



Perennial Notes

April 2010

WHPS COMING EVENTS!

All regular meetings are 6:30 social time, 7:00 p.m. program at Olbrich Gardens Commons, 3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison, unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, April 21, Andrew Bell, Curator, Woody Plants, Chicago Botanic Garden, *New Plants and New Gardens at the Chicago Botanic Garden*.

Saturday, May 15, WHPS Plant Sale, 9:00 am. to noon at the West Agricultural Research Station. Wide selection and great prices on perennials, shrubs and trees from member gardens.

Saturday, May 22, WHPS Annual Buying Spree to Song Sparrow Nursery, 9:00-10:30 a.m. See page 2 for map and more info.

June 13-June 22, WHPS Trip to England. Questions about this trip should be directed to Frank Greer at frgreer@sbcglobal.net.

SUMMER GARDEN TOURS

Tuesday, July 13—Visit the West side gardens of Jeff Epping, Eleanor Rodini, Vaughan James, Luba Konowalskyj, Paul Lyne and the HospiceCare garden.

Thursday, July 29—Visit the East side gardens of Ann Munson, Susan Mahr and the Master Gardener Extension office teaching gardens.

Wednesday, August 18, Potluck Dinner and Walk Through Olbrich Gardens.

FALL GARDEN TOUR

Wednesday, September 8, Tour of Allen Centennial Garden with Ed Lyon

Wednesday, September 15, Program TBA

Saturday, September 18, 10:00-noon. *Member Plant Exchange*

Wednesday, October 20, Program TBA

Wednesday, November 17, Program TBA

Wednesday, December 1, Program TBA

WHPS BUS TRIPS 2010

Saturday, August 7, Milwaukee
with Dennis Buettner



Friday-Sunday, August 20-22, Minneapolis
Saturday, October 2, Chicago Botanic Garden

More info on the trips in future newsletters.

You can be a part of the WHPS Plant Sale!

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR PLANT DIGS

Whether it's potting up plants dug up by the host or making plant signs out of popsicle sticks, the plant digs are fun, a chance to visit a member's garden and, most of all, you are making a big contribution to our Plant Sale. Contact Bill Hoernke ASAP at bhoernke@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER TO HELP SET UP OR WORK AT THE SALE

If you would like to volunteer to help set up the day before the sale (May 14) or the day of the sale (May 15), please contact Stephanie O'Neal at sone2@aol.com to volunteer for the plant sale.

DONATE PLANTS TO THE SALE

If you are a member with an uncommon or unusual plant in your garden, won't you consider dividing it this spring and contributing one or two pots to the plant sale? Contact Stephanie O'Neal at sone2@aol.com to let her know so she can make sure the plants have a sign.

DAY OF SALE ARRIVAL PLANTS

A late arrival table will once again be set up for our plant sale. If you live out of town or are not available to drop off plants Friday evening, do bring your plants Saturday morning. I will price them as they come in and will set them up as fast as possible.

Marking the name of the plant before you bring it is important and can be done easily by cutting strips of plastic from yogurt containers and writing with a magic marker. And if Saturday morning on your way out you see some extra vegetable plants you will not fit into your garden, or a house plant you do not want, bring them along—all healthy plants are welcome, even if they are not perennials.

Do remember that other than membership dues this is the only money our society takes in, and if everyone brings something for the sale we will be successful again this year. Do some searching to find what you can contribute to your organization's plant sale. —Diane Scharkey

NEW THIS YEAR!

If you have a garden book or gently used garden item to contribute to the sale, contact Judy Crandall at JMCRANS@aol.com.

BUYING SPREE for WHPS Members

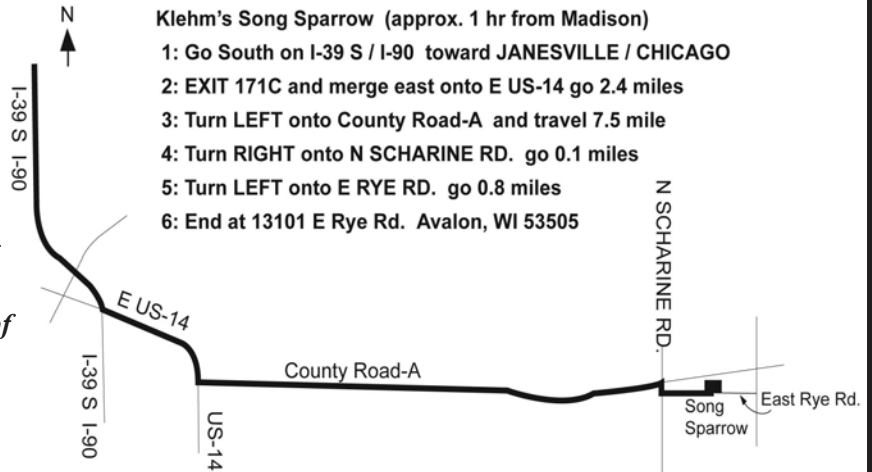
Klehm's Song Sparrow Farm, Avalon, Wisconsin

Saturday, May 22, 2010

BETWEEN 9:00-10:30 a.m. ONLY!

*Check out the Song Sparrow Web site,
www.songsparrow.com, for a full catalog of
their plants.*

*(With only an hour and a half to shop,
it pays to plan ahead!)*



Fertilizing Perennials

I recently spoke with Stephanie O'Neal who suggested I write an article for the newsletter about fertilizing perennials. Although not a writer, I liked the idea. Especially since this is a topic I really care about. I was curious what other gardeners do, and while at a garden lecture I asked a few notable area gardeners—Jane Gahlman, Ed Hasselkus, Mark Dwyer and Ann Munson—what they did. Like me, none of them fertilized their perennials. It was a relief to learn I was in good company.

I remember in the 1980s when I was working as a private gardener for a number of large properties, the expansive English perennial-style beds would be cut down in late October and then in November when the soil was freezing or already frozen (yes, it would freeze then!). We would take our pick-up trucks out into the back-forty of local horse pastures and load them up with composted horse manure. It was cold and miserable work, and by that time of year we were beat, but I remember how wonderful it was to plunge our cold hands into that steaming warm pile! And how fully satisfied we felt to look at the beds after we spread a thick dark blanket of that yummy manure over them. We could just hear the soil and plants sighing in pure contentment.

Now, I rarely ever do that. As ornamental grasses and native hybrids became available and people wanted lower maintenance gardens, the rich soils of delphiniums, roses and phlox were no longer appropriate. Leaner and well-drained soils became more important. I also began to leave the gardens standing thru the winter to feed the birds, give shelter to beneficial creatures and enjoy seeing the plants dance their winter stories.

The key to growing healthy perennials is the soil. And the key to good

soil is the healthy microorganisms that live there. I now focus my attention on keeping the soil microorganisms happy. If they are happy, they create wonderful defense systems that protect the plants from disease and predators, and make tasty goos and slimes that the plants tiny micro-roots slurp up as food.

Ideally, this is a four- or five-step process that I like to do in a healthy garden.

In spring, I cut down and clean up the garden, being careful not to overdo it by allowing as much plant debris that is well broken down and disease-free to remain as possible. This makes wonderful mulch and compost. I then spread a thin layer of compost; only ¼ inch is needed, although more is fine.

Next, I broadcast a product called Bio-tone, which contains endomycorrhizal fungi, around the crowns. This fungus interacts with other microbes and the plant's micro-roots to form little drinking straws to nutrients the plant needs in the soil. I then broadcast Profile if the soil is heavy or clay filled. Profile is a baked clay, like a fine kitty litter that helps create better drainage and breaks up the clay.

I then put the icing on the cake; a thick layer of finely shredded maple leaves that I gather in the fall and store in bags behind the garage through the winter. I call it worm candy. If

I really want to go over the top, I apply compost teas or bio-dynamic sprays.

This process and combination of ingredients assures that my microbes are happy little campers and will continually provide excellent support for my plants throughout the growing season.

—Tibi Light

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List of Plant Sales/Garden Tours

American Cancer Society Daffodil Days, call Adam Layne at 608-662-7547 or email Adam.Layne@cancer.org. Making our local American Cancer Society Daffodil Days successful takes the support of many area residents. Please consider supporting our fight against cancer by giving your time or making a donation.

The Madison Rose Society will be selling miniature roses again this year. They will have 16 different varieties. Anyone who is interested can contact Sherry Shaft at 608-834-6439, or Joan Schultz at 608-845-6063 or e-mail Sherry at sashaft1@aol.com. They can be picked up April 15-17 or other dates can be arranged. They are being sold for \$7.00 each and are hardy in Wisconsin.

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& Design

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Phone: 608.770.1831

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Russell's Farm Market

Join us this spring and summer at the farm. We have a very large assortment of hardy perennials, carrying over 350 varieties. Looking for help planning a rain garden? We can provide the information you need for your home and many of the native plants you've been looking for. Stroll through nearly one acre of display gardens while enjoying a freshly baked treat from our bakery.

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Open April 30, 2010

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Plainfield, WI



Saturday, April 3 Olbrich Spring Pansy Sale, 10:00 a.m., while supplies last. Celebrate spring with a cheery pansy, pansy, or viola grown in Olbrich's own greenhouses. Pots of pansies are \$6 each, with three plants per pot. Decorative containers are extra. Proceeds benefit Olbrich Botanical Gardens.

Orchid Sale April 3, Olbrich Gardens, 10 a.m.-2:30 pm or while supplies last. Sponsored by the Orchid Growers Guild; members will be available to answer questions. A portion of the proceeds benefits Olbrich Gardens. For information call 608-231-3163.

April 8-11, Milwaukee Art Museum, *Art in Bloom*

Beautiful floral arrangements inspired by the museum's artworks and presentations and lectures on such topics as shade gardening and floral photography. This event is a highlight of spring. For more information, please call (414) 224-3200, or go to <http://www.mam.org/bloom/>

Wednesday, April 21, WHPS MEETING, *New Plants and New Gardens at the Chicago Botanic Garden* (see front page).

Janesville's Rotary Botanical Gardens Spring Compost Sale

Blended mushroom compost in 1.5 cu. ft. bags. **Every Saturday in April and May**, 9:00 a.m.-noon. Horticulture Center off Palmer Drive. Friends Members receive 10% off.

Rotary Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale—May 14, 15, 16, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily. Horticulture Center off Palmer Drive. 100 varieties of vegetable plants, 100 varieties of herbs, bagged compost. Friends members receive 10% off. See www.rotarygardens.org for more info and plant lists. Call Mark at (608) 754-1779 with questions.

Olbrich's Leaf Mulch Sale, April 16-22

visit www.olbrich.org for specific times and details—

Made from leaves collected by the City of Madison that are delivered to Olbrich where they're composted outside during the winter. Starting in March, the leaves are double-shredded and bagged. Leaf mulch is beneficial for annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees, and in vegetable gardens. It cuts down on watering and weeding, recycles local leaves. This leaf mulch is available only through Olbrich. **Bags are \$6.50 each** (Each bag covers about 35-square feet at a depth of 3 inches.) Bulk scoops are \$40 (A bulk scoop is equal to about 8-10 bags of mulch.) For more information call 608-246-4550.

The Plant Guys (Louis, Jim, Phil, Richard, and Tim)

Spring Sales (If you wish to receive an email for this event, send request to Richard at rrkilmr@wisc.edu.) For questions, call Jim at 255-1202 or Richard at 255-9131.

First sale—Jim's House at 1520 Rutledge St, Madison (Near Yahara River and William St). **Thursday April 29, Friday April 30 and Saturday May 1**, 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Second Sale—MC and Val's House at 2702 Willard Ave, Madison (Corner of Willard and Hudson) **Thursday, May 6, Friday May 7 and Saturday May 8**, 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Third Sale—Richard and Tim's House 621 Emerson St, Madison (South Side between Lakeside and Olin). **Thursday, May 13, Friday May 14 and Sat. May 15**, 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Fourth Sale—Jim's House at 1520 Rutledge St, Madison. **Thursday, May 27, Friday May 28 and Saturday May 29**, 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Fifth Sale—MC and Val's House 2702 Willard Ave (Corner of Willard and Hudson). **Thursday, June 3; Friday, June 4; Saturday, June 5**. 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

—continued on next page

Garden Sales & Tours, continued from previous page

Sunday, May 2, Dahlia Tuber Sale, Noon-2:00 p.m., These late summer bloomers are subtropical annuals grown each year from tubers dug up in the fall and overwintered in a cool, dry environment. The sale is sponsored by the Badger State Dahlia Society. For more information call 608-577-1924.

**Longenecker Horticultural Gardens
Evening Tours—7:00 p.m.**

May 5—Early spring flowering woody ornamentals. This tour, led by UW Assoc. Prof. of Horticulture Laura Jull, will include the yellow and Little Girls Series of magnolias, early lilacs, rhododendrons and other spring flowering plants.

May 12—Flowering crabapples and lilacs. Professor Emeritus of Horticulture and Curator of the Longenecker Hort Gdns. Ed Hasselkus will concentrate on the world-class collection of ornamental crabapples and present highlights in the large lilac collection.

May 19—Azaleas and rhododendrons. Dr. Deb McCown of Knight Hollow Nursery will discuss the selection and care of these plants in the Madison area.

May 26—Small ornamental trees. Olbrich Botanical Gardens Director of Horticulture Jeff Epping will highlight some of the Garden's interesting and unusual ornamental small trees.

June 2—Conifers. If you are confused about telling a spruce from a fir, join us on a walk through the Garden's spectacular conifer collection. On this tour you will learn about "garden-sized" conifers of many types.

June 9—Shade trees. Laura Wyatt of the WDNR Urban Forestry will lead the group through the Garden's extensive collection of larger trees while discussing strategies for growing healthy trees in urban/suburban conditions.

Olbrich's Plant Sale with the Pros. Everything from annuals and perennials to ornamental grasses and shrubs. Master gardeners and Olbrich's horticulturists will be available to answer questions.

Member Pre-Sale Friday, May 7, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Public Sale Saturday, May 8, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Proceeds from the plant sale benefit Olbrich Botanical Gardens. Shop early since quantities are limited. Shoppers are encouraged to bring cartons, wagons, or boxes for carrying plants. Cash, checks, MasterCard, and Visa are accepted.

West Side Garden Club Plant Sale—Friday, May 7, 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 8, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 3918 Nakoma Rd. Madison (Near corner of Nakoma Rd. and Yuma/Seminole Highway) All proceeds go to local and State charitable projects and organizations.

Fitchburg Gardeners Plant Sale—Friday, May 7, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 8, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 5586 Cheryl Dr., Fitchburg. (2.5 mi. south of the beltline on Fish Hatchery Rd.)

Saturday, May 8, Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Tents near the Arboretum Visitors Center.

Shorewood Hills Garden Club Annual Cocoa Mulch and Plant Sale—Saturday, May 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Shorewood Village Hall, 810 Shorewood Blvd. Call 238-4860 or 236-9374 for more information.

Sugar River Gardeners Garden Club will be holding their annual plant sale **Saturday May 8** from 8:00 AM until 12:00 PM at 301 N Main St in Verona. Perennials, annuals and some house plants will be available.

Oregon Garden Club Plant Sale, Saturday, May 8, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Waterman Park Shelter, downtown Oregon, adjacent to the stop'n go lights at the intersection of Main and Janesville Streets. Plant donations (garden divisions and seedlings) are welcomed—contact Bernie Treichel, jbtreichel@chartermi.net or phone 835-5228 for drop-off information. Some of the proceeds will benefit the 2010 Oregon-Brooklyn Satellite of Dane County Habitat for Humanity 2010 build.

Saturday, May 8, Sundowners/Crosstown Violet Club Sale, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Sale includes African violets, starter plants, blooming plants, leaves, gesneriads of all kinds, and potting soil and pots. For more information call 608-833-5552.

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Garden Sales & Tours, continued from previous page

Saturday, May 15, WHPS PLANT SALE, 9:00 a.m.-noon, West Madison Agricultural Station.

Saturday, May 15 and Sunday, May 16 Badger Bonsai Annual Show, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Olbrich Botanical Gardens. Marvel at these growing miniature landscapes. For more information call 262-490-9733.

May 28, 29, 30, Plant Sale—Annual Sale by Bill Hoernke and his mother (mostly hosta, with other hardy plants) 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. each day, E139331 St. Hwy. 33, Ontaria, WI, PH: 608-337-4580. 2 hrs. NW of Madison on Hwy. 33, 1 mile east of Wildcat Mountain State Park. Annual sale offered by Bill Hoernke and his mother.

Saturday, May 22, Greentree Garden Club Plant Sale 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., 1202 Saalsaa Road (on the Westside of Madison near Elver Park). Directions: take Gammon Road to Hammersley Road. Turn left onto Hammersley go one block and turn left on to Saalsaa.

Sunday, June 6, Hosta Sale, Olbrich Gardens, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., or while supplies last. Wisconsin Hosta Society Annual Plant Sale. These shade-loving perennials, prized for their interesting foliage, come in a variety of sizes, shapes, and colors. For more information call 608-443-4281.

Sunday, June 6, Iowa Garden Conifer Rendezvous Oelwein, Iowa. Hosted by Gary Whittenbaugh, who was the guide on the WHPS 2009 Iowa bus trip. Questions? Call 319-283-3050.

Sunday, June 20, Rose Show, Olbrich Gardens, 12:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. The Madison Rose Society hosts an indoor exhibit of cut roses and arrangements in all sizes and colors. Members of the Rose Society will be available to answer questions. Stroll through Olbrich's two acre Rose Garden. For more information call 608-834-6439. Free and open to the public.

Wood County Master Gardeners present "Down the Garden Path" Garden Walk, Art Show and Garden Treasures in Nekoosa, WI, Saturday, July 10 from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Featuring six home gardens (including WHPS member Barb Herreid), plus a Master Gardener project garden. Local artists will exhibit their medium at each garden location. Complimentary refreshments. Gently used "Garden Treasures will also be offered for sale. For more info, please contact Barb Herreid at 715-325-2075.

Friday, July 9 and Saturday, July 10, Olbrich's 2010 Home Garden Tour, Friday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Tour private home gardens on the north side of Madison. Many of the gardens incorporate edible plants. Some gardeners chose to plant a large vegetable garden, while others have chosen to add vegetables or herbs in containers. Also enjoy a stop at Troy Community Gardens to see first-hand how gardening can become a community effort. Pre-tour tickets are \$10 for Olbrich Botanical Society members and \$12 for the general public. Tickets

SCHÖNHEIT GARDENS

Perennial Nursery and Garden Center
3577 Bailey Rd, Sun Prairie Ph: 608-441-9832

Opening April 17, 2010

Spring Hours: 8-6 Daily

**GO GREEN @ SCHÖNHEIT GARDENS
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SCHÖNHEIT GARDENS for recycling 8-6 daily!**

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**Check out our plant list & class schedule online
www.schonheitgardens.com**



**WHPS Member Special
Buy 3 Perennials, get a 4th Free*!**

***Equal or lesser value. Valid thru May 31, 2010.
One Coupon per visit. Not Combinable with any other offers.**



Festival of
Spring

Saturday, May 22, 2010
PLANT SALE / ART FAIR / FLEA MARKET

The PAINE
ART CENTER AND GARDENS

Oshkosh, Wisconsin
www.thepaine.org

during the tour are \$14 for Olbrich members and \$16 for the general public. Sponsored by the Wisconsin Landscape Contractors Association.

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Garden Sales & Tours, continued from previous page

Tuesday, July 13, WHPS Garden Tour of West Side Gardens (see front page).

July 14-August 8, Olbrich's Blooming Butterflies 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. daily. Live butterflies emerge from chrysalises daily in the Bolz Conservatory. Olbrich's Blooming Butterflies is a great adventure for people of all ages. Children can visit stations in the outdoor gardens with their Butterfly Passport while learning fun facts. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 3 to 12, free for children 2 and under, and free for Olbrich Botanical Society members. Groups of 15 or more must register in advance by calling 608-246-4550.

Saturday, July 24. Wisconsin Daylily Society Open Gardens. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Check the Wisconsin Daylily Society Web site closer to the event for locations. <http://www.wisdaylilysoc.org/>

Thursday, July 29, WHPS Tour of East Side Gardens (see front page)

July 30 and August 1, Iris Sale, Olbrich Gardens, 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. The Madison Area Iris Society sponsors this sale of iris rhizomes, the roots that grow into iris plants. For more information call 608-271-3607.

Saturday, August 7, WHPS Bus Trip to Milwaukee Area Gardens.

Saturday, August 14 and Sunday, August 15, Wisconsin Daylily Society Sale at Olbrich Gardens. Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and Sunday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. For additional information call Rosemary Kleinheinz at 608-221-1933. At the sale last year over 6,000 plants were available representing 600 different cultivars, of which 200 had never been at the sale before.

Wednesday, August 18, WHPS Potluck Dinner, Olbrich Gardens.

Saturday, August 21 and Sunday August 22, Dahlia Show, Saturday, noon-4:00 p.m., Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Olbrich Gardens. Dahlias are late summer bloomers known for their diverse forms and bright colors. Sponsored by the Badger State Dahlia Society. For more information call 608-577-1924.

Friday, August 20 through Sunday, August 22, WHPS Bus Trip to Minnesota.

Wednesday, September 8, WHPS Tour of Allen Centennial Garden

Saturday, September 18, WHPS Plant Exchange, location TBA.

Saturday, October 2, WHPS Bus Trip to Chicago Botanic Garden.

Saturday, October 9 and Sunday, October 10, African Violet Show and Sale, Saturday, noon-5:00 p.m., Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Olbrich Gardens. The sale will include African violets, streptocarpus, and other gesneriads. Leaves, starter plants, soil, pots, and handouts with growing tips will also be available. Sponsored by the Wisconsin State Council of African Violets. A portion of the proceeds benefits Olbrich Botanical Gardens. For more information call 608-833-5552.

Monday, October 18, Fall Quilt and Flower Show Plant Sale, Olbrich Gardens, noon—while supplies last! Selected plants and fall foliage used to decorate Olbrich's Fall Quilt & Flower Show will be on sale. Proceeds benefit the Gardens.

Saturday, November 6, Herb Fair, Olbrich Gardens, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Browse through displays of herbal foods, crafts, and books for sale. The Herb Fair is free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Madison Herb Society. For more information call 608-233-6219.

Saturday, December 4-Thursday, December 31, Olbrich's Holiday Express: Flower and Model Train Show, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. daily. Members of the Wisconsin Garden Railway Society come from all over the state to show off their large-scale model trains. Bring friends and family and enjoy holiday refreshments available for purchase in the lobby. Olbrich's Photo Depot also provides the perfect background for a holiday photo! Admission for Olbrich Botanical Society members is free. Admission to Olbrich's Holiday Express for the general public is \$3 for adults, and \$2 for children ages 3 to 12. Children 2 and under are free.

Yard Waste Turns to Gold!

Now that Tibi Light (page 2) has recommended a layer of compost to feed your garden beds, it's time to get the compost.

For quite a few years, yard waste has been banned from our landfills. Dane County has three sites where you can drop off yard waste. While you're there, you can pick up "Gold." Well, at least that is what some gardeners call finished compost. It can really improve poor soil and bring joy to your plants root systems. Best of all, it is really economical and eco-friendly. You can get a pickup truck load of screened compost for \$10!

You may pick up finished compost at Verona and Westport during hours of operation.

Check out the details on the county's Web site at http://www.countyofdane.com/pwht/recycle/compost_sites.aspx.

*When beechen buds begin to swell,
And woods the blue-bird's warble know,
The yellow violet's modest bell
Peeps from the last year's leaves below.*

—William Cullen Bryant, 1794-1878



Ten Favorite Perennial Plants in My Garden

A phone conversation with Tom Cottington inspired me to write this article. It was difficult. I had to leave off many wonderful plants. The process brought home to me how much more important foliage is to me than flowers. Only three of my ten favorites even have flowers I care about (clematis, epimedium, sanguinaria) and notice that I cut the flowers off hostas and heucheras. And since my original list of 14 had six ferns on it, that tells me I'd better buy more ferns, as I just really love them. Making the list was an interesting experience, and I would recommend that all of you sit down and try and select your ten favorite plants.

1. *Adiantum pedatum*—Maidenhair Fern—I love ferns, and maidenhair is, I think, my favorite. I love the sturdy, straight black stems and the fact that those stems were used in Native American basketry. I love the beautiful whorled foliage and the fact that it is a native Wisconsin plant. Not to mention, my biggest stand of this fern originated in my grandmother's garden.

2. *Clematis 'Rouguchi'*—I have begun a love affair with the clematis genera these last few years. Every single one is beautiful. But it only took me a moment to name my current favorite. Rouguchi has rigid dark purple bells with lighter purple edging and blooms nearly until frost. I never walk by it without stopping to admire those bells.

3. *Dryopteris tokyoensis*—All of the dryopteris ferns are lovely. Tokyoensis has nice, stiffly erect fronds that I especially like.

4. *Epimedium grandiflorum 'Saxton's Purple'*—This is a genera I am just beginning to branch out in. As with ferns and clematis, all epimediums are lovely. I chose this cultivar because it brings into the mix another important consideration for me. My grandson's name is Saxon and this is the closest plant name I have found to his name. I love buying plants that have the name of a family member. So even though I only bought this epimedium last August and it has yet to bloom in my garden, I have selected it as my favorite.

5. *Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola'*—I love the growth habit and flowing look of this grass and the bright golden color. The other hakonechloa are also nice, but this is my favorite.

6. *Heuchera 'Amethyst Myst'*—Heuchera is another genera I love. The purple ones do much better for me than the chartreuse/amber ones. I have quite a few but I think Amethyst Myst is my favorite. The rich purple foliage color looks great all season. I actually cut the flower stalks off, as I don't particularly like them.

7. *Hosta 'Tokudama Aureonebulosa'*—I have many hostas and they are a wonderful shade garden plant, looking great all season, so I felt I had to include one in this list. It was hard to select a favorite, but Aureonebulosa has the thick textured leaves and the two shades of green that I like. I have discovered I like hostas with white in them the least, but much prefer green/gold/blue. And, like the heucheras, I cut the flower stalks off my hostas.

8. *Polygonatum odoratum 'Variegatum'*—Variegated Solomon's Seal—Not only did I get my first clump of this from my sister (bringing in the aspect of the origin of my particular plant, which also adds to my feelings about the plant) but it is a great plant, looking good from the moment it first pokes out of the ground right through its golden fall color. My "first clump" has spread nicely and I think this plant looks best *en masse*.

9. *Polypodium vulgare*—common polpody fern—You just have to love this cute little native Wisconsin evergreen fern.

10. *Sanguinaria canadensis f multiplex*—double blood-root—for me, this has absolutely the most beautiful blossom in my garden. The full, rich, white flower is to die for.

—Jane LaFlash

Who says the *Wisconsin State Journal* doesn't print gardening stories?

Here are two articles—copied as printed in the *Wisconsin State Journal* (with a special warning to English Gardens' visitors!)

—Marlette Larson

Gardeners encouraged to go green, go outside

A British heritage charity is encouraging employees to help the environment by eschewing indoor toilets and relieving themselves outdoors.

The experiment applies to male gardening staff at Wimpole Hall, a stately home about 50 miles north of London. [Thank goodness, we're not visiting this garden in June!]

The National Trust, which runs the property, says the staff are being encouraged to urinate on straw which is then placed on compost heaps. Officials warned the gardeners to make sure they urinate in spots where they cannot be seen by passers-by.

Topless gardener prompts new rules

Boulder, Colo.—A woman gardening while wearing only a yellow thong and pink gloves has brought neighborhood complaints and new rules from a housing authority in Colorado.

Boulder Housing Partners plans to amend its rules so that tenants cover up when they're outside. Several passers-by told Boulder police earlier this week that 52-year-old Catharine Pierce was topless while tending to her yard. Last year, she was threatened with eviction for gardening wearing only pasties and a thong.

Robert Pierce said he'll fight changes that would keep his wife from gardening outside topless, which is legal under state and city law. "They're making a big mistake," he said.

(The first article ran the week of 3/22/10; the second ran last year.)

..... **Member News, Tips etc.**

Plants for Orton Park

Two members, Jim Gentry and Ellen Henningsen, are seeking plants to beautify a small public garden in Orton Park on Madison's East Side.

Low-maintenance, long-lasting, shade-tolerant plants like *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy', hosta (anything but the common green, green/white variety), shade tolerant sedges or grasses, groundcovers, campanula, brunnera, epimedium, heuchera, coneflowers, phlox, etc., are best.

If you have workhorse plants to divide that would do well in a public space, think of a donation to this neighborhood park garden.

Call Jim or Ellen at 256-1726. Your contribution will be much appreciated.

Garden Expo Thank You!

Thank you to all of the members who volunteered to work the booth at the Garden Expo in February. Very special thanks to Dave Wanninger of Beaver Creek Nursery for his presentation on *New and Better Shrubs for Home Gardens* on behalf of WHPS to a full auditorium at the Saturday opening of the Expo.

Special thanks to member businesses donating prizes for the drawing: America's Best Flowers; J Carlson Growers; Jack's Plants; Klehm's Song Sparrow Nursery; Mel's Green Garden; Avant Gardening; Schonheit Gardens; The Flower Factory.

Member seeks assistance

Many of you have toured Tom Cottington's garden at least once over the years. Tom's garden suffered quite a bit of damage (rabbit and weather related) over this past winter and he is seeking some assistance in keeping up his garden this year.

Here are the five areas for which he could use some help. If you would like to help Tom this spring and summer, you can reach him at tomcott@charter.net.

1. Watering (During the Summer & Late Fall)
2. Light weeding and Edging (all season)
3. Plant Division this Spring (late April or Early in May) and Fall (approx. September 15, 2010)
4. Fall Cleaning up, putting the garden to bed for the Winter, in October 2010.
5. Possible Fall Bulb planting in October 2010.

WHPS T-shirts!

At \$10 each, WHPS T-shirts are a real bargain. Sizes currently available are medium, large and extra large.

To order a T-Shirt, contact Jane Gahlman at jmgahlman@hotmail.com (or call her at 608-837-2317 and leave a message).

WHPS Web site: www.madison.com/communities/wisconsinhardyplantsociety/

Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society



APRIL 2010 Newsletter

**211 S. Fair Oaks Avenue
Madison, WI 53704-5822**

- President—Frank Greer, 608-233-4686, frgreer@sbcglobal.net
- Vice President—Jane Gahlman, 608-837-2317, jmgahlman@hotmail.com, Seed Exchange Coordinator
- Treasurer—Diane Scharkey, dscharkey@aol.com
- John Cannon, jtcannon@wisc.edu
- Judy Crandall, 608-884-8258, jmcrans@aol.com
- Jeannette Golden, 608-767-3736, jeannettyzqg@yahoo.com
- Ed Hasselkus, erhassel@wisc.edu
- Bill Hoernke, 608-235-1122, bhoernke@gmail.com
- Jane LaFlash, jlafash@wisc.edu, Membership Coordinator and Trip and Tour Co-Coordinator
- Edward Lyon, 608-658-3456, eslyon@wisc.edu, Program Coordinator and Trip and Tour Co-Coordinator
- Terri Maliszewski-Kane, 608-513-4189, terrimk1@hotmail.com, Olbrich Liaison
- Stephanie O'Neal, 608-256-6108, sone2@aol.com, Publications and Plant Sale contact
- Rita Thomas, rita_thomas@charter.net, Web site contact
- Conrad Wrzesinski, 608-231-3279, conradw@charter.net

Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society—an unincorporated nonprofit association

Do you have a question about your membership? Contact Jane LaFlash at whps05@yahoo.com, 608-243-1208.