



# Perennial Notes

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Inc.

June 2021



*Nepeta 'Purrsian Blue'*

## A Catmint for Every Space

By K&A Greenhouse

In terms of blooming power, toughness, and ease of care, it's hard to top catmint. All catmints bloom throughout the summer with beautiful blue to lavender blooms that attract bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. They also possess aromatic, minty foliage that makes them generally resistant to deer, rabbits, and other pests. Although some gardeners are scared away by the word "mint" in its name, these catmint varieties are all sterile, which means they stay where planted and do not spread aggressively like true mint. Catmint grows best in full sun but will also tolerate part-sun areas. They prefer well drained soil and are very drought tolerant once established. All *nepeta* are generally listed as zone 3 or 4 and are very hardy in Wisconsin.

(continued on page 2)

## WHPS coming events!

Questions about our events? Email [wisconsinhps@gmail.com](mailto:wisconsinhps@gmail.com) for specific info.

**Summer Dates for WHPS Member Will Radler Open Garden:** Will Radler, developer of the Knock Out series of roses and a WHPS member, is opening his fabulous Greenfield, WI garden (10020 W. Meadow Dr. Greenfield, WI) on a series of dates this summer. The July 31 date is a Garden Conservancy Open Day, but the rest are open to the public. *They have specifically invited WHPS members.* The two-acre garden is extensively landscaped with many interesting and unusual trees, perennials and shrubs. It also features a large stone fireplace, outdoor shower, statuary and glass towers which complement the complex research and development of new roses. 2021 Open Garden Events: Sunday, May 16, 1:00-3:00 pm; Sunday, June 13, 1:00-3:00 pm; Saturday, July 17, 9:00 am-noon; Saturday, July 31, 8:00 am-noon (Garden Conservancy Day); Friday, August 20, 6:30-8:30 pm.; Friday, September 17, 6:30-8:30 pm.; Saturday, October 16, 1:00-3:00 pm. Designated nonprofit organizations set individual event entrance fees. You may also schedule an alternate visit Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-1:00 pm by emailing [roseinnovations@gmail.com](mailto:roseinnovations@gmail.com), or ask a friendly garden expert if immediate access is available. If you are able, we encourage a minimum donation of \$5 per person for non-event access.

**Thursday, July 15, 4:00-8:00 pm - Tours of Member Gardens - East side of Madison** - Gardens of Rosemary and Tom Kleinheinz; Peter Anderson and Sarah Herwig; Lisa Johnson;

Emily and Milton Ford. See pages 6 for info and map.

**Wednesday, July 21, 4:00-8:00 pm - Tours of Member Gardens - Mt Horeb and area** - Jada Hooks, Blue Mounds; Cindy Schwierske, Mt Horeb; Kim Gasser, Mt Horeb. See pages 7 for info and map.

**Wednesday, September 15, WHPS Meeting via Zoom: SPEAKER TBA.**

**Wednesday, October 20, WHPS Meeting via Zoom: Title TBD.** **Laura Ekasetya**, former Director and Head Horticulturist at the Lurie Garden in Millennium Park in Chicago will discuss some of her favorite perennials and the plants used by Piet Oudolf at the Lurie to create that naturalistic garden as a place of rest and renewal for humans and wildlife alike.



**Wednesday, November 17, WHPS Meeting via Zoom: Chicagoland Grows® Trees. Speaker Kim Shearer**, will provide an overview of Chicagoland Grows® including background, history, a brief overview of the Morton breeding program, Chicagoland Grows® introductions and some of her current breeding efforts.



Kim is the tree and shrub breeder and manager of new plant development at the Morton Arboretum. She has the pleasure of working closely with regional and national nursery industry professionals, public garden colleagues and academic researchers in the

(continued on page 2)



**Plant Sale update**

see p. 5.



**Martagons**

see p. 4.



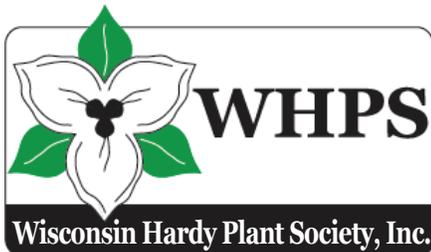
**Garden Tour details**

see p. 6.

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

selection, development, evaluation, and introduction of new plants. As the manager of new plant development, Kim works directly with the Ornamental Growers Association of Northern Illinois and manages woody plant introductions for Chicagoland Grows®.

**Wednesday, December 8, WHPS Annual Meeting, Party, Seed Exchange and Trash & Treasure Exchange** at Olbrich Gardens. NOTE: This meeting is tentative (and opti-



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mistic) as we look forward to celebrating with our members the end of COVID-19 restrictions.

**Wednesday, January 19, WHPS Meeting via Zoom with Plantsman Kelly Norris.** Kelly will discuss his newest book, *New Naturalism: Designing and Planting a Resilient, Ecologically Vibrant Home Garden*. He is one of the leading horticulturists of his generation. An award-winning author and plantsman, Kelly's work in gardens has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *Fine Gardening*, *Garden Design* and in numerous television, radio and digital media appearances. He is the former director of horticulture and

education at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, where for 8 years he directed efforts in design, curation, programming, garden and facility management. Kelly also presents plants for Cottage Farms Direct on QVC and lectures widely to consumer and industry audiences. In addition to his latest book, Kelly has authored three other publications: *Iowa Gardener's Travel Guide*; *A Guide to Bearded Irises: Cultivating the Rainbow for Beginners and Enthusiasts* (winner of the 2013 American Horticultural Society Book Award), and *Plants with Style*.

## Nepeta (cont. from p.1)

An attribute of catmint that really sets it apart from most other perennials is its length of blooming. With proper care, catmint will begin flowering in spring and continue into September. To achieve this long bloom time, catmint should be sheared back roughly halfway once its initial blooms start to fade (usually in mid-July). This practice stimulates fresh blooms for the remaining summer months as well as prevents the plants from becoming floppy in the garden.

Below are several different cultivars of catmint that we recommend based on our own gardening experiences.

### *Nepeta 'Walker's Low'*

It all began with 'Walker's Low'. If you see catmint in mass plantings or established gardens, you can bet it's probably this cultivar. It earned the title of Perennial Plant of the Year in 2007 for its long bloom time, its tolerance of heat and drought as well as its benefits to pollinators. Don't be fooled by its name, though, since 'Walker's Low' will still reach heights and widths of 30". Its sprawling habit is great for filling large areas but can be difficult to use in tight spaces.

### *Nepeta 'Junior Walker'*

If you're looking for lower growing catmint, 'Junior Walker' is a great option. It was developed as a dwarf of 'Walker's Low' and grows approximately 14" tall but still spreads around 30". It works well towards the front of the garden or as a beautiful border along a walkway.

### *Nepeta 'Purrsian Blue'*

At maturity, 'Purrsian Blue' catmint grows 14" tall and spreads 30". Very similar to 'Junior Walker,' this cultivar forms a naturally compact mound but is a bit more floriferous with lavender-blue blooms spaced more tightly along the lengths of its stems.



*Nepeta 'Kitten Around'*

A 30" spread can be hard to fit into smaller areas, so that's where 'Kitten Around' comes into play. This cultivar grows 14" tall and only 20" wide yet still provides the same attributes of the previous types of catmint. Its periwinkle blue flowers leave behind rosy-purple calyxes, which add additional color to the garden.

*Nepeta 'Cat's Pajamas'* (2021 Proven Winners National Perennial of the Year)

'Cat's Pajamas' is another very compact cultivar of catmint that grows 14" tall and just 18" wide. As a bonus, 'Cat's Pajamas' starts blooming several weeks earlier than most other catmints, and its blooms begin at the soil level of its stems and continue to the stem tips. Like 'Kitten Around,' it also provides additional color with rosy-purple calyxes after the initial blooms are spent.

*Angie and Chris Hendrickson have owned K&A Greenhouse since 2005. K&A Greenhouse serves gardeners of all levels with two locations in the greater Madison area. Their focus is quality plants grown locally with exceptional service from knowledgeable and friendly staff. They hope that a visit to K&A brightens your day and helps fuel your love of gardening! All catmint cultivars listed above will be available at K&A Greenhouse during the 2021 season.*

## 2021 – Other gardening events of note

Key events of interest are listed below, but please visit the following websites for more info on events.

- [Allen Centennial Garden](#) in Madison
- [Boerner Botanical Gardens](#) in Milwaukee
- [Chicago Botanic Garden](#) in Chicago
- [Green Bay Botanical Garden](#) in Green Bay
- [Lynden Sculpture Garden](#) in Milwaukee
- [Mitchell Park Horticultural Park \(The Domes\)](#) in Milwaukee
- [Monk Botanical Garden](#) in Wausau
- [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](#)

June 6, **CANCELLED** [Waupaca County Master Gardeners Spring Plant Sale](#).

**Sunday, June 13, 1-2:30 pm, Summer Nature Hike at the UW-Madison Arboretum.** Free. Space is limited. Due to COVID restrictions, all participants must register by June 10.

**Sunday, June 20, 1-2:00 pm, Summer Nature Hike at the UW-Madison Arboretum.** Free. Space is limited. Due to COVID restrictions, all participants must register by June 10.

**Wednesday, June 23, 6-7 pm, What's In Bloom? Tour. Rotary Botanical Gardens, Janesville, WI.** .

**Sunday, June 27, 1-2 pm, Summer Garden Stroll. UW-Madison Arboretum.** Free. Space is limited. Due to COVID restrictions, all participants must register by June 24.

**Thursday, July 8, 6-7 pm, Botanic Tour of the Prairie.** Rotary Botanical Gardens, Janesville, WI. Registration required.

**July 9-10, 9 am - 3 pm, 2021 Olbrich Home Garden Tour, Featuring Gardens of Madison's West Side: Radio Park, University Hill Farms & Glen Oak Hills.** (Five of the 8 homeowners are WHPS members.) Follow the tour map. Explore exquisite home gardens that offer a look into each gardener's individual sense of creativity, imagination, and beauty. Talk with homeowners, landscape architects, and Master Gardeners to get tips on how to incorporate various garden techniques into your own home landscape! Tickets - \$15 Public / \$13 Members.

**Wednesday, July 21, 6 - 7 pm, What's In Bloom? Tour.** Rotary Botanical Gardens, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, WI.

**September 13-18, 2021, Olbrich Gardens' Ohio Garden Getaway – regional 6-day tour.** Travel to the Buckeye state via luxury motorcoach and enjoy Ohio's iconic garden sites including Toledo Botanical Garden, Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, the Butterfly Gardens at the Cox Arboretum and more! Olbrich's own Jeff Epping will be your tour guide as you visit some of the Midwest's most impressive gardens. This tour only runs once, so reserve your spot today! For full itinerary, pricing, or to book this tour, visit our website.

## Mourning the Loss and Celebrating the Life of a Tree

By Tom Cottingham

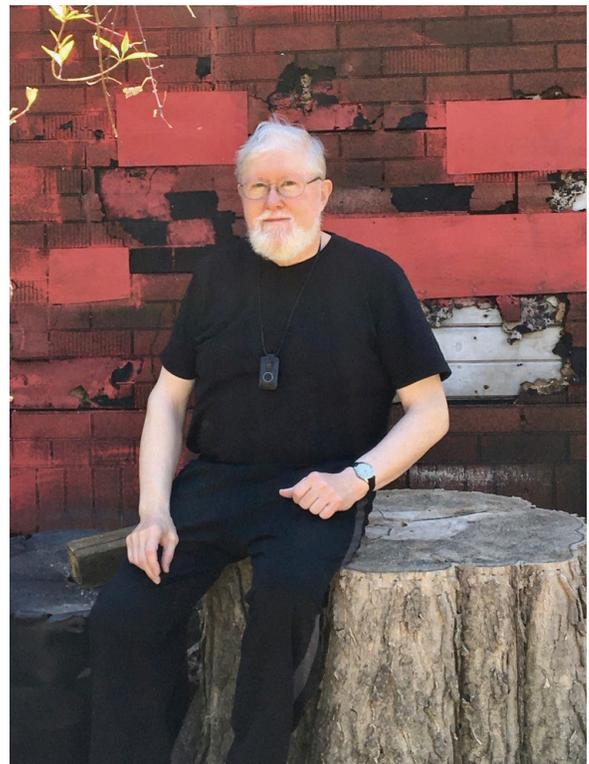
I cared for my Hackberry Tree for over 50 years. It was like a mighty Elm tree spreading with open arms with over 60 feet spread across. On a damp and quiet day on the last Monday of June 2020, a 52-foot-long limb crashed as it fell across my garden covered with limbs and rain-soaked leaves. It could have been a lightning bolt but it fell without a crashing sound and landed like a hand had laid it down.

From the decaying rotting and split heartwood, 12 tons of wood were removed. It took over six visits from a local tree arborist to remove it carefully with limited damage to my woodland garden.

Although this seems tragic, there is more Hope for Healing from the new sun light and the gentle breezes now flowing through my garden. I say, "Let there be Light". I expect plants to rejoice with their ability to capture heavenly rays and bloom with needed light. I believe that the outcome of losing my tree will create new opportunities for growth with healing in 2021.

I was unable to see spring burst forth last year in my garden. New plants are now appearing where nature scattered their seeds. Among the rest, Trillium is growing even where I had never planted it before. It shows that leaving litter from previous seasons had a great advantage for plants. The range of the plants benefit from having a natural woodland garden that recycles and returns things back to earth.

Spring is arriving with abundant snowdrops, crocus, glory of the snow, squill, and others plants that are now appearing in profusion. What a blessing to behold! Seeing is believing. I am at peace with the outcome.



## Marvelous Martagons

Note: reprinted from *Perennial Notes*, June 2005 by A. Hort Hound



'Claude Shrine' Martagon lily

I never have understood why martagon lilies are not more commonly grown and why they are equally uncommon in the trade. Well, maybe I do. Compared to the spectacularly sized and colored Asiatic trumpet lilies heralded in the catalogues and garden centers today, the martagon lily speaks with a more quiet, sophisticated voice. It is not a "show biz hussy" in the garden. Perhaps if my garden was in full sun rather than in the dappled shade of mature oak trees, I too, would opt for

a more gaudy show. However, martagon lilies, despite their uncommonness, are the premier lilies for the shade.

I can vividly recall my first exposure to this garden elite. In June, 1993, while a guest of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Uppsala, Sweden, I was housed in the Linnea Hotel (as in Carl Linnaeus, 18th century professor of botany at Uppsala who developed our classification system for plants) near the campus. The breakfast room looked out on Linnaeus's Garden through the branches of a centuries old beech tree. Beneath the branches were numerous lilies in white and various shades of pink in full bloom. I kept asking myself, "What lily blooms in the dense shade of a beech tree in June?" which began my martagon lily quest. It was later that week, in the Carl Milles sculpture garden overlooking the harbor in Stockholm, that I was bowled over by magnificently grown towers of white martagons, which contained 75 blooms or more on a stalk.

I have since learned that this lily has naturalized through the United Kingdom and Scandinavia, and is not just a native of Western Europe. Its range extends across Asia into Northern Mongolia and Siberia. It does vary somewhat across its range, the white form originating from the former Yugoslavia and a deep maroon form in Mongolia.

First noted in cultivation in 1596, it is hardy to zones 3 and 4 in the U.S. It is very long lived. Hallmarks of the plant are its symmetrically placed whorled leaves in various shades of green to blue gray, which march up the stalks (some of which are deep purple in color) to the pyramids of flowers. The flowers themselves are rarely more than two inches across and have recurved petals like the familiar turkscape lily (*Lilium superbum*), found throughout the Appalachian mountains. Its natural colors, as noted above, range from pure white through various shades of pink, and lavender to a deep maroon. Some would describe the odor that some forms have as malodorous, but I would describe the smell as more "sickly sweet." To introduce orange and yellow into the color lines, martagon lilies have been hybridized with other species lilies including *L. hansonii*, resulting in the Paisley hybrids series (gold, yellow, lilac, tangerine).

As I said, this is not the lily you find for sale at the local garden center, but one that must be ordered from a catalog. Hence, they tend to be quite pricey. The best Midwestern source for these

bulbs is Ambergate Gardens in Chanhassen, Minnesota, near the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Mike Heger, the owner, champions this lily and advertises an open house on a weekend in June to see his display. However, if you become hooked, you will quickly exhaust the varieties that Mike offers and you will resort to the premier source in North America, the Lily Nook, in Neepawa, Manitoba, Canada ([www.lilynook.mb.ca](http://www.lilynook.mb.ca)). I have been ordering from this source for more than five years, and they never seem to run out of new varieties to offer. The prices are in Canadian dollars, as well.

The cultivation of these lilies is not difficult. They prefer humusy soil in open (dappled shade) and do not seem to be pH sensitive. They are said to never need dividing, and, in my own experience, dividing a clump seems to diminish its vigor for a few years. They multiply readily into very large clumps, and I have never used any special fertilizer on them. They do come up very early in the spring, as they are June bloomers, but I have only rarely noted any frost damage to the leaves. They seem to be pest free. As Mike Heger said many years ago on his talk to the WHPS on the subject, cutting off the spent blossoms seems to make no difference in the quality of next year's flowers. I have practiced this for a number of years now, and have enjoyed the candelabra display of seed pods in the fall. Though most of the time no staking of the towers of flowers is required, I do stake the seed pods on occasion as they become extremely heavy before they are fully ripened. The birds love the ripe seeds (especially chickadees) and it is not unusual for them to strip the pods of all seeds by early December. Over the years, I have made no effort to grow them from seed, but several seedlings have spontaneously appeared on the edges of the path. The first of these will bloom this June. I wonder what color it will be? Will I have a new hybrid? ('Nakoma Sunrise?') Perhaps I should make more of an effort to grow the seed, at the expense of the chickadees.

In recent years, I have been trying to obtain cultivars of true yellow and a brighter pink. These are more expensive, but are well worth it in my opinion. The white form is the least vigorous. The most vigorous include 'Terrace City Hybrids', 'Mahogany Be' (deep purple stems with gray-green leaves), and 'Claude Shride'. The latter are all available from Ambergate Gardens. My favorite color is one called 'Port Wine' (colored just as the name implies), and this has been available from Klehm's Nursery in the past.

I have been impressed with the use of these bulbs in Europe since my initial encounter. I recall cemeteries in southern Sweden with martagons naturalized everywhere for a spectacular effect. In England, in restored meadows on many estates, they have been allowed to naturalize once again. Though I have seen some wonderfully colored cultivars throughout England, typically in a woodland setting, they are rarely labeled and have been extant in the garden for many years. I also recall the wonderful display in the natural areas of the garden at St. John's College in Cambridge, England.

If you have a woody garden, gosh, by all means, find a spot for this premier shade lily. I guarantee you will not be disappointed, and you will join the ranks of the elite gardener!

[Some of these nurseries are no longer in business but martagon lillies can be purchased at Brent & Becky's Bulbs.]

## Another successful Plant Sale!

So many to thank for making this Spring's WHPS Intrinsic Perennials Plant Sale a success: Plant Sale Committee members Mark Dwyer, Caroline Bohler, Anna DePauw and Chris Neumann; Volunteers Suzy Bowditch, Ruth Bronston, Jane Gahlman, Linda Hogle, Vickie Kaufman, Jane LaFlash, Phyllis Lathrope, Monica Macarra, Linda Marx, Sarah Schaffer, Julie Sparks, Sue Wallinger. Great job planning and executing the arrival, layout, pricing and selling of the plants. This sale was only the second time in our history that rain was a factor in setting up, but the light rain stopped just as the sale began and shopping was rain free. Thanks to the *West Madison Agricultural Research Station* for once again hosting our sale on their tarmac. (Don't forget to stop by the WMARS for a look at their demonstration gardens – a wonderful way to get inspiration for your own garden.) Special thanks to *Brent Horvath and Intrinsic Perennial Gardens* for supplying the plants for the sale. Some new introductions were sold and the plants – almost all of which are in one-gallon pots – are sure to give our shoppers a jumpstart for their spring garden. *Finally (and most important), thanks so much to our members and guests for taking the time out of a busy spring gardening weekend to shop and support the sale!*



## Hosting an Open Garden

Each year, the WHPS offers organized evening tours of a group of member gardens in selected areas. We also provide the opportunity for individual members to open their garden to visitors. Four members have already hosted open gardens this spring and we are hoping for more.

In previous years anywhere from 20-75 people attended these open gardens, but last summer members were clearly hungry to visit gardens as our hosts estimated that nearly 100 WHPS members came through each of the four gardens that were opened.

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](mailto:wisconsinhps@gmail.com) with your name, address, a short descrip-

tion of your garden and the date and times you will be open, and we will send out an email invitation to our members.

Feel free to email with questions. We all love seeing each other's gardens and open gardens are always a very positive experience for both the host and visitors!

– Jane LaFlash



## WHPS Grant 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 non-profit organization or a group that is associated with a nonprofit organization. For more information go to our [website](#).

**Grants Awarded** – WHPS has awarded a grant of \$1500 to Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville. The funds will help pay for the purchase of perennial plants for two new garden beds, to be established outside of the Wellness Garden between the garden's boundary fence and a public street. The intention is to beautify the area for the benefit of garden visitors and the general public.

# WHPS/MAMGA East Side of Madison Garden Tour – July 15

Thursday, July 15, 2021 4-8:00 pm

## HERE IS THE [MAP LINK](#)

Gardens may be visited in any order.

### **Lisa Johnson – 4405 Diamond Dr, Madison**

I purchased my home in 2005. Its an ordinary, small city lot. My goal was not to have any grass, only gardens on all four sides of the house. Though it is a small garden, it is densely planted! I am an unabashed hostaphile, with over 100 varieties. The garden also has a number of heucheras and other perennials plus a lot of blue ceramic containers with annuals, houseplants, a small pond and bridge in the back yard. The front yard is two-tiered with a terrace to deal with a steep slope. The color scheme in the front yard is yellow, blue, orange and red. Drifts of echinaceas are mixed with coreopsis, butterfly flower milkweed, annuals and daylilies. The west side of the house features a few small raised beds for vegetables and potted herbs.



more research; it's a fun "science" experiment. At least the goldfish like it.

The yard is a fun hobby and offers relentless rewards. The rabbits are always interested in our plants and let us know their favorites.

### **Emily and Milton Ford – 1214 Alexandria Lane, Madison**

Our garden is 20 years old and thrives from sunshine in front with a back garden that is mostly a perennial shade garden with wood chip paths and a water feature which gives nourishment for the birds and our resident frog. Our two apple trees burst forth with bloom in the spring and by fall often provide enough fruit for a great apple pie. The garden connects to the property of a convent so we have quiet neighbors who on occasion have come over for tea and a walk in the garden.

As we work and live in our garden, we think of the words of Margaret Atwood who said that gardening is not a rational act. However, it is life-giving to us and a sanctuary where we invite the birds and bees, the woodchucks, chipmunks and even an occasional possum. We work to make ours a pollinator garden and we enjoy watching the mason bees in their special little house. We are attempting to add more native plants and shrubs to our garden so we can help provide for the birds, butterflies and other insects. We love to

have human visitors, too! Change is constantly taking place in our little piece of paradise and we invite you to come and enjoy it with us and marvel at the wonders of creation complete with sounds and sights to lighten the loads of life.

### **Rosemary and Tom Kleinheinz – 104 W Lakeview Ave, Madison**

In the summer of 1997, we retired from full-time employment, decided we really needed to "do something" with our yard, met Steve Lesch, and the rest is history!

Located on a deep city lot, our garden is an Ever-Changing Garden - always something new to see. Recently we came to the realization that too many daylilies meant too much work. And as we age-in-place too much work just doesn't work! Those who have visited our garden in the past will definitely find some changes.

There are still daylilies in the sunny part of the yard and hostas and ferns on the shady side, but now there are lots more conifers that don't require much attention. There are still lots of unusual perennials, shrubs and trees. And here and there you will even find more garden art from our trips overseas.

Please come and enjoy the flowers – and Tom's lime cookies and lemonade!

### **Peter Anderson and Sarah Herwig – 809 Callisto Dr, Madison**

We built our home in 2007. We picked the location because of the tree line in back. Even though the trees are mostly box elder, they are tall and provide a nice background. The rest of the yard was a clean pallet, aside from the obligatory builder foundation plantings, most of which have been replaced. What started out as small beds surrounding the property turned into beds with all the plants we love. We have a proclivity to evergreens for winter interest. What we thought were dwarf species had other ideas.

There are a variety of dependable perennials that do not require much care. One favorite is Japanese painted ferns, then there are....., yes, you get the idea.

We like tropical plants which are placed throughout the yard. A favorite is giant elephant ears; some bulbs are at least ten years old.

A small pond was added in 2009. Pretty much an idea with shovel in hand. In hindsight, maybe I should have done

# WHPS/MAMGA Mount Horeb Area Tour – July 21

Wednesday, July 21, 2021 4 – 8 pm.

## HERE IS THE [MAP LINK](#)

Gardens may be visited in any order.

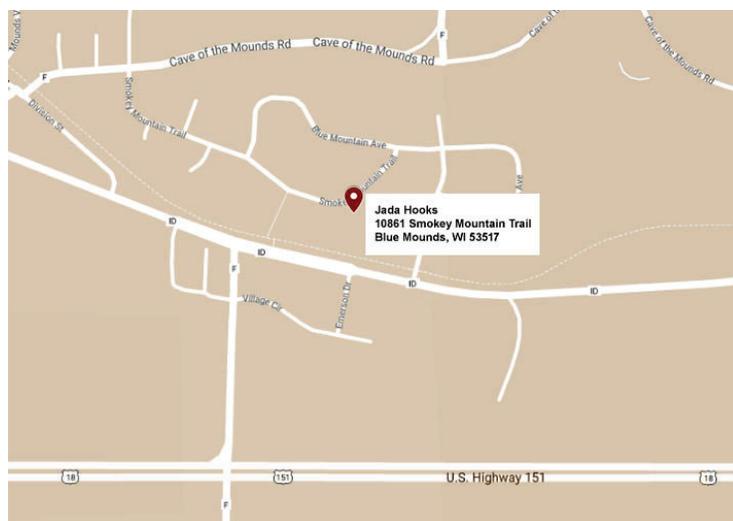
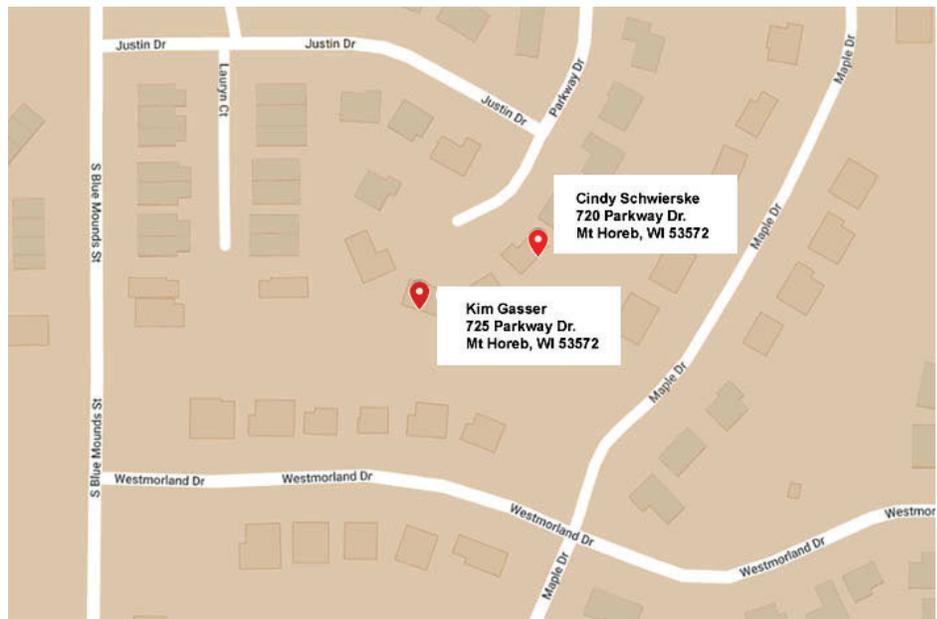
### **Jada Hooks – 10861 Smokey Mountain Trail, Blue Mounds WI**

Since moving into our home in 2010, my gardens have been a continual work of progress. I spent the first summer removing edging, rock, overgrown shrubs and cutting new bed edges. A pergola was built over a concrete slab the following summer, followed by a water pond with small cascades being added the summer after that. Our latest addition was a custom built storage and potting shed with a greenhouse on the south side. We also have removed our ash trees over the last couple of years and are starting new trees.

While many of my gardens are young, I have been able to incorporate several unique varieties of common plants and have enjoyed watching my gardens grow and change over the last 10 years. I own the local greenhouse and private gardening business which allows me to try a lot of new varieties and species of shrubs and perennials. I add annual pops of color around the yard, along with several seasonal containers on my deck and patio. In the spring of 2021 we removed a section of our lower patio area and are in the process of adding that garden space.

### **Cindy and Chuck Schwierske – 720 Parkway Drive, Mt. Horeb**

We moved to this house in 1996 with a little landscaping started around the house and a few trees, so it has been rewarding to see our gardens grow over the years. For each new garden, it was getting through the layer of limestone that thrives here in Mt. Horeb and thank goodness Chuck has always been willing to do most of the heavy digging. As the kids grew older and we did not need the backyard for catch, soccer or games anymore, the lawn began to disappear, and it now consists of nine gardens ranging from big to small and sun to shade plus our vegetable beds along the back lot line. Each garden has plants to complement each other consisting of a variety of trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals interspersed. I love trying new plants and cultivars to see how they perform in ac-



tion and no longer get upset if a plant dies as I can't wait to pick a new one to replace it. The two beds along the back are being renovated because when we first moved here, we were at the edge of town and enjoyed looking out over the farm fields to the woods edge. Now in the past few years, a complete subdivision has been built behind us, so we are renovating with more conifers and shrubs to eventually give us a little more privacy in our backyard.

### **Kim Gasser – 725 Parkway Drive, Mt Horeb**

Our outdoor zone - it started when my kids wanted to install a basketball hoop along the driveway. I wasn't a fan. So,

thanks to a creative landscape designer (who still helps us tweak things to this day), we had the basketball hoop installed in the backyard, camouflaged, if you will, at the end of an extended concrete patio. That was 20+ years ago. While the basketball hoop still stands, the plantings around the yard have evolved to frame a larger outdoor living area that is an extension of our interior space. And, despite the fact that we can't name all of the trees, shrubs, and perennials that are scattered around the yard, one thing remains a constant - everything is planted for comfort. Pots are filled with tropical plants for the living area, while pockets of trees and perennials have evolved over time as we have learned to plant for color and texture. The fire pit is glowing, the outdoor TV is tuned to a baseball game .... it's time to relax.



211 S. Fair Oaks Avenue, Madison, WI 53704  
June 2021 Newsletter

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

## New members

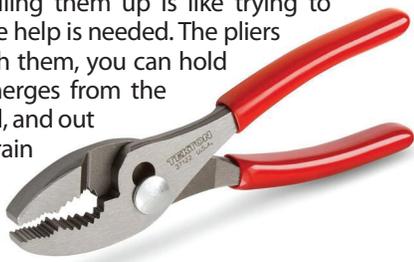
The following members have recently joined WHPS:

Mary Albrecht, Verona WI; Amy Armstrong, Madison, WI; Marsha Bateman, West Salem, WI; Patricia Colwitz, De Pere, WI; Peter Daane, Chicago, IL; Terren Fry, Monona, WI; Gere Tree Care, Inc., Madison, WI; Chelsea Hecox, Madison, WI; Jaci Hirsch, Madison, WI; Lyn Instefjord, Mazomanie, WI; Jada's Garden and Greenhouse, Blue Mounds, WI; Stevie & Mark Meginness, St. Charles, IL; Michelle Perz, Oregon WI; Kathleen Oss, Prescott, WI; Sustainable Wildlife Habitats, Cambridge, WI.

Welcome!

## Garden Pliers

Don't forget to take a pair of pliers with you as you garden. Why? Because those pesky tree seedlings can be mighty hard to pull as you are weeding. It's hard to get a good grasp of the skinny stems, and pulling them up is like trying to open a new jar—a little help is needed. The pliers are great because, with them, you can hold the stem where it emerges from the ground, give a firm pull, and out it comes. So why strain so much? Let your garden pliers do the job!



## WHPS Members Fundraise Through Purchases - Amazon and Brent & Becky's Bulbs

When you shop with Amazon, you can support WHPS! Navigate to [Amazon Smile](#) and select the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society as your charity of choice.

We also continue to participate in Brent and Becky's [Bloomin Bucks](#) program which allows WHPS to receive a donation of 25% of your purchase of bulbs, tools, books, supplements, gift certificates and more. This applies to phone and mail orders as well.

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

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