

## NEW PLANT FORUM

### JACK ALEXANDER, MODERATOR

**DICK LIGHTY:** *Ilex verticillata* 'Maryland Beauty', selected by Mr. David Jenkins of Maryland around 1932 for cut stem production, has branches tightly clothed with long-lasting berries of medium size to within an inch or two of the stem tips. It is a shrub to 5½ ft and therefore of wider usefulness than 'Winter Red'. Simpson's Nursery has this plant and Mt. Cuba Center for the Study of Piedmont Plants will be distributing it in the future.

**CHRIS ROGERS:** *Rhododendron* 'New Patriot' is an open pollinated selection of a plant whose parentage is *R.* 'P.J.M.' crossed with an evergreen form of a pink *R. mucronulatum*. 'New Patriot' blooms in Hopkinton, MA one week before *R.* 'P.J.M.' in late April. It is very floriferous with nearly red flowers that tend to bloom two inches down the stems. It blooms over a week period. The flower buds seem to be hardy to Zone 5. It is a vigorous, wide-branched plant and, after 10 years, we can expect a plant that is 4 ft tall and 3 ft wide. It was registered (American Rhododendron Society) in 1988. 'New Patriot' is our step towards a red 'P.J.M.' type plant. We are still using this cultivar in our hybridizing program to produce a plant that is more evergreen and exhibits redder flower color.

*Rhododendron* 'Frank Abbott' was crossed by Ed Mezitt in the early 1960's. The cross was *R. prinophyllum* (or "*R. rosea*" in those days) with a selected *R. mollis*. We chose to name this plant after the man who first made this cross in the late 1930's. 'Frank Abbott' flowers in mid-May with very fragrant shocking-pink to nearly-red flowers. The buds are hardy to Zone 4. Plant habit is wide and upright with strong rigid branches. After 10 years we produced a plant that is 4 ft tall and 3 ft wide. It seems to be resistant to powdery mildew for us.

**DEBORAH McCOWN:** *Syringa* 'Albert F. Holden' (P.P.A.F.) (S-II) is characterized by its deep purple blooms which possess a silver blush on the reverse of the petals. This mid-season lilac displays large, loosely-open, somewhat reflex panicles of moderate fragrance. It is a vigorous plant of dark green foliage, moderately rounded in habit to about 7 ft. It is disease resistant.

In 1980, at the dedication of the Lilac Garden in the Holden Arboretum, Fr. Fiala presented this outstanding cultivar in honor of Albert Fairchild Holden (1867–1913) whose vision and fortune led to the establishment of the Arboretum.

*Syringa* 'Wedgwood Blue' (P.P.A.F.) (S-III) is true to the distinguished blue-tinted background of Josiah Wedgwood's fine English pottery. Fr. Fiala's 'Wedgwood Blue' is a neo-classic in its own right. This cultivar, a Rochester hybrid, displays large, somewhat wisteria-type panicles. Its habit is moderately rounded to slightly upright. It has dark green foliage, moderate fragrance, and is disease resistant.

*Syringa* 'Blanche Sweet' (P.P.A.F.) (S-III) is a lovely hyacinthiflora cultivar that is also a Rochester hybrid. It is early blooming, growing to about 10 ft. Its very large panicles have recurved florets and are of pale blue to whitish blue color and good fragrance. This cultivar takes its name from a silent-screen movie actress, Blanche Sweet.

(For additional scientific information concerning these lilac cultivars, contact Falconskeape Garden, 7447 Branch Road, Medina, OH 44256.)

**ANDY HARDING:** The Round Table Series of genetically dwarf flowering crabapples was produced by Jim Zampini. Over 15 years ago he began to select superior dwarf flowering crabapples from seedlings of *Malus baccata*, *M. sargentii*, and *M. sieboldii* parentage. The growth rate of the Round Table Series is approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the standard growing cultivars now being produced.

During the years of testing none of these cultivars have shown any symptoms of the usual crabapple diseases.

*Malus* 'Camelot'<sup>™</sup>

Height: 10 ft  
Spread: 8 ft  
Flower: fuchsia pink on white  
Fruit: bright red  
Foliage: dark green with wine-red overcast

The spring flowers of fuchsia pink on white are followed by thick, leathery, dark-green leaves with a deep wine-red overcast. Early fall is a show of  $\frac{3}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. size scarlet fruit on slightly arching branches. A disease resistant tree.

*Malus* 'Lancelot'<sup>™</sup>

Height: 10 ft  
Spread: 8 ft  
Flower: white, red buds  
Fruit: gold with orange-red blush  
Foliage: green

Spring starts with the bright-red flower buds, opening to pure white flowers. In summer the tree is layered in crisp green leaves. In autumn  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. golden fruit appear with a orange-red blush holding well into December. A very low maintenance tree with a compact structure presents a tailored look.

*Malus* 'Cinderella'<sup>™</sup>

Height: 6 ft  
Spread: 4 ft  
Flower: white, red buds  
Fruit: red  
Foliage: wine with frost

An extremely compact, upright flowering crab displaying red flower buds and white flowers followed by small, deeply lobed leaves. In fall,  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. gold fruit is an added attraction. A low maintenance tree.

*Malus* 'Canterbury'<sup>™</sup>

Height: 10 ft  
Spread: 10 ft  
Flower: light pink  
Fruit: red  
Foliage: dark green with wine overcast

Light pink flowers in the spring followed by dark wine-green leaves in the summer and bright scarlet fruit which persists into the winter. A low-maintenance dwarf tree with a mounding habit.

*Malus* 'Guinevere'<sup>™</sup>

Height: 8 ft  
Spread: 8 ft

Flower: red with white  
Fruit: red  
Foliage: dark green with wine frost

This attractive dwarf flowering crab starts off the spring season with a mass of nostalgic red and white flower buds and blooms, followed by waxed green leaves with a dark wine frost which is quite showy in itself. Autumn brings on bright red ¼ to ½ in. fruit. A disease resistant tree.

*Malus 'Hamlet'*™

Height: 10 ft  
Spread: 10 ft  
Flower: rosy-pink  
Fruit: red  
Foliage: wine-red

In spring there is an abundance of bright rosy-pink flowers, followed by red-wine foliage. Fall produces a nice set of bright ¼ to ½ in. cherry-red fruit. A low maintenance tree.

*Malus 'King Arthur'*™

Height: 12 ft  
Spread: 10 ft  
Flower: white  
Fruit: blushed red  
Foliage: dark green

A strong-growing, dwarf tree that produces a mass of white blooms in the spring and dark green leaves in the summer. Bright red ¼ to ½ in. fruit adorn the tree in the fall. A low maintenance tree.

*Malus* KOH 1-83-51

Extremely showy white flowers start the spring. Summer foliage is an attractive light green, followed by brilliant gold ¼ in. fruit in the fall. A disease resistant tree.

*Malus* PK 4-86-33

A dense, round, compact tree with white blooms in the spring and small deeply-lobed leaves in the summer. This tree produces no fruit and is low maintenance.

**DAREL APPS:** *Asteromoea mongolica* (*Calimeris pinnatifida* 'Hortensis', *Aster indicus* var. *pinnatifida*, *Aster indicus* var. *pinnatifidus* 'Hortensis', *Boltonia incisa*), double Japanese aster or orphanage plant, is an Asian plant reaching 30 in. in height with solitary flowers about 1 in. across. Its main attributes are: 1) small double white flowers which senesce unobtrusively, 2) continuous bloom from the end of June until hard frosts, and 3) no apparent insect or disease problems. In silhouette it is a broad mound covered with white jewel-like flowers. The leaves are narrow (*oblong-lanceolate*) giving an overall fine texture. Plants spread by underground stems and can be easily propagated from the new shoots which arise in the spring.

In the United States the plant is often found labeled as *Asteromoea mongolica*, but may be of a different genus. In the *Flora of Japan* it is listed as *Calimeris pinnatifida* cv. *Hortensis*. A closely related plant, commercially sold as *Calimeris integrifolia*, differs in having single flowers rather than double.

(Plants are available from Hollbrook Farm & Nursery, Rt 2, Box 223B, Fletcher, NC 28732; Montrose Nursery, P.O. Box 957 Hillsborough, NC 27278; North Creek Nurseries Inc. Rt 2, Landenberg, PA 19350; and Sunny Border Nurseries, Inc. 1709

Kensington Road, P.O. Box 86 Kensington, CT. 06037

*Aster lateriflorus* 'Horizontalis', starved aster or calico aster, is a North American plant that was first introduced to Great Britain in 1929. The species grows from Nova Scotia to western Ontario and south to North Carolina, Louisiana, and Texas. 'Horizontalis' is unique because of its lilac flowers and tiny leaves that become coppery purple by September. The flowers are 5/16 in. across and borne in panicles; the ray flowers are pale purple while the disc flowers and stamens are rosy-purple. Plants reach 30 in. in height and may spread 3 to 4 ft. Bloom time in southeast Pennsylvania is from the middle of September to late October. It grows well on either moist or dry sites. Plants can be propagated from cuttings in late spring. (This cultivar is commercially available from North Creek Nurseries, Inc. RR 2 Box 33, Landenberg, PA 19350; and Canyon Creek Nursery, 3527 Dry Creek Road, Oroville, CA 95965.)

**GALEN D. GATES:** *Cassia hebecarpa*, wild senna is a member of a large genus of over 500 species. *Cassia* sp. are widely distributed in tropical, subtropical and temperate regions of the world and is classified within the pea family—Fabaceae or Leguminosae. The hardiest of cultivated cassias are two North American herbaceous perennial species called wild senna: *C. marilandica* and *C. hebecarpa*. The latter is heavier flowering, hardier, and with smaller leaflets.

*Cassia hebecarpa* is a dramatic perennial growing from 4 to 6 ft in height. The many-flowered racemes arise from the leaf axils forming showy terminal panicles. The individual flowers are bright yellow, 3/4 to 1 in. across and provide a backdrop for the conspicuous brown anthers. Blooming from mid-July to mid-August, this plant makes a splendidly colorful addition for naturally landscaped areas, herb gardens and the rear of larger-flower borders in summer.

The seed pod is slightly curved, flat and up to 4½ in. long by approximately 1/8 in. wide. These pods are persistent and during winter provide interest in otherwise "non-existent" perennial beds. In my experience, self seeding is not a problem.

The leaves are 6 to 8 in. long, pinnately compound with 5 to 10 pairs of oblong, blunt leaflets about 1 in. long. The leaflets are arranged feather fashion, without an odd leaflet at the end.

Naturally occurring from Massachusetts to Wisconsin and southward to North Carolina and Tennessee, it is well adapted with no pest or disease problems. It can be seen and grown in full sun or partial shade on stream banks, fens, open woods and dry thickets. It is adaptable to both alkaline and acid pH soils as well as heavy clay and rich loam soils.

A tea has been made from the leaves for centuries and was widely used by the American Indians as a laxative. There is scientific documentation to support this use, but with a caution—to limit ingestion to 1 cup in a diluted form. The plant also has potent cathartic qualities and if consumed in quantities greater than the 1 cup recommended, cramps and other side effects may be experienced.

*Cassia hebecarpa* is of easy culture, only needing to be cut back, (as with any perennial) in either spring or fall, and it is easily propagated from seed. Seed will benefit from mechanical scarification, or in a 10 min treatment with concentrated sulphuric acid, then stratified for 60 days at 40°F.

**SIDNEY WAXMAN:** *Tsuga canadensis* 'Julianne' originated as a selection from among several hundred 10-year-old witches'-broom seedlings. From an early stage in its development it was of interest because of its unusual form.

'Julianne' is a symmetrical dwarf shrub, very broadly obovate; it has a form

similar to that of a spinning top. It grows approximately 4 to 5 in. annually and, after 10 years it has grown 48 in. wide by 40 in. tall. Its branches are spreading, very dense, and highly uniform in length, almost as if they were sheared. 'Julianne' can be rooted by stem cuttings.

*Larix laricina* 'Newport Beauty' was selected from among 97 11-year-old witches'-broom seedlings obtained from an Eastern larch in Newport, Maine.

'Newport Beauty' is a low-growing, spreading shrub with light blue-green foliage. Its branching consists of many short twigs that grow outward. The plant is occasionally asymmetrical with some horizontal branches becoming more dominant than others. Its annual growth rate is approximately 3 in. per year.

'Newport Beauty' can be rooted from cuttings or grafted. Grafting, which has been done using Japanese larch as the rootstock, is the preferred method because its own roots are intolerant of dry soils. In 11 years, 'Newport Beauty' has grown 30 in. wide and 15 in. high.

*Larix laricina* 'Deborah Waxman' was selected from among 70 seven-year-old seedlings obtained from a witches'-broom on an Eastern larch in Prospect Harbor, Maine.

All of these seedlings differ from "typical" witches'-broom seedlings in that they are upright and generally ovate in form, and are mostly twice as high as wide. This particular selection was chosen because its growth rate was lower than most of the others (6½ in. annually) and because of the beautiful light blue cast of its foliage.

Its many closely spaced branches are ascending with the outer shoots becoming vertical. After a shower tiny droplets of water are held by the needles and sparkle like diamonds. Cones are violet-red when young. 'Deborah Waxman' has grown 5 ft high and 3 ft wide in 7 years. It roots easily from cuttings taken in August.

*Pinus strobus* 'Coney Island' originated as a graft taken from a witches'-broom located on a white pine in Woodstock, Connecticut. Its form is horizontally elliptic and is approximately twice as wide as high. The leaves are variable in length ranging from ⅝ to 2½ in., very dense, and slightly tufted at the ends. The foliage color is also variable giving both blue-white and green needles. White pine needles are three-sided in cross section with the inner two sides often a glaucous blue-white while the outer edge is green. The bicolor needles in this selection arise because many of the fascicles have not separated but remain stuck together and appear as a single thick needle which shows only the outer green color. The remaining needles, typical of normal white pine, separate exposing the two inner sides of each needle and as a consequence the blue-white color becomes apparent.

Its annual growth is about 3 in. In 13 years 'Coney Island' has grown 5-ft wide and 2½ ft high. Propagation is by grafting.

A major feature of this selection is the large number of miniature grayish-blue cones (female strobili) that regularly develop over the periphery of this bun-like shrub; a veritable island of cones. I just couldn't resist naming it 'Coney Island'.

**BRUCE BRIGGS:** *Kalmia latifolia* 'Minuet' was selected by R. A. Jaynes and introduced by Briggs Nursery in 1987. 'Minuet' is a miniature (f. *myrtifolia*) like 'Elf' but also banded (f. *fuscata*). The flowers are large relative to the reduced plant habit. The band is broad, and an solid bright cinnamon maroon color. The pigment pattern is much like 'Goodrich' but the color redder and brighter. The buds are light pink. The leaves are glossy, dark green and narrow; growth and habit somewhat diminished compared to 'Elf'. From a cross of miniature banded ('Star Cluster')/red-bud. R. A. Jaynes, *Kalmia*, The Laurel Book II, 1987. p 53.

*Rhododendron* 'Centennial' (Mossman) 'Washington State Centennial':

Deciduous azalea. (*R. occidentale* × *R. bakeri*) × 'Santiam'. Cross, raised, registered by Frank D. Mossman, Vancouver, WA; named by Washington State Centennial Committee (WSCC); introduced by WSCC through Briggs Nursery, Olympia, WA. Received award, Portland Chapter show (1982), Best New American Azalea; chosen by WA Centennial Commission for 1989 celebration. Photo in *ARS Journal*, Vol 39, No 3, p 143 (1985), under the name 'Centennial'. Flowers tubular funnel-shaped 3½ in. across × 1½ in. long, 10–12 per truss, 5-lobed, very deeply ruffled edges, very fragrant. Early buds have orange-yellow, red, and green petal backs with red tubes; flowers are light orange (16C), paling to white. Prominent strong orange yellow (17A) blotch covers entire upper petal, with occasional extensions on adjacent petals; color persists. Petals have a discontinuous strong pink (50C) edging, as wide as ¼ in., and irregular strong pink (50C) veins. Calyx to ¼ in. strong yellow green (143B). Ball-shaped truss, 6 in. across × 5 in. high. Leaves 3⅞ in. × 1 13/16 in, elliptic and narrowly obovate, revolute, margin undulate, apiculate, cuneate, smooth, very shiny, dark green (132A); under surface moderate yellow green (138B); hairy on leaf margins and underleaf primary and secondary veins; autumn color bronze, red, and yellow. Plant upright, open, moderately-branched, 5 ft high × 3 ft wide in 10 years from seed. Blooms May. Hardy to at least -10°F.

*Rhododendron*, 'Centennial Celebration' (Peste): 'Purple Lace' × *R. yakushimanum*. Crossed (1976) and raised by Fred Peste, Shelton, WA. Named by Washington State Centennial Commission, described by Sharon Johnston, introduced and registered by Bruce Briggs, Olympia, WA. Flowers 20/truss, c 3 in. across × 2¼ in. long, openly funnel-shaped, 5-lobed, wavy margins, very light purple 75C, sparse tan spotting upper lobe, outside deep purplish pink 68A stripes, fragrant. Truss c 6 in. across × 4 in. high. Calyx rudimentary. Leaves held 2 years, c 5½ in. × 2⅞ in., narrowly elliptic, acute tip, cuneate base, dark yellowish green 139A, under surface moderate yellow green 146C. Plant upright, rounded, semi-dwarf, 22 in. tall × 25 in. wide in 8 years from seed, compact, well-branched, very floriferous. Photo *ARS Journal*, Vol. 39, No. 3, p 143 (1985). Blooms in late April. Hardy to at least 0°F.