

Conifer Quarterly

Vol. 22 No. 3

Summer 2005



Pinus parviflora
'Bergman' is framed
by *Acer palmatum*
'Chishio Improved'
and spring flowering
groundcovers.

Below, *Pinus parviflora*
'Glauca Nana' grows
alongside *Acer*
palmatum 'Shaina'.



Contents

- 8 Conifer Companions**
Anne Brennan
- 12 Visiting the Conifers of New Zealand, Part 2**
Daniel Luscombe
- 20 Prolific Plantsman: Joe Stupka**
Byline
- 28 A Taylor-Made Upright Conifer**
Bob Henrickson
- 32 Conifers in the News**
Tony Green
- 35 Collectors' Conifer of the Year Program Debuts**
Ridge Goodwin
- 38 Members' Gardens Open by Appointment**

Conifer Society voices

- 2** President's Message
- 4** Editor's Memo
- 6** Letters to the Editor
- 36** Obituary: Alan Bloom
- 42** News from our Regions

Cover photo: Hostas and oak-leaf hydrangeas grow alongside *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* 'Pendula' in Gerald Kral's garden in Rochester, New York. Photo by Anne Brennan.

Conifer Quarterly

Summer 2005
Volume 22, No. 3

The *Conifer Quarterly* (ISSN 8755-0490) is published quarterly by the American Conifer Society. The Society is a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is tax exempt under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service Code.

You are invited to join our Society. Please address membership and other inquires to the Conifer Society National Office, P.O. Box 3422, Crofton, MD 21114-0422. Membership: US \$30 (basic), \$30 (institutional) \$50 (sustaining), \$100 (corporate/business) and \$130 (patron). If you are moving, please notify the National Office 4 weeks in advance.

Editorial and advertising matters should be sent to the Editor: Anne Brennan, 145 Cedar St., Jenkintown, PA 19046.

Editor

Anne Brennan

Technical Editors

Ethan Johnson
Susan Martin
R. William Thomas

Advisory Committee

Tom Cox, Committee Chair
Jane Frampton
Charlene Harris
Tom Schlereth
ex officio: Don Wild
ex officio: Dennis Groh
ex officio: John Martin

Copyright © 2005, American Conifer Society. All rights reserved. No material contained herein may be reproduced in any form without prior written permission of the publisher. Opinions expressed by authors and advertisers are not necessarily those of the Society.

Note: Hardiness Zone references in the *Conifer Quarterly* are USDA classifications unless otherwise specified.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DON WILD

As you read this, I will be finishing my first year as your president, a position that has offered me the opportunity to interact with many prominent and interesting hobbyists, horticulturists and nurserymen in the world of conifers. The title has given me a level of respect in the community that I have not earned but readily accept with all its trimmings. It is a stimulus to continue to work diligently to keep this group working together and having fun.

John Martin deserves our thanks

The Society exists only because of its generous members who devote time, plants and expertise to the organization. Though we have made an effort to acknowledge everyone's contributions, we are aware that on occasion someone is overlooked. While John Martin is officially a contractor and our National Office Manager, he is also one of our most generous and valuable volunteers.

I have seen John acknowledged at the National Meetings, but those are attended by only a small percentage of our members. It is essential that he be recognized for his part in all that happens in our organization.

John and his wife, Susan, have been a part of the ACS since its inception. As a result, John has not only a historical perspective of all the ACS activities over the years but also a "parent-to-child" commitment to see that we stay on the right path. There are a number of issues that have arisen over the last 22 years and some remain unresolved, though often revisited by an ever-chang-

ing board. John patiently brings forward the previous debates concerning these issues as they were discussed in varying forms in years past.

Only the ACS presidents who have communicated with John on an almost daily basis know how significant John's effort has been. To paraphrase past-president Marvin Snyder's recruiting pitch to me four years ago: "Don, it's not that hard – John does all the work."

Preserving our history

As one reviews the obituaries in our last few journals, it becomes apparent that we are losing some of our early contributors and founding members, many of whom are in their 80s. This past winter, I entertained myself by reading records from the early ACS meetings, and I noted that during the very first meeting, there was mention of creating an archive of ACS activities. In the Spring 2000 issue of our *Bulletin* (the predecessor to the *Conifer Quarterly*), Tom Schlereth wrote a definitive article on how, what, and why certain materials should be saved. To date, however, we have not accomplished what he recommended.

While the debate continues as to where this material is to be stored, I would like to stimulate members to find and contribute to a central archive any materials generated at these early meetings.

Tom's article divides the materials into two groups. One is primarily institutional or procedural, relating to the business portion of our operation, and the second has to do with what was

being said, taught, viewed or evaluated horticulturally at the meetings. The latter includes items such as handouts from lectures, personal photos, and personal recollections of discussions and tours. If members have items, pictures, notes, or stories that they think would be of interest, please contact John Martin or myself. Initially, I would be willing to store or catalogue some of this information while we work to find a permanent storage site. In the meantime, I do not wish to lose so much of our history.

Changes to our Board

I would like to welcome Ellen Kelly to our Board of Directors as she replaces Les Wyman. Ellen has contributed significantly to the Central Region while serving as its treasurer. In that role, Ellen and her husband, Jim, standardized the auction procedures for our regional and national auctions. We sincerely appreciate her willingness to serve.

Les Wyman has served dutifully as a board member and has been the keystone of new-member recruitment in the Northeastern Region. I will thank Les more appropriately in the next issue.

As a final note, I would like to say that I am concerned that we continue to struggle to find members willing to volunteer for the Board of Directors. I know you have the time; we are asking you to take the time.

See you in "Joyzee"!



Summer is here, so our national meeting in New Jersey can't be far away. While the many volunteers who have organized the event can't ensure low humidity in August, they can promise you a meeting filled with garden destinations and conifer camaraderie you won't forget. I hope to see you there!

This issue of the *Conifer Quarterly* includes, among other things, a subject that might surprise a few readers. A lot of us enjoy growing other kinds of plants besides conifers – so much so that many American Conifer Society members belong to one or more other plant societies. Even if we do swear sole allegiance to the ACS in terms of membership, we're bound to acquire a few plants that could be more accurately described as "leafy" than "needle-y." (Are those *perennials* peeking around your *Pseudotsuga*?)

Bringing your favorite plants together in close proximity personalizes your garden, and the photos on our covers and elsewhere in this issue celebrate this idea. The short article beginning on page 8 describes a few of the most common approaches to combining conifers with other plants.

Next, Daniel Luscombe takes us along to New Zealand as he wraps up the trip that began in Northland and New Caledonia. Read about the frustrations and rewards of seed collecting in Part 2 of his adventure.

On page 20 begins an inspiring story of nurseryman and "broom hunter" Joe Stupka, who discovered horticulture as a second career and persevered through trial and error to become a man whom every Conifer Society member can and should learn from.

"Conifers in the News" is a relatively

new *Conifer Quarterly* feature that is receiving enthusiastic feedback from members. As you will see beginning on page 32, conifers pop up unexpectedly as key characters in a variety of publications accessed by people in all walks of life. Some are serious references (redwood logging) and others are humorous (conifer-napping and ransom notes) – but all offer a perspective on conifers that differs from that found in typical nursery or garden circles.

As you travel around the country this year, remember that many ACS members are eager to share their gardens, and they welcome visits by other members. Since the list in this year's Membership Directory is incomplete, the entire list is printed in this issue on pages 38-41. Just be sure to contact the individual ahead of time to arrange a mutually convenient time for your "tour"! Many feel that this membership benefit is one of the society's best-kept secrets; don't overlook the opportunity to seek out fellow conifer enthusiasts both close to home and farther afield.

Speaking of garden visits, "Garden Rendezvous" events of the sort first organized by Gary Whittenbaugh in the Central Region are catching on throughout the Society. All three of our other Regions have held at least one such local garden-visitation event this Spring, as described in the regional reports beginning on page 42. It's been quite a year already, and it's only July!

Best wishes for a great summer to you and your conifers.

Anne



Fall / October issue:

Focus on Propagation

No sooner do we start growing and collecting conifers than we want to make more to give away or sell. What propagation questions – or solutions – do you have to share with our other members? Photos are also important for this topic. Contact the Editor by August 12th.

Winter / January issue:

Keeping Track of Your Conifer Collection

Twenty years from now, how will you remember when or where you found your favorite garden conifers? If you collect and propagate witches brooms or other unusual forms, what records do you keep so you don't forget the story behind each plant? Share your ideas or horror stories by submitting a short article on or before November 7th.

Publication Dates

Issue	Calendar Quarter	Deadline to submit articles	Publication Date (approx. mailing)
Winter	Jan/Feb/Mar	Nov 7	Jan 15
Spring	Apr/May/June	Feb 6	Apr 15
Summer	Jul/Aug/Sept	May 10	July 15
Fall	Oct/Nov/Dec	Aug 12	Oct 15

Submit articles/photos to:

Anne Brennan, Conifer Quarterly Editor
 145 Cedar St., Jenkintown, PA 19046 • PH (215) 376-0231
 FAX (215) 827-5926 • E-mail: ConiferQuarterly@contextcomm.com

From time to time, I review a new book that may be of interest to ACS members. This particular one is a bit unusual, as it doesn't seem to have a publisher.

Last fall our national president, Don Wild, shared a book with me titled *Conifers of Vietnam* by Nguyen Duc To Luu and Phillip Ian Thomas (ISBN 1872291643). Perhaps he knew this would be of great interest to me because our arboretum lies in Zone 7B here in Georgia, or because we trial a large number of plants here at the Cox Arboretum.

While the book is not oriented to the casual reader, anyone interested in learning about the coniferous flora of this tiny country will find it worth reading. Few of the plants described could be successfully grown in regions colder than Zone 8, but the author does a good job of discussing the floristic relationship of Viet-

nam with other parts of Asia.

Currently there are about 29 species of conifers in Vietnam, which represents less than 5% of the world's known conifer species. As many readers are aware, one species, *Xanthocyparis vietnamensis*, was only discovered in 1999. One very rare plant that we recently acquired for the arboretum is described in the book – *Amentotaxus argotaenia*, which also has a disjunct distribution in southern China.

The book is written in both Vietnamese and English with about 50 pages in English. Each species discussed includes a description plus details about distribution, uses and propagation. A line drawing illustrates each listing.

Tom Cox
Canton, Georgia



Rich's
Foxwillow
Pines
Nursery
Inc.

Rare & Garden Conifers
Ginkgos, Beeches, Perennials
Hostas, Daylilies, Irises,
Alpine Plants

Rich and Susan Eyre
11618 McConnell Rd
Woodstock IL 60098

815-338-7442 (phone)
815-338-7446 (fax)
coniflora@richsfoxwillowpines.com
www.richsfoxwillowpines.com

Conifer caption corrections



Maud Henne

A plant in the Winter 2005 issue's color section may be incorrectly identified. The lower photo on page C3 looks very similar to *Pinus thunbergii* 'Oculus-draconis' based on the characteristic white buds.

It does not look like *Pinus densiflora*, which is shown on the same page.

Bill Valavanis
West Henrietta, New York



Doug Ritch

I have read the Winter 2005 *Conifer Quarterly* with interest.

Page C4 in "Reader Recommendation" includes the name *Juniperus tortulosa* 'Variegata.' I think that the correct name is *Cupressus torulosa* 'Variegata.'

Wil ten Dam
Netherlands

Top: *Pinus thunbergii*
'Oculus-draconis'

Bottom: *Cupressus torulosa*
'Variegata'

Conifer Companions

Diversity adds interest, so perk up your garden with non-conifers

by Anne Brennan

Though we all love conifers, a garden of nothing *but* conifers is like a freezer full of chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream. It might be your favorite flavor, but if it's all you eat day in and day out, chances are you'll eventually start to lose interest.

Contrasting colors and textures

The reason mixed conifer/non-conifer gardens invite admiration is that the different plant types create visual contrast. Large leaves, like those of hostas, hydrangeas, and rhododendrons, complement the fine texture of most conifers.

And, while the conifer world boasts a wide variety of foliage colors to mix and match, there's no coniferous equivalent of deep purple blooms glowing alongside a gold-tinged *Chamaecyparis*. One of my own favorite combinations is the fall-blooming *Aster X frikartii* 'Monch' planted next to *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Cripsii.'

Similarly, a bright yellow herbaceous plant such as *Tanacetum* or *Coleus* looks positively fluorescent growing in front of a dense, deep green spruce (*Picea*) or fir (*Abies*).

Good neighbors

Many plant forms look attractive growing among conifers, but to ensure a long-term relationship, you should make sure your companion plants thrive in the same light, soil moisture, and soil pH

conditions as their conifer comrades.

If you'd like your garden to present a **woodland** effect, you may want to add rhododendrons, azaleas, hollies, camellias, magnolias or oaks to the area. These plants appreciate the same acidic, clay loam soil found in many conifer gardens. When developing a woodland garden, try to position trees and large shrubs to minimize shading of sun-loving conifers.

Perhaps a **rock garden** is a better match to your climate or personal taste. Luckily, many alpine plants thrive in the same sunny, well-drained soils that dwarf conifers prefer. Combining ground-hugging and crevice-filling annuals and perennials with your dwarf conifers produces a more natural-looking rock-garden environment that changes with the seasons. Check out the North American Rock Garden Society (www.nargs.org) for ideas.

Heaths and heathers are great conifer companions in parts of the country that aren't plagued by hot, humid summers, such as New England. Their needle-like foliage blends well with conifer groupings while the pink, purple and white flowers provide welcome splashes of color. Visit the North American Heather Society's web site (www.northamericanheathersoc.org) to find a list of nurseries as well as cultural information.

A new conifer garden often includes



Kent Burgess

At left and below: Kent Burgess' garden in St. Louis, Missouri, displays a collection of Japanese maples along with his conifers.



Kent Burgess

a large proportion of open space between plants due to allowances for future growth. Some gardeners, especially collectors, prefer to keep these spaces mulched but otherwise empty so that the plants can benefit from maximum air circulation as well as minimum competition for water and soil nutrients from other plants. While I'm a firm believer in mulching, I prefer not to see large expanses of the stuff between my infant trees and shrubs, so I've added **low-growing flowering annuals** and some **perennial groundcovers** to fill the voids until the woody plants fill in. In many of the gardens we've visited on ACS meeting tours, I've seen unusual hosta cultivars growing happily between conifers.

Selecting specimens

It's probably no coincidence that many conifer collectors also appreciate specimen plants from other botanical groups and use them as focal points in their gardens. I've met several ACS members who have almost as many Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*) cultivars on display

A groundcover with broad or rounded leaves, such as this Allegheny spurge (*Pachysandra procumbens*), contrasts well with umbrella-pine (*Sciadopitys verticillata*) growing near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Anne Brennan

as they have conifer cultivars. Not only does the same "collector mentality" apply to unusual and dwarf maples, but their glowing autumn foliage and graceful branch structure are even more striking against a coniferous backdrop.

A birch, a small flowering tree, or a large shade tree can add seasonal interest and an element of scale to a primarily evergreen landscape.

This season, why not invite over some leafy friends to keep your conifers company? ▲

Anne Brennan is Editor of the *Conifer Quarterly* and gardens in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania.



Mark Dwyer

Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Plumosa Compacta' spends the winter tucked in among *Sporobolus heterolepis* (prairie dropseed) at Mark Dwyer's Rotary Gardens in Janesville, Wisconsin, shown here in February.



Mark Dwyer

Annual or perennial ground covers can add visual weight to a specimen conifer. Here, a mass of celosia draws the eye toward *Abies alba* 'Green Spiral,' also at Rotary Gardens.

Visiting the Conifers of New Zealand, Part 2

New Caledonia's botanical treasures treat the tour group as their trip winds down

Photos and text by Daniel Luscombe

In our last issue, we read about the first part of Daniel Luscombe's trip to New Zealand, Northland, and New Caledonia in 2002. With the Araucariaceae Symposium behind him, Daniel is touring New Caledonia with a small group of conference attendees to see these and other conifers in their native settings.

On March 22nd, after our terrifying descent from Mont Do on rain-slicked roads, we went to the nursery of the Forest Service of the South Province. They had experimented with grafting various species of *Araucaria* and *Agathis*, and all of the native species were included in their collection. Two striking *Podocarpus subtropicalis* – one female with cones and one male – from China were among the most memorable trees.

After a brief stop at our hotel, we headed back out for cocktails at the residence of the President of the South Provinces, where I also met the English ambassador.

The next morning we set off for the Rivere Bleue Park. First we observed some reforestation areas of

Agathis and *Araucaria* and a seed orchard of *Agathis ovata* and *A. lanceolata*. The latter displayed amazing blue new growth and developing male and female cones. The staff had also planted an orchard of *A. subulata* (one of the *Araucaria* we didn't see in the wild) from seed collected from trees felled on Mont Dzumac.

We then went out into the park. Abundant scrubby maquis flora (including *Dacrydium araucarioides* as the only noticeable conifer) suddenly changed into tropical forest; the variety of soil types in New Caledonia creates these



The seeds of *Retrophyllum minor* float, so plants are found along riverbanks as shown here.

abrupt transitions. We stopped to see the largest known *Agathis lanceolata*, which was massive but could not compare with the trees in New Zealand. Walkways through the forest were created to protect the trees. A strange palm turned out to be *Campecarpus fulcitus*, one of the stilt palms endemic to New Caledonia.

We were honored by a visit from one of the world's rarest birds, the Cagou, which is the national bird of New Caledonia. At one point there were fewer than 50 in the world.

When a steady rain began to fall, we stopped for lunch inside some thatched huts and wandered down to the river. Here we found *Araucaria bernieri*, *Libocedrus yateensis*, *Podocarpus novae-caledoniae* and the yellow-flowered *Xanthostemon myrtifolium*. From there we hiked up from the river to observe the parasitic plant *Daenikera corallina* alongside a small *Prumnopitys ferruginoides*, some *Dacrydium lycopodioides* and lots of *Nepenthes* sp. Another amazing day left us very tired!

On March 24th, we left at 6.30 AM to visit Col de Yate to see *Agathis ovata*, and the roads were terrifying. (Think of the film "The Italian Job.") The trees are small, stout, flat-headed plants that look very strange. Growing with them were *Dacrydium araucarioides*.

Next we drove down through the "town" of Yate, which was actually no more than a few shacks. At the waterfall Cascade de Wadiana, we could look across the bay at the best wild population of *Araucaria columnaris* on the mainland. We spent a few minutes taking photos before boarding the bus and heading for the Goro Plateau, where we again observed the low and shrubby maquis vege-

tation type. A bizarre population of *Araucaria muelleri* grew out of rocks that were at least 50% iron and no soil. Only a few sizable plants remain but there are seedlings present also; these are all that remain from an ancient "forest," and we noticed *Gymnostoma* sp. and *Dacrydium araucarioides* growing nearby.

At the waterfall Cascade de Wadiana, we could look across the bay at the best wild population of Araucaria columnaris on the mainland.

One of the most upsetting places we visited was the Kwe Basin, our next stop. We observed many *Retrophyllum minor*, the only reophytic conifer. (Its seeds float, so plants grow in or alongside rivers.) Unfortunately, we learned that the whole area is soon to be dammed and flooded, so all of these trees will die.

Our last stop that day was Port Boise to see the rarest of all of the araucarias, *Araucaria nemorosa*. It grows in two main locations and we visited them both. They closely resemble some of the other araucarias, and it was difficult to identify them positively. We stopped down on the coast for lunch then walked around to the next bay, Gite Kanua, through stands of *Araucaria columnaris*. *A. nemorosa* and *A. columnaris* are thought to hybridize here; this would be a first for the genus, as no other hybrids are known.

The second population is a couple of

miles away on the other side of the mountain and has been quite well documented by a botanist working for the nickel mining company that owns the land. There are 247 trees recorded with GPS coordinates. Just across the main road is one of the rarest palms in the

The rimu is one of the best timber trees in New Zealand and has been extensively cleared

world, *Pritchardiopsis jeanneyi*, that is only found in this location. A proposal to widen the road by 160 feet (50 m) could make the palm extinct. This area is also the only biotype of its kind in New Caledonia. The mine was due to open in 2004, but is estimated to contain 150 years' worth of nickel reserves, so this could be the end for many of the plants in the area. The mining company employs a botanist who works with them to try and save some of the plants, but he is a lone voice for the only company on the whole island that makes any concession to conservation. We all felt a bit despondent as we made our way back to the hotel.

Seed Collecting in New Zealand

By April 2nd, I was back in New Zealand to begin a ten-day seed-collecting expedition for the Bedgebury Pine-tum. I drove from Auckland to Turangi to the Department of Conservation office to meet Nick Singers, who was handling my permit application for the Tongariro National Park. Nick helped with selecting the best locations to collect the conifers that I was looking for and, as he wasn't going to be busy the next day, he decided to accompany me. We arranged to meet in the morning, so I headed off to find accommodation and spent the night in the local backpackers' lodge just up the road.

The next morning, Nick and I set out for my first day collecting. We stopped by the side of Highway 47 to see a couple of mature rimus (*Dacrydium cupressinum*). Unfortunately there was no seed, but the trees were magnificent nonetheless. The rimu is one of the best timber trees in New Zealand and has been extensively cleared in the past, so it was refreshing to see such a mature tree.



Cone of *Araucaria columnaris*

A bit further up the road around Lake Rotopounamu we did find seed of both rimu and *Prumnopitys ferruginea* on the ground. (One of the problems with collecting from big trees is that the seed is usually right at the top of the tree and impossible to reach.)

The lake itself was about 20 minutes further and was very peaceful and quiet first thing in the morning. The forest around the lake was a mix of coniferous and broadleaf plants, and the pH of the soil in this area is between 6.1 and 6.3, which is quite similar to that of Bedgebury. Although there were a lot of conifers, most cones were either non-existent or out of reach. I was only able to collect *Prumnopitys taxifolia* here, and seed from this altitude should produce hardier plants than those collected at lower altitudes or warmer areas further north. Nick was able to show me the rare parasitic wood rose (*Dactylanthus taylorii*), which is susceptible to possum damage. The Department of Conservation's considerable effort to eradicate possums from this area seem to have been paying off, as we found quite a few intact plants.

As we continued down Highway 47, we stopped briefly to photograph a pure stand of *Prumnopitys taxifolia* on the south side of Mt. Kakaramea before reaching a part of the Ketetahi forest that contained *Phyllocladus alpinus* and *Halocarpus bidwillii*. We also saw a lot of Scottish heather that had been introduced to the area at the beginning of the last century, and these flats offered an amazing view of Mt. Ngauruhoe covered in snow.

Nick suggested we take the Taurewa Loop walk to find some other conifer

species. As before, we saw plenty of trees but I only managed to collect seed of one species, *Podocarpus cunninghamii* (syn. *P. hallii*).

The final stop of the day was the Bruce Road running up Mt Ruapehu, an area used in the filming of "Lord of the Rings." The conifers that I sought were not large trees but small shrubs, including the world's smallest conifer, *Lepidothamnus laxifolius*. The temperature on the mountain was only 36 °F (2 °C) and the ground was very boggy, but the experience was worthwhile because this was the only place I could collect *Halo-*

Sure enough, on the right-hand side of the road there was one tree dripping with cones

carpus biformis and *Lepidothamnus laxifolius* during my entire trip.

As we headed back to Turangi, Nick suggested that I might try going to the town of Motuoapa after dropping him off, as I might find a *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides* from which to collect seed. Sure enough, on the right-hand side of the road there was one tree dripping with cones. At day's end, I returned to the backpackers' lodge for the night and arranged to meet John Dawson (from the New Caledonia trip) the following day at Otari Scenic Reserve in Wellington. John is the world's leading authority on Myrtaceae (the myrtle family), one of the best New Zealand botanists, author of many books on New Zealand flora, and Chairman of the Committee at

Otari, so it would be quite an honor to tour the area with him.

On April 4th, I headed down to Wellington on quiet but narrow roads. I arrived at Otari around lunchtime, and the staff provided me with a collecting permit. John met me and gave me an

A wooden platform outside the visitors center leads into a canopy walkway so one can observe the tops of the trees.

overview of the collection. Otari is a satellite garden of Wellington Botanic Garden and only grows plants native to New Zealand. The conifer collection is close to the main entrance and displays most of the native conifer species including the rare *Halocarpus kirkii*. A wooden platform outside the visitors center leads into a canopy walkway so one can observe the tops of the trees. This route leads into a rock garden that is home to smaller plants including *Fuchsia procumbens* (in flower and fruiting), *Lepidothamnus laxifolius*, *Leipothamnus laxifolius* x *intermedius* 'Green Cascade' and *Phyllocladus alpinus*.



Mt. Ngauruhoe

I noted that many plants in these gardens, such as *Pittosporum* and flax, are quite common in British gardens. John and I also toured part of the native bush, the fernery and an area featuring high alpine plants. During this visit to Otari I collected seed of *Libocedrus plumosa*, *Phyllocladus trichomanoides*, *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides* and *Fuchsia procumbens*.

It was getting late, but I had time to make a quick stop at Wellington Botanic Gardens to have a look round. I was fortunate to meet the curator, Tony Williams, who gave me a bit of background on the collection and graciously showed me around the education center.

The next morning, I decided not to collect from around the Wellington area but to go down to the South Island instead. This plan proved to be a bit difficult as the ferries were running four hours late due to bad weather earlier in the week. The earliest I could get a ferry was 12:30 in the afternoon, and the trip would take three hours, so I chose the alternative option of flying. My flight wasn't scheduled to leave for a few hours, so I checked out the National Museum with its exhibits about

the plants of New Zealand.

When I eventually checked in at the airport, I found the plane to be a tiny 10 seater, and the flight was terrifying. We were blown all over the place but managed to get to Picton in one piece. I picked up my rental car and made my way to Nelson and then on to Takaka where I spent the night. I had already been in contact with the Department of Conservation for this area, and they had suggested a place called Knuckle Hill on the northeast corner of the island as a good place to collect conifers.

I awoke the next morning to find rainy weather, but I carried on anyway. The road turned into a dirt track as I got nearer to Knuckle Hill, and the weather remained poor. However, the area was beautiful. I was surrounded by mixed conifer forest disappearing up creeks and over hilltops; the road ran alongside the sea and there wasn't anyone else around. The hike to Knuckle Hill would be a 4-hour walk from there, but I decided that it was too risky to carry on as I didn't know the area at all and no one knew I was there. I did collect seed from one *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides* on the left-hand side of the road on the way back to Nelson.

On the morning of April 7th, I left my room and made my way up to the Nelson Lakes area south of Nelson. This area is covered by mountain beech forest made up mainly of *Nothofagus solandri* (and var. *cliffortioides*) that extended up the side of the mountains but stopped abruptly at a certain altitude. The beech forests don't usually include conifers, so I was a bit disappointed. There was a chance that conifers were growing above the tree line, but it was a

very long walk to find out so I decided to go elsewhere. I had heard that the Buller Gorge was an amazing place to visit with conifers throughout, so I thought I would try my luck there.

The Buller Gorge was a great drive. The scenery was choice but there was nowhere to stop and, again, it was beech forest with no visible conifers. I made my way back to Nelson empty-handed.

The next morning, April 8th, I visited to the DoC office across the road to get some insider knowledge to help me locate some specific conifer species. There I met Simon Moore who was

I was surrounded by mixed conifer forest disappearing up creeks and over hilltops; the road ran alongside the sea and there wasn't anyone else around

leaving for St Arnaud and suggested I follow him so he could point me in the right direction. When we arrived there, he directed me up the St Arnaud track that led to the top of the same beech-covered mountain I had seen the previous day! However, he assured me I would find conifers above the tree line, so off I went.

Very soon, I came across *Podocarpus acutifolius* (the needle-leaved podocarp) and observed two distinct growth habits: one a low spreading shrub and the other an upright shrub that appeared to be a cross between *P. acutifolius* and *P. cunninghamii*). There wasn't much seed but I managed to collect

some from both types.

The track zigzagged its way up through the forest, which was fine at first but became tiresome as there was no variation at all and I couldn't see through the trees how much farther I had to go. I bumped into a woman who was also going up, which provided me with some company. Gradually the trees began to get smaller and the canopy less dense, as the *Nothofagus solandri* gave way to *N. solandri* var. *cliffortioides*. We had an amazing view over the Nelson Lakes and could see that we were nearly out of the forest.

Abruptly, the forest ended and we emerged into the alpine area. The first plant in front of me was a *Phyllocladus alpinus* covered in seed, which was a relief. Having come this far, I continued walking to the peak, passing massive clumps of *Podocarpus nivalis* (moun-

tain totara) and more *Phyllocladus alpinus* covered in seed.

It was very cold on the mountaintop, yet it was a wonderful view and very quiet. I walked back down to the Parachute Rocks at an altitude of 4900 feet (1500 m) where the conifers were growing and collected the seeds I had come for.

It was getting on in the day and I still wanted to collect more *Podocarpus acutifolius*, so I rushed back to the trail. In my haste I took a wrong turn and ended up on the wrong trail. There were no more *P. acutifolius* but I did see a very interesting *Phyllocladus* with large phylloclades (flattened branches that function as leaves). Several plants grew up to 50 feet (15m) high and didn't match the descriptions of the three other *Phyllocladus* from New Zealand, so I took a piece to show the botanist at Nelson the

next day. He knew of the plants and said they were an as-yet-unnamed species that has previously been combined with *P. alpinus* but has been shown to be different in both appearance and chemical composition.

On the day following my trek through the mountain beech forest, I also found additional *Phyllocladus trichomanoides* trees near Nelson based on directions from Simon at the Department of Conservation. I also collected *Podocarpus totara* and *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides* seed and observed a massive stand of *Pinus patula* before I had to catch a flight from Nelson back to Auckland later in the afternoon.



Agathis macrophylla at the Auckland Botanic Gardens

On the final day of my trip, I had arranged to visit Auckland Botanic Gardens with Graham Platt and meet up with Steve Benham (Botanical Records Conservation Officer) who gave us a tour of the grounds. The garden is relatively new and is planted in geographic groupings but also includes an area of native bush. Highlights were a stand of *Agathis macrophylla*, cones on *Widdringtonia nodiflora* and the proteas in full flower. I had permission to collect seed from the conifers in the collection, and I left with seed from *Metrosideros excelsa*, *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*,

Widdringtonia nodiflora, and *Prumnopitys taxifolia*.

The very last stop of my trip was to Waikumate Cemetery in Glen Eden where I hoped to get seed from the rare *Halocarpus kirkii*. Continuing what seemed to be a theme of the trip, no seed could be found on the tree.


However, my trip to New Zealand and the surrounding areas was an overall success and very enjoyable. Please visit the Bedgebury Pinetum as we add some of these conifer species to our collection! ▲

About the author: Daniel Luscombe is the assistant curator at Bedgebury National Pinetum in Kent, England, as well as a founding member and current secretary of the British Conifer Society. Because of his interest in species conifers and their conservation, he has traveled to New Zealand, New Caledonia, South Africa, Australia, Spain and Tasmania looking at species in the wild, especially those that have potential as garden conifers in the UK.




"The intricate detail of creative design – That's why I love the conifers."

Edward Remsrola



30590 SE Kelso Rd. Boring, Oregon 97009
800-777-6202 - www.iselinursery.com



Prolific Plantsman: Joe Stupka

A horticultural late bloomer, Joe went on to introduce many new conifer cultivars he found and propagated from seedling mutations and brooms

by Glenn Herold

Some nurserymen are born with sap in their blood, growing up within an established family business and eventually taking the reins. Others rise to the top from unrelated backgrounds through perseverance and the love of plants. Joe Stupka, considered one of the best grafters in the business, falls into this second category.

“My dad used to say, ‘Always have two jobs – one to make a living with and the other as a hobby. Learn as much as you can about it, though, because you never know when you might need it.’”

Born in 1926 in the small coal-mining town of Clarion, Pennsylvania, where “a shot and a beer is considered a mixed drink,” Joe didn’t find his niche right away. His father worked the coal mine’s 3:00 AM to 11:00 AM shift plus a second job in a blacksmith’s shop. Unlike his brothers, young Joe helped out in the blacksmith’s shop rather than in the mines. World War II began and Joe, like others, felt the need to help his country in a time of distress. His attempts to enlist at the age of 16, how-

ever, were unsuccessful. Finally, with his parents’ permission, he joined the navy at age 17 and served for 3 years.

Upon his return, and with the encouragement of the GI Bill, Joe finished high school and moved to Youngstown, Ohio, to work on the railroad. As a fireman, he was no longer needed once diesel engines replaced the old steam engines 16 years after he started. This development might have put Joe in a devastating predicament, but instead he looked upon it as an opportunity. “My dad used to say, ‘Always have two jobs – one to make a living with and the other as a hobby. Learn as much as you can about it, though, because you never know when you might need it.’”

Joe’s hobby was plants. He bought a little farm out in the country in Pulaski, Pennsylvania, near his parents’ homestead and planned to use it for growing Christmas trees. Joe cleared the land in preparation for the first crop, and for a while, everything was going his way. A nursery forester happened to be renting an apartment at Joe’s mother’s farm, and upon meeting Joe, he said, “I’ll fix you up with some trees when you’re ready.” Joe ordered 1000 trees, but they arrived as a small bundle, not the large shipment that he was expecting. Each tree looked like a toothpick. Not knowing any better, he lined them out, but in that first year, all but 25 trees perished. In his search for an explanation, he discovered

that the trees had been rejected by another of the forester’s clients.

Joe was disappointed in his first efforts, but not discouraged. He decided to buy seed and raise the seedlings himself. However, his attempts to purchase seed from other growers proved fruitless. No nurseryman would sell him seed because they viewed him as competition. Finally, he found a source for some Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) seed from a man in Michigan. Again he cleared the land,

how to grow Christmas trees successfully. Having now secured a reliable source for quality seed, his third attempt produced a bumper crop! But his was not the only nursery in the area producing Christmas tree liners – competition was fierce. When it came time to sell his crop, he couldn’t even procure pennies per plant. Rather than give the trees away, he mowed them down.

Joe returned to working on the railroad to provide a living wage, knowing there would be occasional layoffs. Dur-



Courtesy of Glenn Herold

From left to right: Joe Stupka, his friend Paul Faedo, veteran conifer collector Chub Harper, and author Glenn Herold (seated), photographed in February at Glenn’s home in Peoria, Illinois.

worked in some fresh manure, and sowed the seed. However, his ignorance again proved to be his undoing. The seed was sown at a much higher rate than recommended, and the seedlings that emerged soon became diseased from the stand density and fresh manure. When he sought advice from other growers, he was turned away; they didn’t want to help out the competition. Thus, his second effort ended in failure.

Joe began reading books to learn

ing one of these layoffs, he worked for a nurseryman in Youngstown by the name of Ralph Inglis. Ralph asked him if he knew how to graft trees. “Sure,” Joe replied, having dabbled in fruit tree grafting in previous years. Looking back, Joe said they did everything wrong in their early attempts, but he read about the proper techniques and soon became quite successful at grafting.

After collaborating with Ralph for a while, Joe decided to try it on his own.

He didn't have a greenhouse, so he attached some snow fence to elevated supports. Underneath, he used manure as a source of heat. Each graft was covered in a plastic bag, placed on the manure, and heeled in with sawdust. The primitive system worked, and Joe was on his way to a lifetime of grafting success.

Joe sputtered along in the nursery business. He got a used greenhouse and fixed it up, and he still uses it today. He was producing a variety of plants at that time, but mainly for a single architect. The architect would specify what he wanted, and how he wanted them grown; Joe would supply the materials and grow the plants, and the architect's crews would dig them. One often-used plant was a seedling from Bar Harbor juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis* 'Bar Harbor') that had a much tighter form and slower growth rate than 'Bar Harbor.' The architect liked it, and Joe propagated hundreds of cuttings from it. Feeling that it needed a name, the architect called it 'Little Joe.' It is the only one of Joe's introductions that was named for him.

Joe began to diversify his business to include landscape installation. In 1957, a convent in Villa Maria, Pennsylvania, built a chapel and asked him to put in a bid for the landscaping. Joe replied, "I can't bid on the job. The plants cost the same, my truck costs the same, everything is the same; how can my bid be any different than the next guy's?" To this day, he will not bid on a job.

The convent hired someone else, but soon after the plants were installed, they started to show signs of stress and died. The landscaper refused to replace them, so the convent hired Joe to come and

evaluate the situation. Excavating a few of the dead trees, he discovered that they were all planted too deeply, causing the plants to suffocate.

He was hired on the spot, and thus began a relationship with Villa Maria that lasted over 40 years. The convent expanded greatly and with each expansion, Joe would design new plantings

*He didn't have a greenhouse,
so he attached some snow
fence to elevated supports.
Underneath, he used manure
as a source of heat. Each graft
was covered in a plastic bag,
placed on the manure, and
heeled in with sawdust*

while continuing to maintain the old ones. Joe provided the expertise and the convent provided the majority of the labor. Not being a trained landscape architect, Joe's plans were such that only he could interpret them. Villa Maria provided steady employment, and Joe acknowledges that, "It was a good place to work."

Joe first got interested in witches brooms when he met Justin "Chub" Harper at an American Conifer Society meeting in Philadelphia in the mid-1980s. They sat next to each other on a tour bus and each began asking about what the other was doing. The tour took them to a nursery where they saw some white pine (*Pinus strobus*) witches broom seedlings, and Chub wanted to buy all of them! Joe told Chub about his

nursery, which was just a short detour off of Chub's route back to Moline, Illinois. He stopped there after the meeting and went home with his truck filled to capacity. Visitors can now see many of these plants as part of the Harper Collection at Hidden Lake Gardens in Tipton, Michigan, and the Heartland Collection at the Bickelhaupt Arboretum in Clinton, Iowa.

Witches' brooms soon swept Joe off his feet. He and another enthusiast would go hunting for brooms every weekend in the wintertime. Each week they set off in a different direction, one person driving and the other scanning the trees for brooms which they would stop and collect.

Another major influence in Joe's life was Jerry Morris, whom he met at an American Conifer Society meeting in Chicago. Knowing that Joe was an avid hunter and outdoorsman, Jerry invited him to come out to Colorado to do some hunting. While exploring his many hunting and fishing niches, Jerry would also show him many witches' brooms he had discovered.

Every broom tells a story

Chub Harper has cataloged over 100 witches brooms and clones that Joe has found and propagated over the last 25 years. All of them are named either after the place where they were found or the person from whom they were obtained. Joe found most of the brooms in Pennsylvania and Ohio, and reading the names gives you a virtual atlas of these states. Some of the plants proved to be redundant of plants already introduced into the industry. Others are unique, but their slow growth rate or difficulty of

propagation relegates them to collector or arboretum status. A few have become commercial successes and are available nationally. Whether redundant or unique, each plant tells a story and provides another glimpse at the special individual that Joe Stupka has become.

Joe can recognize a unique plant, be it evergreen or deciduous. One of the treasures he has discovered is a witches' broom on a Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*) in Mercer, Pennsylvania. The tree itself is unusual, having survived -30 °F (-34 °C) winter temperatures on several occasions. On the tree is a broom with tiny leaves and a growth rate of less than one inch per year. Joe has made many trips to collect broom wood for grafting and seed from the normal part of the tree to be used as understock. He calls the witches' broom 'Kandy Kitchen' after the candy store where it is found, and over the years he has gotten to know the owners well.

One winter day in 2000, the Kandy Kitchen owners called Joe to report a problem with the broom. Under the weight of a heavy, wet snow, the broom twisted and cracked the main limb supporting it. Joe examined the situation and determined that the best plan of attack would be to thin the broom through selective pruning and to build a support to place under the abnormality. The technique proved successful and the broom survives to this day. 'Kandy Kitchen' has found its way into the nursery industry and is available from several West Coast sources.

Not all stories of promising brooms have happy endings. Growing along Interstate 80 near Lehighton, Pennsylvania, was a downy serviceberry (*Amelanchier*

arborea) that had produced a witches' broom – a rare occurrence. The broom formed a tight ball low on the plant, so Joe dubbed it 'Sweet & Low.' However, the propagules never resulted in a dwarf plant, indicating that a disease, rather than a genetic mutation, most likely produced the broom.

Another winner was a winged euonymus (*Euonymus alatus*) found on the grounds of Villa Maria. It is much slower growing than the species, growing no more than two inches per year. The foliage stays green longer than the typical plant but then turns the brilliant red characteristic of winged euonymus. For years, Joe would take cuttings, grow them to landscape size, and use the plants in his landscape jobs. Recently, he told Jim Zampini at Lake County Nursery in Ohio about it and the nursery was eager to buy the rights to the dwarf plant. They are now increasing their stock and will introduce it to the trade under the name Pipsqueak.™

Lake County Nursery also bought the rights to an arborvitae dubbed 'Linesville' by Joe. He found the broom in a cemetery in Linesville, Pennsylvania. Joe almost missed the tiny mutation, but the juvenile foliage was distinctive. Not having much rootstock to use, he grafted four scions on just one rootstock. Soon, the bottom cutting began to form its own roots, indicating that the plant would be easy to propagate from cuttings. The son of Lake County's owner wanted to call it 'Bowling Ball,' alluding to its rounded growth habit, but the owner said that Joe deserved more respect. Thus, the name Mr. Bowling Ball™ came to be.

One of Joe's best introductions is

Mac's Gold white spruce (*Picea glauca* 'Mac's Gold'). A Christmas tree grower discovered it in his fields, but no one wanted to buy the odd plant. It has foliage that changes from gold in the spring to a lime green hue in the summer. Joe asked if he could buy it and the grower was happy to get rid of the albatross. He dug it as a six-foot (2 m) tree,

*When asked what his
favorite introductions are,
Joe is quick to mention
Picea glauca 'Mac's Gold'
as being near the top
of the list*

planted it in his yard, and began to successfully propagate from it. A couple of years later, Joe had a pole barn constructed not too far from the tree. Though the separating distance was adequate to preserve the spruce, shortly after the construction was completed, the tree rapidly deteriorated and died. Upon examination of the site, he discovered that the contractors had apparently cleaned their brushes near the tree and disposed of their brush cleaners by dumping them over the root zone of the tree. Fortunately, Joe still had small plants in the nursery. He kept one and gave the others away. When asked what his favorite introductions are, Joe is quick to mention 'Mac's Gold' as being near the top of the list.

A *Ginkgo biloba* broom that Joe found in Todd Cemetery in Youngstown is one of a kind. Each bud produces a leaf cluster slightly different from the

others. Joe is still working on this one, grafting plants from a single bud in an attempt to isolate the exceptional clones.

In a batch of seedling English oaks (*Quercus robur*) that Joe grew in his nursery, he discovered one that had crinkled leaves. Thinking that it was aphid damage, he sprayed it with an insecticide, only to have the growth habit return. Several times, he repeated the pattern before he realized that it was a genetic characteristic, not a pest problem.

Patience is a virtue for anyone, but it is essential in the nursery industry where one must wait for a plant to grow and develop before its full glory is apparent. Joe's experience with a weeping Colorado spruce (*Picea pungens*) named 'Candlestick' is a great example. Joe originally saw this plant when he was working for another nursery. All of the limbs swept down close to the trunk and formed an apron on the ground. He grafted the plant, but all of the grafts seemed to develop into normal trees. So he sold them as such, not keeping any for himself. About 25 years later, he saw a unique spruce in the front yard of a residence that looked exactly like the plant he had grafted a generation earlier. His curiosity piqued, Joe inquired about the unusual plant. Apparently, the owner had purchased the plant from Joe! He had sold it not realizing that it took on its distinctive form later. The top retains an upright growth habit; only the lower branches weep. Again, Joe propagated the plant and now has one in his own nursery.

Another plant that did not merit a second look initially is a variegated white pine (*Pinus strobus*) that Joe called 'Kish.' He found the mutant

branch in the South Bridge office complex in Youngstown. The grafted plants had a loose, open form that was not very attractive. He gave the plants away and one of them ended up in the Heartland Collection, where plant curator Dave Horst maintains it by shearing. This technique results in a much denser form. Joe ranks this cultivar, now called 'South Bridge,' as one of his favorites.

The term "friendship plant" usually refers to hostas, but any plant can serve as a way for people to meet. Once while exploring a strip mine in Callemburg, Pennsylvania, Joe found an unusual plant among thousands of Austrian pines. This one had soft needles and a narrow, upright form, quite different

*Patience is a virtue for
anyone, but it is essential in
the nursery industry where
one must wait for a plant to
grow and develop before its
full glory is apparent*

from the normally stiff needles and spreading form of the species. He knocked on the door of the owner and a lady about his age answered. She asked him to come in. At first, Joe refused, citing his soiled boots, but she insisted and he complied. The lady said, "Do you remember me?" Joe thought she had him confused with someone else and stated that he had never met her. The lady replied, "My name is Betty Hoover; we went to first grade together!" Joe was amazed that she would remember him after 50 years.

Maybe it's the climate, or perhaps it's the simple lifestyle, that has provided Joe with his share of encounters with eccentric individuals. Topping the list is his relationship with the Swanson brothers from Polk, Pennsylvania. Numerous unusual plants, collected over many generations, grew in their yard. One was a shrubby hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) that Joe wanted. He asked if he could take some cuttings. They said that he could, but only four and they wanted two back. Therefore, if only two grafts were successful, none would be left for Joe to keep. Fortunately, they all took and Joe named it 'Swanson.'

From then on, Joe was allowed to take additional cuttings, but only if he gave them something in return. One time, Joe gave a small grafted crabapple to one brother and a different plant to the other. The next day, one of them called up Joe and said, "You didn't do me right." Joe replied, "Sure I did; I gave each of you a plant!" However, the brother responded that they each had to have identical plants. So Joe said that he would bring him the proper plant when he returned. Not wanting to wait that long, Mr. Swanson came to Joe's nursery and, without him knowing it, dug the entire six-foot tree. Joe was spitting mad, but as he said, "What could I do?"

Thrill of the hunt

Broom hunting can be rewarding but also hazardous. Standard gear for a broom-hunting expedition includes a ladder or climbing spurs, a long rope, a snakebite kit, and a rifle (Joe's favorite is a 30/40 Craig). Many brooms are found high in tall trees, hence the spurs

and rope. Forests where Joe has found many brooms are home to rattlesnakes, so he takes the snakebite kit along as a precaution. And the rifle? It's more often used for retrieval of propagation material than for protection.

A broom grew about 30 feet high in a white pine along the highway right-of-

*Not to be deterred,
Joe took three sticks of
dynamite and blew the
entire broom out of the tree*

way near Strattanville, Pennsylvania, and there was a repair garage about 200 feet away. Climbing this tree would be difficult, so Joe took out his rifle and fired into the broom. Several cuttings drifted to the ground. Hearing the shots, some men came running out of the garage to see what was going on. "Just missed a rabbit!" said Joe.

When a rifle won't do the job, there may be another way. Joe found a broom growing along the side of a big cliff where he hunts. He tried shooting down some cuttings, but they always got hung up in the tree. Not to be deterred, Joe took three sticks of dynamite and blew the entire broom out of the tree. It was full of cones and one of the resulting seedlings turned into a tight, slow-growing, upright plant, worthy of introduction. Thus, Canoe Canada hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis* 'Canoe') was born – another of Joe's favorite discoveries.


Joe has collected cuttings from over 100 brooms in his lifetime and has probably seen ten times that many. Yet there

is always a thrill when he discovers a new one, and he can't help speculating about what kind of plant it would produce. He has several favorite brooms, but his favorite plant grows far to the west of his home – the ancient Bristle-

cone pine (*Pinus aristata*) found in Colorado and California. Like Joe, they are a relic from the past, but capable of surviving in a tough environment.

The plant world needs more men like Joe Stupka. ▲

About the author: Glenn Herold was introduced to conifers and the American Conifer Society by Dr. Edward Hasselkus, with whom he did his graduate work at the University of Wisconsin. Through him, Glenn met Chub Harper and became involved in the Society's Central Region where he eventually met Joe Stupka. Glenn has worked as a professor of horticulture at Illinois Central College in Peoria since 1979 and serves as curator of the school's arboretum, which he founded. He also served as vice-president of the ACS's Central Region from 2001-2003.



Girard NURSERIES
2004 Color Catalog


Producers of rare and unusual conifers, Shrubs, and Trees. Originators of the Girard Line of Azaleas, Rhododendrons, and Juniper 'Saybrook Gold' (Pat.#5014). Visit our nursery and conifer gardens.

Send for free catalog to:
Girard Nurseries
P.O. Box 428
Geneva, OH 44041
(440) 466-2881
Fax (440) 466-3999

www.girardnurseries.com

**J. Carlson
Growers, Inc.**
Conifers & Ornamentals

*Specializing in
fine garden plants*



8938 Newburg Road
Rockford, IL 61108
Phone: (815) 332-5610
Fax: (815) 332-7495
E-mail: sciadopity@msn.com

A Taylor-Made Upright Conifer

GreatPlants for the Great Plains program promotes a tough *Juniperus virginiana* cultivar that was locally born and bred

By Bob Henrickson
Assistant Director of Horticulture Program, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

Allen Wilke of Columbus, Nebraska, discovered the plant that would be named *Juniperus virginiana* ‘Taylor’ growing in the wild in Loup County near the town of Taylor in 1978, on the land of Marlen Britton. Joe Young was also involved in its discovery. The original tree was 25 feet (8 m) tall and three feet (1 m) wide – a promising form for landscape use – and appeared both disease resistant and tolerant of poor soils.

Wilke wanted to evaluate the plant for possible distribution to the nursery trade, hoping it could be promoted and recognized as a native Nebraska introduction.

He brought the Taylor tree to the attention of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA), and the plant was subsequently grown and observed by Wilke and NSA for approximately ten years.

It was determined that a patent could not be obtained because the plant was found in the wild; a patent would have given NSA exclusive rights to the plant for seventeen years. It was also determined that a trademark would be of little value because NSA was a non-profit organization. Also, a trademark is not allowed for a plant that has been registered as a cultivar. Instead, the cultivar *Junipe-*

rus virginiana ‘Taylor’ was registered with the International Conifer Registry.

This cultivar is disease-resistant and tolerant of a wide variety of soil and environmental conditions when planted in a sunny, airy location. The deep green summer foliage color turns a dull bronze-green in winter, and under favorable conditions the growth rate is medium in youth and slow at maturity. Like most conifers, this selection requires full sun to develop dense growth and will not tolerate shade. In trials, it has performed well in high pH soils throughout Nebraska, Minnesota, North Dakota and Oklahoma, and it is extremely hardy to Zone 3. According to a nursery manager in Lincoln, Nebraska, ‘Taylor’ is “for us, at least three times better than any other upright in the trade.”

In 1992, Alan Wilke and his son, Evan, gave all business interest in the Taylor juniper to NSA in a written agreement, with the understanding that NSA would “disseminate it into the trade in a professional manner” under the recognized name of ‘Taylor’ to note its Nebraska origin. Under the agreement, all income and royalties from the plant would go to NSA to defray introduction costs. The Wilkes retained the right to propagate and sell the plant for their use.

The agreement also directed that “Taylor juniper be promoted and recognized as a native Nebraska introduction, that only reputable and sizeable producers shall be licensed to grow the Taylor juniper, and that only the best recognized techniques and rootstocks be used in its production in order to produce the highest quality plants.” Propagation by cuttings was consistently successful, yet the most successful propagation method was

determined to be grafting ‘Taylor’ scion wood onto *Juniperus chinensis* ‘Hetzi.’

The cultivar was distributed by means of a signed memorandum of agreement between NSA and the growers. It was considered in the nursery trade to be a “gentlemen’s agreement” in which growers purchased scion wood and could then engage in propagation

The most successful propagation method was determined to be grafting ‘Taylor’ scion wood onto Juniperus chinensis ‘Hetzi’

and sale of ‘Taylor’ for a period of ten years. The grower agreed to pay fifty cents for each plant sold during the agreement period. The initial agreements required remitting this payment to NSA until the year 2003; all proceeds were to be used for NSA’s New Trees For Nebraska plant introduction program (a forerunner of the current GreatPlants® program).

Since its initial introduction in 1992, the Taylor has performed well in the landscape and, true to its description, has proved to be a hardy and adaptable plant with a strong upright growth habit that does not require trimming. It is an excellent specimen, grouping and screening plant for narrow areas of the landscape, such as parking strips or property boundaries. In spite of this positive performance over the past ten years, it is not a readily available plant in the nursery industry. To help give Taylor the recognition it deserves, it was



J. virginiana ‘Taylor’ maintains its dense, upright habit without pruning.



released through the GreatPlants® for the Great Plains program in 2003. This plant promotion program recognizes and promotes “plains-hardy plants for beautiful landscapes.”

If you’re looking for a juniper with a distinctive, narrowly upright habit reminiscent of the Italian cypress, then look no further than the Taylor juniper. ▲

About the author: Bob Henrickson is a native Nebraskan with a particular interest in prairie plants and sustainable landscapes. As the Assistant Director of Horticulture Programs at the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, he manages the GreatPlants for the Great Plains program. This program introduces new plants into the nursery trade and promotes consumer use of a greater variety of landscape plants. He also works to acquire, propagate and distribute plants for evaluation through the NSA Plant Research Consortium. Bob says he is very interested in the incredible diversity of conifers yet to be considered for the landscape.

SUNCREST GARDENS

2005 is our 59th year in business. We offer dwarf and unusual conifers and Japanese maples from small to specimen sizes. When the snow flies, we make custom plant labels by order.

816 Holly Pike
Mt. Holly Springs, PA 17065
(717) 486-5142
www.suncrest-gardens.com

COLLECTOR'S NURSERY

*dwarf and rare conifers
uncommon perennials*



16804 NE 102nd Ave.,
Battle Ground, WA 98604

catalog \$2.00

360-574-3832 fax 360-574-3596
e-mail dianar@collectorsnursery.com
<http://www.collectorsnursery.com>

Rare And Dwarf
Conifers For
Serious Collectors

Featuring "the collection
that never stops growing."



 PORTERHOWSE FARMS®

41370 SE Thomas Road • Sandy, OR 97055
503.668.5834 phone/fax
EMAIL: don@porterhowse.com
www.porterhowse.com



CONIFER OF NOTE

Bob Myers sent in this photo of a tree in Carpinteria, California. The placard reads:

Wardholme Torrey Pine
1888
Largest known
Historical Landmark
City of Carpinteria

If you see any conifers like this one, singled out and protected for their size or significance, send a photo and description to the Editor.

GEE FARMS

Nursery & Landscaping

10 Acres of Container Plants

Conifers, Hosta, Ornamental Grasses, Perennials

*We invite you to visit our display gardens and new water garden
featuring many unusual and hard to find plants.*

Family Owned since 1849

8:00 am till Dark – 7 days

Gary & Kaye Gee

14928 Bunkerhill Rd., Stockbridge, MI 49285

PH: (517) 769-6772 or 1-800-860-BUSH

FAX (517) 769-6204

Visit our Web site @ www.geefarms.com for our plant list

Conifers in the News

Compiled by Tony Green

New Law Targets Leylandii

Good fences make good neighbors, as the saying goes, but not when the “fence” consists of a stand of towering, fast-growing Leyland cypress. The BBC reported that these plants are now subject to regulation under an “anti-social behavior” law that now specifically includes the conifer.

Overgrown hedges have long been a problem. The government estimate of disputes involving high hedges in the UK is close to 17,000 cases, although the lobbying group Hedgeline calls that figure a “gross under-estimation.” The origins of a law to control Leyland cypress date back to 1998, and since then the issue has never gone away. As of late May 2005, local government councils have been granted the authority to intervene in disputes involving this plant.

Before a council will hear a case, complainants must have attempted to resolve the matter privately first. While people whose yards are overshadowed by tall hedges now have recourse, the road to relief can be an expensive one. A typical non-refundable fee for a hearing before a council is £300. If the judgment is in favor of the complainant, officials can require that hedges be cut back to a maximum of two meters. Fines of up to £1,000 can be levied for non-compliance.

Incidentally, it is perhaps amusing that the article was entitled “Fir Extin-

guisher,” if not for the the bad pun, then perhaps for the fact that Leyland cypress is not a fir.

The Case of the Kidnapped Conifer

A number of news sources in California covered the story of Berkeley resident, Karl Reeh. Co-owner of Rakes Progress Landscaping, Karl Reeh and friends have been planting trees in traffic circles of his neighborhood with the encouragement and support of the city. In mid-April, however, someone took exception to Reeh’s beautification. A six-foot baldcypress he planted in one of the circles was uprooted and left in the circle. Reeh replanted the tree, but shortly thereafter, the tree disappeared completely.

Then the ransom notes appeared. Reeh was reassured in the note that “Your tree is safe. It’s with other trees.” The treenapper’s demand was not money, but a promise that no tree would be planted in the circle. Behind the demand was the concern that the tree created a safety hazard by blocking the views of drivers and pedestrians.

Reeh let it be known through the neighborhood grapevine that he would honor the demands of the ransom notes, but for two months the tree was not returned. Finally in late June, the tree appeared outside Reeh’s house. The baldcypress was in a large plastic container and was not only unharmed, but in better shape than when it was

stolen. “It’s in great shape, well-watered, and everything is fine. In fact, I think it’s grown a bit,” Reeh commented. Grateful for the tree’s return, Reeh has pledged not to plant any more trees in the traffic circle. While the treenapper’s motives are clear, his identity remains a mystery.

Conifer Plantings Aid Endangered Species

Australia’s *Sydney Morning Herald* covered a story in New South Wales of an ongoing reforestation of plum pines (*Podocarpus lawrencei*) initiated to help preserve the already-endangered pygmy possum. The pygmy possum, whose population has dwindled to fewer than 400 adults, depends on the plum pines for food and shelter. The possums eat the seeds and fruit of the trees and the beetles, millipedes and caterpillars that live on them. These plum pines grow a mere two millimeters a year in the harsh alpine environment. With a prostrate habit, they are not tall, but may be many meters long.

The reforestation effort was begun in the aftermath of a devastating fire in 2003 on Mount Blue Cow in Kosciuszko National Park that destroyed a stand of plum pines. The Department of Environment and Conservation is using cuttings taken from surviving pines to propagate about 1,000 of the trees. The new trees are being planted wherever the plum pines do not seem to be regenerating naturally following this particularly severe fire.

In related news, YubaNet, a community website for the Gold Country

and Northern Sierra Nevada, reported that American Forests, a nonprofit citizens’ conservation organization, is planting 633,000 trees in locations nationwide under their Wildfire ReLeaf program. This program, administered in cooperation with the United States Forest Service, targets areas devastated by wildfires. Among the many sites chosen for restoration efforts is Giant Sequoia National Monument. The McNally fire in the Summer of 2002 burned about 150,000 acres in all and destroyed about 5 percent of the monument (16,000 acres). Fortunately, no giant sequoias were burned, although the fire approached to within one mile of one grove. Although the big trees were spared, the devastation was catastrophic. American Forests will plant 18,000 conifer seedlings over 54 acres in this area not only to regenerate the forest, but also to restore the California spotted owl’s habitat.

Endangered Conifers

Abies nebrodensis, also known as the Nebrodi or Sicilian Fir, is listed as “Critically Endangered” by The World Conservation Union (IUCN); the only trees known in the wild are in a grove of just 30 individuals on a Sicilian mountainside, whose tenuous existence is threatened by erosion. Scotsman.com has reported that the International Conifer Conservation Program, based at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, has planted 15 specimens at Dawyk Botanic Garden, near Peebles.

Curator David Knott was quoted as

saying: “A combination of soil erosion through deforestation, climate change, grazing and competition from other trees has all but wiped out the wild population, so measures such as this are crucial in ensuring the *Abies* does not disappear entirely.”

The Welsh *Western Mail* brought attention to some rare plants in Wales on the brink of extinction. The conifer on the list is a dwarf variety of common juniper (*Juniperus communis* ssp. *hemisphaerica*), of which only four plants remain on Ramsey Island, Pembrokeshire. The only other population in the UK is on the Lizard Peninsula in West Cornwall. This population has dwindled substantially there as well; only three plants remain. Fortunately, this subspecies is growing in substantial populations in other parts of Europe.

Wollemi Pines Planted in England

News organizations in the UK gave wide coverage to the debut of the Wollemi pine there. On May 10, two Royal Botanic Gardens locations held ceremonies to unveil the tree. The actor Kenneth Branagh planted a Wollemi pine at Wakehurst Place, West Sussex, and Sir David Attenborough unveiled another Wollemi pine at Kew Gardens. The tree at Kew is situated on the lawn in front of the Orangery, protected by a metal cage. There are 16 trees in all at Kew; the location of the other 15 is secret. Wollemi seeds are preserved at the Millennium Seed Bank in Wakehurst Place as well. Later in the month, an-

other Wollemi was displayed at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, and one was shown at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in the Royal Botanic Gardens exhibit.

Redwood Logging Halted

The Spring *Conifer Quarterly* included the story of Pacific Lumber and its quest to resume logging in Humboldt County. As of that time, the local Water Board in Humboldt County had approved half the logging permits requested by Pacific Lumber. Both residents and Pacific Lumber were disappointed with this compromise. The lumber company claimed it needed to resume logging to stave off bankruptcy, and the residents of Elk River and Freshwater Creek wanted all logging prohibited to prevent further erosion and silting of the creeks from occurring.

In June, that ruling was overturned by the State Water Resources Control Board who ruled that Pacific Lumber’s harvesting plans were improperly approved by the regional board without sufficient environmental review. State law requires an additional round of reviews when logging could harm already damaged waterways. ▲

Tony Green is husband of *Conifer Quarterly* Editor Anne Brennan. Though he works as a software developer, he dusts off his English degree to abstract conifer-related news stories for ACS members. If you find an article that should be included, send it to the Editor or e-mail Tony directly at tony@merecat.org.

“Collectors’ Conifer of the Year” Program Debuts

by Ridge Goodwin

Be on the lookout in the next edition of the *Quarterly* as the Collectors’ Conifer of the Year Committee announces its first selections to be offered for sale!

This exciting new program, for the sole benefit of American Conifer Society members, offers to our many enthusiasts the chance to purchase outstanding conifer selections – chosen each year by a panel of experts and produced for us by the country’s leading conifer nurseries. There will be a minimum of two selections each year, one a dwarf or miniature for rock gardens, troughs and diminutive landscapes, and the other having the more typical growth habit of a compact or full-size plant. Some years we will also offer a selection chosen for its adaptability to Southern growing conditions should the main selections not be suitable.

The annual selections will represent plants that the committee feels are the best choices available at that time. They will combine the elements of rarity, uniqueness, adaptability, sturdiness, garden worthiness, and that undefinable “wow factor” that will make the selections the future stars of your garden! With people like Paul Halladin, Don Howse, Rita Oster and Larry Stanley on the selection committee, you are assured that a steady stream of truly fascinating plants will be offered in the coming years.

The dwarf and miniature selections will be grown in either a four-inch pot or a #1 (previously 1 gallon) container, depending on the method of propagation. If the plant is rooted, the four-inch pot

will be used; if grafted, the #1 container will be used. All non-dwarf plants will be in #1 containers whether grafted or not. There will be 250 produced of each size, and orders will be limited to one plant of each per person. Once we reach sales of 250 of either size, we will be “sold out” and unable to accommodate further orders.

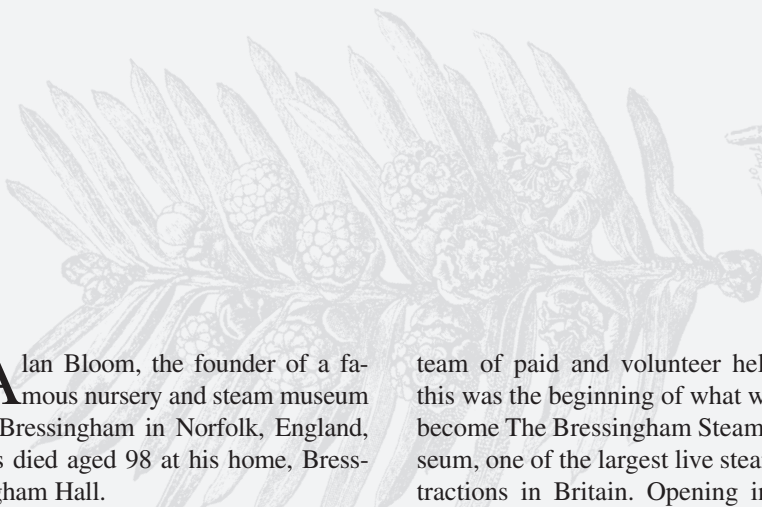
Plants will be shipped at the appropriate time by UPS Ground (typically the second or third week in March) and should arrive within a week. All plants will have care sheets written specifically for each plant to help you be successful and will carry a one-year replacement guarantee. Additionally, each plant will contain a beautiful anodized aluminum plant tag, which has been custom designed for us, that will permanently identify each selection with its full botanical name and the designation of American Conifer Society Conifer of the Year for that year!

The plants that we will be offering for next spring and those that will follow will represent the conifers that attract the most attention during our plant auctions at the regional and national meetings, only now you won’t need to enter a bidding war. Everyone can be a winner – including the Society, to whom the proceeds will go, to be used in support of our mission to bring conifers and people together.

Your participation is cordially invited! ▲

Alan Bloom 1906-2005

Renowned author and plantsman championed use of hardy perennials




Alan Bloom, the founder of a famous nursery and steam museum at Bressingham in Norfolk, England, has died aged 98 at his home, Bressingham Hall.

Creator of the six-acre Dell garden at Bressingham, where he pioneered the use of hardy perennials in “island beds” in the mid 1950s, he was also responsible for breeding and introducing a wide range of nearly 200 varieties of perennials, among the most famous of which are *Crocsmia* ‘Lucifer,’ *Astilbe* ‘Sprite,’ *Achillea* ‘Moonshine,’ *Geranium* ‘Ballerina’ and *Phlox* ‘Franz Schubert.’ The Dell garden eventually contained over 5000 species and varieties of perennials from all over the world and was developed between 1953 and 1962. After 1962, Alan’s energies were directed toward a completely different pastime of collecting old steam traction engines and locomotives which were then being put on the scrap heaps of Britain. With a

team of paid and volunteer helpers, this was the beginning of what was to become The Bressingham Steam Museum, one of the largest live steam attractions in Britain. Opening in the early 1960s, the garden and Steam Museum became a unique visitor attraction that, though much enlarged, still runs today. Alan Bloom wrote many books on plants in general and particularly perennials, steam, autobiography and even novels – in all around 30 books.

When he left school in Cambridge, Alan worked on other nurseries in England before returning to help his father Charles Bloom on his nursery in Oakington, Cambridgeshire, and then starting his own business in the same village in 1926. The nursery was primarily wholesale, and Blooms Nurseries became one of the largest of its kind in England by the outbreak of war in 1939. During this period, he put the plant business into mothballs and bought a farm in Burwell adjacent to



Wicken Fen. As his contribution to the war effort, Alan cleared the Fen for food crops, an achievement recognised by a visit to the farm from King George the Sixth and Queen Elizabeth.

Returning to his occupation as a nurseryman, Alan Bloom sold both Burwell and Oakington and moved to Bressingham in Norfolk with his young family in 1946 to establish a nursery in this quiet south Norfolk village. Fulfilling a long-felt desire to be a “pioneer,” he needed little encouragement to move his family to Canada in 1948. Later he would say it was the biggest mistake in his life. Moves to Vancouver Island and then Ontario were not successful, and he had to return to rescue the failing nursery left behind under the responsibility of a manager. Alan rebuilt the nursery, and by 1955 it had become one of the largest perennial nurseries in Europe during a time when perennials were far less popular than today. He was

also joint founder of the Hardy Plant Society and its first chairman.

Alan was joined in the nursery and farm business by his sons Adrian and Robert in 1962, and after 1970 he took an ever decreasing role, spending more time on his steam interest and propagating his beloved perennials.

Alan wrote his first book on perennials in 1957 and often appeared with Percy Thrower, Britain’s first TV gardener. He was awarded both The Victoria Medal of Honour (V.M.H.) and the Veitch Memorial Medal (V.M.M.) by the Royal Horticultural Society and an M.B.E.

Alan Herbert Vauser Bloom, born November 19th, 1906, Over, Cambridgeshire. Married twice, to Doris Heavens in 1931 and Flora Mackintosh in 1956. He had six children, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren. ▲

Members' Gardens Open by Appointment

When each of us recently joined or renewed our membership in the American Conifer Society, we were asked whether other members may contact us to arrange a visit to our garden. Those members who said "yes" are listed below.

Some members insist that one of the most valuable benefits of ACS membership is the access to hundreds of conifer-lovers' gardens throughout the country. Use the list to meet new folks in your area or schedule a detour to a new garden when you travel to other regions!

Due to a printing error, not all of the names below were designated as "open by appointment" in the 2005 *Membership Directory*, so you may wish to keep a copy of these pages for your reference. Use the *Directory* to obtain specific location and contact information.

Arizona

Hildreth, W. Richard & Susan

California

Anderson, Dr. Paul

Baker, Alan

Coulter, Nancy

Daneri, Dee

Mallen, Wanda

Mathey, Robert & Judith

Mayne, Roland & Gwen

Piper, Susan E.

Piper, Jr., Ross H.

Thibault, Tim

Wiersma, Roy H.

Wright, Stephen

Colorado

Coe, John Clark & Joy

Davis, Deanna

Gregory, Jae

Hayward, Pat

Johnson, Dan

Oerter, Paul G.

Teegarden, Walt & Joann

Connecticut

Angle, Jay

Atwood, Kristina

Cuchetto, Robert

Bournival, Norman & Gail

Dodge, Dennis E.

Graham, Kenneth E.

Jamison, Scott

Jaynes, Richard A. & Sally

Kelley, Ray

Kennedy, Ian

Larned, Michael E.

O'Brien, John D.

Paquette, Wayne

Perran, Bruce

Sutcliffe, Mark S.

Thaw, MD, B. D.

Twombly Nursery

Brodman, Andrew

Wheeler, Adam

Williams, Edward A. & Patricia

Delaware

Chandler, Charmayne & Jay

Murray, Kenneth W.

Wingate, Brad M.

Georgia

Barton, John

Berrong, Dale K.

Bethea, Harry

Cox, Tom

Cree, David W.

Francis, Mike

George, Richard S.

Johnson, Jr., Ozzie W.

Jones, Jr., Sam B.

Jones, Carleen A.

Riser, Olin

Ruter, Dr. John M.

Specialty Ornamentals

Chaffin, Florence A. & Joseph P.

Swanson, Dollie C.

Illinois

Ashauer, Jeffrey D.

Coultrip, Robert & Christine

Duthie, Pam

Dykstra, Randy

Eyre, Richard W. & Susan

Gardner, John H. & Bernice

Grafton, James & Mary

Hall, Jan Benjamin & Jane E. L.

Herold, Glenn & Terry

J. Carlson Growers, Inc.

Carlson, Jon G.

Farris, Kevin

Krause, Lawrence A.

Kupec, Arnold C.

Markus, Brent

Micheletti, Tom

Pribble, Lona

Reiling, Arlan

Senger, Kenneth

Shattuck, Kate

The Morton Arboretum

Bachtell, Kris

Indiana

Benedict, Robert

Butterfield, Dan

Flint, Harrison L.

Kercher, Terrie C.

Jerabek, Donald

Kittle, Daniel R.

Locker, Stephen J.

Michaelis, Louise & David

Miller, Roger & Lynda

Park, Jay & Terri

Thompson, Gerald L.

Iowa

Anderson-Quint, Ingrid

Batcheler, Craig

Boleyn, Jan

Coffman, Eugene W.

Cook, Lura C.

Dunkle, Warren

Elder, Randall

Ferrell, Jerry L.

Flynn, Paula

Folkerts, Gale

Forrest, Nancy

Hall, Joe

Hermesen, Dennis

Jacobson, Craig & Deb

Jaggard, Marybeth

Kautzky, Rosemary

Kramer, Dave & Sue

Laws, Barry A.

Skellenger, Larry

Loukaitis, Dan

Maresh, Richard E.

Montgomery, De Etta

Pool, Robert & Jackie

Rathje, Jeff & Lora

Rinderspacher, Emil

Ripley, Merwyn & Nan

Riveland, Larry & Cindy

Whittenbaugh, Gary

Whittenbaugh, Tom

Wiederstein, Nicki

Wolf, Mike

Kansas

Duncan, Kirk

Henry, Brian

Schimke, Jozie

Hughes, Paula M.

Snyder, Marvin & Emelie

Srna, Craig

Kentucky

Baker, Jerry E.

Hart, Lawrence V. (Jack)

Leichhardt, Mitchell

Megginson, Douglas J.

Yoakem, John A.

Maine

Bain, Lou & Murray

Goodman, Forest

Lee, Robin

Maryland

Baker, Brant

Beaudry, Norman

Cohen, Joel

Cole, Richard

Cottrell, Mike

Hammerschlag, Richard & Freddi

Prandoni, Andrew & Linda

Sullivan, Mark

Waters, Jr., William U.

Massachusetts

Albin, Rochelle

Arnold Arboretum Library of

Harvard University

Pearson, Lisa

Banks, Arthur S.

Barker, Ann

Bigwood, Gerald F.

Boodakian, Paul

Britz, Nancy

Dalmas, Judith

DeBartolo, Mario & Gretchen

Doughty, Charles

Dustman, Christie

Hanscom, Ann

Jeanty, Roger

Jones, Larry L.

Kaufman, David

Keegan, Charles J.

Mahoney, Suzanne & Michael

Malkasian, Rick

Mirage Water Gardens

Lynch, Stephen E.

Monet, Annette

O'Connor, Kate

Prado, Wayne A.

Rumpler, Marvin

Strauch, Jr., Joseph G.

Toffey, Liz

West, Cully Devlin

Wyman, Jr., Lester M.

Wyman, Marian

Zawacki, John S. & Elinor A.

Michigan

Armintrout, David

Borgeses, Carl

Bradley, Bruce E.

Cameron, John

Carter, Hope

Celtic Conifers

Hoffmann, Paul

Cole, Richard

Cheney, Bill & Mary

Crossroads Animal Hospital, Inc.

England, Tim

Daleiden, Jack & Marilyn

Deppe, Dale

Detter, David A.

Field, John & Julie

Griesmayer, Michael

Groh, Dennis G. & Carole L.

Harris, Charlene & Wade

Hartley-Kik, Marilyn

Herter, Dale & Sherrie

Hop, Carol T. & Bruce

Horman, William H.

LaFond, Rick & Cindy

Loughry, Bruce

Marek, Kenneth G.

Owens, Clarence O.

Rollet, Paula & Raymond

Schray, Todd A.

Stern, Mark & Siegrid

Wegner, Judy & William

Wild, Don & Harriet

Wilkins, Jim & Sandy

Winchell, Ross B.

Yancho, Sr., Michael

Yunger, Andrew & Kay

Minnesota

Byman, Donald C.
Edelweiss Landscaping & Nursery, Inc.
Braeu, Josef & Debbie
Hill, Roger W.
Illingworth, Robert
Rodich, Richard T.
Smith, Jason A.

Missouri

Buehrig, Bruce W.
Burgess, Kent
Curran, Mike
Pforr, Greg & Eileen
Rode, Daniel & Helene
Schoedinger, III, George R.
Schoedinger, Lesley W.
Sewing Specialties
Counts, Robert E.
Still, Jean & Stephen
Woody, Ray
Wiggs, Eileen

Nebraska

Ackerman, Rod R.
Moritz, Douglas

New Hampshire

Allen, Nancy G.
Fenderson, G. K.
Koelb, Palmer W.
Parks, Joe B.

New Jersey

Baker, Roger W.
Blasko, Timothy & Shirley
Gantenbein, Daniel & Xiyu
Goodhart, Frank & Joan
Marcus, Marlowe & Lila
Marrone, Patrick
Mohr, John
Okken, George
Reynolds, Margo
Seeley, Robert J.
Simon, Les
Teti, Al
Vermeulen, Nancy

New York

Bergen Water Gardens & Nursery
Nau, Lawrence & Sherry
Blagowidow, George & Ludmilla
Brody, Abby Jane
Brown, Kenneth & Sue
Dustman, Elmer & Joyce
Feller, Bruce & Marianne
Hanford, George R.
Holland, M. Dolores
Kral, Gerald P. & Karen S.
Kroll, Bill
Munk, Fred
Oesterly, Charles
Perrone, Philip
Steves, Gale
Pfeister, Susan
Rawlings, Kevin & Austin
Rezek, Sr., Edward F.
Schwarz, Eric D.
Nespolini, Gina
Steele, Timothy T.
Stirushnik, James
Valavanis, William N.
Weissenberger, Henry P.

North Carolina

Balogh, Michael & Ryan
Bankhead, Delia
Bertels, Norman & Monagail
Claridge, Patti
Currier, Joann M.
Dilley, John E.
Jack, Jordan & Bennett
McClure, Mary C.
Means, Robert
Moore, Martha S. & Jerry D.
Mowrey, Joel
Parks, Kai-Mei & David
Pawlowski, Paul L.
Ray, Dr. A. Graham
Riggs, Rudy
Phillips, James L.
Wagner, Tamela & Jim

North Dakota

Anderson, Carolyn

Ohio

Barger, Bill & Suzanne
Baxter, Byron & Nancy
Cochran, Kenneth
Comparin, Leesa
Cutler, Sandra McLean & Bobby
Dannaher, David J.
Darrow, Nance
Demrovsky, Mark
Drake, John B.
Dugan, Ellen R.
Echler, Frank
Evans, Michael
Fling, Russell S. & Dona
Jurgenson, Michael L. & Brenda

Lee, Dennis
Marsolo, David
McKelvey, Adriana & Robert
Merrell, David M.
Myers, Ronald E.
Randall, Mike & Anne
Regenhold, Ronald & Judith
Schnormeier, Ted & Ann
Soucek, Jonathan H. & Eileen
Stull, Kalman & Susan
Trautmann, Christopher
Tuckerman, Steve & Jennie
Vrablic, Jr., John J.
West, Clark D.

Oklahoma

Miller, Len

Oregon

Ayers, Jack & Sharon
Buchholz, Talon
Durkin, Mike
Eckerdt, Pat & Dave
Giusa, Anthony
Fortner, Jerry
Holden, Verl L.
Hardesty, Florence F.
Hupp, Barbara & Jason
Jacob, Brian
Jones, Susan & Rick
Kilbourne, H. Lenise
Leethem, Donald
Lone Elder Nursery
Utterback, Tom

Kaufman, Pete
Mack-Yankee, Sharon
Mathis, Edward
Neal, Margaret Beth
Leckey, David
Pease, Cindy Lou
Porterhowse Farms
Howse, Don
Porter, Lloyd
Russell, Loy
Stanley, Larry & Marlene
Turrell, Phil
Van Meter, Morris
Zamudio, Jesus

Pennsylvania

Beadle, Erica
Black, Jane D. & Barry D.
Brennan, Anne
Green, Tony
Brooks, Martin & Reba
Brouse, Frank W.
Cullerton, Walter & Emilie
Curanzy, Helen P. & Raymond R.
Davis, Bob & Ruth
Doyle, James F.
Elder, John P.
Flack, David
Eckhoff, Andy
Gianfrancesco, Edward
Goodwin, Ridge & Jo Ann
Greedy, Jr., Elmer B.
Greedy, Gertrude E.
Gulden, Gregg & Barbara
Houle, Robert
Johns, Herb
Macerollo, Michael
Brinlen, Richard
Meiser, Dennis
Metzgar, Dr. Judith & John C.
Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania
Aiello, Anthony
Pepper, Alice & David
Pottmeyer, Jr., Jerome J.
Przybylek, Dan
R.A. Nursery
Angino, Richard C.
Routa, John
Savitsky, Robert

Seip, Robert G.
Shaffer, Lance E.
Solt, Ronald E.
Constantine, John
Stull, Linda M.
Valentine, Patrick
Wallen, Christopher N.
Wolf-Run Nursery
Priebe, Karen & Mark

Rhode Island

DeCoster, Glenn A.
Drury, John P.
Hartman, Ralph J.
Havens, Sidney E.
Russell, Jr., Glenn W.

South Carolina

Haywood, M. Furman & Edna
Head, Bob & Lisa
Wertz, J. David

Tennessee

Brennan, Jim
Solomon, Alan
Cartwright, Andrea
Wick, James A.

Texas

Caldwell, William F.
Wooldridge, C. Jay

Utah

Garr, Mary & Ken

Vermont

Africa, George
Avery, Don & Lela
Burzon, Steve
Coleburn, Robin & Robert
Hoogenboom, John
Johnsen, Eric
Mill Brook Bonsai
Anderson, A. P.

Virginia

Burrell, Scott
Cadmus, Pamela
Ramsey, Larry
Florence, Robert
Gardner, Margaret I.
Hallal, F. Joseph & Janice C.
Hankins, Gerald

Neff, Pamela
Henne, Maud
James, Paul S.
Johnson, Gretchen
Jones, Peter C.
Miller, Jeff
Osborne, F. Gary
Paulsen, Dr. Albert G.
Rippy, Sue
Schroeder, Francie
Eastwood, Henry
Stiff, Mac & Anne
Wenleder, Rudolf B. & Rene Y.

Washington

Albers, Dr. John J.
E.C. Miller Library
Fincham, Robert L.
Helms, David
Janssen, Bill
Montague, Dan & Pat
O'Neal, Eric
Stanford, Edward R. & Sharon M.
Van Dyk, Jeri
Gamble, Paul
Wiggin's Nursery

West Virginia

Cain, Elizabeth
Mills, Bill
Mills, Gussie

Wisconsin

Allen, Sandra & Dennis
Brown, Kenneth
Cartwright, David E. & Carol
Doll, Norm
Erwin, John
Hasselkus, Professor E. R.
Johnson, Irwin
Kammer, Gisela
Kopitzke, Russell
Lesch, Steve
Meissner, Gregory
Moersch, Peter
Lyon, Ed
Munson, Ann
Reichenbach, Bill
Seidl, William J.

Conifer Appreciation in Asheville

by Jordan Jack

A small group of conifer enthusiasts met in the Asheville area on May 14th to visit Michael Balogh's Mountain Meadow Nursery in Weaverville, North Carolina, and – after a good lunch off of the Weber hibachi – drove to our home and gardens in Leicester.

On a bright, sunny Saturday morning, we began by enjoying Michael's extensive display gardens, which were full of conifers in their fine spring colors and many blooming perennial plants at their feet. Michael and his son have even built a waterfall that spills down into a goldfish pond. The water's sound was wonderfully soothing. After the garden visit, we walked through Mike's nursery with its impressive selection of over 200 types of conifers in 1-, 2- and 3-gallon containers. As if these plants were not large enough to impress us, Mike also has rows of field-grown conifers that he uses in his landscaping business. Two of his hoop houses were filled with about 70 types of rooted conifer cuttings waiting to be potted up once his spring landscaping schedule slowed down a bit. The other poly houses were filled with conifers in small containers that had been overwintered there and were waiting to be bumped up into the next container size. Mike and his wife and son then gave us a delightful picnic lunch on their terrace with hamburgers hot off the grill and many other goodies.

After lunch, the group drove to our home and gardens on the side of a small mountain in Leicester, NC. We first

toured the old conifer display gardens of the Washington Evergreen Nursery site. These gardens are filled with about 130 types of mature conifers that were planted in the early to mid 1980s. The visitors enjoyed them and were shocked that some of the specimens have reached more than double the height listed in most books.

Our home is surrounded by woodland gardens with many conifers, dogwoods, over 50 types of large-leaf rhodies, many evergreen and deciduous azaleas, and a number of recently developed mountain laurels. Many of the rhodies and azaleas were in full bloom, ablaze with white, pink, red, lavender, purple, and bicolor blooms. The mountain laurels were mostly in full bud and hinted at their vivid colors. Much of the garden floor was filled with wildflowers in bloom. By now, we were all glad to sit and rest tired feet on our living room porch with a view of Mt. Mitchell some 55 miles away. A beverage containing some "old fashioned tranquilizer" helped to relieve our tired muscles.

All in all, everyone enjoyed this Conifer Day. We only wished that more conifer lovers had been able to join us in the experience. ▲



We'd Love to See You in Roanoke This Fall

by Maud Henne, Southeastern Region president

With Robert and Linda Guiles as coordinators, preparations are in full swing for the fall gathering of the Southeastern Region in Roanoke, Virginia, on September 30th and October 1st, 2005.

Roanoke is the entrance to the southwestern corner of Virginia, still in the Shenandoah Valley, about 10 miles away from an access to the Blue Ridge Mountains. Roanoke has an airport, but it is a beautiful drive on I-81 in both directions. As already outlined in the Spring issue of the *Conifer Quarterly*, we will visit the Botanical Garden of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg and meet with Dr. Alex Nimiera, Director of the Horticulture Department there, as well as visit his own garden close by. We will visit the Community Arboretum at Western Virginia Community College near Roanoke to admire the result of an initiative by more than a dozen community groups to set up and maintain a small but exquisite botanical garden on campus that even includes a conifer collection. Our host at the college will be Lee Hipp, Director of Horticulture for the Community Arboretum and Program Head for Horticultural Technology. Lee will give us insight into how the arboretum came about as community project. A visit to the private garden of Gary Osborne will conclude our tour. The day will end with our plant auctions, as is the tradition.

Our suggestions for pre- and post-meeting visits will include the woodland

garden of ACS member Paul James who started growing conifers 40 years ago but has concentrated more recently on rhododendrons and azaleas. Other points of interest include the Blue Ridge Parkway, part of the Appalachians, for



hiking and camping or simply enjoying the scenic drive; the Natural Bridge, a nature area with a 200-foot high rock formation spanning a creek plus an unexpected array of native arborvitae growing in the crevices of the rocks; Roanoke's museums for history buffs; and Poplar Forest, Thomas Jefferson's "other" retreat, near Lynchburg.

We mailed meeting brochures and registration forms in July to the members in the Southeastern Region. If you live outside of our region but would like to come to the meeting, you are very welcome to do so. Please contact our regional Secretary/Treasurer John Quackenbush (phone: 706-310-0670; e-mail: Quack17@bellsouth.net) and request the information package.

Virginia is for Lovers. We would love to see you in Virginia this fall! ▲

Pete Conrad Hosts Western Region Rendezvous

by Horst Jeddelloh, Western Region President

We have had a typical Pacific Northwest spring with lots of rain. In February, 90-degree days melted the snow pack in the mountains and our Governor declared a drought emergency for Oregon for the coming summer. Of course – what with Murphy's law and all – the rains came, and came, and came. Great weather for conifers, though! With this in mind, we scheduled a garden rendezvous at Pete and Teresa Conrad's beautiful home in Battleground, Washington, on May 22.

The Conrads' home is about 30 minutes from Portland. We did get a break in the weather and were able to enjoy the garden and wonderful plants Pete has been collecting over the last 10 years.

The house is located on a sloped lot

with the entry at street level and a backyard that drops off considerably. Pete designed and installed the entire garden himself (except for help from Teresa, no doubt!). He used wooden boards to edge the walks, interlaced with brick and gravel. His choice of pathways is excellent and allows for great viewing of the plant material, which mainly consists of Japanese maple cultivars, ground covers, and many cultivars of dwarf and miniature conifers.

On June 26, the Western Region held a second rendezvous, this time at Porterhowse Farms in Sandy, Oregon. Don Howse's new display garden, installed by Randy Oster of R&R Nursery, was one highlight. Details of that event will appear in a future report. ▲



Pete and Teresa Conrad's sloped property is a perfect backdrop for their garden of maples, ground covers, and dwarf and miniature conifers.



All photos by Pete Conrad



Northeastern Region Report

by Walter Cullerton, Northeastern Region president

On April 2, the Advisory Council held a successful gathering in Hartford, Connecticut. With 14 people in attendance, the agenda was lively and the meeting productive. The key

Conifer Society Slide Sets Available to Members for Local Presentations



Would you like to talk to your garden club or social organization about gardening with conifers?

Two slide sets featuring attractive plant combinations and design ideas are available to Conifer Society members. Many of the images come from the collection of Charlene Harris.

Contact coordinator Byron Richards to borrow the slides:

Byron Richards
barhr@cytechcis.net
Phone: (828) 696-0801

issue was an agreement to hold the 2006 Northeastern Region meeting in Connecticut, featuring Dr. Sid Waxman's trial gardens. Now a meeting coordinator is needed.

A Garden Rendezvous has been held in Massachusetts, and a local "club" has been formed and will meet several times throughout the year. Congratulations to Susan Mahoney and Les Wyman for their energy in making this happen! Other Rendezvous are in the planning stages.

On May 15, Bob and Ruth Davis and myself represented the American Conifer Society at Longwood Gardens' "Plant Experts Expo." Twenty plant societies were invited to answer visitors' questions and distribute brochures and applications from their booths. We are currently scheduling volunteers to staff a similar event called "Garden Fair" at Winterthur in Wilmington, Delaware. on September 16-18. ▲

THE ENHANCEMENT OF
NATURE'S DEFINITIVE SPACES

WOLF-RUN NURSERY LANDSCAPES

- RARE AND UNUSUAL PLANTS
- EXOTIC CONIFERS

Karen & Mark Priebe

Toll Free 877-779-5715
Fax 610-779-0555
E-mail: landscapes@wolfrunnursery.com

610-779-5717
29 Klappenthal Road
Reading, PA 19606
wolfrunnursery.com

Attention National Meeting attendees:

In addition to the "on your own" nursery list you received with your registration confirmation, Mark Priebe invites you to visit **Wolf Run Nursery** on Thursday, Aug. 4, and Sunday, Aug. 7. These are the days immediately before and after the meeting.

Contact Mark at (610) 779-5717 for more information or directions.



2005 Conifer Quarterly Advertising Rates

Ad Type	Dimensions (W x H)	Cost (\$ US) per issue	Cost per 4 issues (10% discount)
Full page	5 x 8 in.	195	702
Half page horizontal	5 x 4 in.	135	486
Half page vertical	2.5 x 8 in.	135	486
Quarter page horizontal	5 x 2 in.	85	306
Quarter page vertical	2.5 x 4 in.	85	306
Eighth page	2.5 x 2 in.	55	198

Submit inquiries, ad material and payments to:

Anne Brennan, Conifer Quarterly Advertising
145 Cedar St., Jenkintown, PA 19046 • PH (215) 376-0231
FAX (215) 827-5926 • E-mail: ConiferQuarterly@contextcomm.com

The Conifer Society welcomes advertising from companies and individuals selling conifers, companion plants, gardening supplies and other plant-related products and services.

Directorate

Officers

<i>President</i>	Don Wild , 3058 Cross Creek Ct., Ann Arbor, MI 48108 PH (734) 662-6461, E-mail: lowwild@aol.com
<i>Vice President/ Treasurer</i>	Tom Cox , 1621 N Lake Dr., Canton, GA 30115 PH (770) 772-9747, FAX (770) 663-4063, E-mail: coxarb@bellsouth.net
<i>Secretary</i>	Kathleen Pottratz , 42438 SW Vandehey Rd., Gaston, OR 97119 PH (503) 985-7561, E-mail: kpottz@highstream.net
<i>Past President</i>	Dennis Groh , 160 S. Evangeline, Dearborn Heights, MI 48125 PH (313) 561-2315, E-mail: dgroh118380MI@comcast.net

Directors

<i>Term expires 2005</i>	Flo Chaffin , 3650 Colham Ferry Rd., Watkinsville, GA 30677 PH (706) 310-0143, FAX (706) 310-0562, E-mail: flomosr@att.net Don Wild , (see President above) Lester Wyman , 86 Tavern Waye, Hanson, MA 02341 PH (781) 447-3579, FAX (781) 447-3758, E-mail: hansplts@attbi.com
<i>Term expires 2006</i>	Tom Cox , (see Vice President/Treasurer above) Elmer Dustman , 26 Peachtree Ln., Pittsford, NY 14534 PH (585) 248-5156, E-mail: edustma1@rochester.rr.com Byron Richards , 31 Southridge Dr., Hendersonville, NC 28739 PH (828) 696-0801, E-mail: barhr@cytechcis.net
<i>Term expires 2007</i>	Ethan Johnson , 669 E331st St, Eastlake, OH 44095 PH (440) 975-1675, E-mail: ejohnson@holdenarb.org Gerald Kral , 900 Winton Rd. N, Rochester, NY 14609 PH (585) 288-5082, E-mail: gkral1@rochester.rr.com Randy Oster , 29600 SE Kowall Rd., Estacada, OR 97023 PH (503) 630-7975, FAX (503) 630-7955, E-mail: sales@r-r-nursery.com

Regional Presidents

<i>Northeastern Region</i>	Walter Cullerton , PO Box 21, Pineville, PA 18946 PH (215) 598-1250, E-mail: oxfordwalt@aol.com
<i>Central Region</i>	Gary Whittenbaugh , 625 3rd Ave. SW, Oelwein, IA 50662 PH (319) 283-3050, FAX (319) 283-4773, E-mail: franmara@trxinc.com
<i>Western Region</i>	Horst Jeddelloh , 18535 SE Giese Rd., Gresham, OR 97080 PH (503) 667-9163
<i>Southeastern Region</i>	Maud Henne , 1670 Milton Rd., Charlottesville, VA 22902 PH (434) 296-6051, E-mail: lamina27@aol.com

Conifer Society Staff

<i>National Office</i>	John Martin , P.O. Box 3422, Crofton, MD 21114-0422 PH (410) 721-6611, FAX (410) 721-9636, E-mail: conifersociety@aol.com
<i>Editor, Conifer Quarterly</i>	Anne Brennan , 145 Cedar St., Jenkintown, PA 19046 PH (215) 376-0231, FAX (215) 827-5926 E-mail: ConiferQuarterly@contextcomm.com

Mark Dwyer



If a gold conifer isn't already a focal point in your garden, try pairing it with bright purple or clear yellow flowers. At left is *Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Golden Mop' with hyacinths; at right is *C. pisifera* 'Plumosa Compacta' with *Iris danfordiae*.

Peter Conrad



Japanese maples are a favorite choice as conifer companion plants. Pete Conrad's garden, shown here, was the site of a Western Region gathering this spring.



Maud Henne encountered these unidentified *Thuja* spp. punctuating the landscape at Queen Sirikit Botanical Garden near Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand. Photo by Maud Henne.