- Beds and Borders: Design Ideas for Gardens Large and Small*, *Fine Gardening Magazine*
- Best Garden Plants for Minnesota and Wisconsin*, Don Engebretson and Don Williamson
- Beth Chatto's Woodland Garden*, Beth Chatto and Steven Wooster
- Birdscaping in the Midwest*, Marlette Nowak
- Bulbs in the Basement* *Geraniums on the Windowsill: How to Grow & Overwinter 165 Tender Plants*, Alice McGowan and Brian McGowan
- Bulbs: Complete Gardener*, Janet Cave/
Time-Life Complete Gardener
- Buried Treasures: Finding and Growing the World's Choicest Bulbs*, Janis Ruksans
- Caterpillars of Eastern North America*, David L. Wagner
- Continuous Bloom*, Pam Duthie
- Creating a Perennial Garden in the Midwest*, Joan Severa
- Crockett's Victory Garden*, James Underwood Crockett
- Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs*, Michael A. Dirr
- Dirr's Encyclopedia of Trees & Shrubs*, Michael A. Dirr
- Elements of Garden Design*, Joe Eck
- Emily Dickinson's Gardening Life: The Plants and Places That Inspired the Iconic Poet*, Marta McDowell
- Everything I Want to Do Is Illegal: War Stories from the Local Food Front*, Joel Salatin
- Fairyopolis: A Flower Fairies Journal*, Glen Bird, Liz Catchpole and Cicely Mary Barker
- Ferns for American Gardens*, John T. Mickel
- Five-Plant Gardens*, Nancy J. Ondra
- Flower Gardening (Great American Gardens)*, Marty Ross and Jessica Brinkert
- Garden Artistry: Secrets of Designing & Planting a Small Garden*, Helen Dillon
- Garden Design*, David Hicks
- Garden Design & Decoration*, Tessa Eveleigh
- Garden Magic*, Phillip Watson
- Gardening for Butterflies: How You Can Attract and Protect Beautiful, Beneficial Insects*, The Xerces Society
- Good Bugs for Your Garden*, Allison Mia Starcher
- Green Thoughts: A Writer in the Garden*, Eleanor Perenyi
- Grow Herbs: An inspiring guide to growing and using herbs*, Jekka McVicar
- Growing Pains*, Patricia Thorpe
- Growing Perennials in Cold Climates*, Mike Heger
- Growing Shrubs and Small Trees in Cold Climates*, Debbie Lonnee, Nancy Rose, et al.
- Growing the Midwest Garden: Regional Ornamental Gardening*, Edward Lyon
- Helen Dillon On Gardening*, Helen Dillon
- Henry Mitchell on Gardening*, Henry Clay Mitchell
- Herbaceous Perennial Plants: A Treatise on Their Identification, Culture and Garden Attributes*, Allan M. Armitage
- An Encyclopedia of Shade Perennials*, W. George Schmid
- Heuchera, Tiarella and Heucherella: A Gardener's Guide*, Charles Oliver and Martha Oliver
- Heucheras and Heucherellas: Coral Bells and Foamy Bells*, Dan Heims and Grahame Ware
- House & Garden's 26 Easy LITTLE GARDENS*, *House & Garden Magazine*
- How to Have a Green Thumb Without an Aching Back*, Ruth Stout
- In and Out of the Garden*, Sara Midda
- Landscaping with Native Plants of Wisconsin*, Lynn M. Steiner
- Landscaping with Native Trees*, Guy Sternberg
- Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, Michael A. Dirr
- Natural Landscaping: Designing with Native Plant Communities*, John Diekelmann & Robert Schuster
- Nature's Best Hope*, Douglas W. Tallamy
- Perennial Matchmaker: Create Amazing Combinations with Your Favorite Perennials*, Nancy J. Ondra
- Plant Propagation*, Alan Toogood
- Planting in a Post-Wild World*, Thomas Rainer and Claudia West
- Planting the Natural Garden*, Piet Oudolf and Henk Gerritsen
- Planting: A New Perspective*, Piet Oudolf and Noel Kingsbury
- Pots in the Garden*, Ray Rogers and Richard W. Hartlage
- Reading the Landscape of America*, May Thielgaard Watts
- Revive Your Garden: How to Bring Your Outdoor Space Back to Life*, Nick Bailey
- Right Plant, Right Place: The Indispensable Guide to the Successful Garden*, Nicola Ferguson
- Rodale's Complete Garden Problem Solver: Instant Answers to the Most Common Garden Questions*, Cheryl Long, Dayna S. Lane, et al.
- Schnormeier Gardens: Peace, Harmony & Serenity*, Scot E. Long
- Sex in Your Garden*, Angela Overy
- Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson, Linda Lear, et al.
- Sowing Beauty: Designing Flowering Meadows from Seed*, James Hitchmough
- Spring Flora of Wisconsin: A Manual of Plants Growing Without Cultivation and Flowering Before June 15*, Norman C. Fassett
- Teaming With Microbes: The Organic Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web – Revised*, Jeff Lowenfels & Wayne Lewis
- Teaming with Nutrients*, Anita Mayfair
- The Complete Shade Gardener*, George Schenk

(continued on page 7)

Glenn Herold on Ferns

Plant of the Week (Week 36): Wood Fern (*Dryopteris* sp.) Facebook November 8, 2020

Ferns have been around since the Carboniferous Period, otherwise known as the Coal Age or the Age of Ferns. Taxonomically they are somewhere between mosses and flowering plants. They contain a vascular system like flowering plants, but reproduce by spores, akin to mosses. Ferns do not have flowers or seeds. Ferns native to the northern temperate zones usually have stems that are below ground. Arising from the stems are croziers, otherwise known as fiddleheads, which unroll in a tight spiral to form the fronds, or leaves. Most ferns prefer dappled shade and moist but well-drained soils. Few pests bother ferns.



Dryopteris filix-mas 'Parsley'



Dryopteris carthusiana – Narrow Buckler Fern



Dryopteris marginalis 2 – view in garden

There are about 319 genera of ferns and over 10,500 species, but I would like to concentrate on the genus *Dryopteris*, the Wood Ferns, which contains about 400 species and hybrids. Below are descriptions of the seven *Dryopteris* that I grow in my garden. As of November

7, the foliage of all still looked fresh and green.

Dryopteris carthusiana, the Narrow Buckler Fern, is found in North America, including Wisconsin, and Europe. It is now considered a tetraploid hybrid, meaning that it has double the normal chromosome number and is the result of a cross between two different species. It is deciduous, so eventually it will succumb to colder weather.

Another Wisconsin native is *Dryopteris goldiana*, Goldie's Wood Fern. This deciduous species is the tallest of the Wood Ferns, capable of growing to six feet, though it is unlikely to attain this height in a garden setting. *Dryopteris marginalis*, the Marginal Wood Fern, is also native to the Badger state. It forms a nice vase-shaped clump and is evergreen. Old leaves finally die back as new leaves are formed in the spring. I also grow *Dryopteris championii*, which is a one to three-foot evergreen species.

The two species most often found in garden centers are *Dryopteris filix-mas*, the Male fern, and *Dryopteris affinis*, the Scaly Male fern. They are similar in appearance, but *D. filix-mas* is semi-evergreen while *D. affinis* is completely evergreen. 'Parsley' is the cultivar of *Dryopteris filix-mas* that I grow. It is about two feet tall and has crested tips on the fronds. My two *Dryopteris af-*



Dryopteris affinis 'Cristata'



Dryopteris marginalis – Marginal Wood Fern

(continued on page 8)

Garden Books (cont. from p. 6)

The Encyclopedia of Container Plants, Ray Rogers and Rob Cardillo

The Explorer's Garden: Rare and Unusual Perennials, Daniel J. Hinkley

The Explorer's Garden: Shrubs and Vines from the Four Corners of the World, Daniel J. Hinkley

The Flower Gardener's Bible, Leis and Nancy Hill

The Garden Awakening: Designs to Nurture Our Land & Ourselves, Mary Reynolds

The Garden in Autumn, Allen Lacy

The Garden Primer, Barbara Damrosch

The Hosta Handbook, Mark R. Zillis

The Hostapedia, Mark R. Zillis

The Inward Garden: Creating a Place of Beauty and Meaning, Julie Moir Messervy

The Jewel Garden, Monty and Sarah Don

The Know Maintenance Perennial Garden, Roy Diblik

The Layered Garden, David L. Culp

The Natural Shade Garden, Ken Druse

The New American Garden: Innovations in Residential Landscape Architecture: 60 Case Studies, James Trulove

The New Garden Paradise: Great Private Gardens of the world, Dominique Browning and editors of House & Garden

The Plant Lover's Guide to Primulas, Jodie Mitchell & Lynne Lawson

The Plant Lover's Guide to Sedums, Brent Horvath

The Reference Manual of Woody Plant Propagation: From Seed to Tissue Culture, Michael A. Dirr

The Vegetation of Wisconsin: An Ordination of Plant Communities, John T. Curtis

The Well-Tempered Garden, Christopher Lloyd

The Well-Tended Perennial Garden, Traci DiSabato-Aust

Through the Garden Gate, Elizabeth Lawrence

Tree Finder, May Thielgard Watts

Uprooted, Paige Dickey

V. Sackville-West's Garden Book, Vita Sackville West

Wildflower Perennials for your Garden: Detailed Guide to Years of Bloom from American's Native Heritage, Bebe Miles

Wildflowers and Weeds, Booth Courtney and Jim Zim

Wildflowers of Wisconsin, Stan Tekiela

Wisconsin Garden Guide, Jerry Minnich

Several WHPS Facebook friends also recommended [LibraryThing](https://www.librarything.com/), a site to help catalog your books, movies, etc.



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

Plant of 2021 (cont. from p.1)

Britain and southern Europe, prefers good drainage and is drought tolerant once established. Showy lesser calamint prefers slightly acidic to slightly alkaline soils.

Position this perennial in full sun along the front of a border, in a stylized meadow or matrix planting or simply allow its wispy whiteness to meander and weave between neighboring plants. This calamint is also impressive in masses. Olbrich Botanical Gardens (Madison, WI, USA) uses this perennial to great effect. I have numerous, thriving specimens at home. It is simply an amazing, low-maintenance and durable plant.

If you can't find showy lesser calamint, the nearly indistinguishable "White Cloud" will provide the same presence in the garden.

Mark Dwyer runs a consulting firm through [Landscape Prescriptions MD](#)



Calamintha with allium.

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books, supplements, gift certificates and more. This applies to phone and mail orders as well – just mention WHPS or write us in as the organization you'd like to support.

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, donations like these are essential to continue our mission!

Dryopteris (cont. from p. 7)

finis plants are the cultivars 'Cristata' and 'Stableri.' My favorite is 'Stableri,' which has narrow three-foot fronds and is performing well in almost full sun.

I have never grown or even seen a fern that I didn't like. They create a pleasant textural contrast with hostas and other shade plants such as Toad Lily, Trillium, and Twinleaf. Use them either as specimen plants or massed for an impact statement. Garden catalogs will be arriving in the mail before you know it. Be sure to include ferns in your spring orders.



Dryopteris affinis Stableri

To view and read other Facebook posts by Glenn Herold, go to [link](#).