



Perennial Notes

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Inc.

November 2016

Photo by Stephanie O'Neal



Rosa 'Radrazz' – The Comeback Kid

by Stephanie O'Neal

I had my Knockout Rose in the front bed for a few years and it had done well enough, blooming off and on throughout the season. But last winter it died back hard and showed little sign of coming back. I dug it up and potted it up (just a little bit of green in a single small stem remained). After a few weeks, that single stem started to sprout. I was pulling out a variegated miscanthus from the sunny corner of my driveway and decided to plant the rose there where I could keep an eye on it and it would get plenty of sun and snow cover from shoveling over the winter. To my delight, it is now three feet tall and blooming on four stems, and is really enjoying this late summer/fall. I guess the lesson to be learned is: don't give up hope. If you like a plant and it looks like it's fading fast, just pot it up and keep an eye on it. You have nothing to lose except a bit more time with daily watering.

WHPS coming events!

All regular meetings are at 6:30 pm. social time, 7 pm. program, at Olbrich Gardens Commons, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, Nov. 16, WHPS Program – Jumping Worms: A discussion of the latest info and approaches, with speaker Bernadette Williams, Invasive Plants and Earthworm Outreach Specialist Madison, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Dec. 3, Green Bay Holiday Trip – see description/registration info in Sept. Newsletter.

Wednesday, Dec. 7, WHPS Annual Meeting, Member Potpourri and Seed Exchange. Start saving seeds now to share before and after the meeting (envelopes for sharing will be provided; see our website for article on seed-saving). Have you been taking pictures of your garden and others visited this season? Please think about sharing those photos at our Member Potpourri! Our Annual Meeting this year will include the list of donations proposed and the presentation of our new slate of officers and directors for the next 3-year term. Would you like to serve on the WHPS Board? Please contact Stephanie O'Neal at sone2@aol.com.

Sunday, Jan. 15, 2017, Winter Potluck Brunch, setup of items 9:30; serving at 10:00 am. Olbrich Gardens Commons – photos of 2016 England Trip by John Cannon and John Fritsch.

Friday-Sunday, Feb. 10-12, 2017 WHPS at the Wisconsin Garden Expo. In addition to the WHPS Booth at the Expo (volunteer opportunities announced soon), WHPS will sponsor a John Cannon & John Fritsch presentation of two shows: the England Garden Tour 2014 and Portland Garden Tour 2015.

Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017, New and Exciting Woody and Perennial Introductions from Bailey Nursery, with Debbie Lonnee, Plant Development Manager from Bailey's Nursery in St. Paul, MN, and co-author of *Growing Shrubs and Small Trees in Cold Climates*, who will preview the fabulous new introductions for 2017. We will get a sneak peek at some of the exciting varieties being added to the Endless Summer®, First Editions®, Easy Elegance® product lines, and more! Recognized as one of the largest wholesale nurseries in the United States, Bailey Nurseries is a fifth-generation family owned company serving more than 4,500 customers worldwide.



Wednesday, March 15, 2017, Magnolias for Midwest Gardens, with guest speaker Andrew Bunting, B.S., Asst Director Chicago Botanic Garden and Director of Plant Collections. He directs the content and curation of the Garden's permanent plant collection including plant acquisition and collecting, accessioning, mapping, and labeling. An extensive lecturer and author, Bunting is an expert in woody plants and is active in the American Public Gardens Association. Bunting was the curator at the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania for 25 years, and also owned a landscape design and construction business called Fine Garden Creations, Inc.



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Garden Resolutions

Looking forward . . .
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Goji Berries

Super food?
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Color Wheel Garden

At UW Extension office on Fen Oak Dr.
see p. 3.

WHPS – Coming Events

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Wednesday, April 19, 2017 – The Problem with Plant Blindness, with Ben Futa, Director of Allen Centennial Garden. Explore what it means to have “plant blindness” and how public gardens across North America

are presenting unique solutions to combat this phenomenon. As living museums, public gardens are in a unique position to engage new audiences with horticulture through cultural experiences that also connect visitors to the objects in our collection, our plants. At the Allen Centennial Garden, we’re taking this one step further as we embrace participatory culture – inviting our visitors to contribute something to make everyone’s experience more rich and fulfilling. This presentation will explore how public gardens across North America, including the Allen Centennial



Garden, are embracing participatory cultural experiences as a mechanism to combat plant blindness.

Saturday, May 20, 2017 – 20th Annual WHPS Plant Sale (setup May 19)

Wednesday, August 16, 2017, WHPS Summer Potluck & Walk through Olbrich Gardens.

Wednesday, September 20, 2017, Preparing for the Golden Years in the Garden, with Kerry Ann Mendez, author of *The Right-Size Flower Garden: Simplify Your Outdoor Space with Smart Design Solutions & Plant Choices.*

Membership Renewal

We are excited to announce that soon we will be offering online WHPS membership renewal through our website. Save time and skip the stamps! We will announce the official launch of this new feature via email, so stay tuned. In addition to this new opportunity, we will still accept dues payments by check through U.S. Mail.

Spring Plant Sale Thoughts

Take a last look through your garden and think about the plants you might be able to contribute to next year’s plant sale. Do you have some unusual or special perennials to donate? Do you have enough plants (4 flats) to host a dig? Let our Dig Coordinator Donna Freiman – 608-221-1826, donnafreiman@gmail.com – know and we’ll put you on the list for next year.

Opportunities for volunteering will be posted in the new year.

This coming year will be our 20th Plant Sale. Let’s make it extra special and successful! Thank you!

Saved by the Garden

WHPS member Rita Thomas was working in her garden when the huge explosion a few months ago on Cheryl Drive Fitchburg occurred a couple of houses away. Two homes and a duplex were destroyed and another six or seven are currently unlivable.

Rita’s home had some windows blown out and some indoor damage, but no structural damage to her home. The insurance adjuster told her that her home likely received less damage due to the large number of trees and shrubs surrounding her home. We all know the many benefits of growing a good tree canopy and understory in our gardens, but this is one benefit not considered before.

New Workshops Update

The first three WHPS workshops on growing and arranging cut flowers, dividing plants, and growing fruit were a big success. Now we’re working on the next set of workshops and we need your input. What topics would you like to see? Do you have a special interest you could share with a small group of fellow WHPS members such as shade gardening, starting plants indoors, tool maintenance, seed saving, or growing bulbs? Email your ideas to Emily Buckingham at emilycbuckingham@gmail.com.

Seed Exchange

Speaking of our Seed Exchange, there is still time to get out in your garden and collect some seeds to bring to the December WHPS event. For more information on collecting seeds, we have an article posted at http://www.wisconsinhardyplantsociety.org/uploads/7/5/7/4/75745871/seed_exchange_faq_9-2002.pdf

There is also a nice website page at [perennials.com: http://www.perennials.com/content/saving-and-starting-perennial-seeds/](http://www.perennials.com/content/saving-and-starting-perennial-seeds/) with lists of plant seeds to collect.

New Members

The following members have recently joined WHPS – welcome!

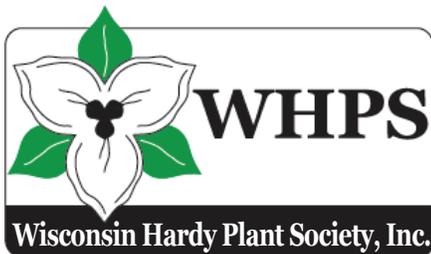
Nancy Beilke, Ann Drury, Cheryl Thornberry, Monica Hansen, Edward Meachen, Sandy Peterson, Susan Shedivy, Julie Sparks, David & Jane Stevens, Fran Swanson, and Michael & Kathryn Swederske.

Other Events

Tuesday, Nov. 29, Evening Garden Seminar: The Best Winter Interest Plants, Rotary Gardens, Janesville, 6:30-8:30 pm., with Mark Dwyer. \$5 for non-members, \$3 for members. Often neglected, this “fourth season of interest” can focus on colorful conifers, plant form, ornamental stems and bark, ornamental fruiting, grasses and other features.

Saturday, Nov. 5, Madison Herb Society Herb Fair, 9 am.-3 pm. Olbrich Botanical Gardens. Hear about herbs from speakers and vendors. Purchase herbal products. Make & Take projects, demonstrations, Q & A. Free by the Madison Herb Society at www.madisonherbsociety.org

December 3-31, Olbrich’s Holiday Express: Flower and Model Train Show, 10 am.-4 pm. daily.



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President – Frank Greer, 608-233-4686, frgreer@sbcglobal.net
Vice President – Jane Gahlman, 608-837-2317, jmgahlman@hotmail.com, Seed Exchange Coordinator and Trip and Tour Co-Coordinator

Secretary – John Cannon, jtcannon@wisc.edu, Trip Committee
Treasurer – Diane Scharkey, dscharkey@gmail.com

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Eleanor Rodini, H: 608-257-2984; Cell: 608-576-7099, emrodini@wisc.edu

Shirley Scriver, 608-467-2870, scrivs@charter.net, WHPS Garden Expo Display Coordinator

Conrad Wrzesinski, 608-231-3279, conradw@charter.net

The Color Wheel Garden

By Sally Averkamp, Master Gardener

In 1989, I was certified as a Master Gardener in Des Moines, IA and chose to design and care for a garden in front a busy library as my volunteer hours. At that time, annuals held little interest for me but I was forced to work with them and ultimately I did come to love them. From that beginning, 27 years ago, I have designed and planted multiple public gardens every year.

This winter (2016), the Dane Co. Master Gardeners were seeking team members and leaders to help with various Teaching Gardens at the UW Extension building on Fen Oak Dr. – Madison's southeast side. One garden in particular appealed to me. The Smith/Goodno Color Wheel Garden seemed intriguing so, without having seen it, I volunteered to lead the project.



A Google Earth view of the Smith/Goodno Color Wheel Garden site in a previous year.

A week later, when I went to look at the site, I was shocked by how big it was – a circular garden 70' across with a mid-sized burr oak tree in the center.

This would easily be the largest garden I have planted. It had not been tilled for five years and was not due to be tilled this year. There was a crew of 12 persons and the budget for plants was a fraction of what I usually work with. It would definitely be the challenge I wanted!

I began by creating a site design – trying not to make too many changes initially. The challenge was to figure out how many plants we needed and their cost. I created a spreadsheet of plants (sorting by color then plant height) and used this to organize the details of how and where to obtain each plant variety, cost of each plant, and other considerations. The sections would be yellow, orange, red, purple, blue, and white/green.

To keep the costs down, I started some seed varieties at home and we seeded several varieties directly at the site. An Amish greenhouse (M & L Greenhouse) near Evansville provided many plants at low prices so I bought everything I could

from them first. We then shopped at other greenhouses to fill in the gap with more varieties.

Instead of mulching around the flowers, we entirely mulched the garden first and then pushed the mulch aside to plant. (My small gardening truck made the job easier than hauling mulch in wheelbarrows.) We planted 814 plants, with 86 varieties.

Weeks passed and a large section of the garden would simply not grow until we began applying foliar fertilizer (*Miracle Grow*). We now believe this area is affected by snow and salt deposited yearly from a nearby parking lot. In August, our crew evaluated all the plant varieties and rated them from 0-10 considering qualities such as “not needing deadheading,” “blooming or color all summer,” and “inexpensive” as the top criteria. Our spreadsheet with this rating and a video walk around the entire garden in October 2016 is at <https://dane.uwex.edu/horticulture/teaching-garden/>.

My first year (2016) was definitely a learning experience, but the garden was beautiful and it received many compliments. Next year, there will be three Team Leaders rather than one and we have many ideas to address challenges with cost, work-flow, and plant design at the garden. We plan to add more perennials, for example, to help reduce ongoing costs. I look forward to collaborating as part of the 2017 crew to make the garden even more beautiful, less expensive, and easy to maintain.

Note: Volunteers with any or no experience are welcome; everyone learns a lot from this garden (even me). To learn more about the Dane County Extension Teaching gardens, go to above link.

Guide to Presenting at Potpourri

If you've taken pictures of your or other gardens this year, or if you have a special garden project you've documented, we welcome you to present at the Dec. 7 Member Potpourri and Seed Exchange.

You will have 10 minutes or less to present. You don't have to be a professional photographer or presenter for the Member Potpourri. Contact Stephanie O'Neal (sone2@aol.com, 608-256-6108) by Nov. 30 so she can put you on the presenters list.



Above, scenes from the Smith/Goodno Color Wheel Garden, 2016.

To make it easier for presenters to show their images at the Member Potpourri, please bring your images in one of these formats:

1. Images (with or without music) created as a PowerPoint or program on a DVD or flash drive; presented slide by slide or could play as an uninterrupted slideshow program.

2. A Quicktime or Windows Live Moviemaker presentation on a DVD or flash drive; presented with music or narration.

3. Individual numbered image files in JPEG format and saved onto a CD, DVD or flash drive. Add sequential numbers to each .JPEG at the front of each file name or number in the order you want to show them. [Example: 1.jpg, 2.jpg, 3.jpg, etc.] These images can then be easily loaded onto a laptop and projected one by one using a remote or as a slideshow.

We hope members will join the presenters for this always popular program.

And don't forget to stop at the Seed Exchange before and after the program!



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Have questions about your membership? Contact Jane LaFlash at whps05@yahoo.com or (608) 243-1208.

Garden Resolutions

By Caroline Bohler, Homegrown Madison,
<http://www.homegrownmadison.com/>



I always think of the first frost as the Gardening New Year; a time to reflect on the past season and make plans for the next one.

I solemnly swear, that next year:

- I will make a plan BEFORE the seed catalogs arrive, and stick with it.
- I will come to terms with the light situation in my yard. The beds on the north-facing side of my house, under five-foot eaves and several huge locust trees are not in fact, part sun.
- I will only bring a limited amount of cash when I visit plant sales or The Flower Factory, never a checkbook or, God-for-bid, a credit card.
- I will get my soil tested.
- I will water my containers religiously, even when there's a sprinkler screwed super tight to the end of the hose and it's soooooooooooooo far across the yard.
- I will only buy soil knives and trowels with orange handles, so they won't need to be replaced weekly.

• I will treat my compost pile with respect, not as a place where newspaper and coffee grounds and underperforming plants go to die.

• I will stop accepting plants described as "very robust" or "slightly aggressive." More importantly, I will stop forcing them on others. Sorry about all that 'Silver King' artemisia and 'CherryBells' campanula everyone.

Or it will be just like this year, with weeds everywhere, a few very sad containers and an infant who ate more than her fair share of dirt.

If so, there's always next year!

Goji Berries – The Superfood

By Conrad J. Wrzesinski

In walking through the health food section of a local grocery store, the word Superfood, followed by the word goji berries, on a package of deep red dried fruit caught my eye and piqued my curiosity for further research into this fruit.

The goji berry, also called wolfberry, is the common name of the fruit of *Lycium barbarum* and *Lycium chinense*. The fruit is native to China and has been purportedly used in traditional Chinese medicine for over 2,000 years and eaten by monks

in the Himalayan Mountains to help aid meditation. From a nutritional point, goji berries are low in calories, fat-free, a good source of fiber and a high-antioxidant food, which probably prompted being advertised as a Superfood.

According to Penn State Extension, goji berries are hardy in USDA Zones 2 to 7. Goji berries form a loose shrub from 4 to 7 feet tall with long arching branches. Pruning is recommended to maintain the shape of the shrub. The small, purple flowers start in late spring and will continue through the summer. The ellipsoid fruit is a bright red orange. The berries ripen from July to October and can be eaten out of hand or dried for later use.

The goji berry research piqued my curiosity enough to plant in the spring of 2015 two different cultivars of *Lycium barbarum*, 'Sweet

Lifeberry' and 'Big Lifeberry'. Both survived the ensuing winter and have flowered and fruited, as can be seen in the photo from our garden.



Photo by Conrad Wrzesinski