

Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society

2010 WPT Garden Expo Lecture

New and Better Shrubs for Home Gardens

Dave Wanninger, Beaver Creek Nursery & Klehm's Song Sparrow Farm

www.beavercreeknursery.com www.songsparrow.com

Iroquois Beauty™ Black Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa* 'Morton') – smaller, less upright than other Black Chokeberries. 3 x 4' after ten years. 'Professor Ed' (from the UW Arboretum) looks similar – maybe a bit taller.

Concorde Barberrry (*Berberis thunbergii* 'Concorde') – better looking than 'Crimson Pygmy', highest rated in invasiveness trials.

Helmonds Pillar Barberrry (*Berberis thunbergii* Helmonds Pillar) – unique columnar habit.

Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*) – tough, shade tolerant. Varieties to look for: Snow Lace® ('Emerald') – 6-8' x 6-8', Snow Mantle® ('Jade') – 16x8'.

Happy Centennial Border Forsythia (*Forsythia x intermedia* 'Happy Centennial') – dwarf habit, proven flower bud hardiness.

Golden Peep Border Forsythia (*Forsythia x intermedia* 'Courdijau') – big improvement over Bronx Forsythia. Smaller and more uniform, but not quite as flower bud hardy as 'Happy Centennial'.

Beaver Creek™ Dwarf Fothergilla (*Fothergilla gardenii* 'KLMtwo') – flowers, tight habit, great fall color.

Red Monarch™ (*Fothergilla major*) – larger than *Fothergilla gardenii*, with excellent red fall color.

May Bouquet™ (*Fothergilla monticola*) – largest flowers and leaves, yellow fall color.

***Fothergilla x intermedia* 'Blue Shadow'** holds its remarkably blue color all through the growing season. Great fall color.

Endless Summer™ Hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Bailmer') – promises more than it delivers? – proper siting is very important. (Other macrophylla (bigleaf) hydrangeas: Blushing Bride™; Twist 'n Shout™; Light O' Day™ -). 'Annabelle' and the panicle hydrangeas are much more reliable.

Hydrangea arborescens Invincibelle Spirit® - a pink flowering 'Annabelle'!!!

Limelight Hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Limelight') – non floppy, strong garden performer.

Quickfire™ Hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Bulk') – early flowering, compact habit.

Little Lamb Hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Little Lamb') – nice smaller, fluffy flower panicles, but what about flopping?

Pinky Winky™ Hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata* 'DVPinky') – large, pink-white panicles – looks very good so far. (Some other new panicle hydrangeas of promise: Vanilla Strawberry™, 'Silver Dollar', Little Lime™ (dwarf Limelight), Tickled Pink™ (dwarf 'Pink Diamond')

Snow Queen Oakleaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Snow Queen') – consider also *H. quercifolia* 'Snowflake' – better flower bud hardiness than some other varieties.

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Ames St. Johnswort (*Hypericum kalmianum* 'Ames') – hardy native shrub with yellow flowers most of the summer.

Blue Velvet™ St. Johnswort (*Hypericum* x 'Cfflpc-1') – striking blue high quality foliage.

Diabolo™ Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Diabolo') - the original purple ninebark, outclassed by its peers? Makes a good sheared hedge.

Summer Wine™ Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Seward') – as of now, my favorite ninebark.

Coppertina Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Coppertina') - striking amber toned new growth – 'Centerglow' is virtually identical.

Lady in Red Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Lady in Red') - compact (4'?) habit. A winner?

Fine Line® Fernleaf Buckthorn (*Rhamnus* 'Ron Williams') – striking, unique plant – both in narrow plant habit and in leaf form - kudos to Mr. Williams. Sets virtually no viable seed – non invasive.

Tiger Eye Sumac (*Rhus typhina* 'Bailtiger') – gold foliage, bold texture – it will sucker, but you can use that to your advantage in mass plantings.

Tor Birchleaf Spirea (*Spiraea betulifolia* 'Tor') – sick of spirea? – 'Tor' is the cure!

Tree Peonies – 'Joseph Rocks', 'Leda'; 'Banquet' (foliage)

Korean Spice Viburnum (*Viburnum carlesii* and hybrids):

Cayuga Korean Spice Viburnum (*Viburnum* x 'Cayuga') – better leaf quality and plant habit.

Had some branch dieback at -25 in 2009, though, as did Spiced Bouquet.

Sugar 'n Spice™ Korean Spice Viburnum (*Viburnum carlesii* 'Select S') – heavier flowering; full, even plant form.

Spice Island™ Korean Spice Viburnum (*Viburnum carlesii* 'Select A') – a better selection from 'Compacta'.

Spiced Bouquet™ was the first of the series, let's see if these two new ones live up to that standard of excellence.

Little Joe™ Arrowwood Viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum* 'KLM') - tight and compact – delivers what Blue Muffin™ promised. Raspberry Tart™ is another Arrowwood of similar size.

My Monet® Weigela (*Weigela florida* 'Verweig') – small, but tougher and hardier than you'd think – certainly hardier than the dwarfy purple foliated varieties like Midnight Wine and Dark Knight.

About Dave Wanninger

Dave is the chief horticulturist at Beaver Creek Nursery, a wholesale nursery located south of Clinton, Wisconsin. Klehm's Song Sparrow Farm is the retail mail order/internet sister company of Beaver Creek Nursery.

Dave has previously operated a landscaping company and was the nursery manager at a large independent garden center. He is also a longtime instructor in the Horticulture and Landscaping program at Blackhawk Technical College in his hometown of Janesville, Wisconsin. When not gardening, he enjoys reading, bicycling and fine wines, although not usually at the same time.



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