



## Perennial Notes

August 2001

*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.*

### A Plant Society Pot Luck—Wednesday, August 15

This Wednesday, August 15 from 6:00-9:00 p.m., WHPS will host a potluck for members in the Commons at Olbrich Botanical Gardens. Setup will be from 6:00-6:30, with dinner and program following at 6:30. Bring a favorite dish, napkins, tableware and utensils. Lemonade will be provided.

Jeff Epping will tell us about the new Rose Garden and plans for the Thai Gardens, which are now underway. There will also be time to walk around the gardens. Join us for a lovely summer evening at Olbrich!

### COMING EVENTS!

**Saturday, September 15, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Annual fall symposium with Olbrich Gardens. 2001 Plant Odyssey.** Speakers include Dan Hinkley (Heronwood Nursery near Seattle, Washington); Barry Yinger (Asiatic Nursery, York, Pennsylvania); James Ault, Chicago Botanic Garden; and Bob Freckmann (botanist at UW Stevens Point). Join us on plant odyssey's to China, Japan, South Africa, SE United States and the Upper Midwest (Wisconsin). \$70 fee for WHPS members. *To register for this program, complete and mail the registration form on page 3 of this newsletter.*

**September 19, 7:00 p.m.** Olbrich Gardens, Commons. Boyce Tankersely, bulb man at the Chicago Botanical Garden, will speak on *My Favorite Bulbs for Midwest Gardens.*

**October 17, 7:00 p.m.** Olbrich Gardens, Commons. **John Elsley, Song Sparrow Nursery**, formerly of Wayside Gardens. A great plantsman will talk about his garden in Greenwood, SC.

**November 14, 7:00 p.m.** Olbrich Gardens, Commons. *Members' potpourri and annual business meeting.*

**December 5, 7:00 p.m.** Olbrich Gardens, Commons. Mark Dwyer of the Janesville Rotary Gardens will be our speaker. Topic will be *Unusual Annuals: Four Years of Trials at the Janesville Rotary Gardens.*

**January 20 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Annual potluck brunch with the Hosta Society.** Our speaker will be Craig Bergman of Bergman's Nursery. He will speak on his autumn garden, featured in Horticulture Magazine Sept 2001. *(Note: the WHPS*

### WHPS TRIPS



**October 13, 2001 One last fling!! Join us for a trip to Craig Bergman's Nursery and Garden Center in Wingate Harbor, Illinois.** \$35 for bus transportation and lunch. Make check payable to WHPS and mail to Diane Scharkey, 4717 Eisenhower Street, Oregon, WI 53575. Phone 608-835-5318 or e-mail dscharkey@aol.com.

*I take green to be not only the predominant color of a flourishing garden, but the emblem of its aspiration, the barometer of its health, the very mirror of its finish. Green is its basic architecture clothed, which then becomes its ever-changing form. Great gardens have been green all through, with grass walks and mossed and vined walls enclosing generous, remarkably clipped yews like a great green house of grand green rooms roofed by the light of the sky. Green is the color that springs to mind when we think of Eden, and the color one most anticipates as a garden is approached.*

—From **Notes from Madoo, Making a Garden in the Hamptons**, Robert Dash, 2000

## From *You Know that Plant I Gave You....?* Alex

Pankhurst, The Hardy Plant, Spring, 2000

It is pleasing to realize that most gardeners are nice people, eager to share their experience, their pleasure and their plants. Perhaps this is one reason why Ellen Willmott gained notoriety, both now, and in her own time when she was a horticultural luminary. Her sharp and curmudgeonly nature singled her out.

Dedicated to collecting and displaying plants, her famous garden, Warley Place in Essex, at the turn of the century was one of the marvels of the age, the result of a formidable knowledgeable gardener pouring a large fortune into its creation and upkeep.

Besides spending lavishly at nurseries, she supported various plant expeditions financially, receiving seeds in return, and she also bought a vast collection of plants put together for study by Dr. Jordan, a French botanist.

It was a garden to gasp at, and bristling with rarities.

To those she considered as knowledgeable as herself, Ellen Willmott could be generous, but lesser people were not so lucky. One astounded visitor recalled how at the end of a conducted tour of the garden, its mistress asked if they wanted some plants to take home. Summoning one of the gardeners she then bade them take the group to the compost heap, to see if there was anything they would like.

"If you want to keep a plant," so the saying goes, "give it away."

For if you have a particular treasure, inevitably it is the very plant the builder's ladder crushes, the falling roof tile aims for, or the cat chooses as a sunbathing mat. That's when you thumb through your notebook to find who you gave precious offshoots to three years ago, so you can beg a bit back.

## Daylily Rust Found in Wisconsin; WI Daylily Plant Sale to Have Fewer Plants

Gene Dewey, Wisconsin Daylily Society

*Puccinia hemerocallidis*, commonly known as daylily rust, has been found to be in daylily gardens in Dodgeville and Hartland, WI within the last two weeks on plants purchased this year from Florida. Subsequently, additional plants nearby have become symptomatic. This foliar fungal disease began appearing in Florida last year and has been found this year in Alabama, California, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin and perhaps other states. Daylily rust spreads via airborne spores, and can travel on a person's clothes or shoes, as well as on a plant being moved from one garden to another. It is known to disfigure the leaves of the plant; it is not known whether it will kill the plant or not. Little is known about the long-term effects of daylily rust. Since it is native to China, Japan, Taiwan, the Soviet Republics, and Ryukyu Islands, it not likely that our winters will kill the rust.

Growers of daylilies should be on watch for signs of the rust, which in some respects is similar to leaf streak, with which many daylily gardeners are familiar. However, the underside of leaves infected with the rust will leave an orange residue on one's fingers or a tissue wiped along the leaf. Some plants obtained from Florida this year have exhibited rust symptoms only after being planted for two months or more. A copy of an illustrated article on rust from the Fall 2001 issue of the *Daylily Journal* is available on the Daylily Society shelf at the Olbrich Garden Library. Furthermore, the following web page has links to several information websites, as well as sites with photographs of infected plants: <http://www.ncf.ca/~ah748/rust.html>

If you suspect that daylily rust is in your garden, you should contact: Plant Industry Bureau, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade & Consumer Protection, P. O. Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911; Phone: 608-224-4590; email—[esther.chapman@datcp.state.wi.us](mailto:esther.chapman@datcp.state.wi.us). Cut all affected leaves and place them in a closed bag so that spores will not be released. Save some leaves in a plastic baggie in case examination by the State is requested.

WHPS members are urged to be very cautious about obtaining plants from sellers in affected states, especially those in the south. Many WI Daylily Society members are delaying purchasing wanted cultivars until they have more answers to questions about this new threat to a plant which has been generally pest- and disease-free.

The Wisconsin Daylily Society Board has decided to proceed with a limited sale on August 18 and 19. Only the Society's plants in the garden at the Governor's Residence and donations from a single member's garden will be sold. Neither garden has had any additions of plants this growing season. We are quite confident that it is unlikely that any of these plants are infected by the rust.

The sale will be held on Saturday, August 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, August 19 from noon to 4 p.m. (or until sold out) in the large red & white tent in the employees' parking lot at Olbrich.

### Other Events of Note

**August 25, 26. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Olbrich Gardens. **68th Annual Midwest Dahlia Conference and Show**, hosted by the Badger State Dahlia Society (first time in Madison). For more information call LaVerne Bartel at 608-233-2394

**Sunday, September 16, 3:00 p.m.** UW Horticulture Dept Lecture Hall near Allen Centennial Garden. **Talk by Oregonian Phyllis Gustafson, formerly of Siskyou Rare Plant Nursery, now with Rogue House Seeds.** An excellent photographer, she is brimming with a lifetime's worth of plant knowledge. Sponsored by the Rock Garden Society, whose annual plant sale will be held at 1:00 p.m. that day at Lois Kinlen's house at 26 Merlham Drive, near Hilldale Mall.

## From A. Hort Hound...

The climbing hydrangeas (*Hydrangea anomala* subsp 'petiolaris') in Madison reached their peak bloom in the second week of June. My, my, my, what a show. If all of the little ones you see around town reach maturity, this will be like the ever-present magenta azalea in the foundation planting of every house in the mid-Atlantic states.

A variegated form of this hydrangea vine was offered by Heronswood Nursery this year—*H. anomala* subsp 'Miranda.' The leaves are indeed a creamy yellow and green, but the plant is very tiny and I suspect it will take many years to make any kind of a statement. I'll keep you informed of its progress.

### A Member Request...

I am looking for a source of free pine needles for mulch.



I'll rake and cart away.

I am also looking for a free source of aged manure.

Contact Betsy True at [btrue@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:btrue@facstaff.wisc.edu), or call evenings at 821-0048.

If you can grow this one, you might try the Japanese hydrangea vine—*Schizophragma hydrangeoides*. Unlike its relative, this vine stays relatively flat (does not bloom on strong lateral branches), has more serrated leaves, and the sterile sepals of the flowers are much more striking. It is reportedly less hardy than *H. 'petiolaris'*, but this has not been so in my Nakoma garden, and its rate of growth is faster. Several cultivars are also available, and these are decidedly less hardy from all reports. I have been growing *S. hydrangeoides* 'Moonlight' for about 5 years, primarily for its magnificent gray-silver foliage, but alas, even in the courtyard garden of the UW Horticulture Building, it dies back to the ground (or snow line) in most winters. *S. hydrangeoides* 'Roseum,' whose flower bracts are rose colored, was offered for sale at Song Sparrow Nursery on our trip there not too long ago. I do not know anyone in the Madison area who has an established vine.

## Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society



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