



Perennial Notes

April 2015

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 15, *Clematis Up Close.* A clematis in full bloom is testament to their reputation as queen of the vines. Today, gardeners have a myriad of clematis to choose from, including many new selections developed for small landscapes. Richard Hawke will present a sampling of the best clematis that have been evaluated at the Chicago Botanic Garden over the past 25 years.

Since 1986, **Richard Hawke** has been the Plant Evaluation Manager at the Chicago Botanic Garden, and is responsible for the comparative evaluation of over 1,100 taxa of herbaceous and woody plants. The Plant Evaluation Program is one of the largest and most diverse in the nation, and received the Award for Program Excellence from the American Public Garden Association in 2008. Richard has a horticulture degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is the author of *Plant Evaluation Notes*, a Chicago Botanic Garden publication reporting the results of evaluation trials. Richard is an instructor for the School of the Chicago Botanic Garden, and, in 2005, received the Perennial Plant Association's Academic Award for teaching excellence. Richard is an author and contributing editor for *Fine Gardening*, and writes for other horticulture publications such as *Perennial Plants*, *The American Gardener*, *Chicagoland Gardening*, and *Nursery Management*. **Special presentation from 6:15-6:45 p.m. before the program:** John Cannon and John Fritsch will present their photos of the June 2014 WHPS trip to England.



Friday, May 15, *Setup Day for Plant Sale*
Saturday, May 16, *WHPS Plant Sale*

9:00 a.m.-Noon, West Madison Agricultural Research Station, 8502 Mineral Point Road. Huge selection of perennials and woodies contributed from member gardens. Most prices under \$5.00!

Saturday, May 30, 9:00-11:00 a.m. *Song Sparrow Buying Opportunity* - See info and directions below.

Sunday, May 31, *WHPS One-day Bus Trip to Green Bay*
SOLD OUT!

Wednesday, June 3, *Visit to Breezeway Iris Gardens in Brooklyn* (one of our business members). We'll check out the irises in bloom, place orders, and have a brief talk by the owner.

Saturday-Sunday, June 27-28, *Bus Trip to Chicago*
a few spots still open - register now!

Tuesday, June 30, 6:30 p.m. *Tour of Epic Grounds with Jeff Epping.* Details TBA.

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<https://www.facebook.com/WisHardyPlantSociety>

Song Sparrow Nursery Buying Spree for WHPS Members

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2015

**Klehm's Song Sparrow
 Perennial Farm,
 13101 E. Rye Road
 Avalon, Wisconsin**

BETWEEN 9:00-11:00 a.m. ONLY!

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

*(With only two hours to shop,
 it pays to plan ahead!)*



WHPS Coming Events

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Tuesday, July 14, WHPS Evening Tour of Gardens in Maple Bluff - Cannon/Fritsch, Tensfeldt, Erickson and Sanger Gardens - info will be published in June 2015 Newsletter.

Thursday, July 23, WHPS Evening Tour of Gardens in Far West Madison area - Grosz, Ondrejka/Rudy, Sherry, Kriege/Robinson-Myers, Watson-Newlin Gardens - info will be published in June 2015 Newsletter.

July 30-August 4, Portland Trip **SOLD OUT!**

Wednesday, August 19, WHPS Summer Potluck Dinner, Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Wednesday, Sept 9, 6:00 p.m. Tour of Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville with Director of Horticulture Mark Dwyer. Details TBA.

Wednesday, September 16, On Design, Dan Benarcik, Horticulturist, Chanticleer Garden, <http://www.chanticleergarden.org/>

Saturday in October (date TBA), Tour of Lonegecker Horticultural Gardens at the UW Arboretum by their Curator, Professor Emeritus Ed Hasselkus.

Wednesday, October 21, The Evening Garden, Zannah Crowe, Horticulturist, Monches Farm, <http://www.monchesfarm.com/>

Wednesday, November 18, Cool, Non-wimpy Plants You Haven't Heard of, Joseph Tychonievich, author, *Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener* and a new book on rock gardens due in 2015, and former manager of Arrowhead Alpines, <http://www.greensparrowgardens.com/>

Wednesday, December 9, Annual Meeting, Member Potpourri and Seed Exchange.

A Passing - Joan Severa

As many of you have heard, Joan Severa, our dear gardening friend, author and long-time WHPS member, passed away March 5. She spent her final days at Oakwood Village, surrounded by friends, family and many, many cards and notes (almost all of them with flowers on them). There will be a celebration of Joan's life at Olbrich Gardens, on August 8, 2015, (her 90th birthday would have been August 7th) from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.



WHPS would like to celebrate Joan and her contributions to our organization and Midwest gardening in our June 2015 Newsletter with a tribute to her humor, resilience, and the many facets of her long and fruitful life. *We would appreciate your remembrances of Joan to contribute to that tribute, and you can email your thoughts, memories and experiences with Joan to Stephanie O'Neal at sone2@aol.com.*

Member Tip

To avoid attacks by Japanese Beetles, in May nip the buds off your roses, using disbudding or giving the roses a hard prune. You'll miss the first flush of bloom, but so will the Japanese beetles. When later buds emerge, the beetles are at the end of their run, and the roses should look great the rest of the season.

2014 Plant Sale Proceeds Donated

At the December 2014 Annual Meeting, members approved the Board's recommendations for the following donations, using the \$6,000 proceeds from the 2014 WHPS Plant Sale:

- \$2,000.00 to Olbrich Botanical Society.
- \$1,000.00 each to Allen Centennial Gardens, Janesville Rotary Gardens, and UW-Longenecker Gardens.
- \$500.00 each to West Madison Ag Research Station and Blair Street Gardens.

Volunteers Needed for 2015 Plant Sale

Volunteer sign-up sheets will also be available at the WHPS meeting April 15.

Call for Dig Hosts

If you think you will be able to donate more than four flats of plants to the WHPS Plant Sale and would like to host a dig for the 2015 Plant Sale, please contact Linda Marx at ljmarx@chorus.net, 608-249-7717. You dig the plants—we provide the soil mix, pots and volunteers to pot up the plants and label. Win/win—your garden is thinned out and WHPS generates cash for donations.

Volunteer for Plant Digs

If you would like to volunteer at a plant dig, helping to pot up and label plants, please contact Linda Marx at the above email/phone.

Volunteer to Set Up the Day before the Sale, May 15

We'll need help transporting plants to the sale site and then organizing the plants, pricing and placing them on the tables, starting at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, May 15 and finishing 6:30-7:00 p.m. You really get a chance to know members, the plants, ask questions and see what's going to be sold the next day.

Volunteer to Work the Day of the Sale, May 16

We need help with the following: late arrivals, checking in plants prior to checkout, getting plants loaded into shopper's vehicles, keeping the sales area neat for shoppers, and cleaning up after the sale. Shifts available 8:30-1:30 p.m. This is fun! Helping buyers get great plants for their garden and finding some new plants for your own garden. It's the fastest, most interesting and satisfying three hours you'll experience this spring.

To volunteer the day before or day of the sale, contact Jeannette Golden at jgolden4142@gmail.com or call her at 238-4370.

Donate Plants to the Sale! CALL for PLANT DONATIONS

This year we are asking our members to contribute three plants (or more) each to the plant sale. Are there favorites in your garden that you can divide and offer to our sale? Contact Stephanie O'Neal at 608-256-6108, or email her at sone2@aol.com about your donation. We ask that you take care of the plants until the week of the Plant Sale and then either drop them off at the sale site on Friday, May 15 or leave them at the home of Stephanie O'Neal or Linda Marx (contact Stephanie for specific drop-off info).

VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE \$5 DISCOUNT AT CHECKOUT

Everyone who volunteers for the Plant Sale will get a discount of \$5.00 toward your total sale purchase on the day of the Sale. Checkout will have a list of the volunteers (*making it very important that plant contributors let us know ahead of time of your contribution*). Volunteers will ask the cashier for the \$5.00 discount when paying.

So sign up now to participate in our biggest event of the year. Proceeds are donated to valued garden entities in the area, and the sale gives members access to inexpensive plants that will expand and enhance their gardens.

Tell your friends and neighbors and we'll see you on May 16, 9:00 a.m.-Noon at the WHPS PLANT SALE!

Questions? Contact Stephanie O'Neal, sone2@aol.com,

Attracting Beneficial Insects with Native Plants

by Susan Carpenter, native plant gardener
UW-Madison Arboretum

What do native hedgerows, small brush piles and flowering borders have in common? What is a beetle bank? All are habitat features that support predatory and parasitic insects that can benefit agricultural crops or your garden. Beneficial insects include wasps, beetles, true bugs, lacewings and flower flies. Examples include:

- Firefly beetle (Lampyridae) Larvae are predatory on soft-bodied invertebrates like slugs and snails. Adults are predatory or feed on pollen and nectar. They lay eggs near the soil surface and overwinter as larvae in soil or under bark.
- Flower fly (Syrphidae) Larvae feed on aphids, scales and mealybugs. They lay their eggs on plants near the larval prey, and overwinter as larvae, pupae or adults in leaf litter or soil. Adults feed on pollen and nectar, and their coloration may mimic bees or wasps.

To establish a native hedgerow, select a large enough area or buffer to accommodate the shrubs at maturity. Choose species appropriate to your site's soil moisture conditions. For example, in an area with mesic to moist soils, Cockspur hawthorn (*Crateagus crus-galli*), chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) and buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) are good large shrub choices.

Smaller shrubs suitable for hedgerow or border planting are New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), native roses (*Rosa* spp.) and white spirea (*Spiraea alba*).

To establish and maintain the shrub planting, you may need to water new plantings for the first year or two if rainfall is not consistent. When well established, these shrubs can be renewal pruned, and some coppiced (cut to the ground) to create dense forms. Be ready to remove invasive shrubs or weeds that seed in under your shrubs.

The Xerces Society Guide, *Farming with Native Beneficial Insects: Ecological Pest Control Solutions*, is a comprehensive resource. It includes detailed profiles of the insects and a few arachnids, as well as native plant suggestions by region, and field techniques for creating garden features.

Where to find native plants

Friends of the Arboretum's annual Native Plant Sale is always held the Saturday of Mother's Day weekend. So this year's sale is May 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the large tents next to the Arboretum Visitor Center. Everyone is welcome to shop at the Plant Sale, but Friends of the Arboretum members get a 10% discount. You can join Friends of the Arboretum at the sale and save.

Over 1,000 people attend the sale, so plan to arrive early for the best selection of native grasses; woodland, prairie and savanna plants; trees and shrubs. Selecting plants appropriate to your garden is recommended, and native plant sale advisors are available for questions. More info: http://uwarboretum.org/foa/native_plant_sale.php

If you have questions about the sale, feel free to call Linda at 608-263-7760, Anne at 608-345-9697 or email anne@rodgersrhyme.com.

Want to learn more about using native plants? Visit the UW Arboretum Native Plant Garden, attend their free garden tours, or volunteer in the garden. More information is available at www.uwarboretum.org

Friends of the UW-Madison Arboretum

Native Plant Sale™

Saturday, May 9

9 am - 2 pm

UW-Madison Arboretum
1207 Seminole Hwy

- More than 100 species – woodland plants, prairie plants, and ferns
- Propagated plants – not dug from the wild
- Information on plant care with each species
- Experts on hand to answer your questions
- Proceeds benefit Arboretum projects



Scan this QR code with
your smart phone to view
plant sale details online.



Open to the public – discount for Friends members
Call 608.263.7760 for information or go to: uwarboretum.org/foa

FLOWER CHORUS by Ralph Waldo Emerson

O such a commotion under the ground,
When March called: "Ho! There! ho!
"Such spreading of rootlets far and wide
Such whisperings to and fro!"
Are you ready?" the Snowdrop asked,
'Tis time to start, you know."
"Almost, my dear!" the Scilla replied,
'I'll follow as soon as you go.
"Then "Ha! ha! ha!" the chorus came
Of laughter sweet and low,
From millions of flowers under the ground,
Yes, millions beginning to grow.
'I'll promise my blossoms, the crocus said,
"When I hear the black bird sing.
"And straight thereafter the Narcissus cried,
My silver and gold I'll bring."
"And ere they are dulled," another spoke,
"The Hyacinth bells shall ring."
But the violet only murmured, "I'm here,"
And sweet grew the air of Spring.
O the pretty brave things, thro' the coldest days
Imprisoned in walls of brown,
They never lost heart tho' the blast shrieked loud,
And the sleet and the hail came down;
But patiently each wrought her wonderful dress
Or fashioned her beautiful crown,
And now they are coming to lighten the world
Still shadowed by winter's frown.
And well may they cheerily laugh "Ha! ah!"
In laughter sweet and low,
The millions of flowers under the ground,
Yes, millions beginning to grow.

Spring poem contributed by Dennis Buettner

Gardening with Operation Fresh Start

Greetings Hardy Planters. Did you know there's a wonderful little gem right in our midst?

For the past forty-five years, Operation Fresh Start (OFS), has been helping Madison-area youths who have, for various reasons, dropped out of high school and become disconnected. OFS helps them get back on track with their education through the attainment of diplomas and GEDs. They also teach home building skills, conservation skills, and now we are in the early stages of farming. I have been fortunate enough to see the smiles of connection, hope, forgiveness and promise in so many of these young pups.

I have tutored/mentored these young people for over a decade, relentlessly expressing what a perfect fit this would be for our young people to be doing something with plants.

Last year it really started happening, and for me tutoring became farming. OFS has a contract with Dane County to help develop their newly forming Silverwood Agricultural County Park just outside of Edgerton, WI. Among other things, OFS started growing vegetables on an acre of ground at the park. Last year, we harvested over 4,000 pounds of the best food on the planet. We gave it to food pantries, traded for tomato sauce, made pickles and soup, and set up our own little "Free and Easy Market" for staff and participants.

OFS is in the process of raising money to build a new building in which they plan to serve twice as many young people. One of the goals of this new space is to have a commercial kitchen where we will learn and teach more about the food we harvest.

I am the only "volunteer" out in the garden and I have come to see that things go much more smoothly when we have more adult interaction. My experience with these folks, both staff and participants, has been so very positive.

Please join me out at Silverwood or make a donation: Invest in the future!

Still Growing...Paula West Kaplan

paula@littleblufffarm.com

OR

Jill W. Pfeiffer, Development Director at Operation Fresh Start

jpfeiffer@operationfreshstart.org

Paula West Kaplan helped the Hardy Plant Society form in Oregon in the 1980s as well as the Hardy Plant Society-Mid Atlantic Group in the 1990s.



2015 Calendar of Gardening Events

Saturday, April 11 and Saturday, May 2, Beekeeping for Beginners. 9 am - 4 pm. Day-long Beekeeping Classes to be held at the Dane Co. Extension Building, 5201 Fen Oak Dr, Madison, WI 53718. Beginners Classes April 11 and May 2, 2015. Fee of \$50 covers coffee, handouts, free sample journals and catalogues, and props galore for you to handle. Individual, hands-on Mentoring is also available, \$20 for 2 hours in the apiary. To register, contact Jeanne Hansen at 608-244-5094 Dane Co Extension Building, 5201 Fen Oak Dr, Madison, WI.

Wednesday, April 15, WHPS Program - Clematis, Up Close. WHPS Program with Richard Hawke at 7:00 p.m., with special presentation before the program of 2014 England Trip, Olbrich Gardens.

Thursday, April 16, Rotary Botanical Gardens Evening Garden Seminar - Spring Ephemerals, 6:30-8 pm, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events>

Tuesday, April 21, Caring for Mature Trees, Olbrich Botanical Gardens. Mature trees are irreplaceable pinnacles to our urban landscape. Join Briana Frank, owner of Tree Health Management, LLC, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and learn how to care for mature trees. She will explain decay, proper pruning, proper nutrition and watering requirements, as well as cultural landscape practices to optimize their health. \$15 (\$12 member). For more info contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI; phone (608) 246-4550.

Wednesday, April 22, Incorporating Fragrance in the Garden Olbrich Botanical Gardens. Most of us enjoy the spring scent of lilacs in the garden; adding scent throughout the growing season can make our landscape even more enjoyable. Mark Dwyer of Rotary Gardens will discuss the wide range of plants that provide scent in the garden (day and night), including the fragrances of lemon, pine, vanilla, and even chocolate in this class from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$15 (\$12 member). For more information contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, (608) 246-4550.

Thursday, April 23, Controlling Weeds and Invasive Plants Olbrich Botanical Gardens. We all have a few weeds growing

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A FRESH APPROACH TO LANDSCAPE DESIGN

At Sprout, we focus on residential landscape and garden design, on-site consulting, Do-It-Yourself projects and Petscaping.

We promote sustainability and the use of native plant and stone materials, while striving to create outdoor spaces that mimic our natural environment.

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2015 Calendar of Gardening Events

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here and there in our yards, but most properties also have more insidious invasive species that can spread rapidly and plunder natural areas. Frank Hassler from Good Oak Ecological Services will discuss invasive plants and some of the common ornamental plants that are becoming invasive, too. Find out what these "bad" plants are and how to stop them from spreading in your landscape and neighborhood in this class from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$15 (\$12 member). For more information contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, phone (608) 246-4550.

Friday, April 24, Tree Planting Workshop, Olbrich Botanical Gardens. Just planting a tree is not enough, since improperly planted trees never live to the ripe old age that they could if the time was taken in the beginning to plant them correctly. Olbrich Director of Horticulture Jeff Epping will show you how to plant trees the right way so your children and your children's children can enjoy the trees you plant now in this class from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. \$19 (\$16 member). For more information contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens; phone (608) 246-4550.

Saturday, May 2, Willy Street Park Plant Sale, 1002 Williamson Street. Rain or Shine!

Friday May 8, 2015, 8:00am - 6:00pm; Saturday May 9, 2015, 8:00am - 4:00pm Westside Plant Sale (Nakoma), 3918 Nakoma Rd. (near corner of Seminole Highway and Nakoma Rd).

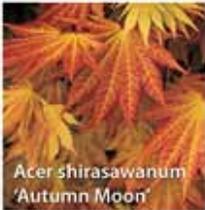
Friday, May 8, 11 am-5 pm, Saturday, May 9, 9 am-3 pm, Olbrich's Plant Sale with the Pros. Speak with area experts and select the best plants for your garden.

May 8, 8 am-4 pm, May 9, 8 am-4 pm, May 10, 10 am-3pm Fitchburg Plant Sale, 5586 Cheryl Dr. Fitchburg, WI. Mother's Day weekend. Sun and shade perennials, shrubs, small trees.



Rare and Specialty Plants

Peonies, Tree Peonies, Daylilies, Clematis, and Hosta.
Woody plants, vines, and perennials. Wisconsin grown.

 <p>Acer shirasawanum 'Autumn Moon'</p>	 <p>Daylily 'Sarah's Picotee'</p>	 <p>Mini Hosta 'Virginia Reel'</p>
 <p>Tree Peony 'Maria Teresa'</p>	 <p>Magnolia 'White Rose'</p>	 <p>Baptisia Decadence 'Cherries Jubilee'</p>

13101 East Rye Road, Avalon, Wisconsin 53505
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205 Grove Avenue

Elroy, WI

608-462-4662

Saturday, May 9, Oregon Garden Club Plant Sale, 9 am-2 pm, Waterman Park, downtown Oregon. A great assortment of annuals, perennials and hanging baskets. Just in time for Mother's Day! And planting in your garden! 100% of the profits go to local charities: the Oregon-Brooklyn Satellite/Habitat for Humanity of Dane County and the Oregon/Brooklyn Food Pantry.

Saturday, May 9 and Sunday, May 10, 9 am-4 pm, Rotary Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville. For a full calendar of events, go to <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events>

Thursday, May 14, 3-7 pm, Friday, May 15, 9 am-6pm, Saturday, May 16, 10 am-2 pm - Gardening Adventures-From the Ground Up Annual Perennial Plant Sale, 161 & 205 Paoli Street, Verona, <http://www.gardeningadventures-fromtheground-up.com/index.html>

Friday and Saturday, May 15 and 16, Habitat for Humanity of Dane County will have its first plant sale of the year from 9 am-5pm at the Habitat ReStore EAST, 4207 Monona Dr, Monona. [Due to our move last fall and a very successful pre-move sale, we are very low on plant inventory. Please consider donating your perennials early this spring.] To donate your hardy perennials and plastic pots, please contact Ann Wolfe at 442-8768 or e-mail plantlady123@outlook.com. In addition, the ReStore will also take your used garden books for re-sale. We still have many different varieties of hybrid daylilies donated by the Wisconsin Daylily Society. Hosta and ferns are also available, and we are sure that with your generous donations, there will be many more varieties of plants available. Plant prices are \$4 each or 3 for \$10, unless otherwise marked. All proceeds are used to help build homes for Habitat families in Dane County.

Saturday, May 16, Indian Hills Garden Club will hold its 9th annual plant sale from 8 am to 2 pm at Spring Harbor Middle School, 1110 Spring Harbor Dr. (just off University

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2015 Calendar of Gardening Events
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Ave.) Madison. Reasonably priced, healthy perennials from garden club members' own gardens are for sale. WI native and shade-tolerant plants are identified. Proceeds from the plant sale benefit neighborhood parks and nonprofit organizations. For additional information, please contact Shary Bisgard at 233-1238 or Jeanette Tierney at jeanette.tierney@gmail.com or 608-354-5336.

Saturday, May 16, WHPS PLANT SALE!, 9-Noon, West Madison Agricultural Research Station, 8502 Mineral Point Road.

Thursday, May 28, Rotary Botanical Gardens, Evening Garden Seminar - Ornamental Edibles, 6:30-8 pm, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events>

Saturday, May 30, WHPS Song Sparrow Nursery Buying Trip, 9-11 am (see page 1 for details).

Wednesday, June 3, WHPS Visit to Breezeway Iris Gardens in Brooklyn (one of our business members). We can check out the irises in bloom, place orders, and have a brief talk by the owner.

Saturday, June 6, Habitat for Humanity Plant Sale, 9 am-5pm, Habitat ReStore WEST, 5906 Odana Rd, Madison. More plants will be available and the prices will be \$4 each or 3 for \$10, unless otherwise marked.

Tuesday, June 30, 6:30 p.m. WHPS Tour of Epic Grounds with Jeff Epping. Details TBA.

Tuesday, June 30, Rotary Botanical Gardens Evening Garden Seminar - Container Gardening, 6:30-8 pm. 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events>

July (dates TBA), **Clean Lakes Alliance 9th Annual Clean Lakes Festival**, Law Park, Lake Monona and **Loop the Lake**, Starts & ends at Law Park (at Clean Lakes Festival)

Friday, July 10, 10 am-4 pm, Saturday, July 11, 9 am-3 pm, Olbrich Home Garden Tour. Tour exquisite private gardens created and maintained by talented home gardeners. Included is the neighborhood of Middleton Hills--a model of new urbanism--where smaller, intimate lots are built around generous shared green-spaces. On the other end of the spectrum, large suburban lots and historic farm property showcase fruit orchards, organic vegetable gardens, backyard chickens, and beekeeping. Native plants and prairies, composting and permaculture techniques, and cleverly recycled materials are also featured. Olbrich members: \$12; general public: \$14. <http://www.olbrich.org/events/homegardentour.cfm>

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Nursery Opens April 18
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off one item

One coupon per family per day. In-store purchases only. B&B, bulk and landscaping services excluded. Not combinable with other coupons. Published in Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society.
Expires May 31, 2015

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2015 Calendar of Gardening Events

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Friday, July 10-Saturday, July 11, Central Region of the American Conifer Society Annual Member Conference, Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Green Bay. The annual meeting is an occasion for backyard gardeners, horticulturists and nursery operators to discuss rare and unusual forms of conifers, tour outstanding area gardens in the company of conifer experts, and participate in two lively and entertaining auctions of dozens of conifers. This year's garden tours include the Green Bay Botanical Garden, Rose Hill Gardens and five private gardens showcasing not only conifers, but a range of hardy companion plants. Well-known plant propagator and entertaining speaker Mike Yanny will discuss conifers he has helped introduce through Johnson's Nursery. For registration and hotel information: www.conifersociety.org

Tuesday, July 14, WHPS Evening Tour of Gardens in Maple Bluff - Cannon/Fritsch, Tensfeldt, Erickson and Sanger Gardens - info will be published in June 2015 Newsletter.

Thursday, July 16, Rotary Botanical Gardens Evening Garden Seminar - Gardening Vertically, 6:30-8 pm, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events>

Thursday, July 23, WHPS Evening Tour of Gardens in Far West Madison area - Grosz, Ondrejka/Rudy, Sherry, Kriege/Robinson-Myers, Watson-Newlin Gardens - info will be published in June 2015 Newsletter.

Saturday, August 15-Sunday, August 16, Wisconsin Daylily Society Daylily Sale Sat, 10 am- 4 pm, Sun, 11 am-3 pm. Tent in the parking lot at Olbrich Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave, Madison, WI 53704.

Wednesday, August 19, WHPS Summer Potluck Dinner, Olbrich Gardens.

Wednesday, August 26, Rotary Botanical Gardens Evening Garden Seminar - Tough Perennials, 6:30-8 pm, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events>

Wednesday, Sept 9, 6:00 p.m. WHPS Tour of Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville with Director of Horticulture Mark Dwyer. Details TBA.

Saturday, September 12-Sunday, September 13, Rotary Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale, 9 am-4 pm, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events>

Wednesday, September 16, WHPS Program - On Design, Dan Benarcik, Horticulturist, Chanticleer Garden, <http://www.chanticleergarden.org/>

Wednesday, September 16, Rotary Botanical Gardens Evening Garden Seminar - Loving Lavender, 6:30-8 pm, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events>

Saturday in October (date and time TBA), WHPS Tour of Lonegecker Horticultural Gardens at the UW Arboretum by their Curator, Professor Emeritus Ed Hasselkus.

Sept 27 - Oct 1, 2015, Gardens of New York City - Tour to NYC Join Olbrich Botanical Garden's Director of Horticulture Jeff Epping for a five-day tour of delightful gardens in and around New York City, including Wave Hill in the Bronx, a spectacular 28-acre public garden overlooking the Hudson River; New York Botanical Garden, a National Historic Landmark with one of the world's greatest collection of flora; Central Park Conservatory Gardens; and High Line Park. For more information download the brochure - <http://www.olbrich.org/events/documents/Olbrich-NYCbroschure.pdf> Contact Burkhalter Travel at (608) 833-1525 to make your reservation.

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Homegrown Flowers

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www.theflowerfactorynursery.com

2015 OPENING APRIL 18!

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Wednesday, October 21, WHPS Program - The Evening Garden, Zannah Crowe, Horticulturist, Monches Farm, <http://www.monches-farm.com/>

Wednesday, October 28, Rotary Botanical Gardens Evening Garden Seminar - Bulbs in the Landscape, 6:30-8 pm, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events>

Tuesday, November 17, Rotary Botanical Gardens Evening Garden Seminar - Late Season Interest, 6:30-8 pm, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events>

Wednesday, November 18, WHPS Program - Cool, Non-wimpy Plants You Haven't Heard of, Joseph Tychonievich, author, *Plant Breeding for the Home Gardener* and a new book on rock gardens due in 2015, and former manager of Arrowhead Alpines, <http://www.greensparrowgardens.com/>

Wednesday, December 9, WHPS Annual Meeting, Member Potpourri and Seed Exchange, 6:30 p.m. Olbrich Gardens.

December - Rotary Botanical Gardens; Holiday Light Show and Wednesday, December 16, Evening Garden Seminar - Behind the Scenes: Holiday Light Show, 6:30-8 pm, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org/events>

December 2015 - Olbrich's Holiday Express - Flower and Model Train Show, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison. Twinkling lights, festive poinsettias, tiny landscapes, and large-scale model trains: all aboard for Olbrich's Holiday Express! Trains travel through miniature evergreen forests and colorful poinsettias as they make their way through a detailed landscape made of natural materials by Olbrich's horticulture staff. Daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., except Dec 24 (closes at 2pm) and closed Dec 25. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children ages 3-12 (OBS members free) and includes admission to the tropical Bolz Conservatory. Admission is free each Wednesday 10 a.m. to noon. For more information contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608) 246-4550.

late Jan 2016, Orchid Quest 2015 Madison, WI
This annual mid-winter show and sale of the Madison Orchid Growers Guild will be from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and until 4:00 p.m. on Sunday at a new venue, Marriott West Conference Center, 1313 John Q. Hammons Dr., Middleton, WI. For more info call (608) 592-7906.

Feb 12-14, 2016 WPT's Garden Expo, Exhibition Hall, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI. Hours are Fri 3:00-9:00, Sat 9:00-6:00, and Sun 10:00-4:00.



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

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Asian Crazy Earthworm Invasion



The non-native Asian Crazy Earthworm (*Amyntas agrestis*) has been found in the Madison area, including the Arboretum. Brown in color with a narrow, smooth, white band around the body, they

jump and thrash around (like “crazy”) when handled. They consume the nutrient-rich soil on the woodland floor, which makes it harder for native plants to grow and survive, in turn allowing the growth of non-native invasive plants.

A Wisconsin DNR Factsheet on these worms provides an excellent overview: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/documents/CrazyWormFactSheet.pdf>

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4311 Vilas Hope Road in Cottage Grove, 608-222-2269



City of Madison Conservation Public Tours

Join us for a free guided tour of one of Madison Parks beautiful conservation parks. Tours are held once a month from April through October with a special paddle trip in August. The tours are led by a Madison Parks staff member and co-sponsored by the Madison Audubon Society.

Wednesday, April 15 - South Cherokee, Wheeler Rd & Ilene Ln intersection 6:30 p.m. Witness the rebirth of oak savanna habitat along the shores of glacial Lake Mendota. Ponds constructed nearby in 2012 treat urban storm water while providing wildlife habitat. We'll look for early migrating birds in and around the ponds.

Wednesday, May 13-Turville Point Conservation Park, 1156 Olin-Turville Ct. 6:30 p.m. Explore this beautiful downtown park along the shores of Lake Monona. Spring ephemeral wildflowers carpet the "tip" of the peninsula.

Wednesday, June 17 - North Cherokee Marsh, 6098 N. Sherman Ave. 6:30 p.m. Diverse natural habitats in a large landscape provide a mecca for birds and other wildlife. Walk through a large oak savanna restoration which attracted 3 nesting pairs of red-headed woodpeckers in 2014.

Wednesday, July 15 - Prairie Ridge, 2406 Berkley Dr. 6:30 p.m. Goat prairies and oak savanna restorations cover this glaciated ridge providing a snapshot of a landscape that once dominated Dane County.

Saturday, August 8 - Upper Yahara paddle trip at South Cherokee (bring your own paddle craft), School Rd. boat launch 8:00 a.m. Paddle through the "fragrant thickets" of American Lotus Water Lily looking for a variety of wetland birds and other wildlife.

Wednesday, September 16 - Edna Taylor, 802 Femrite Dr. 6:30 p.m. Walk on a glacial drumlin with large open grown oaks with numerous linear mounds and one panther effigy originating from another time in human history.

Wednesday, October 14 - Owen, 6021 Old Sauk Rd. 5:30 p.m. Learn about the natural and human history of this 100-acre natural gem "hidden" on the west side of Madison. View outstanding fall color with oaks and maples that cover this glacial moraine.

2015 ARBORETUM GARDEN TOURS

Spring and summer tours are Wednesday evenings, from 7 p.m. until dark

April 22 — Native Plant Garden Tour: Early Signs of Spring on Earth Day

As trees and shrubs begin to leaf out, Dutchman's breeches, twin-leaf and rue-anemones might be blooming in the woodland gardens. In our prairie gardens we may find Pasque flower, prairie smoke, and bird's-foot violet.

April 29 — Longenecker Horticultural Gardens Tour: Early Spring Flowering Woody Ornamentals

This tour, led by Michael Jesiolowski, horticulturist, will include the yellow and Little Girl Series magnolias, early lilacs and rhododendrons, and other spring flowering plants.

May 6 — Longenecker Horticultural Gardens Tour: Flowering Crabapples and Lilacs This tour, led by Eileen Nelson, UW Dept. of Horticulture, will concentrate on flowering crabapples and present highlights in the Gardens' large lilac collection.

May 13 — Longenecker Horticultural Gardens Tour: Azaleas and Rhododendrons On this tour, Dr. Deb McCown will discuss growing and caring for azaleas and rhododendrons in the Madison area.

May 20 — Longenecker Horticultural Gardens Tour: Spring Highlights Enjoy special spring beauty in our woody plant collection on this tour led by Eileen Nelson, UW Dept. of Horticulture.

May 27 — Longenecker Horticultural Gardens Tour: Small Ornamental Trees

This tour, led by Eileen Nelson, UW Dept. of Horticulture, will highlight some of the Arboretum's interesting and unusual ornamental small trees.

June 3 — Longenecker Horticultural Gardens Tour: Shade Trees Laura Wyatt, of the UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve, will lead the group through the Gardens' extensive collection of larger trees while discussing strategies for growing healthy trees in urban/suburban conditions.

June 10 — Native Plant Garden Tour: Woodland, Savanna and Prairie Gardens

Celebrate the beginning of summer by visiting our woodland, savanna and prairie gardens. This tour provides an overview of the Wisconsin Native Plant Garden.

June 17 — Native Plant Garden Tour: What's Blooming? Find, compare, and learn about flowers on native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants, and see what's blooming in our collection of plants native to southern Wisconsin.

July 8 — Longenecker Horticultural Gardens Tour: Summer Highlights Led by Jeff Epping, director of horticulture at Olbrich Gardens, this tour will include summer-flowering cultivars.

July 15 — Native Plant Garden Tour: Native Gardens for Pollinators This tour will feature summer-blooming species in our diverse native plant garden. We will highlight plants and gardening practices that support essential pollinators in urban/suburban landscapes.

August 12 — Native Plant Garden Tour: Native Grasses We will take a closer look at color, size and features of native grasses, from tiny mustache grass to big bluestem.

Fall Garden Tours are Saturday Afternoons, 1-3 pm

September 5 — Native Plant Garden Tour: Fall in the Native Plant Garden

Color, fruits, seeds, late blooming plants, late-season insects—we will find these and more in the varied gardens around the Visitor Center.

September 19 — Longenecker Horticultural Gardens Tour: Conifers Learn about evergreens from fir (Abies) to hemlock (Tsuga), join Catherine Woodward of the Nelson Institute, on a walk through the Gardens' spectacular conifer collection. You will learn about "garden-sized" conifers of many kinds.

October 10 — Longenecker Horticultural Gardens Tour: Featuring Fall Don't miss the lovely range of fall color in our woody plant collection. Leaves, fruits and form will be highlighted in this tour, led by Laura Wyatt, UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS!
Spread the word!



**Plant
Sale**

Saturday, May 16, 2015
9:00-Noon (rain or shine)

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**April 2015
Newsletter**

**211 S. Fair Oaks Avenue
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Do you have a question about your membership? Contact Jane LaFlash at whps05@yahoo.com, 608-243-1208.

..... **Member news, tips, etc.**

Welcome Caroline Bohler to the WHPS Board of Directors

I grew up in West Bend, WI, and moved to Madison to study journalism at the UW. After graduation I joined a local ad agency, Kennedy Communications, where I'm currently the Digital Account Director.



Recently, my husband and I bought our first home, and I got my dream garden - a huge lot on Madison's west side that I'm filling with foxglove, peonies, roses and more. I've always loved cutting and arranging from gardens, and in the seemingly endless winter of 2014, Homegrown Flowers was born. My slogan is "locally sourced, garden-inspired floral design," so Wisconsin perennials and woody plants play a huge role in my work. With seven weddings under my belt, I can't wait to see what the next few seasons have in store for both my business and my garden.

When I'm not out in yard, I love cooking, reading, lusting over gardens on Pinterest and watching political dramas with my husband and bad cat, Joe.

(And thanks Caroline, for the two Member Tips in this newsletter!)

WHPS T-shirts available!



WHPS T-shirts available for purchase (sizes S-M-L-XL-XXL-XXXL) \$15 each. Please send an email to Jane Gahlman at jmgahlman@hotmail.com, or call Jane at 608-837-2317 if you would like to buy one. Great for volunteers!

Buy shirt; volunteer for Expo or Plant Sale; wear shirt

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

In the March/April 2015 issue of *Wisconsin Gardening*: The garden of Ron Schraufnagel and Samantha Roffe, owners of North Parish Gardens and business members of WHPS, is the focus of *The Livable Garden*, story and photography by Ed Lyon, a five-page spread with some lovely views of their 2-acre garden, visited by WHPS members in summer 2013.

Member Tip

If you want to preserve the look of your alliums in the garden, tie them to a bamboo stake and apply any leftover spray paint you might have to the flowers before they go to seed.

Visit our website: <http://www.wisconsinhardyplantsociety.com>