



Perennial Notes

June 2014

Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society—an unincorporated nonprofit association

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.

June 13-22, *WHPS Tour of Northern England.*

Monday, July 14, *WHPS Tour of Gardens in Windsor*, see page 3 for info and directions.

Monday, July 21, *WHPS Tour of Gardens in Black Earth/Mazomanie*, see page 4 for info and directions.

Thursday, July 31, *Tour of Epic Grounds with Jeff Epping* (for WHPS members only), see page 4 for info and directions.

Saturday, August 9, *WHPS Trip to Chicago Botanic Garden* (Space available! To register: http://www.wisconsinhardyplantsociety.com/documents/2014_Trips_Brochure.pdf)

Wednesday, August 6, *WHPS Tour of Rotary Gardens by Mark Dwyer*, 6:00 p.m. The gardens officially close at 6:00, so please be prompt to get into the building for this tour. A volunteer will let latecomers in at the 'Dialogue' sculpture by the parking lot, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville.

Wednesday, August 20, 2014, *Member Potluck and Evening Walk Through Olbrich Gardens* 5:30 p.m. setup; serving at 6:00 p.m. A great chance to share a beautiful evening at Olbrich with fellow members. Bring a dish to share, along with your own utensils and plate. Lemonade/juice and coffee will be provided, and a soda machine is available.

Wednesday, September 3, *Tour of Allen Centennial Gardens by Ed Lyon*. Gather at the gardens at 5:30 p.m. Official tour will start at 6:00, 620 Babcock Drive, UW-Madison Campus, Madison

Friday-Saturday-Sunday, September 12-14, 2014, *WHPS Trip to Iowa* (Space available! To register: http://www.wisconsinhardyplant-society.com/documents/2014_Trips_Brochure.pdf)

Wednesday, September 17, Pat Hayward, Executive Director, Plant Select, Fort Collins, CO. *The Plant Select Program*. Sometimes Midwest gardeners can learn from processes and programs even if all of the plants produced aren't necessarily hardy to their region. One of the largest complaints from gardeners today is failures in newly released plants due to lack of adequate trialing. Plant Select® is one of the most successful programs that selects and trials plants specific to the conditions of the region. The purpose of Plant Select® is to seek out, identify and distribute the best plants for landscapes and gardens from the intermountain region to the high plains. Pat will talk about how a regional program works: how plants come to them, plant exploration, gardening challenges of the High Plains and how they work with them. They have some exciting things happening in 2014 - a new pink *Penstemon x mexicali* developed for them to raise funds for breast cancer research, a new collaboration with Audubon, and some new introductions both for 2014 and for 2015.



Sunday, September 21, *WHPS Plant Exchange*, 10:00 a.m.-noon, Allen Centennial Garden. Bring a plant-get a plant! Set up your extra plants from 10:00-10:30 a.m. and then see what you can

find to take home!

Wednesday, October 15, *Searching for plants in some of the most beautiful places on four continents*. Mike Kintgen, Senior Horticulturist, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, CO.

Joint meeting with the WI-IL Rock Garden Society. Mike Kintgen oversees the Alpine Collection and nine gardens including the Rock Alpine Garden, and South African Plaza. He began gardening at a young age with a specific interest in alpine and rock garden plants. Anything with chlorophyll attracts his attention but especially cushions and buns, along with the genera *Eriogonum*, *Penstemon*, *Phlox*, *Saxifraga*, *Dianthus*, *Gentiana* and *Androsace*. Travel opportunities from a young age have allowed him to observe alpine in Alaska, Hawaii, Argentina, Morocco, Spain, the Alps, and throughout the American West. He currently gardens in both Denver and Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The two different climates allow him to experiment with a wide range of plant material. Mike is a popular speaker in areas around Colorado on the topic of rock gardening, and botanic travel. He has lectured as far away as Sweden and Argentina on Denver Botanic Gardens and its current focus on steppe and high elevation floras found in semi-arid regions around the world.



Wednesday, November 19, Jeff Lowenfels, Author and garden columnist, Anchorage, Alaska, *Teaming with Microbes*.

Jeff is the award-winning author of the ground-breaking *Teaming with Microbes: The Organic Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web*, demystifying the soil food web and reviewed as one of the most important garden books written in the past 25 years. In his new work, *Teaming with Nutrients*, Lowenfels explains the basics of plant nutrition from an organic gardener's perspective. Most gardeners realize that plants need to be fed, but know little or nothing about the nature of the nutrients and the mechanisms involved. A trained lawyer with a bit of the Harvard Lampoon in him, Lowenfels is not only engaging, but down right amusing and clever. Jeff is an international proponent of organics. His weekly column has appeared in the *Anchorage Daily News* for over 37 years, never missing a single week.



Wednesday, December 10, 2014, *WHPS Annual Meeting, Member Potpourri and Seed Exchange*



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

Another Successful WHPS Plant Sale!

It's always so fun to see everyone line up before the Plant Sale and get excited about what is waiting for them inside.

The Plant Sale Team did a great job setting up this year, and the volunteers worked really hard to create a setup that would allow customers to easily find the plants they wanted, have their plants held until they were ready to purchase and then check out quickly and smoothly—terrific job everyone! And we were thankful to the West Madison Agricultural Research Station for once again offering their space for our sale.

This is one of the few sales where you can come with thoughts of building a new planting bed and actually get most, if not all, of the plants you need—perennials, shrubs, trees, and even a few annuals—to allow you to go home and plant that bed the next day.

This is all in thanks to our members, who make every effort to dig a variety of sun and shade plants to make the sale of interest to everyone who shops.

We hope those of you who came this year enjoyed the experience and will return next year—and bring a couple of friends along.

Your comments/thoughts/suggestions for future sales are always welcome.

Special thanks go to all of our volunteers (below), who dug, potted, labeled, delivered, arranged, checked and cashiered, assisted customers, cleaned and advertised for the sale. And thanks to all of you who purchased plants, which will allow us to once again make donations to worthy garden entities later this year.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

Betty Adelman	Jim Gentry	Jan Minardi
Heritage Flower Farm	Jeannette Golden	Corrie Norman
Bonnie Allbaugh	Diane Goodman	Joan Nugent
Jennifer Allen	Frank Greer	Barbara Obst
Lois Anderson	Greta Gribble	Carol Olsen
Wendy Adams	Linda Grosz	Jana Olson
Aleta Barmore	Shirley Haidinger	Stephanie O'Neal
Mary Chambers Bauschelt	Becky Halstead	Marty Petillo
Bonnie Berg	Ed Hasselkus	Mary Polancih
Jan Blakeslee	Gregg Hauptert	Nancy Ragland
Richard Bloomquist	Kathy Hauptert	Ritchie Rheume
Stephanie Bloomquist	Ellen Henningsen	Marlene Richard
Caroline Bohler	Bill Hoernke	Marla Robinson
Barbara Borders	Libby Howting	Eleanor Rodini
Susan Bowditch	Jean Jelacic	Diane Scharkey
Linda Brazill	Leslie Johnson	Shirley Scriver
Norma Briggs	Dee Kanter	Apryl Schroeder
Emily Buckingham	Ellen Karlson	Theresa Seeley
John Cannon	Louise Karpinski	Peg Sharpe
Maggie Carrao	Steven King	Evelyn Shimshak
Marilyn Connell	Barb Klasinski	Jayne Squirrel
Jane Cramer	Peggy Kleinhaus	Judy Stevenson
Judy Crandall	Jane LaFlash	Georgene Stratman
Karen Crawford	Mary Larson	Shawn Trinko
Nell Cummings	Wendy Laschu	Margie Van Handel
John Dickson	Phyllis Lathrope	Shari Voss
Rick Diehl	Joan Liegel	Terry Watters
The Flower Factory	Linda Marx	Connie Williams
Susan Francis	Percy Mather	Conrad Wrzensinski
Donna Freiman	Brian McBain	Linda Yates
Jane Gahlman	Kate McWhirter	Laurie Zimmerman

Mark Your Calendar!
WHPS Plant Sale 2015
Saturday, May 16

Allen Centennial Gardens at 25 A hidden gem in the center of Madison

Twenty-five years ago, Allen Centennial Gardens was dedicated and named for primary donor Ethel Allen, with Centennial added to commemorate the College of Agriculture's 100th anniversary. This 2.5-acre teaching garden surrounds the historic gothic



“Dean’s Residence” built in 1896. This hidden gem has managed to offer its 26 themed gardens free to the public the entire time, in spite of being 100% operationally self-funded – not a dime of University or taxpayer money supports its operations! Visi-

tors can experience gardening styles ranging from the formality of French, English and Italian gardens to the natural, relaxing mood of the Wisconsin Woodland Garden.

The house was one of the first buildings on the agricultural campus and served as home for the college's first four deans. In 1984, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. In the early 80s it was converted to office space, and in 2011 began a long renovation period which continues today. The former outdoor Horticulture department classroom gardens were destroyed in 1979 to make room for the new Plant Sciences building addition. In the early 1980s, plans evolved for the instructional garden to be relocated on the 2.5 acres surrounding the house. Allen Centennial Gardens was dedicated in October 1989. Early donations from student groups and anonymous gifts were available for the initial planning and design. With a substantial gift from Mrs. Ethel Allen, the ground-breaking was possible for construction to begin in the spring of 1985. Mrs. Allen was the widow of eminent University of Wisconsin bacteriologist Dr. Oscar Allen. Professor Allen taught at the university from 1948 until his death in 1976. The couple co-authored what is considered the “encyclopedia” of the role of legumes in nitrogen fixation.

The small size of the Gardens is deceiving. Perennial plantings include a wide range of conifers, deciduous trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials. Some gardens highlight plants with large numbers of species and cultivars, such as conifer, lily, peony, iris and daylily. Some gardens demonstrate regional, cultural and environmental plant adaptation, such as rock, woodland and wildflower. Others demonstrate particular design styles, both historical and current. Additional areas highlight utility, such as kitchen, herb and small fruits, and others focus on trends, including limited-space gardening, organics and sustainability.

The gardens are run by one full-time director, WHPS board member Ed Lyon, with the assistance of seasonal student interns and a cadre of dedicated volunteers. A *Friends of Allen Centennial Gardens* membership program offers a number of member benefits, including winter gardening classes. In 2014, celebrations will include a silver anniversary garden display, life-size dancer silhouettes in the seasonal beds, a hosta sale, Family Gardening Day, the first year of a new Sustainability Garden, and Sally's Garden (English Cottage), total renovation of the pond and a brand new Posh Plants Auction & Runway Show fundraiser. Any information you need including directions, parking and slide shows of the gardens through the season can be found at allencentennialgardens.org.

WHPS members will tour ACG September 3 (see page 1).

Rotary Botanical Gardens - from gravel pit to a plant collector's paradise in 25



Rotary Botanical Gardens is pleased to announce the 25th Anniversary year for the gardens and hope that visitors will continue to visit and enjoy this botanical showcase. Below is a condensed history of the gardens that have experienced rapid development and vital community support since being developed so many years ago. - Mark Dwyer, Director of Horticulture

Founded in 1989 by Dr. Robert Yahr, a retired orthodontist, Rotary Botanical Gardens (RBG) was initially developed with assistance from the two local Rotary Clubs in Janesville, WI after the City of Janesville approved a 99 year lease of the site to the Rotary Gardens Foundation. Dr. Yahr had seen gardens around the world and thought that a garden in Janesville would be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. Both the Morning Rotary and Noon Rotary clubs in Janesville continue to help support the gardens with donations and volunteer efforts. However, most of the supporting revenue for the gardens comes from admissions, fund-raising events, memberships and other sources. RBG is classified as a 501(c)3 organization and receives no City, State or Federal funding.

These 20 acres of display gardens are located on land that originally was utilized as a sand and gravel pit over 100 years ago. The Wilcox Sand & Gravel Company made hitching posts and other items at their facility and the original office building for that company continues to be part of our expanded visitor's center and housed the original offices for early garden staff. When mining operations hit natural springs, the pits filled with water and have become a three-acre pond around which the gardens are arranged. A seven-acre pond is west and north of the gardens proper. While the land and original building were used for various purposes over the previous century, they eventually became the property of the City of Janesville and the site was used for fishing, a BMX bike track and also as a storage space for various items. Early efforts to develop the gardens were preceded by significant clean-up and site reclamation efforts.

This 20-acre piece of real estate is bounded to the west by Lion's Beach, a swimming beach with beach house, which was a project of the Lion's Club back in the 1950s and to the east by Kiwanis Pond, another reclamation project of a sand and gravel pit that was a project of that service organization. The gardens are located in "service club alley," which is a small portion of a larger greenbelt that is part of Janesville's 2,500 acres of park land. Janesville's tag line is *Wisconsin's Park Place*. The gardens are currently the number one attraction in both Janesville and Rock County, WI, and 100,000 visitors enjoy the gardens annually.

Dedicated to international peace and friendship, the gardens developed rapidly with very little direct funding. Dr. Yahr solicited financial and in-kind support from many organizations, businesses and individuals, and the gardens began to develop with private donations and lots of volunteerism. The mission of the gardens is *Enriching lives through natural beauty, education and the arts*. It is important to note that volunteers are the most valuable asset at RBG. With a very small permanent staff, volunteers continue to be instrumental in all aspects of the garden, including education, special events, gardening, tours, etc. In 2013, over 400 volunteers collectively donated 16,000+ hours of service to the gardens.

There are 24 different gardens within RBG's 20 acres. The first garden built was the Japanese Garden, which continues to be our most popular garden and is ranked one of the top 25 in North America. Other gardens include English Cottage Garden, French Formal Garden, Italian Formal Garden, Fern & Moss Garden, Sunken Garden, Reception Garden and so on. These garden spaces are meant to reflect a certain garden style and/or contain specific plant collections relevant to that type of garden. RBG currently has over 1000 varieties of woody plants, 3,000 varieties of perennials and features over 150,000 annuals each year, representing 900+ varieties. A substantial collection of over 400,000 spring blooming bulbs starts early season color, and specialty displays and trials are common every year. Many displays are transitional and RBG puts on a "new face" each year, with new color themes, transitional containers and design modifications.

The gardens are a National Display Garden for the American Hosta Society, American Hemerocallis Society, the Hardy Fern Foundation, All-America Selections (AAS), the American Garden Award program and Fleuroselect (Europe). The gardens have won three national awards from AAS (2004, 2012 and 2013) for educational seasonal displays utilizing AAS selections. The gardens also facilitate plant trials for Ball Seed, Ball FloraPlant, PanAmerican Seed, Takii Seed (Japan) and many other companies. The gardens have been featured on HGTV (Great American Gardens), PBS (GardenSMART) and in many national gardening magazines. The gardens have been featured over sixteen times on *The Wisconsin Gardener* program on Wisconsin Public Television. The American Horticultural Society (AHS) listed RBG as one of the best (and least known) botanic gardens in the Midwest. Our plant collections continue to grow as does our commitment to promoting sound environmental practices. Our educational programs are geared towards all age levels and we continue to significantly improve interpretation and labeling initiatives.

For more information on the gardens, visit www.rotarybotanicalgardens.org and see the Rotary Gardens Horticulture Blog at www.rotarygardens.blogspot.com.

WHPS will tour the gardens August 6(see page 1).



Bringing the Beauty Inside – Cut Flowers from Your Garden



Fresh flowers lift our spirits and make us smile. They are wonderful gifts and perfect for those “just because” surprises. There are a number of great shops for buying these treasures, but gardeners are lucky – we have a bounty of choices right outside the front door. With a little guidance and a few tips, we can make gorgeous bouquets in a snap!

The best time to harvest from our garden is early in the morning.

Plants are turgid and haven't yet begun to lose water through the day's transpiration. As a bonus, we can be out when the world is just waking up. Grab a sharp knife or pruners for the job – a clean cut is better for the remaining plant and for the cut stem. Be sure to make the angled cut above a set of leaves that will produce another shoot – that way, you'll have plenty of flowers for the future as well. Pop your cut stem into a bucket of water – warm or cool doesn't really matter, just don't have it hot.

Once you've harvested your bounty, it's best to bring your flowers inside or into a shady area to arrange. The cooler they remain, the longer they will last. Choose a lovely vase that is big enough to hold your creation. Many commercial locations provide flower food with your purchases. Sure, you could hunt down those little packets online, but you've got all you need in your pantry. Flower food contains three basic ingredients: an acidifier, a food source, and something to keep the bacteria down. At home, lemon juice is a great acidifier, a little sugar is a perfect food source, and bleach will keep the bacteria at bay. For one quart of warm vase water, 2 T. lemon juice, 1 T. sugar, and 1 T. bleach does the job beautifully. Mix it up so the sugar is dissolved and start arranging your creation. It's best to arrange the flowers right after harvest, but if it's been a while, trim the stems up by an inch.



Flowers like to be placed in a cooler location away from direct sunlight and drafts, but let's be honest – put them where you will enjoy them! If you've got them in direct sunlight, they won't last as long, but maybe that's just where they belong to brighten your day.

Well, wait a second. We haven't discussed which flowers make good cut flowers. In my opinion, you can try anything you darn well please. If it doesn't work (flowers shatter, leaves drop, etc.), you won't do it again. I've often be pleasantly surprised by some plants that make beautiful cuts (amsonia – who knew!). That being said, here are a few ideas to get you started.

Perennials: peony, iris, allium, hosta leaves, amsonia, pearly everlasting, lilies, yarrow, coneflowers, black-eyed susan, salvia, delphinium, veronica, scabiosa, lily-of-the-valley, euphorbias, coral bells, baby's breath, grape

hyacinth, hyacinth, globe thistle, helenium, daffodils*, northern sea oats, sedum
 Woody Plants: lilac, hydrangea, dogwood stems, willow stems, forsythia, witch hazel
 Annuals: zinnias, gomphrena, snapdragons, sunflowers, purple-top verbena, dianthus, celosia, drumstick plant, lisianthus, dusty miller, dahlia, bells of Ireland, love lies bleeding, bachelor's button, papyrus

**Daffodils are beautiful cut flowers, but be aware – they don't get along well with others. When cut, they exude a substance that is rather toxic to other flowers. At a minimum, leech this substance out in a separate vase before adding to a mixed bouquet. Or just make a beautiful bouquets with only daffodils.*

So remember:

1. Harvest in the morning with a sharp tool
2. Add 2 T lemon juice, 1 T. sugar, and 1 T. bleach to each quart of warm vase water
3. Choose a few surefire flowers along with some experiments for a beautiful bouquet



Additional Tip

If taking flowers to a friend or family, arrange the bouquet, then wrap cut ends in a wet paper towel and cover with aluminum foil or a plastic bag. Secure above the paper towel with a twist tie and you're set for travel!

We'd love to see you in at the nursery. Discover what beautiful plants we have to add to your cutting garden!

—Erin Clark, Schönheit Gardens

WHPS member Schonheit Gardens
<http://www.schonheitgardens.com/>
 is open 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Personalized,
hand-crafted
gardens
in the Madison area

Design

Installation

Restoration

Maintenance

Clean-up



The Quiet Gardeners, LLC

For a free garden consultation, contact us at
QuietGardeners@gmail.com

Zach	Terri	Pat
630-254-4677	608-577-2877	608-358-6603



WHPS/MAMGA Windsor/DeForest Garden Tour Monday, July 14, 2014 – 4:00 PM – dark

DIRECTIONS

There are many routes to take to these gardens, depending of course on where you're coming from.

One possible route from Madison

Head north out of Madison on Hwy 51 (Stoughton Rd). Drive 5 miles, then turn onto Hwy 19 (exit right then turn left/west). In less than a mile, turn right/north on County Rd CV (CV is Lake Rd in Windsor and Main St in DeForest). CV runs parallel to 51. All the following directions take you back to CV to continue to the next garden. This list goes from furthest south to furthest north, but can easily be reversed so people are staggered at the gardens. It is possible to get to all five gardens driving less than 8 miles.

Monique Warnke, 6596 Chestnut Circle, Windsor

This garden has a huge array of colors and texture amongst the rock walls and patio. From early spring to late fall, this garden is always a treat to the eyes. Perennials of every shape, color and size are planted for year-round interest.

Directions

After taking Hwy 19 left (west) off 51, turn right (north) on CV/Lake Rd. Turn left on Pine Crest then right on Chestnut Circle. The Warnke garden is on the right.

Allisa Maier-Kleinfeldt and Duane Kleinfeldt, 6680 Chestnut Circle, Windsor

In this garden you will find both formal and whimsical gardens throughout. The garden has hundreds of different varieties of lilies along with a large mix of daffodils, peonies, and a great many other varieties of annuals and perennials. There are Japanese maples, palm trees, passion flowers and birds of paradise throughout this Japanese-Polynesian garden and pool area - not to mention statuary, yard art, fountains, potted plants and dry creek beds with Lake Windsor as a backdrop.

Directions

Continue on Chestnut Circle (be sure to stay on Chestnut Circle, not Chestnut Dr). The Meier garden is on the right.

Jane Rouleau, 6833 Valiant Dr, Windsor

This well-maintained yard features a lovely prairie garden featuring rudbeckia, cone flowers, liatris, and bee balm across a full sun back yard. The original deed restrictions prohibited fences so giant miscanthus, shrubs and trees are used to create a natural privacy. Notice the swing arbor with climbing roses and wisteria, and the container water gardens. Small trees such as the 'Joe Witt' maple with its white striped bark, shrubs like the fern-leaf, corkscrew and tri-color willows and grasses, some which grow 8 to 12 feet tall, add texture and height to the native plantings. The patio features a pool-less rock water feature and assorted sedum-filled rock garden. A small shade garden provides a contrast at the front of the house, inviting visitors to sit and enjoy the sound of a small fountain.

Directions

After returning to CV/Lake Rd, continue north to Second St. Turn left on Second St, then right on Valiant Dr. The Rouleau garden is on the left.

Char and Randy Hanson, 7107 S Hill Rd, DeForest

The serene woodland setting of this garden features over 455 varieties of hostas. A beautiful cedar arbor leads to the log bench crafted by the homeowner, and daylily beds surround the lower deck. But what you'll notice most is the 85 foot high and 85 foot wide black cherry tree (*Prunus serotina*) with a trunk circumference of 195 inches! The DNR has recognized the tree as Wisconsin's largest black cherry tree.

Directions

Return to CV/Main St and continue north. Turn left on Oak Spring Circle, then left on S Hill Rd. The Hanson garden is on the left.

Mark Anderson and Carmen Zajicek, 213 Pocahontas Lane, DeForest

Visitors will quickly see that these owners have a passion for gardening and outdoor living/entertaining. This garden has a lovely outdoor dining area complete with unique stonework installed by the owners, and a large built-in pergola custom made and installed by the owners as well. A long arbor serves as the entrance to the garden areas along the side of the home. Other highlights are an Asian and Italian inspired garden, two small ponds with koi, three additional water features, lots of annuals for summer color, many unusual perennials, nearly 100 uniquely designed containers filled with an abundance of color, four small sitting areas, and soothing music being streamed out from the outdoor speakers as you stroll through this relaxing sanctuary. Come and enjoy!

*Carmen and Mark operate their **Four Elements Garden Design** business from their home.*

Directions

Return to CV/Main St and continue north. Turn left on Acker Parkway, right on Old Indian Trail, and left on Pocahontas Lane. The Anderson/Zajicek garden is on the left.



*Pansies, lilies, kingcups, daisies,
Let them live upon their praises;
Long as there's a sun that sets,
Primroses will have their glory;
Long as there are violets,
They will have a place in story;
There's a flower that shall be mine,
'Tis the little celandine.*

— William Wordsworth, 1770-1850

WHPS/MAMGA Black Earth/Mazomanie Garden Tour Monday, July 21, 2014 – 4:00-dark

Jeannette Golden, 4142 County Road F, Black Earth

I started designing my garden in 1994 with one large island bed. Over the years I have added bed after bed in, what I hope, is a flowing design of island beds connected by grass paths. Each garden area contains a mix of woodies, perennials, annuals, and bulbs, with a sprinkling of tropicals as well.

There is a rock garden, as well as shade and sun gardens, and a three quarter acre farm pond. My shade garden is totally dominated by two giant black walnut trees, so it is a good place to look at the hundreds of plants that grow well under black walnut. The sun gardens have a bit of everything, and include collections of some of my favorites. There are 175 labeled daylilies, and many cultivars of clematis.

The garden is in Vermont Valley, at the edge of a marsh, and surrounded by wooded hillsides, so I've been very lucky with my "borrowed landscape".

Directions from Madison

Take Mineral Point Rd (County Rd S) west from Madison to Pine Bluff. Continue left on County Rd S. Turn right on County Rd J and follow it until it dead ends onto County Rd F. J will make some turns and merge for a short time with Hwy 78, but stay on J. When it dead ends onto F, turn right on F. The Golden farm is the first barn on the right (balloons at the driveway). You can park along Blue Mounds Trail (the road just before the farm). *Cell phones rarely work in this valley.

Directions from Peterson to Golden

Turn right out of the Peterson driveway and return to Hwy 14. Turn right on Hwy 14. Drive 1.4 miles and turn right onto County Rd KP. Drive 2.4 miles and turn right onto County Rd F. Drive 6 miles (staying on F when it forks) to the Golden farm on the left (balloons at the driveway). Continue past the farm and turn left onto Blue Mounds Trail. Park there and walk back.

*Cell phones rarely work in this valley

Judy and Dan Peterson, 5372 Mahocker Rd, Mazomanie

We have several different gardens—sun, shade and mixed. They all contain a combination of perennials, woodies and conifers, kind of a one-of-everything approach. We especially like dwarf conifers and witches' brooms but the past few seasons have taken a real toll on many of our conifers.

We grow some vegetables too, along with annuals and many tender bulbs and tubers that we store in our root cellar over the winter. We also have some garden sculptures, a small pond by the house, and quite a few houseplants and tropicals that we move into the perennial beds for the summer.

Directions from Madison

Take U.S. Highway 14 west from Madison through Mazomanie and past the cemetery (on both sides of the road) about ½ mile out of town. Turn left onto Mahocker Rd. just beyond the cemetery. (You've gone too far on Hwy 14 if you come to an intersection with County Trunk K). Follow Mahocker Rd. for about 1.2 miles. We are the driveway on the left at the bottom of a long downhill grade. There is a row of mailboxes on the right. The road dead-ends about 100 ft. beyond our driveway.

Directions from Golden to Peterson

As you leave Blue Mounds Trail turn Right onto County Rd F. Drive 6 miles (staying on F when it forks). Turn left onto County Rd KP. Drive 2.4 miles then turn left onto Hwy 14. Continue with the "directions from Madison" above.

Epic Garden Tour Thursday, July 31, 6:30-8:30 p.m. 1979 Milky Way, Verona, WI

WHPS members (sorry, no guests - members only - for this event) are invited to a garden tour at Epic's Intergalactic Headquarters. Enjoy an evening walking tour of the gardens on the Epic corporate campus in Verona. The tour will be led by Jeff Epping (Jeff Epping Design & Consulting, LLC) who has been involved in the design and planting of the gardens since 2005.

Driving/Parking Directions

From Hwy 18 & 151/Verona Road, take Exit 76 (MV/Epic Lane/West Verona Avenue) to Epic Lane. At the first intersection (rock wall), turn left to stay on Epic Lane. Turn right onto Milky Way (Epic's driveway) and continue to the Visitor Parking Lot. Park under the solar panels, then walk back across the driveway to gather on the sidewalk outside the main reception area.

Questions: Contact Emily Buckingham, WHPS member and Epic employee, at ebucking@epic.com.



Ten Twin-Titled Classics for Summer

How do you pick that magical flower for a critical spot in your garden? Do you fall for a flower blooming at that moment in a pot at the garden center? What about a luscious photo with dew dripping from purple petals in a glossy catalog? Or the latest trademarked name that caught your attention with a heavy advertising budget? We're all guilty of such momentary lapses in good judgment.

Here's a better way to thoughtfully find the best plants—plants that will bloom longer; are exceptionally ornamental; thrive without overtaking their neighbors; resist diseases; all without special care. Look to the experts at botanic gardens and plant societies.

These groups give named awards for plants of excellence: England's Royal Horticultural Society, Award of Garden Merit, Denver Botanic Gardens and Colorado State University, Plant Select®, State Botanical Garden of Georgia and the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, Georgia Gold Medal, Missouri Botanic Garden, Plants of Merit, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Gold Medal Plant Award, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Great Plants for the Great Plains, University of Kentucky, Kentucky Nursery and Landscape Association and Yew Dell Gardens, Theodore Klein Plant Awards, Chicago Botanic Garden Kemper Center, Award of Merit, Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden, Great Plant Picks, and Perennial Plant Association, Plant of the Year.

Multiple awards for a plant promise exceptional performance. The following ten classic plants have received two or more awards.

***Athyrium filix-femina* 'Frizelliae'** Tatting fern Z 4-8
This sport, discovered in 1857 in Ireland in Mrs. Frizelle's garden, bears unique fronds with lacy, semi-circular pinnae on both side of each stem. **Awards:** Great Plant Pick Award from Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden and Royal Horticultural Society Award of Merit.

Callirhoe involucrata Purple mallow, Wine cups, Prairie poppy mallow Z 3-9
William Robinson, father of today's mixed perennial border, called this "excellent for the rock garden, bearing a continuous crop of showy blossoms from early summer till late in autumn." Its magenta purple up-facing cups with white centers flower non-stop from June through October. Wildlife value: host for larva of Gray Hairstreak butterfly and nectar source for many different butterflies. **Awards:** Missouri Botanic Garden Plant of Merit and Denver Botanic Gardens and Colorado State University Plant Select®

***Clematis viticella* 'Betty Corning'** Z 3-9
Betty Corning selected this offspring of a cross between *Clematis crispa* and *C. viticella*, in 1932 in Albany NY. Pendulous lavender trumpets with flirty petal tips that flip up, bloom profusely from summer into fall. **Awards:** Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanic Garden Great Plant Pick Award; Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit and Gold Medal Plant Award PA Horticultural Society

Digitalis ferrugina Rusty foxglove Z 4-9
Mottled rusty bells with brown speckled throats and hairy lips clothe the 4-5' tall spikes in mid-summer. In garden cultivation since at least the 1590's. **Awards:** England's Royal Horticultural Society Award of Merit and Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden Great Plant Pick.



***Eleutherococcus sieboldianus* 'Variegatus'**
syn. *Acanthopanax sieboldianus* Five-fingered aralia,

Angelica shrub Z 4-9

Its five-part variegated leaves splashed with white and cream give it "excellent foliage for shade gardens, shrub borders, perennial border backgrounds or foundations." Missouri Botanic Garden. This shrub thrives in sun to shade and in any soil except if it's waterlogged. Described in L.H. Bailey's 1900 edition of Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture. **Awards:** Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden Great Plant Pick and Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Gold Medal Award.

Erodium chrysanthum Yellow storksbill Z 5-9
Moon yellow saucers top frilly silver foliage much of the summer. Collected in its native Greece before 1800. **Awards:** Denver Botanic Gardens and Colorado State University, Plant Select® and Great Plant Pick Award from Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden.

***Eryngium giganteum* 'Miss Wilmott's Ghost'** self-seeding biennial Z 5-8
Introduced in 1820 this flowers in summer with oval thistles centered over prickly steely blue bracts – very ornamental. Named for Miss Ellen Willmott (1858-1934), a wealthy, eccentric English gardener reputedly dropped seeds as she passed her neighbors' gardens. The plants came up afterwards, her "ghosts." Recommended by Gertrude Jekyll in 1908. **Awards:** Royal Horticultural Society Award of Merit and Nebraska's Great Plants for Great Plains



Hydrangea quercifolia Oak leaved hydrangea Z 5-9
Oak leaved hydrangea blooms with cone-shaped panicles, white tinged with pink from July to September. The oak-like leaves turn wine colored in fall. Discovered and introduced by William Bartram in the mid- 1700's. **Awards:** Missouri Botanic Garden Plant of Merit; Kentucky's Theodore Klein Plant Award and Great Plants for Great Plains Shrub of the Year 2001.

Perovskia atriplicifolia Russian sage Z 5-9
Perovskia honors V.A. Perovski, governor of a Russian province in central Asia around 1890. A busy clump of lacy gray foliage and violet blue flower spikes bloom from July to October. **Awards:** Great Plant Pick Award from Elisabeth Carey Miller Botanical Garden; Missouri Botanic Garden Plant of Merit and Perennial Plant Association 1995 Plant of the Year.



Salvia argentea Silver sage Z 5-7
Large rosettes of the woolliest silver leaves was introduced to gardens in 1768. Size: 2-4' x 12" Care: sun in well-drained soil Native: Europe & No. Africa around Mediterranean. **Awards:** Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit and Colorado's Plant Select®

Verbena bonariensis (Annual that reseeds freely)
Small purple flowers atop tall leafless stems from July to October. Great see-through blooms for the back, middle or front of the garden. Introduced to garden cultivation from its native Buenos Aires in 1726 by the Sherard brothers. **Awards:** Royal Horticultural Society Award of Merit and Missouri Botanic Garden Plant of Merit.

—Betty Adelman, Heritage Flower Farm

Betty Adelman owns Heritage Flower Farm, a nursery devoted to ornamental, heirloom plants, growing more than 1000 kinds of heirloom perennials, vines, trees, shrubs and ornamental grasses. The Wisconsin State Historical Society awarded Heritage Flower Farm for its landscape preservation. The American Automobile Association named it one of the three best places to see flowers in Wisconsin. Heritage Flower Farm's plants grow in gardens at the Smithsonian and Canada's Royal Botanic Garden. Betty's writings have been published in several Midwestern magazines and in California's Native Plant Society Journal.

2014 Calendar of Gardening Events

June 7, Windsor Garden Club Plant Sale during Dragon Art Fair, Downtown DeForest, WI

June 7, Daylily Sale, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. 9am-1pm in the west parking lot at 13001 W. North Ave., Brookfield. www.dssew.org Benefits Daylily Society of Southeastern Wisconsin. We will be offering nearly 200 exciting cultivars in various colors, patterns, shapes and sizes to work into your garden scheme or theme. Profits support Boerner Botanical Gardens and other public gardens. Contact smarfran@aol.com

Wednesday, June 11, 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 14, 1:00 p.m. Make a Canus sodus 'Flora', Soda can flower. Everlasting flower made from a soda can. Bring scissors that you do not care about. Reservations required. Limited to 12. \$5.00. Call or email for reservations or questions. Heritage Flower Farm 33725 County Road L (Janesville Dr.), SE of Mukwonago 53149, 262-662-0804 badelman@wi.rr.com

June 13-22, WHPS Tour of Northern England.

June 14, Woody Plant Society Spring Meeting hosted by Steve Carini of Wen Ren Bonsai and Boerner Botanical, wwoodyplantsociety@gmail.com

June 14, Posh Plants Auction and Runway Show, 5:00-8:30 p.m. A fund-raising auction of very special plants and garden ornaments and accessories. The event will showcase new, rare and unusual through a silent auction, as well as a unique runway show for the most sought-after offerings. Cash bar, small plates and tour of the gardens. Reservations required, limited attendance. Allen Centennial Gardens. alencentennialgardens.org/poshplants.

Friday-Saturday, June 20-21, Habitat for Humanity of Dane County June Plant Sale, Habitat ReStore EAST, 208 Cottage Grove Rd, Madison. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wide variety of perennials, including daylilies, hosta, iris, phlox, rudbeckia, and more. Many different varieties of hybrid daylilies donated by the Wisconsin Daylily Society. Various ground covers are also 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.* Donations of hardy perennials and plastic planting pots are welcome. To donate, please contact Ann Wolfe at 442-8768 or e-mail plantlady123@outlook.com.

Saturday, June 21, Rhapsody in Bloom – Night Circus in the Gardens, 5:00-10:00 p.m., Olbrich Botanical Gardens, <http://www.olbrich.org/events/documents/Final-Invitation.pdf>

Wednesday, June 25, Rotary Botanical Gardens 25th Anniversary Free Day, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org>

July 11-12, Olbrich Botanical Gardens' Home Garden Tour – University Heights, Friday, July 11, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Saturday, July 12, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Tickets \$12 Olbrich Members; \$14 General Public.

July 11-13, Windsor Area Garden Tour, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. <https://www.facebook.com/windsorareagardenclub>

July 12-14, Annual Iris Sale, Olbrich Gardens, Madison Area Iris Society, <http://www.madisoniris.org/>

Saturday, July 12, Rotary Botanical Gardens Home Garden Tour, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org>

Monday, July 14, WHPS Tour of Gardens in Windsor

Wednesday, July 16, 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, July 19, 1:00 p.m. Make a cement leaf planter. Oval planter with leaf impressions. You can grow a miniature garden in it and overwinter it all outside. You must leave it here to dry & return to pick it up. Reservations required. Limited to 12, \$16. Call or email for reservations or questions. Heritage Flower Farm 33725 County Road L (Janesville Dr.), SE of Mukwonago 53149, 262-662-0804 badelman@wi.rr.com

July 16-August 10 Blooming Butterflies at Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. daily.

Monday, July 21, WHPS Tour of Gardens in Black Earth/Mazomanie

Friday, July 25, Rotary Botanical Gardens 25th Anniversary Free Day, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org>

Thursday, July 31, WHPS Tour of Epic Grounds with Jeff Epping (WHPS members only)

Wednesday, August 6, WHPS Tour of Rotary Gardens by Mark Dwyer, 6:00 p.m.

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Wednesday, August 6, 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, August 9, 1:00 p.m. Make a hypertuffa pot. Lasts forever. You can grow a miniature garden in it and overwinter it all outside. You must leave it here to dry & return to pick it up. Reservations \$22. Call or email for reservations or questions. Heritage Flower Farm 33725 County Road L (Janesville Dr.), SE of Mukwonago 53149, 262-662-0804 badelman@wi.rr.com

Saturday, August 9, WHPS Trip to Chicago Botanic Garden

August 16-17 Wisconsin Daylily Society Plant Sale, Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Sunday, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Olbrich Gardens, 3300 Atwood Ave.

Wednesday, August 20, WHPS Member Potluck and Evening Walk Through Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Monday, August 25, Rotary Botanical Gardens 25th Anniversary Free Day, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org>

Wednesday, September 3, Tour of Allen Centennial Gardens by Ed Lyon, 6:00 p.m.

September 6-7, Rotary Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale, Saturday, 9/6, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Sunday, 9/7, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Friday-Saturday-Sunday, September 12-14, WHPS Trip to Iowa

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page—**2014 Calendar of Events**

Wednesday, September 17, WHPS Program: The Plant Select Program, 6:30 social time, 7:00 p.m. program

Saturday, September 20, 1:00 p.m. Make a Wreath of Bittersweet Berries. We'll teach you how & provide all materials. Reservations required, \$9. Call or email for reservations or questions. Heritage Flower Farm 33725 County Road L (Janesville Dr.), SE of Mukwonago 53149, 262-662-0804 badelman@wi.rr.com

Sunday, September 21, WHPS Plant Exchange, 10:00 a.m.-Noon, Allen Centennial Gardens

September 20 & 27 and October 4 & 11, Fall Leaf Mulch Sale, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

September 16-28 Bittersweet Bash PICK YOUR OWN FOR LESS. Cut your own at ridiculously low prices: Measured by square inches—length x widest part of your stem 2 cents (2 pennies) per square inch! While supplies last. BRING YOUR OWN PRUNERS. Call or email for reservations or questions. Heritage Flower Farm 33725 County Road L (Janesville Dr.), SE of Mukwonago 53149, 262-662-0804 badelman@wi.rr.com

Thursday, September 25, Rotary Botanical Gardens 25th Anniversary Free Day, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org>

Friday, September 26, Crackle – Fire & Froth in the Garden, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 27, Heritage Flower Farm Seed Exchange. Bring some seeds, take some seeds. Seed collecting and sowing demonstration. ALL FREE. It's not what you reap, it's the seeds that you sow. Call or email for reservations or questions. 33725 County Road L (Janesville Dr.), SE of Mukwonago 53149, 262-662-0804 badelman@wi.rr.com

Wednesday, October 15, WHPS Program with Mike Kintgen, Denver Botanic Gardens, 6:30 social time, 7:00 p.m. program.

Saturday, October 25, Rotary Botanical Gardens 25th Anniversary Free Day, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org>

Saturday, November 1, Rotary Botanical Gardens Fall Symposium, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org>

Saturday, November 8, LAST OUTDOOR Dane County Farmers Market, Capitol Square, 6:00 a.m.-2:00p.m.

Wednesday, November 19, WHPS Program: Teaming with Microbes, 6:30 social time, 7:00 p.m. program

December 7-31, Holiday Express, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. daily (closed at 2:00 p.m. 12/24, closed 12/25). Holiday gardens and large-scale model trains.

Wednesday, December 10, WHPS Annual Meeting, Member Potpourri and Seed Exchange, 6:30 social time, 7:00 p.m. program

December 12-14, 19-23, 26-28, Rotary Botanical Gardens Holiday Light Show, Janesville, <http://rotarybotanicalgardens.org>

February 6-8, 2015, WPT Garden Expo, Alliant Energy Center, <http://www.wigardenexpo.com/>



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Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society



**June 2014
Newsletter**

**211 S. Fair Oaks Avenue
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President Frank Greer, 608-233-4686, frgreer@sbcglobal.net
Vice President—Jane Gahlman, 608-837-2317, jmgahlman@hotmail.com, Seed Exchange Coordinator and Trip and Tour Co-Coordinator
Secretary—John Cannon, jtcannon@wisc.edu, Trip Committee
Treasurer—Diane Scharkey, dscharkey@gmail.com
Lynn Belanger, 608-215-9127, lynnbelanger7300@gmail.com
Jeannette Golden, 608-767-3736, jgolden4142@gmail.com, Plant Sale Volunteer Coordinator
Cindy Hoffland, 608-233-8083, hofflc@chorus.net, Webmaster
Jane LaFlash, 608-243-1208, jlaflash@wisc.edu, Membership Coordinator and Trip and Tour Co-Coordinator
Edward Lyon, 608-658-3456, eslyon@wisc.edu, Program Coordinator
Terri Maliszewski-Kane, 608-513-4189, terrimk1@hotmail.com, Olbrich Liaison
Linda Marx, 608-249-7717, ljmarx@chorus.net, Plant Dig Coordinator
Stephanie O'Neal, 608-256-6108, sone2@aol.com, Publications and Plant Exchange
Eleanor Rodini, 608-576-7099, erodini@library.wisc.edu, WHPS Garden Expo Display Coordinator
Conrad Wrzesinski, 608-231-3279, conradw@charter.net

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

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

SUMMER

I still marvel at all the people who first mapped the summer sky—the pretty patterns from chalk and string they pulled across the fresh-swept floor. Every monster wishes their teeth gleamed louder than Vega, summer's brightest star. Every night has its own delights: waxwing, paper moth, firefly larvae.

I would drink the red and blue stars if I thought my thin throat could handle it. Even at the darkest hour, my garden throws furtive dots of pale light to guide my steps: the bubble of fresh egg-froth on a frog's back, the secret bloom of moonflowers when the children have been tucked into their tiny beds.

O teasel bur and grasshopper—how you catch in the hem of my skirt like a summer cough. It's exhausting, this desire. But I would never trade it for any shiny marble. Would you? I love the silence of sweat in these slow days of summer. All the mysterious sounds in the trees—like a sack of watches—while I tend to tomato plants who have only thought to give four fruits this entire month.

— Aimee Nezhukumatathil, <http://aimeenez.net/>

Reprinted from *Letters from Two Gardens*, Orion Magazine, January/February 2014

Submitted by Mena Cimino, LD, Turtle Island Landscapes, <http://turtleislandscapes.com/>

Stay healthy in the garden

Thanks to member Mary Polancih for suggesting we take a look at the CDC's recommendations for gardening with our health in mind.

<http://www.cdc.gov/family/gardening/>

T-shirts now available!



New WHPS T-shirts with our updated logo are now 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!

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