



Perennial Notes

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Inc.

June 2020



Twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*) FB 5/3/2020

By Glenn Herold, as part of his Plant of the Week Facebook posts (Week 9 – May 3, 2020)

Twinleaf is one of my favorite spring wildflowers. If any plant makes you get into your garden for a walk-around it is this one, for if you procrastinate you may miss it in flower. The 8-petaled, white flowers are short-lived. So why do I like this plant so much? Well, besides forcing you to get into the garden, the foliage is unique, resembling the wings of a butterfly. At maturity, the symmetric leaves can measure 6 inches long and 4 inches wide, but they are much smaller when the plant is in bloom. After bloom, they continue to expand. A good explanation for this is that the woodland plant blooms

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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.

Questions about our events? Email wisconsinhps@gmail.com for specific info.

SCHEDULING NOTE: Our schedule of meetings and events is still tentative at present due to the continuing pandemic and our desire to do as much as we can to maintain the safety and health of our members. We are guided by the recommendations of the State of Wisconsin, Dane County and City of Madison for large events and the availability of facilities at which to hold them. Please pay close attention to your email, as we will be confirming or cancelling events via member email communications.

Open Gardens We have received a few inquiries from members about holding open gardens, and if we are able to confirm these events we will email you with the location, details and requirements that will adhere to current standards of health and safety, such as mask-wearing and social distancing.

Wednesday, Aug. 12, WHPS Member Potluck and Walk Through Olbrich Gardens, 5:30-8:30 pm. Set-up at 5:30, food line begins at 6:00. Bring a dish to share and your own plates and utensils. Juice and coffee will be provided.

Wednesday, Sept. 16, WHPS Meeting: Speaker Brent Heath of Brent & Becky's Bulbs. Whether you are planning to plant bulbs in a fresh,

newly prepared empty garden, or whether you are adding them to an already existing one, Brent and Becky Heath, third-generation bulb growers and owners of Brent and Becky's Bulbs from Gloucester, Virginia, will have the answers for you! With exquisite images illustrating the seminar, they will introduce you to the best of the best...the right bulbs for the right spots. They'll show you how to combine bulbs, perennials, annuals, ground covers and flowering shrubs that will create just the feeling you want to generate for three seasons in your garden. Brent Heath is a naturalist, an author, a photographer, a speaker, a daffodil hybridizer and a gardener, and because of achievements in all of these areas of expertise, has won many gold medal awards from various organizations in the horticultural industry. One of Brent's greatest joys is sharing his love of all things natural in the world and inspiring people of all ages and experiences to look at the world around them in a different, eye-opening way. He has helped them understand how to take care of the earth for the next crop and/or for future generations. He has given lectures and shared knowledge with gardeners in every state except North Dakota and Hawaii. WHPS thanks Brent and Becky's Bulbs for their continuing support of non-profit organizations such as ours (see page 5). We continue to gain income through this ongoing fundraiser.

Saturday, Sept. 19, Celebrating The Flower Factory, 3:30 pm. at The Flower Factory barn. Join us as we visit and say a proper farewell
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A. Hort Hound

returns – see p. 4.



Gravel gardens

see p. 6.



Native shade plants

see p. 7.

WHPS Events (cont. from p.1)

to a business that has meant so much to all of us and wish David and Nancy Nedveck a long, healthy, fun and exciting retirement.

Sunday, Sept. 20, Intrinsic Perennials Truck Sale, location and time TBD. Brent Horvath of Intrinsic Perennial Gardens in Hebron, IL will bring his truck loaded with one-gallon plants for sale to our members.

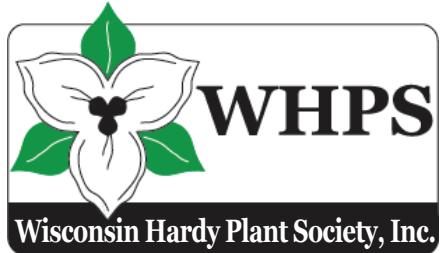
Wednesday, Oct. 21, WHPS Meeting: Garden Design for Small Spaces with Speaker Frank Fitzgerald, an award-winning Landscape Architect with Cunningham Group in Minneapolis whose work has been featured in *Fine Gardening* and *Better Homes & Gardens*.



Wednesday, Nov. 18, WHPS Meeting: Have Plants – Will Travel, Speaker Michael Jesiowski, Horticulture Director, Rotary Botanical Gardens.



Wednesday, December 9, WHPS Annual Meeting, Seed Exchange, Trash & Treasure Exchange and 30th Anniversary Party!



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Facebook Group Contest Results and Upcoming Challenges

Contest Winners

We are pleased to announce the randomly-selected winners of #WHPSShow&Tell, our online event held through the WHPS Facebook Group to give members a chance to showcase their gardens in late April/early May during Wisconsin's Coronavirus Stay at Home period. The winners of a \$50 gift certificate to The Flower Factory were Christine Albert, Karen Kuenzi, Peggy Lemon, Alice Page and Eve West. We had over 70 entries and hope you agree that it was wonderful to get a peek into so many member gardens. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Summer Challenges

In lieu of in-person garden events this summer, WHPS is going to post themed weekly photo challenges on our Facebook Group page, so you can show off the best parts of your garden. Each Sunday we'll post the week's theme and members are encouraged to post one or more pictures that correspond to that theme by the following Sunday. You can include as much or little description as you like. And tag your post with the hashtag #WHPSweeklychallenge so everyone can easily find these posts.

Themes for each week's challenge are: June 14 – Art in the Garden; June 21 – Cut Flowers From Your Garden; June 28 – Gardening in the Terrace (area between street and sidewalk); July 5 – Before & After; July 12 – Ornamental Edibles; July 19 – Annuals in the Perennial Garden; July 26 – Foliage Combinations; August 2 – Colorful Containers; August 9 – Pollinator Paradise; August 16 – Best Kept

Secrets (an "uncommon" perennial you'd highly recommend); August 23 – View from the Patio/Deck; August 30 – Creating Privacy.

To join our Facebook Group, [click here](#).



From Alice Page (submitted via email): My garden is the one place where I can truly forget about my job in public health. #WHPSshowandtell



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2020 – Other Gardening Events of Note

Key events of interest in the coming garden season are listed but please visit the following websites for more info on events.

- [Allen Centennial Garden in Madison](#)
- [Boerner Botanical Gardens in Milwaukee.](#)
- [Chicago Botanic Garden.](#)
- [Green Bay Botanical Garden](#)
- [Lynden Sculpture Garden in Milwaukee](#)
- [Mitchell Park Horticultural Park \(The Domes\) in Milwaukee](#)
- [Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL](#)
- [Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison](#)
- [Paine Art Center and Gardens in Oshkosh](#)
- [Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville](#)
- [University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum](#)

CANCELLED
Friday, July 10 & Saturday, July 11, Olbrich Gardens' 2020 Home Garden Tour: Gardens of Madison's West Side – Radio Park, University Hill Farms & Glen Oak Hills, 9 am.-3 pm. Follow the tour map and explore exquisite home gardens that offer a look into each gardener's individual sense of creativity, imagination, and beauty. Talk with homeowners, landscape architects, and Master Gardeners to get tips on how to incorporate various garden techniques into your own home

landscape! Tickets are \$15 public/\$13 Olbrich Members. Advance tickets available for purchase at Olbrich's Growing Gifts Workshop starting June 1.

Thursday, July 16-Sunday, August 9, Olbrich's Blooming Butterflies, 10 am.-4 pm. daily, for more information go to: <http://www.olbrich.org/events/butterflies.cfm>

Saturday, July 25, Rotary Botanical Gardens Spring Symposium (rescheduled due to Covid-19), 9 am.-3 pm. Topics include: Have Plants, Will Travel; Garden Renovation: Transform Yard into the Garden of Your Dreams; Cool Plants to Know and Grow.

September 2-October 31, Gleam: Art in a New Light. Annual art exhibit featuring local, national, and international artists creating light-based installations throughout Olbrich's 16-acre outdoor gardens and tropical Bolz Conservatory. Visitors wind their way through dimly lit pathways, encountering strange and surprising forms that pulse and shimmer in the night around every corner.

Saturday, September 19, UW-Madison Arboretum Garden Tour: Fall in the Native Plant Garden, 1-3 p.m. Color, fruits, seeds, late blooming plants, late-season insects—we will find these and more in the diverse Wisconsin Native Plant Garden around the Visitor Center. Susan Carpenter, native plant gardener, will lead this tour. Tour is open to the public and

begins at the Arboretum Visitor Center. It is intended for adults.

Friday, September 25 and Friday, October 2, Crackle Fire & Froth, 7-10 pm. Be inspired by the beauty of a crisp fall evening in Olbrich's outdoor gardens! Watch the flames from bonfires dance on the Great Lawn, groove to live music, enjoy a variety of food offerings provided by some of Madison's favorite food carts, and sip frothy Wisconsin microbrews!

Saturday, October 10, 1-3 p.m. UW-Madison Arboretum Garden Tour: Conifers. Zane Fuller, Arboretum horticultural technician, will explore the Longenecker Horticultural Gardens pinetum, the largest and most diverse conifer collection in the state. Located on a glacial drumlin, the collection presents conifers from around the world. Tour is open to the public and begins at the Arboretum Visitor Center. It is intended for adults.

Saturday, October 17, 1-3 p.m. UW-Madison Arboretum Garden Tour: Fall Favorites. Enjoy the colorful show of Longenecker Horticultural Gardens trees and shrubs before winter dormancy. Michael Jesiolowski, Janesville Rotary Botanical Gardens' director of horticulture, will highlight the best fall foliage, form, and fruit displays from Acer to Zelkova. Tour is open to the public and begins at the Arboretum Visitor Center. It is intended for adults.

Facebook (cont. from p.2)



From Peggy Lemon (submitted via email): The Incas had a sacred place they regarded as the navel of the universe. My garden is the navel of my universe, and all that is good spirals out from it. #WHPSShowandtell



The COVID Spring

By A. Hort Hound

As the threatening wave of the COVID-19 virus loomed on the horizon, the first golden orbs of winter aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*) appeared on the 8th of March a few days after the first snowdrops revealed their green-capped tears of white. Golden masses of aconite unfurling over the landscape are much more dramatic than the softer swaths of snowdrops, and in my own mind, the more defining harbinger of spring, and more uplifting for the Covid spring.

Yes, March also brought with it a life abruptly closed off by the isolation of social distancing and sheltering in place, but also uniquely created hours of "downtime" for observing the glory of spring in its most minute details. Close observation of the aconite revealed the thousands of tiny cotyledons of last year's seeds emerging from the warming earth, scattered among the tiny, distinctive palmate leaves of the second and third generations of seedlings of previous springs. On warmer, sunnier days when all its flowers fully open, I appreciated the spectacle of the early bees skipping from blossom to blossom.

I recalled a March visit to Longwood gardens about 25 years ago, when Bill Thomas (a Columbus, WI, native, now the director of Chanticleer Gardens in Wayne, PA) pointed out an experiment that had been conducted under two ancient beech trees. The understory of one tree was planted with the seeds of the aconite and the other planted with commercially available bulbs. Eight years later, there was no doubt about the outcome. There was a solid carpet of yellow under the seeded beech in contrast to the spotty smaller clumps of yellow flowers under its neighbor. Later that same year I procured a teaspoon or so of fresh aconite seed, scattering it in an area of the garden covered with hard bark mulch, and confirmed the results of the Longwood experiment. Now In fact, I must confess to time spent digging the aconite bulbs from unwanted areas, as well as scratching up the excess of seedlings—there are always tradeoffs. No matter though, for after setting its seed in the last week of May, this spring ephemeral has all but disappeared from the garden by mid-June.

On March 17 the first "Tommies" (*Crocus tommasinianus*) opened in shades of purple, lavender and, occasionally, white. For this spring beauty to be appreciated, the key is to have planted enough over the years to stay well ahead of the rabbits. Fortunately, the rabbit population was also low this year. On March 20 the temperature dropped into the upper teens, and that morning all of the snowdrops were lying flat on the ground. Funny, but English garden magazines never show photos of this fairly frequent occurrence in Wisconsin gardens (fortunately, they pop back up when the temperature warms). The buds of *Adonis amurensis*, also a gold early spring bloomer, did not show any color until 25 March.



The first 'Jet Fire' dwarf daffodils (my personal favorite at present) opened on April 6. I had not appreciated previously how the corolla opens to a pale yellow and deepens to an almost orange color with time. I planted a handful of the diminutive pink *Scilla bifolia* 'Rosea' many years ago, and this year for the first time noted the occasional presence of both a few blue (obviously a reversion) and white forms mixed in with the masses of pink. This bulb is much preferred to the brassy, electric blue of *Scilla siberica*, which isn't even from Siberia.

April 14 was marked by heavy snow showers and a second severe late freeze, down to 23 degrees. Perhaps appropriate for a Covid spring, this frost was a real killer. The flowers and foliage of *Mukdenia rossii* and *Bergenia ciliata* were blackened. Frost damage to the martagon lilies, bleeding hearts, and tricyrtis was severe. The bleeding hearts recovered, but the damage to flower buds of the martagon lilies was extensive. This will be the poorest showing of martagon lily flowers that I have ever experienced. They are the earliest lilies to break dormancy, explaining why they bloom well in the shade of deciduous trees, but that puts them at risk for frost damage as well. However, the worst damage was to one of my favorite plants, the weeping *Tricyrtis macrantha* ssp. *macranthopsis*. On the other hand, the orange/pink fox tail lilies (*Eremurus robustus*), with their jack-and-the-beanstalk flower spikes, will flower for the first time in several years. The Himalayan mayapple (*Podophyllum hexandrum*) and the woodies *Enkianthus perulatus* and *Cornus florida* also flowered spectacularly. Again there are always tradeoffs.

There was also more time to observe the fauna of the garden, most notably the type with wings (forget the rabbits and chipmunks). In early March, I observed two large birds up high in the oaks, signaling the return of the Nakoma turkey vultures! For those of you who frequent the Southwest bike path, you may never have noticed the turkey vulture roost in the large grove of white pine and spruce trees just before the Nakoma exit on the path. Typically, 30-40 TVs fly in every evening around sunset beginning in early March and ending in early May. The jockeying birds weigh down the branches almost to the breaking point. I was able to spend hours this spring sitting on a friend's nearby deck (usually with a glass of wine, or was it two?) watching the antics of these magnificent but homely birds at the end of the gardening day.

The wrens returned to the gourds outside the kitchen window as usual on the first of May, but this year, two pairs showed up and duked it out, without concern for social distancing. Clearly the winning pair had a tough time as I observed wrens for the first time on the suet feeder and subsequently fending off a cowbird who was trying to deposit one of her "orphan" eggs in the gourd. There were more sightings of migrating rose-breasted grosbeaks and Baltimore orioles than ever before, and for the first time in decades, sightings of a true red-headed woodpecker. On May 9 I observed both robins and cardinals taking polar plunges into the bird baths, oblivious to the loose shards of ice. And almost to the hour, I heard the first mournful call of the returning pewee flycatcher on Memorial Day, just as the flowers of the black locust trees are spreading their fragrance around the neighborhood.

(continued on page 5)

COVID Spring (continued from p. 4)

Back to the flora. The Covid spring provided welcome opportunities for completion of garden projects sitting on the back burner for years. In fact, it was obvious that almost every "gardener" in the neighborhood was well ahead of their spring to-do list. How quickly the hardware store up at Nakoma Plaza was depleted of bags of mulch and potting soil. Some years they are all but giving it away by the end of the garden season. The lines of folks waiting to get into the garden center at the nearby Home Depot, with social distancing spacing, seemed endless. After its late opening in May, the wait to drop off garden waste at the Fish Hatchery Road site was up to an hour or more.

Years ago, I had plopped in a plant of *Tsuga canadensis* 'Perfecta nana' in a rather random site simply because I had no place else to put it (just had to have

the plant). Three feet of growth later, and totally out of place, I finally managed to ball, burlap, and replant it in a friend's garden, who was thrilled. I also took up the formidable challenge of moving a very large golden *Aralia cordata* 'Sun King' to a more suitable location. This plant is right up there with *Hosta 'Empress Wu'*, both being Perennial Plant Association's Plant of the Year. I also spent untold hours digging snowdrops, epimediums, primulas (*P. sieboldii*), dwarf larkspur (*Delphinium tricorne*), winter aconite, goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), alliums ('Purple sensation' and 'White Knight'), and martagon lilies out of the paths. How I miss those WHPS plant sales which had kept these self-sowers in check over the years, but friends were happy to get them, jumping worms be damned. And I can see the paths again!! There are still plenty of proj-

ects for a (?) Covid summer – relocating clumps of *Adonis* being overrun by the 'Gentsch White' hemlocks, transplanting a large spreading mass of *Epimedium 'Cherry Tart'*, replacing a maple being ravaged by verticillium wilt, and expanding the planting area on the sidewalk terrace.

In the wee hours a few mornings ago, I was wakened by the terrifying screams of a rabbit meeting its demise at the hands of an owl, a fox or perhaps a coyote. I was again reminded that the garden is about both life AND death, but fortunately life, or the rejuvenation of life, is the predominant theme. Throughout my adult life I have always turned to the garden for solace and reassurance in times of sorrow and distress. The garden did not fail me in this Covid spring.

Twinleaf (cont. from p.1)

prior to tree leaf emergence, so capturing the sun's rays is not a problem. After the trees have leafed out, however, twinleaf needs all the leaf area it can muster to absorb sunlight and produce carbohydrates.

Following bloom, the fruit starts to develop. The one-inch long ovule resembles an upside down pear. An opening toward the top extends half-way around the capsule forming a hinged "lid." Inside are several rows of small brown seeds. With time, you may find it spreading in your garden, as it has done in mine. Twinleaf is somewhat rare in Wisconsin woodlands but is a welcome inhabitant of my shade garden.



You can read more from Glenn Herold at his blog, [The Cottage Gardener](#).

Brent & Becky's Bulbs

If you've been admiring and enjoying all of the beautiful bulbs flowering this spring, now is the time to order for fall delivery and planting. 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. To participate, simply visit [bloominbucks.com](#) and select "Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society" and hit "GO" to be sent to the Brent and Becky's website.

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) nonprofit, donations like these are essential to continue our mission!

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

WHPS History Project



We want to thank Membership and Garden Tours Coordinator Jane LaFlash for putting together a historical list of events that WHPS

has offered our members since 1989. She has taken much time to research past newsletters and other information and to maintain lists to include meetings (with topics and speakers listed), trips we have taken, tours, open gardens, workshops and other special events. This doc is now live as an external link under the "About" section of the website, under "History of Member Activities." <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-xrU1-e3bkgMlyRxJMpH5F-SW6Z1ZiLe6/view>

As we complete our 30th year (and a poignant year at that, with events and meetings suspended for now), it is a treat to be able to look back on all of the varied events we have held and remember the pleasure of getting together with members to enjoy them.

A HUGE thank you to all of those who have led our organization in creating this history, and thanks to our members for continuing with us on this journey.

What is a Gravel Garden?

By Tim Stenzel, Senior Landscape Architect,
Avant Gardening and Landscaping, Inc.

Despite growing in popularity around Dane County, I often find that people are confused by the term "gravel garden". Many people mistakenly equate them with the traditional stone-mulched planting beds seen in many a new subdivision and industrial park. It is important to understand the difference because, when done right, gravel gardens require substantially less maintenance in the long term.

A traditional stone-mulched planting bed starts with a layer of landscape fabric or "weed barrier" placed directly on top of the soil. Holes are cut in the fabric for plants and a thin layer of stone is dumped on top and spread around the plants. Although often marketed as low maintenance, weeds eventually find their way around the fabric and maintaining these beds without using herbicides becomes increasingly difficult. With a gravel garden, the gravel itself is the weed barrier. Plants are installed within a 4" thick layer of 3/8" quartzite or granite chips.



The concept is that weeds cannot grow in inert gravel. But if weeds will not survive in gravel, then how do the perennials? Plant selection and proper installation are the keys to success. It is important to begin by selecting deep-rooted plants or plants that like a drier location with good drainage. When installing, ensure good rootball-to-soil contact before adding the gravel.

Most of the work comes up front while establishing the garden. Vigilant watering in the first year is particularly important as rootballs can dry out in just a couple of days. Newly installed plants will need help until they mature and get their roots deep into the soil. The plants will require much less water once established, but will need some extra help during prolonged dry periods. Weeding is usually limited to the original rootballs of the plants, since dormant weed seeds may have come along with newly purchased plants. Ongoing maintenance is limited to an annual



clean-up in spring before new growth begins to emerge from the gravel garden plants. This cleanup needs to be very thorough since any debris left behind will allow organic matter to build-up in the gravel and become a medium for weed seeds to germinate. Cut the plants back with pruners, remove the plant material and then go over the area with a blower to remove any material you were not able to pick-up by hand. Maintenance considerations aside, I find that gravel gardens have a certain beauty all their own. The contrast between the hard, cool-colored gravel and the soft, organic nature of the plants gives the garden an aesthetic and energy not found in mulched beds.

— Avant Gardening & Landscaping in McFarland is a full-service landscape firm with a strong focus on native plants, organic maintenance, and natural stone hardscapes. Founded in 1985, they offer landscape design, installation, and seasonal maintenance. Their small, but growing, retail nursery offers locally grown perennials and potted shrubs from May - Nov. Visit their website at avantgardening.com.

Jumping Worms Update

Jumping worms have begun to emerge from their cocoons in the past month. At present they are likely only 1-3 inches long, reaching full maturity as a reproductive adult in July. At present there is still no definitive way to eliminate the worms as they go about their business and eliminate the viability of woodland topsoil. The best way to get rid of the worms is to pick them as you find them, put them in a bucket (or a plastic bag in a bucket) and let them desiccate in the sun, then throw them away. Some of our members and researchers are experimenting with biochar, which may mitigate the worms as it works to improve the soil (see article in April 2020 Newsletter for more information on biochar and how to make it). It can also be purchased commercially and many nurseries and big box stores are beginning to carry it. If you are not familiar with the worms, you can

learn more about jumping worms and best practices for dealing with them at this Wisconsin [DNR website](#).



Newsletter Survey

We would like to get your thoughts on our newsletter and how we might be better able to serve you through this publication. If you haven't already done so, please take five minutes (shouldn't take more than that) to click on this link, tinyurl.com/WHPSnewsurvey, and complete the survey. We really appreciate your membership and want to make the best publication we can for your information and pleasure.

WHPS Grants Program

The Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society offers grants to community groups, schools, or other organizations for projects that promote the use of herbaceous perennial plants in the landscape. Grants can only be awarded to a nonprofit organization or a group that is associated with a nonprofit organization. For more information go to our [website](#).

Shade Gardening with Native Plants

by Anna DePauw, Botannaca

A shady yard presents a great opportunity for gardening! Anyone who has tried to grow a lawn in the shade knows that it can be high maintenance and continuous reseeding. As an alternative, perennials can be planted en masse as groundcovers or interesting combinations. I appreciate a sunny garden filled with lots of color, but I find something special about gardening in the shade. Perhaps it's the close attention to patterns, textures and repetitions. I like searching for detail and delight that isn't immediately obvious, and I find the variations of green, blue and chartreuse to be calming. The limiting factors of a site can provide an opportunity to create something beautiful.

A limitation to shade gardening that has entered our terrain in Dane County is the infestation of jumping worms. Some gardeners are left scratching their heads or even tossing in their shovels. Jumping worms survive on the soil's surface, feeding on leaf matter and debris. Their rapid consumption of organic matter leaves the soil structureless and void of nutrients. Plants with shallow roots have trouble surviving, so native plants are being recommended for their deep root systems and ability to withstand poor soils and environmental fluctuations. So what to do? Following is a list of some native perennials for shade that I've had good experience with and may stand up well as our soils change. These plants are all well-behaved and won't outrun their neighbors. They are easy to grow and have been long-lived in my gardens.

Aster divaricatus –

White Woodland Aster is native to the eastern U.S., but I have had such good success with it in dry shade that I decided to include it. I also love that there are some Asters that bloom in the shade! This plant has a bushy growth habit with tiny white blooms that cover it in late summer-autumn. There is a purple tint on parts of the stem and leaves that adds interest. 2-3'. Synm: *Eurybia divaricata*



soils, from clay to sandy, and thrives in light to medium shade. It makes a nice border plant. 6"-1.5' Deer resistant.



Dodecatheon meadia

– Shooting star is an ephemeral. The green basal leaves appear in spring and shoot up naked stems with nodding blooms in May-June, after the tulips and daffodils are done. It's always a delicate looking surprise in my garden where it's growing under a Bur Oak. Leaves disappear by late summer. Grows best in medium soil with light shade. 1-2' Deer resistant.



Geranium maculatum – I have Wild Geranium growing in a messy field that we burn every other year. It competes with weedy invasives like Creeping Bell-flower. Every year I'm happy to see it holding its ground! It's also in a couple of my garden areas, faithfully blooming in May-June with single lavender flowers. The foliage maintains a loose mound throughout the growing season. Best in well-drained soil and partial shade. 1-2' Pollinator.



Gillenia trifoliata — Bowman's Root is slow to establish but worth the wait. Its upright stems with small pointed leaves are covered in a cloud of white to pink star-like blooms in spring to summer. It makes an excellent filler plant and looks good all season. In the fall, the leaves turn a deep bronzy red. Grows in partial shade, in moist or dry soil. 2-3' Synm: *Porteranthus trifoliatus*



Heuchera Americana

– A native coral bell with attractive foliage that's



heavily veined and marbled. Creamy white flowers are born on stems that rise above the green rosette. Grows in medium to dry soil, partial shade. 2' tall when in bloom.

Phlox divaricata – Wild Blue Phlox

blooms in late spring throughout my front garden. I like it because it's easy to tuck into a small space. It's a showy cloud of pale blue flowers when blooming and discreet the rest of the year. It grows in a variety of soils, from sandy to clay, best in partial shade. 1-2' Good Pollinator.



Sedum ternatum – Wild Stonecrop

is native to Illinois and Iowa but grows well in Wisconsin. I'm smitten with it because it's a sedum that grows in shade! The white blooms are showy in May-June, but it provides a nice ground cover the rest of the season. (Sedums have shallow roots, but have been hardy against jumping worms because of their ability to grow in loose/poor soils.) Plant in rocky to medium soils. Around 1' tall.



Experiment with tucking one of these lovely plants in an existing bed, or plant a mass for a bolder effect! These perennials would make a good combination of textures and are low-growing. There are some nice cultivars to explore, like *Aster divaricatus* 'Eastern Star' with richer mahogany stems and *Dodecatheon meadia* 'Aphrodite' with pink blooms. Enjoy experimenting and Happy Gardening!

— Anna DePauw discovered the joy of gardening at the age of 16 when her interest in growing herbs led her to a local garden shop. She fell in love with plants and her creative interests turned toward gardening. She earned an Associates Degree in Landscape Design and Ornamental Horticulture 20 years ago and now has her own business doing Garden Design and Maintenance and is on the WHPS Board. The good news about working with plants is there's always more to learn and grow! Find her at www.Botannaca.com.

Carex plantaginea – Plantain Sedge is one of the showier Carex with strappy chartreuse leaves. It grows in a range of



Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Inc.

211 S. Fair Oaks Avenue, Madison, WI 53704

June 2020 Newsletter

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

New Local Gardening Series Debuts

PBS Wisconsin has announced a new, weekly digital series, *Let's Grow Stuff*. Hosted by Ben Futa, Director of the Allen Centennial Garden in Madison (and WHPS member and director), *Let's Grow Stuff* is designed to help the beginning gardener learn the tools of successful vegetable and herb gardening. Watch episodes online here and see new episodes on the [PBS Wisconsin Facebook](#) page every Monday at noon.



Members in print

Fine Gardening magazine online:

- 1) Garden Photo of the Day – [A Garden Built on Foliage](#) by John Cannon

June 2020 Fine Gardening edition:

- 2) Jeff Epping plant profile on p. 42
- 3) Mark Dwyer Regional Picks on p. 74

New members

The following members have recently joined WHPS:

Becca Berger; Marcia Griskovich; Maggie Lamphear; Trina Muich; Carrie Wilkey.
Welcome!

Membership Report

Membership Coordinator Jane LaFlash just completed a review of our membership and, as of March 21, 2020, WHPS has 780 members and 20 business memberships.

Following is a general breakdown of where our members live.

Live out of Wisconsin - 29

California - 2	New York - 1
Illinois - 13	North Carolina - 4
Iowa - 2	Ohio - 2
Michigan - 1	Pennsylvania - 1
Minnesota - 3	

Live in Dane Co or a nearby County

Columbia - 6	Jefferson - 19
Dane - 598	Rock - 20
Green - 7	Sauk - 8
Iowa - 8	

Live in Dane Co

Black Earth - 3	McFarland - 17
Brooklyn - 5	Mazomanie - 5
Cambridge - 9	Middleton - 35
Cottage Grove - 5	Monona - 18
Cross Plains - 4	Morrisonville - 1
Dane - 1	Mt Horeb - 12
Deerfield - 1	Oregon - 12
DeForest - 7	Stoughton - 24
Edgerton - 4	Sun Prairie - 25
Fitchburg - 27	Verona - 19
Madison - 351	Waunakee - 9
Marshall - 2	Windsor - 2

Live in other counties – 87

Thank you for your continuing membership and we look forward to seeing those of you who are able to attend upcoming programs, tours and trips!