

# Conifer Quarterly

Vol. 21 No. 1

Winter 2004



Dennis Lee calls this dwarf, bluish white pine (right) *Pinus strobus* 'Little Tuck' after Steve Tuckerman who found it. *Tsuga canadensis* 'Gentsch White' grows alongside.



Dennis Lee

Below, silvery *Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca' contrasts with *Abies firma*.

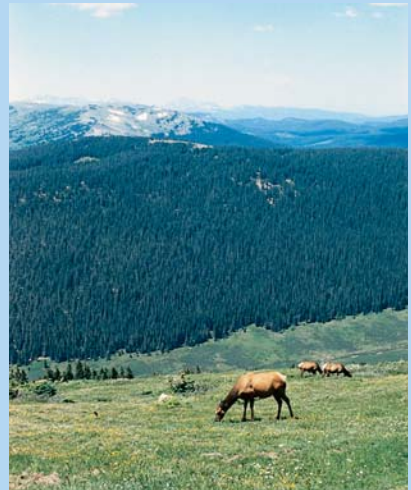
Read more about Stow Sancturetum's conifers on page 32.



Dennis Lee

The Rocky Mountains' natural beauty kept Denver post-conference tour participants hopping out of the bus to look and take pictures at every stop. Here, elk graze near the road at 11,800 feet elevation and snow-capped mountains are visible in July.

Read more about the tour on page 39.



Anne Brennan

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Cover photo: *Cedrus deodara* doesn't seem to mind the early snow in Mary Garr's garden in Fruit Heights, Utah.

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Winter 2004  
Volume 21, No. 1

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DENNIS GROH

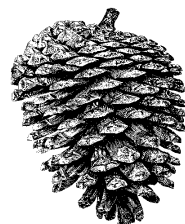
Best wishes to all our members for the New Year from your national and regional officers, the Board of Directors and the wonderful independent contractors who actually make things work. As we transition to a new year, it is appropriate to reflect on both our organization's past and its future.

The American Conifer Society (d.b.a. The Conifer Society) will celebrate its 21<sup>st</sup> year of existence in 2004. William G. Schwartz provided significant *pro bono* legal assistance to incorporate our non-profit organization on January 3, 1983. We extend our continuing thanks and appreciation to Mr. Schwartz for all his support to make this organization possible.

Today, the Society's future depends on each of *you!* Remember, this organization will either become as great as each of us makes it, or as poor as we collectively let it become.

In my last message, I praised the numerous contributors to last summer's successful national meeting in Denver. There were many names, because it takes a lot of help to produce the kind of meeting we all expect. Many tasks provide many opportunities for members to contribute their diverse skills to the success of these national meetings.

Since both national and regional



meetings are important to the ongoing health of our organization, I ask you to step forward in the new year to volunteer your help at the meeting of your choice. If you are contacted by those who have taken a leadership role in these meetings and asked to assist, *please make the effort to respond favorably to their requests for help.* Remember, our organization cannot exist unless we lend a helping hand when it is needed, and you can make a difference.

The Central Region will host the 2004 National Meeting at the Dawes Arboretum in Ohio. Contact Gary Whittenbaugh, Charlene Harris, Rich Larson, Bill Barger or Linda Milligan to help.

The Northeast Region is organizing the 2005 National Meeting in the Philadelphia area. Volunteers can contact Ridge Goodwin, Bill Wells, Christie

Dustman, Marlowe Marcus, Jim & Barbara Smith or Frank Goodhart.

The Southeast Region is planning the 2006 National Meeting in the Virginia/Washington, D.C., area. The key contacts for volunteering your assistance are Michael Balogh, Maud Henne, Dean & Linda Linderman, Dr. Albert Paulsen, Tom & Sandra Carlson, and John & Susan Martin.

The Western Region has just begun their planning for the 2007 National Meeting in the Washington State area. Randy Oster and Kathleen Pottratz are the current contacts.

Please thank these good people when you see them, as they are making a significant contribution of their time, talents and energies for the Conifer Society. Please support their efforts as best you can. ▲

### Publication Dates

Issue	Calendar Quarter	Deadline to submit articles	Publication Date (approx. mailing)
Winter	Jan/Feb/Mar	Oct 31	Jan 15
Spring	Apr/May/June	Jan 31	Apr 15
Summer	Jul/Aug/Sept	Apr 30	July 15
Fall	Oct/Nov/Dec 31	July 31	Oct 15

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Ah, Winter.

Conifers and broadleaf evergreens are arguably the stars of the Winter landscape, their sculptural forms and varied foliage colors contrasting with the amorphous browns and grays of their neighboring deciduous plants.

Picturesque though it may be to gaze out into one's snow-frosted conifer garden while sipping a marshmallow mug of hot chocolate, most of us prefer a view of fresh new growth in Spring. But we wouldn't have Spring without Winter, would we? So put the kettle on and be patient.

**Seed Exchange form enclosed**

To help pass the time until temperatures rise, this issue includes the annual Seed Exchange List and Order Form. Coordinator Charles Fooks has also listed several helpful reference books on page 47 to help you tackle seed propagation. I'm happy to report that I have two (better than one!) small *Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia* (Rocky Mountain lodgepole pine) I germinated from seed obtained through the Seed Exchange two years ago. While

we all depend on the predictable characteristics of cloned cultivars when designing our gardens, there's something about growing trees from seed that sparks the imagination. Some of our most sought-after conifer cultivars first appeared as one lone seedling standing out against its unremarkable siblings in the propagation tray or nursery bed.

**Articles and events**

When you do discover that special plant with unique characteristics, you'll want to register it. On page 17, find out how and see which cultivars have been recently registered.

Next, Chris Daeger adds another chapter to his "Conifer Detective" series from several years ago and gives readers a chance to show their creativity. Then you'll find several articles previewing the programs and tour destinations that comprise this summer's national meeting in Ohio. Don Howse reviews a new CD-ROM showcasing pine cultivars, and recent Society meetings and tours are recapped with photos.

If you live in the Northeast Region,

where February is not kind to gardeners, take heart! Longtime member and expert propagator George Okken is hosting a grafting seminar February 14th at his nursery in Pompton Plains, New Jersey. If you're like me and want to learn more about the "magic" behind so many of those auction plants, and you've found many conifers difficult to root as cuttings, then what better way to spend Valentine's Day than with the plants you love? See page 24 for details.

Best wishes for a great year!

*Anne*

As previously announced...

The Spring issue will feature the genus *Chamaecyparis*!

This plant group includes such diverse forms and textures that one could doubt that two cultivars are so closely related.

Consider sharing your favorites by sending a photo or comment to the Editor by February 15th!

The Summer 2004 issue will feature *Picea* (spruce). Deadline: May 15th.

# The Hardy Cedar-of-Lebanon

*Arboretum traces path of five trees from their ancestors in Turkey to their current home in Philadelphia.*

Anthony S. Aiello  
Curator and Director of Horticulture  
Morris Arboretum of the University of  
Pennsylvania

Michael S. Dosmann  
Graduate Research Assistant  
Cornell University

Among the Morris Arboretum's extensive conifer collection are five specimens of hardy cedar-of-Lebanon (*Cedrus libani* ssp. *stenocoma*). They are growing throughout the Arboretum, some tucked away, others in full view, and all of them handsome trees. We had always enjoyed these trees but only began to investigate their background about two years ago.

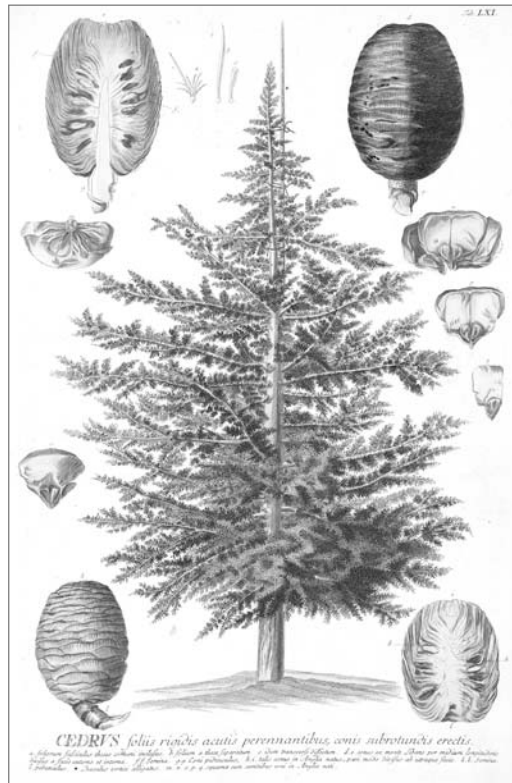
At that time, we knew that our oldest tree grew at John and Lydia Morris's estate and existed at the Arboretum's founding in 1932. In 1944, three trees of the so-called "hardy form" arrived from the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, and a fifth tree was grown from seed that arrived in 1947, collected from two trees of the hardy form at Princeton University. Sometime during

Figure 1 (left). Image of *Cedrus libani* from Trew's *Plantae Selectae*, 1750-1773.

the winter of 2001-'02, we began delving deeper into the Morris Arboretum's plant records to see what additional information we could find. This research yielded the fascinating history of the hardy form of cedar-of-Lebanon and the story of our trees.

## Natural selection in Taurus mountains

The genus *Cedrus* has a natural range from North Africa around the Mediterranean Sea into Lebanon, Syria, Cyprus,



and Turkey and west to the Himalayas (Farjon 1990). Depending on the treatment, there are a variable number of species of cedar, but Farjon (1998) recognizes four species. The beautiful long-needled Deodar cedar (*Cedrus deodora*) occurs in a wide range of habitats in the Himalayas of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kashmir, and Nepal. The Atlas cedar (*C. atlantica*) grows in the Atlas Mountains of Algeria and Morocco, while the Cyprus cedar (*C. brevifolia*) is restricted to that island, and is sometimes listed as a subspecies or variety of *C. libani*.

Cedar-of-Lebanon (*C. libani*) occurs naturally in Lebanon, Syria, and the Taurus mountains of southern Turkey (Figure 1; Farjon 1990). The Turkish plants are classified as *C. libani* ssp. *stenocoma* (Farjon 1998) and usually are called the "hardy cedar-of-Lebanon." Various authors have either given the Turkish population varietal status or have not even recognized them as a separate taxon (Farjon 1990). For example, Volume One of the *Flora of Turkey* (Davis 1965) did not recognize subspecies *stenocoma*, although it is recognized as a variety in the 11th volume of the same work (Guner 2000). The Turkish trees are generally considered to be more upright and conical (not forming the flat 'umbrella' top of other cedars), and to have shorter needles than those from Lebanon (Farjon 1998). The epithet *stenocoma* literally means "narrow hair," referring to pubescent twigs of the Turkish plants. The subspecies *stenocoma* was first described by Schwarz (1944) and then Davis (1949) who both recognized that it was intermediate between the typical cedar-of-

Lebanon and the Atlas cedar.

It is these cedars from Turkey that most interest us and upon which this story hinges. The cedars from Anatolia (Turkey) have long been recognized as having exceptional cold hardiness. True cedars were first described as growing in the Amanus (Nur) and Taurus Mountains of southern Anatolia in 1553 by Pierre Belon in his *De arboribus coniferis*, probably the first treatise on conifers. Belon was a botanist and physician who traveled throughout the Levant in the 1540's, and one can only imagine the experiences and peoples that he encountered. John Gerard referred to Belon when he wrote in his 1597 Herbal:

"The cedar trees grow upon the snowie mountaines, as in Syria on mount Libanus, on which there remaine some euen [even] to this day, saith *Bellonius* planted as it is thought by *Salomon* himselfe: they are likewise found on the mountains *Taurus*, and *Amanus*, in colde and stonie places."

What is most revealing about Gerard's statement is that as early as the 16th century, authors took notice of the population from Anatolia and recognized that these more northern plants possessed greater potential for cold hardiness.

## The Hardiness Problem

During the 1800's, *Cedrus libani* was grown throughout Philadelphia and New York but was not hardy in Boston and New England (Wilson 1926). Josiah

Hoopes (1868), a nurseryman from West Chester, in southeastern Pennsylvania, wrote that, “ the cedar of Lebanon is found to be pretty hardy...[and] with us it has succeeded to our entire satisfaction, and we can therefor recommend it without reserve, if proper cultivation and a moderate amount of care be given to it.”

Because this was not so in Boston, Charles Sprague Sargent, famous director of the Arnold Arboretum recognized the potential of the trees from the Taurus Mountains, in south-central Turkey. Sargent hired Mr. Walter Siehe, a German botanical explorer living in Smyrna (Izmar), Turkey, to collect seed from trees in the Taurus Mountains (Wilson 1919). In a letter (Arnold Arboretum Archives) from Siehe to Sargent, dated November 18, 1900, from Mersina, Turkey, Siehe wrote:

“Dr. Bolle...has repeatedly informed me of your desire [to acquire] cedar cones from cold resistant trees of high altitude (1900m). Only a few days ago did I manage to obtain, after several futile attempts, 50 kilos of cones with good seeds. Since it was necessary to make a special trip, use many pack animals, and spend eight days of time for this, I

Figure 2. *Cedrus libani* ssp. *stenocoma* at the Morris Arboretum. This is the tree believed to have been planted in the early 1900's and is one of the seedlings from the 1902 Arnold Arboretum introduction.

am certain that you will not find the fee of 60 Mark German currency too high.”

Apparently Sargent did not find the fee too high because the records at the Arnold Arboretum show that they received cones with ripe seeds from Siehe on February 4, 1902 (Arnold Arboretum Archives, Wilson 1919). We have not yet determined what happened between November 1900 and February 1902. The seeds had a high rate of germination and some of the many plants raised from them had reached 22 ft (6.7 m) by 1917 (Wilson 1919). A severe winter of 1917-18 scorched the leaves and retarded their growth, but did not kill them. There was an *Arnoldia* report in 1946 that the



The Morris Arboretum

cedars were thriving, growing for forty years and withstanding temperatures of  $-20^{\circ}\text{F}$  /  $-29^{\circ}\text{C}$  (Wyman 1946). Today, some of the most impressive trees growing at the Arnold can be found to either side of the Hunnewell Building and on the slope of Bussey Hill.

### History of trees at Morris Arboretum

But what about the trees at the Morris Arboretum? By delving into the arboretum's own records, we realized that all of our hardy cedars-of-Lebanon are derived from the Arnold Arboretum's original plants. These records contained notes from Mr. John Tonkin, (the Morris' gardener and Arboretum superintendent from 1913 to 1961), stating that the oldest cedar of Lebanon came from



The Morris Arboretum

the Arnold Arboretum in the 19-teens. In addition, a cedar is shown in the current location on our 1909 Atlas of Compton, which is a survey of the Morris' gardens and plants. So, from these two pieces of information we have deduced that our old tree is one of the original seedlings from the 1902 batch of Turkish seed (Figure 2). Staff at the Morris have noticed the hardiness of this tree, writing that it showed no visible injuries during the devastatingly cold winters in the early 1930's (Lambert 1936). It has suffered storm damage during the past 25 years, and today it shows a remarkable amount of young vigorous growth for a tree of its age and size.

Our three 1944 cedars (including the one shown in Figure 3) were received as balled and burlapped plants grown from the Arnold Arboretum's original trees, and our 1947 tree was grown from seed of two original “Sargent hardy form” trees at Princeton. So these four plants are only a generation removed from the Turkish collection. Of more recent origin are two trees in our nursery that came via the Arboretum Novy Dvur in the Czech Republic. These were also collected as seed in the Taurus Mountains and were found growing along with *Pinus nigra* and *Abies cilicica*.

### Other notable trees

There are two other trees that are well worth mentioning. As students at Purdue University in Indiana, we often ad-

Figure 3. *Cedrus libani* ssp. *stenocoma* at the Morris Arboretum. It was received at the Morris Arboretum in 1944 and grown from seed of the Arnold Arboretum's original plants.

mired the variety 'Purdue Hardy' (*Cedrus libani* ssp. *stenocoma* 'Purdue Hardy') which grows outside Horticulture Hall, in a hardiness zone where it routinely reaches  $-20^{\circ}\text{F}$  /  $-29^{\circ}\text{C}$  (USDA Hardiness Zone 5a). This 40-year-old specimen stands out, with its graceful form and nearly pendant branches, and like others in the subspecies, it has not become flat-topped. In 1986 Dr. Donald Schuder registered this cultivar with the Royal Horticultural Society on behalf of the Indiana Association of Nurserymen. The cultivar name reflects the tree's cultivated origin and its hardiness, and this wonderful specimen has withstood winter temperatures of  $-25^{\circ}\text{F}$  /  $-32^{\circ}\text{C}$  with only minimal browning of needles (Flint 1997).

The background on this plant is a bit uncertain, but we do know that it was one of several seedlings germinated from a batch collected by the late Professor Ted Shaw (Dept. of Forestry, Purdue University) in the 1950s. Shaw was on U.S. government assignment to Lebanon to assist with reforestation projects, but he unfortunately did not note where the seeds had been collected. During registration of the cultivar, Don Schuder attempted to find such notation in Shaw's records, but all that could be determined through oral history and tradition at Purdue was that Shaw found the seeds and the cones "Up in the Hills." If the origin is indeed Lebanon, it would be quite a find, as no Lebanese cedar has been successfully grown out of doors north of Zone 6. It is possible that Shaw collected the seeds not during his assignment in Lebanon, but during a tourist trip to Turkey.

At present, 'Purdue Hardy' is not widely available, and various attempts to root mature cuttings have been in vain. In 2001, we tried to root cuttings using Dip-n-Grow (1% IBA and .5% NAA) or 1% KIBA, in 1:1 sand:perlite, supplied with bottom heat. After several months, callus formed on approximately 10% of each treatment, but no roots ever appeared. Several grafted plants can be found in the vicinity of West Lafayette, Indiana, however, and perhaps this worthy selection can be successfully introduced through serial grafting or other means.

Another very noteworthy tree is a Pennsylvania State Champion cedar-of-Lebanon at the Tyler Arboretum, in Media, Pennsylvania (see back cover). This tree is one of the most remarkable conifers in the Delaware Valley and as of 1993 it had a 179-inch (4.5-m) circumference, stood 87 feet (26 m) tall, and had a crown spread of 76 feet (23 m). One can only speculate on its origin, but perhaps the time will come when molecular testing can help solve this piece of the puzzle.

### Conclusion

We always say that every plant at the Morris Arboretum has a story, and the story of the hardy cedar-of-Lebanon is an especially intriguing one – it mixes history, geography, plant ecology, horticulture and a love of conifers. When you next visit the Morris Arboretum or Arnold Arboretum, take time to admire these hardy cedars, pause to enjoy their majestic beauty, and think of their fascinating journey from the mountains of Turkey to the Eastern United States. And of course, consider planting one in your garden!

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*About the authors:* Anthony S. Aiello has served as Director of Horticulture and Curator of the Living Collection at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania since July of 1999. His interests include trees and shrubs from the northern temperate regions, and in particular conifers, magnolias, maples, hollies, and witchhazels.

Michael S. Dosmann has been an admirer of hardy *Cedrus libani* ever since seeing the fine specimen of *Cedrus libani* 'Purdue Hardy' on the campus of Purdue University. He got involved with this project when he was a Putnam Research Fellow at the Arnold Arboretum, and Tony Aiello began to inquire about the origin of the trees at the Morris. He is a Graduate Research Assistant in the Department of Horticulture, Cornell University, where he is studying the ecophysiology of goldenrain tree (*Koeleria paniculata*).



## Reader Recommendations — *Your favorite Cedrus cultivars*



Mary Garr

Mary Garr grows this *Cedrus deodara* 'Mountain Beauty' in Fruit Heights, Utah, where its lime-green foliage stands out against her rock garden plants.

Maud Henne says *Cedrus deodara* 'Glacial Blue' is the bluest cultivar she has in her Charlottesville, Virginia, garden.



Maud Henne



Dean Linderman

The weeping branch tips of this stately *Cedrus deodara* 'Aurea' are one reason so many conifer collectors love this species.



Dean Linderman

*Cedrus deodara* 'Pendula' provides one of many sculptural elements at Dean & Linda Linderman's Birchwood in Leesburg, Virginia.

## Reader Recommendations

(continued)



Maud Henne



Maud Henne

Maud Henne shows us the cones of *Cedrus libani* 'Pendula' (top) and *Cedrus deodara*.



Dean Linderman

A trio of *Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca Pendula' seem to plod across Dean & Linda Linderman's winter landscape in Leesburg, Virginia.

## *Cedrus deodara* in my Central Virginia Garden

by Maud Henne, Charlottesville, VA

Living in Central Virginia's horse and cattle country, I am surrounded by oaks, tulip poplars (*Liriodendron*), pines of various kinds, and Eastern redcedar, which is not a cedar but a juniper, *Juniperus virginiana*. However, once in a while one encounters a mature specimen of *Cedrus deodara*, one of the three true cedars, in a neighborhood laid out some 30 or 40 years ago.

In 1988, my late husband Reinhard Henne's conifer collection was in its early stages. Aware that a regular *Cedrus deodara* would be too large for our backyard woodland garden on a hill, he acquired the cultivar '**Karl Fuchs**' from Guenther Horstmann. Krüssmann, in his *Manual of Cultivated Conifers*, describes 'Karl Fuchs' as a clone from seedlings from Pakistan, the bluest of the Paktia forms. Don Howse describes the cultivar in his Porterhowse catalog as originating from seed collected by Mr. Fuchs in Pakistan and subsequently named by Guenther Horstmann Nurseries in Germany. Estimated size in 10 years: 10 ft (3 m) x 3 ft (1 m).

My little 'Karl Fuchs' was less than 1.5 feet (45 cm) tall when acquired. After three years and a change of location from a flat raised bed to a slope, it began to look comfortable. Fifteen years later, it has reached a height of about 20 feet (6 m) with a much narrower, more open profile than the species – in my eyes a very elegant tree. The color has not been consistently bluish silver/green; it appears more green in spring, then a pale

blue in fall. It seemed to be greener than usual in 2003, possibly due to more cloudy weather and lack of sun. I asked Uwe Horstmann, son of the late Guenther Horstmann and successor in his father's nursery, if 'Karl Fuchs' looks true to its form during Uwe's recent visit here. He said it does. 'Karl Fuchs' is not my only deodar cedar, but it has lived in my garden the longest. It has survived weather extremes including a six-month drought in 2002 and the rainy, wet conditions of 2003 without signs of stress and has not produced any cones.

My other deodar cedars are much younger, having been purchased and planted in 1998 and 1999. I lost '**Pygmea**' and '**Descanso Dwarf**' in 2002, probably due to high humidity, heat and drought as the plants were not yet established. '**Albospica**,' '**Aurea**' and '**Blue Ball**' are alive but will still have to prove themselves. My favorites are:

'**Cream Puff**' – Planted as a five-year-old tree in 1998, it is really taking off and looks absolutely striking with its second flush of creamy-white growth in



Maud Henne

summer. In 10 years it should reach 8 ft (2.4 m) x 4 ft (1.2 m).

'**Silver Mist**' was two or three years old in 1999, but now its shape is starting to improve. Needle color is very consistent silver green in its sunny location. Estimated size in 10 years: 4 ft (1.2 m) x 2 ft (60 cm).

'**Glacial Blue**,' the bluest cedar I have in my collection, was planted in 1999 and is now developing a nice shape (see photo on page 12). In 10 years it should reach 4 ft (1.2 m) x 2 ft (60 cm).

'**Divinely Blue**' is less blue than 'Glacial Blue' in my garden and derives its name from Bill Divine. For me, 'Divinely Blue' shows its best blue on the lower branches while the top branches, exposed to sun and light, look more yellowish and seem to be more prone to pests. I've seen very small white caterpillars with black dots and red heads feasting on the needles and stripping whole branches. I had decided I should move this cultivar to a location that receives less afternoon sun, but then I read in the catalog of Roslyn Nursery (from whom I purchased these two plants) that each will become "a mounding dwarf with pale grey-green new growth over darker blue-green foliage." Maybe it does alright after all.

All in all, I find *Cedrus deodara* very suitable for my climate that sometimes feels like Zone 6 but other times resembles Zone 7. I find this species adaptable to extreme heat, drought and rain, and hardy for some frost. I'm sure to add more dwarf forms to my garden! ▲

*Cedrus deodara* 'Silver Mist' in Maud Henne's garden.

## *Cedrus* grows in Texas, too!

by William F. Caldwell, Houston, TX

Residents of East Texas have been planting *Cedrus* sporadically for years. I most often encounter *C. deodara*, but the oldest specimen that I am aware of is a *C. libani* in Nacogdoches that is about 70 years old. The site's original house is gone, so the tree now occupies a postage-stamp sized lawn outside of an auto parts store – a sad fate for such a noble tree.

I've been growing several cultivars and seedlings of *C. atlantica*, *C. deodara* and *C. libani* over the past 10 years. *C. deodara* appears to grow most quickly of the three species, followed by *C. libani*. My plants have been pest-free except for an unidentified species of borer that attacks the trunks and larger limbs. I have not observed any fungal or bacterial blights on them so far.

### Color affected by temperature?

In my garden, the golden *Cedrus* cultivars do not seem to display the same brilliant hues I've seen in photos and in gardens in Europe and on the East and West coasts. However, other genera of golden conifers do not reliably show their colors either. In addition, the blue and white cultivars lose their frosty brilliance shortly after the new growth hardens. Fortunately, the plants grow continuously from May to September, replenishing the frostiness at the tips.

Occasionally, *C. atlantica* and *C. libani* produce flushes of atypically short and discolored needles. I suspect the cause is very rapid growth during

high temperatures. Thankfully, the lateral shoots produced from these stems display the typical form for the cultivars.

### Favorite from each species

*Cedrus atlantica* 'Horstmann' has been described as a compact, upright tree with short, powder grey-blue needles. In my experience, it has the best grey-blue color of any *C. atlantica*. Originally a five-year-old graft planted three years ago, it has reached 20 inches (50 cm) tall and 24 inches (60 cm) wide. I have not trained a dominant leader but rather have let it find its own shape.

*Cedrus deodara* 'Bracken's Select' was given to me in a plant swap without any details. Growing side-by-side with 'Karl Fuchs' and 'Verticillata Glauca,' it outperforms both in terms of growth rate and grey-blue color, though color retention is neither superior nor inferior. 'Bracken's Select' has a softer look more typical of the species. My tree is a five-year-old graft that is double trunked and about 9 feet (2.7 m) tall after three years in the ground. It was run over by a tractor in June of 2003 but kept on growing. My other all-time favorite *C. deodara* clone is 'Divinely Blue'; though not the bluest, its overall appearance most appeals to me.

*Cedrus libani* 'Pendula' grows much faster for me than its weeping counterpart *C. atlantica* 'Glauca Pendula,' with long needles more closely resembling a *C. deodara* but displaying the needle coloration typical of *C. libani*. ▲

# Additions to The International Conifer Register

Compiled by Dr. Alan Leslie

Senior Registrar, Royal Horticultural Society

Submitted by Susan Martin

Curator of the Conifer, Dogwood and Maple Collections at the U.S. National Arboretum, and U.S. representative for the International Registration Authority for conifer cultivars

### Introduction

Registration of all new conifer cultivar names is important to all conifer growers, as it ensures that the names are unique and that an authentic account of each plant is stored for future reference. The following list contains the names of formally registered conifer cultivar names which have been added to the International Register since the last list published in the American Conifer Society's *Bulletin* 19 (2): 84-91 (2002), together with a few registered previously but which had not been published. Previous lists of new registrations were published in the *International Dendrology Society Yearbook* 1992: 21-28 (1993), 1994: 61-63 (1995) and 1997: 64-68 (1998). This list is provided by the Royal Horticultural Society (UK) in its role as International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for all conifers.

### Notes on the entries

The cultivars are listed in alphabetical order by genus. The species to which the cultivar is assigned is given first, the nomenclature generally following A.

Farjon's *World Checklist and Bibliography of Conifers* (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 1998). This is followed by a statement on the origin of the new cultivar and the names of the originator (O), nominant or name-giver (N), introducer (I) and registrant (REG), together with relevant dates. Addresses for any individual or firm involved in one of these roles are given at the end of the list. A description of the characteristics of the new cultivar is included, as provided by the applicant on the registration form.

### Registration forms

Applicants from the USA and Canada are invited to obtain forms from the American Conifer Society, PO Box 3422, Crofton, MD 21114, or from the Regional Registrar, Susan F. Martin, US National Arboretum, 3501 New York Avenue NE, Washington DC. 20002. Forms can also be downloaded from the RHS website ([www.rhs.org.uk/research/registration\\_conifers.asp](http://www.rhs.org.uk/research/registration_conifers.asp)).

Applicants from other areas should apply for forms from the RHS Principal Registrar, RHS Garden, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB, England, or di-



rectly from the new Conifer Registrar (see below).

### New International Conifer Registrar

Following a hiatus in the preparation of further parts of the International Conifer Register and in the registration service, the RHS is now pleased to announce that a new Conifer Registrar has been appointed. Beginning in January 2004, Sabina Knees will be working for the Society from her home in Edinburgh (8A Granton Road, Edinburgh EH3 3QH, Scotland). Miss Knees will be concentrating on completing the publication of the Register (four parts are still outstanding) but would be happy to receive any new registrations or queries related to them.

### ABIES

#### 'Martha's Vineyard'

*A. lasiocarpa* cv. (Seedling from an open-pollinated *A. lasiocarpa* at Longwood Gardens, USA) **R** (1959), **N** (1993), **I** (1993) & **REG** (1995): Mrs Polly Hill. Tree of narrow, conical habit, smoothly symmetrical, very regular in outline (growth rate 200-250 mm/year). Foliage pale bluish green when young, aging to greyish green.

### CHAMAECYPARIS

#### 'Parr's Gold'

*C. lawsoniana* cv. (Seedling from *C. lawsoniana* 'Stewartii') **O**: K. Parr, c1994 **N**: K. Parr & D.P. Spicer **I** & **REG** (2003): D.P. Spicer. Plant of columnar habit, 1.1 m x 0.45 m in 5-6 years (growth rate 225 mm/year). Foliage bright, clear, golden yellow, delicate (almost filiferous); less of the 'old gold' effect as in 'Stewartii' but not quite

so pale a yellow as in 'Lutea Smithii' ('Smithii').

### JUNIPERUS

#### 'Little's Christmas Decor'

*J. virginiana* cv. (Tree found by P.L. Little in the wild on a low ridge between Scotchtown Road and Beaver Creek, Beaverdam, Hanover County, Virginia, USA) **O**, **N** & **REG**: P.L. Little, 2002. Mature tree c. 12 m x 4.5 m, estimated to be almost 100 years old (growth rate 115 mm/year); columnar, wide at the apex, outer branches fastigiate, growth more dense than in normal plants; the ends of the branches have bunched growth, like a witches' broom but the pattern of growth is very irregular (some shoots with growth only 65 mm/year, others on the same branch c. 160 mm/year). Foliage deep green. Fruit frosted blue. (Nomenclatural standard: herbarium specimen supplied by registrant to US National Arboretum Herbarium).

### METASEQUOIA

#### 'Golden Dawn'

*M. glyptostroboides* cv. (Seedling from *M. glyptostroboides*) **O** (1986), **N** (1996) & **REG** (2003): K.W. Murray **I**: Angelica Nurseries. Dwarf, globose, slow-growing plant, 1.5 m x 1.2 m in 10 years (growth rate 150 mm/year). Foliage golden yellow, turning brown in autumn. US Plant Patent no. 11,848 P2.

### PICEA

#### 'Lanham Beehive'

*P. abies* cv. (Derived from a witches' broom on a tree in woods near Lebanon, Kentucky, USA). Found by G. Lanham (1994) & first propagated at Kleins

Nursery (1994). **N** (1994), **I** (1999) & **REG** (2003): Iseli Nursery. Plant described as of beehive-like form, 1.0 m x 1.0 m in 10 years (growth rate 120 mm/year). Resembles 'Kellerman's Blue Cameo' but with needles that are thicker and longer, slightly glaucous tinted especially at tips. The prominent stems and buds are a cinnamon color. The overall effect is of a bolder texture on a compact plant compared to the normal species. The original plant was 0.45 m x 0.28 m when discovered.

#### 'Lemonade'

*P. pungens* cv. (Selection from seed-raised *P. pungens*) **O** (1980), **N** (2002) & **REG** (2003): K. Twombly. Pyramidal tree, 7.5 m x 3.0 m in 20 years. New growth lemon yellow, slowly changing to light blue with no trace of yellow.

#### 'North Star'

*P. glauca* cv. (Sport from *P. glauca* var. *albertiana* 'Conica') **O** (1981), **N** (1999), **I** (1999) & **REG** (2003): Iseli Nursery. Pyramidal tree, 1.2-1.9 m high x 1.2 m wide in 10 years. Faster-growing (100-150 mm/year) than its parent and with larger needles, but still slower-growing and more compact than normal forms of the species. Hardy to USDA Zone 3.

#### 'Yukon Blue'

*P. glauca* cv. (Parentage unknown: received in 1983 by Iseli Nursery as scions, labelled as *P. glauca* 'Nana') **O**: unknown **N** (2002), **I** (2002) & **REG** (2003): Iseli Nursery. Pyramidal tree, 1.9 m x 1.0 m in 10 years (growth rate 150-300 mm/year), with short blue-grey needles. Similar to *P. glauca* 'Coerulea'

but with shorter needles and a slower-growing, more compact habit. (The name *P. glauca* 'Nana' has become used for almost any unnamed dwarf plant of this species.)

### PINUS

#### 'Emerald Arrow'

*P. heldreichii* cv. (Selection from seed-raised *P. heldreichii*) **O** (1986), **N** (2000), **I** (2001) & **REG** (2003): Iseli Nursery. Columnar tree of consistent, upright, narrow form, 3.0 m x 1.1 m in 10 years (growth rate 0.3-0.4 m/year). Needles averaging 75-90 mm long, dark green. The silver-white colored branches are visible through the foliage. (Introduced by Iseli as a variant of *P. leucodermis*, but this species is no longer recognised as distinct from *P. heldreichii*.)

#### 'Irish Bell'

*P. heldreichii* cv. (Selection from seed-raised *P. heldreichii*) **O** (1986), **N** (2000), **I** (2000) & **REG** (2003): Iseli Nursery. Sturdy, dwarf tree of ovate outline, 1.2 m x 1.0 m in 10 years (growth rate 75-150 mm/year). Needles short, 50-65 mm long, stiff and deep green, confined to the upper 1/2-3/4 of branches so that as a result the silver white stems are conspicuous seen through the foliage. (Introduced by Iseli as a variant of *P. leucodermis*, but this species is no longer recognised as distinct from *P. heldreichii*.)

#### 'Iseli Fastigiate'

*P. heldreichii* cv. (Selection from seed-raised *P. heldreichii*) **O** (1985), **N** (1999), **I** (1999) & **REG** (2003): Iseli Nursery. Large, narrowly columnar tree, fastigiate when young, 4.5 m x 1.0 m in

10 years (growth rate 0.4-0.5 m/year). Needles 90-100 mm long, mid-green. First published in *American Nurseryman* **194** (12): 54 (2001). (Introduced by Iseli as a variant of *P. leucodermis*, but this species is no longer recognised as distinct from *P. heldreichii*.)

#### 'Mint Truffle'

*P. heldreichii* cv. (Selection from seed-raised *P. heldreichii*) **O** (1984), **N**

As Dr. Leslie noted on page 18, Ms. Sabina Knees will assume the part time duties of Registrar for Conifers for the RHS beginning January 12, 2004.

Ms. Knees has previously worked as one of the RHS botanists at Wisley and was an editor of the quarterly RHS publication, *The Plantsman*. Currently she is working part time towards her Ph.D. studying the genus *Abies*.

Like her predecessor, Piers Trehane, Ms. Knees will focus on publishing the remaining Register parts as well as registering current cultivars.

On behalf of the ACS, I would like to welcome Sabina to her new position as Conifer Registrar and look forward to assisting her with conifer registrations in the many years to come.

– Susan Martin

(2000), **I** (2001) & **REG** (2003): Iseli Nursery. Intermediate-sized tree, 1.9 m x 1.0 m in 10 years (growth rate 150-200 mm/year), with an ovate or pear-shaped outline. Needles 75-90 mm long, borne all along the shoots, producing a densely foliated appearance, with buds and shoots mostly hidden. First published in *American Nurseryman* **194** (12): 54 (2001). (Introduced by Iseli as a variant of *P. leucodermis*, but this species is no longer recognised as distinct as from *P. heldreichii*.)

#### 'Silver Ghost'

*P. bungeana* cv. (Seedling from *P. bungeana*) Received at Dawes Arboretum as a seedling in 1949. **S** (1995), **N**, **I** & **REG** (1996): Dawes Arboretum. Selected for its striking silver white bark, which it develops at a relatively early age. (Nomenclatural standard: herbarium specimen supplied by registrant to US National Arboretum Herbarium)

#### THUJA

##### 'Amber Glow'

*T. occidentalis* cv. (Sport from *T. occidentalis* 'Danica') **O** (1990), **N** & **REG** (2001): J. Reed. Compact, dwarf, globose plant, 0.4 m x 0.4 m in 10 years (growth rate 40 mm/year). Foliage golden in summer, amber-colored in winter.

##### 'Golden Tuffet'

*T. occidentalis* cv. (Sport from *T. occidentalis* 'Rheingold') **O** (1997), **N** (2002), **I** (2002) & **REG** (2003): Iseli Nursery. Compact, rounded, pillow-shaped plants, 0.45 m x 1.9 m in 10 years (growth rate 75-150 mm/year). Foliage all juvenile, blushed burnt yel-

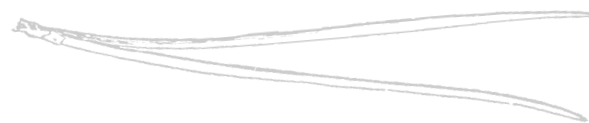
low-orange on outer or sun-exposed parts, inner or shaded foliage chartreuse. The small, wide needles are closely appressed to the orange-brown stems in a uniform pattern, the branches thus having a braided appearance. Differs from its parent in the fixed juvenile foliage as well as in habit and color.


#### 'Puget Pyramid'

*T. plicata* cv. (Original plant found by State Highway, Arlington, Washington, USA by R.G. Brightman) **O** (1993), **N** (1993) & **REG** (1994): R.G. Brightman. Original tree of pyramidal form, with long, thick, basal branches, c. 23 m x 4.5 m (growth rate c. 300 mm/year); branches and branchlets closely spaced, tending to overlap. Leaves rather thick so that undersides of foliage sprays are not noticeably flattened. Cones small and rather sparsely borne, tending to be partially hidden. (Nomenclatural standard: herbarium specimen provided by registrant to RHS Herbarium, Wisley (WSY 0000992).)

#### Names and addresses of originators, registrants etc.

- Angelica Nurseries – Kennedyville, Maryland, USA  
Brightman, R.G. – Edmonds, Washington, USA  
Dawes Arboretum – Newark, Ohio, USA  
Hill, Mrs. Polly – Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts, USA  
Iseli Nursery – Boring, Oregon, USA  
Kleins Nursery – Louisville, Kentucky, USA  
Lanham, G. – Lebanon, Kentucky, USA  
Little, P.L. – Beaverdam, Virginia, USA  
Murray, K.W. – Roselle, Wilmington, Delaware, USA  
Parr, K. – Cropwell Butler, Nottinghamshire, England  
Reed, J. – Shipton Nurseries, Shipton-by-Beningbrough, Yorkshire, England  
Spicer, D.P. – South Kilworth, Leicestershire, England  
Twombly, K. – Monroe, Connecticut, USA ▲



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# *The Adventures of C. D., Conifer Detective:* **The Case of Finding My Own Roots**

*Growing conifers means solving mysteries. One horticultural sleuth retraces his steps and creates another sort of puzzle. Follow the clues!*

by Chris Daeger

A visitor came to the arboretum. He enjoyed the collections, and he was one of the few people who actually stopped by the office and said so. Most just visit and leave.

I really like the ones who ask, “What’s an arboretum?” (Or, “What’s an *arbortorium*?”) I tell ‘em it’s a horticultural garden. Sometimes I get the look that says, “What’s that?” but they don’t ask.

Having heard others call me the conifer detective, this gentleman wanted to know, what did conifers do for me? I was stumped. What *did* they do for me? Nobody ever asked before. I didn’t know. Now I wanted to find out.

One might expect that being a conifer detective is a chosen profession, but not for me. I didn’t wake up one morning and make a conscious career change. So what is it with conifers? Maybe the word “conifer” is a key, a clue...

## **What makes a conifer detective?**

*Random House Dictionary* defines a detective as a person employed or engaging in investigating, solving and preventing crimes. What turns a conifer collector into a conifer detective? In my case, was it a combination of destiny and the coincidental similarity to my initials? This time, the investigation focused on myself.

I read the dictionary again. Perhaps I had to read between the lines. Why had I become a detective? Since becoming arboretum manager at Rowe Arboretum in Indian Hill, Ohio, all I wanted to do was collect conifers. Well, I’ll admit I collect

*The garden was only  
four months old and  
plants were dying.  
It was a crime.*

all kinds of plants, but we all have our favorite, right?

I looked up “conifer.” Nothing new there. Next I looked into the past for the answer.

## **Problem solving in the conifer garden**

Early in 1981, I was happy working as a landscaper and grew unusual plants in my nursery. I had a small collection of conifers that remains today. Later I began working as a basic horticulturist for Stanley M. Rowe and his arboretum. You know – prune, mow, mulch, plant a few new plants... I thought it would be easy.

I thought wrong.

Just months before my arrival, a new garden had been planted in memory of Stanley M.’s wife, Dorothy Rowe. An

architect had drawn up the design. Some of you can already smell the problem ahead, right? The plan was named “The Dorothy Rowe Memorial Dwarf Conifer Garden.” Cute name. Original.

The garden at completion did contain dwarf conifers, but the list didn’t stop there. Viburnums, forsythias, stephanandras, azaleas, rhododendrons... even boxwoods made an appearance. At least these last three were evergreens. I, however, took the garden’s name literally and felt it was intended to be a dwarf conifer garden.

Others agreed, and when I pointed out to the Powers That Be that the garden had other problems, I learned that I was going to get my way.

All the specimens were planted too deep. Obvious clues included lower branches buried in the soil and areas that remained wet for weeks after a rain. The garden was only four months old and plants were dying.

It was a crime.

My superiors wanted me to right the wrong. My crew of two and I replanted the garden. When we balled and burlapped the specimens, we discovered blue soil that proved compaction and waterlogging. We tilled in compost, sand, pea gravel and other organic materials to fluff up the so-called topsoil. We installed a drain tile system under the cypress mulch paths and replanted the conifers. We planted the deciduous plants elsewhere. The broadleaves went to the pine grove. All’s well, case solved – happy conifers.

That’s only the beginning. I did not yet recognize how my position was evolving.

Over the next few years from 1983 to 1987, other plant crimes attracted my at-

tention. There was the case of the pine grove flooding, caused by driveway repaving that interfered with natural drainage patterns. Subsequent corrections to the drainage system closed the book on that one. Later, the same grove lost between 40 and 50 trees over five years due to pine bark beetles and nematodes. But I uncovered the real culprits

*Over the next few years  
from 1983 to 1987,  
other plant crimes  
attracted my attention.*

behind this crime to be low soil fertility plus soil compaction caused by mowing (a.k.a. “mower disease”). We eliminated the soil compaction, began spraying instead of mowing to control the weeds, and scheduled appropriate fertilizer applications. The clients were happy – first the trees, then the owners.

Looking back, I cannot pinpoint my exact transition from conifer collector to conifer detective. Was it a fiendish plot begun by horticulture course instructors? Was it my involvement in the old Dwarf Conifer Society of Cincinnati, or my membership in the American Conifer Society during its early years? Was it simply a love of plants and the desire to make them happy?

Back to the first clue. The word “conifer” has to be the connection – it’s there, I feel it. So what’s it mean?

## **Spelling out the answer**

Maybe joining a conifer society just infects a person – conifer organization

# c.o.n.i.f.e.r

newcomers instinctively find evergreens remarkable.

Such people have been known to wonder aloud, "Aren't coning organisms important for *everyone's* relaxation?" I believe that they are.

Can outdoor nuts internationally find evergreens reliable? Around the globe, these plants play a part in gardens and recreational activities.

When you love a certain group of plants, you soon find yourself working on behalf of another client – Mother Nature – to solve man-made plant crimes.

## GEORGE OKKEN ANNOUNCES ANOTHER GRAFTING CLASS

for beginners on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2004, at 11:00 AM. In the event of bad weather, it will be held the following Saturday.

The nursery is located at 103 Mountain Ave., Pompton Plains, NJ. (Take Exit 52A / Rt 23 South off I-287. George's phone is (973) 835-5189 if you need directions.

This course is a good way to learn the basics of grafting. If you'd like to attend this event, please contact Stanley Eyre to reserve your place – PH: (203) 266-7711 or E-mail: sbeyre@earthlink.net. Then plan to bring \$25 cash or check and a sharp knife. George will supply the plant materials and the coffee and donuts!

That is why I became a conifer detective.

I wasn't spying – honest! But I heard some arboretum visitors talking. "Chris's occupation naturally involves favorite evergreen residents – of the arboretum, that is. He must enjoy his work." Right they are! ▲

## It's your turn!

Author Chris Daeger knows he's not the only "conifer detective" – horticultural or grammatical – among the Society's membership. He invites you to compose sentences of your own related to gardening or conifers, using the initial letters c-o-n-i-f-e-r to begin the words. "Come on now, I favor every response!" he insists.

E-mail your suggestions to Chris at cdaeger@ci.indian-hill.oh.us, using "C.O.N.I.F.E.R." in the subject line. He'll share the results in a future issue of the *Conifer Quarterly*.

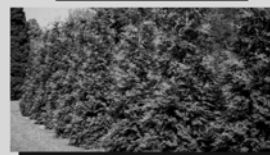
*About the author:* Chris Daeger is manager of Rowe Arboretum and comes close to being a charter member of the Conifer Society. (He does not remember the exact year but may investigate the matter when time allows.) He hopes to continue attending Society functions so as to maintain the camaraderie that always accompanies member gatherings.

# THUJA X 'GREEN GIANT'

## Replacement Tree For New England's Dying Hemlocks

← Original Tree Planted 1967 U.S.N.A. Washington D.C. 50'x11'

- New US National Arboretum Plant
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- Tough, Fragrant, Tall, Narrow Pyramidal Evergreen
- Deer, Bagworm & Disease Resistant
- Fast Growing, 3'-5' / Year
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- Excellent Alternative to Leyland Cypress
- Also Valley Forge American Elm
- We Ship All Year



The above 3 pictures were taken at the National Arboretum in Washington D.C. in August of 2001. When planted in the fall of 1998, they were 3 feet tall and planted on 6 1/2 foot centers. They grew 3 feet in the first year (1999), and are now 10-12 feet tall. It can be trimmed to any height or width to create the ultimate natural or formal hedge.

"The Thuja Green Giants are the toughest, disease, insect, deer and ice resistant evergreen I have ever used. I am 6' tall with a 6' arm span, so you can see the height to width ratio of these trees." - Mike Shade

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- No Secrets Or Patents
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# Ohio's Horticultural Gems Draw Members to 2004 National Meeting

by Charlene Harris

Cherry Valley Lodge, our conference hotel, is the nation's only hotel designated as an official Arboretum and Botanical Garden by the American Association for Arboreta and Botanical Gardens. There are over 2,000 plantings and 400 species of plants on the grounds. Plants are labeled and mapped for easy identification, ensuring that the Cherry Valley Lodge Arboretum and Botanical Garden accomplishes its mission.

## The Dawes Arboretum collections

Founded in 1929, The Dawes Arboretum now encompasses nearly 1,650 acres (6.7 sq. km) of plant collections and natural areas that offer unique educational experiences in any season.

The Dawes Arboretum features plants tolerant of central Ohio's climate. Azaleas, crab apples, hollies, oaks and conifers are a few of the collections accessible from the 4.5-mile (7.2-km) Auto Tour and more than 8 miles (13 km) of hiking trails.

In addition to the wonderful conifer collection with many mature size specimens, one of my favorite spots at The Dawes Arboretum is the **Cypress Swamp**, easily accessed by a raised boardwalk. The swamp includes a grove of 110 *Taxodium distichum*. Beman Dawes planted the original trees in 1928. In 1985 a young seedling was discovered growing in a nearby bed. The swamp now has hundreds of small seedlings growing beneath the larger trees. The

tallest tree in the grove is almost 69 feet (21 m) with a trunk diameter at breast height (DBH) of 1.5 feet (46 cm). The trees have the characteristic large buttresses and "knees" botanically known as pneumatophores. Whether the knees provide oxygen to the roots or help stabilize the trees is still a question after years of research. The Cypress Swamp at the Dawes is one of the northernmost reproducing bald-cypress swamps.

The **Japanese Garden** is another favorite, with its picturesque views surrounding a reflective pond. This is a quiet place for contemplation. Travel between various points of interest at The Dawes will be provided by on-site transportation.

The **Conifer Collection** at The Dawes Arboretum continues to grow and is one of the largest in the area. It consists of 4,074 recorded specimens of conifers. The number of unique names (taxa) of these specimens is 1,109, including 180 species, hybrids or intraspecific taxa. The Dawes Web site includes a very extensive plant listing for each of the collections, including both scientific and common names. For a complete history of The Dawes Arboretum and to see more of their collections, visit [www.dawesarb.org](http://www.dawesarb.org).

## Learn from the experts: Presentations and demos

Our visit to The Dawes Arboretum will include some exceptional educational

experiences.

Two-noted plantmen, **Ed Hasselkus**, Professor Emeritus, Department of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin-Madison; and **Harrison Flint**, Professor Emeritus of Landscape Horticulture at Purdue University, will lead tours of the conifer collections, assisted by Dawes staff. Both are past recipients of the prestigious Arthur Hoyt Scott Medal.

The Arboretum's GIS Coordinator, **Margaret Popovich**, will be in the

## Conference hotel information and reservations:

21st National Meeting, Newark, OH  
August 5-8, 2004

Hotel: Cherry Valley Lodge  
2299 Cherry Valley Rd  
Newark, Ohio 43055  
[www.cherryvalleylodge.com](http://www.cherryvalleylodge.com)

**Reservations:** Ph (740) 788-1200  
or (800) 788-8008  
Member room rate is \$110.00  
single/double plus tax. Rate will be honored until July 5, 2004, *or until the room block is filled.*

**Travel:** Limo Service is available from Columbus International Airport. Several limo services can be found on the Cherry Valley Lodge Web site (above). The Dawes Arboretum is located 35 miles east of Columbus, Ohio on Ohio Route 13, three miles north of I-70 (Exit 132) or five miles south of Newark and just five miles from Cherry Valley Lodge.

Conifer Collection to demonstrate how Dawes has converted to a digital mapping system. A recirculating PowerPoint presentation will explain what a geographic information system (GIS) is and how GIS is being used at the arboretum.

Additional programs at Dawes include a Trough Display and Demo with **Joan Day**, Hot Callus Tube Grafting with **Joe Stupka**, and a tour of the propagation house with **Rich Larson**.

Joan Day's passion for trough gardening started more than ten years ago. If you are interested in trough gardening, here's a chance to learn from someone who has developed a uniquely creative style of building and planting these miniature dream gardens.

Joe Stupka has long been known to many coniferites as a master grafter and creator of many unique and unusual dwarf conifers from decades of broom collecting.

Rich Larson's propagation house at the Dawes has produced thousands of unique plants for conifer members and collectors in the Midwest. Don't miss this opportunity to get a look inside. There are sure to be several of these plants in the auctions.

Our conference speaker line-up will begin with **Larry Stanley**, past Western Region president and national president. Larry will tantalize us with some of the "New Conifer Cultivars" in his presentation Thursday evening.

Our two keynote speakers, **Dr. Dave Shetlar** and **Dr. Jim Chatfield**, are well known for their presentations on plant pathology and entomology. Dave Shetlar, known as the BugDoc, is an Associate Professor of Landscape Entomology at Ohio State University. Jim Chatfield



is an Associate Professor and Assistant State Specialist of Horticulture and Plant Pathology for Ohio State University Extension. Their presentations will focus on some of the latest pest and disease problems on conifers.

### Tour gardens sure to inspire

In addition to events at The Dawes Arboretum, here's a brief look at three of the meeting's private garden tour sites.

**Gigglewick Green Arboretum**, over 20 years in the making, occupies 1.3 acres owned by Russ and Donna Fling. Retired consulting engineer Russ Fling began collecting and planting conifers after meeting David Dannaher of Dannaher Landscaping Inc. of Galena, OH. Dannaher is known as the "patron saint of dwarf conifers" in the area and warns that (as we all know) one can become addicted to conifers.

Fling's garden started with one bed by the patio and has since expanded to fill his entire property. It is chock full of conifers. Of the 1200+ conifers and woody plants he has purchased over the years, about 700 are current residents including some maple, beech and hornbeam. He says he prefers the color and texture of conifers over the periodic explosions of color perennials provide. Fling's garden now includes ornamental grasses, hundreds of conifers and many other unusual woody plants. For those looking for low maintenance gardens, Fling says, "nothing beats conifers." There is a humorous element throughout the Fling garden; numerous objects of garden art are whimsically incorporated throughout the plantings.

The **Schnormeier Gardens** of Gambier encompasses fifty acres of gently

rolling countryside. There is a seventy-foot variation in elevation within the Gardens, which are surrounded by mature hardwoods. The Gardens are Asian inspired and surround a Frank Lloyd

*Fling's garden started with one bed by the patio and has since expanded to fill his entire property. It is chock full of conifers.*

Wright-inspired home located at the edge of a five-acre lake. A Japanese Garden is located directly behind the main house, and a Meadow Garden includes four lakes with Koi, large sculptures, resident Australian black swans and a wide variety of plantings. The Waterfall Garden cascades one thousand gallons of water per minute into the main lake, where a thirty-six foot long Chinese arch bridge leads to Swan Island (home to a pair of mute swans) and a Japanese Teahouse.

The Serenity Garden is situated on a high plateau and overlooks the property. Of its nine acres, six are devoted to a conifer forest with an ever-growing collection of pine, spruce, hemlock and fir, many of which are rare and unusual dwarf conifers. The Chinese Cup Gardens feature a twenty-six foot high double copper-roofed Chinese Pavilion, and large boulders surround two intimate cup-shaped areas carved out of the hillside.

The Gardens began in 1996 with a delivery of 1500 tons of boulders. From that event, everything else has evolved.

**Stow Sancturetum** will be open by special arrangement to Conifer Society

members as a pre- and post-conference "on your own" visit en route to or from the National Meeting. The Sancturetum (sanctuary and arboretum) is the culmination of over 26 years of devotion and sweat equity of primarily one Conifer Society member, Dennis Lee. He has now garnered the support and help from the city's Urban Forestry and Parks and Recreation departments, and members of the Friends of Stow Parks and Recreation who volunteer on weekends.

Dennis has been a member since the formation of the Society. Dennis still refers to the Sancturetum as a work in progress, which now contains around 175 species and cultivars. One conifer specimen that is a real eye catcher is the very blue *Sequoiadendron giganteum* 'Hazel Smith'.

Many of the plants in the Sancturetum were purchased at Conifer Society meeting auctions and tailgate sales. Dennis attended his first Conifer Society national meeting in 1985 at the Chicago Botanic Garden and hasn't missed one since. For those traveling by car, this is a "must see" stop. Stow is located approximately 2.5 hours north of the Dawes Arboretum in Newark, OH. For the complete story see page 32.

*Ohio has numerous horticulture points of interest for those driving to the meeting. A list of pre- and post-conference "on your own" public and private open gardens and nursery stops will be provided to all meeting registrants.* ▲

## Tale of Two Cedars

By Jeff Bowman, Curator of Conifers  
The Dawes Arboretum

Reprinted with permission from *The Dawes Arboretum Newsletter*, December 2003

With mild winters and the nursery trade wanting to carry larger selections, more and more unique plants are being tested to see if they will survive in central Ohio. The Dawes Arboretum is a testing ground for such plants.

Cedars have been a part of the history, legend and development of Asia Minor for thousands of years. The Arboretum has a small number of true cedars that have, to date, survived central Ohio's climate and two of these are worthy of a tale to be told.

*Cedrus libani* is native to southwest Asia. Historic stands occur in Lebanon. Widely cultivated since ancient times, the largest and oldest specimens occur in the Cilician Taurus Mountains of southern Turkey. Photos of native populations are magnificent. These mighty cedars rank high along with redwood (*Sequoia*); fir (*Abies*); and pine (*Pinus*) as being some of the best ornamental conifers.

This evergreen conifer is in the pine family. Larchlike needle foliage is arranged in bundles of 30 to 40. Each



*Cedrus libani*

The Dawes Arboretum

needle is .75 inches (1.9 cm) to 1.5 inches (3.8 cm) long and lustrous green in color. Barrel-shaped cones eventually form at the top portion of the plant and are 3 inches (7.6 cm) to 5 inches (12.7 cm) long and 2 inches (5 cm) to 2.5 inches (6.3 cm) wide. Their color is brown-purple.

Plants are conical when young, becoming widely conical with a flat-topped crown with age. Trunks can be massive. The gray-brown to brown bark develops a pebblelike appearance.

Native specimens can grow 120 feet (36 m) high and 100 feet (30 m) wide. Cultivated specimens usually attain a height of 60 feet (18 m).

The growth rate is slow. Hardiness Zone is USDA 5-7. Optimum growing sites consist of rich, deep, well-drained soil and open sunny conditions. The species needs a pollution-free, dry atmosphere. There are no serious disease or insect problems to speak of.

Our *Cedrus libani* was acquired in 1993 from ForestFarm Nursery in Ore-



The Dawes Arboretum

*Cedrus libani*  
ssp. *stenocoma*

gon. It came in a 10-inch (25-cm) pot and was planted in the field nursery west of the Horticulture Center. This area is a true test as it receives the full brunt of our west, northwest and southwest weather.

After four years of surviving in this site it was transplanted to the northeast corner of the Conifer Collection. To date the plant has grown 2 to 3 inches (5-8 cm) per year and is 5 feet, 4 inches (1.6 m) tall. It is thick-foliaged with outstretching, upward-arching branches. This plant has been a slow-growing, more delicate, almost stunted plant. The cold, drying, winter winds of 2000-'01 gave its foliage a severe burn. It turned orange-brown and appeared to be dead. Eventually it re-foliated to a beautiful fresh green color and has stayed that way since.

Another cedar worthy of mention is *Cedrus libani* ssp. *stenocoma*. In the spring of 1998 the Arboretum received a donation of an 8-foot (2.4-m) balled and

burlapped specimen. It was planted in the southwest corner of the Conifer Collection. The hardy cedar-of-Lebanon is more cold tolerant than the species since it is from a more northern native range. As a young plant, it is narrowly conical. The branches and branchlets of this variety are more rigid than the species and are arranged in horizontal planes. Aged trees become widely conical and flat-topped. The horizontal branching habit remains strong throughout the plant's life.

This is a tough plant. Sources say this was one of many small seedlings in a field nursery in Kentucky that survived the

blizzard of 1977-'78. Seldom has there been a plant this vigorous in growth and increasing beauty. Its initial 8-foot (2.4-m) height has increased to 20 feet (6 m) in the five years since it was planted in the Conifer Collection. Its foliage is a wonderful lustrous dark green and has not been burned from our winter weather. ▲



## The Jean Iseli Memorial Award

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

The American Conifer Society, which supports the development, conservation and propagation of conifers with an emphasis on dwarf or unusual varieties, awards a \$1,000 grant to a public garden, arboretum or horticultural institution.

The award was established in 1986 in honor of the memory of plantsman Jean Iseli of Boring, Oregon. Jean Iseli was an ACS founder and conifer propagator.

### Proposals must contain the following:

- Name, full address, and phone number of the applicant/institution
- Brief description of how the ACS funds would be used
- List of plant materials (if the request involves conifer purchases)
- Budget
- Short overview of mission statement or horticultural background of your institution

### Send applications to:

Edward R. Hasselkus, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus  
746 Miami Pass  
Madison, WI 53711-2933

Applications must be received by March 31, 2004

Dr. Hasselkus chairs a three-person committee that reviews applications and makes its recommendation to the ACS Board of Directors at the annual summer meeting. Announcements of the award recipient will be made by September 1, 2004.

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# The Sanctoretum of Stow

by Dennis Lee

“Sanctoretum,” you say. “What could that be?” Two words have been fused, sanctuary and arboretum, to connote a special place in the heart of Stow, Ohio. It does have some refuge-like attributes of a sanctuary – a hidden island of green space with the illusion of being secluded from urban life, and natural areas with varied habitat for wildlife. As for an arboretum, it is rich with native and exotic trees and many of their cultivars. And of course, conifers compose much of the landscape.

I arrived on the site in the summer of 1974 looking for just a sleeping room to accommodate me when I was working in the area. The Colemans at Roads End Farm said I passed my interview and accepted me with kitchen privileges. I quickly adopted the 16-acre (.06 sq. km) farm setting with its big red barn, pastures, an entourage of animals, apple orchard, two large vegetable gardens, woodlands, wetlands and a winding 250-foot (76-m) long entryway lined with spruce on one side. It was a real retreat that encouraged recuperation. Did I mention the swimming pool?

The property is fortunate to include varied terrain, the result of a terminal moraine from the last Ice Age. The land has gently rolling grade changes punctuated by several depressions. The soils

*Sequoiadendron giganteum* 'Hazel Smith,' shown here in summer and winter, is a four-season focal point with its blue foliage and graceful form.

range from sandy to clayey to mucky, and some remain wet for extended periods.

In the early years, plants collected during my western camping trips began the property's transition to a park-like setting. I brought back Western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), Nootka cypress (*Xanthocyparis nootkatensis*, formerly *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*), Lawson cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*), noble fir (*Abies procera*), grand fir (*Abies grandis*), incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), Southwest white pine (*Pinus strobiformis*) and Sierra juniper (*Junipe-*



Dennis Lee

*rus occidentalis*). These sentimental souvenirs were incorporated into the diverse landscape according to their needs and to effect a naturalistic setting. The place was already somewhat “evergreened” from conservation projects by the Coleman family.

Before long, all kinds of botanical ornaments were joining the collection. Although pretty much a secret to the rest of the community, a unique collection of plant material was continually being assembled and was evolving into a mixed but harmonious garden. Settings include The Button Bush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) Swamp, The Frog Pond and Lower Wetland, The Upper Meadow, The East and West Woodlands, The Sunken Garden, The Hilltop and The Woodland Garden.

As the site occupies a key location



Dennis Lee

within the city of Stow and contains a mix of botany and design not duplicated elsewhere, the Colemans and others naturally began looking to the future. Since the adjacent city center was expanding,

*Since the adjacent city center was expanding, the preservation of green space seemed a logical choice*

the preservation of green space seemed a logical choice. An agreement was eventually developed that allowed for construction of a new City Service Center, with the plant collection set aside.

In 1992, the Colemans sold the property to the city of Stow. The agreement included a provision for the Colemans and me to live on the property for the next nine years, and while they spent most of their time traveling, I remained to keep an eye on things and develop the arboretum further. By 2001 when the nine-year period expired, Paul Coleman had passed away and his wife Barb had settled into a condominium. I also moved off the property at that time. Coinciding with these changes was the involvement of Friends of Stow Parks (FOSPAR), who became committed to promoting the Sanctoretum part of the property. The city is not yet actively managing or funding the site on a large scale, though it does provide mowing, materials and some equipment.

Monumental changes and significant outside involvement are now taking place. The ailing monoculture of Col-

orado spruce (*Picea pungens*) along the drive is now gone except for a couple of feature stumps, an improvised spruce “ivy pole” and a rather grotesque blue spruce remnant that will be sculpted into garden whimsy. Unusual conifers and complementary companions are being

*Monumental changes and significant outside involvement are now taking place*

installed in a new mounded and undulating bed. Conifers have also been introduced into the northern boundary for a transition with the service building.

Friends of Stow Parks and Recreation (FOSPAR) weekly dedicate volunteer services to various maintenance and improvement projects. Organization president Nancy Kroft and her daughter, Kim Downs, have developed an interest in conifers and are both instrumental in the Sancturetum’s current evolution. Kim also serves as secretary for the FOSPAR organization, and both are members of The Conifer Society. Phi Gamma Delta fraternity of Akron University donated labor three times for new landscape beds, building

*Hardy orange (Poncirus trifoliata) stands out among the non-coniferous plants at the Stow Sancturetum.*



Dennis Lee

stone relocation and grade changes. Key Bank personnel planted 500 daffodils for Neighborhood Day. Eagle Scout projects have given us six benches and a bridge. Residents and businesses have donated plants. Kent State University held a class that designed and installed a landscape bed. The city of Stow, the city of Akron and MetroParks Serving Summit County sponsored a Tree Trek featuring unusual plants at The Sancturetum, while Ohio State University Extension held a Diagnostic Walk for the public and plant professionals.

The Sancturetum is not yet open to the general public, but the city of Stow and FOSPAR extend a welcome to Conifer Society members attending the 2004 National Meeting in Newark, Ohio. If you do stop, you will encounter a site undergoing further transition. You will also enjoy a garden that imparts serenity and entertains with color, texture, contrast and bloom to stimulate four-season interest.

Further, you will learn how conifers perform in an integrated landscape that is

considered USDA Zone 5. For example, the 25-foot (7.6-m) ‘Yoshino’ Japanese cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica* ‘Yoshino’) is growing in light shade with tall deciduous trees and is coordinated with three 12-foot (3.6-m) dwarf yellow Hinoki cypresses (*Chamaecyparis obtusa* ‘Aurea Nana’) and a 20-foot (6-m) Nootka cypress (*Xanthocyparis nootkatensis*). Rhododendrons, azaleas, magnolias, Japanese maples, bamboo and deciduous material add to the composition.

Nearby you’ll find a 30-year-old coning *Sciadopitys verticillata* (Japanese umbrella pine) and a very vertical, silvery 25-year-old *Juniperus occidentalis* (Sierra juniper) balanced with the coastal form of *Pseudotsuga mensiesii* (Douglas fir) and an asymmetrical *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* (dawn redwood). Off in the distance, a *Pinus flexilis* ‘Glauca’ (blue limber pine) contrasts with the yellows of *Juniperus chinensis* ‘Mac’s Golden’ (Chinese juniper), *Picea orientalis* ‘Skylands’ (Oriental spruce) and *Miscanthus sinensis* ‘Zebrinus’ (zebra grass).

You may be surprised by other plants like *Cedrus atlantica* ‘Glauca’ (blue Atlas cedar), *Sequoiadendron giganteum* ‘Hazel Smith’ (giant sequoia), *Pinus albicaulis* ‘Glauca’ (blue white-bark pine), *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* ‘Oregon Blue’ (Lawson cypress), *Cedrus deodara* ‘Shalimar’ (deodar cedar), *Tsuga mertensiana* ‘Mount Hood Blue’ (mountain hemlock), *Pinus peuce* ‘Glauca’ (blue Macedonian pine), *Poncirus trifoliata* (hardy orange) and the third largest known *Ilex opaca* (American holly) in Ohio.

Hope to see you at the Stow Sancturetum next summer! ▲

*About the author:* Dennis Lee works for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and volunteers his time as Sancturetum Coordinator. In this role, he coordinates activities between the city of Stow and volunteer groups. He hasn’t missed a Conifer Society national meeting since he began attending in 1985, and he enthusiastically invites members to visit the Sancturetum while they are in Ohio for next year’s meeting, August 5-7, 2004.



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# A Collection of Modern Garden Pines: Miniature, Dwarf, & Slow Growing

Produced by Gordon Haddow, Kenwith Nursery, England

## A CD-ROM Review by Don Howse

This past June (2003) I was visited by a couple from England, armed with a digital camera and a notepad. They explained to me that they were on a mission to photograph any and all *Pinus* cultivars that they could find. We spent a wonderful warm and sunny early summer day taking inventory of my pines, both in the gardens and the nursery. Richard and Sarita Barnby stayed until dark photographing every pine we could find in my collection. They informed me that the collection of photos were for Mr. Haddow of Kenwith Nursery in England with whom they were creating a CD-ROM of dwarf garden-worthy pines.

In October, Mr. Haddow sent me a finished copy of the CD-ROM. I, in turn, agreed to review the disc for the *Conifer Quarterly*.

### User introduction

The program's interface mimics that of a book, complete with pages that can be "turned" forward or backward by clicking the mouse. The first few pages give the user a basic course on how to use the disc and information about the program. A "title page" with ownership and copyright information follows, and acknowledgements are given to the nurseries and individuals in Europe and the U.S. who assisted Mr. Haddow and the Barnbys.

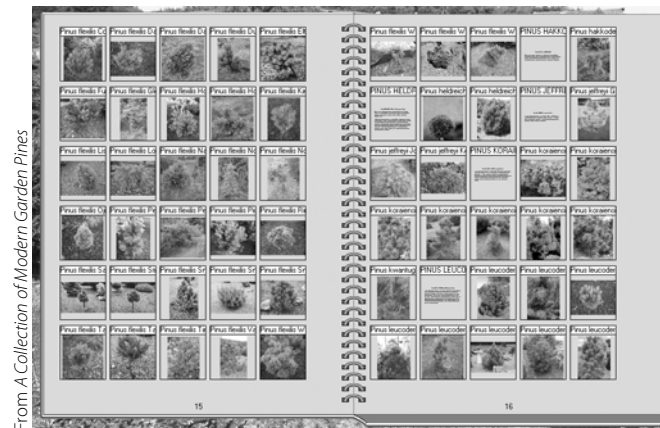
Three U.S. members of the Conifer Society are recognized for their assistance – Dennis Dodge of Bethlehem Nursery in Connecticut, Larry Stanley of Stanley & Son's Nursery in Oregon, and myself of Porterhowse Farms, also in Oregon. An additional text page gives credit to Richard and Sarita Barnby for their photographic work and development of the CD-ROM through their business, Image Design.

### Presenting the Pines

A few pages of text are dedicated to basic information about pines, setting the parameters for those plants included on the disc. Pest, disease and overwintering information is also presented. Following the 10 pages of text are 24 pages of thumbnail photos of the pines in alphabetic order. Thirty thumbnails appear on each page, and each is linked to the corresponding full-page color photo.

Next comes a Table of Contents that lists each *Pinus* species cultivar on the disc and the page number that corresponds to the full-page photo. Like the thumbnails, each name is linked to a photo in the "book." As an alternate navigation method, a user-friendly toolbar allows individual pages to be selected by page number.

The CD-ROM includes 670 full-



The "pages" can be viewed as thumbnails for faster navigation to the full-size photos.

color photos of *Pinus* cultivars. The photos are generally clear and well presented, though a few present the particular plant at an immature size that does not truly represent the mature quality of the plant. The one that comes to mind as I write this critique is *Pinus nigra* 'Frank.' I also noticed that *Pinus nigra* 'Richard' was included, but I believe it might be the same plant, as Richard Reuter of Germany introduced this particular cultivar and named it 'Frank.' I should note that the cultivar photo labeled 'Richard' is more representative of the nature of the plant.

There are many good quality photos of pine cultivars with which I am not acquainted and would like to add to my collection. While reviewing the photos, it was a pleasure to see familiar plants from my own field and gardens. I even found myself in the background of one of the photos. (Fortunately, my presence did not detract from the plant subject!)

This work is impressive and most assuredly worth the money asked for its purchase. My only disappointment is that it, like a familiar and similar two-volume book on conifers, offers very lit-

tle text about the particular plants. How helpful it would be if descriptive text accompanied these fine photos. I would appreciate information on how each particular cultivar was found and introduced, how it grows, its estimated mature size, and any observations about variances in color or form. Disappointments aside, I for one am impressed that Mr. Haddow and his assistants, the Barnbys produced such a fine work in such a short time. Perhaps additional



670 pine cultivars, such as this *Pinus aristata* 'Great Guy,' were individually photographed and appear on the CD-ROM in full color.

disks will be forthcoming on other conifer species.

For any and all of us interested in conifers in general, and garden-worthy pines in particular, I highly recommend this CD-ROM for your computer library.



This is a very useful photographic work.

#### Ordering information

The CD-ROM can be ordered directly from Mr. Haddow, using a VISA credit card for payment. Orders are accepted by FAX, telephone, or mail. The price of the CD-ROM is £10.00 (British pounds), plus £2.00 for airmail postage.

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## 2003 Post-Conference Tour Offers Unique Slice of Colorado's Landscape

by Anne M. Brennan

Photos by Tony Green and Anne M. Brennan

For those of us already awestruck by the natural beauty we'd seen during July's national meeting tours around Denver, the post-conference tour did not disappoint. One might argue that a tour bus wasn't designed for some of the dusty gravel roads or winding, guardrail-free mountain routes we traversed during those three days. But any such thoughts were quickly forgotten once we reached each destination.

After accompanying Jerry Morris to Platte River Ranch on Sunday (described in the Fall 2003 issue, page 43), we headed to our hotel in Frisco for dinner. Afterward, Chris Reynolds of the Bedgebury Pinetum in Kent, England, made a presentation about the mission and developing collections of the Pinetum.



A heavily coned *Pinus flexilis* branch tip greets us along the path to the Limber Pine Grove further up the trail.

Monday morning we rode to Vail to visit the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens. Billed as "the world's highest botanic garden" at 8,200 feet (2500 m) elevation, the gardens are built on a slope whose levels represent the various elevations – and ecosystems – of the region. We ate our lunches in the Gardens' picnic pavilions before boarding the bus for one of the most spectacular desinations on the tour.

#### The Limber Pine Grove

Once again, Colorado conifer expert Jerry Morris enriched our visit by leading us to one of the region's out-of-the-way natural wonders. Once the bus reached the parking area at the end of a long unpaved road, we strapped on our cameras and water bottles, headed across a small creek using a narrow wooden footbridge, and followed Jerry up a winding trail through the forest. Every now and then someone would exclaim loudly and point to a witches' broom in a nearby tree for the group to admire.

Suddenly, the forest canopy gave way to a barren expanse of boulders (see photo on page 40) at the base of a steep, sparsely vegetated cliff. Many years ago, we were told, a large section of the mountainside had collapsed and slid down to form the wide, rocky ledge over which we were

walking. We were grateful for our hiking boots and set off across the boulder field after Jerry.

In the spirit of the bristlecone pines we'd seen the day before on Windy

Ridge, the limber pines (*Pinus flexilis*) we found at the end of this rocky walk are said to be over 1,000 years old. Some may be more than twice that age. But unlike the bristlecones, which grew among



The path to the Limber Pine Grove took us through an other-worldly landscape of boulders that had tumbled from the cliffs above. The ancient trees we came to see (visible on the horizon) had gained a footing among these rocks and tapped into the soil far below.

While another part of this limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*) is still growing, this non-living portion of the lower trunk has been eroded by strong winds and bleached by the sun.



alpine grasses and other unremarkable vegetation, these pines seemed to spring up from the rocks themselves. No soil was visible and I couldn't tell whether the boulders were three feet deep or thirty. Each tree we observed had managed not only to take hold in this harsh environment and locate soil and water with its probing roots but also to withstand the harsh conditions here for centuries. And even at the end of its life, its trunk might remain standing for untold years.

Once we'd descended the trail and returned to the bus, we bid a final goodbye to Jerry and thanked him for his immeasurable contributions to our trip so far. Back in Frisco, we ate dinner at the



Having left the boulder-strewn mountainside, the group returns to the bus by way of a narrow wooden plank footbridge.

Backcountry Brewery and departed Tuesday morning for Grand Lake.

### Rocky Mountain National Park

Though our morning ride was long, few minded as Don Howse pointed out various mountain peaks and other formations easily visible from the highway. Like Frisco and Vail, the town of Grand Lake has evolved to capitalize on the tourism industry. It stands alongside the largest natural lake in Colorado. After a Mexican lunch at Pancho & Lefty's, a restaurant overlooking the water, we had time to browse the shops, grab an ice cream cone and stroll the boardwalk before reboarding the bus for our afternoon tour of Rocky Mountain National Park.

I thought I'd already gotten the Rocky Mountain "experience" over the past five days, but not until we arrived at the Alpine Visitor Center at 11,800 ft (3600 m) and hiked up the long, stepped path to the observation area did I get that "top of the world" feeling. The wind was constant and strong, and the spot offered a 360-degree view of snow-capped mountains – in July, still a novelty to me.

I stood there thinking how many more people have the opportunity to appreciate this vista since the advent of paved roads and automobiles; just a century ago the elk and other wildlife had the place to themselves. Now I understood a little better the tension between tourism and environmentalism. Every person deserves a chance to see these natural wonders, but if every person did, could nature survive?

That evening we stayed in Estes Park, another tourist-oriented town, and enjoyed our last group dinner at the hotel.

## The Final Day

At the suggestion of tour leader Charlene Harris, we squeezed in an extra stop Wednesday morning by visiting Lily Lake and its associated Visitor Center. A short, peaceful trail encompasses the lake, and a longer trail leads to the



top of Lily Mountain. Several of our adventurous members tackled the latter – and almost missed the bus.

Next, we took a scenic route to

Orlan Gaeddert of Canaan, New York, a longtime member who has also served on the Society's Board of Directors, enjoys the scenery at Peaceful Valley Ranch.

Peaceful Valley Ranch where we ate a wonderful barbecue lunch at tables adjoining the large indoor swimming pool; the facility also hosts corporate functions and is accordingly equipped!

On our way back to Denver we called on Allan Taylor in Boulder. Allan's interests include bringing wild plants from the western U.S. into his garden to test whether they can be successfully cultivated. But alongside the native penstemon, manzanita and other flowering plants grows Allan's best-known introduction, *Pinus contorta* 'Taylor's Sunburst.' He found the plant almost 20 years

ago near Boulder, and now it's propagated and sold by Iseli Nursery. Conifer collectors who admire the cultivar's bright yellow new growth enjoyed seeing the original plant in Allan's garden.



A light rain began to fall as we finished our refreshments and boarded the bus back to the Marriot from which we'd begun our journey on Sunday. Old and new friends said goodbye as we looked forward to our next meeting. ▲

---

*About the author:* Anne Brennan is Editor of the *Conifer Quarterly*. Since returning from Denver she has abandoned the idea of planting aspen trees in her garden but may try to work in a *Pinus contorta* 'Taylor's Sunburst.'

---

Allan Taylor and his wife greet the tour group outside of their home in Boulder on the final afternoon of our tour.

---

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## **The Conifer Database Needs Your Photos!**

It's a fact: People who love to **grow** plants also love to **photograph** them!

Collectively, our members have a treasure trove of excellent conifer slides, prints and digital images.

Please consider uploading your high-quality conifer pictures to enhance our Conifer Database at [www.conifersociety.org](http://www.conifersociety.org). Use the

"New Conifer" button to tell us the plant name, then you will be able to upload your picture.

If you need additional instructions, contact Bill Barger at [bbarger@saberlogic.com](mailto:bbarger@saberlogic.com), who will answer your questions or refer you to one of our Society's seasoned database contributors who will walk you through the process. The Conifer Society thanks you!



## Southeast Region Visits the Mountain State's Best

by Michael Balogh, president, Southeast Region

We had a great meeting near Charleston, WV, on October 10-12 and may have set a record for garden visits – eight in one day!

Our lunch was hosted by Zeb and Sarah Sue Wright, who made many new friends as they let us take cuttings and other treasures from their extensive garden. The sculptural focus of John and Ruth McGee's collection (shown at left) was another highlight.

Other sites offered breathtaking views of the region's hills and rivers, including the gardens of Jim & Clara Thomas, Dr. & Mrs. Ali AbuRhama and Troy & Charlotte Stallard.

I thank Jordan Jack and Zeb for putting together this program, as well as all of the folks who donated plants and time. Thank you, all! ▲



Maud Henne



Maud Henne

## Northeast Meeting Attendees Tour Nurseries and Arboretum

Ridge Goodwin, president, Northeast Region

A record number of conifer enthusiasts turned out on September 19-20, not only from within our region but also from bordering states and beyond! The weather was fine and the tours interesting. To top off a great day, Saturday night's auctions raised an almost embarrassing amount of revenue, thanks to the magic of two superlative

auctioneers, Larry Stanley and Bill Wells.

I must add that wonderful contributions from our many nursery industry partners, collectors, and part-time propagators ensured our success. Thanks to their generosity, we had a dazzling array of plants that kept the bidders on the edges of their chairs until well into the

night. Normally we try to limit the verbal auction to thirty plants, but due to a perfect alignment of the stars, great plants and great auctioneers, we managed to run through forty five!

Some of us realize that the Society's auctions showcase some of the most sought-after conifer rarities in the country, if not the world, but only a few of us can become the successful bidder and add these to our collections. Since many of us would love to have the opportunity to acquire such exquisite plants but only a very small number of these rarities are sold through retail outlets, could the Society assist in making some



Anne Brennan

Marty Brooks amazed attendees as he led us through his extensive property crowded with immense specimens of mature dwarf and unusual conifers. A new favorite appeared around each curve as we followed the winding, grassy paths.



Anne Brennan

Anyone expecting to see row upon row of identical conifers was disappointed – or pleasantly surprised – by the endless variety of specimen plants (above) in Ridge Goodwin's Half Moon Nursery.

– Anne Brennan

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of them available to more of our membership?

These and other questions concerning how our region might better serve our membership will be discussed at a late winter meeting to be held near Hartford, CT, which is the approximate mid-

point of our geography. This will be a steering committee meeting open to anyone who has an interest in the affairs of the Region. You are invited and encouraged to participate! If you would like to attend, please let me know via e-mail at [ridgegoodwin@comcast.net](mailto:ridgegoodwin@comcast.net). ▲



We are an organization promoting the cultivation of miniature perennial wildflowers from woodland, rocky, and alpine environments. Benefits of membership include a beautiful colorful quarterly bulletin, a worldwide seed exchange offering over 5000 kinds of seed, and national and local meetings. Annual dues, \$25, check or Visa accepted.

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

## Notes from This Year's Seed Exchange

An abundance of seed!

The donations of seed have increased each year, and last year for the first time, the supply exceeded the demand. The generous donors this year have exceeded all expectations. We would like to recognize and thank the following institutions and individuals who sent seed:

ARNOLD ARBORETUM  
U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM  
DAWES ARBORETUM  
RODNEY ANDERSON  
DAN & PAT MONTAGUE  
PETER A. SCHICK  
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BRUCE BARNES  
ISELI NURSERY  
BARRY JORDAN  
MARK SUTCLIFFE  
PETER JONES  
JOE STUPKA  
CONIFER RIDGE BOTANICAL GARDEN

We urge members who haven't participated previously to do so this year. There's a great selection of seed (150

selections) mostly from dwarfs and brooms that should yield progeny with a wide variation.

Propagation of woody plants from seed is a fascinating endeavor that can also be quite challenging. Some references that contain lots of "how to" information include: *Plant Propagation* by Hartman, Kester, Davies, and Geneve, just published this year; *The Reference Manual of Woody Plant Propagation* by Michael Dirr and C.W. Heuser Jr.; and *Practical Woody Plant Propagation* by Bruce Macdonald. All are available from Timber Press or Amazon.com.

We would like to hear from those who have ordered seeds in the past with a note on your experiences with the seed you received.

Charles Fooks  
31106 Johnson Rd.  
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PH: (410) 219- 3218  
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Maud Henne



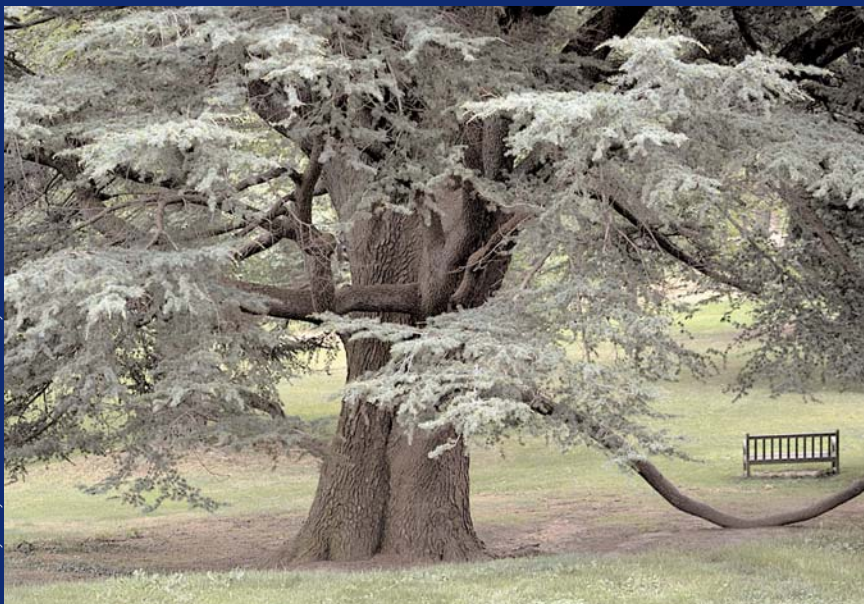
*Cedrus deodara* 'Cream Puff' is among the cultivars recommended by readers on pages 12-16. This plant grows in Maud Henne's Virginia garden.

John Routa



John Routa bought this *Cedrus deodara* 'Silver Mist' from Blue Sterling Nursery in 2000 for his garden in Marysville, Pennsylvania. He reports that, of their 120 conifer cultivars, this is his wife's favorite plant.

Courtesy of Tyler Arboretum / Photo by Anne Marie Palita



This cedar-of-Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*) at the Tyler Arboretum in Media, Pennsylvania, is the state champion tree of its species. On page 6, read about the origins of the historic cedars at the Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia.

Dean Linderman



This weeping blue Atlas cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca Pendula') creates a dramatic silhouette as the sun sets on Birchwood, the Linderman garden in Virginia.