



### WHPS COMING EVENTS!

All meetings are 6:30 social time, 7:00 p.m. program at Olbrich Gardens Commons, 3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison, unless otherwise noted.

**Wednesday, September 17, 2008, Laura Jull, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison Dept. of Horticulture and Extension Services, will discuss her ***Favorite Woody Plants***. Laura teaches landscape plant ID, culture and use and conducts extensive research in plant evaluation and selection.

**Saturday, September 20, 2008, Member Plant Exchange** at the home of Jan and Bill Minardi on the Southwest side at 6310 Putnam Road. [More information and directions in article below.](#)

**Wednesday, October 15, 2008, My Improbable Garden**, with speaker **Ellen Horning**, proprietor of Seneca Hill Perennials in Oswego, NY, one of the most respected specialty nurseries in the country (<http://www.senecahillperennials.com/>). Ellen will present some of the less probable plants in her garden and why she thinks they are successful, in part because she has “come to cheerfully trash the use of hardiness zones.”

**October 18, 2008, 1:00 PM - Longenecker Gardens Tour.** In appreciation for the donations WHPS has given over the years to Longenecker Horticultural Gardens, Emeritus Professor of Horticulture Ed Hasselkus will give us a tour of the garden. Ed has been the curator of this garden for 42 years. We'll meet on the steps of the McKay Visitor's Center.

**Wednesday, November 19, 2008, The Low Maintenance Roses of William J. (Bill) Radler.** Bill is best known for developing the “KNOCK OUT” family of roses, and for hybridizing disease-resistant roses. He was recently honored as a Great Rosarians of the Year recipient for 2008.

**Tuesday, December 10, Annual Meeting, Seed Exchange and Member Potpourri.** Always a fun event, with the Seed Exchange at 6:30 p.m. (and continued after the meeting), followed by the Annual Meeting and then presentations by some of our members of photos and video from their gardens. If you want to learn more about saving seeds and the Seed Exchange, go to our Web site at <http://www.madison.com/communities/wisconsinhardyplantsociety/> (can also Google “Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society”) and click on “Newsletter Articles” to find *Sept 2002 Seed Exchange FAQ*.

**Sunday, January 18, 2009, Member Potluck and Program.** 10:00 a.m.-noon. A winter walk through Olbrich Gardens, a chance to catch up with friends, great food and a brief program of pictures from the trip to Ireland.

### WHPS Member Plant Exchange September 20!

ANY EXTRA PLANTS FROM YOUR GARDEN OR PLANTS YOU CAN'T FIND A PLACE FOR?

Join us Saturday, September 20 for this fun and FREE event, 10:00 a.m.-noon. at the home of Jan and Bill Minardi, 6310 Putnam Road, Madison. Bring any plants—perennials, shrubs, trees, annuals for taking cuttings (we've even seen some houseplants). Members bring plants they have recently dug, are thinning or dividing or have bought and not yet used in their garden—free for the taking. Last year we had everything from huge clumps of hosta, daylilies, sedum and other perennials to 3-foot tall viburnums and other shrubs and tree seedlings.

Plants are brought between 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. The actual exchange won't start until 10:30 (gives us a chance to see what's available for taking). Plants can be brought in pots or bags. Sticks will be provided for labeling. You are also welcome to tour the garden and enjoy a refreshment.

**DIRECTIONS.** Via Verona Road: turn west on Williamsburg Way (M&I time & temp sign). In about one mile, at Prairie Road, Williamsburg becomes Putnam Road. The Minardis are at the next corner, just before Sara Road tees in.

Directions via Whitney Way: Take Whitney south until it tees into Williamsburg Way. Turn right (same as above).

Directions via McKenna: Take McKenna south of Raymond Road to an intersection that is Canterbury Road to the right and Putnam to the left. Turn left go up over the hill about half a mile to the corner of Putnam and Sara Road.

The success of the plant exchange depends on your participation. Bring your plants and be prepared to take some nice things home to add to your garden!

## The Last Garden

### A few ruminations from this year's trip to Ireland

#### From Jill Hynum

The last garden we visited on our Ireland trip was one of my favorites. It's named Terra Nova and it's in County Limerick. It's only half an acre, but it feels larger. There are many rooms, all very different and distinct. One of the garden's features is a Thai pavilion inspired by the owners' trip to Thailand. They created a rectangular deck painted black with a roof over it. Then they furnished it with some Thai mementos and surrounded it with plants that suggest an Asian setting. I was a little bewildered by the remote control I found on the table until I looked up and saw the flat screen TV suspended from the ceiling. I guess they don't want to get too far away from it all when they're in the garden.



Another area of the garden was a small, circular space filled with pigs. You could peek in at them from a couple of small openings. Otherwise, they were hidden away in their own, secret garden.

#### From Galen Gates

I thought the trip was incredible start to finish. Hats off to Frank Greer for all he does on these excursions!! My favorite garden was the last one we saw with the couple who really "feel" the garden and the natural world—combinations were so well done!

#### From Marlette Larson

The photo (next column) is of MOST of our group after the Medieval Banquet at Knappogue Castle. Some people are missing because they were still shopping in the Castle shop (after all, Frank is not known for letting us loose in a store, so some were feeling quite shopping-deprived at the end of the trip). The gardens on our Irish trip did not have nice garden shops like the English gardens!

#### From Penny Torhorst

Even though shopping was not allowed on this wonderful tour of Irish gardens, I did manage to buy a chimney topper. They are used on top of chimney pots to keep the starlings from nesting or visiting inside the houses. They were on chimney tops everywhere. Luckily I was able to buy one at the Wiseman garden. He was a retired hardware store owner who had the best (my opinion) garden of all we visited. As we left, Frank blinked and I darted into the store. It was 11 Euros and a challenge to pack but it found a happy spot on top of one of my garden chimney pots. It was a wonderful trip and I would go on any WHPS trip offered. The WHPS gardeners were knowledgeable and generous with info sharing and they were good sports.

#### From Cathie Richards

All of the gardens were (each in its own way) special and unique unto themselves. The people were ever so friendly; the



scenery spectacular. But what I remember most is the kindness and concern shown by the members of our touring group toward those who became ill during various parts of the trip!

#### From Jane Gahlman

My favorite garden from the Ireland trip was the very last garden we visited called Terra Nova, with Deborah Begley and her husband on a half-acre of heaven packed with rare wild plants from the Himalayas, Japan, and China. Terra Nova won the Viking/Irish Garden Award for Top Garden in Ireland in 2005.

The garden consisted of many small garden rooms with themes such as the Fairy garden in the woods, a rose and clematis arbor walkway next to willow pigs grazing peacefully in a grassy circle, the spacious Thai deck with seating and cement elephant statues, a beach scene complete with sand and seashells, the cat house, many colorful containers planted with annuals and tropicals, a tastefully decorated tea room, several water features, a funhouse mirror on the side of the house, an all metal poodle statue holding balloons, many other statues, benches, stained glass and garden ornaments throughout the garden and winding pathways that take you from one picturesque scene to another.

Check out their website at <http://www.terranovaplants.com/> They operate a small mail-order nursery from within the garden.

#### A recipe from the Ireland Trip Woodville Elderflower Cordial

20 flower heads (depending on size)  
2 lemons - zested and sliced  
2 pints of water  
4 lbs of sugar  
2 1/2 oz. Citric acid

Dissolve sugar in water and bring to a boil. Pour over the flowerheads, lemon zest, lemon slices, and citric acid. Let sit for 24 hours. Strain mixture and pour into clean bottles. Add sparkling or still water to a small amount of the cordial (to taste).

—Jill Hynum

## Foxfire, Rusted Fun, Beauty by the Lake and Shopping!

July 26 was one of the more beautiful days of this summer—not too hot, clear and sunny—a great day for a bus ride north to the Marshfield area to tour some gardens!



### Foxfire

Our first stop, Foxfire Botanical Gardens. Dr. Stephen and Linda Schulte purchased the former tree plantation in 1978. They established the gardens as Foxfire in 1985 and it became an official Botanical Garden in 2002, now in trust for future generations of garden visitors. It is also an official National Hosta Display Garden for the American Hosta Society.

Japanese principles have guided the growth of the garden. Even with 50 or more individuals walking through the garden, the experience of it was private, quiet and intimate. Near the entrance, the roots of three old trees are left upended—a reminder of the cycle of life and death.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious box lunch in the teahouse (with no mosquitoes in the middle of July!).

And the shop at the far end of the gardens offered many specialty hostas and items in keeping with the Foxfire philosophy of gardening.

A brochure researched and written by L.K. Schulte describes the Foxfire *East vs. West Philosophy of Gardening*.

### Beliefs

- Nature is perfect—accepts nature and seasonal differences
- Accepts the cycle of life and death—deformed trees are honored.
- Man cannot compete with nature

***A real garden where one can enter in and forget the whole world cannot be made in a day, a month or a lifetime. It must be planned for, and waited for, and loved into being...***

—Ancient Chinese Proverb

### Architectural Design

- Creates symbolic significances
- Humbles man

### Balance

- Asymmetry is the rule
- Plant in 1-3-5 odd numbered groupings
- YIN and YANG male and female always in balance—male components are all plantings; female components are soil, rocks and sand (Mother Earth)

### Bloom

- A garden blooms twice—“Once in the spring and then again with the first snow in winter”

### Color

- Earth Tones—Spring-subtle buds; Summer-berries provide texture, color and interest; Autumn-leaves of yellow and crimson; Winter-black structures draped in white snow.

### Composition

- Emphasize elements of natural design
- Plant with restraint and spaciousness
- Use limited varieties of plantings
- Use of few structures for strength of garden spirit
- Use few to no annuals or perennials
- Combine plants found naturally in nature

### Form

- Form is maintained in gardens through the use of rocks and mounds
- Garden form recognized in all seasons

### Gates-Roof Lines

- Moongate-Chinese Buddhist
- Torii Gate-Japanese Shinto
- Tea House-Landscape from inside to out
- Hedge Gate-Borrowed scenery

### Line

- Pathways are irregular and curved—“Unexpected as life is”
- Knolls, mounds and small areas are used
- Lay out leads visitors through the garden
- Surprise “gift” planted around every corner

### Pruning

- To reveal the true nature of the plant
- Cut back, shape, contort symbolically
- Cut to reveal uniqueness

### Rocks

- Rocks maintain garden form
- Use many rocks, partially buried, 3-style forms
- Exciting—2-3 times taller than wide-standing
- Restful—as high as wide-sitting
- Peaceful—low close to ground—sleeping
- Use of rocks completes balance and symbolism

### Water

- Water falls down naturally as in nature

*If you want restful or peaceful surroundings, then plant plants, use stones, and incorporate mounds that are more peaceful and restful in design and the result is true serenity.*

Next stop, Jurustic Park →



## Foxfire Trip, continued

### Jurustic Park

A short walk down the road from Foxfire is Jurustic Park.



The fish you see above are just a few of the remarkable creatures to be found in the park. The following is an introduction to the park excerpted from the park's Web site.

Jurustic park is a result of “the efforts of amateur paleontologist Clyde Wynia to excavate and recreate as best as possible the now extinct creatures that inhabited the large McMillan Marsh near Marshfield, Wisconsin during the Iron Age. The flesh and bones of all the marsh creatures were ferrous metal, usually mild steel, but occasionally stainless, high carbon or various types of more exotic alloys. Many of the iron species died out when farming and industry moved into the area in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. The creatures were often harvested for their parts that were then used in farm and industrial machinery. Over-harvesting eventually led to extinction of many species. Other species became extinct when acid rain caused them to rust over. Good rust inhibitors, which could have slowed the oxidation, were not readily available to these creatures to save them from the corrosive effects of increasing industrial pollution.”

We were welcomed by Clyde himself, a retired attorney who now devotes himself fully to the care and maintenance of the creatures. His wife Nancy works in their self-built “Hobbit House,” a studio and shop for her hot glass works, fibers and soft sculpture.

A few of us were brave enough to adopt a creature and many found some lovely glass jewelry to take home as well.

If you want to adopt a creature of your own, you'll have to visit Jurustic Park to do it. They have an unbreakable rule that all sales take place in person at the park. To see more of these delightful creatures, go to their Web site ([www.jurustic.com](http://www.jurustic.com)).

### Herreid Private Garden

Barb Herreid gardened for years in two locations—Fitchburg and Nekoosa. A few years ago she and her husband sold the Fitchburg home and moved permanently to their house on the lake in Nekoosa.

We were greeted by Barb and welcomed through a white clematis-covered picket fence. The beds are arranged with a

variety of trees, shrubs, perennials, with containers of annuals incorporated everywhere.

The anchor of the garden is a spectacular waterfall at the back of the house near the sunporch and deck, accented with water annuals, grasses and perennials.



Barb Herreid (left) and guests

And the lake and pier provide a bright, open backdrop for the beds of annuals at the base of the garden.

### Russell's Farm Market

Our last stop of the day was Russell's Farm Market near Plainfield. The name seemed to indicate a small roadside market with fresh vegetables and perhaps some cut flowers. Little did we know...

We were asked how much time we needed and agree that 45 minutes would be enough.

All of us were surprised and pleased to find an extensive nursery that included new varieties of perennials and quite a few unusual dwarf conifers and shrubs, all at very reasonable prices.



More shopping to do?

The combination of unusual and reasonably priced made for a great, end-of-day shopping spree. Forty-five minutes turned into one hour plus.

The promise of planting all of our purchases was the perfect end to a beautiful day of garden touring.

—Stephanie O'Neal

## Volunteer Opportunities— Allen Centennial Gardens

As most of you know, I have started a new position that is in itself a new position, director of Allen Centennial Gardens on the UW Madison campus. This is an exciting opportunity for me since this is the garden where I first became interested in public garden administration and UW is where I got my graduate degree.

It is typical that there are major trends in the green industry that change over time. When that happens, all of us involved in horticulture-based businesses must adapt to meet new needs for new audiences. This is especially true for a University-based garden that is reaching its 20th birthday, and I have some grand visions of where to take it in the next 10-20 years. I will be forming an advisory board to help me achieve these goals and attending a special two-day seminar on garden planning and design put on by the American Public Garden Assoc., so much of the planning for the next stage will be occurring this winter.

One of my major goals is to further enhance the Gardens to meet the mission of providing horticultural education as an outdoor classroom to students, industry professionals and public. Like most gardens, funding is limited (ACG is self-funded; no revenue comes from the state or university) so I rely heavily on volunteer labor and expertise.

I am offering interested individuals the opportunity to work with me on this vision in one of the community's botanical treasures. Parking IS available for volunteers; I know that is a concern. I am looking for any area of horticulture expertise—from novice to experts—who can mentor specialized garden areas. It is my hope that volunteering will help you expand your knowledge, as well as allow you to educate others. In an effort to make this more than just work, I will be providing special volunteer opportunities such as ACG garden classes and presentations, trips, tours and other incentives that will allow us all to expand our horticultural horizons. I will explore any and all suggestions of how we can make this a total group experience, not just labor in the Gardens.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact me at [eslyon@wisc.edu](mailto:eslyon@wisc.edu) or 608-576-2501. Come grow with us!

—Ed Lyon

### Pots & Flats for Plant Sale 2009

Do you have any extra pots or flats to contribute to the plant digs for the 2009 WHPS Plant Sale?

We are looking in particular for 4-inch pots, one-gallon pots, 4-inch flats, one-gallon pot flats or flat flats.

**If you have some to contribute, drop them off at the home of Stephanie O'Neal, 1850 Baird Street, Madison (can leave them at the garage door).** She'd like to get them by November 1 in order to store them away before winter arrives and have them ready for the digs in April next year.

## More Memories and Inspiration from Ireland

The tour of the Irish gardens in June this year inspired me and tickled that creative urge.

I have forgotten the names, but never the gardens, with their stunning cabbage-sized roses, and the groomed paths with their twists and turns. Weren't they whimsical, though? That's what I brought back. The wild little river rushing around black rocks, the nymph washing her hair in the midst of a circle of ferns, the hidden, leafy path circling down near the road, with a lovely urn at its end, the many benches and tables for resting and contemplating bits of the view.

So I came home and restlessly wandered off to the rear northeast corner of my busy garden, where my senses always get smothered in useless green. Tree branches too low to walk under, the path around the garden berm about two feet wide and overlapped by enormous ferns and greedy ginger, and a mighty invasion of *Lamium galeobdolon*, with its six-foot rooting tendrils. Off with its head!

I actually got busy and did it. Yes, I hired help to tear out plants in a wide shape. But I myself pruned the lovely and graceful Korean maple up a few feet, creating an even more beautiful form. I also moved a lovely specimen of *Hosta Brimcup* to the focal point, and set up my little stone statue of the baby Bacchus and his two drunken buddies beside it under the tree. I moved a few common hostas to form the border of the soft cedar expanse, and voila! I have a vista to remind me forever of those we saw in Ireland.

But my favorite memory was the day I wandered off alone, to the left, on a marked path, while (whilst?) the others walked up a long hill to see a rose garden. I came upon an arrow marked "Ring Fort" and followed it through a leprechaun woods to a clearing and a low mound, and my own private visit to a ruined stone ring, complete with its suterrains capped with flat stones. I sat there for a good half hour, wondering. Over a thousand years old, quiet and mysterious, a place where a family sheltered from weather and perhaps enemies. That is what I will always remember about Ireland.

A brief daylily note: It is August 14 as I write. Cleaning up the sad remains of early bloomers, I still find one special late daylily brightening the front garden every day, with many buds left. My old planting of 'Gift of Love' is simply stunning, with its amazing bud count and brilliant combination of rich pink petals and orange eyes. No frills, no great bloom size, but a very full plant, still fresh and gorgeous so late in the season.

—Joan Severa

### Next trip—Gardens in South Carolina

The WHPS Trip Committee is already planning the next trip—three-four days to South Carolina over the weekend of March 28-29, 2009. The trip will coincide with the Charleston Garden Clubs Annual Tour of historic homes and gardens and the group will also visit Brookgreen Gardens, 75 miles north of Charleston. Look for specific dates and more information in our next newsletter.

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

**Web sites/blogs**

Below (in no particular order) are just a few Web sites and blogs suggested for furthering your garden interests.

- <http://www.coldclimategardening.com>
- <http://www.backyardgardener.com>
- <http://dane.uwex.edu/hort/index.html> (Dane County Extension)
- <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/> (UW Extension)
- <http://www.taunton.com/finegardening> (*Fine Gardening Magazine*)
- <http://www.awaytogarden.com>
- <http://www.chicagolandgardening.com>
- <http://www.hortmag.com> (*Horticulture Magazine*)
- <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/ent/biocontrol/> (Cornell University guide to natural enemies in North America)
- <http://www.danielhinkley.com>

*If you have any Web sites or blogs you enjoy regularly, email them to [sone2@aol.com](mailto:sone2@aol.com) and they'll be included in the next newsletter.*

**Linda Brazill opens blog**

Freelance writer (*77 Square*) and WHPS member Linda Brazill has opened a new blog. Here's the address:

[http://eachlittleworld.typepad.com/each\\_little\\_world/](http://eachlittleworld.typepad.com/each_little_world/)

“At the moment I'm only posting a few times a week, though that will probably increase as gardening chores decrease!”

**Taking pictures of your garden?**

Don't forget to take pictures of your garden throughout the season. We'd love to have you show 10-20 photos of your garden at our member pot-pourri at the December meeting.



**NOTE:** If you plan to make a presentation, please contact Stephanie O'Neal at [sone2@aol.com](mailto:sone2@aol.com) or 608-256-6108.

**Open your garden to members?**

WHPS is considering the creation of a list of open member gardens, with information about the gardens and contact information so members can make arrangements to tour a member garden.

If you would like to open your garden to member visitors next year (either at a specific time or on an appointment basis), please contact [sone2@aol.com](mailto:sone2@aol.com) to let us know.

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

*Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society*



**September 2008 Newsletter**

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**Do you have a question about your membership?** Contact Jane LaFlash at [whps05@yahoo.com](mailto:whps05@yahoo.com), 608-243-1208.