### Newsletter of the



*There are two discernible gardening styles: in shorthand these may be termed designer's and plantsman's...The triumph is when design and plantsmanship combine, as fortunately they often do.*—Peter King, **The Garden** 

# **COMING EVENTS!**

Wednesday, August 17, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Olbrich Garden, 3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison. *WHPS Potluck dinner and tour of Olbrich*. Lemonade and coffee provided. Bring a dish to share along with a plate and utensils. This has traditionally been a great evening to meet with other members and enjoy the late summer garden.

Saturday, September 17, 10:00 a.m.-noon, *Fall Member Plant Exchange* at Stephanie O'Neal's garden, 1850 Baird Street, Madison. Bring plants you haven't planted and divisions you'd like to share. You never know what you'll go home with from the Plant Exchange. **Wednesday, September 21**, 6:30 p.m. social hour, 7:00 p.m. program, Olbrich Garden. Speaker to be announced.

Wednesday, October 19, 6:30 p.m. social hour, 7:00 p.m. program, Olbrich Garden. Speaker to be announced.

Wednesday, November 16, 6:30 p.m. social hour, 7:00 p.m. program, Olbrich Garden. Speaker to be announced. *Member Seed Exchange* before and after program.

**Wednesday, December 7**, 6:30 p.m. social hour, 7:00 p.m. program, Olbrich Garden. Speaker to be announced.

# WHPS Garden Tours abound in June and July

#### NAKOMA GARDEN TOUR

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 6:00 p.m.-DARK

Frank Greer - 925 Waban Hill Chris Bylsma - 734 Miami Pass Ed Hasselkus - 746 Miami Pass Jeff Gepner - 726 Seneca Place

Craig Bolles - 3934 Manitou Way

Due to the winding streets of Nakoma and the difficulty of giving directions, we suggest using a city map for these locations. Note that the Waban, Miami, and Seneca sites are west of Nakoma Rd and the Manitou site is east of Nakoma Rd. Waban can be accessed from either Nakoma Road or Yuma. Manitou can be accessed from either Nakoma Road or Seminol Highway.

#### WATERLOO GARDEN TOUR TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 6:00 p.m.-DARK Onondaga Herbs and Everlastings; Howard & Bonnie Kulke: 815 Waterloo Rd; Waterloo

Directions from Madison: Take I-94 East toward Milwaukee. At Exit 250 (Marshall-Deerfield), turn left (North) on Hwy 73 to Marshall. At stoplight, turn right on Hwy 19 for approximately 2 miles. Turn right on East Waterloo Rd. Go up the hill for about 1 mile to 815 Waterloo Rd. Look for Onondaga Sign on left side. (Note, house numbers go down when you first turn onto Waterloo Rd because it is another township, so don't be alarmed!)

Lee & Chris Fiedorowicz; 290 Mill St; Waterloo and

David & Jeannie Zastrow; 322 Mill St; Waterloo (They live side by side)

From Madison, drive to Waterloo via Hwy 19 or I-94East. Arrive in Waterloo on Hwy 19, go to 4 way stop sign downtown. Go straight ahead on 19 to Mill St. (First street on left) Go almost to the end of the street. 2 houses next door to each other on the right side of the street.

### ST. CHARLES, IL GARDEN TOUR SATURDAY, JULY 9, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Pat and Chuck Bell**, 39W582 Deer Run Dr, St Charles, IL This is part of a Garden Conservancy tour and will cost \$5.00 per garden. There are two other gardens in St. Charles on the tour, one on the same street as the Bells. The Bells have a wonderful garden with a formal shade garden, a wilder shade garden and many sunny island beds beautifully designed with a wide variety of plants. If you are interested in joining a car pool for that day, please contact Jane LaFlash at 243-1208 or jlaflash@wisc.edu. Directions: I90 to Randall Rd. Exit southbound and take

Randall 9 miles to Bolcum Rd. (one block after the traffic light at Silver Glen). Turn right on Bolcum and after 2.5 miles, turn right on Denker Rd. They are one block later on the corner of Denker and Deer Run.

<u>CANCELLATION NOTE</u>: Potluck and Garden Tour near Blue Mounds/Black Earth on Monday, July 18 has been cancelled. (We hope to reschedule this event for next year.)

# Plant Sale Tops Last Year!

The May 21 Plant Sale was a huge success, with over \$5000 raised. Later in the year, WHPS will donate a large portion of the funds to worthy garden causes. As you will see below, the list of volunteers is long. If you weren't able to volunteer this year, we hope you will consider signing up next year to help at a dig, transport plants to the sale site, help set up for the sale, sell plants and help guests at the sale, and clean up after. It's a great group of people to get to know, and the more volunteers, the more fun!

We had an exciting array of plants for sale this year for sun, shade and in between, among them: at least 20 varieties of hosta, epimedium, allium, dicentra, primula, Solomon seal, tricyrtis, trillium, astilbe, knautia, coreopsis, anemone, corydalis, thalictrum, geranium, veronica, asarum, ferns, tradescantia, tiarella, heuchera, clematis, alchemilla mollis, sedum, echinops, asters, Virginia bluebells, phlox, echinacea, lamium, polemonium, monarda, liatris, stachys, campanula, carex, hemerocallis (too many varieties to mention), iris (same), Mayapple, dianthus, artemesia, lupine, lobelia, solidago, penstemon, salvia, all manner of groundcover—and that's just the start! We also had woodies: acer pseudoseiboldiadum, sugar maple, clethra, tamarix, yellow twig dogwood, curly willow, viburnum, cotoneaster, forsythia, snowberry, bayberry.

Special thanks to all of the dig hosts: Tom Cottington, Linda Dauck, Rita Dupuis, Jane Gahlman, Chris Beiderman, Joan Severa, Jeannette Golden, Frank Greer, Erv Koenig.

And how do we thank Sandy and Denny Allen for the loan of The Pet Lodge and the pickup and setup of the tables we used for the plants this year? So much work, making such a great space for the sale! And thank you Terri Maliszewski-Kane for arranging for us to borrow the tables in the first place.

And special thanks to Diane Scharkey for dropping off the materials for the digs and for coordinating the cleanup after the sale. And thanks to Richard Bloomquist for the donation of the new signs!

And as for all of the other volunteers, on behalf of Plant Sale Coordinator Stephanie O'Neal, Dig Coordinator Ruth Cadoret and Treasurer Laurie Zimmerman, we can't thank you enough for all of your hard work, good humor and willingness to help!

### **THANKS!** to all of our volunteers

Wendy Adams Noreen Hubanks Kay Allen Christa Iausly Lois Anderson Dawn Kirley Dennis Allen Erv Koenig Sandy Allen Marlene LaRock Chris & Savannah Marlette Larsen Beidermann Sherry Lloyd Stephanie Bloomquist Diane Lorenz Margaret Barber Evelyn McMillan Winnie Boyar Jan Minardi Norma Briggs **Richard Mueller** Ruth Cadoret Janet Newlands John Cannon Joan Nugent Tom Cottington **Cathie Richards** Linda Dauck Susan Robertson **Rita Dupuis** Eleanor Rodini Mary Ann Fahl Ann Ross Jan Faivre Amy Rudersdorf Susan Francis Phyllis Sanner Jeff Gepner **Diane Scharkey Terence Gilles** Carrol Schiller Jeannette Golden Joan Sullivan Frank Greer Jan Swartz Gay Gross **Rita Thomas** Shirley Haidinger Pat Tuchscherar Katie Harriman Margaret Welke Barb Herreid Becky Wilson Cindy Hoffland Pat Young Nancy Hogan Chris Zeltner Bill Hoernke Laurie Zimerman

### Host a dig next year?

Now is the time to think about whether you would like to host a dig for next year's plant sale.

If you would like to contribute plants to the WHPS plant sale and know that you will need help in digging and potting up the plants, contact Ruth Cadoret at rcadoret@wisc.edu to let her know you are interested in hosting a dig in April or May 2006.

It's a great way to clean up your garden in the spring and contribute to WHPS at the same time!

### FLAT FLATS NEEDED!

If you have any flats without dividers, please contact Stephanie O'Neal at sone2@aol.com; 256-6108. We are in dire need of flat flats for next year's sale. (They are convenient because they can hold a variety of different pots.) We can also use 3" and 4" square pots.

# Woody Perennials for the Herbaceous Perennial Border

A few years ago, I discovered that many flowering shrubs could be grown easily from liners or plugs just as easily as perennials are. Furthermore, many of the new woody plant introductions are initially only available as liners. Shrubs like Physocarpus opulifolius 'Coppertina' or Hydrangea *paniculata* 'Quickfire' won't be available as a larger shrub until next year, but can be gotten now as small plants. While most customers prefer their shrubs to be larger, some will take them younger (especially the new varieties) and usually realize a cost savings.

I don't want to focus on the newest woody plants for this article but rather on shrubs that can be grown in a mixed bed. Thus, most of these plants should be available at any good nursery. My first shrubs to discuss are the Spireas. They tend to be overused by landscapers, but you can't deny that they're tough and, if given an annual pruning, can look pretty good. My favorite in the perennial border is Spiraea x. bumalda 'Fire Light'. It is an improvement over 'Goldflame' in that it doesn't revert. Fire Light has orange spring growth and excellent red fall color. The summer foliage is gold and it blooms a deep pink in June. It ranges from 2 to 3 feet tall, depending on how you prune it and it can be grown in sun or part shade.

Other June bloomers include the roses. There are many excellent shrub roses, but few can weave themselves in with herbaceous perennials as well as those that only reach 30 inches. Rosa 'Nearly Wild' is a floribunda highly hybridized for great pink color, disease resistance and repeat bloom. It should flush at least three times, the last bloom ending with the first hard freezes in October. The other two roses I use in perennial borders are R. rugosa hybrids from the Explorer series out of Ottawa: 'Charles Albanel' and 'Henry Hudson'. Both roses are small and don't stand well on their own in a rose bed. They are much better suited to the mixed border, even toward the front. Charles Albanel has fragrant mauve-red flowers, while Henry Hudson is pure white. Both are recurrent bloomers with red hips and yellow-orange fall color.

Two dark-leaved Weigelas, W. florida 'Midnight Wine' and 'Ruby Queen' have been introduced recently. Midnight Wine is the smaller of the two at 18-24 inches, with darker burgundy-purple leaves. Ruby Queen, however, still has a touch of green in its leaves, providing some contrast while still staying small. Of the two, I prefer Ruby Queen, because it is a better grower and still provides a strong accent. Both have pink flowers and bloom in early June. They are not the hardiest Weigelas. But if they are zapped by a hard winter, they do come back from the roots and will still bloom, albeit later in the summer.

I have become a big fan of the East Asian Lespedezas. Unlike our native Lespedezas, the East Asian ones want to be woody shrubs. But we live in Wisconsin and they tend to die back to the ground every year. Happily, they are late-summer bloomers and flower on new wood. L. bicolor 'Yakushima' is a very

attractive and fine-textured lime-green mound at 12 to 18 inches until late summer, when it is covered with violet-purple flowers. It is perfect for the front of the border. L. thunbergii 'Gilbralter' is a larger Lespedeza growing up to 3 feet. It has a weeping habit and prefers to be staked or wedged in between sturdier plants. Gilbralter begins to bloom in August with vivid pinkish-purple flowers on light green foliage.

Beautyberry or *Callicarpa* also blooms late in the summer, but the real show doesn't start until September when it shows off its fruits. There are several available Callicarpa species and cultivars, some of which (C. dichotoma and C. japonica) are hardier. But all die back to the ground here in Wisconsin. They easily regenerate from the roots and bloom like fools on the new wood. However, it is important to select a cultivar that sets fruit early. A freeze can make the fruit appear unsightly. C. dichotoma 'Early Amethyst' is by far the best for this area. It grows 3 to 4 feet and shines with bright purple berries in September. Put Early Amethyst in the back of the border where it can lie low, until it shines at the end of the season.

Alas, space doesn't allow me to go on forever. Honorable mentions go to Diervilla lonicera 'Copper' a selection of a Wisconsin native that will do well in dry shade (and under a walnut) and to the hardy St. John's Worts: Hypericum kalmianum and H. frondosum. Look for H. kalmianum 'Blue Satin' with bluer foliage and H. frondosum 'Sunburst' with extra large flowers.

All of these shrubs will come back from the roots if deer, rabbits or hard winters are an issue. I recommend that you try mixing some in with your Iris, Turtlehead and Asters. These shrubs contribute unique color, flowers or texture to the herbaceous perennial border and will begin to blur your definition of "perennial."

—Bob Klebba

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Bob Klebba owns and operates Morningwood Farm Nursery in Mount Horeb, Morningwood is open M-F 9:00 am to 7:00 pm, Sat 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sun 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Contact Bob at www.morningwoodfarm.com, tel. 608-798-1991.

#### . . . . . . . . . . . . . FROM THE TREASURER'S CORNER

Welcome to all our new members! We are glad to have you join us. •

• Just a reminder to all our members, both old and new. About once a month we send out email reminders of • upcoming events—meetings, tours, etc. If you are not • receiving these reminders via email, it may be because we do not have your email address, or it is not up-to-date. •

If you would like to receive these reminders, please email • your current email address to jltszim@chorus.net or • lazybeck@yahoo.com and stay informed of WHPS events. • Thank you. •

—Laurie Zimmerman

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## Other events of note

Madison Area Pond Tour Sunday, June 26, Highlighting water gardens on Madison's West side, Verona, Mt. Horeb, etc.

**Historic and Garden tour in Cooksville** (tours, lectures, music, etc.) on **Sunday, June 26** noon-5:00 p.m. The whole town is on the National Historic Register and is one of the oldest settlements in the area. Cooksville is located in northwest Rock County, seven miles south of Stoughton, at the junction of State Road 138 and 59. Tickets, \$12.00/person, will be available for sale in advance at the Cooksville Store or can be ordered in advance from J. Ehle, 11245 N. State Rd 138, Evansville, WI 53536.

Janesville Home Garden Tour, Saturday, July 9, www.rotarygardens.org or 608-752-3885.

Wood County Master Gardeners "Down the Garden Path" Garden Walk in Wisconsin Rapids Saturday, July 9, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6 in advance or \$8 at the walk. For more information, contact Barb Herreid at 715-325-2075 or bherreid@wctc.net

The Wauwatosa Beautification Committee, Inc. presents the 11th annual "Secret Gardens of Wauwatosa" tour Saturday, July 9, from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (rain or shine). Eight private gardens, including the beautiful garden at the Kneeland-Walker House.

Olbrich Home Garden Tour July 15, 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. and July 16, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Pardeeville Garden Tour July 16**. There are some spectacular gardens in this area, mostly in the rural areas. For more info, please contact Diane Honaker at 608- 429-2547

**New Harvest Foundation 2005 Summer Benefit Garden Tour Tour July 31, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**—13 gardens: six East, three central, four West. Tickets \$10 advance; \$15 day of tour. For more details go to www.newharvestfoundation.org

Wisconsin Daylily Society Plant Sale, Saturday August 13 and Sunday August 14, Olbrich Gardens.

### Infestation Frustration

In 10 years of gardening I have never had an infestation—until this year. It had been a pretty hectic couple of months (plant sale, work—so many excuses!), and I had ignored certain parts of the garden that tend to "coast" on their own.

After the plant sale, Rita Thomas and I were walking through the garden and she asked me what was happening with my Mugo pines. They looked really thin and seemed to be losing their needles. I didn't really take a close look then (I know, I know, bad gardener), but two days later I finally went out to take a closer look. There appeared to be something bulbous around the branches at certain points on the plant. I looked closer and saw that the object was actually hundreds of small caterpillars! And they were sucking the life out of the needles and completely consuming them. (EEEWW! I have nothing against caterpillars, but we're talking horror movie quantities.)

I went into the house and consulted an old copy of Michael Dirr's **Manual of Woody Landscape Plants** (love that book!) to see

what afflicts mugos. It sounded like sawflies, so I then consulted **The Organic Gardener's** 

Handbook of Natural Insect and Disease Control—another book I recommend. It was



definitely sawflies. The book said that spraying with insecticidal soap would help. As it happened, I had a bottle in my garage I had never used, so I gave all three of the mugos a good spray—really spraying heavily where the sawflies had collected. Within two days, the sawflies were gone. I have since read that they can emerge again in late summer. You can bet I'm going to pay more attention to my mugos from now on.

This incident has taught me to make the time to look at all of my garden plants, and not take any of them for granted. I'm crossing my fingers for a full mugo recovery!

Bored to Death

My Bearded Iris have been severely plagued by Iris Borer for a very long time. Every year the clumps diminished; the most expensive faster than the old standards. This happened despite my attempts to stop the borer in the early stages by cutting leaves off whenever the telltale saw cut marks or streaking appeared on the leaves. I would clean up old leaf debris at least four times a year, and manually killed the disgusting, fat and juicy borer after it had made its way into the rhizomes. Even with all this effort, I wasn't able to stay ahead of the pest.

When I heard that Bayer has a product on the market that will control the borer, I went in search of it. From the Internet I learned that the ingredient—Imidocloprid, with the trade name of Merit—is the one that does the borer in. The people at Johannsen's Garden Center were very helpful by explaining to me that the Bayer Advanced Rose and Flower Insect Killer also includes another ingredient that works as a systemic along with the Merit. I found the Bayer blue spray bottle with red and yellow label for sale at Johannsen's, Home Depot, and Farm and Fleet.

I made the first and only application to the iris foliage around the first week of May. The irises are just coming into bloom now, Memorial Day weekend, and there is not a sign of the borer anywhere. It has been years since I've had such a glorious display of blossoms from my few remaining varieties.

I'm so happy that I can now look forward to collecting all those lovely, rich colors again.

-Rita Thomas

-Stephanie O'Neal

## **Marvelous Martagons**



I never have understood why martagon lilies are not more commonly grown and why they are equally uncommon in the trade. Well, maybe I do. Compared to the spectacularly sized and colored Asiatic trumpet lilies heralded in the catalogues and garden centers today, the martagon lily speaks with a more quiet, sophisticated

voice. It is not a "show biz hussy" in the garden. Perhaps if my garden was in full sun rather than in the dappled shade of mature oak trees, I too, would opt for a more gaudy show. However, martagon lilies, despite their uncommonness, are the premier lilies for the shade.

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

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

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

As I said, this is not the lily you find for sale at the local garden center, but one that must be ordered from a catalog. Hence, they tend to be quite pricey. It is rare to find them for less than \$10 a bulb, and some cultivars are as much as \$75 apiece. The best Midwestern source for these bulbs is Ambergate Gardens in Chanhassen, Minnesota, near the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Mike Heger, the owner, champions this lily and advertises an open house on a weekend in June to see his display. However, if you become hooked, you will quickly exhaust the varieties that Mike offers and you will resort to the premier source in North America, the Lily Nook, in Neepawa, Manitoba, Canada (www.lilynook.mb.ca). I have been ordering from this source for more than five years, and they never seem to run out of new varieties to offer. The prices are in Canadian dollars, as well.

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

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

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

So, if you are around on June 15 and plan to take part in the WHPS tour in Nakoma, please come and enjoy the marvelous martagons. And if you have a woodsy garden, gosh, by all means, find a spot for this premier shade lily. I guarantee you will not be disappointed, and you will join the ranks of the elite gardener!

-A. Hort Hound

### ••••••• Member News, Tips etc. ••••••

#### Petasites as art in the garden? You bet!

A couple of years ago we ran an article about Petasites, a showy foliage plant with umbrella-like leaves to 24" across, carried on stalks to 30" tall. It can be quite aggressive, and our own Ruth Cadoret calls it Pestasites. But if you have this plant in your garden it is quite dramatic. In fact, I have a friend who takes the drama up a notch further by



spray painting a few of the leaves purple. It does not appear to harm the plant (I said it was aggressive), and can make a real statement in a shady area of the garden.

WHPS Treasurer Laurie Zimmerman (1.) and Chief Cashier Linda Dauck celebrate the end of the Plant Sale.



Next newsletter—August/September 2005



Do you have a garden tip or idea for our members? Contact Stephanie O'Neal at sone2@aol.com WHPS Web site: www.madison.com/communities/wisconsinhardyplantsociety/

