



# Perennial Notes

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Inc.

September 2021



Rusty Patched Bumble Bee

## Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Seen in Madison

On July 17, member Jane LaFlash reported that one of the WHPS Eastside Garden Tour visitors spotted what she believed was a rusty patched bumblebee and took some photos of it. The host/homeowner sent the photos to the DNR and they confirmed the identification.

After that, the 8/11 Olbrich Volunteer email reported the following:

How about some GOOD news?!! Rusty Patched Bumble Bees are thriving in Madison. Horticulturist Samantha Malone spotted four in Olbrich's Sunken Garden in late July (confirmed by Ann Thering), Volunteers Milton and Emily Ford also found Rusty Patched Bumble Bees in their garden (confirmed by Eve Lewandowski, DNR), and Volunteer Sandra Westley photographed the bee below in her garden last Friday (confirmed by PJ Liesch, UW-Madison).

Why is this even news? Well, in 2017, the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee, *Bombus affinis*, was the first insect to be listed

(continued on page 10)

## 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, September 15, WHPS Meeting via Zoom: Lucious Lillium, with speaker Ed Lyon, Director of Reiman Gardens in Ames, Iowa.**

Lilies (*Lilium*) are a large group of flowering plants that are, to date, still relatively underutilized by American gardeners. To date, there is no comprehensive encyclopedia of lily species and cultivars and one has to seek out specialty nurseries for diverse selections of those less known such as 'species lilies.' Most people are familiar with the more commonly available Asiatic, oriental, trumpet and now orienpet hybrids, but the lily season can be dramatically extended from late May to August by adding species lilies to the repertoire. In addition, many of these have the shade tolerance not found in the more standardly sold lilies. Lilies lend themselves to hybridization that not only produce the towering, large-flowering orienpets (mistakenly called 'tree lilies') but produce other fascinating combinations of double flowering, reflexed petals, freckling and other fun fea-



tures. Lily issues such as red lily beetle, botrytis and virus will also be discussed. Ed Lyon has more than 25 years experience in the horticulture industry, including his current position at Reiman Gardens and former positions held at Allen Centennial Gardens, Rotary Botanical Gardens and Olbrich Botanical Gardens. He earned a bachelor's degree from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, and a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and is the author of *Growing the Midwest Garden: Regional Ornamental Gardening*.

**Wednesday, October 20, WHPS Meeting via Zoom: 15 Irresistible Perennials for the Upper Midwest. Speaker Laura Ekasetya** will discuss

how these fifteen dreamy plants provide multi-season interest and support local wildlife. Learn more about these selections that have found their way into some of the most important gardens in the naturalistic style, yet are underused in the home landscape. Versatile, enduring, and sensuous, they hold the attention of humans and insects. Laura Ekasetya most recently worked at Lurie Garden, serving as both its Director and Head Horticulturist. During her 10-year tenure, she guided the garden into its full maturity, balancing the objectives to maximize the potential of its intended design while using ecologically-responsible maintenance practices exclusively. Under Laura's leadership, Lurie Garden's mindset shifted from one of pure maintenance to one of constant improvement. She renewed and deepened the garden's relationship with



(continued on page 2)



**Badgers in the garden**  
see p. 3.



**Hydrangeas**  
see p. 4.



**Gardening memories**  
see p. 8.

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

its original designers, collaborating with them to push the boundaries of its original intent, maximizing its usefulness to its wild-life and human community, and preparing Lurie Garden for a new climate era. She previously worked at Chicago Botanic Garden, tending to perennial plants growing in the research evaluation and plant breeding areas. Laura is an evangelist of the naturalistic garden movement. She speaks world-wide

and wants to change the way we think about gardens. Laura currently works for the Piet Oudolf Collection.

**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 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.



and more information on this event in our November issue of the newsletter.

**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*.

**NOTE:** A more complete calendar of upcoming events will be presented in the November issue of the newsletter.



211 S. Fair Oaks Avenue, Madison, WI 53704

President, Stephanie O'Neal, 608-256-6108, sone2@aol.com, Publications/Newsletter Committee, Grants Committee, Workshop Committee, Facebook Committee  
Immediate Past President – Jane Gahlman, jmgahlman@hotmail.com, Seed Exchange Coordinator, Trip Committee  
Vice President & Secretary– Emily Buckingham, emilycbuckingham@gmail.com, Workshop Committee Coordinator, Facebook Committee  
Treasurer – Diane Scharkey, dscharkey@gmail.com  
Sally Averkamp, 608-235-9084, aversigg@sbcglobal.net, Newsletter Committee, Newsletter layout  
Lynn Belanger, lynnbelanger7300@gmail.com, Garden Expo Display Coordinator, Grants Committee  
Caroline Bohler, Homegrown Flowers, caroline@homegrownmadison.com, Webmaster, Plant Sale Committee, Facebook Committee  
Anna DePauw, anna@botannaca.com, Plant Sale Committee  
Andrea Diss-Torrance, disstorrance@yahoo.com, Trip Committee  
Mark Dwyer, mcdwyer@zoho.com, Plant Sale Committee, Program Committee Chair  
Frank Greer, frgreer608@gmail.com, Grants Committee, Program Committee  
Alissa Karnaky, alissa.karnaky@gmail.com, Newsletter Committee, Workshop Committee, Facebook Committee  
Vickie Kaufman, kvickie914@gmail.com, Hospitality/Potluck Coordinator, Trip Committee  
Jane LaFlash, janelafash@gmail.com, Garden Tours Coordinator, Membership Coordinator, Olbrich Liaison  
Linda Marx, lmarx@chorus.net, Program Committee  
Chris Neumann, cneumann@hotmail.com, Newsletter Committee, Plant Sale Committee  
Kitty Rankin, kitty.rankin@gmail.com, Grants Committee, Newsletter Committee

**Wednesday, December 8, 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



**BUSY B'S**  
Landscape Care



608-897-5977 • Becky Andrews

Call or text to schedule a free estimate!

Personalized Landscape Care! We Take Care of it all!

## 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.

**Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from September 1 - October 20, Gleam Exhibit. Olbrich Gardens.** Advanced tickets are required.

**Thursday-Sunday, September 9-12, Rotary Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale.** See website for more details!

**Saturday, September 18, Ecological Restoration Work Party, Grady Tract. UW Arboretum.** Volunteer for restoration activities and learn about prairies and savannas. Tools and training provided. Groups welcome with advance notice. For more information: (608) 265-5214 or [marian.farrior@wisc.edu](mailto:marian.farrior@wisc.edu)

**Saturday, September 18, Reading the Land. UW Arboretum.** Learn about the ecosystems of southern Wisconsin – oak savannas, prairies, wetlands, and woodland – and their primary characteristics. Register by September 13. Meet in the outdoor classroom. Rain date: September 19, 1–4 pm.

**Saturday, September 25, Ecological Restoration Work Party, Lost City. UW Arboretum.** Volunteer for restoration activities and learn about prairies and savannas. Tools and training provided. More information: (608) 265-5214 or [marian.farrior@wisc.edu](mailto:marian.farrior@wisc.edu)

**Wednesday, September 29, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, What's in Bloom Tour. Rotary Botanical Gardens, Janesville.** Join Michael Jesiolowski, RBG Director of Horticulture, for a tour of the gardens and descriptions of what is in bloom. Registration required.

**Thursday, September 30, 5:30 - 7:30 pm, Garden Art Auction. Rotary Botanical Gardens.** View and bid on pieces from the 2021 Garden Art Project "Curious Caterpillars."

**Wednesday, October 6, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Plants that Grow Under Black Walnut Trees, by Lisa Johnson, Dane County Extension Horticulture Educator. Rotary Botanical Gardens, Janesville.** Online event. Registration required.

**Saturday, October 9, Ecological Restoration Work Party, Core Area and Curtis Prairie. UW Arboretum.** Volunteer for restoration activities and learn about prairies and savannas. Tools and training provided. More information: (608) 265-5214 or [marian.farrior@wisc.edu](mailto:marian.farrior@wisc.edu).

**Tuesday, October 26, 7:00 - 8:30 pm, Virtual Talk: Re-Indigenizing the UW-Madison Campus. UW Arboretum.** Since 2019, cross-campus collaborations have resulted in the establishment of an Indigenous Research Garden and sugarbush at the Arboretum. Presented by Daniel Cornelius, Great Lakes Indigenous Law Center, UW-Madison Law School. Free. Register by October 22.

**Saturday, November 6, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Fall Symposium Series. Rotary Botanical Gardens.** The registration deadline is Oct 20. Planned as an in-person event, but Rotary will notify all registrants if moved to a virtual format. Presentations: David Stevens, "Flowering Shrubs for All Seasons"; Kelly D. Norris, "More Than Turf"; and Michael Jesiolowski, "Have Plants, Will Travel."

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](#)

## Badgers seen in off season

Nick Ternes (WHPS Business member with Botanophilia LLC in Antigo) posted the following on the WHPS Facebook Group page on June 22 after spotting two badgers in his garden: A new garden "pest" we hadn't had to deal with before. They were making a burrow between the veggie garden and chicken run. We convinced them to leave with a spray of the garden hose. Hopefully they set up shop in the prairie somewhere. We have plenty of chipmunks and ground squirrels they could eat.



## Hydrangea for Southern Wisconsin Gardens

*Hydrangea* is derived from two Greek words. 'Hydor' – meaning water and 'angeon' – meaning storage vessel. Supposedly the seed capsule is shaped like a water holding vessel. However, some hydrangea seed pods have protuberances that are more reminiscent of the mythical Hydra, so, the name may allude to Hydra. We may never know what *Hydrangea* means. They began their evolution about 70 million years ago. They belong to the *Saxifragaceae* Family, along with *Philadelphus* – Mock Orange. There are about 23 species found in North America, Central and South America, China, Japan, Philippines, Taiwan, Java and Sumatra.

**Foliage and form:** The vast majority of *Hydrangea* foliage have simple, lightly serrated (like a saw) leaves. Only Oakleaf Hydrangea & Sikokiana Hydrangea have leaves that are naturally pinnately lobed. All Hydrangea hardy in our area are deciduous. All Hydrangea, except for the vining ones, grow about the same width as they grow in height. **Soil:** Nearly any type of soil excluding both excessive drought or wet conditions, although *H. macrophylla* and *H. serrata* enjoy very moist, bordering on wet conditions. **Lighting:** Since the following list contains a number of different species, their lighting requirements will be individually noted. **Mulching:** All of the noted hydrangea may be mulched in the autumn or spring with 2-3 inches of mulch. **Flowers:** Nearly all of the following hydrangea inflorescences or flower heads have both fertile and sterile flowers. The showy sterile flowers are modified sepals and that helps attract pollinators. The sterile flowers have no pollen or nectar. The fuzzy tiny flowers, lacking petals and sepals, supply the pollen and nectar. A combination of both fertile flowers with an outer ring of sterile flowers is often called a lacecap. Some cultivars have only or mostly sterile flowers and are called mopheads. Some species flower on wood that is produced on this season's growth – new wood, while others have their buds produced the year before – old wood, and the buds must go through the winter before flowering the subsequent season. Nearly all hydrangea inflorescences may be cut for fresh flowers. After cutting them from your garden plants, it's best to cut them a second time, by removing about one inch from their cut stems while the stems are under water. Adding a fair amount of food coloring to the water will gradually cause white flowers to become the color of the water, as they take up the colored water. **Winter:** Unless noted, the listed hydrangea require no winter maintenance. **Fertilization:** Hydrangea respond to a good quality time-release fertilizer, especially when applied in the late autumn or very early in the spring. I recommend our PLGF – Perennial Landscape and Garden Fertilizer. Hydrangea that require special fertilization and acidic soils will be noted in the following descriptions. **Planting:** Anytime from ground thaw to four weeks before ground freeze. **Propagation:** Cuttings **Pests and diseases:** Hydrangea are generally trouble free and very long lived.

All of the following Hydrangea are hardy in Southern WI. Where required, flower bud hardiness will be noted.

*Hydrangea anomala var. petiolaris* – Climbing Hydrangea is a scandent vine able to grow up to 50 feet or more on tree trunks, porous boulders, or as a ground cover. This is one of the more attractive deciduous shade loving vines. It slowly develops top growth until its roots are established well enough to sup-

port the plant. When planting at the base of a tree, provide good moisture and fertilizer to expedite establishment. It is tolerant of most any garden soil except heavy wet clays and near pure sand. While preferring acid soils, it may become anemic in very low pH soils. Being native to Japan and Taiwan, it enjoys moisture. It will not strangle its host tree. Flowering is earlier than the other Hydrangea. It must develop "arms," or short branches off the climbing stems before white lacecap flowers are produced. It blooms on old wood. Autumn foliage color is usually a bright yellow. No special fertilization is required. Mulch in the autumn or spring with 1-2 inches of mulch. It can be planted in zones 4 to 8. Cuttings are best taken during the summer from ground-growing runners that already show roots.

*Cultivars include:*

- 'Mirranda' has soft yellow-bordered newly emerging leaves that gradually age to green with yellow and even near white markings. Leaves are significantly smaller than the species. 'Firefly' is similar, if not the same.
- 'Skylands Giant' has larger leaves and flower heads than the species.
- 'Tiliifolia' is a very small-leaved cultivar with smaller flower heads than the species.

*Hydrangea arborescens* -- Smooth Hydrangea is native to shady deciduous forests of Eastern USA to Iowa and then south to Florida. It tolerates nearly any type of soil, including rocky outcrops. This has been cultivated since 1736! The native flowering form is a fairly flat corymb lacecap, blooming on new wood. They begin green, mature to white and then age to green and ultimately, brown. Many pollinators visit the fertile flowers. Sterile flowers are useless to pollinators. They grow to a height of 5-10 feet in the wild, but more commonly 4-6 feet in the garden. Typically, Smooth Hydrangea blooms from July to September. Once established, it is very drought tolerant. In the wild, smooth Hydrangea forms a slow-to-moderately spreading suckering colony. They will produce very dense colonies that are excellent for erosion control. Other cultivars are very slow to sucker. Since Smooth Hydrangea bloom on new growth, the plants may be severely pruned in the autumn or very early in spring. I recommend pruning them to about 12-18 inches from earth level. They make excellent cut flowers when the above directions are followed. It's best to divide them as soon as the earth is workable in the spring. They are very tolerant of 1-3 inches of mulch in the autumn or early spring.

*Some cultivars include:*

- 'Annabelle' was discovered in a garden in Anna, IL in 1910, and named for the ladies - 'Belles of the Garden' - who discovered and grew it. It has been popular ever since. Sterile white 4-12-inch mopheads on 5-7-foot stems bloom in July and August.
- 'Bella Anna' flowers atop sturdy 3-5 feet tall with bright pink mopheads. Re-bloomer.



*Hydrangea* 'Invincible Wee White'

## Hydrangeas (cont. from p. 4)

- **'Grandiflora'** aka **'Hills of Snow'** is similar to **'Annabelle'** with 4-way partitioned smaller heads and more pointed sepals. Heavily spreading. Introduced just before **'Annabelle'**.
- **'Hayes Starburst'** has double white sterile flowers that start off apple-green and then change to white and then back to green. The flowers are almost continuously born inside each other like an open stacked set of shallow bowls. The effect is quite stunning. I recommend only lightly pruning off the old flower heads and 3-4 inches of the previous year's growth. This way the stems are stronger and the flowers are held better.
- **'Incrediball'**™ is like **'Annabelle'** with mopheads held atop 5' sturdier stems. Flowers heads are more often in the 8-12" diameter.
- **'Incrediball Blush'** grows about 4-5 feet high with very strong stems topped with large blush-pink mops that age a clean green.
- **'Invincibelle Garnetta'** grows only 30 inches tall with stout stems covered with glossy dark green foliage. Mophead flowers emerge dark burgundy and mature to a deep garnet-pink.
- **'Invincibelle Limetta'** grows 3-4 feet tall with sturdy stems topped with lush lime-green mophead flowers that mature to a lighter greenish white and then age to green.
- **'Invincibelle Mini Mauvette'** grows 30-36 inches tall with dark green leaves and showy mauve-purple mophead flowers.
- **'Invincibelle Ruby'** grows 3-4 feet tall with deep green foliage on strong stems. Its mophead flowers emerge dark near-red and open to a two-toned display of bright ruby-red with silvery-pink. A rebloomer.
- **'Invincibelle Spirit II'** is an improvement over **'Invincibelle Spirit'** with sturdier stems and larger, deeper pink mophead flowers. A rebloomer.
- **'Invincibelle Wee White'** is a compact 12-30-inch grower with rich green foliage and strong stems. The mophead flowers emerge a flushed soft pink and age to white. A rebloomer.
- **'Haas Halo'** grows to 3-5-feet tall with dark bluish-green foliage with lace cap flowers up to 14 inches in diameter with a complete crown of sterile flowers. Stout and sturdy stems.
- **'Lime Rickey'** grows about 4-5-feet high with very strong stems topped with delicate mops of white flowers with pink pollen.
- **'Pinkerella'** Sturdy stems growing 4-5 feet with very large pink mophead flowers.
- **'Riven Lace'** (may be the same as **'Emerald Lace'** and **'Green Dragon'**) is a wonderful lacecap cultivar with an outer crown of sterile white flowers surrounding a low mound of fertile white flowers. The deep green wonderfully dragon cut foliage is held atop sturdy shiny brown stems.
- **'White Dome'** is a 5-foot very sturdy stemmed form with strongly domed lacecap white flowers.
- **subspecies *radiata*** is horticulturally defined by having dark green with dense fuzzy tomentose silver-backed leaves. Very attractive on breezy days, with the wind flipping the leaves to expose their silver undersides. Don't cut these back in the late autumn or early spring by more than 50% as this could hinder flowering during the following season.
- **'Samantha'** is a form with round mophead white flowers.

Hydrangea 'Winky Pinky' right, 'Grateful Red' below.



**Hydrangea macrophylla** - Big-leaf Hydrangea is native to very moist rich humusy soils of Japan,

Korea and other nearby areas. In the wild, it has lacecap flowers atop 10-15 foot stems with thick rich green leaves and stems. It enjoys acidic soils in maritime climates. In the Midwest, it typically dies to the ground each winter and therefore, it grows only 3-4 feet in height. It blooms on old wood, with flower and foliage buds that are hardy – depending on cultivar – to about 0°F. With the advent of cultivars that bloom on new wood, this *Hydrangea* is becoming more common in our light shady gardens. However, since it enjoys acidic MOIST soils, and our Dane County tap water is often very alkaline – 7.5-8 pH, it is difficult to maintain proper growing conditions. The soil must be regularly treated with Iron Sulphate to maintain acidity in the 5 - 6 pH range. A dash of aluminum sulfate is occasionally required for the blue flowering cultivars. Prune down in spring once vigorous growth begins, just above the most vigorous shoots. There are hundreds of cultivars that rarely, if ever, bloom in our area. Search for only the reliable ones that bloom on new wood. Even then, the original introductions have been surpassed by even better ones. Lacecaps, mopheads and everything in between in rich blues to purples to pinks to reds and whites may be found in the newer, hardier, offerings.

There are hundreds, maybe even thousands, of cultivars on the market – too many to list. **'Grateful Red'** is one of the very interesting cultivars developed by McKay Nursery in Waterloo, WI. In our production, it even blooms on 8 inch plants, with bright red mophead flowers atop 2-3 foot sturdy stemmed bushes, with lush green foliage that ages to burgundy in the autumn. If grown in acidic soils, the flowers will be more purplish.

**Hydrangea serrata** – Mountain Hydrangea, from Japan and Korea, is very similar to the above *H. macrophylla*. It is much smaller in stature, leaf and flower, only growing to 5 feet in the wild. Care is very similar to *H. macrophylla*. Again, there are hundreds of cultivars, but one is a very recent introduction that is worthy of our gardens. **'Let's Dance Cancan'** grows about 3-4 feet tall and wide, with great reblooming. Its lacecap of star-like sterile double flowers are a bright silvery pink, and with acidic soils, periwinkle-violet. The fertile flowers are similarly colored.

**Hydrangea paniculata** – Panicle Hydrangea has been cultivated in the USA since 1861. It's native to Japan, Eastern China and other nearby areas. Growing 10-20 feet high and wide in the wild, this tree-like hydrangea is one of our best flowering shrubs. It's tolerant of most any soil and moisture regime, excluding excessive drought or excessive wet conditions.

## Hydrangeas (cont. from p. 5)

No special soil treatments, but Panicle *Hydrangea* are sensitive to Walnut trees' juglone. They bloom on new growth, so pruning may be accomplished in winter or early spring. They enjoy full sun to light shade, or just full afternoon sunlight. However, when receiving just afternoon full sun, they will typically only bloom on the sunny side. If pruned to a single trunk, they may be cultured to look like an open lollipop. Very attractive. They make excellent fresh or dried cut flowers.

*Cultivars include:*

- **'Berry White'** grows about 6-7 feet tall, with a more upright growth pattern. Large conical shaped panicles of sterile flowers begin bright white and continue to be produced as the older flowers progress to a rich dark pink. Very handsome.
- **'Bobo'** is one of the most compact Panicle *Hydrangea* to date – growing to about 3 feet high. Delicate white sterile flowers age to a very light pink and are held upright on sturdy stems.
- **'Bombshell'** is a very compact form growing to 3 feet high with strong stems. Green sterile flowers turn white and then age to green with a pink blush base. The florets are cup shaped.
- **'Chantilly Lace'** grows to about 5-6 feet with 10 inch high panicles of white 50% sterile flowers and 50% fertile flowers. They mature to pink with age. Later flowering.
- **'Diamond Rouge'** grows upright to about 4-5 feet tall with dark green foliage turning yellow and orange in the autumn. Rounded conical panicles of sterile and fertile flowers start white and progress to pink, to intense raspberry-red and finally wine-red. Earlier than most other Panicle *Hydrangea*.
- **'Fire Light'** has an upright fountain growth pattern to 8 feet with pure white panicles of sterile flowers that age to pink and finish red.
- **'Fire and Ice'** aka **'White Embers'** is one of the first Panicle *Hydrangea* to bloom. Very compact growing with sturdy stems to about 5 feet. Creamy white flowers on conical panicles continue to be produced as the oldest florets turn blushed pink to pink and finally to deep magenta.
- **'Firelight Tidbit'** is heavy flowering with a dwarf, 3' x 3' bun-shaped habit. Rounded blooms emerge light green to creamy-white and age to pink.
- **'Floribunda'** is an old variety that has been largely replaced with the new improved forms.
- **'Grandiflora'** is another older form (1862) that is still sold as P.G. *Hydrangea*. It has also been replaced with more desirable forms.
- **'Great Star'** aka **'Le Vasterival'** grows 6-7 feet high, with open, rounded 7-8 inch panicles with huge white, cupped open-formed sterile flowers born randomly over fertile flowers.
- **'Lavalamp Candelabra'** grows 4-6-feet high with strong reddish stems. Large conical panicles of white sterile flowers continue to form as the oldest ones turn a nice pink.
- **'Lavalamp Flare'** grows about 2-3 feet on sturdy stems with nicely sized conical panicles. Lightly fragrant white sterile florets age boysenberry red.
- **'Limelight'** grows 6-10 feet high, with slightly pendulous 10-12 inches long by 6-7 feet high panicles of white flowers rapidly aging to lime-green blushed pink and burgundy. Very

floriferous. Excellent as a tree form.

- **'Limelight Prime'** is a compact form of 'Limelight', growing about 4-6 feet high. It has darker foliage, stronger stems and a more upright form. Its green flowers last longer before aging to deep pink.
- **'Little Lamb'** grows 4-6 feet tall with small delicately domed panicles of white flowers that slowly blush to pink in the autumn.
- **'Little Lime'** grows 3-5 feet high, with the same flowers as 'Limelight'.
- **'Little Quick Fire'** grows 3-5 feet tall with open lacecap white panicles that rapidly turn a deep red. Autumn foliage is blushed burgundy wine.
- **'Magical Candle'** is a compact form maturing to 5 feet with sturdy stems. Very large yellow-greenish sterile flowers mature to porcelain-white from July thru September and finally a grayish light pink.
- **'Magical Fire'** is a compact form maturing to 4 feet with sturdy stems. Lacy white sterile flowers that are held high above fertile flowers. The flowers age from light pink, gradually to red.
- **'Magical Flame'** is another compact bush growing from about 4 feet high. White sterile florets are held above fertile flowers that age intense strawberry red.
- **'Mega Mindy'** is a quick growing 4½-5½-feet sturdy stemmed form with upright pointed conical white sterile flowers, aging pink-red later in the season.
- **'Moonrock'** grows about 5-6 feet tall on sturdy stems with lush green leaves. Stout panicles of mostly sterile intense lime-green flowers mature to white and then age to a soft pink. Nice color transition.
- **'Passionate'** grows to about 8-10 feet with a fountain-like form. White flowered 12-18 inch panicles of all sterile flowers with dark green foliage provides a complimentary look for the garden. The flowers age to a light rose-pink with lime green centers. It produces a handsome fountain-like tree form.
- **'Phantom'** grows to about 8 feet with sturdy stems topped with rounded domed-shaped conical, mostly sterile large white flowers. The flowers age in the autumn to a deep tinged pink.
- **'Pink Diamond'** grows 8-10 feet on sturdy spreading fountain-like stems. Soft rounded domed-shaped 12-inch conical panicles start blooming with pink buds maturing to large sterile white flowers irregularly spaced above white fertile flowers. They rapidly age pink to a bright pink with red undersides in the autumn.
- **'Pinkie Winky'** is a sturdy stemmed 6-8-feet high bush with upright sharp conical white sterile flowers that age rapidly to pink-red while the newest flowers are still white. Nice combination of colors.
- **'Quick Fire'** is just like **'Little Quick Fire'** but grows to 6-8-feet



*Hydrangea serrata* 'Let's Dance Cancan'

## Hydrangeas (cont. from p. 6)

tall. Autumn foliage is blushed burgundy.

- **'Quick Fire Fab'** is an early bloomer similar to **'Little Quick Fire'**, but with fuller blooms that emerge green, then white, and age to deep pink to red from the bottom up. 6-8-feet tall.
- **'Silver Dollar'** grows about 5-6-feet tall with sturdy stems topped with rounded conical, mostly sterile white flowers. The flowers age a soft pink with green highlights. Dark green foliage. Later blooming.
- **'Snow Mountain'** is nearly the same as **'Kyushu'**. Growing 12-feet tall on sturdy stems with bright green lush foliage. The copiously produced pointed conical panicles have both sterile and fertile flowers in mid to late July. The flowers are white and turn pinkish to almost purple as they age.
- **'Strawberry Sunday'** grows to about 4-5 feet with 7-inch panicles of sterile and fertile white flowers that are continuously produced while the oldest flowers age to pink and ultimately strawberry red. Nice combination of colors.
- **'Sweet Summer'** matures at 4-5 feet with 5-inch panicles of mostly sterile white flowers that age to shades of pink in the autumn, while the newest flowers are still white. Very floriferous. Sturdy stems. The leaves may blush with purple in the autumn.
- **'Tardiva'** is a very old form with wonderful late blooming tapered conical form with fertile and sterile white flowers on a large bush that grows to about 12-15-feet tall.
- **'The Swan'** is a bit unruly when it is young but becomes truly remarkable with age. Huge white, cupped, spatulate, non-overlapping and twisted sterile florets are born in a windmill pattern here and there over white fertile 10-inch tall panicle of flowers. Its flowers age pink. It matures to a height of around 8-12 feet.
- **'Tickled Pink'** is a round form at 6-8 feet with up to 10-inch panicles of cupped white sterile flowers and white fertile flowers. The flowers age to a rich pink.
- **'Unique'** grows up to 15-feet high with huge 2-inch diameter sterile white flowers on 10-13-inch panicles. Fertile white flowers are almost completely covered by the sterile flowers. Difficult to find the real *'Unique'* cultivar.
- **'Vanilla Fraise'** (aka **'Vanilla Strawberry'**) is nearly identical to **'Strawberry Sunday'** except **'Vanilla Fraise'** grows to about 7 feet with red stems. The flowers are on stems that cascade a bit later in the season.
- **'White Diamonds'** is a compact 4-6-foot growing form with strong stems and deep green leaves. The 6-8-inch panicles have large white sterile flowers that nearly cover the white fertile flowers. The flowers age to light green to parchment.
- **'White Lace'** grows to 15-feet tall with sturdy stems and lush green-pointed foliage. Blooming in open panicles of mostly fertile white flowers with the sterile white flowers being randomly produced – giving a nice lacy effect.
- **'White Moth'** grows 6-8-feet tall with 12-inch short irregular panicles with randomly positioned large white sterile flowers around small white fertile flowers. This gives the appearance of fluttering **'White Moths'**. Flowers continue to form well into autumn with the oldest ones turning pale green.

- **'Zinfin Doll'** grows to about 6 feet tall and is covered in soft-domed panicles of white flowers that age pink and then further age to red-pink. Early flowering. Burgundy autumn foliage.



*Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Jet Stream'

***Hydrangea quercifolia*** – Oakleaf Hydrangea is native to the southeastern area of the U.S. It grows natively in light shady deciduous forests in rich moist acidic soils. They spread by root suckers, so they can become quite wide. The rich green textured oak-leaves can reach 12 inches long and age to a fabulous red to orangish-brown to purple in the autumn. The bark peels longitudinally in beautiful cinnamon-brown strips on shrubs that mature to about 8-12 feet high. Blooming on buds produced on previous season's growth, they must survive our winters if they are to bloom. To the best of my knowledge, only one cultivar has been selected for northern zone 5 climates. Provenance is very



- 🐾 Acres of Gardens for photos
- 🐾 Anniversaries, meetings
- 🐾 Retreats, vow renewals
- 🐾 Milestones, reunions



## Bridle Barn & Gardens

For more information, go to:  
[bridlebarnandgardens.com](http://bridlebarnandgardens.com)

## Hydrangeas (cont. from p. 7)

important for flowering. Panicles from 4-12 inches have large 1-1½-inch diameter sterile white flowers with fluffy fertile interior apetalous fragrant white flowers. Excellent as fresh or dried cut flowers. Rabbits and deer enjoy the entire plant, so they do require some protection.

Oakleaf Hydrangea are sensitive to Walnut trees' juglone.

*Cultivars include:*

- **Nebraska Form** is grown in Clarkson, Nebraska. We have had wonderful success in having this form bloom following winter temperatures as low as -20°F.
- **'Jet Stream'** is a new cultivar (2013) that is flower bud harder than the typical species, and repeatedly blooms on new growth. Growing 5-6 feet high with a compact dense non-flopping habit. Dark green, leafspot-resistant foliage turns a wonderful orange-red in the autumn. Its white sterile flowers are held high on strong stems, and age to a rich pink.
- I have seen **'Ruby Slippers'** and **'Pee Wee'** bloom after a very cold winter if they are completely covered with snow or with some other means of protection. Well worth the effort.

–Steve Lesch, Landscape Designs, Inc. © 2021

## Grants Update

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](#).

Grants awarded – The WHPS has recently awarded grants to three Wisconsin public and charitable organizations.

- **Portal Inc.** is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization in Grafton, WI that serves disabled people over the age of 55. They have received a grant for \$1200 to build a large sensory garden they will call "Nature's Palette."

- The WHPS has also awarded a \$1500 grant to the **Edgerton Hospital** for the renovation of its existing healing gardens to introduce a massive influx of native, pollinator-friendly herbaceous perennials throughout this garden.

- **Olbrich Gardens** has been awarded \$1048 for a "Spring Ephemerals and Bulbs for Pollinators" project, to highlight the need to encourage pollinators in seasons other than just summer.

## Hosting an Open Garden

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the members who have hosted open gardens already this year. Between April 6 and July 26 of this year, WHPS members had fourteen opportunities to visit other member's open gardens.

Each year, the WHPS offers organized evening tours of a group of member gardens in selected areas, but we also provide the opportunity for individual members to open their garden to visitors.

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

There is still time to open your garden. Abundant annuals? Late season perennial bloomers? Fall color? 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

## In Remembrance - Bernie Treichel

Our thoughts and condolences extend to the family of long-time WHPS member Bernadine "Bernie" Treichel, who passed away on July 19 at the age of 81. Many of you will remember Bernie from her association with the Wisconsin Hosta Society, the Oregon Garden Club Plant Sale and the many years she and her husband Jim volunteered at the WHPS booth at the Wisconsin Garden Expo.



### Fall Opening Sept. 3!

- Mums & Pansies • Fall Garden Gifts
- Perennials • Cornstalks & Pumpkins
- Fall Container Design
- Cabbages & Kale

**Jada's**  
Garden & Greenhouse

**608-437-4769 • Jada Hooks**

We will be at the current location for fall season (10935 Division St, Blue Mounds)

10849 Village Circle, Blue Mounds • [www.jadagarden.com](http://www.jadagarden.com)

## Gardens Collect Memories

The projects that I find most interesting are when I create something new or bring an area run amuck back to its beauty. But, I also find pleasure and respite in the everyday chores that gardens need.

A couple of years ago, I received a call in spring from Sandy, a woman looking for help with her mother Myrna's garden. As we talked, I learned that they needed some professional advice and help with weeding, transplanting and recommending new perennials. I didn't have a lot of room in my schedule to add another garden, but what hooked me was when she said that Myrna was 94 years old, and Sandy and her sisters had been trying to keep up with things around the house and garden so that their mother could stay in her home of many years. Well shoot, I'll help with that!

One of my favorite things about working as a personal gardener is the unique people I get to meet. Gardeners come in every personality, age and shape. But the shared pleasure, interest and exasperation with plants and the land is consistent. And the spirit of the gardener is always a joy to connect with.

I have visited Myrna's garden for a couple of years now. Most of the work con-

sists of battling Bishop's weed (an endless task), getting rid of thistles (I'm making good progress!) and transplanting long-lived Peonies and Iris where shade has grown over. These tasks can become tedious. Most of the time, I don't see Myrna. She sleeps most of the morning but I am motivated by the joy she'll find when she looks out in the afternoon. When Sandy, Myrna and I walk through the garden, I carry a chair so that Myrna can sit down. She doesn't mind if the sun is directly overhead, after all, she says, "How much can the sun hurt me now?" If it's not the best season to transplant a perennial, I'll recommend waiting until next year, but she insists, with a smirk, "Do you think I have time to wait?" We often end up in one spot for a lengthy amount of time. We go on and on about options, and everything is repeated three times with yelling, since Myrna has hearing loss. She mostly reads lips, which became a dilemma with all the mask-wearing of 2020. The time with her during the pandemic concerned me but I had to laugh at the spectacle we made!

The most endearing part of Myrna's garden is the collection of memories it holds. Most of the instructions I receive go something like, "Dig out the Mums that are growing in with Aunt Sally's. They

flop too much. Transplant some of the Phlox that are too close to the fence so they are by the Boy's Junipers. Try to get the thistle out of Jo's Daylilies." And questions like, "Is this the Lilac I got from Sherry when Bill died? Or is it that one?" Myrna has six grown children (most of them grandparents now) and each member of the family has something planted in their name. One day she pointed to the small ornamental crab apple in the middle of the yard, and said, with a glimmer in her eye, "That's the plant my daughters chose for me... a crab apple."

Each plant has a story, so even if it isn't a stunning garden, it is a beautiful collection of memories. Memories that I'll keep alive for her as best I can.

—Anna DePauw is a horticulturalist and artist, inspired by nature. She has 20 years of experience in landscape design and maintenance. She is owner of Botannaca, which offers a variety of detailed gardening services. [botannaca.com](http://botannaca.com).



## Jumping worms

Like Covid, jumping worms are not going away. Somehow we (I) have to find peace? Acceptance? I'm moving through the five stages of grief in my garden – denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance. Last year's jumping worm report definitely created depression. With the disappearance of Early Bird Fertilizer used to kill/knock back the number of jumping worms, this year's report is trending towards acceptance and new approaches.

Tired of poor grass performance caused by the worms eating the roots, and consequently killing the grass (all while ignoring the roots of creeping Charlie, crabgrass, clover etc.), my intent was to plant deep-rooted lawn grass seed. Thanks to the jumping worms, the top two to three inches of soil throughout my yard and garden has a texture of granular coffee grounds, with limited moisture retention and nutrients. My thought was to establish the deep-rooted lawn grass below that three-inch surface where the worms

congregate, and do it before the worms hatch and start eating in late spring. I purchased the seed in bulk from the farmers co-op, then followed my Master Gardener training and properly prepared and seeded in early spring. Unfortunately, it might have been too early as there was little to no germination – too cold and rainy? Due to inertia, I didn't reseed, so I have no idea whether that experiment would have worked. I "accepted" the situation.

Another example of acceptance was using biochar when planting. I dug a larger than normal planting hole, lined the hole with biochar, then set in the plant and filled in the soil. My thought was to create a cup-like protective wall around the root ball to keep the worms at bay. Success is difficult to determine with the other environmental challenges of this spring and summer – I have some thriving annuals and some not so thriving. I didn't exhume the roots to do an autopsy.

During my July open garden, two people told me of the fertilizer Castaway 3-0-1 Tea Seed, sold at Paradigm garden center. Castaway is made with a natural by-product of tea manufacture, identical to Early Bird, which I thought did an admirable job of knocking back the volume of worms in the garden and is no longer available. Neither of the people who announced the availability of Castaway had tried it, although they had each purchased a bag at \$76. Perhaps they will try it soon and write a results summary for the November newsletter. As of now, no firsthand reports of success, but it seems to be a viable option to those of us who put our faith in Early Bird. The downside is the price (guess I haven't reached the "bargaining stage" yet).

—Linda Marx

Referenced: Paradigm Gardens, 2025 S. Stoughton Rd, Madison, WI 608-240-3800



211 S. Fair Oaks Avenue, Madison, WI 53704

September 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:

Mary Albrecht, Verona, WI; Alluring Blooms, Madison, WI; Sandra Austin-Phillips, Middleton, WI; Lisa & Harvey Briggs, Madison, WI; Hildy Browning, Cross Plains, WI; Ellen Colby, Milwaukee, WI; Robert Cole, Madison, WI; Nancy Daly, Madison, WI; Milton & Emily Ford, Madison, WI; Randy Harrison, Sun Prairie, WI; Rosemary Henders, Batavia, IL; Kim Hughes, Waunakee, WI; Lea Jacobs & Ben Brewster, Madison, WI; Sherry & Milan Jelic, Sun Prairie, WI; Dawn Krahn, Middleton, WI; Shirley Krsinich, Madison, WI; Vicky Lilla, Spring Green, WI; Patricia McAfee & Lenny Anschutz, Neshkoro, WI; Kris McGinnis, Beloit, WI; Jamie Mohatt, Middleton, WI; Traci Peloquin, Montello, WI; Michelle Perz, Oregon, WI; Susan & Mike Phillips, Verona, WI; Shelley & Dave Rausch, Sun Prairie, WI; Jessica Rippenburg, Madison, WI; Kathleen Rouchar, Madison WI

## ***Members in print***

*Garden Gate Magazine* August 2021

- WHPS member Jeannette Golden's wonderful garden is featured on pages 54-63

*Fine Gardening* September/October 2021

- Plant Trial Results, page 54: *Burnet: The Best Plant You're Not Growing*, by Richard Hawke
- Midwest, page 76: *Plants for the Birds in Your Region*, by Mark Dwyer
- Garden Shed, page 16: *Tools You Can Depend On, Tested by Experts You Can Trust*, Mark Dwyer

## **Help Us Raise Needed Money!**

### **Bloomin' Bucks** with Brent and Becky's

Thinking about buying bulbs for next spring? You can help the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society raise money with any order you place at Brent & Becky's Bulbs. Simply visit [bloominbucks.com](http://bloominbucks.com) and select "Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society" and hit "GO" to be sent to the Brent and Becky's website [Bloomin Bucks](http://bloominbucks.com). Order any item, in any quantity – bulbs, tools, books, supplements, gift certificates and more – and 25% of your purchase will be donated to the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society. This applies to phone and mail orders as well – just be sure to mention WHPS or write us in as the organization you would like to support. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, donations like these are essential to continue our mission.

And don't forget that you can also support WHPS when you shop with Amazon. Navigate to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and search for the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society to designate us as your charity of choice.

## ***Bees (cont. from p. 1)***

as endangered under the Endangered Species Act after surveys found its populations had dropped by nearly 90 percent. Current sightings in Madison in multiple locations give us hope that gardeners can make a difference in providing habitat for this important insect. For more information about the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee and what you can do to improve insect habitat, check out this [fact sheet from the US Fish & Wildlife Service](#).