



Perennial Notes

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Inc.

September 2017



Photo by Conrad Wrzesinski

Lathyrus vernus

By Conrad Wrzesinski

This harbinger of spring is often called Everlasting Sweet Pea, Perennial Sweet Pea and Spring Vetchling. For some the name, Sweet Pea, may call to mind Tommy Roe's 1960's hit single by the same name or thoughts of salad greens, but alas, the foliage and flowers are toxic for human consumption.

Lathyrus vernus is native to Europe and parts of Siberia. The plant is not finicky to grow. A location in full shade to part sun with well-drained garden soil is the only requirement. Though the plant will tolerate full sun, the foliage will tend to burn. After flowering, the foliage tends to die down.

The multi-stemmed plant forms a clump with a neat bushy growth habit reaching 8 to 12 inches in height. Increase in our garden has been moder-

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WHPS coming events!

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

Wednesday, Sept. 13, 5:30 pm. - WHPS tour of Epic Grounds, 1979 Milky Way, Verona with Jeff Epping. WHPS members are invited to a garden tour at Epic's Intergalactic Headquarters. Enjoy an evening walking tour of the gardens on the Epic corporate campus in Verona. The tour will be led by Jeff Epping (Jeff Epping Design & Consulting, LLC) who has been involved in the design and planting of the gardens since 2005. **Driving/Parking Directions:** from Hwy 18 & 151/Verona Road, take Exit 76 (MV/Epic Lane/West Verona Avenue) to Epic Lane. At the first intersection (rock wall), turn left to stay on Epic Lane. Turn right onto Milky Way (Epic's driveway) and continue to the Visitor Parking Lot. Park under the blue solar panels, then walk back across the driveway to gather on the sidewalk outside the main reception area.

Wednesday, Sept. 20, Preparing for the Golden Years in the Garden, with speaker Kerry Ann Mendez. Kerry Ann is author of *The Right-Size Flower Garden: Simplify Your Outdoor Space with Smart Design Solutions & Plant Choices*. Kerry Ann has given lectures, workshops and classes throughout New England, across the United States and even in Canada. She is an entertaining, inspirational, and educational speaker who enjoys mingling humor with down-to-earth, garden-transforming expertise. Other books by Kerry Ann include: *The Ultimate Flower Gardener's Top Ten Lists: 70 garden-transforming theme lists and strategies for growing gorgeous, low-maintenance gardens in zones 3 through 7; Top Ten Lists for Beautiful Shade Gardens*. As a garden columnist and freelance writer, she has writ-



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June 2018 – WHPS Tour to England—North Wales, Shropshire, and Herefordshire

Tentative Itinerary: We will be meeting at London's Heathrow Airport on the morning of Saturday, June 16, 2018, and departing from there to Shropshire and the Welsh border area, visiting a couple of gardens along the way. The first night will be at the Hill Valley Hotel in Whitechurch, UK. From there we will proceed to northwest Wales, where we will stay three nights at Seiont Manor in the Snowdonia National Park (wonderful small hotel, spent several nights there in 2004). While there, we will

visit both Bodnant and Crug Farm once more, but all the other gardens in North Wales will be new to the WHPS. We will also have the opportunity to ride the Blanaù/Porthmadog steam train through the heart of Snowdonia. Next, it will be back to the UK-Welsh borders area to Herefordshire, where we will spend four nights at the Chase Ross Hotel in Rye as we continue visiting gardens in the West Midlands area. Still finalizing the gardens for this part of the

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Monet's Garden

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WHPS Fundraiser

– see p. 4.



WHPS Trip Reviews

– see p. 6, 7.

WHPS Coming Events (continued from p.1)

ten monthly columns for *518Life magazine*, based in Albany, NY. Kerry Ann has also written freelance articles for *Fine Gardening*, *Horticulture*, *Saratoga Life*, and *Portland Life*.

Sun. Oct 1. WHPS Seed Saving Workshop, 2-4 pm. Learn how saving seeds is a wonderful way to save money, propagate heirloom and hard-to-find varieties, and share your garden with friends. Sign up at <http://www.wisconsinhardyplantsociety.org/event-calendar.html>.

Saturday, Oct. 7, Bus Trip to Chicago Botanic Garden. Openings still available. More information is in the 2017 Trips Brochure which can be found on our website under Event Calendar.

Wednesday, Oct. 18, Moss Gardening – From Japan Onward, with speaker Dale Sievert.

Dale will show how moss is used in gardens, both as the dominant plant and as an accent. The presentation includes gardens of Japan, mainly in Kyoto, and various moss gardens of other countries, followed by American gardens (primarily Japanese style gardens). Interspersed are brief discussions of taxonomy, physiology, culture, and maintenance. Raised on a Wisconsin farm, Sievert began landscape gardening at age seven by planting flowers in varying geometric designs. After several zigzags following other interests, his interest in landscape gardening was rekindled in 1966. This was followed by graduation from the University of Wisconsin with a B.S. in Agronomy and an M.S. in Agricultural Economics. On a visit to Foxfire Gardens in 2005 he was stunned by the beauty of its small moss garden and has since then developed moss gardens of his own, using over 50 species of moss on ground surfaces, in over 300 containers, and on rocks. In 2012, Sievert redesigned and rebuilt a moss garden in the Japanese garden at Rotary Botanic Garden in Janesville, WI. Sievert's work has been featured in *The Magical World of Moss Gardening*, by Annie Martin, *The American Gardener* in 2009 and 2016, and in *Chicagoland Gardening*, *Sukiya Living* magazine and the *Journal of the North American Japanese Gardening Association*.



Wednesday, Nov. 15, Implementing the Design, with speaker Nick McCullough. We will get a close look at McCullough's process of growing the plant palette at his private nursery, designing high-end residential gardens, installing the design and then maintaining the gardens. When it comes to the art and science of landscape design, Nick McCullough's talents lie in both worlds. He studied both horticulture and art history at The Ohio State University, giving him a unique perspective on every design project. Furthering his experience, he also studied landscape design in Northwest England.



The aesthetic of English gardens made a profound impact on Nick, and many of his projects have ties to the classic design elements found in the English countryside. Nick is an APLD-certified Designer who has won numerous awards, including Young Professional of the Year from the Perennial Plant Association and Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association. A self-described "plant nerd," he is passionate about perennials and has a masterful understanding of how plants thrive in the Midwestern climate. This love of cultivating extends to Red Twig Farms—the nursery extension of his business, where unique perennials, annuals, specimen trees, and hedges are grown for use in his designs. His social media presence of over 3-million Pinterest followers makes him a standout in the industry, and a sought-after public speaker. Author of the *Thinking Outside The Boxwood* blog, Nick has also been a featured writer for publications such as *Garden Design* magazine. Nick has owned and operated McCullough's Landscape & Nursery, LLC since 1997 and lives in Central Ohio with his wife and their two children.

Wednesday, Dec. 6, Annual Meeting, Member Potpourri and Seed Exchange. Start planning now to take photos of your garden, gardens you visit, etc. to present at our December Member Potpourri.

Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018 – WHPS Potluck Brunch 9:00 am.-noon

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018, Radio Gardening with WI Public Radio host Larry Meiller.

Reminisce with WPR popular Garden Talk host Larry Meiller as he reflects on the radio show history and how the garden talk program evolved from it. Quite a bit of it is humorous, so we should have fun! He will certainly tell some garden stories, but claims he has nothing much close to gardening advice. There's also talk about long-range goals for the garden talk show and he will offer some quick thoughts on public radio in general. Some fun facts about Larry: he once ran an airport in Jamaica for an afternoon; he was run off the road in the middle of nowhere in Pakistan and while there, spent 15 mil-



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Claude Monet's garden in Giverny

by Emily Buckingham

A visit to Claude Monet's garden in Giverny, about an hour from Paris, was one of the highlights of the trip to France my husband and I took in May.

While the original garden was allowed to decline after Monet's death, it has since been restored to what it looked like while he lived there from 1883 until his death in 1926. When we were there, the alliums, poppies, irises, and late tulips were blooming, as were recently planted summer annuals. In the colorful, flower-filled cottage garden by the house, drifted self-seeding annuals were set against carefully pruned roses and espaliered apples. The water lily pond garden across the street focused on foliage color and

texture, with willows, Japanese maples, grasses, and ferns featured prominently. Seeing the iconic water lily pond and bridge in person gave me a new appreciation for Monet's ability to capture on canvas the essence of his garden, truly a living work of art.

And though I've never considered myself much of an artist, spending time in Monet's garden reminded me to take time to observe and enjoy the art that is the colors and textures in my own garden.



2017 Other Events of Note

Sunday, Sept. 10, Troy Gardens Fall Festival, 2:00-6:00 p.m. Bring your family and friends to the Troy Gardens Fall Festival! Three local food carts will be selling yummy food on the big lawn, with plenty of gluten-free, vegan and vegetarian options. Treat yourself to an ice cream or non-dairy cone, refreshing Great Dane beer and wine from Tornado Steakhouse, or purchase hand-made pottery to benefit Community GroundWorks. Free face painting and our annual apple cider pressing activities. Free entertainment all afternoon, featuring the great juggler Truly Remarkable Loon, Kettle Moraine Blues Band, and Mami Wata African Drums to entertain kids and adults alike. <http://www.cias.wisc.edu/troy-gardens-fall-festival/>

Aug. 31 – October 28, GLEAM: Art in a New Light, evening viewings – times vary by month (rain or shine), www.olbrich.org/events

Wednesday, Sept. 27, Over-Wintering Tropical Plants and Favorite Houseplants, 6:30 pm, by Patty Bailey, retail manager of Oak Village Garden Center. www.rotarybotanicalgardens.org

Sept. 29, Olbrich Botanical Gardens' Crackle & Froth, 7-10 pm.

Friday-Saturday, Sept. 29-30, Habitat For Humanity ReStore Final Plant Sale of the Year, Habitat ReStore East, 4207 Monona Drive, Monona. Hours for the sale are 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Many varieties of hardy perennials will be available,

including daylilies donated by the Wisconsin Daylily Society (\$5 each) and iris donated by Breezeway Iris Garden. Plant prices are \$4 each or 3 for \$10, unless otherwise marked. All proceeds are used to help build homes for Habitat families in Dane County. Plant donations must be pre-approved. Please contact Ann Wolfe at 442-8768 or plantlady123@outlook.com for more information.

Oct. 6-7, Digging in the Dells: A Gathering for Gardeners. The Wisconsin Garden Club Federation's new event will be held in Wisconsin Dells on October 6 and 7. Program choices range from the full two-day package plus extra tours to Aldo Leopold Foundation, the International Crane Foundation, or a Wisconsin River Boat Tour featuring the geology and flora of the area – or partial day programs! Learn to paint a floral masterpiece or experiment with a new floral design. Find out what you need to know about the dreaded jumping worm and discover the Ice Age Trail, winter interest gardening, veggie gardening, and how to make the most of hostas and native plants in your gardens. Dine with Melinda Meyers as she presents "Creating a Pollinator Garden" and bring a new buzz to your gardens. Vendors, auctions, raffles, lovely accommodations, and dining at The Chula Vista Resort. Deadline was September 1, but for more information visit <http://www.wisconsinclub.org/blog/digging-in-the-dells-oct-6-7>, or call Susan at 715-248-7870.

Saturday, Oct. 14, The Wisconsin Peony Society Ltd (WPS) fall Root Auction & Plant Sale will be held at West Madison Research Station. Check with the Wisconsin Peony Society Ltd. - www.wipeonysociety.org/events for additional information.

Tuesday, Oct. 17, Unique Conifers Make a Garden Special, 6:30 pm, by Rich Eyre, owner of Rich's Foxwillow Pines Nursery in Woodstock, IL. www.rotarybotanicalgardens.org

Saturday, Nov. 4, The Madison Herb Society Herb Fair, 9 am.-3 pm, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Hear about herbs from speakers and vendors. www.madisonherbsociety.org

Saturday, Nov. 4, Fall Symposium devoted to the study of Landscape Design at Rotary Gardens. 9 am.-3:30 pm. www.rotarybotanicalgardens.org

Wednesday, Nov. 15, Hands-on "Evergreen Arrangement" design class, 6:30-8:30 pm, with Patty Bailey. Pre-registration required. www.rotarybotanicalgardens.org

Wednesday, Nov. 29, Plant Selection for Four-Season Garden Interest, 6:30 pm, by Mark Dwyer, Horticulture Director of Rotary Botanical Gardens. www.rotarybotanicalgardens.org

Dec. 2-31, Olbrich Botanical Gardens' Holiday Express. Twinkling lights, tiny landscapes, and model trains.

WHPS Coming Events (continued from p.2)

lion dollars on a USAID project in 14 days; while in Nicaragua he was accused, at gun point, of working for the CIA; he sat with the pilot and copilot on a passenger plane trip in the Caribbean. Larry Meiller is a Professor emeritus in the Department of Life Sciences Communication (LSC) at UW-Madison and is host of "The Larry Meiller Show," a 90-minute call-in talk show heard each weekday from 11:00 am.-12:30 pm. on Wisconsin Public Radio. He and his radio guests talk about a wide variety of topics, including the environment, health, consumer issues, finance, gardening and many others. He was inducted into the Wisconsin Broadcasters Hall of Fame in June 2017. Larry also teaches broadcast classes and advises up to 100 undergraduates. He was the longest-serving faculty member of the UW's student radio station, WSUM, and played a key role in launching the station on air and in developing its organizational structure. Larry lives in Madison with his daughter, Emily.

Wednesday, Mar. 21, 2018 – Head Gardener at Home: A Peek into the Home Garden of Olbrich's Horticulture Director. Jeff Epping, Director of Horticulture at Olbrich Gardens, will cover the gardening challenges and

joys facing every home gardener and useful designs he's developed to enhance his environment, save time and, of course, add beauty to the yard (no mow grass front yard). Then you'll have the opportunity to visit his home garden along with four other home gardens on a July 11, 2018, WHPS garden tour. Jeff Epping has been Director of Horticulture at Olbrich Botanical Gardens for over 20 years. He oversees the horticultural operations and garden designs of over ten inspirational display gardens, showcasing the best plants for south-central Wisconsin. Epping and his staff have practiced and preached sustainable gardening for years, which is reflected in their award-winning garden designs and environmentally conscious cultural practices. Their designs put plants at the forefront to create gardens that celebrate the region, enhance the senses and satisfy our innate desire to connect with the natural world.



Allen Centennial Gardens HortiCULTURAL

Landscapes Symposium, April 13-14, 2018, tickets go on sale Jan 15.

Wednesday, Apr. 18, 2018 – Abelia to Ziziphora: 30 Years of Plant Evaluation at Chicago Botanic Garden, with speaker Richard Hawke.

The Chicago Botanic Garden has been evaluating and recommending superior garden plants to home gardeners and the green industry since 1988. Richard Hawke will give an overview of the evaluation program and present a variety of proven plants from 30 years of trials, including new selections and old favorites. Richard Hawke is responsible for the comparative evaluation of over 1,000 perennials and woody plants each year. He is the principal author of *Plant Evaluation Notes*, an author and contributing editor for *Fine Gardening*, and writes for other horticulture publications such as *Perennial Plants*, *The American Gardener*, and *Nursery Management*.



Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018 – WHPS Potluck Dinner and Walk Through Olbrich Botanical Gardens

Brent and Becky's Bulbs WHPS Fundraiser

Help Us Raise Needed Money!
Bloomin' Bucks
with Brent and Becky's

Now you can help the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society raise money with any order you place with Brent & Becky's Bulbs. With hundreds of gorgeous blooms to choose from, you'll be sure to find something you just can't live without.

Simply visit www.bloominbucks.com and select "Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society" from the organization drop down menu. Hit "GO" to be sent to the Brent and Becky's website where you can order any item, in any quantity – bulbs, tools, books, supplements, gift certificates and more – **and 25% of your purchase will be donated to the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society.** This option applies to phone and mail orders as well – just be sure to mention WHPS or write us in as the organization you would like to support. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, donations like these are essential to continue our mission. We plan to keep this as a long term/permanent fundraising option.

Please help us with this easy and generous offer to raise funds.

June 2018 England Tour (cont. from p.1)

trip—there are so many to choose from! We will visit the garden at Powis Castle, which we visited about 20 years ago, as well as Bryan's Ground (the Arts & Crafts Garden of the editors of *Hortus* magazine), which was on the 2004 tour. Also included is a visit to the medieval cathedral at Hereford and its famous Mappa Mundi. We will end up back at a hotel near Heathrow airport Sunday night of June 24, for departures on Monday, June 25. We will be led by Marilyn Parker once again, our entertaining and very indulgent guide. We hope to have most details worked out, as well as the cost, in the next few weeks. Stay tuned. We will be planning for about 32 travelers. If you have any burning questions in the meantime, please contact Frank Greer at frgreer@sbcglobal.net.

Lathyrus vernus (cont. from p.1)

ate, which on the garden space of city lot is a welcome attribute. The pea-like flowers appear in early spring. The showy bi-color flowers are reddish purple and white in color with red veins. The color becomes more violet-blue as the blooms mature. The pinnate, light green leaves lack tendrils that are often associated with pea-like plants. A photo from our garden illustrates the showy floriferous bloom. Though there are no serious insect or disease problems, I have found that rabbits can be a problem if the plant is not protected.

A pink flowering cultivar, *Lathyrus vernus* 'Alboreus', is also available. Both the species and the cultivar have achieved the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit.

A Gardener's Lament



by Linda Marx

It's just a small city lot, 40 x 100, and like most gardens it's an expression of the gardener – and the recipient of a great deal of my effort, time and money. The garden is in the city, nestled between a huge cottonwood and two black walnuts, on a residential street, not too busy, but with enough foot traffic to have regular passersby offering appreciative sentiments or encouraging comments. The neighbors, or at least those that talk to me, like the yard.

Every gardener experiences the manic/depressive emotions of gardening: the exhilarating highs of the first spring tulip; a perfectly planted container; a great color combination in the front bed; a happily spreading perennial that originally cost far too much money; or perfectly timed rain showers arriving just as the hose needed to come out.

On the depressive side, there are periodic setbacks: the rabbit snipping off the first spring tulip; an occasional spring hailstorm, wiping out the hostas for the year; Japanese beetle infestations that come or black spot and leaf mold; the years of heat resulting in endless watering; bitter cold winters (2012 comes to mind) wiping out all the zone-pushing plants I insisted on buying; the contractor who is totally oblivious to the \$30 plant he just trampled; and on and on.

Every gardener knows of what I speak. We rebound and carry on from setback or challenge or two. This year, I don't know.

It started in May. I came back from a week-long trip to never-before-seen (at least in my yard) tent caterpillars. Fine. Clipped a few branches. The shrubs were a bit misshaped after the clipping but have since recovered. No big deal.

June came around and so did the jumping worms. No surprise. I was first infected a couple of years ago and managed to carry on. I thought maybe the worms might maintain their restriction to the back of the yard. Why, I don't know. I thought I was practicing careful hygiene. Or I conveniently forgot what prodigious procreators jumping worms are and how gross they are and how I'm obsessed to collect and tortuously dispose of them. The disposal process is not for the queasy. Pint or quart plastic containers, with a secure cover, are discreetly scattered throughout the yard to accept the victims that inevitably appear when I'm weeding or planting, or even looking a plant. I've tried to ignore them, look the other way or throw a little soil over them, but they are an invasive and I am compelled to do something about it. (Yes, I know, my efforts are akin to emptying the ocean with a teaspoon, but I must persist). Years of nurturing my soil, adding compost, digging in organic matter, ruined in a matter of two years. There are not enough leaves in the city of Madison to restore that soil. The soil is granular, doesn't hold moisture, plant roots are thin, plants themselves looking anemic. I don't see an upside.

July brought the gypsy moth caterpillar to my majestic purple weeping European beech – accccc! Another new experience. And another time sink. By the time I realized what was happening, I had far too many caterpillars for the burlap strip removal process. Hours were spent on the ladder picking off caterpillars and depositing them into four quart containers, filled to the top. Caterpillars higher than



twelve feet off the ground got a reprieve. But not the tree. It looks like a fringed-leaf or lace-leaf new variety of beech. Deluded myself into thinking I picked off a good portion of the caterpillars and maybe next

year might be better. There was quiet for a week or so. And then the moths hatched and unfortunately my yard was awash with brown moths, each laying millions of eggs. The unsuccessful hunt was on for moth traps. Next year looks grim.

Ending this tirade on a happy, fairy tale conclusion is my hopeful goal. I wish I could say the latest WHPS tour uplifted my soul and made me fight on. Well, it did uplift my soul by seeing fabulous gardens and meeting interesting people, but I still feel beat down. Nature, to no surprise, is winning. The cumulative effects of garlic mustard, Japanese beetles, jumping worms, tent caterpillars, squirrels, munching rabbits, digging raccoons, mold, black spot, slugs et al., are weighing heavily. Yes, I know I'm spared the ravages of deer, woodchucks, ground squirrels, turkeys and other horrors, but can I fight on? It's an open question.

A Way to Garden discusses the Jumping Worm

Margaret Roach's Blog (AWayToGarden.com) recently included a discussion on the Jumping Worm (among other topics) with Ken Druse at <http://awaytogarden.com/cracked-tomatoes-growing-rhubarb-hot-spots-asian-jumping-worms-stiltgrass-qa-ken-druse/> In a recent email exchange on the topic, she expressed her thoughts about the worms in her garden. *I have a bad worm problem here in a few spots, more in semi-shady places than in full sun. And yes, there is nothing quite like the aroma of decaying worms. Horrifying. After my Open Day tours, those very wormy lawn areas are truly stinky. All those hundreds and hundreds of feet on churned-up soil full of (formerly living, now crushed) worms. Ugh.*

Update on Jumping Worm Research

Here's an article published in May of this year with an update on research being done on the jumping worms, including how the high heat of compost piles may destroy the viability of the cocoons: <https://arboretum.wisc.edu/news/arboretum-news/research-update-jumping-worms-and-sleeping-cocoons/>

2017 WHPS Trips Review

Minneapolis, July 27-30, 2017

by Maggie Carrao

Nothing beats a WHPS bus trip. As always, the July trip to Minneapolis was expertly planned and executed. No duds to report. We saw large gardens, small gardens, woodland gardens, rock gardens, Japanese gardens, private gardens, public gardens, a farm, five unique nurseries, and two sculpture collections.

One of the larger gardens, located in a wooded, countryside setting was the rustic cottage home and studio of artist Riana de Raad. She has developed a concrete medium impervious to the elements, formed over hardware cloth frames and studded with materials such as ceramics, mirrors and stones. The garden was punctuated with the concrete mosaic sculptures of people, animals, archways, and even furniture. The total effect reminded me of fairy tales like Hansel and Gretel.

There was more cement in the prize-winning private garden of Jerry and Lee Shannon, in the form of what appeared to be tufa trough planters used as a front yard focal point. But wait, Jerry confided that they were faux tufa – he had constructed them out of styrofoam fishing coolers covered with gloppy Drylok paint.

We visited Como Park in St. Paul. I had been there 35 years ago with family, and it seemed just as I remembered, with the large tropical conservatories a dominant feature. I especially enjoyed the Bonsai Exhibit.



It's a good thing we allowed five hours at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. There was so much to see, including samples of shrubs which had been bred there, such as the 'Lights' azalea cultivars hardy to cold climates, and many beautiful flowers. It was well worth the visit.

Mid to late summer flowers such as sunflowers, daylilies, summer alliums, coneflowers, verbena, nepeta, and monarda bloomed along with a mix of annuals, biennials, and grasses at both the public and private gardens. *Lobelia x speciosa* 'Fan Scarlet' was a focal point in several gardens, and at least three of us went home with specimens of the Cardinal flower. Other plants that were used repeatedly were varieties of thalictrum, both tiny and tall, and the biennial *Angelica archangelica*. The latter was scattered throughout the large shady, woodland backyard of Glenn Ray, as well as in a hedge-like planting on the terrace in front of Frank Fitzgerald's charming old home.

We learned about sustainable farm-to-table agriculture at Tangletown Farm, where the crops are rotated from field to field, as well as the beef cows and chickens from pasture to pasture. The plants and animals are happy at Tangletown. The pigs even have a mudhole to wallow in, and the Koi raised there earn their way by furnishing fertilized water for the crops. The entire system made me feel optimistic about the whole human predicament.

At the Gardens of Rice Creek, also the home of Betty Ann Addison, we were treated with concise lessons in rock gardening and hardy rhododendron propagation.

Finally, among my souvenirs upon returning to Wisconsin was a Spring newsletter from Kelley and Kelley Nursery and Landscape Design. Twenty pages long, it was composed of thoughtful essays, as well as useful information about plants and gardens. The warm and welcoming personalities of both Kelleys and their love of plants shines through the writing. I've asked to be placed on the mailing list, and you can too by emailing your name and address to kelly-andkelley@gmail.com.

Editor's note: Also from the Minneapolis Trip – this from Jane Gahlman as seen on a church notice board on our WHPS Minneapolis bus trip - "Noah should have swatted the two mosquitoes."



photos by Maggie Carrao

Member Comments, June 1, 2017, WHPS Bus Trip to Central Wisconsin

Sarah Xin Baker: I am a first-year member of WHPS and this is the first bus trip for me. It was a fun trip with a group of friendly and knowledgeable garden enthusiasts. The visit to the Hancock Research Center showcased the marvelous collaborative work between the state and the community. It is fascinating to know there is so much behind the potatoes we eat! The tours of the (Four Elements) herb garden and the Prairie Nursery were very informative, and the hosts were so charming. I cannot wait for the next trip to explore the state and hang out with people passionate about plants and nature!

Sue Christoffersen: I was surprised that the talk at the Hancock Ag Station about growing potatoes was so interesting. I also enjoyed the ride to the fields.

Sue Gerlach: Thanks for planning such a great trip yesterday! I have some new plants to put in and I felt compelled to buy potatoes at the grocery store today! Keep up the good work.

Peggy Kleinhans: The ag station was a totally new educational experience for me. I had no idea that there was so much invested in agricultural research. I would like to visit at another season to observe

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the research conducted on other crops. Prairie Nursery was a great experience. I will definitely order white baptisia for next year's garden! Russell's Market prices were very reasonable and the quality of plants excellent. Thanks for all your efforts! Great trip!

Vickie Lester: Every trip I have gone on with WHPS has been a brain stimulating, eye-opening experience. Thank you to the committee for the imagination and research that goes into the planning of them. I now am using the 'Minus Sinus' tea that I bought on this trip and am enjoying it and all that I bought.

Joanie Lawrence: I wanted to acknowledge that the Central Wisconsin Bus Trip was a wonderful adventure – from the WHPS participants to the great places we visited. The two places that were the highlights of the trip for me were the Prairie Nursery Production Facility and the Hancock Ag Research Station. Enjoyed learning how to raise Prairie Plants and all the research that goes into raising excellent potatoes to feed our nation. Thanks to all for planning a great day.

Nancy Moskal: I thoroughly enjoyed the tour's blend of education and shopping in Central WI.

Cathie Richards: The Hancock Research Station was a real eye-opener! I have driven past it many times but I had no idea of the history of the place or its importance in the agriculture of this area. I learned more about potatoes than I ever dreamed of!!

Member Comments on the July 1, 2017 WHPS Bus Trip Waukesha to West Bend

Jane Barnett: One of the greatest benefits of participating in a WHPS bus trip is getting to view lovely gardens tended by great plantsmen and women. While I might not be able to replicate a moss garden like Sievert Gardens or be disciplined enough to label every cultivar like Glenn Herold, I can appreciate the beauty created around their homes and aspire to develop my own version of a well-tended garden. Thank you for expanding my horizons and feeding my desire to learn more.

Grace David: Each garden we visited had its unique charm and each inspired me in different ways – it would be hard to pick a favorite. Here's just one photo from The Sievert Gardens. The entire day



photo by Grace David

was so well planned and I enjoyed every bit of it. Many thanks to the committee. **Jane LaFlash** adds: I love this photo - I remember this mossy area with all these little mushrooms growing in it.

Marijane Curry: One of the best trips ever. I learned so much about mosses and dwarf conifers I could purchase. There are up to 40 different moss types that can be grown here and there are some that grow in the sun.

Jane Gahlman: We were all very impressed with Glenn and Terry Herold's meticulous labeling of every tree, shrub and perennial in their beautiful garden. His plant markers are from Kincaid. He uses 1" black tape on a Brother P-touch printer to make the labels. <http://store.kincaidplantmarkers.com/Products.html>

Frank Greer: The Moss garden was spectacular and very different – had incorporated over 5,000 street brick pavers and cobblestones into the paths and walls. He actually had pots of moss everywhere, which would probably be much easier to care for.

The biggest surprise was the exquisite collection of bonsai displayed in the middle of the Lynden Sculpture Garden – surrounded by a beautifully crafted ornamental metal fence with gates: elegant ceiling of floating white gauze cloth; maintained by Milwaukee Bonsai Society and not open every day. There was a spectacular bonsai of a Chinese elm that was hundreds of years old. Each bonsai sprang from a bed of moss, continuing the moss theme of the trip.

I was also intrigued by the neighborhood of Brewer's Hill that surrounded the Sanger House, which was built in 1872. The garden also incorporated old street pavers and cobble stones and included many architectural salvaged pieces, in-

cluding a large stone column from the Capitol which had been repurposed into a basin for a fountain – very memorable.

Glenn's six-year-old garden in Cedarburg was remarkable for the mostly sun garden with enough space so that every plant has its own space (no touching allowed between plants). Perennials were thus beautifully grown and many were of an unbelievable size.

Joanie Lawrence: WHPS Trip Committee, thanks for the wonderful trip. Enjoyed every minute. Private Gardens were beautiful. Never saw so much moss and in so many different places.

Barbara Mathis: The day trip to Waukesha and West Bend was my first trip with WHPS. My thanks to the Trip Committee for putting on such an organized outing! I'd never seen as much moss in one place as I did at Dale Sievert's garden. Sanger House was a restful stop, and lingering in the garden was a delight. A surprise was the Lynden Sculpture Garden – Joan and I loved the pond full of water lilies and frogs, and then we happened upon an unexpected bonsai display – photo attached. Glenn Herold's home garden was amazing in many ways, but the 900 plant varieties are what sticks in my mind. Our bus was full of plant addicts so the stop at Mayfield Nursery made sense.



photo by Barbara Mathis

Elaine Strassburg: Once again, I appreciate the members who plan these trips. It's always a great time with my friend Ardis and all the others. The first garden has me thinking about doing a little something with moss. And even though I'm finally controlling myself (no more room around my condo), I did buy my first plumbago.



211 S. Fair Oaks Avenue, Madison, WI 53704

September 2017 Newsletter

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

NOTES from MEMBERS

A Thank You from Second Harvest

Please let your members know that the gardens at Second Harvest Food Bank have been well supplied with donations and are planted. We are battling the rabbits for some plants but are happy with the hardiness of the plants that were donated. Thanks to WHPS members who contributed for their generosity. It made the project easier and less expensive. We may ask for additional donations again next spring. – *Libby Howting*



A Thank You from Member Vickie Lester

I injured my leg on the bus trip Saturday July 1 and would like to extend the following special thank you: to Phil, the bus driver (loaned to me his rolled back cushion); to the passengers for their help with ice packs (kept the swelling to a minimum); to Joanie, my seat mate, who watched over me; to Steve Bialk (I think) who sent out treats and a wrap with cold pack; to Jane LaFlash and Jane Gahlman, who helped with the wheel chair, future plan changes and pictures to share with me; to the young man at the desk of Lynden Sculpture Garden who kept me entertained with info on the garden and wheeled me to the waiting car. WHPS members are the Greatest. – *Vickie Lester*

Become an Arboretum Leader

Do you enjoy working with others while taking care of the Earth? If so, consider becoming a Restoration Team Leader by the UW Arboretum. You will develop professional ecological skills, practice the land ethic, and give back to your community. Team leaders play a critical role in restoring Arboretum prairies and savannas by supervising other volunteers at Saturday morning ecological restoration work parties. They also gain invaluable personal and professional experience as they learn about native ecosystems and plants, manage and maintain native landscapes, and develop leadership and communication skills. Team leaders get to know the Arboretum and how it works in every season.

Restoration Team Leader Training will begin in October 2017. You will participate in an extensive training that includes working outdoors, workshops, and Red Cross Certification. We ask for a big commitment and we provide a unique and enduring opportunity in leadership and ecological restoration. For more information, please contact Marian Farrior at (608) 265-5214 or marian.farrior@wisc.edu. <https://arboretum.wisc.edu/>

New Members

The following members have recently joined WHPS: Carol Brunt, Theresa Jones, Colleen McCabe, Sally & Roger Neuhaus, Corinna Wells, Lyn Grigsby, JR & Shanna House Flynn, Kim McBride, Soozie Willey, Marcy Read, and John & Jean Mathews. Welcome!