



# Perennial Notes

September 2011

Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society—an unincorporated nonprofit association

## WHPS COMING EVENTS!

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

**Sunday, September 18, 2011, WHPS Member Plant Exchange** 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Allen Centennial Gardens. Bring plant(s), get plant(s)! Members bring extra plants dug from their gardens, purchased and not-used perennials, woodies, annual bulbs, even a few houseplants. The plants will be set out between 10:30-11:00 a.m. and the picking will begin at 11:00. Great FREE plants for your garden with time left to plant them before the end of the gardening season. And what a perfect time of year to take a walk through the Allen Centennial Gardens! **Parking note: All parking is free on Sunday!** Drive up through the gate to drop off your plants, then park in spots on the street or in the Steenbock library lot at no charge.

**Wednesday, September 21, 2011, Michael DeHart, supervisor of the grounds and gardens at the Getty Center Museum in Los Angeles.** Michael will talk about both museums. The Villa was remodeled years over deadline and millions over budget. The gardens are Italianate and have a view to the ocean, including an interesting and beautiful meadow garden on the new parking garage. The contemporary museum has an avant garden and a cacti roof garden that overlooks LA and the surrounding expensive suburbs. Mike has an image of the azalea maze-on-water in full bloom on his Facebook page. The story of how the museum complex—three large areas (museum, education center and restoration center)—was built after a battle with the neighborhood is a fascinating story: the hundreds of shiploads of hand-cut stone that came over from Italy; the fact that they can survive three months in the event of an earthquake; a heliport on site. Much like Disneyland, there is an entire “city” under the facility. The artwork they are restoring from all over the world is amazing in quantity. Michael’s discussion should be interesting on many levels!

**Wednesday, October 19, 2011, Sustainable Gardening Maintenance Tips and Tricks,** Tibi Light, owner of Fine Gardening Designs in Madison, <http://tibilightgardens.com/>. Tibi’s design approach is to combine annuals, perennials, grasses, trees and shrubs as well as possibly herbs and edible plants to create as much four-season interest as possible. She enjoys focusing on low-maintenance gardens and likes to use as many easy-care plants and design features as possible to accommodate the gardener’s physical capabilities and time constraints. She has taught Master Gardener programs throughout Wisconsin on garden design and maintenance and is an occasional guest on *Wisconsin Gardener*. She teaches at various public gardens in southern Wisconsin, as well as teaching garden maintenance to various landscape maintenance companies. For 18 years Tibi was a designer at the Allen Centennial Gardens, the 2.5 acre teaching and display garden, on the University of Wisconsin, Madison, campus.

**Wednesday November 16, 2011, I’m Not Really a Garden Expert, I Just Play One on the Radio** Except for the fact that he has a program on WCPT Radio and, before that, at WGN, Mike Nowak is probably a lot like you and your gardening friends. That is to say, he stumbled onto gardening somewhere in mid-life and has never looked back (except to see what he tripped over). Since then, he’s interviewed dozens of horticultural experts—some famous, some not, some controversial, some cranky, some strange—who have taught him valuable lessons about gardening, environmental responsibility and life. **WARNING FOR PEOPLE WHO LACK A SENSE OF HUMOR:** This presentation may not be entirely serious! (Heck, even the pictures are funny.) Mike is an Illinois Master Gardener and Openlands TreeKeeper. In 2002, he co-founded the Midwest Ecological Landscaping Association and served as MELA’s president for four years. [www.mikenowak.net](http://www.mikenowak.net).

**Wednesday, December 7, 2011, Annual Meeting, Seed Exchange and Member Potpourri.** See page seven.

### WHPS 2012 EVENTS

**Sunday, January 15, 2012, Member Potluck** (Olbrich Commons) and Winter Tour of Olbrich Botanical Gardens.

**February 10-12, 2012, WHPS Booth at Garden Expo.** Contact Eleanor Rodini, 608-257-2984, [erodini@library.wisc.edu](mailto:erodini@library.wisc.edu).

**Wednesday, February 15, 2012, WHPS Meeting at Olbrich Commons, topic TBA.**

**Wednesday, March 21, 2012, WHPS Meeting at Olbrich Commons, topic TBA.**

**Thursday, April 18, 2012, WHPS Meeting at Olbrich Commons, topic TBA.**

**Saturday, May 19, 2012, WHPS Plant Sale.**

**Saturday, June 2, 2010, WHPS Song Sparrow Buying Spree.**

**June 8-17, 2012 WHPS Trip to England.** If you are interested in joining us on the trip, contact Frank Greer at 608-233-4686, [frgreer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:frgreer@sbcglobal.net)

*All my hurts my garden spade can heal.*  
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Summer Plant Finds

Summer tours are a great time of year to view the work of other gardeners and gain some perspective on your own garden. This summer's free evening tours offered by WHPS (with Madison Master Gardeners) and the Olbrich Garden Tour offered a variety of garden styles, ideas and plants to inspire all, from the inexperienced to master gardeners.

Below are just two of the many unusual plants discovered this summer that I'm putting on my list for future use in my garden.

### ***Polygonatum x hybridum* 'Grace Barker'—Zone 4-8, 10", shade to part shade**



WHPS member Rita Thomas opened her beautifully maintained garden to the Olbrich Tour and I found this variety of Solomon's Seal nestled among other shade plants in a raised bed in her back garden. It maintains a smaller footprint than the more vigorous variegated Solomon's seal and the contrast between the darker green and the white was really striking.

Here is the description from Plant Delights Nursery of this zone 4-8 cultivar: *This unique Solomon's seal is a dwarf variegated selection from the hybrid Polygonatum multiflorum x Polygonatum odoratum. The 10" stems are adorned with small, dark blue-green, crinkled foliage, surrounded by an irregular white border. The unique Polygonatum 'Grace Barker' is easy to grow and quite vigorous in colder climates but slows dramatically as it approaches regions with milder winters...boo, hiss.*

### ***Ligularia japonica*—Zone 4-7, 36" Part Sun or Shade**

Sue and Dick Niesen have one of the most amazing annual gardens you'll find in Madison and I love their large white concrete disk stepping stones, but it was this perennial (just about to bloom) that was my take-away inspiration from their garden.



Though described as needing "moist" soil, Sue says it tolerates dry periods better than 'The Rocket'.

Plant Delights Nursery says, *This has long been our favorite of the cold-loving ligularias, and one of the very few that we can actually grow this far south. The giant glossy green, deer-resistant leaves look like a cross between a finely-cut hardy geranium and a giant acanthus. In early summer the 3' tall x 4' wide tropical-looking clumps are topped with 5' tall spikes of bright orange daisies. For cold-climate gardeners who love the tropical look, Ligularia japonica is a must. Ligularia japonica prefers a moist, rich garden soil.*

—Stephanie O'Neal

## Volunteer with The Green Team

Do you have a passion for growing things? Do you like to teach others about plants? Habitat for Humanity of Dane County's Green Team may be the place for you.



Habitat's Green Team was started in 2004 to assist Habitat with landscaping in their new development, Twin Oaks. The team formed with volunteers that were skilled at landscape design, plant knowledge and experienced with planting and caring for yards and gardens. Over time, the team's responsibilities grew to include providing the lawn and garden training for the new homeowners, leading landscape crews and running a large plant sale several times each year.

This past spring, the Green Team led volunteers in landscaping 14 home sites, trained new homeowners on how to plant and take care of their new lawns, trees and shrubs, and had two successful plant sales at the Habitat ReStore on Cottage Grove Rd.

The idea of a plant sale started in 2006 after a damaging hail storm resulted in a call from a local nursery. They had a couple of hundred perennials in pots that had been damaged by hail, and couldn't sell them. They asked if Habitat could use them. For two days, a team member sat outside the door of the ReStore and sold all the plants, making some \$300. The idea took hold and soon we started getting donations from other gardeners and our team members. What started small has grown to be an annual event, with thousands of plants available and bringing in more than \$7,200 for Habitat for Humanity of Dane County. The money is used to help build more homes in Dane County for families in need.

There are many volunteer opportunities available on the Green Team. If you like to lead groups of people, a crew leader position would be perfect for you. If you like retail sale work, the plant sale provides a wonderful opportunity to share your knowledge and skill while making money for Habitat. If you just want to get your hands dirty, planting and caring for plants, you can be part of the landscape crew, and/or help to divide and pot perennials for the plant sale. There is a large garden behind the Habitat ReStore that requires care during the growing season. Help is always needed and appreciated.

If you are interested in joining the Green Team, please contact Megan Kenney, HFHDC's Volunteer Coordinator at 255-1549, or [mkenney@habitatdane.org](mailto:mkenney@habitatdane.org).

**Habitat for Humanity of Dane County will have its third plant sale of the year on Friday and Saturday, Sept 16 and 17 at the Habitat ReStore, 208 Cottage Grove Rd, Madison. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fall is the best time to plant perennials. Featured this sale are many varieties of daylilies donated from members of the Wisconsin Daylily Society and perennial grasses now blooming from the UW West Madison Agricultural Research Station on Mineral Point Road. A wide variety of other perennials will be available. Plant prices are \$4 each or 3 for \$10, unless otherwise marked. Proceeds are used to help build homes for Habitat families in Dane County.**

## The Charm Behind Longenecker Horticultural Gardens

When you visit the UW-Madison Arboretum and walk around Longenecker Horticultural Gardens, depending on the season, you may be able to view one of the 75 magnolia varieties in bloom, or one of the most up-to-date flowering crabapple collections in the world, or even the arborvitae collection which is considered among the best in North America. While these are some of the reasons Longenecker is known nationally, they are not what draws many of us to the gardens. Instead, if you come any day of the week, spring through fall, you'll see a tall gentleman working in the gardens with a tan sun hat, a tool in hand, and a genuine smile that spreads across his face. If you get the opportunity, most know that this legend will be able to help you locate any tree, give you the history of how it came to the gardens, and maybe even tell you a joke. The secret is that this man, the charm behind Longenecker Horticultural Gardens, is Professor Emeritus Edward Hasselkus.

Since 1966, Professor Hasselkus has been the curator of Longenecker Horticultural Gardens, being one of only two curators in Longenecker's 75 year history. Even though he officially retired in 1994, Professor Hasselkus has spent much of



his time since then volunteering as the curator. Throughout his tenure, he's taught over 3,000 students who have gone on to become very well known in the green industry. In addition, many loyal volunteers will tell you the impact he has made on their lives, whether it's due to his eternal optimism and upbeat personality or his ability to teach anyone in any venue. Even so, Professor Hasselkus always turns his appreciation back to his volunteers. He says, "No public garden can survive without volunteers. I am blessed with a corps of dedicated volunteers, most of whom are members of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society."

When asked about what Professor Hasselkus is focusing his attention on right now his answer is, "Weeds!" He explains that

due to being underfunded it is extremely difficult to keep on top of the problem and the weeds can get overwhelming. On the upside, Professor Hasselkus is spending more time on his current interest of Hydrangeas. "They perform so well in Wisconsin, and they bloom at a time in summer when few other trees or shrubs are in bloom." If you don't see him working on the weeds or studying the Hydrangeas in the gardens, he's busy working on raising funds for the Longenecker Curator Endowment which will support a future curator. While Ed has been generous enough to be the volunteer curator for almost 17 years, it is time that a full-time curator be hired to tend and shape Longenecker Gardens, so it can continue to delight new generations and provide a place for students, professionals, and the public to enjoy. This builds upon the legacy that Professor Hasselkus hopes to leave. "I hope that people in the future look at this resource as a premier collection of woody plants in the state of Wisconsin, and that it isn't static but it's being improved every year." Professor Hasselkus encourages us to look beyond the legacy he has left and make a difference for the future of the gardens by addressing this need now.

Next year Professor Hasselkus will be turning 80. To help celebrate this momentous occasion the Arboretum hopes to celebrate the completion of the \$1.2 million endowment campaign and truly celebrate the legend that has not only shaped Longenecker Gardens but all of us as well.

For more information on the campaign, please contact Jennifer Skolaski at [jskolaski@wisc.edu](mailto:jskolaski@wisc.edu) or 608-890-2555, or go to: [http://uwarboretum.org/donate/specific\\_fund.php](http://uwarboretum.org/donate/specific_fund.php)

—Jennifer Skolaski

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## Orton Park Revival

The donation of plants by the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society has helped improve the grounds of Orton Park. A city park since 1879, the park is located a few blocks from Williamson Street on Madison's east side, at the corners of Spaight, Few, Rutledge and Ingersoll Streets. Once a cow pasture and a cemetery, Orton Park is now the site for picnics, a music festival, a summer day camp, play rehearsals, weddings, basketball games and tai chi lessons. Last year, WHPS members Ellen Henningsen and Jim Gentry began renewing the neglected flower beds and creating new beds as well. They planted 250 perennials in eight beds, including yarrow, monarda, goldenrod, phlox, coneflower, autumn sedum, aster, and grasses. The majority of plants were generously donated by WHPS. Additional plants were donated by Olbrich Botanical Gardens, the City of Madison Parks Department and the Marquette Neighborhood Association. Gone are weeds and overgrown bushes—colorful gardens now provide a beautiful addition to this busy city park. Thanks to WHPS—without your donations of plants, the gardens would not have been completed.

—Ellen Henningsen

## OHIO IS SPELLED “G-A-R-D-E-N-S”!



I had the privilege of leading 38 WHPS members to Ohio for five days in July. This was during some of the most intense heat, in fact Toledo was over 100 degrees while we were there, but the quality of the sites we visited made even the heat tolerable. I have been lucky enough to visit some of the best gardens in the U.S. and I must say I was surprised at the caliber Ohio offered. Out of the 11 sites, an amazing nine exceeded my expectations and the other two didn't disappoint but rather were what I expected (and that's good!).

We broke up a long bus ride with a stop on the way out and one on the way home. On the way out, we visited Toledo Botanical Garden, a municipal garden that dates back to 1964. Some of the highlights within 60 acres included a lovely perennial garden within a “ruins” setting that augmented the plantings, an outstanding herb garden, an extensive shade garden with lovely pond and gazebo, interesting sculpture and impressive trees that included a 20 London Plane Sycamore allée, a silver linden allée and many beautiful conifer and deciduous mature tree specimens. We were off to a smashing start!

We started Thursday morning in Columbus at Inniswood Metro Gardens. We knew we were in for a treat right at the entrance with colorful and exotic containers and smiling volunteers! The staff and volunteers here were wonderful, answering our many questions. This 123-acre garden was immaculate with many inspiring theme gardens and, yet again, superb trees. This was to be true throughout our Ohio trip, Ohioans have to be tree lovers! Upon entrance, we were wowed with a very large pergola/arboreal highlighting a rose and perennial garden. Also of interest were impeccable cutting, conifer, fern, woodland, rock and herb gardens. The really fun area was the Sisters' Garden, 2.8 acres that contained seven gardens, including a Dr. Seuss style treehouse and a delightful storybook garden complete with the text of a Native American story laid out in paving blocks!

Franklin Park Conservatory, one of the four oldest Victorian style conservatories in the U.S., surprised us with a relatively new Community Garden Campus and daylily and conifer collections in addition to the conservatory. Many people toured the outdoors before making their way into the conservatory for one of the largest permanent collections of Chihuly glass on display throughout the Pacific Island Water Garden, Bonsai Courtyard, Desert, Tropical Rainforest, Himalayan Mountains and Palm houses. We ate lunch set up for us on-site by the Café and were privileged to have Bruce Harkey, executive director, join us and talk about the fascinating his-

tory of the site. This garden started with volunteers bringing their own tools and equipment because the budget was too poor to supply any!

When we were gathering suggestions for this trip, Olbrich's horticulture director Jeff Epping told us that the Kingwood Center in Mansfield was one of his favorites. We found out why. This estate garden surrounds a massive mansion and was simply awe-inspiring to walk through. The allées, fountains, sculptures, formal gardens and exuberant plantings seemed endless, and were laid out so cleverly that every turn in path or rise in stairway was a new vista or room that caught your breath. Jeff was right. This is truly a must-see garden, and they even had a plant sales area in more outstanding buildings and greenhouses! You can bet some fun treasures made their way on the bus.

Speaking of buying plants, I finally allowed the genus hosta to totally overwhelm me at Wade & Gattton Nursery. They SELL 2500 cultivars of hostas and 1500 cultivars of daylilies as well as perennials and trees and shrubs. This doesn't include thousands upon thousands of hostas in acres of display gardens! Owner Van Wade propagates new hostas and told us he estimates he names a new hosta per day! What amazed me the most was that the hostas for sale were not arranged alphabetically so we had to ask location from many hoop houses and one of his staffers could call out, without skipping a beat, exactly where to find every hosta we asked for! Van had a mischievous sense of humor—he gave us free plants but he made us play a version of musical chairs where, when he said stop, we all scrambled for a variety of perennials, some common, some not so. What fun! The bottom of the bus was nearly full from this buying site alone!

We experienced real camaraderie that evening with a family style dinner at Troyer's Homestead Amish Restaurant. What better way to get to know other people on the trip than over a meal and passing the potatoes!

Plant buying was on the agenda again Friday morning when we visited nationally acclaimed plant catalog supplier Blue-stone Perennials. Some of us went on a tour of the facilities, and we all got to see a new, compostable pot they will be using in 2012. Being mid-season, the plant selection was down, but that didn't stop us from carrying boxes of plants to the bus. There were a lot of “cool” plants at great prices, plus we carried home the catalog for future purchases.

After lunch, we discovered one of the true perks of a WHPS bus trip. We visited a private garden that few people will ever see, so private that the owner doesn't want her name published. An extra bonus was being guided through the grounds leisurely by two staff members from the Holden Arboretum who knew the plants. This astounding 17-acre garden was beautifully designed by the owner and was breathtaking at every turn. It was public garden caliber and hard to believe it was someone's private garden and retreat. This is what makes a WHPS trip even more special!

We finished the day with three hours in one of the most respected arboreta in the country, the 3,600 acre Holden Arboretum. Staff graciously took groups around the primary grounds on trams while others wandered on their own. I'm

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sure we saw only a fraction of more than 120,000 plants that are focused on recognized collections of trees and shrubs, but displayed in gardens accompanied by groundcovers and perennials, and in themed collections. Many spent a good amount of time in the vast Butterfly Garden, beautifully landscaped around two ponds and adjoining the Visitor Center.

Saturday started at the Cleveland Botanical Garden. After some of the larger sites, CBG's 10 acres sited in University Circle seemed like it would be a breeze to wander through, but we all decided it was so packed with interest, we could have spent more time. It had greatly improved from a visit I made around five years ago and I heard lots of praise all the way to the next site. It had one of the most acclaimed children's gardens in the country, and we all agreed what we liked about it was that it was equally appealing to adults. The conservatory augmented outdoor gardens that boasted a very clever topiary garden as well as a large herb garden, creative vegetable gardens, a rose garden, innovative home inspiration gardens, a refreshingly cool waterfall/woodland garden and a peaceful Japanese garden (to name a few).

On to another estate garden, Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens. Another WOW destination. Once again, extensive and ornate gardens, from formal to Japanese to an enormous cutting and edible garden, were the grounds for an enormous estate house, which some of our members toured as well. I think we traversed most of the 70 acres and marveled over the quality of the gardens. The birch allée was especially inviting, and lunch was both fun and delicious served in the Carriage House Museum Store & Café. Some of our members even enjoyed a game of giant chess! (see picture)



Well, by this time I considered the trip a success with so many outstanding sites, but my favorite was to be the next destination. Schnormeier Garden is privately owned by Ted and Ann Schnormeier, and there isn't any way I can adequately describe in words the over-the-top impressive Japanese and Chinese inspired exquisite 75 acres. Their massive but beautiful Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired house sits on a large man-made lake and the gardens surround the lake. Ted gave us a beautifully photographed presentation of the history and the gardens in other seasons then set us free to wander their property as we pleased. A Japanese tea house, Chinese pavilion, garden house, numerous bridges and a massive stream with multiple waterfalls pumping thousands of gallons of water and three ponds featuring lotus and water lilies were just a few of the hardscape elements that provided backdrop

for an astounding conifer collection as well as 2500 hostas and other perennials. Fascinating original sculptures were positioned throughout the site, and a massive quarry garden provided contrast to the serene woodland garden. What a way to finish Ohio!



But we weren't done; we stopped at Taltree Arboretum & Gardens in Valparaiso, Indiana on the way home. Never heard of it? Neither had we, and in all honesty, I put it on the itinerary more as a place to stop, have lunch and stretch our legs as anything—after all, if you are going to stop, why not in a public garden? I won't go on a lot about the 300-acre arboretum which has nice plant collections, wetlands and prairie; the real attraction here was the newly (June) opened Railway Garden and Depot. Oh my, at 1.5 acres, we were told it wasn't the biggest garden railway in the country but it was the most expensive! The contours, including mountains and gorges, were amazing and we marveled over the construction of the tracks, where they ran up to 17 different trains. You could spend hours on the various vignettes that replicated in miniature 200 years of railway history. This is a must-see destination just off the interstate, if only for the garden railway alone!

For those who went on the trip, this recounting serves primarily as nostalgia. The people I hope read this are any of you who have not taken advantage of our bus trips. Saying "see what you missed" is a bit cruel, isn't it? But I hope it gives you an idea of the opportunities we provide to see great gardens, arboreta, private gardens and nurseries & garden centers in other parts of the country. You won't have ready access to the private gardens and behind-the-scenes activities at other sites any other way. Nor will you do it cheaper; we price our trips to cover expenses only! You'll make new gardening friends and bring home choice plants. And you can't beat the information and advice you will get



or be able to share on a bus with 40 people gardening under the same conditions that you are! Sold? Then I expect to see you on our next bus trip!

—Ed Lyon

Photos by Ed Lyon

## Love Those Little Hostas!

Many of you have no doubt encountered **The Book of Little Hostas**, by the noted plants people and writers Kathy Guest Shadrack and Michael Shadrack. They write lovingly, with great style and passion, clearly showing their magnificent obsession with gardening.

Returning from a family visit in Upstate New York recently my husband and I were privileged to tour the series of gardens they are creating on 13 wooded acres in Hamburg, New York near Buffalo. Kathy tends a plethora of alpine plants and amazing perennials for both sun and shade that are sheltered and tucked in rocks and crannies (as if cared for by woodland sprites and fairies), while Michael devotes his time to the challenges of terracing and developing a special glen for small hostas.

WHPS members can click on the Shadrack's new Web site: [www.smugcreekgardens.com](http://www.smugcreekgardens.com) to see photos of their unique gardens, and learn more about this fascinating couple whose plant discussions and books have been featured throughout the United States and abroad.

Many WHPS members may know of Buffalo's garden walk the last weekend in July. It's quite a spectacular event of which the Shadrack's are a part: [www.nationalgardenfestival.com](http://www.nationalgardenfestival.com). Well worth the trip to New York State!

—Judith David  
WHPS Member - Racine

## A True Gardening Original

Those who have attended the WPT Garden Expo, or watched *Wisconsin Gardener*, or taken a trip up to the Green Bay area and visited Mayflower Greenhouse, will all recognize the tall figure of Jan Wos in the photo below. The top hat and extraordinary paintings created with flowers and foliage are only two examples of the exuberance and creativity of this great garden talent and true artistic genius.

We were quite saddened to learn of Jan's passing on May 7 at the age of 63. To read more about Jan's life and view some of Jan's stunning work, visit <http://www.mayflowergreenhouse.com/jan/index.php>. To revisit his appearances on Shelley Ryan's *Wisconsin Gardener*, visit <http://www.mayflowergreenhouse.com/videos/index.php>.

Mayflower Greenhouse lives on through the new ownership of John Kress and Chris Beno, who have retained all of the staff and "plan to operate Mayflower as much like Jan as possible."



Photo by Jane Gahlman

## Other Events of Note

**Saturday, September 10, The Garden Conservancy's Chicago Western Suburbs Open Day**, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Visit three private gardens in Clarendon Hills, La Grange, and Oak Brook, IL featuring romantic herbaceous borders and paths, a koi pond, and a woodland garden with 300-plus varieties of hosta. \$5 admission. For more information: <http://gardenconservancy.org/opendays/open-days-schedule/openday/443-chicagos-western-suburbs-open-day>

**Friday and Saturday, September 16-17, Habitat for Humanity of Dane County Plant Sale** at the Habitat ReStore, 208 Cottage Grove Rd, Madison. Hours are 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Plant prices are \$4 each or 3 for \$10, unless otherwise marked. Proceeds are used to help build homes for Habitat families in Dane County.

**Saturday, September 17, WHPS Bus Trip to Gardens in Rockford, IL area. NOTE: THIS TRIP IS FULL!**

**September 18, WHPS Plant Exchange** 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Allen Centennial Garden.

**Wednesday, September 21, WHPS meeting with Michael DeHart, Getty Center Museum.** 6:30 social, 7:00-8:30 p.m. meeting.

**Saturday, October 8 (noon-5:00 p.m.) and Sunday, October 9 (10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) African Violet Show & Sale**, Olbrich Gardens. For more information call 608-833-5552.

**Wednesday, October 18, WHPS Meeting, Sustainable Gardening Maintenance Tips and Tricks**, Tibi Light, Fine Gardening Designs, 6:30 social time, 7:00-8:30 p.m. program.

**Saturday, November 5, Herb Fair**, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Olbrich Gardens. Free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Madison Herb Society. For more information call 608-233-6219.

**Saturday, November 5, Fall Symposium**, Rotary Botanical Gardens, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., \$60 public/\$50 RBG Members. Details at [www.rot.arybotanicalgardens.org](http://www.rot.arybotanicalgardens.org). Dedicated to the appreciation of a wide range of plants that may have future merit and consideration in your own garden. Speakers include Laura Jull, Roy Klehm, Jim Nau, Richard Hawke.

**November 11-13, Bolz Conservatory 20th Anniversary Celebration.** Special events for children, families, and adults: party in the Conservatory, a nationally known speaker, free rainforest activities. For more information call 608-246-4583.

**Wednesday, December 7, WHPS Annual Meeting, Seed Exchange and Member Potpourri**, 6:30 p.m. social and Seed Exchange; 7:00-8:30 p.m. program.

## Plan to Attend WHPS Annual Meeting, Seed Exchange, Member Potpourri

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, December 7. If you haven't had a chance to attend the WHPS Annual Meeting, Seed Exchange and Member Potpourri, you've been missing a great opportunity to network with member gardeners, pick up some annual and perennial seeds and some bulbs and tubers to store over the winter, and view photos and videos of member gardens and memorable gardens visited.

### Member Potpourri

And we'd love to see photos of your garden! If you've been taking pictures of your garden through the seasons, or if you have a special project you've just documented and completed and would like to show us, ***please contact Stephanie O'Neal before November 20 so she can put you on the list to present your photos.*** You can bring your photos saved on a flash drive or CD, which we will load onto the WHPS laptop before the meeting. You will have 10 minutes maximum to present, and you are welcome to present as many or as few photos as you wish during that timeframe. In the past, we have even had some members present a DVD or PowerPoint presentation.

You don't have to be a professional photographer or presenter to be a part of the Member Potpourri. You just have to be proud of your gardening accomplishments, have photos of plants you are passionate about, have visited a really interesting garden or have a garden project you think we'd like to learn about.

### Seed Exchange

As for the Seed Exchange, you are invited to bring your ripe seeds, extra dahlia tubers, gladiola bulbs, etc. to offer to other members in the half-hour before the meeting (6:30-7:00 p.m.) and after the meeting. If you are not familiar with this event, there is an excellent *Seed Exchange FAQ* on our Web site in the Newsletters & Articles section. If you have questions before the event, contact Jane Gahlman, our VP and Seed Exchange Coordinator, at 608-837-2317, [jmgahlman@hotmail.com](mailto:jmgahlman@hotmail.com).

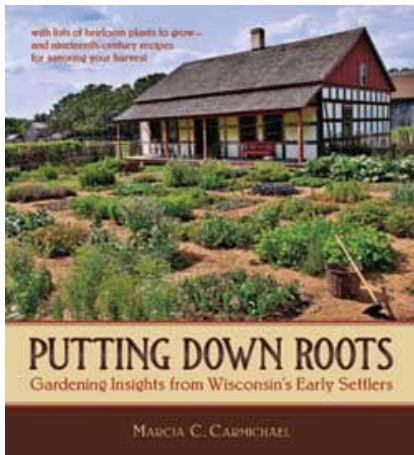
### Participate on the WHPS Board

To keep the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society a strong and viable organization with much to offer its members, we need the participation of individuals who are willing to actively play a role in our events and our future. We are looking for members who would be willing to serve on the board and are interested in learning about how WHPS works. We thank individuals like Linda Marx (dig organizer) and Eleanor Rodini (Expo booth organizer) who have joined the board in the past year and have taken an active role. ***If you would like to become a member of the WHPS board, please contact one of our officers before October 30: Frank Greer, president, Jane Gahlman, VP or Diane Scharkey, treasurer.*** (Their contact info is on the back page of this newsletter.) Your interest will guarantee that we remain a strong organization.

Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting Wednesday, December 7 at Olbrich Commons!

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## Ethnic Culinary Traditions Run Deep



Culture and history can be passed from one generation to the next through the food we eat, the vegetables and fruits we plant and harvest, and the fragrant flowers and herbs that enliven our gardens. **Putting Down Roots: Gardening Insights from Wisconsin's Early Settlers** (\$24.95, ISBN: 978-0-87020-466-1) reveals how the plants our ancestors grew tell stories about their way of life.

When European immigrants and Yankee settlers arrived in Wisconsin in search of a better life, they brought with them a range of agricultural and culinary traditions reflective of their diverse heritages. With "Putting Down Roots," historical gardener Marcia C. Carmichael offers a window into the lives of our ancestors as she details numerous heirloom plant varieties, authentic ethnic recipes, cultivation techniques and tools, and folklore tidbits employed in the kitchens and gardens of early Yankee, German, Norwegian, Irish, Danish, Polish, and Finnish immigrants.

A visually inviting slice of cultural history, "Putting Down Roots" is also a practical guide to the gardens of 19th century ethnic newcomers for today's sustainability-minded heritage gardeners. Featuring the recreated 19th century

heirloom gardens at the Wisconsin historic site Old World Wisconsin, "Putting Down Roots" is a story of holding fast to traditions while adapting to changed circumstances in an adopted home.

"In a time when people are increasingly concerned about organic gardening practices and the need for more variety in our plants for the health of the planet, Carmichael shows readers the value in drawing from the past for the good of the present. For avid gardeners and simple admirers of other people's gardens alike, 'Putting Down Roots' is an absorbing book of Wisconsin's history and culture."

—Jennifer Fandel, *ForeWord Reviews*

••••• Member News, Tips, etc. •••••

### LEFT BEHIND AT AUGUST POTLUCK

A ceramic fluted quiche pan and red scoop were left at the August Member Potluck. If you wish to claim these items, contact Terri Maliszewski-Kane, 608-513-4189, terrimk1@hotmail.com.

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### TIP—Inexpensive Frost Protection

Apologies for not remembering the source, but I thought this was a great, quick tip. To protect plants from frost, place opened newspaper pages over the plants, held down by stones and/or bricks.

—Stephanie O'Neal

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### TIP—Cleaning Recycled Pots

From *Organic Gardening*, March 2008

Wash pots in warm water. Rinse in a solution of two cups white vinegar diluted in 4-6 gallons of water. Air Dry. Great for the fall cleanup!

—Mary Polancih

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### Members featured in media?

Do you know of a member's garden that has been featured recently in the media? Send info to sone2@aol.com.

### Easy Stand for Heated Birdbath

A few years back I bought a resin heated birdbath at Blain's Farm & Fleet that came only with the bowl and some attachment hardware for a deck, post, etc. At the end of the season I emptied out a round concrete planter (only 18" high) near my front porch electrical outlet, placing it where I thought the birds would feel most comfortable bathing in the winter months (and where I could best view them). I simply put the heated birdbath centered on top of the planter and placed a small stone in the center for the birds to have a perch. It's directly below my picture window next to a shrub so I have a great view of them coming and going and resting in the shrub. It's also close by and easy to clean and refill as necessary.

—Stephanie O'Neal

### WHPS T-shirts!

At \$10 each, WHPS T-shirts are a real bargain. Sizes currently available are medium and large. **To order a T-Shirt**, contact Jane Gahlman at [jmgahlman@hotmail.com](mailto:jmgahlman@hotmail.com) (or call her at 608-837-2317 and leave a message).

### Visit our website:

[www.wisconsinhardyplantsociety.com](http://www.wisconsinhardyplantsociety.com)

## Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society



### SEPTEMBER 2011 Newsletter

211 S. Fair Oaks Avenue  
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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.