



*I feel a little old myself when I think how the first hard frost will turn this glorious excess to nothing but brown, limp rags. In a veritable instant—in terms of eternity—this clamorous life will be like the photographs on the highboy. A still, silent memory. But how lovely that it ever existed at all. —Anne Raver, **Deep in the Green.***

## WHPS COMING EVENTS!

**NEXT WEEK!! Wednesday, September 13**, 6:30 p.m. social hour, 7:00 p.m. program, Olbrich Gardens. Speaker will be **Anne Raver**, garden columnist for *The New York Times*. **Topic: Making a garden out of the family farm.** Her family's farm in western Maryland, which has been in the family for nearly 100 years, is one of the topics closest to her heart, and she has written extensively about its ecology, and about efforts to preserve it in the face of threatened development.

**NEXT WEEK!! Saturday, September 16**, 10:00-noon. **WHPS Plant Exchange** at the home of Stephanie O'Neal, 1850 Baird Street, Madison. Join us for this fun and FREE event. Members bring plants they have recently dug, or have bought and not yet used in their garden, free for the taking. You can also take a walk through Stephanie's 10-year-old garden, with trees, shrubs, perennials—and no grass! **Directions:** If you are coming from the University on Park Street, take a left on Wingra Drive (Arby's is there), then right on Beld, go over the railroad tracks and left on Kenward (Trigg's Plumbing is there), then, when Kenward ends, turn right (that's Baird). Stephanie's is the little white house (1850) on the right just before you get to the next street (which is Bram). If you are coming from the Beltline up Park Street, just past the light at Buick Street (Walgreen's is there) is a curve off to the right (that's Beld). Take it and then turn right at the next street (Bram). The second street (just past Fisher Street) is Baird. Turn left and Look for the little white house on the left.

**Wednesday, October 18**, 6:30 p.m. social hour, 7:00 p.m. program, Olbrich Gardens. **WHPS Annual Meeting, Seed Exchange and Member Potpourri.** If you have 10-15 slides/pictures of your garden you'd like to share with members, plan on presenting at our Annual Member Potpourri. **Members Present Their Gardens:** We want to make sure your presentation runs smoothly and shows off your garden at its best, so please call Stephanie O'Neal at 608-256-6108 or email her at sone2@aol.com to put you on the schedule. She will make sure you are contacted to confirm we have the equipment you need to assure a great presentation. **Seed Exchange:** Bring seeds you've collected to exchange with other members. We always have a great variety of seeds, from annuals to perennials. Seed Exchange will take place at 6:30 p.m. and then after the program.

**Wednesday, November 15, 2006** 6:30 p.m. social hour and seed exchange, 7:00 p.m. program. **Jim Stolzenburg**, Manager, Planning & Administration, **Bailey Nurseries** of St. Paul, Minnesota will discuss **New Plant Introductions**. He is recently retired and is now living in Madison.

**Wednesday, December 13, 6:30 p.m.** social hour, 7:00 p.m. meeting. Guest speaker is **Roberta Sladky**, **new Director of Olbrich Botanical Gardens**. This will be a great opportunity for members to meet Roberta and welcome her to WHPS.

**Sunday, January 21, 2007**, 10:00 a.m., Commons at Olbrich Gardens. **WHPS Potluck Brunch. Frank Greer will present the 2006 WHPS trip to Cornwall, England.**

## Other Events of Note

Ed Hasselkus invites WHPS members to attend the next meeting of the **Wisconsin Woody Plant Society (WWPS)** on **Saturday, Sept. 30** in Madison at 10 a.m. at Olbrich Gardens for a tour with Jeff Epping, Horticulture Director and then 1:00 p.m. at Longenecker Horticultural Gardens, UW Arboretum for a tour with Ed, who is the curator. A plant exchange will take place upon arrival at 1 p.m.

**Rotary Gardens 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Plant Sale September 9-17.** (See page two for full info.)

## WHPS By-laws updated

The Board of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society has recently drafted an update of the organization's by-laws. Copies of the by-laws will be available at the WHPS Annual Meeting October 18, where they will be presented for approval by the membership.

## From JANESVILLE ROTARY GARDENS

### 8TH ANNUAL FALL PLANT SALE

September 9-17, 9 am - 5 pm Daily  
Horticulture Center (follow signs off of Palmer Drive)  
Perennials, Bulbs, Shrubs, Gigantic Mums and much more!  
Call Mark at (608) 754-1779 with questions.

### Post-Vandalism at Rotary Gardens

The gardens continue to look beautiful and we've recovered from the vandalism of June 20th with the exception of obtaining replacement urns, benches, etc. Three individuals (19, 16 and 15 years old) were arrested in relation to this incident and are going thru the legal red tape right now. A heartfelt thank-you to all of those that supported Rotary Gardens thru this horrific ordeal. Contributions, donations of time and general support have been monumental and much appreciated. We are looking at increased security options and hope that future incidents such as this will be avoided. Thank you again and please come visit us soon!

—Mark Dwyer, Director of Horticulture

## Have you read these books?

- **Creating a Perennial Garden in the Midwest**, Joan Severa
- **The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: Planting and Pruning Techniques**, Traci DiSabato-Aust
- **Gardening with Conifers**, Adrian Bloom
- **A Garden of Conifers**, Robert A. Obrizok
- **Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation & Uses**, Michael A. Dirr
- **Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs: An Illustrated Encyclopedia**, Michael A. Dirr
- **Pests, Diseases and Disorders of Garden Plants**, Keith Harris
- **The Complete Shade Gardener**, George Schenk
- **American Horticultural Society A to Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants**, H. Marc Cathey, Christopher Brickell

And a great read if you're just starting out:

- **A Starter Garden: The Guide for the Horticulturally Hapless**, Cheryl Merser, Simon Dorell

*Do you have a gardening book you'd like to recommend? Let us know why and email the title to sone2@aol.com.*

## A hummingbird tale

While I was working in my garage potting up some plants one day in late May I kept hearing a loud buzzing sound and then something bumping against the window. Thinking it was maybe a bumblebee or June bug, I ignored it at first. But as it continued for a while I decided to investigate further, and to my surprise what did I find but a male ruby-throated hummingbird completely entangled in a huge spider web hanging from the ceiling!

I carefully pulled down the web with him inside and delicately cradled him in my hand. He sat there very still as I gently pulled the spider web from his tiny wings and long beak. One wing was sticking out at an odd angle and I feared it was broken. Then I remembered that a hummingbird's wings go in all directions when they fly so I tucked it back up against his body where it belonged. He felt light as a feather in the palm of my hand and I stood there in awe admiring him as the sun glinted off his ruby red throat and iridescent blue-green body.

After almost five minutes resting in my hand he took a short upward test flight to see if everything was okay. Then off he flew, straight over to my hummingbird feeder, where he sat and drank and drank and drank for the next ten minutes or so, refueling after his ordeal.

The next morning when I came out of my garage a hummingbird buzzed me briefly before flying off to visit the flowers. Was he saying "Thank you"? Well the pleasure was all mine, as I know I will never forget the day I held this precious jewel of the bird world in my hand!



—Jane Gahlman

## Contribute to the newsletter

Do you have a plant you're crazy about and want to let everyone know it? Would you like to tell us about your garden? Do you have any special garden tricks, tips or hints you'd like to share? Have you recently taken a tour of a garden you'd like to advise us to visit? If you answered yes to any of the above, send your comments to sone2@aol.com, or mail them to Stephanie O'Neal at 1850 Baird Street, Madison, WI 53713.

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## On 10 years of gardening

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I came to gardening after 25 years of nomadic apartment living. Houseplants, yes, but nothing extreme, save for a foray into succulents in 1974. My only outdoor gardening experience had been planting a row of marigolds and the occasional trimming of mom and dad's bridal-wreath spirea when I was in high school. So when I found the perfect house 10 years ago and saw the big yard out back (which was then covered with 8 inches of snow), I knew there would be regular mowing and planting of a few shrubs and annuals (perennials, what are they?).

But when spring came I realized that the topography was going to be tough as I got older—do I really want to mow a four-foot bank once or twice a week when I'm 65? What to do? So I went to the library and proceeded to check out every book I could on gardening, landscaping and plants to see if I could make my future life outdoors an easier one. And then my friend Colleen gave me a membership in the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society and my life as a gardener really began. To see the great gardens that have been created right here in Madison and have a chance to get to know those gardeners was invaluable in spurring me to do more in my garden. And then came my first WHPS plant sale and the knowledge that I could find the very plants I had admired in other gardens at prices that I could afford—well, the flood-gates opened!

And of course I had to make lists: Lists of plants to buy, lists of where to put the plants, lists of things to build to allow for more enjoyment and better display of the plants. And there were winters to review the lists and plan for spring. And then each spring would come and I'd essentially throw out the list when the old grape arbor fell over, or half the honeysuckle tree came down, or I had a chance to buy this or that shrub at such a price that I couldn't resist and now I have to create a bed to put it in. Not to mention my fairy gardening mother calling me to say she is thinning out her shade bed and do I want some seedlings? Absolutely! (Forget the fact that I had very little shade and had to make a bed in the only place possible in one or two nights before the plants took a turn for the worse.)

After 10 years of bed-making and shrub-planting and eliminating a little bit more grass each year, that daunting topography is now my treasure, adding interest and beauty to every morning walk through the garden. And now I have no grass, just paths and beds. And now my garden is "full." But no, it's never full, maybe I can make room for something new by giving away something to a neighbor or a new gardener—or offer it at the plant sale—or reorganize the bed to make room for new finds, as evidenced by the 18 hours spent this last week widening paths and moving things from here to there to make room for those Endless Summer Hydrangeas bought at Home Depot for \$9.99. Or that *Pinus strobus* 'Pendula' and *Acer Griseum* that I had to have, especially since Enchanted Valley Gardens has everything marked 50% off!

So from a fescue lawn with three black locusts, a gazillion-year-old honeysuckle tree, an overgrown privet hedge, two mock oranges informally trained into trees, a red barberry, an old grape arbor, many ostrich ferns and some ageopodium (why oh why did I move that from the nicely contained north side of my house to the bank behind my garage?), I stand before you a gardener through and through, a gardener obsessed, a gardener in love with the very idea of gardening, who—dare I even be so immodest—now considers herself a garden "artist." Oh, not a Jekyll or a Verey or a Lloyd or a Chatto, but someone who feels the need to put plants together and experiences a sweet satisfaction when the chance arises to sit and look at this wonderland in my own backyard.

And reflect on the best 10 years of my life.

(Until I notice that garlic mustard trying to make its way from my neighbor's yard to mine, and how could I have missed that oxalis in among the columbine, and is that bindweed inching up my baptisia?...)

—Stephanie O'Neal

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## WHPS Plant Sale Update

As noted in the last newsletter, The Pet Lodge has been the host of the Plant Sale since 1999, but with its recent sale, WHPS is now **looking for a new home** for this annual event, typically held the third Saturday of May (with setup the day before). Ideally, it would be a space that offered coverage in the event of rain, with plenty of parking available. If you know of a site that might be available, please contact Stephanie O'Neal at 608-256-6108; sone2@aol.com.

For the past few years Ruth Cadoret has been the organizer of the plant digs from member gardens that supply the majority of the plants for the annual Plant Sale. Ruth will not be able to coordinate the digs next year, and WHPS is looking for someone who can work with the dig hosts to identify dates for the digs, schedule volunteers to work the digs and make sure arrangements are made for supplies to be dropped off at the dig sites. Ruth will be happy to provide training in advance (she has it very well organized), and it might be possible to arrange for this activity to alternate yearly between Ruth and the new volunteer dig coordinator. If you are interested in volunteering to **coordinate the digs in 2007** (the time involvement runs from late March through the second week in May), please contact Ruth Cadoret at rcadoret@wisc.edu, or Stephanie O'Neal at 608-256-6108, sone2@aol.com

## WHPS goes to England



This past June a group of WHPS members spent 10 days visiting gardens in Cornwall, England. Later this year, WHPS contributor “A. Hort Hound” will provide a full wrap-up on the trip; but in the meantime, we thought you’d enjoy the comments of some of the other members who took the trip.

**From Cathie Richards:** This was my first trip with the WHPS to England (and I would do it again!); however, this was not my first trip to England, as I had been there a few times before but the trips were not gardening related. All of the gardens we visited were outstanding in their own way, but I think my favorites were those that were planned and cared-for by the owners of the property—in other words those not tended to by a head gardener and those under him. While these gardens were lovely and preserved the original intent of the landowners, they lacked the personal investment and touch of the individual gardener who gardened out of interest in gardening and delight in plants. The most fun adventure was on the bus, driving down the narrow country lanes—they nominally are two lanes, but with a large bus(coach), we took up nearly the whole road!! Meeting the hay wagon on one of these country lanes, and having to back up for nearly a mile with Frank directing, was an event I shall never forget! My memories of the trip go far beyond the gardens we saw—there were the individuals we met along the way, the wonderful hotels we stayed at, the spectacular meals we enjoyed (too much!!). Frank Greer along with his travel agency in England did an outstanding job of planning and organizing. The bus driver we had was terrific, as well—good-natured, calm and helpful.

**From Keith Anderson:** The most outstanding garden was Cothay Manor. The owner/guide was obviously very involved in the planning, execution and maintenance of the garden. She had charming stories to relate regarding the making of the gardens and the people that had come through over the years. Many beautiful gardens in one! One of the plant combinations I’d like to have in my garden is the Rose centranthus and purple foxglove (wild in England). What was the funniest thing that happened on the trip? While walking through the vast landscape garden of Painshill Park, I was walking beside Becky Oftedah. The scale and beauty of the 250-year-old trees and landscape was overwhelming. At one point, almost musing to herself, Becky said, “And to think, he (the original owner) did all this with money he didn’t even have.” It was true! Our guide Frankie made a big deal of describing English “Cream Tea” as we approached one garden where they would have it. A very English tradition of tea, scones, rich clotted cream and strawberry jam. We enjoyed it at that garden and a few more times throughout the trip. Yum!

**From Peg Luby:** I’ve been to England several times, but this was my first time with WHPS. I loved Lamorran on the Roseland Peninsula. It had a Mediterranean feel and you discovered something wonderful either looking in front or behind you as you traveled the path to the water. There were several plants I’d love to have in my garden. If I have enough sun there were several I noted at Bosvigo, a wonderful home garden: *Astrantia major* ‘Hadspen Blood’; Black lace elderberry; *Thalictrum minus*. Early in the trip I dropped my brand new digital camera in the toilet!! But as a result I felt very liberated, not having to take pictures of every wonderful thing I saw. And so I often joined Ed Hasselkus, who was also not taking pictures. As a result I probably learned a whole lot more. The people on the trip were great. The Meudon Hotel was a gem, both for the accommodations and the wonderful food. Also, I was pleasantly surprised that the English pub food was so good. (I’ll bet you can tell I’m a dietitian!)

**From Eleanor Rodini:** This was my second trip with WHPS to England, the last one being to Wales two years ago. In some ways I thought Cornwall was more beautiful than Wales—certainly it was milder in temperature and less wild in feeling. I loved the way the undulating hills were divided by the thick, dark hedgerows. I cannot really choose a favorite garden. I found the large estates like Wakehurst and Painshill Park, while full of wonderful trees, shrubs, and even flower beds, too overwhelming and “remote.” I preferred the smaller gardens, ones that I could relate to in some way. I especially liked the gardens where one felt the interest and passion of the owner/gardener, such as Cothay Manor, where the owner was so worried about her young locust trees and asked Ed for advice. The owners of the Manor House, which was being restored to the original Gertrude Jekyll, were also intensely involved. Though hardly small, I also loved Lamorran, where the head gardener gave us a tour and really cared about the garden. I’ve never seen a more impeccably maintained or lush estate. Many of the plants we saw would not survive in Wisconsin, but I did make note of a few cultivars I would like to try to find. And at Sticky Wicket, a garden as whimsical as its name, I saw a combination of a pink Geranium and purple Cimicifuga that took my fancy. Perhaps the garden of the Meudon Hotel, where we spent four nights, was as pleasant as any we visited. The path down the ravine to the tiny beach was full of tree ferns and huge Gunnera. I have a fantastic picture taken from underneath. The leaf looks like a enormous scalloped umbrella. Perhaps the funniest incident on the trip was when our bus was driving down a very narrow lane, with walls and thick hedges on either side, and encountered a fully loaded haywagon coming up. As the driver of the haywagon had no rearview mirror, our bus was the vehicle that had to back up. It took a good 20 minutes to achieve this and Frank had to go out and assist our bus driver as he inched his way back up the hill.

## HELP WANTED



### SCHÖNHEIT GARDENS

**3577 Bailey Road**  
**Sun Prairie, WI 53590**  
Phone (608) 441-9832  
Fax (608) 441-8885

**Horticulturalist:** Perennial nursery with landscaping division looking for team members interested in learning more about ornamental horticultural with hands on experience in planting/maintaining seasonal and perennial gardens for residential properties in the Madison, WI area. Full time position includes health insurance, and educational benefits. Part-time positions also available. Pay based on education and/or experience. Students are encouraged to apply.

**Nursery grower:** Small perennial nursery, interesting in expanding growing operations is looking for a trained grower for bedding plants, perennials and shrubs. IPM familiarity and pesticide applicators license required (can acquire license once employed). 2007 position will be 20 hours/week, with full-time offered in 2008 (with benefits package). Students are encouraged to apply.

Please send letter of interest, resume, and three work references to above address, ATTN: Heidi Kuhman.

## Potluck recipes

Once again WHPS members enjoyed a great evening of food and gardens at the August Potluck dinner and walk through Olbrich Gardens. Here are just a couple of recipes that were requested by many after the event.

### Brioche Bread Pudding

*Bon Appetit*, Feb. 1999. Submitted by Eleanor Rodini

1 1-pound brioche or egg bread loaf, crusts trimmed and reserved, bread cut into 1/2-inch cubes (See note)  
8 large eggs  
2 cups whipping cream  
2 cups whole milk  
2 cups sugar  
1/4 cup hazelnut liqueur or amaretto  
1 tablespoon vanilla extract  
1/2 teaspoon almond extract

Place bread cubes in a 13 x 9 x 2-inch baking pan. Whisk eggs, whipping cream, milk, sugar, liqueur, vanilla extract and almond extract in a large bowl to blend. Pour over bread cubes. Let stand 30 minutes, occasionally pressing bread into custard mixture. (Can be prepared 2 hours ahead. Cover and refrigerate.)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Arrange reserved bread crusts on baking sheet and bake until dry, about 10 minutes. Cool. Maintain oven temperature. Transfer crusts to food processor and grind until fine crumbs form. Sprinkle 1 cup crust crumbs over top of pudding. Bake until pudding is set in center, about 40 minutes. Cool slightly. Serve warm. Serves 8 to 10.

Note: I had leftover yeast dinner rolls (from Sam's Club - about \$3 for a package of 36). I simply peeled off the top crust and broke the rolls into 1 inch chunks. I did not toast and grind up the reserved bread as directed. I just sprinkled the top with cinnamon after it was baked.

### Black Bean Dip

*Recipe courtesy Dan Smith and Steve McDonagh. Submitted by Bill Hoernke*

1 plum tomato, diced  
2 tablespoons diced red onion  
1 tablespoon cilantro, chopped, plus sprigs for garnish  
2 15-ounce cans black beans, drained  
1 tablespoon ground cumin  
2 teaspoons hot sauce  
Salt  
Tortilla chips, for dipping

Place the tomato, onion and cilantro into the bowl of a food processor and pulse until well chopped. Add the black beans, cumin, hot sauce and salt, to taste. Pulse until the mixture is mostly smooth. Scrape into a decorative bowl and garnish with cilantro sprigs. Serve with tortilla chips.

Yield: 4 cups  
Prep Time: 5 minutes  
Ease of preparation: Easy

Bill Hoernke's suggestions: Instead of a plum tomato and hot sauce, just use a couple tablespoons of salsa. Don't chop things too fine otherwise it looks too soupy. You can easily scale the recipe back to one can of beans and use as much onion and cilantro as you like.

Have fun with this healthy dip!



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



**One-touch weed stopper.**

If you want to use glyphosate (found in "Roundup") to rid your garden of a particular pesky weed but are afraid accidentally damaging "good" plants, pour Roundup into an office squeeze bottle moistener with a sponge tip, and apply it to the leaves of the offending weed. The direct application is great for close quarters and keeps the glyphosate from affecting any other plants.

—Judy Crandall



**Member in print**

The Fall 2006 Olbrich Garden News "Around the Neighborhood" column included an interview with Olbrich volunteer and WHPS board member Jane LaFlash. If you would like to volunteer at Olbrich Gardens, call 608-246-4550.

**Made for each other—Tulips and Hostas**

One fall gardening tip that I have is to plant tulip bulbs between your hosta plants. I try to use mid-season tulips, since they are usually finished blooming when the hosta are just starting to poke out of the ground. Late tulips work well too. In one area, I've planted nice big white late tulips that look nice with the fresh hosta leaves. I've done both mass plantings of tulips in my hosta beds and also clumps with 8-12 bulbs each between the hosta plants. Those spring bulbs really help brighten things up and get you in the gardening mood.



—Bill Hoernke

**WHPS Web site: [www.madison.com/communities/wisconsinhardyplantsociety/](http://www.madison.com/communities/wisconsinhardyplantsociety/)**

*Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society*



**September 2006  
Newsletter  
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**Someone you know interested in joining WHPS?**

Contact WHPS Treasurer Laurie Zimmerman at whps05@yahoo.com, (608) 838-4477