



Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society

Perennial Notes

June 2009

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.



July 30-August 2, WHPS Bus Trip to Michigan. This is the big one of the year—four days of beautiful gardens and fun shopping in Niles, Tipton, Grand Rapids, Stockbridge, West Olive, Fennville, Grand Haven and Spring Lake—wholesale nurseries, famous public gardens and beautiful private sanctuaries. Cost is \$325 and includes transportation, lodging, admission fees, two lunches and one evening meal. For more information or to register, email whps05@yahoo.com.

Wednesday, August 19, 2009 Member Potluck and Tour of Olbrich Gardens. 5:30-dusk. Bring a dish to share and your own plate and utensils. We'll supply the juice and lemonade. We'll also have an opportunity to tour Olbrich's beautiful and varied late summer gardens!

Wednesday, September 16, The Magic of "Minor" Small Bulbs. Jill Selinger, Manager, Continuing Education and Joseph Regenstein, Jr. School of the Chicago Botanic Garden. Jill Selinger, Chicago Botanic Garden, teaches many of CBG's bulb classes and utilizes them in her designs for clients. She will show us how this overlooked and underutilized group of bulbs can be used in naturalistic gardens and groundcover plantings and as a blanket of color amidst emerging perennials in early spring. Most gardeners have the standard tulips and daffodils, Jill will show us other considerations to complete the ornamental garden landscape beyond spring bloom.

Saturday, September 19, Free Member Plant Exchange. Do you find yourself at the end of the summer season with plants you haven't planted? With a garden overflowing with plants to be divided? Are you reorganizing your beds and wondering what you'll do with the leftover plants and shrubs? We have the answer—the Member Plant Exchange at the home of Janice and Bill Minardi, 6310 Putnam Road, Madison. Bring your plants at 10:00 a.m. and the Exchange will run from 10:30 a.m.-noon. You never know what you'll find, and you'll enjoy a tour of the Minardi's garden too!



October 3-4, WHPS Bus Trip to Iowa. Join us for this two-day trip that includes a tour of the Dubuque Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, the Bickelhaupt Arboretum in Clinton, IA, and tours of private gardens in Oelwein, Independence, Farley, McCausland, Fulton and Sabula. \$135 registration includes transportation, hotel, buffet dinner Saturday evening, breakfast and a box lunch on Sunday. For more information or to register, email whps05@yahoo.com.

Wednesday, October 14, (This is a shared meeting with Hosta Society.) An Exploration of the Genus Primula. Guest speaker Pam Eveleigh, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. (Joint meeting with The WI-IL Rock Garden Society.) Pam is a founding member and current VP of the Calgary Rock and Alpine Garden Society (CRAGS). She has a keen interest in primulas and has served as a Board member and webmaster of the American Primrose Society. Her personal Web site (www.primulaworld.com) contains an image gallery of over 2500 images of primulas! This talk should truly expand your horizons with an in-depth look at a fascinating genus, including what we expect will be many new plants and species for you.

Wednesday, November 18, Making Your Garden Your Own. Guest speaker Dan Benarcik, Horticulturist, Chanticleer, Wayne, PA. If you have been to Chanticleer, one of the most creative gardens in the country, then you have likely been impressed with the Tea Cup Garden and the amazing containers throughout Chanticleer. You might also have been delighted with a variety of hand-made and imaginatively painted chairs and furniture. Dan will show us how to personalize a garden through the use of artistic element and found artifact, the addition of garden furniture as a design element, and the use of ornamental containers and floral container combinations as extensions of one's personality in the garden. Join us as Dan shows how to bring some of Chanticleer's renowned creativity into your garden!

Wednesday, December 9, Annual Meeting, Seed Exchange and Member Potpourri! This is the meeting where you can show off your garden, give us views of favorite gardens you've visited, or even show an artistic garden video you've created. We'll elect officers and directors for the coming year, and announce recommendations for donating funds raised through the plant sale. And before the meeting, members are invited to bring seeds to share with other members.

WHPS Newsletter Goes Electronic

This is our first newsletter sent electronically to members with email addresses, making us a greener organization and allowing us to use the savings toward even better programs, events and information. If you have any issues with this new format, contact us at whps05@yahoo.com.



Not your average tiarella

What's in a name, *Tiarella* 'Mystic Mist'? Aren't all tiarellas the same? Okay, the spring blooming flowers are any color so long as you like white or shades of pink. They grow 5" to 12" tall in a woody part-shade environment. The foliage is maple leaf-like with darker shading adding to the season-long interest. The most distinctive feature of *Tiarella* 'Mystic Mist' is the multicolored foliage. Gone is the Rorschach test blotching of others but a Jackson Pollock spattering of colors—green, white, reds and pinks. Mystic Mist really adds pizzaz (oh, sorry that's a hosta's name) to the shady garden. I am partial to variegated foliage, so Mystic Mist is going to be a part of my garden—and should be part of yours, too.

—Nancy Nedveck



Nancy Nedveck is co-owner of The Flower Factory, 4062 County Road A, Stoughton, WI, 608-873-8329, www.theflowerfactory.com, open weekdays 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Open April 18; close October 18.



An addiction to gardening is not all bad when you consider all the other choices in life.

—From WHPS member Kelly Hill

Have you tried this shrub?

If you are looking for a sturdy small shrub for use in a variety of locations, I'd like to recommend *Euonymus fortunei* 'Emerald 'n Gold'.

With a height range of 1.5-2 feet and a spread of 2-4 feet. This is a great shrub for full sun or part shade, with very little maintenance requirements—and it's drought tolerant.

Because of the nature of my neighborhood it is impossible to fully plant the area between the curb and the sidewalk. On any given day, there might be 3-4 cars parking out front, with people stepping onto the curb area, and even the occasional soda or beer bottle left at the curb.

So I decided to mulch most of it and have three areas of plantings—all three sections using the euonymus as a centerpiece, with one surrounded by sedum and two of them surrounded by *Ajuga reptans*. The one that gets the most sun and heat is absolutely spectacular, and when the *ajuga* is blooming the combination of its blue and the euonymus' yellow is stunning.

Did I mention that it's evergreen? So in the winter when the snow is gone there is still interest in that area.

For those who like SPPs (single-pot plants), this little shrub adds some great color and nice volume to a collection of pots. Or train it up on an obelisk or a trellis—it can be pruned into almost any shape very easily.

Although the bright yellow can fade in the shade, the leaves maintain an interesting variegation to add variety in a darker spot.

And it's one of those shrubs you can find everywhere—from the nurseries to the big boxes.

This shrub is no second banana, it's a star in my garden!

—Stephanie O'Neal






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**WHPS
T-SHIRTS
still available**



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).

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden: Fire Damage Extensive
Despite destruction, critical elements and collections escape harm. (Garden closed until further notice.)

By Nancy Johnson, VP of Marketing and Government Relations, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Reprinted from Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Web Site:

http://www.noozhawk.com/noozhawk/article/050909_santa_barbara_botanic_garden_fire_damage_extensive/

The foundation for the SBBG was laid in 1925 with the contribution of 13 acres in Mission Canyon by local philanthropist Dorinda Blaksley Bliss and the efforts of plant ecologist Dr. Frederic Clements to create a botanical garden "...reaching from the sea to the crest of the mountains, connected by a drive lined with trees, shrubs and flowers from all parts of the earth."

Over the years, the SBBG has added more acreage and narrowed its emphasis to plants native to the state of California, northwestern Baja California and southwestern Oregon.

In 2003, 23 of the Garden's 78 acres were granted County Historic Landmark status.

In early May, the Jesusita fire that threatened so much of the Santa Barbara community took its toll on the Botanical Garden as well.

The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden has sustained further damage to structures and the living collection as a result of the Jesusita Fire.

Fire officials accompanied Botanic Garden president Edward Schneider through the garden, allowing him to assess the buildings and grounds.

"The good news is that the Meadow, Discovery Garden, Teahouse, Desert and most of the Redwood Exhibits are untouched," Schneider said. "Unfortunately, the historic Campbell Bridge, the beloved Pritchett Path, the popular Redwood Tree Ring Exhibit, Oak Woodland and Porter Path Exhibits were either destroyed or heavily damaged."

The riparian corridor canyon also was damaged as the fire spread down to Mission Creek from Tunnel Road.

"This is, indeed, sad news for the garden and a sad time for the entire community," said Fife Symington, chairman of the board of trustees. "However, we know how deeply people in this community care about this beautiful garden and how strong their spirit is. Now is the time for all of us to pull together to not only rebuild the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, but rebuild all that has been lost."

The 1908 Gane House, the proposed centerpiece of the garden's building project, the Vital Mission Plan, was destroyed. The Botanic Garden had hoped to rehabilitate the large Craftsman-style home and to seek historic landmark status for it. (The house held all of the SBBG's gardening tools, the computers of the head gardener and facilities maintenance staff and books published by the garden.)

Also lost in the fire was a deck overlooking Mission Canyon Creek, a lath house, and the director's residence and garage.

The Botanic Garden is grateful for the valiant efforts made by firefighters to save the remaining structures, which include a herbarium housing the garden's vast collection of scientifically valuable dried plant specimens; the Blaksley Library and Library Annex, home to the extensive horticultural and botanical book collection and rare book room; the historic Caretaker's Cottage; and the seed bank, where the germplasm of rare and endangered species is stored. Firefighters credited access to fire hydrants recently installed on the premises by the garden to saving these buildings.

The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden will remain closed and classes and tours are canceled until further notice. The garden's communications systems are inoperable for the time being.

Chub Harper passes away March 29, 2009

A brief history of our mentor and friend.

A memorium from the American Conifer Society—www.conifersociety.org



As a young man Chub Harper attended the University Of Nebraska College of Agriculture and as a horticulturist, he always loved gardening and plants. He developed a life-long interest for different plants, such as bearded Iris, hemerocallis, African violets, roses, and ornamental grasses.

He was into roses before he drifted into conifer collecting in the late 1950s and

early '60s. "Dwarf conifers were hard to find back then, but the dwarf forms just tripped my trigger," he said. When he'd hear about an interesting dwarf cultivar, he and his wife Anna would plan their vacations around going to see it. "Back in the 1950s through the 1970s, the only areas in the U.S. for collecting [conifers] were on the east coast, states like New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and New Jersey."

Chub also took several trips to England, visiting the famous Hillier's Nursery, one of the largest container tree growers in Europe. Anyone that had been to their home may remember the World Map on the living room wall with pins carefully placed in all the wonderful places they had visited.

In 1963, when John Deere and Company was building its award-winning world headquarters in Moline, Chub was hired as grounds supervisor, which included overseeing the landscaping of 300 of the site's 1,400 acres in northeastern Illinois.

By the late 1970s, it was time to find a new home for his conifer collection, which had expanded to 342 dwarf and rare conifers on three city lots near his home in Moline. With the help of his friend, Jack Wikle, they convinced MSU to install the collection at Hidden Lake Gardens. Sam Lovell, of Campus Park and Planning at MSU, did the landscape design. It took eight days in April 1981 to hand-dig the 342 conifers out of Harper's lots. The conifers were so close together, mechanical digging was impossible. Jack Joy, then president of Davey Tree, picked up the cost of digging up the trees and helped cover the transportation costs.

Three semi-trucks were loaded with Harper's collection. "The last one was so full that they had to force the semi's door closed with a bucket loader," Harper recalled. In 1990, more conifers were dug from Chub's collection. This time, the benefactor of Chub's generosity was the

Heartland Collection at the Bicklehaupt Arboretum in Clinton, Iowa.

In 2001, Chub finally gave up the leased lot in Moline. Chub donated the remaining conifers to the Quad City Botanical Center in Rock Island, Illinois.

Chub has also donated conifers to the arboretum at Illinois Central College in East Peoria, Illinois. "At the end of the day, it's all about education and getting people excited about these wonderful plants." Chub continued to donate new conifers to the collection at Hidden Lake.

Most of the new plants around his home today, however, are not conifers. Chub noted, "Now I've really lapsed into insanity, I'm collecting hostages (hostas)!"

In 2004, Chub's wife Anna passed away after battling cancer. Following Anna's wishes, Chub went to Hidden Lake Gardens to scatter her ashes in their beloved collection. Along with several friends, Chub spread the ashes on a hillside overlooking the collection. As Chub and his friends began to leave, they sensed a presence behind them. As they turned around, they noticed the weeping Norway spruce behind them formed the perfect silhouette of an angel, complete with halo and wings.

In recent years, Chub traveled when he was able with his neighbor and friend Teresa Holmquist, as well as several other close friends. He was often seen at formal and informal gatherings of ACS members and friends all over the ACS Central Region. He was always a welcome and appreciated guest.

Justin "Chub" Harper passed away Sunday, March 29th, 2009 at 10:42 EDT of an apparent heart attack. Those of us who were honored to have known and loved him will miss him.

NOTE: *WHPS experienced Chub Harper's enthusiasm first hand when he spoke at the October 2002 meeting on the topic of Garden Conifers. WHPS members will receive a personal tour of Hidden Lake Gardens—including the Harper Collection of Dwarf and Rare Conifers—as part of the July 30-August 2 trip to Michigan. In October, we will also tour the Bicklehaupt Arboretum Heartland Collection of Dwarf Conifers.*

POTS AND FLAT FLATS NEEDED!

If you have any flats without dividers, please contact Stephanie O'Neal at sone2@aol.com; 256-6108. We are in 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 4" and 6" square pots and flats with dividers that can hold these sizes of pots.

Plant Sales/Garden Tours

Saturday, June 20, Shake Rag Alley Country Garden Tour, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Tour stunning private country gardens—hidden treasures tucked away in the scenic rolling hills of rural Southwest Wisconsin in and around the historic artists community of Mineral Point. Picturesque farmsteads, natural prairie, oak savannah, river vistas, Iowa County's first barn quilt, Arabian horses, butterfly and hummingbird habitat, unique water features, mosaic concrete garden sculpture, expansive, vibrant, annual and perennial gardens, and more. Take a self-guided tour (\$12) with detailed maps and descriptions, or a guided bus tour (\$35, reserv. necessary) with Wisconsin Public Television's *Wisconsin Gardener* Shelley Ryan. Rain or Shine! Tickets & details: 605-987-3292, ShakeRagAlley.com

Sunday, June 21, Rose Show 12:30-4:00 p.m. Olbrich Gardens. The Madison Rose Society hosts this indoor exhibit of cut roses and arrangements in all sizes and colors. Stroll through Olbrich's two-acre Rose Garden. Sponsored by the Madison Rose Society. For more information call 608-845-6063.

Saturday, June 27, Capitol Neighborhoods Garden Walk, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. \$10 tickets available at all 13 sites. Maps at CNI table at Farmer's Market or www.capitolneighborhoods.org.

Friday, July 10 and Saturday, July 11, Olbrich 2009 Home Garden Tour. Friday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Tour private home gardens in the village of Shorewood Hills and collect ideas for your own home garden. Pre-tour tickets are \$10 for Olbrich Botanical Society members and \$12 for the general public. Tickets during the tour are \$12 for Olbrich members and \$14 for the general public.

July 17-18 Windsor Area Garden Tour. A public tour of selected gardens as a benefit for Cancer research. For more information: 608-825-9986, pdmil@aol.com

Sunday, July 19, Regent Neighborhood Garden Tour, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., featuring fruits and vegetables, 3 properties where chickens are raised, shade gardening and workshops. Contact Ron Rosner, 238-1828 or rosner7@charter.net.

July 15-August 9, Olbrich's Blooming Butterflies, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. daily. Live butterflies emerge from chrysalises daily in the Bolz Conservatory. The 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.

Thursday, July 30-Sunday, August 2, WHPS Bus Trip to Michigan. Email whps05@yahoo.com for more info.

Saturday August 1 and Sunday August 2, Iris Sale. 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Olbrich Gardens. The Madison Area Iris Society sponsors this sale of iris rhizomes, the roots that grow into iris plants. For more information call 608-825-7423.

Saturday, August 8, Open Garden hosted by Norma and Mike Briggs, 1519 Storytown Road, Oregon.

August 15, Urban Horticulture Day, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Want to make your green thumb even greener? Join us for the annual Urban Horticulture Field Day at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's West Madison Agricultural Research Station's Trial and Demonstration Gardens. It's a great place to get new ideas and answers to perplexing problems, sample fresh produce and tour one of the area's most extensive collections of flower and vegetable varieties, including many that haven't yet appeared in seed catalogs. The West Madison Agricultural Research Station is located at 8502 Mineral Point Road, about a mile west of the beltline. Admission and parking are free.

Saturday, August 15 and Sunday August 16, Daylily Sale Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Sunday, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Olbrich Gardens. Sponsored by the Wisconsin Daylily Society. For more information call 608-231-3279.

Saturday, August 22 and Sunday August 23, Dahlia Show. Olbrich Gardens. Saturday, noon-4:00 p.m., Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Badger State Dahlia Society. For more information call 608-577-1924.

Saturday October 3-Sunday, October 4, WHPS Bus Trip to Iowa. See page 1 for registration information.

Sunday, October 4, Herb Day. Olbrich Gardens. 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Local herbalists celebrate the importance of herbs via exhibits, workshops, demonstrations and garden walks. HerbDay is free and open to the public. For more information call 608-831-2845.

Saturday, October 10 and Sunday, October 11, African Violet Show and Sale. Olbrich Gardens. Saturday, noon-5:00 p.m., Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The sale will include African violets, streptocarpus, and other gesneriads. Sponsored by the Wisconsin State Council of African Violets. For more information call 608-833-5552.

Monday, October 12 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 7, 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.

Evening Walks

West Madison Agricultural Research Station, 8502 Mineral Point Road. Free.

June 23, 6-7:30 p.m., Insects in the Garden with Phil Pelletteri

July 7, 6-7:30 p.m., Perennials for Shade and Sun with Eileen Nelson

July 21, 6-7:30 p.m., Vegetable, Annual and Perennial Flowers and Fruit Disease Identification—Hands-on in the Garden with Brian Hudelson

August 11, 6-7:30 a.m., Vegetable Cultivars—New and Heirlooms, How to Grow, Harvest and Store with Judith Reith-Rozelle

August 25, 5:30-7:00 p.m., A Urban Wildlife—Walk with the Wildlife at West Madison Research Station with David Drake

September 1, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Fruit Walk—Grapes, Raspberries, Blueberries, Apples, Strawberries and All Those Little Unknown Fruits with Bob Tomesh

September 15, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Cover Crops for the Home Garden—Buckwheat, Clover, Oats, Peas, Soybeans, with West Madison Ag Research Station Garden Staff

The next newsletter will be published early in September. If you'd like to contribute an article or information, email sone2@aol.com by 8/15/09.

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

A hugely successful Plant Sale--thanks to ALL of you!

This year's May Plant Sale was the most successful in the history of our organization! We have to thank the great new location (and invite you to visit often the demonstration gardens at the West Madison Agricultural Research Station at 8502 Mineral Point Road). And below you will find a list of everyone (I hope I have not missed anyone) who volunteered this year--from hosting a dig or working at a dig, to transporting plants to the sale, to helping to set up and price, to those who worked the extremely busy checkout area, to those who offered advice to customers, to those who helped clean up at the end. The sale could not have been the success it was without you all. Oh, and a huge thank-you to the members who came to the sale and bought the plants (and brought friends to buy the plants). We wish you good gardening with your plant finds, so you can offer up plants for next year's sale. THANK YOU!!! Special thanks go to Bill Hoernke, who coordinated the volunteers, materials and success of the digs, Jeannette Golden who coordinated the volunteers, setup and pricing of the plants the day before the sale, and Laurie Zimmerman, who coordinated and ran an efficient and extremely busy checkout crew day of the sale. If you haven't volunteered for the Plant Sale in the past, we hope you will consider volunteering for this fun and rewarding project next year!

—Stephanie O'Neal, Plant Sale Coordinator

Jennifer Allen
 Kay Allen
 Crystel Anders
 Aleta Barmore
 Stephanie Bloomquist
 Judith Bodden
 Donna Breiby
 Norma & Mike Briggs
 Dorothy Bugs
 Rosie Bugs
 Ruth Cadoret
 John Cannon
 Bruce Christofferson
 Jane Cramer

Judy Crandall
 Karen Crawford
 Phil Crawford
 Nell Cummings
 Ruthann Dahl
 Laura Jirsa Dille
 Susan Eichhorn
 Jan Faivre
 Connie Gille
 Terence Gilles
 Jeannette Golden
 Frank Greer
 Linda Grosz
 Gayle Gustafson

Shirley Haidinger
 Ed Hasselkus
 Kathy Hauptert
 Mary Hegge
 Bill Hoernke
 Jill Hynum
 Christl Iausly
 Ellen Karlson
 Suzanne Kieder
 Marlette Larsen
 Joan Lawrence
 Barb Littlewood
 Ed Lyon
 Paul Miller

Jan Minardi
 Richard Mueller
 Donna Nosek
 Carol Olsen
 Mary Polancih
 Suzanne Rieder
 Marlene Richard
 Jane Rouleau
 Diane Scharkey
 Mary Jo Schiavoni
 Cheryl Schmid,
 Glass House Grasses
 Bill Schloemer
 Jan Schuster

Linda Straughn
 Pat Sturdevant
 Rita Thomas
 Mary Trewartha
 Shawn Trinko
 Marlene Webb
 Elizabeth Wolter
 Martha Worcester
 Stacey Wright
 Conrad Wrzesinski
 Laurie Zimmerman

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

Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society



**June 2009
 Newsletter**

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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.