



Perennial Notes

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Inc.

September 2023



Chelone lyonii 'Hot Lips'

The Turtle Finishes First!

By Glenn Herold, August 15, 2023 – reprinted with permission from [Cottage Gardener](#)

Which perennials come to mind for fall flowers? Many would say *Rudbeckia*, also known as coneflowers or black-eyed Susans. Others might vote for *Solidago*, the goldenrods, or the asters. My favorites, though, are plants of the genus *Chelone*, the turtleheads, a member of the Plantaginaceae, the plantain family. Not only are the flowers showy and interesting but the dark green foliage is attractive the entire growing season. Those of you fluent in Greek will recognize the genus *Chelone* as the word for tortoise, a reference to the flowers, which many say resemble the head of an open-mouthed turtle.

There are four species of *Chelone*,

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WHPS coming events!

Questions about our events?

Email wisconsinhps@gmail.com for specific info.

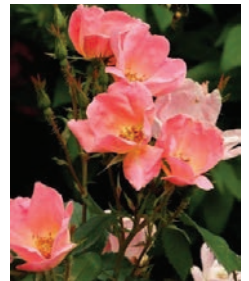
NOTE: In-person meetings are held at Olbrich Gardens, links to Zoom meetings are sent the week of the scheduled meeting.

Wednesday, September 20, 6:30 pm social time, 7 pm presentation, WHPS Meeting (IN PERSON and VIA ZOOM): How Trees Get Their Names, with speaker Guy Sternberg. Follow an oak tree from its first recognition as a newly identified species or nothospecies through discovery, assignment, typification and registration of a formal specific epithet recognized worldwide. (It's complicated – let us make it simple for you!) The process began with the first publication of a proposed tree name in 2006 through the ultimate typification of that name, finally completed in 2022 and published in an international scientific journal in 2023. The tree is *Quercus x sternbergii*, and the story involved collaboration among some of the top oak scientists and field botanists from Illinois, Texas, Germany, France, Mexico, and Uruguay. It has become the first oak ever recognized in honor of a member of the International Oak Society. Guy Sternberg is the co-founder of Starhill Forest Arboretum in Petersburg, Illinois and the author of many articles and several books about trees. Starhill Forest includes the most comprehensive oak research collection in North America and also grows more than 2,000 other types of trees and shrubs. Guy was the founder and first



president of the International Oak Society and also holds life memberships in the International Dendrology Society, the Illinois Native Plant Society (co-founder), American Forests, and the International Society of Arboriculture. He has been recognized with an adjunct faculty appointment in Biology with Illinois College and is an adjunct research associate in Botany with the Illinois State Museum. Guy will be bringing copies of his book, *Native Trees of North America from the Rockies to the Atlantic* (2021) to sell and sign. **Second Annual Garden Book & Magazine Exchange – 6-7 pm.** Do you have garden books and magazines you no longer need? Pass them on to other members and pick up some new ones to take home. You can bring your offerings as early as 6 pm and peruse and pick before the meeting starts at 7 pm.

Saturday, September 23, noon-3 pm – WHPS Hosts Open Garden Day at Will Radler's Rose Innovations, 10020 West Meadow Dr., Greenfield, WI. For the second year, WHPS will have a display table and volunteers will be welcoming guests at [Will Radler's Rosarium](#) in Greenfield, WI. At first glance you'd never know that hidden within the two-acre garden, the rigorous business of breeding and testing roses is well underway. By all appearances, the Radler Rosarium is a tranquil escape full of interesting perennials, shrubs and trees. A bit of exploration reveals unexpected water features,



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Jumping worms

see p. 5.



Callirhoe

see p. 7.



England Tour

see p. 10

WHPS Events (cont. from p.1)

fireplaces and unique statuary. If you take a closer look, the complex research and development of new roses is revealed. A donation of \$5 is suggested – with all proceeds this day contributed to WHPS.

Early October - DATE AND TIME TBA - Tour of the Grounds of Epic Systems, 1979 Milky Way, Verona, with Jeff Epping. Enjoy a walking tour of the gardens on the Epic Systems 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. *NOTE: Members will receive an email when the date and time is confirmed, along with driving/parking directions.*

Wednesday, October 18, 6:30 pm social time, 7 pm presentation - WHPS Meeting (IN PERSON and VIA ZOOM): New Plants and Where They Come From, with speaker Ryan McEnaney. This topic shares the path of a new variety of plant from discovery or breeding into the home garden. Take a trip behind the scenes at Bailey Nurseries, one of the country's largest nurseries and introducers of shrubs and trees, to see all the work that goes into selecting and bringing a new cultivar to market. Throughout the discussion, speaker Ryan McEnaney will share some of the best new – and future – introductions, what makes them unique, and why you should consider them for your landscape. Ryan McEnaney is a garden designer, author, and fifth-generation family member-owner at Bailey Nurseries. He also serves as spokesperson for Bailey's consumer brands: Endless Summer® Hydrangeas, First Editions® Shrubs & Trees, and Easy Elegance® Roses. He has the privilege of traveling the country to help people have success in their gardens by speaking at events, offering tips and tricks on TV, and doing hands-on workshops at garden centers and public



gardens. He has a passion for connecting people to nature, especially breaking down barriers to encourage “non-gardeners” to dig in the dirt. *Field Guide to Outside Style*, McEnaney's first book, was released in December 2022 and takes home gardeners on a journey of discovering their own style and how it impacts designing their outdoor space. The book was celebrated by publications like *Better Homes & Gardens*, *Real Simple*, *Woman's Day*, and *PEOPLE*.

Wednesday, November 15, 6:30 pm social time, 7 pm - WHPS Meeting (IN PERSON and VIA ZOOM): Horticulture at Lincoln Park Zoo, with speaker Katrina Quint.

Join Katrina Quint, Director of Horticulture at Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, IL, for a talk about public horticulture at the zoo, including the management of a garden that sees over 3.5 million visitors a year. Learn all about the zoo's arboretum and plant collections, as Katrina shares her knowledge with you.



Under her direction, the Horticulture team creates beautiful landscapes inside and outside animal exhibits for both the animals and the public to enjoy. The

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2545 Dahle St, Madison, WI 53704

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WHPS Board members can be contacted at wisconsinhps@gmail.com

WHPS Arizona Garden Tour

It's never too early to start planning for diversions from Wisconsin's winters. By February, most of us will be planting ourselves in front of the latest seed catalogs, dreaming of spring. Alternatively, this winter you could make sunshine and warm weather a reality by joining Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society members in Phoenix and Tucson on February 25 - March 2, 2024, for a fascinating horticultural tour led by Jeff Epping.



A garden tour with Jeff is always a treat, and he has teamed up with Country Travel Discoveries to create an itinerary that will brighten your senses and add intriguing details of southwestern flora to your knowledge of very different kinds of native plants. A sneak peak at the week's activities include visits to both public and private gardens, Saguaro National Park, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, an outdoor desert museum, a local glass and steel garden artist, a tram ride through Sabino Canyon - and that's just a few highlights. Dinners with outstanding southwestern cuisine at places like dude ranches and former cattle rustlers' hideouts are also included.

If we've piqued your interest, watch for the official announcement coming in September with more complete details of daily itineraries, and information on how you can make a reservation to join other Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society members on this "Arizona Desert Adventure."

WHPS Events (cont. from p.2)

zoo is home to more than 330 species of woody plants and became an accredited arboretum in 2019. Overall, the zoo's gardens have over 1,000 species of plants under the Horticulture crew's care. The zoo also has special collections of hardy hibiscus, North American native hydrangea, and ninebark. Katrina's years of public garden experience influence her dedication for providing the highest quality care and maintenance of permanent plantings and annual displays on the zoo's grounds, as well as creating opportunities for the Horticulture team to continue to develop professionally.

Prior to coming to Lincoln Park Zoo, Katrina worked at The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL, for nine years. As the horticulture coordinator, Katrina was in charge of the annual display program, designing and implementing four seasonal displays throughout the display gardens, as well as organizing projects, procuring plants, coordinating staff and contract work, and hiring and training seasonal workers. Her passion for plants and the natural world was sprouted in Ryan, Iowa, where she grew up working with her mother's landscaping business, Ingrid's Landscaping.

Wednesday, December 6, 6:30 pm - social time, 7 pm WHPS Annual Meeting, Seed Exchange and Party, Olbrich Commons. We are also welcome to tour Olbrich's Holiday Express from 6-7 pm.

Upcoming Plant Sales

Monday, September 11, 2023 – Tuesday, October 10, 2023, Online Bulb Sale, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison.

Saturday, September 16, 9 am - 5 pm, & Sunday, September 17, 10 am - 4 pm, Fall Plant Sale, Wood County Master Gardeners, at Maple Fall Fest, Wildwood Park & Zoo, 608 W. 17th St., Marshfield, WI. More info [here](#).

Wednesday, September 27 thru Wednesday, October 4, 9 am - 5 pm daily, Allium Bulb Sale, Edgerton Hospital Healing Garden, main lobby at the hospital, 11101 N. Sherman Road, Edgerton, WI. Thousands of packaged alliums representing 20 different kinds. Fundraiser for the healing garden.

Saturday, October 7, Wisconsin Peony Society Fall Root Auction, 11:45 am Public Registration, then 12 pm Peony dividing demo with auction following, West Madison Agricultural Research Station, 8502 Mineral Point Rd, Madison. [More info](#).

Saturday, October 14, 10 am – 2 pm, Perennial Plant Fair, Gateway Technical College-Kenosha, Pike Creek Horticulture Center, 3520 30th Ave, Kenosha, WI. Gateway Technical College's first annual fall Perennial Plant Fair. This will be a community event focused on sharing information and resources related to native and specialty plants as well as a premier plant sale that offers familiar and rare plants from Gateway Technical College's horticulture students and other select plant nurseries from the region. They will also have ready-to-plant bulbs available. More info [here](#).

2023 – Other gardening events of note

Key events of interest 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 in Chicago](#)
- [Green Bay Botanical Garden in Green Bay](#)
- [Lynden Sculpture Garden in Milwaukee](#)
- [Mitchell Park Horticultural Park \(The Domes\) in Milwaukee](#)
- [Monk Botanical Garden in Wausau](#)
- [Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL](#)
- [Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison](#)
- [Paine Art Center and Gardens in Oshkosh](#)
- [Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville](#)
- [University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum](#)

Ongoing thru Saturday, October 28, 2023 (weekly on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 7:30 - 10:30 pm in August - September, 6:30 - 10:30 pm), Gleam, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison. GLEAM, an annual outdoor art exhibit, features large scale light installations created by local, regional, and international designers. Purchase tickets online. More info [here](#).

Ongoing thru September 10, 10 am - 4 pm, Gardens Summer Showcase, Paine Art Center and Gardens, Oshkosh.

Wednesday, September 6, 6:30 - 8 pm, Summer Garden Talks: Bulb Gardening, Appleton Public Library and Outagamie County Master Gardener Association, Outagamie Discovery Garden, 3365 Brewster St., Appleton, WI. More info [here](#).

Saturday, September 9, 10 am - 4 pm, Walk in the Woods Art Fair, Hawthorn Hollow Nature Sanctuary & Arboretum: 880 Green Bay Road (Highway 31), Kenosha. More info [here](#).

Saturday, September 16, 1 pm – 3 pm, Fall in the Native Plant Garden Garden Tour, UW Arboretum, Madison. Color, fruits, seeds, late blooming plants, late-season insects - we will find these and more in the diverse native plant gardens around the Visitor Center. Susan Carpenter, garden curator, will lead this tour. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Thursday, September 21, 10 am, What's in Bloom? Tour, Rotary Botanical Gardens, Janesville. Cost: free for members, others \$10.

Saturday, September 23 thru Sunday, November 5, 9 am - 5 pm, Fall Show: Earth - Art of Nature, Mitchell Park Domes, Milwaukee.

Sunday, September 24, 1 – 2 pm, Garden Stroll, UW Arboretum, Madison. Learn about the land, plants, animals, fungi, phenology, and ecology. Free, no registration required. Meet at the Visitor Center.

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Other Events of Note (cont. from p.3)

Saturday, September 30, 12-5 pm, Harvest Folk Festival: Celebrate 'Seeds of Change,' Allen Centennial Gardens, Madison. This event will celebrate the harvest of the kitchen garden, showcase performances of folk music, folk dance, and storytelling, offer hands-on learning opportunities in the garden and feature displays of student research.

Sunday, October 1, 9 am - 6:30 pm, Fall Family Festival, Green Bay Botanical Garden, Green Bay. Join GBBG for a free fall day event at the Garden full of autumn's colors while discovering the traditions and culture of the Oneida Nation. Celebrate with fun activities for children of all ages. No charge.

October 7, 12-6 pm, Autumn Acoustics Music Festival, Riveredge Nature Center, 4458 County Highway Y, Saukville. With seven diverse acts on two stages – one in the heart of a maple forest and the other framed by the reflections of a tranquil pond – you'll be transported by music at this family-friendly celebration of fall. More info [here](#).

Saturday, October 7, 1-3 pm, Conifers, Garden Tour, UW Arboretum, Madison. David Stevens, garden curator, 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 a diverse array of conifers from around the world. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Sunday, October 8, 10 am, Harvest Hootenanny, Hawthorn Hollow Nature Sanctuary & Arboretum, 880 Green Bay Rd. (Highway 31), Kenosha. More info [here](#).

Thursday, October 12, 5 - 8 pm, Member's Only Happily Haunted Garden, Bookworm Gardens, Sheboygan. Not-so-spooky family fun at the Gardens. There will be thousands of twinkling lights, stories, scavenger hunts and costumes galore. Members only night. Fall general admission.

The Gardener

by Mary Oliver

*Have I lived enough?
Have I loved enough?
Have I considered Right Action enough, have I come to
any conclusion?
Have I experienced happiness with sufficient gratitude?
Have I endured loneliness with grace?*

*I say this, or perhaps I'm just thinking it.
Actually, I probably think too much.*

*Then I step out into the garden,
where the gardener, who is said to be a simple man,
is tending his children, the roses.*

*"The morrow was a bright September morn;
The earth was beautiful as if newborn;
There was nameless splendor everywhere,
That wild exhilaration in the air,
Which makes the passers in the city street
Congratulate each other as they meet."
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

October 14-15, 19-22, 26-29, 5-8 pm, Happily Haunted Garden, Bookworm Gardens, Sheboygan. Not-so-spooky family fun at the Gardens! There will be thousands of twinkling lights, stories, scavenger hunts and costumes galore! Open to all. Fall general admission.

Saturday, October 14, 1 - 3 pm, The Colors of Fall Garden Tour, UW Arboretum, Madison. Join David Stevens, garden curator, for a stroll through Longenecker Horticultural Gardens where he will highlight sensational seasonal colors and learn about the science behind this natural phenomenon. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Friday, October 20, 7 pm, Haunted Trails of Hawthorn Hollow, Hawthorn Hollow Nature Sanctuary & Arboretum, 880 Green Bay Road (Highway 31), Kenosha. This event is family friendly, but recommended for children over 10. There is no jump-scare element to this event, only scary stories and creepy natural elements throughout our forests. Registration required. More info [here](#).

Sunday, October 22, 1 pm - 2 pm, Garden Stroll, UW Arboretum, Madison. Learn about the land, plants, animals, fungi, phenology, and ecology. Free, no registration required. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, November 4, 10 am - 4 pm, 41st Madison Herb Fair, Madison Herb Society, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison. Speakers, vendors, and more. More info [here](#).

Wednesday, November 15, 5:30 pm, (Virtual) Seasonal Guide to Caring for Trees, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison. This virtual workshop will explore the different seasonal needs of trees, from the roots to the canopy. Join us to learn proper timing for disease and insect management as well as pruning. \$15 / \$12 member.

Thursday, Nov. 16, 6:30 pm, Planting a Prairie: Choose Your Own Adventure!, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison. This lecture will outline the process of prairie establishment and help you chart a course that fits the needs of your site. \$25 / \$20 member.

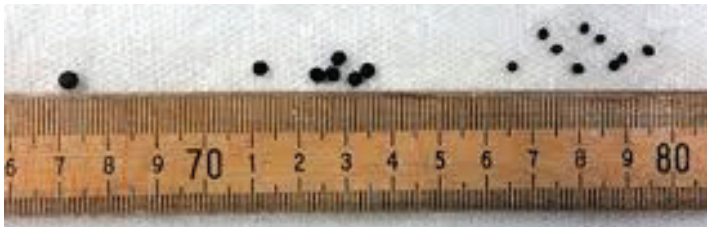
Jumping Worms Update

by Stephanie O'Neal

Perhaps because of the drought we've been experiencing this summer and the fact that I've done virtually no planting (waiting until September), I've had only a few jumping worms (and I mean a few – I've seen five). I decided to do a bit of research online to see if something like this drought could have a more permanent effect on the future of jumping worms in the garden.

I found an interesting report from the University of Minnesota Extension using information collected from 2020-2021, with additional 2022 follow-up, entitled [Jumping Worm Report Management: Final Update, Winter 2023](#). This report was especially interesting because, as the project summary states "This Final Results Summary includes reports of reduction in jumping worm numbers, information on the emotional impacts of jumping worms, how feelings can be improved, and many creative integrated pest management approaches to jumping worm management. At the end is a list of plants and how they responded to jumping worms." I urge you all to take a look through the report.

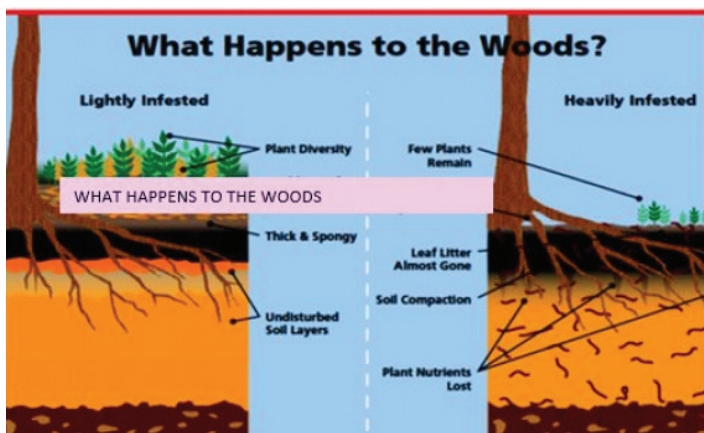
I also checked in with Brad Herrick, Ecologist at the UW-Madison Arboretum, to get his perspective on the current status of jumping worms and the University of Minnesota report and to ask a few follow-up questions.



Jumping worm cocoons.

SO (Stephanie O'Neal): Does the drought/dryness prevent the emergence of jumping worms? BH (Brad Herrick): Most definitely has an impact. We are seeing much fewer numbers this year (same as last year due to drought conditions as well), and delayed maturity. Not sure what this will mean going forward in terms of long-term trends.

SO: Should we be avoiding hardwood mulch? BH: I think this is still an important aspect of control. Mulch is going to keep the soil artificially moist even in drought periods (although maybe not enough to keep some plants and worms alive). Experimenting



with hay, straw, and other less palatable forms of organic matter might be useful.

SO: What about planting native plants (though plugs for me have been somewhat problematic in the soil where the castings have prominence)? BH: Even native plants are not going to love being transplanted or planted into an extensive earthworm casting layer. We still don't have a good handle on the types of plants that may do better than others in jumping worm worked soil. Generally, though, I think plants that spend energy building roots, especially a taproot that can get below the casting layer into unworked soil may have a better chance for survival.

SO: Should we postpone planting until fall to prevent the spread of JW cocoons? BH: I don't know if they will make much difference. If jumping worms are in the soil, they've produced cocoons which will be present all year round.

SO: What about waiting until very late fall to lay compost (if any) to avoid takeover by jumping worms? BH: Again, not sure if the timing will matter much, but it might help having compost worked in by spring to give those early spring plants a better shot before the worms start to hatch and consume the organic matter.

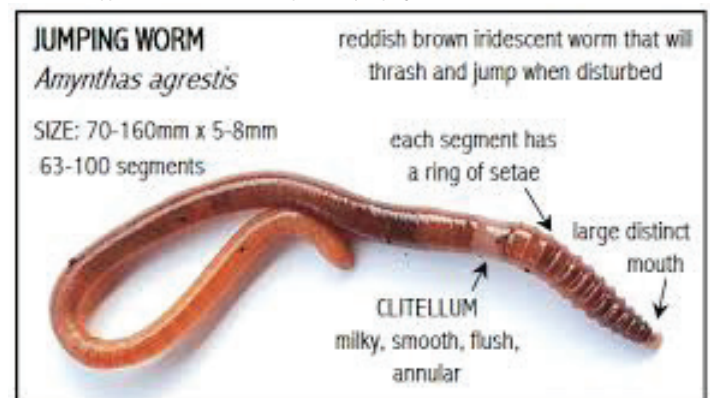
SO: How long do the jumping worm cocoons stay viable in the soil? We know they can overwinter in Wisconsin and emerge in May the following year, but I'm hoping that they are only viable for the one year and that this drought has prevented more cocoons from entering the soil this year, causing the numbers to dip next year. BH: Yes, we know that cocoons can remain dormant and viable in the soil for a couple years (anecdotally). Thus, they create a "cocoon bank." Low soil moisture conditions as we have been experiencing for the past couple of summers/falls may negatively impact cocoon viability. However, it has been shown that cocoons have the ability to desiccate and then after re-wetting, hatch as normal.

I urge anyone who is interested to take a look through the University of Minnesota report. If it does nothing else, those currently frustrated by the jumping worms will feel the sense of community suffering and get an idea of how others have been approaching the issue.



Jumping worm with coffee grounds-like soil.

Left, what happens in the woods. Below, parts of a jumping worm.



We want to see your garden!

— Jane LaFlash

In addition to our organized evening tours of member gardens in selected areas, we also provide the opportunity for individual members to open their garden to visitors, which is always a positive experience for host and visitor. Hosting an open garden gives you the opportunity to invite people to visit your garden at very short notice, when you think your garden is looking especially good.



All you have to do is contact us a few days to a week (or more) ahead at wisconsinhps@gmail.com with your name, address, a short description of your garden and the date and times you will be open, and we will send out an email invitation to our members.

Feel free to email us with any questions. We know we have many members with lovely gardens and we'd like to see them in all seasons – fall is just around the corner!

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

Your Shopping Matters

Bloomin' Bucks with Brent and Becky's Bulbs is a progressive fundraising program designed to earn select nonprofit organizations cash for every order received through the Brent and Becky's Bulbs website! WHPS is one of the participating 387 organizations, and last year we received \$343.49 in donations. Thanks to our members and other shoppers for shopping at Brent & Becky's and for selecting WHPS for your support!

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 Bloomin Bucks.

Corydalis solida 'George Baker'



WHPS Grants Program update

The WHPS Board has recently awarded grants to three public garden projects around the state.

In La Crosse, the La Crosse Historical Society has been awarded \$993 to install a Victorian border at the Hixon House, a house museum they own. Two of the original garden beds at the museum have been restored and the border bed in front of the lilac hedge at the rear lot line will be the last to be restored. They have documentation for the kinds of perennials installed by the original owners. The project meets both our educational goals and our goals of adding hardy plants to gardens that can be appreciated by the general public.

In Ridgeland, a small community near Menomonie, the new Ridgeland Public Library is using \$1500 toward plant material for landscaping the grounds. The grounds will have pathways, places to sit, rocks to climb and markers describing the history and ecology of the area. The plan meets both our educational goals and our goals of adding hardy plants to public garden areas.

In Portage, the Wisconsin Society Daughters of the American Revolution owns the Fort Winnebago Surgeon's Quarters. They have been awarded \$822 to purchase plant material for a small formal medicinal garden on the grounds of the Surgeon's Quarters. It will showcase both native plants and plants brought to Wisconsin by early settlers that were used to treat military personnel, Native Americans and local citizens. This project also meets both our educational and beautification goals.

WHPS Members – Speak Out!

We'd love to hear your thoughts and suggestions for future presentations and speakers you'd like to see, gardens you'd like us to visit, articles you'd like to read in the newsletter and other events you think might be of interest to members.

If you are interested in becoming more personally involved in the organization, or perhaps would like to serve on the board someday in the future, let us know.

You can always reach us at wisconsinhps@gmail.com.

WHPS new members

The following members have recently joined WHPS:

Sheryll Anderson, Baraboo, WI; Jane Bailey, Middleton, WI; Amy Deal, West Allis, WI; Jane and Michael Fetchko, Greendale, WI; Dianne Geissal, Verona, WI; Lori House, Madison, WI; Claudia Koehler, Fox Point, WI; Donna Kraenzle, Madison, WI; Jeanne McNulty, DeForest, WI; Ellen and Karen Meyer, Bartlett, IL; Abby and Charles Ross, Montello, WI; Janet Schuresko, Madison, WI; Donna Sereda, Fitchburg, WI; Judy Sidran, Madison, WI; Katherine Snellgrove, Madison, WI; Tony Sturm and Erica Turner, Madison, WI; Gary Tipler and Joseph Muenich, Madison, WI; Vicki Tobias, Madison, WI; Kat Van Hampler and Murray Kapell, Madison, WI; Tracy VanTassell, Madison, WI.

Welcome!

Highlighting Callirhoe

by Mark Dwyer – reprinted from Nursery Management – Green Guide online, June 2023

Callirhoe involucrata:

These “wine cups” offer vivid magenta flowers and amazing durability even in rocky soils.

While many perennials are valuable for even a brief moment of bloom time, I find myself focusing more on those long-blooming perennials that encourage the exclamation of “I can’t believe that’s still blooming!” The purple poppy mallow (*Callirhoe involucrata*) is such a plant and continues to amaze me every year with not only the vivid, cerise-magenta blooms over many months but a robust growth rate and amazing durability in tougher soils.

This drought-tolerant member of the Malvaceae family is native to the Central United States and prefers well-drained clay, loam or sandy soils in full-sun situations. While purple poppy mallow doesn’t get much taller than nine inches in height, this mat-forming perennial rambles and sprawls over 36-60 inches in a single season with dark green, palmately lobed, hairy leaves. The plant can be pinched back to control size, and removal of spent flowers will help encourage quicker rebloom. The long tap root provides excellent drought tolerance but makes successful transplanting of established plants a bit more challenging.

The solitary, upward-facing, five-petaled flowers are between 1½ and 2½ inches wide with a white center. Forming a cup- or chalice-shape (hence the common name of “wine cups”) these bright flowers start in mid-spring, peak in summer and then appear sporadically until hard frost. The flowers open in the morning and close at night. After pollination, the flowers remain closed. Purple poppy mallow is a “gentle reseeder,” so be aware of progeny. Bees and butterflies will visit for flower nectar although, unfortunately, rabbits and deer can be problematic “nibblers.”

In the hottest and driest of summers, this plant may go into a temporary dormancy but will generate new growth after soaking rains. Easiest grown from scarified seed, this perennial is quick to establish and settle into the garden.

It’s no surprise that *Callirhoe involucrata* was a 1999 Plant Select Winner and received the Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. Well-grown plants have very few issues, although crown rot may occur in poorly drained soils, and there is some susceptibility to rust. Closely related (and worth seeking), the standing wine cup (*Callirhoe digitata*, Zones 5-8) has a similar flowering appearance and timing but reaches 24-48 inches in height.

Specifics

Name: *Callirhoe involucrata*

Common name: purple poppy mallow, wine cups or buffalo rose.

Description: This tap-rooted, mat forming perennial is extremely tough in drier soils and is a long-blooming powerhouse featuring magenta, cup-shaped flowers from late spring until fall.

Hardiness: USDA Zones 4-8

In the landscape: I’ve used this perennial successfully in sunny pockets on boulder retaining walls where it spills over and softens the hardscaping with color and texture. This is also an amazing groundcover and the magenta flower color offers vivid contrast in myriad combinations.

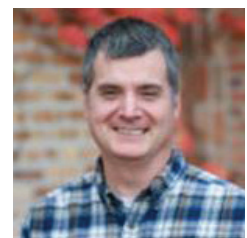


Why Grow Callirhoe involucrata?

- Thrives in dry, rocky soils (low maintenance)
- Very long bloom period with vivid magenta flowers
- Excellent native ground-cover
- Colorful “spiller” over a raised bed or wall
- Provides nectar for bees and butterflies



Mark Dwyer is currently the Garden Manager for the Edgerton (WI) Hospital Healing Garden after 21 years as Director of Horticulture at Rotary Botanical Gardens (Janesville, WI). He also operates Landscape Prescriptions by MD, a landscape design and consultation business. mcdwyer@zoho.com



Chelone (cont. from p.1)

all native to Eastern North America and generally found in moist to wet woodlands or on streambanks. *Chelone cuthbertii* is native to Georgia, the Carolinas, and Virginia. *Chelone glabra*, white turtlehead, has the largest geographical range of the turtleheads. It is found from Georgia to Newfoundland and west to Manitoba and Mississippi. This native species can be found throughout Wisconsin. David Leider of HOFFIE Nursery, Union, IL, discovered a unique form of this species in his nursery. It has dark red stems and narrow, dark green leaves. Appropriately, he named it 'Leiderhosen.' I obtained a plant of this cultivar recently and have planted it next to the species for observation and comparison. Thus far, I have not been disappointed.

Chelone obliqua, the purple turtlehead, has purple to red flowers and has established itself in a few counties of Wisconsin. An unusual fact about this species is that it is a tetraploid in its native habitat in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Tetraploid means that it has twice the normal number of chromosomes. In its other native range, from Tennessee to Arkansas and Michigan or on the Atlantic coastal plain from South Carolina to Maryland, it is a hexaploid, meaning that it has three times the normal chromosome number. All other *Chelone* species have the normal diploid number found in two sets of chromosomes.

Similar in appearance to *Chelone obliqua* is *Chelone lyonii*, the pink turtlehead, which is native to the Blue Ridge Mountains of the Carolinas and Tennessee. Despite the southern provenance, hardiness is more than adequate for both species. I'm not sure about the hardiness of *Chelone cuthbertii*, since it is not available from Northern nursery sources, but the other three species have thrived in my garden for many years.

Turtleheads grow to a height of two to four feet and prefer full sun or light shade. If it is too shady, stems will be thin and tend to not support the flowers and foliage. In part shade, pinch the stem tips in the spring to help maintain a smaller, bushier plant. Though turtleheads prefer moist soil, temporary droughts are not a problem for established plants. The flowers are pale yellow to white in *Chelone glabra* and pink and purple in *Chelone obliqua* and *Chelone lyonii*. The flowers attract bumblebees, butterflies, and hummingbirds and the foliage is resistant to deer browsing. No serious pest or disease problems affect the plant. *Chelone* will spread slowly by rhizomes. Foliage is an attractive dark green to almost purple in some cultivars. Especially dark foliage is found on the cultivar *Chelone lyonii* 'Hot Lips.' This two-to-three-foot plant has richer pink flowers than its parent, a bronze green to dark green foliage, and red stems. My plant is growing nicely in full sun on a site that is often flooded in the spring but dry in the summer.

Chelone glabra has sturdy upright stems to about three feet. It does not spread laterally as rapidly as *Chelone obliqua* and *Chelone lyonii*. Leaves are a glossy green. In my garden, it blooms before my other species and cultivars of turtleheads. A cultivar of *Chelone obliqua* that I grow is called 'Tiny Tortuga,' tortuga being the Spanish word for turtle. It is a 12-to-16-inch plant that has dark green leaves and dark pink flowers. I also grow the species *Chelone lyonii* but prefer the cultivars 'Tiny Tortuga' and 'Hot Lips' because of their more compact size and greater tendency to stay in bounds.

Use *Chelone* in a bog garden, periphery of a water garden, or edge of a wet woodland. The flowers also work well in fresh cut flower arrangements. Propagation is easily accomplished by division of the plant. After a few years, your plant can readily be shared with fellow gardeners. *Chelone* should be part of everyone's garden.



Left, *Chelone glabra*

Right, *Chelone lyonii* 'Hot Lips'



Left, *Chelone obliqua* 'Tiny Tortuga'



Right and below, *Chelone lyonii*



Members in the news

Jeff Epping Receives Award of Merit from APGA

As we were saluting him in June for his 28+ year career and his retirement as Horticulture Director of Olbrich Botanical Gardens, it was announced that Jeff Epping was honored with this year's Award of Merit at the American Public Garden Association's Annual Conference held in early June. The Award of Merit recognizes an American Public Gardens Association individual member who has performed with distinction in the

field of public horticulture and has excelled as a public garden professional at one or more institutions. Congratulations Jeff!

Fine Gardening - October 2023

Richard Hawke, *High-ranking Reed Grasses*, page 38.

Mark Dwyer, *Garden Shed - Dependable Trowels That Get the Job Done*, page 16.

In Remembrance -



Eleanor Morgan Rodini – February 26, 1938 - July 26, 2023

Eleanor Rodini of Madison, WI, passed away on July 26, 2023, at the age of 85. Eleanor was a long-time member of WHPS and served on the WHPS Board from 2011-2016, was coordinator of the WHPS Booth at the WPT Garden Expo from 2011-2014, took many trips, volunteered every year at the Plant Sale, was a regular at WHPS programs and hosted many tours of her garden on Adams Street in Madison.

For decades, she served as a reference librarian at the UW-Madison Memorial Library, a fitting career for someone who had always loved to read. Eleanor's greatest passion, however, was for flower gardening, and in retirement she volunteered at Olbrich Gardens and the UW-Arboretum and was an active member of numerous other horticultural societies with whom she traveled locally and overseas. Through her countless other activities and interests (morning exercise at the Nat, knitting, book groups, world travel), Eleanor developed a deep connection to Madison and many enduring friendships.

Eleanor was preceded in death by Bob, her husband of 60 years, in May of this year. We offer deep condolences to her son, Mark; her daughter, Elizabeth, son-in-law, Charlie Rudin, her grandchildren Sofia and Natalie Rudin and all those who enjoyed her company and friendship. In lieu of flowers, remembrances in support of Olbrich Gardens are appreciated.

Notes from friends

Former WHPS President Jane Gahlman says, "Very sad. She was a great gardener and lover of daylilies. My Mom and I first toured her beautiful garden when it was part of the Wisconsin Daylily Society's Home Garden Tour in the mid-2000s. I still have fond memories of that day as her garden was wonderful!"

Former Board member and WHPS Plant Sale co-coordinator Jeannette Golden writes, "So very sad. She was truly a lovely person. We shared a love of daylilies, and on one of our bus tours we saw a daylily we both loved, but it was quite expensive, so we bought one plant and split it. 'Regency Heights' is still in my garden and when it blooms it will always remind me of Eleanor."



Klaus Westphal – March 20, 1939 – July 31, 2023

Klaus Westphal and wife Margaret were long-time members of WHPS and enjoyed many WHPS trips over the years. Klaus was born in Berlin, Germany in 1939. After receiving his PhD from the University of Tuebingen, he and Margaret traveled by freight ship to Wisconsin, intending to stay for three years. Once here, Klaus be-

came Director of the UW-Madison Geology Museum, a position he held for 34 years where, among other things, he led a team to collect and restore the first dinosaur to be displayed in Wisconsin. He is remembered for his absolute curiosity and enthusiasm for life; his love of his family, of singing and of music; and most of all for his kind heart. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his wife Margaret, his three daughters and their families and other loved ones.



Richard Albert "Dick" Sonn – September 11, 1933 - July 31, 2023

Dick Sonn was a member of WHPS from 2010-2014. He passed away in Madison on July 31 at the age of 89. He was born in Hartford, WI, and worked for and retired from Inventory & Accounting at Dairy Equipment Corporation in Madison. Dick was a member

of the Living Stones Choir at Lake Edge Lutheran Church in Madison. He was a U.S. Army veteran who enjoyed gardening, hunting, fishing, playing the organ, bowling, and playing dominoes/cards (Sheepshead was his favorite game). We send condolences to his children Michael, Rick and Diane and his 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren and other family members and friends.

WHPS June 15-23 Trip to England: Twenty-two Gardens Visited

A group of 31 extra hardy WHPS members enjoyed our nine-day tour of 22 gardens in England June 15-24, 2023. The gardens were in Southwest England (Wiltshire, Somerset, and Devon), including Wildside Garden, The Garden House, Endsleigh House (on the only rainy day we experienced), Millard's Garden, Bickton House, Dartington Hall Estate (where we stayed for four nights), Little Ash Farm, Southwood Farm, Colton Fishacre, Burrow Farm Garden and Tintinhull Garden, the last stop on the tour. Many of these gardens have a presence online, with more pictures and information about the gardens.

A big thank you for the outstanding job organizing this year's trip to Board member Linda Marx. ***The beautiful photos you see here were taken by our previous president Jane Gahlman.*** And, of course, a huge thank you to the members who joined us for the 13th WHPS Trip to the Gardens of England.

We hope you enjoy the photos – just a very small taste of what our members experienced in June.

[You might want to see our calendar note about the upcoming Arizona Garden Tour with Jeff Epping in February-March 2024 (p. 2). Trip and registration info will be emailed to all members the first week in September.]



Top, The Garden House Garden shed and landscape.

Above, Southwood Farm, lavender, clipped yews, espaliered fruit trees.



Above, 2023 WHPS England Trip participants.

Right, Alistair Forbes Garden, Tulip Tree.

Below, Wildside Gardens.



Above, The Garden House.

Right, Colton Fishacre Garden, Puya Plant.

Far right, Millard's Garden gate.





Left, Hanham Court.

Right, Dartington Hall Estate.



Left, Little Ash Farm orchid.

Below and bottom, Colton Fishacre Home & Garden.

Above, Jane Gahlman at The Garden House.

Left, Linda Marx getting to know the gorilla at Lady Home Garden.

Bottom, Hestercrombe from top of the garden.



Have questions about your membership? Contact Chris Neumann at wisconsinhps@gmail.com or see [membership information](#).