



Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society

Perennial Notes

August 2003

*'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 that you can beg a bit back.—You know that plant I gave you...? Alan Pankhurst, *The Hardy Plant*, Spring 2000*

COMING EVENTS!

**THIS
WEEK!**

August 20, 2003, WHPS Potluck Dinner, 6:00 p.m. in the Commons at Olbrich Gardens. Bring a food item to share and your own plate and utensils. Enjoy the gardens on a lovely summer evening.

September 17, 2003—Olbrich Gardens, 6:30 p.m. Social hour, 7:00 p.m. program. *The WOW Factor in the Garden*, with guest speaker Jeff Epping.

September 20, 2003—WHPS Plant Exchange 10:00-Noon at Stephanie O'Neal's, 1850 Baird Street, Madison. (See page 2 for more info and directions.)



September 27, 2003—*Tour of Milwaukee Gardens* (registration form and schedule on page 7). Sign up now—registration is limited and due by September 10.

Saturday, October 11—7:00-9:00 a.m. GARDEN TOUR! Fall visit to Tom Cottingham's Garden. This year, Tom has offered tours of his garden in spring and summer, and now we have an opportunity to view his garden, with all its color and variety, in fall. As noted in previous newsletters, Tom has gardened in this same area for over 45 years, using companion plantings of Wisconsin's native plant communities and, since 1986, has been part of the National Wildlife's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program. His garden is located at 7421 North Avenue, west of Middleton High School between University Avenue and Fireman's Park.

Friday, October 3, 2003—Annual fall symposium at Olbrich Gardens—See page 7 for more information.

October 15, 2003—Olbrich Gardens, 6:30 p.m. Social hour, 7:00 p.m. program. Linda Brazill, garden and features writer for *The Capital Times*, will discuss *Size matters: one gardener's experience dealing with scale in the garden.*

November 20th—Olbrich Gardens Commons, *Members' Potpourri, Seed Exchange and Annual Business Meeting.* 6:30 Social and Seed Exchange, 7:00 p.m. Meeting and Program. Have you been taking slides of your garden this year? Bring 10-15 with you to present at the Members' Potpourri. Also bring any seeds you'd like to offer to fellow members. Ruth Cadoret will once again coordinate a Seed Exchange that will start the evening at 6:30 p.m. and continue after the meeting is over.

June 11-21, 2004. WHPS Biannual Tour to Gardens of the United Kingdom—Description of trip begins on page 3. **\$100 deposit due ASAP.** See page 6 for registration details.

Other events of note

Bulbmania!

Symposium at Janesville Rotary Gardens

Saturday, September 13th

7:00 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

Members/Volunteers \$89, Public \$99

Includes continental breakfast, snacks and catered lunch

Speakers include:

Brent Heath—Undaunted Daffodils and Tantalizing Tulips

Galen Gates—Minor Bulbs With Major Impact

Scott Kunst—Heirloom Bulbs; Four Seasons, Forty Centuries

Jim Shields—Hardy Spring Bulbs, An Emphasis on Zones 4 & 5

John Elsley—Ideal Companion Plants for Spring Bulbs

Other Features Include: breakout sessions by all of the speakers; raffle prizes; book signing; silent auction

Fall Plant Sale

Janesville Rotary Gardens is also having a Fall Plant Sale September 19,20,21 from 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. There is a presale on Sept. 18th from 10-6 as well. All WHPS members are invited (to the presale as well, 10% off and first pick). The sale includes perennials, mums, and bulbs.

Thanks for the memories

One of the things I like best about my garden is that so many of the plants remind me of a person, place or event. Sometimes the plant was given to me by someone, or I bought it at our plant sale and know who's garden it came from, or someone recommended it. And of course ideas and inspiration are taken from every garden visited. So let me take you on a tour around my garden. [Any errors or omissions are totally due to my faulty memory.]

The first thing I see when coming out the back door is *Geranium* 'John Elsley' – I've met the real John Elsley. And the dwarf elm, *Ulmus parviflora* 'Seiju', that I bought at Gee Farms on that great trip to Michigan. Four plants from Betty French's garden all happen to be planted near each other – snow drops, chelone, *Geranium* 'AT Johnson', and feverfew. The feverfew reminds me of the time I was at a plant dig at Betty's. Betty, Tom Cottington and I were taking a little tour around the garden and Tom said he had heard that chewing the leaves of feverfew cured migranes. So naturally we all tried it. We decided that if it was true it must be because the taste was so terrible it took your mind off the headache.

Next I see two shrubs recommended by Ed Hasselkus – *Physocarpus* 'Diablo' and *Buxus* 'Green Mound'. Also the *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Nana Lutea' that Ed told me I'd be throwing my money away if I bought it. Ha – it made it through the winter! There's the peony I got free from Roy Klehm at one of his talks. And my little Shari Voss corner – *Artemisia* 'Limelight', *Geranium* 'Sambor', *Ruellia* (wild petunia), and a special rock she brought me. The *Clematis* 'Jackmanii' and *Geranium* 'Dilys' I bought because they looked so great in Marlette Larsen's garden.

The *Hosta* 'Frances Williams' was a must as my dad and brother were both named William Francis. And since my British daughter-in-law is named Lisa, I also had to have the *Hosta* 'Limey Lisa'. The blue columbine is from a wonderful day at Eugene Coffman's Ridge Road Nursery. *Acer shirasawarum* 'Aureum' (my favorite plant in the garden) is one of numerous beautiful things from Stonewall Nursery. Peter and Ed babysat it for me for a couple months until I had its site prepared. Those four large conifers scattered through the garden were brought home from an American Conifer Society meeting after I told Sandy and Denny Allen and Diane Scharkey that they didn't need to leave any room in the truck for me as I wouldn't be buying anything. I'll never live that down.

The stone bench idea was stolen from Stephanie O'Neal and I thought the Hummingbird clethras were from her too but on a recent visit she told me she thought they were from Tom Cottington. From Joan Severa – *Veronica* 'Bright Eyes', cimicifuga, daylilies, and a Memorial Day peony. Another Memorial Day peony from Tom Cottington, along with *Geranium macrorrhizum*, bloodroot (single and double), and apparently the clethras. There is double bloodroot and a thalictrum from Ann Munson, another special rock from Nell Cummings, primulas from Ruth Cadoret and pulmonarias from Chris Bylsma. The Buddha statue used to live in Rita Dupuis's garden. The *Epimedium* 'Rubrum' reminds me of my first visit to the Flower Factory.

My sister Mary took me so I could buy plants for my new garden and Nancy Nedveck's recommended epimedium for the shade. I really splurged that day, buying four plants for a total of \$12. My sister, who only went for my benefit and wasn't

going to buy anything, spent \$130. So you see it runs in the family. I have a big clump of variegated solomon's seal from that sister. The shooting stars were dug up from my neighbor Judy Steffen's family farm. It's great having another plant nut next door. Who else would literally run across the yard with you to see if your Nellie Moser clematis was blooming yet? There's dwarf bearded iris and a geranium from Diane Scharkey, anemone from Peg Luby, *Hosta* 'Krossa Regal' from Sandy Allen, and *Hosta* 'Sea Octopus' from Bill Hoernke. The lilies are from Phyllis Sanner.

There are numerous plants from Frank Greer – berry bladder fern, epimediums, dwarf solomon's seal, vancouveria, actaea, iris cristata (unless of course this is the special iris cristata that accidentally got dug up at a plant dig, in which case I know nothing about it). My climbing hydrangea could be another Frank Greer memory if the two starts from him hadn't both bitten the dust. So now mine is a K-Mart memory. Oh there's another shrub recommended by Ed Hasselkus – 'Aglo' rhododendron. Remember that tour of Dennis Buettner's gardens in Milwaukee? At the house with the swimming pool that appeared to flow into Lake Michigan they had a whole hedge of 'Aglo' rhododendron and I overheard Ed comment that it was one of his favorites. And another reminder of that Michigan trip – a daphne and dwarf hemlocks from Arrowhead Alpines.

I have lots of reminders of Woody Plant Society plant exchanges – daphne, boxwood, rhododendron, yew. That raised bed was my son Jason's idea and he helped me build it and my son Chad determined the placement of trellises. There are Siberian iris, Jacob's ladder, and different types of trillium from my mother's garden.

I have plants from both my grandmothers' gardens. Maidenhair fern is from Grandma Linley's garden. I confess I don't actually remember seeing it in her garden but my mother remembers driving in the country with her new mother-in-law nearly 60 years ago and stopping by the side of the road to dig it up. Jack-in-the-pulpit is from my Grandma Hurd's garden. I so clearly remember her showing me the little Jacks when I was a child. Now I show those Jack's descendants to my grandson. Life doesn't get much better than that.

—Jane LaFlash

Fall Plant Exchange September 20

- The annual plant exchange will take place Saturday morning, September 20 at Stephanie O'Neal's garden, 1850 Baird Street, Madison. From the Beltline, take Park Street toward Madison. Just past Buick Street, Beld Street curves off to the right. Take Beld, then turn right on Bram and left on Baird. It's the first little white house on the left.
- Bring plants that need thinning or dividing, plants you bought and never found a place for, this year's seed-grown plants that are "extra," and annuals to take cuttings from.
- Donated plants can be either exchanged or sold (proceeds to WHPS).
- Bring donations between 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. for labeling, pricing and setup. At 10:30 a.m. the selection of plants will begin (ending at noon). You can also take a stroll through the garden.



Proposed Itinerary

(Always subject to change if we find a better garden!)

June 11, Friday

9-11 a.m. We will meet at London's Gatwick Airport where we will be met by Max Burnham and Frankie McCabe, our now, biannual chauffeur and guide. Many of you will enjoy renewing their acquaintance. Max I am sure will meet us with the newest and most up-to-date Durham City Coach. (Still can't get over the deft pick up at the train station in Edinburgh in June 2002).

Late morning departure for Hyde Hall in Chelmsford, Essex. We might arrive in time to take a late lunch in the garden's restaurant, but Frankie will have some sandwiches on board to tide us over. This is the only one of the Royal Horticulture Society's Gardens that we have not visited, having been to Rosemoor, Harlow Carr, and Wisley on previous trips.

Hyde Hall—This is a real plant enthusiast's garden, begun in 1955 by Dick and Helen Robinson, who passed the property on to the RHS in 1992. This hilltop garden, perched above the East Anglican wheatfields in a truly Tuscanesque manner, is magnificent. In 1955, the farm was but a windswept upland with very few trees. Today, its 8 acres are a richly diverse gardener's paradise—pools, woodland areas, and mixed borders of shrubs and roses, trees and bulbs. The National Collections of crab apples and viburnums are here. The Farmhouse garden is a new formal area of brick paths and symmetrical beds, with box edging. There is, of course, an RHS "gift shop/bookstore" on the premises for those who want to spend their time shopping!

We will then motor to the Swan Hotel in Lavenham. We stayed in this 14th century medieval inn (ah, now modernized) on our first trip to England in 1998. Ask Ed Hasselkus about the embarrassing episode that occurred here! Hopefully we will have a relatively early dinner and then to bed to recoup from the jet lag.

June 12, Saturday

With three gardens to visit today, we will have an early departure. Our first stop will be The Priory in nearby Suffolk. This 9-acre garden is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Engleheart and has fine views out over the Constablesque countryside. Around the house is a fine selection of plants and roses in terraces and mixed borders. Lawns slope down to a series of 6 small lakes, planted with a masses of water plants including water lilies. A Chinese bridge

leads to a tea pavilion where we will be served coffee and shortbreads. A walled garden leads into the conservatory with its colorful collection of tender plants.

Our next stop will be the Beth Chatto gardens in Colchester, where we will have an introduction and talk by the Head Propagator. This is one of the most artful English gardens we have visited, included on our 1998 trip, when we found Beth herself roaming around the garden collecting blossoms for her invalid husband Andrew, who has since passed on. Many of you have read how Beth created these gardens in the 1960's from neglected acres (six of them) on her husband's family apple farm. There are of course the famed woodland and gravel gardens to see, which will knock your socks off. The herbaceous borders are outstanding. You will even enjoy poking around in the retail nursery area as there is always an amazing selection of plants for sale. Believe me, you will come away with many new ideas for your own garden from Beth's garden artistry and plant combinations.

Perhaps we will find somewhere for lunch, but then we certainly want to leave enough time for our final garden of the day, Glen Chantry, which has been highly recommended to us by contacts in Essex from the Hardy Plant Society of England. This is a large, 2.5 acre "undulating garden," started by Sue and Wol Staines in the 1970's. The huge, informally shaped beds are filled with an imaginative mixture of hostas, peonies, variegated grasses, brunneras, white martagon lilies, crambes, and variegated hellebores. A large rock garden, stream and waterfalls lead to a pond with rogersias and good foliage plants. The plantings and color schemes of this garden are truly spectacular. We will take time for afternoon tea here.

There is also a very fine nursery on the premises.

We will return to the Swan Hotel in the early evening. Dinner will be on your own. You may take it in the Swan, or perhaps try one of the pubs in this quaint village.

June 13, Sunday

Again, we will have an early departure, as we have a big day of gardens planned. Our first garden of the day will again be Somerleyton Hall in Suffolk, owned by Lord and Lady Somerleyton. The former Jacobean house was extensively rebuilt in the mid-nineteenth century by Sir Martin Peto as a grand Italianate palace, and the gardens

splendidly reflect this magnificence with 12 acres of formal gardens. The walled garden at the entrance has interesting glass houses with ridge-and-furrow patterned roofs, designed by Sir Joseph Paxton (also did the glass houses at Chatsworth we saw in 2002). There are also unusual 'wall cases' by Paxton along the outer wall, made for growing wall-trained peaches under glass, but now displaying a wide variety of tender plants. There is a beautiful walled garden, an aviary, and a winter garden that surrounds the sunken garden. Other special features include the 1946 William Nesfiled yew hedge maze with a grassy mount topped by a pagoda at its center, and the 90 meter-long iron pergola covered with wisteria, vines, and roses. There is also a Victorian kitchen garden and a museum of old gardening equipment. We will be served a Ploughman's lunch in the restaurant and perhaps visit the garden shop.

After this spectacular start to the day, we will proceed to Bressingham in Norfolk after lunch. There we will visit a pair of father and son gardens—The Dells and Foggy Bottom Garden. The Dells is the six acre creation of Alan Bloom (born in 1906), the founder of the Hardy Plant Society of England. Alan has introduced over 170 fine plants to the trade in his lifetime including *Achillea* 'Moonshine', *Aconitum* 'Bressingham Spire' (to die for), and *Crocsmia* 'Lucifer'. The famous island beds contain 5000 species and cultivars (all meticulously labeled) and your journals will be filled with new "must try" plants before you leave this place. We visited this marvelous display garden on our first trip in 1998 and I can hardly wait to return. The variety of *Astrantia*s new to me on this visit was mind boggling!!

We were unable to visit Foggy Bottom Garden (a few hundred yards away) on our 1998 trip due to the filming of a television show. This is the garden of Allan's son, Adrian, and is most noted for its use of green, blue, and gold conifers. (See Adrian Bloom's **Gardening with Conifers** for many spectacular photos of this garden.) The conifers have been combined with herbaceous perennials and shrubs planted in bold clumps. Heathers in many colors have been planted to great effect. There is also a restaurant and garden shop for those who need something more than a feast for the eyes.

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WHPS Tour to England and Wales, continued

We will then motor to the university town of Cambridge (home to many spectacular gardens, of course) where we will spend the first of two nights at the Felix Hotel about ten minutes from the center of town. We will have dinner in the hotel.

June 14, Monday

Another garden-filled day. We will have a relatively late morning departure for Anglesey Abbey, just outside of the city. You could spend days absorbing this 98-acre park and garden, but we will only have few hours. The garden was started by Lord Fairhaven in 1926, who had the advantage of working with the remains of an Augustinian abbey, as well as sweeping views of the Cambridgeshire countryside. Vast avenues and vistas were created to provide the perfect setting for the owner's 18th and 19th century statuary. Avenues of mature trees lead the wanderer to intimate gardens enclosed by meticulously trimmed hedges. Reminiscent of the entrance drive to Windsor Castle, the Coronation Avenue of magnificent chestnut trees extends for more than a half a mile. There are many fine flower gardens, including a D-shaped traditional herbaceous border sheltered by tall beech hedges. This is said to be one of England's finest 20th century gardens. There is a restaurant and gift shop on the grounds.

On the way back into town, we will visit the Cambridge Botanic Garden in the city's southern suburbs, where we will have a guided tour. This is a diverse garden of 40 acres, with many mature trees and paths that meander through a series of areas, including herbaceous borders, systematic order beds (plants grouped by botanical families) and an ecological area. The best features are the rock and water gardens, as well as a clutch of glasshouses nurturing many tender plants.

We will then proceed back to the center of Cambridge, where you will be left on your own to seek out one of the many charming lunch spots. After lunch, as a group, we will visit two of the many university gardens. The first is Christ College Garden. At the entrance court beyond the porter's lodge, is a spectacle that screams perfection. The summer display of fuchsias and petunias in window boxes and tubs is extravagantly refined and peaceful. Tubs of hydrangeas welcome visitors into the immaculate gardens beyond. The well planted herbaceous borders are augmented with panache by

bedded-out plants. Charles Darwin's garden with a canal intrigues visitors with its false perspective.

Then its on to the Clare College Fellow's Garden. It is reached by crossing the oldest bridge over the Cam River from the college. Between the college buildings and the bridge are two gardens—to the north the private Master's Garden and to the South the Scholar's Garden, where the planting relies on silver, blue and purple and white. Professor E.N. Willmer designed the present, well-regarded planting scheme for the Fellow's Garden. At the garden's heart, concealed by hedges, is a formal pool. The double herbaceous borders have a yellow and blue theme, while along the boundary is a ribbon of silver with a mass of white flowers. We will stroll back to the city center for the evening dinner on your own, only after you have sworn not to see another garden that day. After dinner, you will have time to explore the quaint city or perhaps visit (having repented after a good meal) some more of the Cambridge College Gardens. Hopefully Frankie may have information on other gardens at the college that may be of interest and are open.

June 15, Tuesday

Max tells me that this will not be one of our better days, as we will have to motor across the English midlands to Wales, which will take the better part of 6 hours in the coach.

We will stop at Cottesbrook Hall (25 acres) in Northamptonshire early in the day. This is a beautifully maintained formal garden around a Queen Anne House (said by some to be the model for Jane Austen's Mansfield Park) owned by Capt. and Mrs. J. MacDonald-Buchanan. Designs by Edward Schultz, Geoffrey Jellicoe, Dame Sylvia Crowe and the late Hon Lady Macdonald-Buchanan are meticulously maintained by the present owners. The gardens are variously divided by walls and hedges into intimate areas, some featuring exuberant herbaceous plantings, others with contrasting greenery of trees and lawn. There is a Dutch garden with formal box parterres, a relaxing pool garden with distant views along a lime avenue, and a lovely wild garden washed by a cascading stream with a Japanese bridge. Be sure to visit the intriguingly named Dilemma garden and the aptly named Spinney garden.

Lunch this day will be at one of those "delightful" motorway stops with the 'Crinklies'. Hopefully, as we enter North Wales in the late afternoon we will have time to stop at the lovely Chirk Castle, belonging to the National Trust. Built in 1310, this medieval fortress is one of a chain of great border castles built to survey the defeated Welsh tribes by Edward I. It has been lived in by a single family since 1595. Add to this its stupendous hilltop views, topiary and richly planted shrub borders, this 5.5 acre garden is one of the Trust's most exciting little-known gardens. The yew hedges are the signature features of the gardens (similar to nearby Powis Castle, visited in 2000), for they appear as stout and impenetrable as the castle's walls, and have suitably castellated tops to echo the masonry. The grounds include a café and the customary National Trust gift shop.

Leaving Chirk, we will motor to our lodgings for the next three nights, the rather remote Seiont Manor in the Snowdonia National Park. We will take dinner here all three nights amidst its 150 acres with its dramatic mountain views along the banks of the Seiont River.

June 16, Wednesday

This will be a busy, three-garden day. I am not even sure we will have time for lunch, but then who needs to eat after the enormous Welsh breakkie with which we will start the day at Seiont Manor. The first garden will be the lovely Plas Newydd, another National Trust Garden. With yachts coursing the tidal waters below its sloping lawns and the mountains of Snowdonia behind the Vaynol woods, this garden has a fine a setting as any coastal property in Britain.

The bones of this 169-acre garden were laid out in 1798, which now belongs to The Marquess of Anglesey. Many plants from the southern hemisphere flourish here in the coastal micro climate. A small quarry garden snaked with stone paths and stairways adds to the adventure. Following the line of the Long Walk, a double avenue of yews and chamaecyparis lead to the arboretum known as 'Australasia'. Around the house is a formal Italian terrace garden, with a trellis garden house and a bubbling tufa fountain. Lower levels have many pools, water features, with hedging and clipped evergreens. There is a café and a gift shop on the grounds.

After an enticing ride over the mountains with spectacular scenery, we will arrive at our second garden of the day—Plas

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Brondanw—one of the most enchanting gardens you will see anywhere, although it is little known. A mere 3 acres, the estate was given to the then 25-year-old Clough Williams Ellis in 1908 as a birthday present from his father. A young architect with vision, and strongly imbued with contemporary Arts and Crafts style, he plotted the garden, a long, narrow strip, dividing it into hedged rooms punctuated by slender columns of Italian cypress. This is an intimate garden set against the awesome backdrop of the Snodownia Mountains. Its tiered topiaries are exceptionally fine. The walls of local stone shimmer in the metallic mauves and browns when it rains (frequently), but transport the garden into the Mediterranean mode when the sun shines. Flowers are not a strong feature, as this is a garden of green architecture and reflective pools, but with the vistas of the summits of Moel Hebog and Cnicht in the distance, flowers would seem largely irrelevant. Across the road and up steep hill, is a folly look-out. Willims-Ellis requested this from the Welsh Guards as a wedding present rather than the tradition gift of a silver salver.

It will be a short ride to our final garden of the day, Portmeirion, where we will have a tour led by the head gardener. As noted above, the master at nearby Plas Brodanw was an architect, and Portmeirion is his folly—an essay into the picturesque, with Gothic, Renaissance and Victorian buildings arranged as an Italianate village around a harbor and set in 70 acres of subtropical woodlands crisscrossed by paths. The gentle humor of the architecture extends into the plantings in the formal gardens as well as the wild luxuriance which clings to the rocky crags.

We will take a late lunch here, if you must stop for food. Keep in mind, that the later you get here the less it will be swamped with coach loads of English old dears with their woolly hats and flasks of tea. The charming village is speckled with fan palms, cabbage palms and Italian cypress trees all which flourish under the warming influence of the most precious gift to Britain from North America, the Gulf Stream, nearby. To see Portmeirion on a sunny day, to capture the essence of its Riviera frivolity, so incongruously set between the broad estuary sands of Traseth Bach and the veiled misty mountains of Snowdonia, is a memory to be savored forever. All too soon we will be headed back to Seiont Manor, though if the weather is good we will have an incredibly scenic trip back through the mountains.

June 17th, Thursday

Three more gardens today, though they are all fairly close together. Penrhyn Castle will be first, where the head gardener is most enthusiastic about our visit and will open early for us. He will give us an introduction to the garden of 48 acres. Although the original house was 18th century, the gardens are very much early Victorian, dating from the building of the present castle by Thomas Hopper for G.H. Dawkins Pennant between 1822 and 1838 and considered to be an outstanding example of the short-lived Norman Revival. Its vastness of scale drops the jaw from the moment it comes into view on the crest of the hill. It has a marvelous collection of rare and mature trees. Even Queen Victoria got into the act planting a Wellingtonia in 1859 on one of her visits. (Leave it to the British to name the giant sequoia after the winner of the Battle of Waterloo). The tree is still standing. The views, south toward Snowdonia, east along the coastline, and north across the Menai Strait to Anglesey and Puffin Island, are spectacular. There is a magnificent walled garden of tender plants and a series of terraces around the castle to explore. The upper terrace has box-edged beds, lily ponds, fountains and loggia. An iron work trellis runs along the lowest terrace. At the foot of the terraces is a spectacular bog garden. This is another garden of the National Trust with the same old gift shop selling the same stuff, but you will not tire of the ice cream sold in the National Trust cafes!

The next garden will be Bodant. It is the one that most folks know about and come to see in North Wales. This 80-acre garden (also in the National Trust) is one that would be described by the Michelin Guide as "worth a trip" by itself. In fact, the scale, grandeur and scenic beauty of this garden are nothing short of stupendous. It is truly one of England's finest gardens. Set on a west facing slope above the tidal River Conway, the massive granite house (1772) commands panoramic views of the Snowdonia Range. Below, a series of five gigantic Italian terraces anchor the house majestically in its mountainous setting. To the south, the precipitous-sided valley of the River Hiraethlyn is embraced, manipulated and colored to make a woodland garden of epic proportions. And furnishing and overlaying each part of the garden is one of the finest plant collections in all of England. The

present owner, the 3rd Lord Aberconway, is a former President of the Royal Horticultural Society and holder of its highest award, the Victoria Medal of Honor. The garden has also benefited from a remarkable partnership between the family and their head gardeners, since the post has been handed down through three generations of Puddles. Frederick Puddle was appointed in 1920, followed by his son Charles in 1947 and his grandson Martin in 1982. Both Frederick and Charles were also awarded the Victoria Medal of Honor. Unfortunately, Lord Aberconway will be unavailable to lead our tour, as he passed away earlier this year. Perhaps we can hope for a Puddle? There is another National Trust gift shop on the premises and a very fine restaurant if anyone can begin to think of food in such a horticultural masterpiece.

It will be only a short ride to our next garden, Bodysgallen Hall. We will arrive in time for high tea, which we have requested to be served immediately as I am certain you will not have partaken of the gourmet cuisine at the restaurant at Bodnant. We wouldn't want anyone to dry up and blow away from starvation. This is a luxurious country-house hotel of pink sandstone, mainly Jacobean in style, with impressive walled gardens on 214 acres of land. In fact, this is said to be one of the finest 17th century gardens in England and Wales. The many limestone outcrops provide an interesting array of rockeries and terraces. There is also a formal walled rose garden. Unfortunately, we will depart all too soon for Seiont Manor, where only more food awaits us. We might just find the time to visit Crug Farm on the way back to Seiont Manor. This is the garden and nursery of Sue and Bleddyn Wynn-Jones, who are international plant collectors extraordinaire. Shade-loving plants are their specialty, and their catalogue lists plants that are not available anywhere else in Europe or North America.

On our final night in Wales, we will have a "Welsh evening" with Welsh menu and choir to entertain us.

June 18th, Friday

As we must leave Wales and head for the Cotswold's, we will only have time for two gardens today, alas! We will pass through Herefordshire, where we will visit a pair of very fine smaller, private gardens. Bryan's Ground, the garden of David Wheeler and Simon Dorell, was started in 1994, and this ambitious "new" garden is full of challenging ideas, variety and drama. By the

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WHPS Tour to England and Wales, continued

way, David Wheeler is the editor of *Hortus* a delectable hort journal of just good garden writing (I literally inhale each issue). The only illustrations are the line drawings of his partner Simon Dorell, who will give us an introductory talk. The 3-acre garden is bordered by the River Lugg, the official Welsh border with England. The house is Arts and Crafts, as was the original lay out of the garden. There is a walled kitchen garden and a rose garden with pyramidal yews trained into wooded obelisks. The walled kitchen garden is enclosed by a fancy trellis with carved birds on top. There is a marvelous restored greenhouse, a box-edged sunken garden, a wood and much more.

Close by is our second garden—Lance Hattat Design Garden (formerly Arrowhead Cottage). This exceptionally well planted and manicured plantsman's garden is laid out with cunning precision to make the best of its two acre site. Mr. Hattat and his lady head gardener (Revis) will lead us on a tour. A natural stream runs through, crossed by a dainty, blue painted bridge. To one side, a graveled area with a stone paved, central circle provides an open arena for a startling jet of water erupting from the center like a geyser. More water runs down a 170-foot, gently-stepped rill, rigidly enclosed between high hedges. There is a kitchen garden and richly planted borders, a white garden, a well-built summerhouse, and intriguing statues and sculpture. Hopefully, we will take refreshments here!

The remainder of the day will be spent journeying to the Gloucestershire and the Cotswold's. Perhaps Frankie will allow us to stop in a charming village somewhere for lunch. We will spend the night at Hatton Court, perched on a tall hill overlooking the city of Gloucester with its fine cathedral. This will be our third visit to this hotel, a WHPS favorite. On our previous visit, they were hosting an Agatha Christie murder weekend, and there were bodies about the place. We have enjoyed many an evening dinner here viewing the sun setting behind the cathedral. And the individually-cooked breakfast will be a treat to the start of our final day.

June 19th, Saturday

Our last day. We had hoped to visit Hidcote again, but as they do not open until 11:30 on this day, and are always unwilling to make any exceptions to the opening and closing times, we will have to pass it by. Instead, we have arranged for a

visit to Westonbirt, the National Arboretum near Tetbury (and Prince Charles's garden High Grove, but that's another tale). This is Britain's finest arboretum, and we will only be able to see the highlights as it extends forever on its 17 miles of paths. There are 18,000 numbered and identified trees. These have been arranged aesthetically, not according to country of origin and species. In addition, every summer, Westonbirt hosts Britain's festival of contemporary garden design, modeled after the avant-garde festival of gardens at Chaumont-sur-Loire in France. Combining the art and the garden, raises the question of where an art installation starts and the garden begins? Last year, some designs were conceptual, some pure sculpture and others stretched the popular perception of a garden. The designers are limited to a maximum plot size of 200 square meters, and the only instruction is to create "ideas to steal." We may have time to take lunch in the new restaurant. Also, across the road is the Westonbirt School Gardens, a beautifully-maintained collection of gardens which some of you may find time to visit, that is if you don't waste time satisfying your earthly appetites.

In any event, we must depart by midday for Wisley, the RHS headquarters garden (250 acres) outside of London and not far from our hotel for this last night. George Fox Wilson, a former treasurer of the RHS established a famous woodland garden here in 1880. It was presented to the RHS around the turn of the century. In common with many gardens, it was devastated by the storms of 1987 and 1990 which presented the opportunity for exciting redevelopment. Impeccably planted and tended, it thrills thousands of visitors every year. It has one of the finest alpine gardens in Europe, a fine range of plants in the glasshouses and yards of deep, English, herbaceous borders. There is a whole series of "idea" gardens, many from Chelsea shows. There is also Penelope Hobhouse's new country garden, which a number of us visited before our 2002 tour to Scotland and northern England. There are a number of places to eat and the bookstore, gift shop, and nursery areas are not to be missed, all a fitting end to our trip. You wouldn't want to have hauled your purchases around all week.

We will spend our last night at the Cophthorne Hotel near Gatwick Airport, where we have ended the previous two

WHPS England trips. This is a new country hotel, and we have always enjoyed the final dinner at the restaurant's carvery.

June 20th, Sunday

Departure for home, or to any other gardens in England that your heart (and pocketbook) desire, on your own!

Cost

The cost, with 30 participants, will be approximately \$2200 per person. A single supplement is \$400. Note our quote is in English pounds, and this could go up or down a little over the course of the next year. Also, to save on the cost, payment must be received in cash by May 1, 2004. We also require a \$100 deposit per person to hold your spot, which is fully refundable. The cost does not include airfare, which should be between \$500 and \$800 per person if you watch the fares on the Internet.

What is included

All hotel accommodations with full breakfast. There will be 7 evening meals included.

The coach and guide Frankie McCabe are included, with pick up at Gatwick and final drop off at Gatwick or Heathrow on the 20th of June. Portage of one bag per person at each hotel is included.

Lunch will be provided on the 12th at Somerleyton Hall. Sandwich lunches will be provided on June 11 and the 18th. Coffee will be covered at the Priory on June 12. Tea will be provided at Glen Chantry on the 12th and Bodysgallen on the 17th.

Entry will be provided to all gardens, though it is expected that there will be enough RHS memberships among the group to get most of us into Hyde Hall, Westonbirt, and Wisley. (RHS members can bring along one guest to each garden).

What is not included

Airfare, two evening meals, and 6 lunches.

REGISTER FOR TRIP TO ENGLAND NOW!

To hold your spot on this tour, send a check for \$100 ASAP to Frank R. Greer, 925 Waban Hill, Madison, WI 53711. Also, please include your email address.

Fall Symposium—Olbrich Gardens Fall Symposium: Riches Thanks to Plant Explorers
Saturday, October 4 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

You can get great gardening ideas for next year's garden at Olbrich Gardens' Fall Symposium October 4, co-sponsored by Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society. This year's edition will focus on the vast riches of plant materials we are currently using or can expect to see due to plant explorations. In addition, there will be a large silent auction, with plants that reflect the symposium theme, donated by several nurseries.

Speakers

Judy Glattstein

The Asian Influence

Judy Glattstein is a garden consultant and author of seven gardening books, including *Enhance Your Garden with Japanese Plants* and the recently released *Consider the Leaf* and numerous magazine and newspaper articles. She is a popular instructor at the New York Botanical Garden and the Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education at Rutgers University and lectures widely both in the United States and abroad. She will present you with plants of Asian origin influencing our gardens. Website at www.bellewood-gardens.com

Gene Bush

Well, Did You Know? Relatives of Our Wildflowers

Gene Bush, lecturer, photographer, artist, and plantsman, owns Munchkin Nursery, a retail and mail order nursery specializing in woodland and dwarf wildflowers. He says, "There is an abundance of native plants to use in the shade or woodland garden. When you have grown the local species, what next? There are, in many cases, additional species around the world related to our locals. For example, we have two species of Jack in the Pulpit found in our native wood. There are over 140 other species around the world and many will do very well in our gardens. This presentation brings some of those relatives to your

attention." Check his nursery's website at www.munchkinnursery.com

Panayoti Kelaidis

Plant Exploration and Introduction

How does one find new species and introduce them to the public? Panayoti Kelaidis supervises the curatorial staff and helps direct the Denver Botanic Garden horticulture team on inventory, maintenance, interpretation and integrity for over 15,000 kinds of living plants. His far-reaching knowledge of horticulture has aided him in overseeing Plant Select®, a unique program that aides in plant introduction (www.plantselect.org). As a plant explorer, Panayoti has traveled the world over in search of new species and has spent extensive time in the mountains of Mexico, South America, Europe, South Africa and China. He will take us through the process of exploration and introduction.

Gwen Kelaidis

What to do with Those Plants Resulting from "Explorations"

Gwen, who has been editor of the *Rock Garden Quarterly*, owns two gardens with Panayoti in Denver. Their gardens have been featured in many articles, including *Sunset* and the *New York Times*. As gardeners they make a perfect team, with Gwen adding the design elements while Panayoti experiments with species from around the world. Of Panayoti's explorations, Gwen says, "the challenge is then finding room to fit in the new acquisitions." Not much different than we plantaholics bringing home those choice but unplanned discoveries from the nursery, Gwen will discuss how to "shoe-horn" in those acquisitions and yet maintain a design.

Fee includes continental breakfast buffet and lunch, \$75 member (Olbrich and/or WHPS)/\$95 public.

WHPS Milwaukee Trip September 27, 2003

WHPS Milwaukee Trip Reservation Form—September 27 2003

Cost is \$38; non-members pay an extra \$5.00

Minimum 30 persons, Maximum 44.

Name/s _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Emergency contact Name & Phone: _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____ (\$38 member; \$43 non-member)

I/we agree to release Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society and the coordinators of this tour from any liability for loss or injury of any kind while on this tour.

Signature/s: _____ Date: _____

Make check payable to: Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society
 Send check to: Sandra Allen, 6923 North Ave., Middleton, WI 53562
 Phone (608) 836-9602 E-mail: DSAMR@chorus.net

Due by September 10, 2003.

Tentative Schedule

- 8:00 a.m. board bus
(location yet to be determined)
- 9:30 Boerner Botanical Garden
(70 min.)
- 11:00 Milwaukee Art Museum
- 11:30 Charles Allis Art Museum
- 11:50 Villa Terrace Garden - Box
Lunch
- 1:15 p.m. The Garden Room
- 2:15 Costello Garden
- Tentative stops at Garden
Centers to be announced.
- 6:00-ish p.m. arrive Madison



Member tips and info



Place a compost box at the back of the garden and put a trellis on the front of the box with a climbing vine planted to disguise the compost box. —Carrol Schiller

Want to make an inexpensive stone bench? Find (or make) a level spot in your garden with a great vantage point. Go to a landscape center that sells large pieces of thin flagstone (which usually sells for around \$12 per 100 pounds) and pick out a piece that you would like to sit on. You will also need 4 concrete blocks. Stack two blocks at either end of the space you would like for your bench, making sure that the holds in the blocks are face down. Place the flagstone on top and you have a sturdy, long-lasting bench that costs less than \$20.
—Stephanie O'Neal



Member Question

I'm looking for ideas for getting rid of creeping bellflower (*campanula rapunculoides*, I think?). If anybody has a solution, I'd like to know. Thanks. —Mary Helen Becker (answers can be sent to sone2@aol.com)

Got a garden tip or idea for our members to use in their garden? Contact Stephanie O'Neal at sone2@aol.com

A thank-you to WHPS

We would like to express our gratitude to the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society for the wonderful donation of plants [plants remaining after the plant sale] this past spring. They made a great addition to our grounds and we are truly grateful. Thank you again!

—Joseph Culhane, Resident Services Coordinator, The Rodney Scheel House Foundation, Ltd.

Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society



**August 2003
Newsletter
925 Waban Hill
Madison, WI 53711**

President—Frank Greer (608-233-4686,
fgreer@sbcglobal.net)
Vice President—Diane Scharkey, dscharkey@aol.com
Recording Secretary/Olbrich Liaison—
Terri Maliszewski-Kane, terrimk1@hotmail.com
Treasurer—Barb Herreid, barb.herreid@usa.xerox.com
Board Members at Large
John Cannon, jtcannon@facstaff.wisc.edu
Jane LaFlash, jlafash@wisc.edu
Phyllis Sanner, phyllis_sanner20002000@yahoo.com
Co-Chairs, Travel Committee—
Ed Hasselkus, erhassel@facstaff.wisc.edu
Sandy Allen, DSAMR@chorus.net
Chair, Ways and Means Committee—
Web site—Rita Thomas
Publications—Stephanie O'Neal
(608-256-6108, sone2@aol.com)
Seed Exchange—Ruth Cadoret, rcadoret@wisc.edu

Someone you know interested in joining WHPS?

Contact WHPS Treasurer Barb Herreid at barb.herreid@usa.xerox.com or call (608) 271-9483