



# Perennial Notes

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Inc.

November 2021



*Heptacodium miconioides*

## Heptacodium, the Seven-Son Flower

by Glenn Herold

A plant that is rapidly becoming one of my fall favorites is *Heptacodium miconioides*, the seven-son flower. The genus name *Heptacodium* is from the Greek and means “seven heads,” in reference to the seven-part flower clusters. The common name, seven-son flower, is an English translation of the Chinese name for the plant, again a reference to the flower clusters. A member of the honeysuckle family, *Caprifoliaceae*, it has no relationship to sunflowers.

*Heptacodium* is native to central China. Due to habitat loss, it is becoming endangered in the wild. The plant is monotypic, meaning that *miconioides* is the only species of the genus *Heptacodium*. E.H. Wilson discovered the plant for western horticulture during a plant expedition in 1907, but it didn't achieve widespread circulation until seeds were collected and distributed from native stands in 1980.

Seven-son flower is a 15-to-20-foot

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## WHPS coming events!

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

**NOTE:** WHPS will be offering its fall and January programs via Zoom, with plans at present (and providing Covid is under control) to have our December Annual Meeting, Party, Seed Exchange and Garden Treasure Exchange in person. Future programming in 2022 will be in person, but will incorporate virtual programming as much as we can to continue outreach to those who are unable to attend in person.

**Wednesday, November 17, 7 pm., 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 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, 7 pm., WHPS Annual Meeting, Party, Seed Exchange and Trash & Treasure Exchange** at Olbrich Gardens. **NOTE:**

This meeting is tentative (and optimistic) as we look forward to celebrating with our members the end of COVID-19 restrictions. We'll have an update coming before December.

**Wednesday, January 19, 7 pm., 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*.



**February 11-13, PBS Wisconsin Garden & Landscape Expo - Plans** are underway for WHPS to once again participate in the Garden Expo (Covid allowing). WHPS will host a

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Restoring natives

see p. 4.



Grants update

see p. 7.



New at Rotary

see p. 5.

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

presentation - *Monona Terrace Today: Re-imagining an Urban Frank Lloyd Wright Landscape for Tomorrow* with speaker Tony Gomez-Phillips, horticulturist at Monona Terrace. He will discuss the process of re-designing Madison's downtown convention center's landscape and gardens by partnering sustainable plantings with principles of



Frank Lloyd Wright's organic architecture. We'll learn how designed lines and forms throughout the site engage the prairie plant palette to connect people with what Frank Lloyd Wright envisioned as an inviting and beautiful community destination.

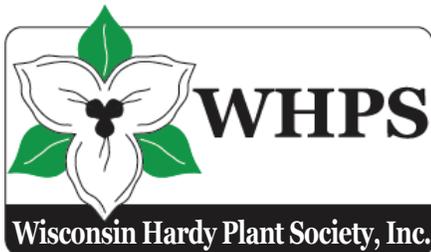
**Wednesday, February 16, TBD.**

**Wednesday, March 16, 7 pm., Horticulturist and Garden Designer Samantha Peckham.** How do the principles of horticulture and design blend with the concepts of ecology and stewardship? Join horticulturist and garden designer Samantha Peckham as she discusses how ecology and sustainability have shaped her practice in designing and maintaining landscapes that are both beautiful and sustainable.



**Wednesday, April 20, 7 pm., The Favorite Plants of European Gardeners – American Natives!** with Jeff Epping, Director of Horticulture, Olbrich Botanical Gardens.

The hottest garden designers in the world are crazy about our American native plants – Piet Oudolf, Nigel Dunnett, and James Hitchmough, to name a few, incorporate scads of plant species that grow naturally all around us. What do they see that we don't? Why is Doug Tallamy calling on home gardeners to join his Homegrown National Park movement and plant more natives? Join Jeff in taking a second look at some of our best native trees, shrubs, perennials and ephemerals and how he and other gardeners are incorporating more natives into their existing gardens of non-native plants to create beautiful and ecologically functional gardens.



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## Member Dues

Please don't renew yet!

About half of our WHPS members pay dues for multiple years, and it's pretty hard to remember if you owe dues or not. Memberships are for the calendar year. In late December, we will send an email to every member letting them know they either need to renew, or they paid ahead last year. So you don't have to wonder if

you need to renew or not. We give everyone plenty of time and multiple reminders before we update our membership list in March.

- Jane LaFlash, Membership Coordinator

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## 2021 – Other gardening events of note

We are unable to confirm many garden events due to continuing issues with Covid-19 and its variants. In addition to the listings below, we recommend you click on the links for each of the entities following for current calendar information.

**September 25 - November 7, Mums, Mosses and Mushrooms Fall Show.** Mitchell Park Domes, Milwaukee. Step inside the Mitchell Park Domes this fall for a colorful kaleidoscope of mums blanketing the floral dome; plus discover marvelous mosses and get ready to be fascinated by fungi with our pop-up mushroom art-gallery.

**Sunday, November 14, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., Family Nature Walk Walk. UW Arboretum.** This walk is a fun and fascinating way for families with children elementary age and younger to explore the natural world. Wear sturdy closed-toe shoes and come prepared for weather and insects. Walks take place rain or shine, except in unsafe weather. Adults must attend. Free, no registration required. Event capacity is limited. Meet at the Visitor Center.

**November 19, 2021 - January 2, 2022, Winter Wonders, Boerner Botanical Gardens,** Hales Corner (Milwaukee). Gather the family to experience Winter Wonders, the 1.4-mile touchless, drive-through holiday light show featuring more than one million LED lights! The COVID-safe show is set in the area surrounding the Boerner Botanical Arboretum and Whitnall Park.

**Saturday, November 20, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., Ecological Restoration Work Party in the Grady Tract.** UW Arboretum. Volunteer for restoration activities and learn about prairies and savannas. Tools and training provided. Groups welcome with advance notice. Meet at Grady Tract parking lot, southeast corner of Seminole Hwy. and W. Beltline Frontage Rd. Event capacity is limited, please arrive by 9 a.m. More information: (608) 265-5214 or [marian.farrior@wisc.edu](mailto:marian.farrior@wisc.edu).

**Saturday, November 20, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., Full Moon Night Walk Walk. UW Arboretum.** Naturalists lead this walk under the Deer Running Moon. Hear night sounds and consider what may have inspired the Ho-Chunk people to give the November full moon this name (others call it the Frost Moon). Free, no registration required. Event capacity is limited. Meet at the Visitor Center.

**November 20 - January 3, 2022, Holiday Show. Mitchell Park Domes, Milwaukee.** Continue – or start! – a family tradition of visiting The Domes during the holidays.

**Sunday, November 21, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., Nature Hike Walk. UW Arboretum.** Learn about the land; plants, animals, and fungi; phenology; and ecological practices and concepts. Geared for adults, these longer walks may cover some sloping terrain. Wear sturdy closed-toe shoes and come prepared for weather and insects. Walks take place rain or shine, except in unsafe weather. Free, no registration required. Event capacity is limited. Meet at the Visitor Center.

**November 23, 26-28, December 2-5, 9-12, 16-30, 4:30 - 9:00 pm, Holiday Light Show.** Rotary Botanical Gardens. This year's

dazzling after-dark walk on the Gardens' paths features more than ONE MILLION lights, themed light displays and animations for a family-friendly outdoor activity. Last admission at 8:30 p.m. Lights go dark at 9 p.m. Cost: Adults (age 13 & over) - \$10; Children (ages 3-12) - \$5; Children (age 2 & under) - Free.

**November 26 – December 23, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays, 4:30-9 pm, WPS Garden of Lights.** Green Bay Botanical Garden. Experience the magic of WPS Garden of Lights, encompassed by more than 300,000 twinkling lights and create extra special holiday memories with your family and friends at the Garden this winter. You'll discover a spectacular array of nature-inspired light displays, featuring an enchanted icicle forest, glistening flowers, a dazzling 60-foot walk-through caterpillar and so much more! Additional Dates: Sunday, December 26–Thursday, December 30, & Saturday, January 1. All guests and members must have dated and timed entry tickets. Tickets must be purchased in advance of your visit. Tickets are not available at the door. More details on their website.

**Saturday, November 27, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., Ecological Restoration Work Party in the Lost City.** UW Arboretum. Volunteer for restoration activities and learn about prairies and savannas. Tools and training provided. Groups welcome with advance notice. Meet at Martin Street parking lot, off Fish Hatchery Road. Event capacity is limited, please arrive by 9 a.m. More information: (608) 265-5214 or [marian.farrior@wisc.edu](mailto:marian.farrior@wisc.edu).

**Sunday, November 28, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m., Garden Stroll Walk. UW Arboretum.** This gently paced stroll through the gardens is well-suited for a multi-generational outing. Learn about plants, animals, and fungi; phenology; and ecology. Wear sturdy closed-toe shoes and come prepared for weather and insects. Walks take place rain or shine, except in unsafe weather. Routes are wheelchair accessible when weather allows. Free, no registration required. Event capacity is limited.

**Wednesday, December 1 and 8, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., Ecopoetry** – Following W.S. Merwin Class, UW Arboretum. Lauded as one of the most important poetic voices of the last century, W.S. Merwin cultivated a uniquely spiritually tuned voice concerned with the state of nature, time, and human perception. This two-part indoor class (December 1 and 8) will be a conversation exploring ecology, eastern spirituality, and poetic technique. Instructor: Troy Hess. Fee \$30. Register by November 24.

**December 4-31, Olbrich's Holiday Express: Flower & Model Train Show,** 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. daily. Closes at 2 pm Dec 24 and closed all day Dec 25. All aboard for Olbrich's Holiday Express! Olbrich's horticulture staff will showcase miniature landscapes among hundreds of colorful poinsettias. Members of the Wisconsin Garden Railway Society come from all over the state to show off their large-scale model trains. Safety measures during COVID include required facemasks, a reduced capacity, and timed entry. Purchase tickets in advance to guarantee your preferred entrance time; walk-up tickets may be available if capacity allows. Advanced timed tickets go on sale Nov 15 at noon.

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# Restoring Natives: Year 2

by Emily Buckingham

My husband and I are at the end of the second year of woodland and prairie restoration on our eight long-abandoned acres outside Madison. I'm astonished by how much I have learned in the last two years. I can now identify nearly every plant on our land at a glance (the current total is 116 species of native plants) and I know whether it's native or not. While cutting brush last winter I became familiar with dormant tree and shrub identification (hint: look at the leaf scars and branch patterns). Through workshops, hikes, websites, and lots of books, I've gotten to know what native plants were likely found on our property or in similar conditions and have used that information to create a list of species to (re)introduce. I scattered buckets of woodland and prairie seeds on last winter's snowy ground. Unfortunately, we didn't finish clearing the brush (mostly old-growth honeysuckle) from our first one-acre prairie until March, so I had to limit the prairie species seeded last winter to those that didn't require much cold stratification. I'll scatter many more this winter.

Spring was spent pulling garlic mustard in the woods. For some reason, there was not as much of it this year as last. Early summer meant pulling Japanese hedge parsley in the woods and Queen Anne's lace, wild parsnip (after sunset wearing long sleeves), white sweetclover, and oxeye daisy in the prairie. They all pull easily by hand after a rain. My final major late summer project has been cutting and treating the Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*) in the prairie. While a native that benefits insects, it's highly aggressive and I'd rather encourage the four other native *Solidago* species I also have.

I chose not to follow the traditional prairie site preparation methods of herbicide or tilling because I didn't want to disturb the soil microbes and kill the native plants that were present. Instead, I am interseeding into existing vegetation. I'll know in a year or two if that was a terrible idea, though so far I'm optimistic. This method is certainly labor-intensive, because I have to hand pull all the weeds germinating from the seed bank I failed to deplete, but I am getting to know the land intimately and it's proving doable given the relatively small size of our prairie. Re-introducing fire will be critical. We plan to attend burn training over the winter and attempt a burn next spring.

It still feels a bit like our own private state park. I often take my two small children (ages 3 and 5) out to eat a picnic, poke around in the creek, collect seeds and help spot plants growing in the path that need rescuing. We almost always see interesting wildlife. Favorite sightings include Dekay's brownsnake,

green frog, juvenile Cooper's hawk, great horned owl, pileated woodpecker and American woodcock (though it's certainly startling when one of those birds flies up in your face). Perhaps the most important thing I've learned is how deeply I already love and care about this land. My heart is in the prairie.



Above: Children in the sedge meadow; left, Prairie in August; below, Picnic in the children's park.



*Platanthera flava* - a Wisconsin threatened plant

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## New insect pest - here we go again

Here we go again. On September 10, UW-Madison entomologist PJ Liesch forwarded the following information sent in by



Lisa Johnson, Horticulture Educator at the Dane County Extension.

"I recently confirmed the ID of several specimens of the Asiatic garden beetle (*Maladera formosae*) in the state. The specimens had been found in Middleton (Dane County) attracted to lights on a warm/humid evening in late July. The AGB is a non-native scarab beetle that can be a pest of a wide range of plants, including fruits, vegetables, herbs, field crops, turfgrass, and landscape trees and shrubs.

The adults are foliar & flower feeders that tend to cause damage after dark. The larvae can be pests of vegetables, field crops, ornamentals and turfgrass. This pest has been in the eastern U.S. since at least the early 1920s (New Jersey) and has been in nearby Illinois and Indiana since 2006. I've seen recent cases from the northern suburbs of Chicago, so it's not terribly surprising to see it pop up in Wisconsin. Just wanted to give everyone a heads up. [Here](#) is a link to more info."

## Ain't wastin time

by Michael Jesiolowski, Director of Horticulture, Rotary Botanical Gardens

A pandemic. Hungry deer. Severe drought. An irrigation system on the fritz. Loss of staff and volunteers. And on top of all that scores of cottonwoods. Maybe running a public garden isn't all that I had it cracked up to be? These are some of the obstacles that colored my first two years at Rotary Botanical Gardens. Despite these challenges, we moved forward with several initiatives and projects that signal a bright future for the Garden.

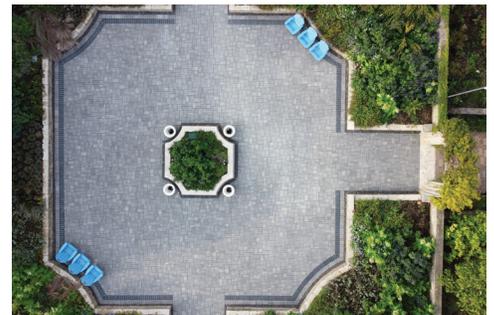


At the heart of the road that we are going down is an emphasis on ecology and sustainable practices. The installation of perennial plantings throughout the garden are establishing well and will provide the benefits of year-round interest and habitat for pollinators. Removing turf is one my favorite things, and we have done our fair share. Turf takes a lot of inputs (fuel, labor, fertilizers) to maintain it at its best and gives nothing back in terms benefits to wildlife, so where it makes sense, we have given up on it and created perennial beds; this is a botanical garden after all. We are also phasing out our gas-powered landscape tools in favor of battery-operated versions that are comparatively a much better choice for the environment.

We have methodically looked at the collection from many directions. Low-hanging fruit like replacing weedy species like *Populus deltoides*, *Acer negundo*, *Ulmus rubra*, and *Robinia pseudoacacia* with species that add more value to the collec-

tion has been a priority. When appropriate, we are adding back in species that are uncommon such as *Elsholtzia stauntonii*, *Disanthus cercidifolius*, and *Acer mandshuricum*. Spaces have been reimagined or are in the process of transformation. For example, an area next to the shoreline, adjacent to the Japanese Garden. This space is loaded with *Equisetum hyemale*, which is entrenched in the area. Embracing the *Equisetum* because it is evergreen, we are converting the area into a Winter Walk. We've created a path, removed a dozen cottonwood trees among other scrub and will be replanting with plants that have strong winter interest, because Wisconsin winters are at least four months long, right? Other improvements include the creation of a Cherry Blossom walk that features 13 *Prunus x yedoensis* trees, the revamping of our North Path garden to plants native to Rock County, and the removal of blacktop asphalt in our Reception Garden to give way to more elegant Unilock pavers.

With a garden that is now 32 years old, it was clear from my first day that significant resources had to be put into infrastructure. I'm a big believer in correcting the 'little things' and that paying attention to the fine details of a garden can elevate it to something special. We have ripped up outdated edging, stained, sanded, power washed, or applied some good ol' elbow grease to



An overhead shot of the revamped Reception Garden.

many of our hardscape elements. We've replaced cracked or outdated containers with dry cast Longshadow planters in several areas with plans to install more containers next year.

Two years in, I've come to expect the unexpected. It has been a challenge, but that's not necessarily a bad thing. I'm having the time of my life and looking forward to more. This is fun.

PS: Speaking of more. We are adding a lot of bulbs this autumn, we lost count somewhere around 55,000, so be sure to check out this display in the spring. We are all working so hard and invite you to come visit us and see what we are up to.

A perennial mix of *Salvia nemorosa* 'Blauhugel', *Monarda bradburiana*, *Dianthus carthusianorum*, and *Allium atropurpureum*.



## Other events (cont. from p.3)

**December 3 & 4, Wishing for Winter. [Maywood - Ellwood H. May Environmental Park, Sheboygan, WI.](#)** Celebrate the start of the winter season with a family-friendly event that includes candle-lit hikes, campfires, fireside stories, snacks, entertainment, seasonal crafts, and more. Free to Association members; small fee for non-members. See website for more details.

**December 5 - December 19, [Old Fashioned Christmas and Julefest.](#)** Norskedalen Nature & Heritage Center. Traditional Norwegian food and goodies, family crafts, heritage skills demonstrations, and maybe even a visit from Santa. Other activities could include horse-drawn wagon rides, a yule log hunt, craft and gift vendors, and a bell choir concert in our historic chapel. Julefest continues with winter-themed nisse hike, take-and-make crafts, the continuation of the yule log hunt, and letters to Santa.

**January 29 - February 28, Orchid Escape. Olbrich Gardens.** More details forthcoming.

**2022 Olbrich Trips.** Learn more at [this link](#).

- **August 14-21, 2022, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island**
- **September 1-12, 2022, Floriade 2022....and more, Netherlands and Germany.** The Floriade Expo is held every 10 years in the Netherlands.

*Key events of interest are listed above 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](#)

## Open Garden Thank You

More members than ever hosted open gardens this year, some more than once, on dates ranging from April 6 to September 26. We are all so appreciative of the opportunity to see the beautiful and varied gardens of our members. Many thanks to: Janet Aaberg, Barbara and David Bendlin, John Cannon and John Fritsch, Tom Cottingham, Andrea Diss-Torrance, Ed Feige, Jane LaFlash, Linda Marx, Nancy McCartan, Kate McWhirter, Nancy Mead, Jean and Ken Nordlund, Ashley Pfister, and Judy Steffen.

Consider hosting your own open garden next year!

## In remembrance - Jack Barta

Jack Barta – September 2021 (1947-2021) - *When you get started gardening by taking care of a hosta plant, whether it's one or many, you get to see how good it feels and how rewarding it is to keep something healthy and alive.* – Jack Barta

Anyone who has ever met Jack Barta will miss him. Even though Jack was a man of many words, it is easy to describe him in just a few: caring, giving, and passionate. Jack cared more about others than himself. As band director and music teacher at Homestead High School in Mequon, he cared about his students and tried to make them the best they could be. He was a collector and vendor of hostas, but probably gave away more than he sold. I, and my garden, can certainly attest to that. He was also passionate about plants, especially hostas. He co-chaired the 2013 American Hosta Society convention in Milwaukee and single-handedly revitalized the Midwest Regional Hosta Society winter conference in Brookfield. He never married – hostas and his music students were his children.

- by Glenn Herold, Cedarburg, WI



## WHPS Member business update - Jada's Garden expands!

Jon and Jada Hooks recently broke ground on a new greenhouse overlooking the surrounding countryside in Blue Mounds, Wisconsin, to expand their business, Jada's Garden. In their new greenhouse, they will offer a quality selection of plants, shrubs, trees, pottery and garden gifts, as well as classes and other events. Jada began her business in 2014 focused on personal gardens and containers. Over time, the business has grown to 15 employees with a seasonal retail greenhouse operation for the last five years. Jada's Garden offers garden cleanups and rehabilitation for residential and commercial projects of all sizes.

Until their new building is complete, you can visit Jada's Garden at their current location: 10935 Division St, Blue Mounds (open seven days a week April-June, and weekends in the fall and winter months). Their new location is slated to open at the end of November, 2021.



# Grants update – Junction Ridge Neighborhood Association – neighborhood oasis

Earlier this year, WHPS approved a grant for \$500 from the Junction Ridge Neighborhood Association for a project in Junction Ridge Park at the intersection of Elderberry Road and Augusta Drive: a small prairie, a garden area around the Little Library, and in-ground and raised perennial beds and benches to create a new seating area. Following is an end-of-the-season report on that project.



by Jennifer Ondrejka, President, JRNA

We dedicated the Neighborhood Oasis on Saturday, October 23. It was a wonderful event. Over 60 people participated, and the excitement was palpable. As you know, this project grew from brainstorming during the lockdown period of the pandemic. We asked people what would make the biggest improvement to the neighborhood, and most of the responses were related to the park. They wanted seating, flower gardens, community gardens and places to have social and recreational activities. We combined their ideas into an 'oasis,' a place in the park where people could gather to read, enjoy the flowers and get to know their neighbors. All of you on the WHPS Board helped us develop the project.

About 40-45 volunteers took part in the workday Saturday afternoon. One large group prepared a section of the no-



now area to become a mini-prairie. They used shovels to remove the ryegrass, then raked the duff back to create bare spots. Several people had collected seeds from local gardens and from the Attic Angels prairie to scatter over those spots. We also planted a large (600 sq ft) flower bed all the way around the patio, with an assortment of native perennials that support pollinators. Gardeners from 5-85 years old planted, watered, and weeded. We set one collection of handmade pavers into the perennial bed to be an entrance from the park side. (There is a sidewalk that links Elderberry Road to the oasis.) Board members guided people in making their own decorative stones and by the end of the day we had used 120 pounds of concrete! Every volunteer got a t-shirt and lunch, which

they really needed after the hours of hard work.

About 40 people attended the dedication ceremony at 3 p.m. (Many had also volunteered earlier, which is why the total isn't over 80.) By popular demand, a neighborhood boy who raises domestic fowl brought a Peking

duck and Rhode Island Red chicken, so people could meet the birds and learn about how to care for them. We had a brief ribbon-cutting ceremony and did TV interviews. (We were thrilled that we were on Channel 15 and 27 local news that night!) The rest of the time, people milled around and talked about what a

wonderful resource the oasis will be. People kept saying it was the most beautiful park area they had ever seen. Folks already have lots of ideas of how we should use the space: book clubs, tai chi, social

events. Unfortunately, those will have to wait until spring.

The other thing that will have to wait is completion of the project. As you know, despite the tremendous support we had, we didn't have quite enough money to do everything we had hoped. We got funding from the City of Madison Neighborhood Improvement Project, the Make Every Block Better program of the H&R Block Foundation, the WI Hardy Plant Society, and an in-kind donation of over 100 native perennials from Plant Dane. Many local residents contributed, and a teenage girl organized a bake sale that raised almost \$900!

Next year we plan to build a retaining wall around the patio, with raised flower beds on top. This will protect the area and give a cozier feel. We'll do much more work in the prairie, continuing to hand-remove invasives and plant native species. Over the winter, we'll be working on a variety of signs – welcome to the park, current events, and interpretive signs about flora and fauna – so they'll be ready to install when it gets warm again.

On behalf of the Board and the people of the Junction Ridge Neighborhood, thank you for all you have done to make this dream a reality. Stop by the park when you can and enjoy the oasis.





211 S. Fair Oaks Avenue, Madison, WI 53704

November 2021 Newsletter

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

## New members—Welcome!

The following members have recently joined WHPS:

Martha Taylor Antoniewicz, Madison, WI; Kathleen DeKalb, Franklin, WI; Laura Fernald-Ekasetya, Chicago IL; Kristina Georgakas, Greenfield, WI; Pamilyn Hatfield & David Goehrig, Middleton, WI; Catherine Idzerda, Edgerton, WI; Alexandria Kanalakis, Pleasant Prairie, WI; Gail Langer, Racine, WI; Rose Martinson, St Paul, MN; Fay McClurg, Madison, WI; Nancy Meergen, Bloomington, WI; Sue Niesen, Madison, WI; Samantha Peckham, Elgin, IL; Diana Rodum & Michael Hoon, Madison, WI; Kathleen Roushar, Madison, WI; Judi Ruedy, Bangor WI; Sandi Schmiesing, Stillwater, MN; Denise Schoster, Roseville, MN; Carol Ziehmke, Pardeeville, WI.

## Members in print

*gardencenter Magazine* October 2021

- Plants, Three in one - [\*Popcorn Cassia provides endless interest with unique scents, bloom and texture\*](#), by Mark Dwyer

*Fine Gardening* December 2021

- Ninebark: A durable shrub for everyone*, by Richard Hawke, page 42-51

## *Heptacodium miconioides* (cont. from p. 1)

plant with year-round interest. It is usually multi-trunked, but can be trained into a tree form with a single trunk and a fountain shape. The three- to six-inch-long leaves are shiny and deeply veined. If there is one drawback to the plant, it is that the leaves do not change color in the fall. The bark is exfoliating and has a tan color, giving it winter interest. With just these characteristics, it would be a worthy plant but the flower interest makes it a show-stopper.

White flowers emerge in early September, when most other plants have shut down for the coming winter. Not to be outdone, the flowers are followed by purplish-red fruit which is crowned by showy rose-pink bracts. These persist late into the fall. It's almost like the plant has a double bloom: white flowers followed by red. The blossoms are attractive to bees and hummingbirds, and are a good source of nectar for butterflies. Though the plant is tolerant of part shade, flowering will be most abundant in full sun. In addition to all the aesthetic qualities, seven-son flower is pest free.

Several cultivars have been selected and are slowly becoming available in local garden centers. 'Temple of Bloom'® is more compact and has a slightly earlier bloom. Expect it to top out at six to ten feet tall and wide. I recently purchased this at Leaf Land Nursery in Mequon. 'Red Select' has a similar size with deeper red bracts. A third cultivar is 'Tianshan'®, which I planted in my garden last year after purchasing it at Frenz Garden Center in Thiensville. It will mature at a height of about 10 to 12 feet and a spread of five to seven feet. 'Tianshan'® is named for the mountain range in China where the species is native.

*Heptacodium* may not look anything like a sunflower, with which the common name is often confused, but it will bring a sunny disposition to you and your garden. No doubt it will become one of your favorites, too.



*Heptacodium* – close up of flower