



Perennial Notes

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society, Inc.

November 2022



Rudbeckia 'American Gold Rush'

2023 Perennial Plant announced

reprinted from nurserymag.com, August 2, 2022, posted by Katie McDaniel

The Perennial Plant Association is pleased to promote *Rudbeckia* 'American Gold Rush' as the 2023 Perennial Plant of the Year. 'American Gold Rush' is a stunning addition to any garden. At the height of summer, it turns up the volume for a long season of dazzling color right up to autumnal frosts. The bright golden-yellow flowers feature arching rays and a reddish halo surrounding dark chocolate cones. Three-inch flowers blanket the compact plant, which is only 22-27 inches tall with a broader width to 40 inches if given room to grow.

The green leaves and stems are covered in hairs, which gives them a silvery cast — on sunny days, peeking through the blooms to the leaves is a luminous silver-and-gold treat. More than just boosting the ornamental show, the hairy foliage is resistant to Septoria leaf spot — a debilitating fungal disease that causes unsightly black spotting and

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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, November 2, 6-8:00 pm., Joint Meeting of WHPS and the Wisconsin-Illinois North American Rock Garden Society (IN PERSON and VIA ZOOM): Around the World of Alpine Plants in 60 Minutes. With speaker Harry Jans, Olbrich Botanical Gardens



Atrium, 3330 Atwood Ave, Madison, WI. Note: this is in addition to our regular Nov. meeting. You will travel to many mountains all over the world in search of special, rare and beautiful (alpine) plants, including many different and extreme forms of plants and examples of how plants adapt to certain habitats. Harry is a world traveler who pursues alpine plants, with a special interest in the plants of China. His home garden has an alpine house and outside tufa towers for growing alpine plants at 70 feet above sea level near Apeldoorn, Netherlands. Visit his website for information and images of his travels and his home garden. NARGS regularly brings in speakers who then travel to various parts of the U.S. on speaking engagements. The local chapter (WI-IL) has graciously invited the WHPS to jointly sponsor this talk.

Wednesday, November 16, 6:30 pm., WHPS Meeting (VIA ZOOM ONLY): Hardy Plants in the Healing Garden Setting. With speaker Mark Dwyer, Edgerton Hospital & Health Services

Healing Garden Manager and owner/operator of Landscape Prescriptions by MD. Mark will discuss the Edgerton Hospital Healing Garden, its plantings and other favorite plants for healing gardens



Wednesday, December 7, 6:30 pm., WHPS Annual Meeting and Party with Seed Exchange and Trash to Treasure Exchange at Olbrich Botanical Gardens. **IN PERSON ONLY:** WHPS will celebrate the end of the gardening season with a Party! Included will be our Annual Meeting (approval of new directors and annual donations), a Seed Exchange, a Trash and Treasure Garden item exchange, games, refreshments and more. We have also arranged to have the Olbrich Holiday Express show open for us from 6:00-7:00 before our meeting.

Wednesday, January 18, 6:30 pm., WHPS Meeting (VIA ZOOM ONLY): Topic After The Flowers Have Faded – Plants with Fabulous Foliage with speaker Andrew Brand. Flowers always get most of our attention when we are selecting plants to add to our landscapes, but most plants only flower for a short period of time out of the year. It is the foliage that we will be looking at the entire growing season. Join speaker Andrew Brand as he explores a broad diversity of awesome perennials whose leaves will shine in the garden. Andy will share some of his favorite plants, amazing



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Restoring prairie

see p. 4.



Grant update

see p. 6.



Ironweed

see p. 7

WHPS Events (cont. from p.1)

photography and his role at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens where he is Director of Horticulture. Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens has 19 acres of cultivated land and 300 acres in total. The botanical gardens include a mix of nonnative plants and plants that are native and near native to the Eastern Seaboard, making for interesting plant combinations. Brand joined the CMBG in 2018 as the curator of living collections, a job in which he worked with staff horticulturists to choose plants for the collections.



211 S. Fair Oaks Avenue, Madison, WI 53704

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Now, as Director of Horticulture, he continues to oversee the collections but also manages 11 fulltime horticulturists, as well as interns and seasonal employees. He arrived in Maine after 27 years as Nursery Manager at Broken Arrow Nursery, a small nursery specializing in rare and unusual trees, shrubs and perennials in Hamden, Connecticut. Brand says, "I've spent most of my life doing plant production and growing plants and trees and shrubs and perennials. And now I'm surrounded by gardens full of not just trees and shrubs and perennials, but thousands of different types of annuals that are so new to me, and other plants that I've never seen before...it kind of reinvigorates you...at least for me, that's what I've felt has happened...just a whole new zest for gardens and gardening."

February 10-12, WHPS at the 2023 PBS Gardening and Landscape Expo.

That's right, WHPS will be back full steam at the upcoming PBS Gardening and Landscape Expo February 10-12, 2023, with opportunities for WHPS members to volunteer for a number of time slots at our booth over the three days of the Expo. We are also sponsoring a presentation at the Expo (time and date TBA) with speaker Sheila Glaske, Curator of Horticulture at the Paine Art Center and Gardens, who will discuss The "Art" in Garden Design. Look for an email to members requesting volunteers that will be sent out before the end of the year.

Wednesday, February 15, 6:30 pm., WHPS Meeting (IN PERSON and VIA ZOOM):

Discovering Olbrich's Insects with Volunteer Bug Scouts. With speakers Katey Pratt and Samantha Malone. Put on your bug nerd hat with Katey and Sam as they dive into a general overview of all things bugs. Learn how the Garden Scout Volunteers at Olbrich Botanical Gardens are working to help identify all the small creatures that run the world. You'll learn what plants at-



tract beneficial insects, as well as our top ten favorite insect-friendly plants. Check out their iNaturalist Project observations and see videos of insects in action. Katey Pratt has worked as a horticulturist and mapping specialist at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison, WI, since 2016. She maintains the Event Garden and Tower Garden areas. Her interests include native bees, art and design, edible flowers, bromeliads and tillandsia, to name a few. Her background is in landscape design and construction, with degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Studies. Samantha Malone has worked as a horticulturist at Olbrich Botanical Gardens since Spring of 2017. She maintains the Sunken Garden, Morse Terrace, Donor's Arbor and Atrium Shade Garden. Before working at Olbrich, she worked in the landscape industry doing landscape maintenance, installation and design at commercial and residential properties. While plants are her main focus and passion, she has a love for all the insects and animals that are proving to be extremely beneficial to maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

Wednesday, March 15, 6:30 pm., WHPS Meeting (IN PERSON and VIA ZOOM):

Big, Bold Perennials. With speaker Heather Prince. Discover how to add height and drama into your garden with big, bold, bodacious perennials. Tall plants are cool plants! The secret to a stunning garden design is a variety of plant layers that draw the eye up, yet many gardeners shy away from plants that grow to more than three feet tall. Heather will review some of her favorite tall perennials and chat about how to create layers of color and texture in your garden. Heather has been a part of the green industry for more than 20 years, including experience at The Morton Arboretum, Chicago Botanic Garden, The Growing Place, The Pizzo Group, Wannemaker's Home & Garden, and the American Horticultural Society. She is a trained horticulturist specializing in trees, shrubs, and natives with a passion



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2022 – 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](#)

Continuing through November 6, 9 am-5 pm., *Once Upon a Mum Fall Show*, Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory, Milwaukee, WI.

November 5, 9 am.-3 pm., *40th Annual Madison Herb Fair*, Madison Herb Society, Olbrich Gardens, Madison.

Thursday, November 10, 6-7:30 pm., *Growing Resilient Trees with Briana Frank*, Tree Health Management, Olbrich Gardens Zoom Class. Register by Nov. 3. \$12 members/\$15 non-members. [More info.](#)

Saturday, November 19 - January 3, 9 am.-5 pm., *Holiday Floral Show*, Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory, Milwaukee, WI.

November 25-27, December 1-4, 8-11, 15-18, 22-23, 26-30, 4:30-9 pm., *WPS Garden of Lights*, Green Bay Botanical Garden, Green Bay. Tickets required.

Sunday, November 27, 1-2 pm, *Garden Stroll*, UW Arboretum, Madison. Meet at the Visitor Center. [More info.](#)

Nov. 25-27, Dec. 1-4, 8-11, 15-23, 26-30, *RBG Holiday Light Show*, Rotary Botanical Garden, Janesville. [More info.](#)

Monday, December 2, 3-6 pm, *Holiday Express Member Preview*, Olbrich Gardens. Membership required. [More info.](#)

December 3 - 31, 10 am.-4 pm., *Holiday Express Flower and Model Train Show*, Olbrich Gardens, Madison. Admission: free for members; \$3-\$6 for the general public. Closes at 2 pm. on Dec. 24, closed on Dec. 25. [More info.](#)

Saturday, December 3, 10 am.-3 pm., *Holiday Boutique*, Hawthorn Hollow Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum, Kenosha. Hand-crafted holiday gifts, wreaths and more. [More info.](#)

Sunday, December 4, 10 am.-2 pm., *Holiday Gift Fair*, Boerner Botanical Gardens, Hales Corners.

2023 Garden Travel with Olbrich

Olbrich Botanical Gardens through Country Travel Discoveries www.countrytraveldiscoveries.com will host:

- *Texas Wildflowers - April 18-23, 2023* - led by Director Tanya Zastrow
- *New York's Botanical Gardens - September 7-11, 2023* - led by one of Olbrich's horticulturists

WHPS Events (cont. from p.2)

for connecting people with plants. Heather currently balances a busy freelance writing and teaching schedule with her role as email marketing manager for The Garden of Words, a firm that does Website development and email marketing for businesses in the horticulture industry. In addition, her freelance writing includes work for Chicagoland Gardening, The Landscape Contractor, and numerous newspaper articles, blog posts, newsletters and more. Heather also relishes sharing her knowledge and experience by teaching at The Morton Arboretum, Chicago Botanic Garden, Chicago Flower & Garden Show, Farnsworth House, as well as garden clubs, groups and industry gatherings. She firmly believes anyone can garden and everyone will fall in love with plants, given the chance.

Wednesday, April 19, 2023, 6:30 pm., *WHPS Meeting (IN PERSON and VIA ZOOM): Making Landscapes that Matter.*

With speaker **Scott Beuerlein**. This talk is a rambling ride through human history, human nature and why horticulture, which does all its best work at the subconscious level, means so much to human well-being and how we can tweak our garden designs to amp up the benefits. Scott Beuerlein is the Manager of Botanical Garden Outreach at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. He runs the Zoo's Botanical Garden educational programs, including three symposiums, various plant trialing programs, the Zoo's "Best Plants for Pollinators" brand, and the Plant for Pollinators Challenge. Scott is also a garden writer and horticultural speaker. He has published hundreds of articles and columns in several gardening and green industry publications. He currently pens two columns in each issue of Horticulture Magazine – the humorous (usually, hopefully) "Deep Roots" column and the "Green Views" series of interviews with top horticultural professionals such as Allan Armitage and Jimmy Turner. Scott is a partner in the long-running and highly respected Garden Rant blog site and posts about twice a month, including a series of spirited and passive-aggressive letters in which he spars with garden writer Marianne Wilburn. Among the many recognitions for his horticultural efforts is the recent 2022 Silver Medal for blogs from the International Association of Garden Communicators.



DUES

Please don't renew yet! About half of our WHPS members pay dues for multiple years and it's pretty hard to remember if you owe dues or not. Memberships are for the calendar year. In late December, we will send an email to every member letting them know they either need to renew or they paid ahead last year.

So you don't have to wonder if you need to renew or not. We give everyone plenty of time and multiple reminders before we update our membership list in March.

Restoring Prairie on Abandoned Farmland Prairie Oaks*: Year Three

by Emily Buckingham

After our third full summer, I feel like I've really got my bearings with our eight-acre restoration project. The end of major restoration work is not exactly imminent, but it is visible in the distance if I squint.

I now know exactly which invasives we have, the big ones being *Lonicera tatarica* (honeysuckle), *Rhamnus cathartica* (buckthorn), *Rosa multiflora*, *Alliaria petiolata* (garlic mustard), *Torilis japonica* (Japanese hedge parsley), *Pastinaca sativa* (wild parsnip), *Melilotus alba* (white sweet clover), and *Phalaris arundinacea* (reed canary grass). We have established our chosen method for dealing with each of them (cut stump treatment for the first three in that list, hand pulling for the next four, and broadcast spraying a grass-specific herbicide for reed canary grass). I'm thankful that there are some troublesome invasives that we don't have, including crown vetch, leafy spurge, creeping bellflower, and dame's rocket, to name a few. I've come to the realization that it's perfectly fine to kill weedy natives including stickseed (have you ever tried to get those seeds out of your clothes?!) and Canada goldenrod (I want more than one species in my prairie!).

The prairie has had more species added from seed blooming this year, including



Emily & Adam Buckingham and children at family cookout.

Pycnanthemum virginianum (mountain mint), *Silphium integrifolium* (rosinweed), *Heliopsis helianthoides* (false sunflower), *Desmodium illinoense* (Illinois tick trefoil), and *Dalea candida* and *Dalea purpurea* (white and purple prairie clover), plus existing species have spread, such as *Liatris aspera* (rough blazing star), *Gentiana andrewsii* (bottle gentian), *Solidago nemoralis* (old field goldenrod), and *Asclepias verticillata* (whorled milkweed). We're seeing native grasses starting to fill in spots that were previously only bare dirt left by the removal of mature honeysuckle two years ago. My husband conducted the first burn of the 10'x10' test section we seeded in late 2019. It went up with a whoosh, reminding us that prescribed burns are not to be undertaken lightly. We're making plans - with knowledgeable WHPS friends - to burn the whole one-acre prairie restoration next spring, with the hope that the newly established native grasses have added enough fuel to sustain a burn.

In the sedge meadow, our efforts to beat back the reed canary grass using mowing and grass-specific herbicide are paying off. We're seeing existing native plants starting to spread, including *Eutrochium maculatum* (spotted Joe Pye weed), *Asclepias incarnata* (swamp milkweed), *Verbena hastata* (blue vervain), *Solidago altissima* (tall goldenrod), *Scirpus cyperinus* (woolly bulrush) and *Scirpus atrovirens* (dark green bulrush). The *Silphium perfoliatum* (cup plant) and *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (buttonbush) I planted are doing well too.



Picking black caps in the woods.

In the silver maple woods, brambles are taking over a lot of the space previously occupied by honeysuckle. They may not be the most desirable of plants, but at least they're native and we enjoyed a great crop of black caps this year. My daughter's face ended up purple every time we visited the woods. The marsh marigolds I planted along the creek are doing well, despite the fact that the creek once again ran dry in late July.

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Woodland garden with bench.



New homesite burnpile.

Restoring prairie (cont. from p. 4)

We've just broken ground on our forever home, with a scheduled move-in date of next May. I am thrilled by the idea of living in our very own "state park," though I am already grieving the joys of living in Madison, within walking and biking distance of so many wonderful places. Alas, there are tradeoffs to every decision of this magnitude.

This winter we will cut invasive brush in the thus-untouched section that links the house to our prairie restoration, with the eventual goal of having prairie come nearly up to the house. I plan to add gravel gardens directly next to the house, and a rain garden in the drainage ditch next to the driveway. There will be no shortage of work to do in 2023!

**Thus far we've called our property Prairie Oaks – we welcome suggestions for something a little catchier!*



Prairie restoration.

In Remembrance -

Charles Richard Bylsma - Sept. 22, 2022

Charlie Bylsma passed away on September 22 at the age of 87. He was a long-time member of WHPS, and along with his wife Chris hosted many tours of the garden that they created in the Nakoma neighborhood in Madison. They were regular participants at WHPS Potlucks and other WHPS events. Among his varied work accomplishments, most important was his work to improve the care and treatment of the mentally ill in Wisconsin. As an advocate and lobbyist he was instrumental in the creation of community-based mental health services, modernization of commitment procedures, and the care and treatment of children. As a result Wisconsin became a national figure in those areas during his tenure leading a major mental health association. In retirement, Charlie became involved in the Midvale Community Gardens as Committee Chair for the past seven years, in addition to many other volunteer activities, reading, biking and travel with his wife. We offer our sincere condolences to Chris and the rest of his family.



Open Garden Thank You

We are all so appreciative of the opportunity to see the beautiful and varied gardens of our members who hosted open gardens in 2022. Many thanks to: Janet Aaberg, Barbara and David Bendlin, Linda Brazill and Mark Golbach, Tom Cottingham, Ed Feige, J. R. Flynn, Cindy Fillingame, Rosemary and Tom Kleinheinz, Jane LaFlash, Nancy and David Nedveck, Judy Steffen, and Betsy True and Danny Aerts. Consider hosting your own open garden next year! Early spring would be a great time for an open garden!

New WHPS members

The following members have recently joined WHPS:

Any Banta, Madison, WI; Amy Forsyth, Madison, WI; April Dimmis Gardner-Taylor, Madison, WI; Jane Ippolito, Madison, WI; Lisa Ledford-Kerr, Flora Container Gardens, Madison, WI; Lana Martin, Cambridge, WI; Valerie Mcgoldrick, Madison, WI; Debbie & Ken Sears, Madison, WI; Brenda Smyth, Madison WI; Tanya Zastrow, Madison, WI.

Welcome!

Members in the news

WHPS friend (and plant sale supplier) Brent Horvath of Intrinsic Perennials - "Sedums That will Stop You in Your Tracks," *Fine Gardening*, December, 2022, p. 34.

WHPS Board Member, Mark Dwyer of Landscape Prescriptions by MD – contributor to "Garden Shed" (Tips) in *Fine Gardening*, November - December, 2022, p. 16.

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

As the holidays approach and thoughts of gifts, gift certificates and cards are dancing in your head, remember that you can help the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society raise money with any order you place at Brent & Becky's Bulbs. 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. 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 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. And don't forget that you can also support WHPS when you shop with Amazon. for the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society to designate us as your charity of choice.

amazonsmile

WHPS Grants Program update

Rotary Botanical Gardens – Final Update running next year.

We wanted to provide a final update on how our grant project of converting turf to perennials outside the Wellness Garden fence is filling in. We removed the turf in May of 2021 and after the initial planting shortly after, we've enjoyed seeing the progression of plants that have come into the spotlight throughout the year. From the daffodil bulbs in the spring, to the *Salvia* 'Sixteen Candles' and *Eryngium zabelii* 'Big Blue' in early summer, and the *Calamintha* 'Montrose White', *Allium* 'Millenium', and *Sesleria autumnalis* taking over in late summer. As the garden moves into its second autumn, *Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Firetail', *Salvia nutans*, and *Pennistenum alopecuroides* 'Praline', a sterile selection out of the University of Georgia, have taken a starring role.

With budget restraints and difficulty finding some plants, the planting could not be finished in 2021. This September, we have resumed planting with perennials such as *Penstemon* 'Dark Towers', *Geranium* 'Dark Eyes', and *Amsonia* 'String Theory' so that this new garden will hit the ground

A huge THANK YOU to WHPS for adding more perennials and all the benefits that come with them to our garden and for making this project a reality.

— *Michael Jesiolowski* – Director of Horticulture, Rotary Botanical Gardens

Nonprofits can apply for WHPS Grants

The Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society will award up to \$1500 to a community group, school, or other organization for a project that promotes the use of hardy plants in the landscape. Grants can only be awarded to a nonprofit organization or a group that is associated with a nonprofit organization.

Funds may be used for educational purposes, plant material, hardscaping and supplies. Priority will be given to projects in the state of Wisconsin that are supported by WHPS members and to organizations with nonprofit status who have not received previous donations or grants from WHPS. Grant requests

can be submitted at any time and will be reviewed by the board members of the WHPS or a designated subcommittee. If the grant is awarded, a progress report is requested six months after the award funds are received. A verbal report of your project may be requested at the December annual business meeting of the WHPS.

To apply, complete the form apply at our [website](#). If landscaping is involved, please provide supporting documentation – an outline of the plan, site map, photographs, etc.



Photo above: *Salvia nutans*



Photo above: Our starting point, May 2021.



Photo above: *Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Firetail'.



Photo above: Volunteers weeding the beds as plants establish. (August 2022)



Photo above: *Pennistenum alopecuroides* 'Praline'.

Ironweed Stands Tall in the Fall Prairie



Vernonia lettermanii,
'Iron Butterfly'

by Glenn Herold - reprinted from [The Cottage Gardener Blog](#), September 6, 2022

The common plant name "ironweed" can have different connotations. Some may picture toughness, as "iron" suggests. Others may visualize something undesirable, as "weed" insinuates. Fortunately, most plants known as ironweed in Midwest gardens carry the trait of toughness, but not invasiveness.

Ironweed is the common name for plants of the genus *Vernonia*, a member of the daisy family, or Asteraceae. It is a huge genus, containing over 350 species, and is found in both North and South America, Africa, and Southeast Asia. The name honors the English botanist William Vernon (1666-1711). Only two of the species are native to Wisconsin. *Vernonia baldwinii*, the Western ironweed, is found in just two counties, usually in dry soils. It is a dense, hairy plant that grows to a height of three to four feet and spreads by underground stems called rhizomes. Western ironweed has limited appeal for the ornamental gardener.



Vernonia lettermanii, narrowleaf ironweed

Vernonia fasciculata, the smooth ironweed, is found in most of Southern and Western Wisconsin. It prefers soils that are moist to wet, but does quite well on soils of average moisture as well. Smooth ironweed grows on unbranched stems to a height that may exceed six feet. To reduce the size and discourage it from bending over, cut back the stems in late spring to a height of about two feet. Planting it in full sun will also encourage strong stems. Smooth ironweed is a bit of an oxymoron, as the leaves have sharp teeth along the margins.

In mid-July through September, the stems are topped with deep purple flowers in clusters that are six inches across. The flowers are good nectar producers for beekeepers and are also food plants for some species of butterflies. In my prairie garden, the purple color is a great contrast for species of *Silphium* (compass plant, cup plant, and prairie dock), *Ratibida* (yellow coneflower), and *Rudbeckia* (black-eyed Susan) that bloom at the same time, but with yellow flowers.



Vernonia fasciculata

Another species of *Vernonia* that has a place in my perennial border is *Vernonia lettermanii*, narrowleaf ironweed. Native to Arkansas and Oklahoma, it tops out at about 24 inches. Leaves are thin and narrow, giving the plant a fine texture and providing a strong contrast to plants with larger and wider leaves. Purple flowers form in late fall, sometimes too late to precede a Southern Wisconsin frost. Even without flowers, the texture of the plant makes it a worthy addition to my border.

An improvement of the species *Vernonia lettermanii* is the cultivar 'Iron Butterfly.' It forms a dense, two-to-three-foot mound of fine textured foliage and tends to bloom earlier than the species in my garden. The purple flowers pair nicely with the yellow flowers of goldenrod and are great for pollinators and hummingbirds. Unlike some species of *Vernonia*, it does well on soils that are dry to moderately moist.

While some African species of *Vernonia* are eaten as leaf vegetables, having a sweet and bitter taste, American species are best used in the ornamental garden. *Vernonia fasciculata* is an important component of my prairie garden and *Vernonia lettermanii* stands out in my fall mixed perennial border. With iron-clad qualities, I don't think you'll mind that it has "weed" in its common name.

Plant of the Year

(cont. from p.1)

premature seasonal decline on some black-eyed Susans. 'American Gold Rush' is a reliable hardy perennial and a great substitute for popular, brassier 'Goldsturm', which is highly susceptible to leaf spotting.

Brent Horvath, owner of wholesale growing operation Intrinsic Perennial Gardens in Illinois, speaks highly of the 'American Gold Rush' and says, "I've always liked my plant introductions to speak for themselves and this one speaks volumes. From start to finish this plant is generally trouble free and easy to propagate, grow and finish in a container and a breeze to garden with."

Richard Hawke, Director of Ornamental Plant Research of the Chicago Botanic Gardens says, "American Gold Rush' is the black-eyed Susan that made me want to grow them again! It ticks all the boxes for a superior garden plant — bountiful golden flowers, long-blooming, disease-free and a robust habit."

'American Gold Rush' is a stunning focal point in perennial borders and meadows and is brilliant when massed in public or corporate landscapes. Butterflies caper over the blooms and songbirds feast on the plentiful seed long after the flowers have passed — the seed heads also provide winter interest. Garden companions are many, including alliums, asters, sages and native grasses such as little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) and prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*).

Learn more about the 2023 Perennial Plant of the Year at [Perennial Plant Association](https://www.perennialplantassociation.org/).



Wildflower Artwork — Christi Iausly —

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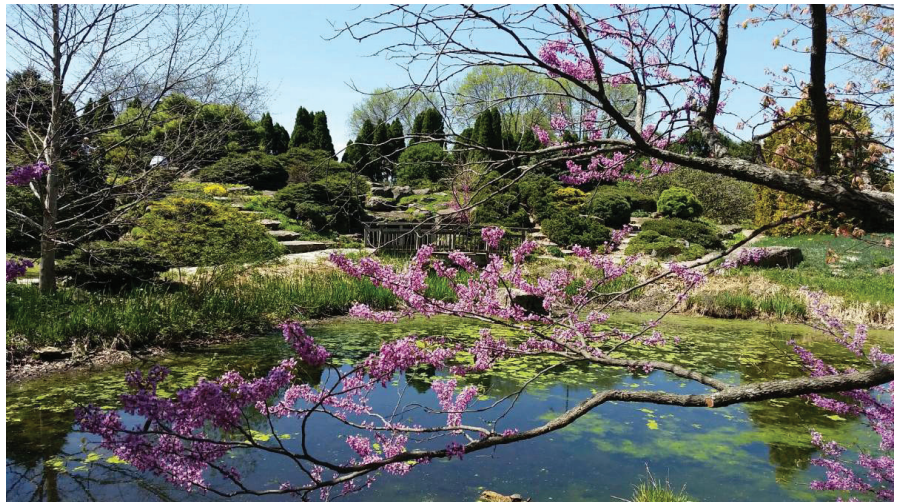


Photo of Olbrich by Deb Archer

When you walk through a beautiful botanical garden, you feel open and light. You feel love, you see beauty. You don't judge the shape and placement of every leaf. The leaves are of all sizes and shapes and they face every-which way. That's what makes them beautiful. What if you felt that way about people? What if they all didn't have to dress the same, believe the same or behave the same? What if they were like the flowers, and however they happened to be seemed beautiful to you?

– Michael Singer - passage from *The Untethered Soul: The Journey Beyond Yourself*



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