

Conifer Quarterly

Vol. 26 No. 2

Spring 2009



Picea abies 'Reflexa'

Photo by Dennis Groh



Picea abies 'Lanham's Beehive'

Photo by Randall C. Smith, Courtesy of Iseli Nursery



Picea omorika 'Pimoko'

Photo by Randall C. Smith, Courtesy of Iseli Nursery

Contents

- 7** **How I spruced up Georgia**
by Tom Cox
- 10** **A Fungus Made Us Do It**
by Bill Van Kosky
- 17** ***Brassica hirta***
by Phil Syphrit
- 19** **Stonehedge, the Garden of Ken and Elena Jordan**
Text and Photos by Jack Ayers
- 26** **Winter Burn on Conifers**
by Ellen Kelley
- 28** **Evaluating Landscape Adaptability of Hemlock Species
(*Tsuga* spp.) in Western North Carolina**
by Anthony V. LeBude and Thomas G. Ranney
- 32** **Collecting Northern Conifers**
by William Journey
- 36** **Conifer Destinations**
by Tom Cox
- 38** **Conifers with Leaves**
by Maud Henne

American Conifer Society Voices

- 2 President's Message
- 4 Editor's Memo
- 16 Letter to the Editor
- 41 ACS 2009 National Meeting
- 44 2009 Western Region Meeting
- 46 \$7,000 Awarded to Four Southeast Regional Gardens

Conifer Quarterly

Spring 2009
Volume 26, No 2

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

You are invited to join our Society. Please address membership and other inquiries to the American Conifer Society National Office, 175 Charisma Lane, Lewisville, NC 27023-9611. Membership: US \$30 (indiv.), \$35 (joint), \$30 (institutional), \$50 (sustaining), \$100 (corporate business) and \$130 (patron). If you are moving, please notify the National Office 4 weeks in advance.

All editorial and advertising matters should be sent to: Evelyn Cox, 1621 N. Lake Dr., Canton, GA 30115, (770) 663-7576 or email coniferquarterly@bellsouth.net.

Editor
Evelyn Cox

Technical Editors
Ethan Johnson
Susan Martin
R. William Thomas

Advisory Committee
Ellen Kelley, Committee Chair
Marvin Snyder
ex officio: Tom Cox
ex officio: John Martin

Copyright © 2009, American Conifer Society. All rights reserved. No material contained herein may be reproduced in any form without prior written permission of the publisher. Opinions expressed by authors and advertisers are not necessarily those of the Society.

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

AS I SEE IT

“Everything is connected to everything else. There is one ecosphere for all living organisms and what affects one, affects all.”

This is the first law of ecology as written by Dr. Barry Commoner in *The Closing Circle* in 1971. As the effects of the winter of 2008–09 unfold, I think we will see in bold relief the truth of this “law.” The droughts in California and in the South, the rains and snows in the northwest, the sustained temperatures between -10°F and $+10^{\circ}\text{F}$ with dips at -25° to -30°F , plus the rain, ice, snow, and winds in many parts of the country will be a rigorous test of our plants.

The health of our plants is connected to the health of the air we breathe as well as larger eco-systems, and connected to the health of many livelihoods, and so forth.

Is there an ACS response to these climatic occurrences? I think as we see certain trends developing, our first responsibility, in keeping with our mission, is to continue to educate both professionals and the public on best practices and best choices for specific climate conditions.

The Reference Garden program is one way to demonstrate not only the physical aspects of a certain plant—color, form, size, growth rate, etc.—but also the effects of environment on the plant, particularly regarding hardiness and root stock issues. Here, the Collectors Conifer of the Year program can also play an important role—both in the selection of the plants offered and in the tracking of the success of the plants in the various USDA Zones.

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

way to recruit new members.

The charge to each region, then, is to develop a plan to increase membership in their region. PowerPoint presentations are available. Community organizations are always looking for speakers; members need to advertise their availability to do short presentations. I’m sure that each region will come up with ideas for events where conifers and the ACS can be promoted. Each region is asked to develop their membership plan.

This effort will depend on current members responding. Regional officers cannot, and should not be expected to, carry out this effort alone. It’s a good way to get involved in your organization and to increase your knowledge.

I am always looking for ideas to improve our ability as a Society to fulfill our mission. I invite any member to submit ideas or to volunteer to assist in any ACS program. There are many opportunities, and some of them are “one-shot” activities. You need not be a professional or an expert. As you will see elsewhere in this issue of *CQ*, several other opportunities to volunteer are available.

You are the American Conifer Society. And it’s up to you to make the ACS the premier plant society in the United States.

Ellen Kelley

At the recently concluded Winter Board Meeting, the board focused on membership. Our concern is not as much with members who do not renew (although that is always a concern), but is with the significant drop in the number of new memberships. To illustrate: In 2003, we reached the high of 448 new members; in 2005, there were 328 new members; in 2007, 248; and last year, 197 new members, the lowest number in the last ten years.

When asked how they learned about the ACS, 29 percent of new members indicated they were referred by members, friends, or business associates. The next largest group, 22 percent, indicated they learned about the Society from the Web site. This tells us that one-on-one personal contact is the most effective



This is Miss Lily, my new Office Assistant. She is an 8-year-old British Shorthair who emigrated from the Mother Country at the age of 4 months. She keeps a very watchful eye on the birdfeeder outside the window of my office, as well as on my work on the computer.

"April hath put a spirit of youth in everything."

- William Shakespeare

Outside my window, Asian magnolias, redbuds, Yoshino cherries, spirea and winter hazel are bursting forth with renewed vitality. This means that soon the spruces, too, will be full of the spirit of youth, flushing and coning in their own unique way of flowering. Of ours, the four I most anticipate are *Picea brachytyla*, *Picea orientalis* 'Early Gold', *Picea likiangensis*, and *Picea abies* 'Pendula'.

My overall favorite conifer in our collection is one of the *Picea abies* 'Pendula' cultivars. I have nicknamed mine "Lady of the Lake" because of her



special grace in a place overlooking a large pond on our property. Affluently green, she dresses up her neighborhood of mostly deciduous conifers and non-coniferous plants when winter moves in. Quite small when we planted her, she grew quickly into a lovely lady, establishing herself early as a standout. Even the brilliant red swamp hibiscus blooms in summer cannot outshine her. Through the seasons she stands up proudly among her neighbors and in spring (very soon I hope) she puts on a special show with luscious lime green adornment on her tips.

Picea is our theme this issue. Because I think this genus has so much to offer gardeners, it surprised me that we were not flooded with stories about these terrific plants in your gardens. But the offer is still open. I know you have some.

In the meantime, my better-half, who speaks plants much better than I do, "volunteered" to tell you about some of the spruces that have been successful for us in the south, including the three I have mentioned. Also, a member from very far north, William Journeay, shares some unique spruces he has found during his career in the forest industry in eastern Canada.

A popular question at ACS gatherings is "How did you get interested in conifers?" The most unique answer I've heard so far is from Bill Van Kosky who gardens with his wife Judy in Marquette, Michigan. I think you will enjoy his motivation explanation.

A fringe benefit of being editor is that I get to learn about many unique gardens, discover new writers, and then

spread the word to you. Jack and Sharon Ayers are life members of the Society who garden in the Northwest. In this issue, Jack points out an imaginative garden with a large, diverse collection of conifers near the town of Roseburg, Oregon. Owned by Ken and Elena Jordan, the garden is named Stonehedge. As often happens, the two couples got connected because of the ACS.

We hear from two of our frequent contributors, Maud Henne and ACS President Ellen Kelley, in this issue and also learn about some important ACS events coming up around the regions. The Northeastern Region will host the ACS National Meeting in Hauppauge, New York, on Long Island. Read all about it and mark your calendars! The Western Region's annual meeting promises to be

exciting, too, showing off some great gardens, including one that was voted the best garden on Puget Sound. See Marc McCalmon's article for more information.

We are fortunate to have, again, some fabulous photos to grace our covers from past-president Dennis Groh and from Randall Smith of Iseli Nursery. Last but not least, Barbie Colvin tells us about the Southeastern Region's outstanding progress in the Conifer Reference Garden program. Barbie is our Southeastern Region Vice President.

Enjoy your spring. When the spirit of youth strikes, you will probably struggle with that age-old question, "Should I plant now or wait?" Only the plant knows

Evelyn

Next Issue: Summer 2009

Our next issue will feature: *Juniperus*

Hard to beat for covering slopes and with a variety of shapes and colors, junipers can be functional as well as ornamentally distinctive in any landscape. Tell us about your experiences with this genus and/or show us your photos. Include the zone where you garden and any growing tips.

Future Issue themes: Please look at future themes and consider sending your articles in advance of published deadlines.

Cones

Lesser-known Conifers

Companion Plants

We welcome news alerts about conifers or about our members. Contact Evelyn Cox to discuss your ideas.

Rare and Unusual Conifers and Japanese Maples.

Over 300 varieties, from large to small in our collection.



M&W
Nursery

www.mwnursery.com
(410)635-6305
15002 Oak Orchard Rd
New Windsor, MD
21776



How I spruced up Georgia

by Tom Cox

It's hard to live under the same roof with our editor without occasionally getting pressed into service. Such is now the case as Evelyn is light on material relating to the *Picea* theme for the spring issue so she asked if I would write a brief article on the genus.

Growing up in the South, I never gave much thought to spruce trees. This was a plant I saw on television shows such as *Sergeant Preston of the Yukon*. If you remember the show, you likely grew up in the 50's.

As I entered the Army and traveled the world, I had the opportunity to enjoy the majestic beauty of spruces, particularly during periods of snowfall. This was especially so in Germany. Upon retirement from the military I returned to the South and after several years, founded an arboretum. Spruce trees were nowhere on the radar screen. The American Conifer Society changed all that for me.

Since the year 2000, I have evaluated a number of spruce species and found many to be quite adaptable here in North Georgia (Zone 7A). We currently grow 16 species. Visitors now receive a litany of reasons why I feel this genus is under appreciated in the South.

Depending on the taxonomist, the genus *Picea* contains some 35 species and all are native to the Northern Hemisphere. Their greatest concentrations are found in boreal regions. In addition to their value as landscape plants, they are a utilitarian group as an important source in the manufacture of pulp and paper,

building material, and musical instruments. The genus has produced a prodigious number of exciting cultivars and it is unusual to look at a nursery catalog featuring conifers that does not have at least several pages of spruce selections.

The following is a sampling of some garden worthy selections targeted mainly at the species level. The intent is to provide you with enough information for you to conduct your own search. Since grafting is usually the preferred method of production, the rootstock that is used is relevant to suitability – especially in the southeastern U.S.

Picea abies (Norway spruce). Likely the most widely planted spruce in the world, this species has produced a vast number of gardenworthy cultivars. It is adaptable over much of the U.S. and has proven to be at home at least as far south as the Zone 7A portions of Georgia and surrounding states.

You can find a selection for virtually any landscape application as long as there is full sun and good drainage. Large pendulous cultivars include, 'Cincinnata' and 'Wingle's Weeping' aka 'Wingle's Weeper'. Upright growers include 'Clanbrassiliana Stricta' and 'Cupressina'. Some smaller mounding ones are 'Tompa' and 'Ohlendorffii', or for a more prostrate look, 'Formanek'. Last but not least is 'Pusch', the 2008 Collectors Conifer of the Year Dwarf Selection.

Picea alcoquiana (Alcock spruce). While there are other selections, this species is primarily represented by the cultivar 'Howell's Dwarf' which is a

good selection with bi-colored needles. If one desires to maintain it as a shrub, care should be exercised to remove any central leader that appears ready to form a tree. This species is also known as *P. bicolor*.

Picea brachytyla (Sargent spruce). If you are ever fortunate enough to visit longtime ACS member Don Howse's Porterhowse Gardens in Sandy, Oregon, you will agree with me this is among the most beautiful species in the genus. For some unknown reason, growers seldom offer this splendid tree.

Picea chihuahuana (Mexican spruce). This is a good, blue-colored species for warmer portions of the U.S. A spectacular specimen grows at Quarryhill Botanical Garden in Sonoma, California. The only minus is its extremely sharp, yucca-grade needles.

Picea glauca (white spruce). Not a species recommended for the South, but it has great garden appeal where it can be cultivated. Among the newer selections I like is 'Daisy's White'. This is a small, slow-growing gem with creamy-white new growth in spring that turns green as the season progresses.

Picea glehnii (Sakhalin spruce). One of the best selections of this good-looking species from Japan is 'Yatsubusa' – a slower grower offering a good, tight shape and bluish green needles. Again, for a perfect example of how good this plant can look, visit Don Howse.

Picea morrisonicola (Taiwan spruce). Like many plants from Taiwan, this full-sized spruce is adaptable all the way as far south as Mobile, Alabama. It is fast-growing, rapidly reaching full tree size.

Picea omorika (Serbian spruce). This favorite of mine has grown well over the

years for us. Plantsmen have selected a plethora of garden worthy cultivars, including 'Pendula Brunns', the 2007 full-size selection for Collectors Conifer of the Year. For smaller spaces, try 'Nana' and 'Pimoka'.

Picea orientalis (Oriental spruce). If I could only grow one species, this would be my choice. It has the shortest needles of all the species and one of the best dark green colors of any conifer. In spring, 'Early Gold' garners more attention than any other conifer in our collection. For about two weeks in April, the new growth is a bright gold, set against dense, dark green foliage. One visitor even wanted to trade her husband for the plant, but she said he couldn't prune so I just said "No." The golden foliage gradually darkens and is a rich dark green by summer. Two stunning yellow cultivars, golden throughout the year, are 'Skylands' and 'Tom Thumb'. The latter is another Dwarf Selection for Collectors Conifer of the Year (2007). If you want to appreciate the species at its best in the U.S., visit the Spruce Trail at the Hoyt Arboretum in Portland, Oregon.

Picea pungens (Colorado spruce). Known mainly for its blue (glaucous) selections, it, along with Norway spruce, is one of the mainstays of northern gardens. Recommending one's favorite is akin to being asked which child you like best. In brief, these are several that stand out. 'Iseli Fastigiata' is a good upright, blue cultivar. 'Montgomery' is a mounding form with consistent blue color. 'Spring Ghost', continuing to grow in popularity, has a pleasing cream color on the new growth. We are also growing an attractive blue selection named 'Omega', which looks promising.

Picea sitchensis (Sitka spruce). This

Pacific Northwest giant grows to be one of the tallest trees in the world. One particular cultivar has always caught my eye, 'Papoose', a dwarf version growing to around 6 feet high with needles that are green with silvery-blue undersides, producing a two-tone effect. It has shown surprising adaptability in our arboretum for the past four years.

Picea smithiana (Himalayan spruce). Having the longest needles of any spruce, this is a full-size tree. Seeing a full grown specimen at the Hoyt Arboretum in Portland convinced me this is a species worthy of being planted where space can accommodate its size. We may have been the first garden in the South to plant this species and it has grown over 1 foot per year. It should be adaptable in all portions of Zones 7 and 8.

There will no doubt be readers who feel frustrated at the lack of specifics on these plants and others who have favorites not mentioned here. The purpose of this article is to stimulate you to further explore the genus *Picea* and seek out selections that will work for you.



SmallPlants.Com

Let us be your first choice for dwarf conifers, japanese maples, and more.

Evergreen, deciduous, flowering, variegated, and all small!

Online catalog:
www.smallplants.com

POSITION OPEN: NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON, COLLECTORS CONIFER of the YEAR (CCOY)

Do you have a passion for and knowledge of conifers? Are you looking for an exciting, rewarding, and creative volunteer experience? Then the National Board of the American Conifer Society is looking for you!

QUALIFICATIONS include:

- An understanding of suitable genera/species for each region – to include adaptable rootstock for grafted plants
- An awareness of and sense for the interesting, new introductions
- The ability to work with various potential producers to bring the plants to market
- A knowledge of lead times for dwarf and miniature plants
- The ability to establish minimum sizes and quality standards for finished plants
- Production experience is a plus, but not required

BENEFITS include:

- The opportunity to assist the ACS in a very important fund-raising endeavor
- The opportunity to exercise your entrepreneurial and creative abilities
- The satisfaction of promoting this significant group of plants
- The opportunity for an exciting learning experience
- The opportunity to be among the first to see the next sexy new plant

TO APPLY:

Send your application, including your experience in the field of conifers, your qualifications, and your contact information to:

**Ridge Goodwin,
P.O. Box 310, Holicong, PA 18928-0310
Fax: 215-794-7104
E-mail: ridgegoodwin@comcast.net**

Deadline for applications is June 1, 2009.

A Fungus Made Us Do It!

by Bill Van Kosky

As new members attending our first ACS annual meeting in 2008, my wife Judy and I asked several attendees, “How did you become interested in conifers?” The answers were as varied as the routes by which coniferites traveled from their homes to the meeting in Dubuque, Iowa.

One long-time member told us how his plan to start a Christmas tree plantation went awry several decades ago. First, an unscrupulous dealer sold him a bundle of cull seedlings. Then, site preparation errors further reduced the spindly seedlings’ chances for survival. The resulting fiasco prompted this budding entrepreneur to decide that he needed to learn a great deal more about the Christmas tree business. His search for information led him to the informal network of conifer enthusiasts that eventually founded the ACS.

Another member described how he had been searching for something out of the ordinary—he didn’t know just what—to add to the plantings on his property. An acquaintance suggested that he check out the array of conifers at Rich’s Foxwillow Pines Nursery in northern Illinois. “When I saw that,” he told us, “I knew that I’d found what I’d been looking for.”

Others to whom we talked were, like us, experienced gardeners who recognized the potential for conifers to enhance the beauty and diversity of their gardens and joined the ACS to learn more about this aspect of horticulture.

Naturally, when you ask people how they became interested in conifers, they

will inquire, “How about you?”

Our reply: “A fungus made us do it.”

In 1968 we bought 50 acres of northern hardwood forest southeast of Marquette, Michigan, about a mile from the south shore of Lake Superior. If the name sounds vaguely familiar, it’s probably because you’ve seen Marquette on the television weather map along with references to winter storms and deep snow. Snow begins to accumulate here in mid-November and continues until sometime in April, averaging a total snowfall of 14 feet over the winter. The positive side of this is the consistent snow cover that provides protective insulation for the plants beneath it. Also, the big lake that gives us so much snow moderates the temperatures. We are solidly in USDA plant hardiness Zone 5, while gardeners just a few miles inland have to contend with Zone 4 conditions.

Well drilling at our future home site revealed that we were sitting on 40 feet of nasty pink clay. Within a few years, we discovered that the advance and retreat of glaciers many thousands of years ago had played some strange tricks on our land. Scarcely a hundred yards from our home, we cut a clearing for a vegetable garden and orchard. Attempting to dig there, we encountered not clay, but pebbles, gritty soil, fist-sized rocks, gravelly soil, and large rocks. At one edge of the new clearing, we found an abrupt transition from rocky soil—actually, soily rock—to a sizable deposit of coarse sand. (Great stuff for any gardener to have close at hand!)

Apple trees are flourishing in the

gravel, but it took years of rock picking and the addition of innumerable loads of maple leaves and homemade compost to transform 900 square feet of gravel into rich, friable garden soil for the vegetables.

After the house was built in 1971, we hired a contractor to grade around it and spread six inches of topsoil over the clay. After raking and smoothing this, we planted grass.

Until the mid-1990s, the lawn looked reasonably good, but suddenly scattered spots and patches of it died. Whatever ailed it seemed to follow the same pattern that bubonic plague does in humans; the interval between onset of symptoms and death was one or two days. The Michigan State University Extension Service identified the source of our woes as brown spot fungus.

Year after year in the fall, I’d buy several rolls of sod and cut it into patches to replace dead grass. This turf repair chore was time-consuming as well as tedious. The lawn looked good the following spring, but the appearance of the fungus in early July was as predictable as the return of the swallows to Capistrano. Liquid and granular fungicides were expensive in the quantities needed and were only marginally successful in preventing or controlling the fungus.

At last, I grew weary of the annual ritual of crawling around with a trowel, cutting out dead spots and patching in fresh sod. I came in with dirty knees and a sore back one evening and said to Judy, “This is organic matter such as is found in cattle pastures!” (not my exact words). Henceforth, in the battle between Van Kosky and fungus, Van Kosky would switch from defense to offense.

Fearing that the State of Michigan would designate the east end of our yard an official brown spot fungus demonstration zone, in 2001, I spaded up a couple hundred square feet of the worst-looking lawn and planted some shrubs and conifers from a local garden center. Although I had more than 50 years of experience in vegetable gardening and as an orchardist, I knew next to nothing about shrubs and conifers. My plant choices proved this. They served mainly to take up space. The most praise I could muster for them was to say that they appeared more pleasing to the eye than dead grass.

Over the winter, I thought about this and concluded that, if my new plantings were to accomplish anything beyond replacing sickly grass with nondescript plants, I had better learn more about perennials, vines, shrubs, grasses, and conifers. Quite accidentally, the fungus had started us on a path that would ultimately lead to ACS membership.

That same winter, Judy showed me a magazine article about heath and heather. This was something novel, at least in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. I bought a couple of books, sent away for some catalogs and, the following spring, dug up another 150 square feet. After lowering the pH to about 5.5, I planted three-dozen heather and heath plants. They did so well that I’ve planted more of them in every new bed we’ve created since 2002. At present, there are more than 100 of these plants, comprising nearly 60 cultivars.

One of the catalogs noted that dwarf conifers were good companion plants for heather. Most of the garden centers in our vicinity stock the same old conifers year after year. So, I bought some more books,

started subscribing to a gardening magazine, and sent away for more catalogs. I found that there were many mail-order sources for conifers and that there were a lot more species and varieties than I had thought.

By 2003, we were converting 200–300 square feet of brown spot fungus habitat to plantings each year. Each of these beds has several conifers. Our conifer count going into the 2009 gardening season is 51. Eight years ago, I was cutting grass on 8,000 square feet of lawn. Now it's down to 6,000.

Those who know that our natural soil is dense clay want to know how we've been able to grow so many nice things in such lousy soil. There are two answers to this question. For 30 years, Judy has been digging leaves and compost into flower gardens next to the house and along the edges of the yard so that clay in those areas is now only one component among many in what has become a very fertile soil with good structure.

When starting the large-scale turf reduction project, I opted for an approach that was labor intensive but accomplished the conversion of compacted clay to a rich, well-drained but moisture retentive, plant-growing medium in days rather than years. Our husky grandson



Setting aside sod and topsoil

and I dig each new area out, dispose of the clay, and refill the excavation with a blend of soil ingredients (topsoil, sand, peat moss, and compost, in proportions of 2-1-1-1, respectively).

In the absence of more advanced technology, we dig with picks, pick-mattocks, heavy-duty garden forks and shovels, and use a large garden cart and 5-gallon buckets for hauling clay and soil ingredients. This is primitive and arduous, but it gets the job done. Working steadily for four days, an old geezer and a teenager can dig out and refill a 150-square-foot area, 16 inches deep, which is immediately ready for planting.



After clay is dug out, sod will be placed upside down in the bottom of the hole

By 2006, when I first noticed reference to the American Conifer Society in a list of resources in a gardening catalog, I had made up my mind that conifers,



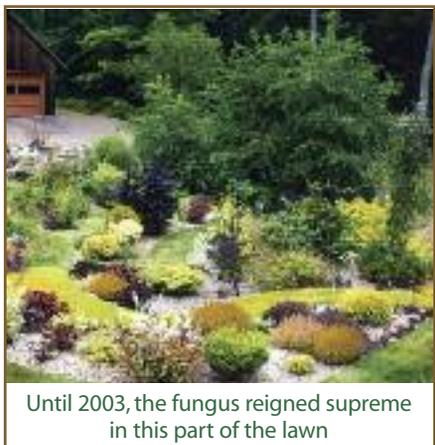
Example of clay to be disposed of

heather, and heath would predominate in designs for each new bed in our yard and as replacements for other plants that die, languish, or fail to live up to their press notices.



New beds being laid out in an area that had severe fungus infection

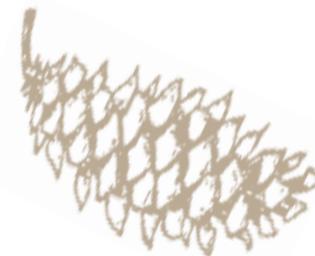
To do this and do it well, we needed to become as knowledgeable and confident about growing conifers as we are about other kinds of gardening. By joining the ACS, Judy and I have gained access to the collective knowledge and practical experience of a broad-based group of conifer hobbyists and professionals. This has already enabled us to choose our conifer purchases more wisely and increased our confidence that we are properly caring for the trees once they are in the ground.



Until 2003, the fungus reigned supreme in this part of the lawn

So you see, it's true. We wouldn't have 2,000 square feet of plantings in which conifers are prominently featured, nor would we be ACS members, if it hadn't been for the doggone fungus that made us do it!

About the author: Bill and Judy Van Kosky live and garden in Marquette, Michigan. Their garden is open to members by appointment.



"A Leap Above The Rest"

PONDS & PLANTS
Garden Center • Landscape • Exhibits
Growers of the Rare & Unusual
423 • 570 • 1234
www.pondsplants.com

PAULINE MANKER
MANAGER

609 IRMA CLEVELAND HWY
DARTON, TN 37821
TUE-SAT. 9-5

ACS Scholarship

by Matt Wilson

The pine is called the kingly tree,
It well deserves full royalty.
The hemlock's called the princely tree,
This lower rank is not for me.
Right here and now O! Hemlock tree
A royal crown is given thee.
Not prince, but equal, queenly tree,
In beauty, grace and symmetry.
Great honors his, full honors hers,
The King and Queen of conifers.
Charles F. Jenkins

The poem above was written by Charles F. Jenkins, the curator and founder of the Hemlock Arboretum at Far Country in Germantown, Pennsylvania. Many would agree that Jenkins' sentiments capture much of conifer enthusiasts' passion and regard for members of the genus *Tsuga*. As a graduate student working with hemlock, I find these descriptions quite accurate in conveying the majesty and beauty found in the soft texture and pendulous branches displayed by most hemlocks.

Early work pioneered by plant enthusiasts and researchers, such as Dr. John C. Swartley's work to classify and describe eastern hemlock's varieties and cultivars, brought to attention *Tsuga*'s variety and suitability for many diverse landscapes. In recent years, research has turned to combating and preventing hemlock wooly adelgid infestations in forest stands. While much research has been done to evaluate the genetic diversity and insect resistance of hemlock, little work has evaluated hemlocks' heat tolerance.

Part of my research with Dr. Jeff Sibley at Auburn University is to evaluate the genus *Tsuga*'s heat tolerance and suitability in southern landscapes. Currently, we are evaluating eight species of hemlock including eastern hemlock (*T. canadensis*), Carolina hemlock (*T. caroliniana*), western (*T. heterophylla*), mountain hemlock (*T. mertensiana*), southern Japanese hemlock (*T. sieboldii*), northern Japanese (*T. diversifolia*), Yunnan hemlock (*T. yunnanensis*), and Chinese hemlock (*T. chinensis*). Our work currently consists of taking needle and root tissue and exposing the tissues to various temperatures. To determine the amount of damage that occurs, we measure the amount of cell contents leaked due to breakdown of the cells when exposed to destructive temperatures. This procedure is known as electrolyte leakage and is a mean by which we can see the effects of temperature on the plant. This is only a small part of the equation as humidity, water and nutrient availability, and light intensity all affect plant growth and suitability for plants to thrive in diverse climates. We hope this research will contribute to information and understanding of hemlock's requirements to thrive in various environments and situations.

It is my wish to thank members of the American Conifer Society for your support of my education and research through the giving of the ACS Scholarship. Support provided through the scholarship has been useful in alleviating the costs of attending school by paying for

my course fees and tuition for the fall and spring semesters. The generosity of the American Conifer Society has been a tremendous source of support and encouragement for me to work hard and give my best to help provide others with information to benefit those who have given so much to me. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to pursue my education and research with our "Queen of Conifers."

With Greatest Appreciation,

Matt Wilson
M.S. Graduate Research Assistant
wilsoms@auburn.edu

Want to learn more
about conifers?

Go to our Web site

www.conifersociety.org

Rare And Dwarf
Conifers For
Serious Collectors
Featuring "the collection
that never stops growing."
 PORTERHOWSE FARMS, INC.
41370 SE Thomas Road • Sandy, OR 97055
503.668.5834 phone/fax
EMAIL: don@porterhowse.com
www.porterhowse.com

GEE FARMS

Nursery & Landscaping

10 Acres of Container Plants

Conifers, Hosta, Ornamental Grasses, Perennials

10 Acre Arboretum and Water Features

Field Grown Specimens, Grafts

Family Owned since 1849

8:00 am till 8:00 pm – 7 days

Gary, Kaye & Kary Gee

14928 Bunkerhill Rd., Stockbridge, MI 49285

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

FAX (517) 769-6204

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

Specializing
in the rare &
unusual

Letter to the Editor:

Dear Evelyn.

Hope you don't mind me pointing out a few mistakes in the recent *Conifer Quarterly* publication winter 2009.

Except for the first one listed, the mistakes all seem to be in the article for the ACS International Trip 2008.

Page 26 - photos top left and right, should be *Cedrus deodara* 'Feelin' Blue' not 'Feeling Blue',

Page 28 - *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Chirimen' not *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Chairman',

Page 28 - *Pinus uncinata* 'Eva' not *Picea uncinata* 'Eva',

Page 30 - *Picea pungens* 'Hermann Naue' not *Picea pungens* 'Herman Nave'

Page 31 - *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Wissel's Saguaro' not *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Weissel's Saguaro'

Page 31 - *Leucothoe axillaris* 'Curley Red' not *Leucothoe axillaris* 'Curley Red'

Page 32 - 'Blue Saphir' not 'Blue Sapphire' (This is the correct Czech spelling)

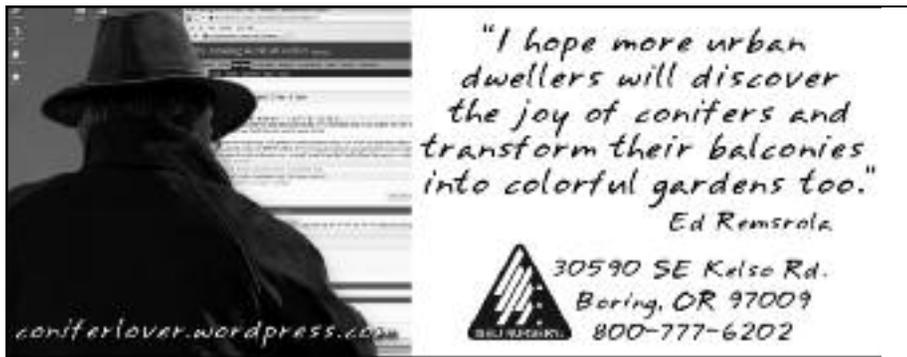
Page 33 - Photo, bottom right hand corner - Kostelnicek not Kostelnecek.

Page 34 - *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Chairman' (repeated mistake)

Page 34 - *Picea omorika* 'Peve Tijn' not *Picea orientalis* 'Tijn'

Page 34 - Photo bottom of page - These are not *Microbiota decussata*, they look like cultivars of *Juniperus communis*.

Kind Regards,
Stephen Grubb.



Brassica hirta

by Phil Syphrit

It's good to keep a jar of spicy mustard around for those times when you have to eat crow. It makes it easier to swallow.

In the *Conifer Quarterly* Vol. 26 No. 1, I read the book review of Aljos Farjon's book *A Natural History of Conifers*. In the review, I read the sentence "Could you easily explain why a yew is a conifer and an alder is not?" "Wait a minute," says I, "a yew is not a conifer at all." It has arils, not cones. Quickly I dashed off a short note to the editor pointing out the error. There. I'd set the record straight. And I knew I was right.

Well, a day or so later I get my reply from the editor saying that several authorities disagreed with me. A yew is indeed a conifer. Can she publish my letter as a letter to the editor raising this question to the readership at large? Now I'm a little taken aback. I KNOW I'm right. An aril is not a cone!

I start looking at various references: Bailey, Dirr, various on-line dictionaries, *Encyclopaedia Britannica* on-line. They all seem to support what I believe to be true: A female cone is a megastrobilus with a central stem and scales emanating from it supporting the naked, ovuliferous scale. A male cone is a microstrobilus producing pollen. A conifer, by definition, has cones. An aril is a modification of other tissue that either fully or partially encloses the seed; essentially a fleshy seed coating.

I make one more reference check at the L. H. Bailey Hortorium of Cornell

University. They'll confirm this for me! I get my reply: a yew would be considered a conifer!

I send all this information to the editor. She replies "Do you still want me to run your letter?" I hesitate. "No, don't print it yet, please. Not because I'm willing to admit I'm wrong," (See, I STILL KNOW I'M RIGHT despite this growing sense that maybe I am wrong somehow) "I just need to do some more digging into this question."

Fortunately one of the definitions I'd found on the internet had a reference for a paper presented in 2003 at the International Society for Horticultural Sciences entitled "Analyzing the Reproductive Biology of *Taxus*: Should it be Included in Coniferales?" I track this article down; it includes other references including an article published in the *American Journal of Botany* vol. 85, issue #5, 1998 entitled "Phylogenetic Relationships of Conifers Inferred from Partial 28S R RNA Gene Sequences."

These articles essentially say that using current genetic analysis one can feel pretty comfortable saying that (gasp!) yews are conifers! Fortunately for my ego the *American Journal of Botany* article includes the sentences (p.688) "The phylogenetic position of Taxaceae is one of the oldest unsolved problems in gymnosperm systematics. Members of this family are unique because they are devoid of the 'classical' cone that characterizes the majority of conifers."

I email the editor of *Conifer Quar-*

terly – again. “Never mind.”

There are several lessons that I am willing to draw from this whole little story.

First, I’m reminded of an old Buddhist proverb: When you know you are right, check again anyway.

Second, the science of genetic research (of which I know nothing) is transforming the way we can analyze and classify many things, and in a way that seems to be much more essential than many previous systems of analysis have allowed. With this method of analysis we are brought to a place where we need to look deeper into what constitutes “coniferness.” It doesn’t appear to be the presence of “classical” cones.

Third, our use of words like conifer, evergreen, and gymnosperm can be confusing. Language is one of our most complex tools, but sometimes it is not an easy tool to use.

Fourth, I will always keep on hand a jar of spicy mustard.



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

*Specializing in
fine garden plants*

8938 Newburg Road
Rockford, IL 61108
p. (815) 332-5610
f. (815) 332-7495
info@jcarlosgrowers.com



Bethlehem Nursery
66 Jackson Lane, Bethlehem, CT 06751

Propagators and growers of rare dwarf and miniature conifers, witches’ brooms and rare *Sciadopitys* cultivars. Catering to the most serious collectors and gardeners.

Owner: Dennis Dodge Phone/Fax 203.266.7783
www.bethlehemnursery.com graftforyou@aol.com

Gardening with Conifers in the Northwest

Text and Photos by Jack Ayers

Stonehedge, the Garden of Ken and Elena Jordan

The one-and-a-half acre garden of Ken and Elena Jordan, located just west of Roseburg, a small town in southwestern Oregon, would be of interest to any conifer enthusiast because of its diverse collection of more than 400 cultivars, while their imaginative use of stones and companion plants makes it a site any garden lover would enjoy. Ken and Elena are shown in Figure 1, posed in an enclosure for a glider which is recessed into their hillside garden. The enclosure is patterned after one in the

garden of the Gamble House (see next paragraph). In the photo are shown to their left and right *Cedrus deodara* ‘Blue Snake’ and *Pinus thunbergii* ‘Ogon’. Immediately behind them is *Sequoia sempervirens* ‘Kenwood’.

Ken and Elena developed their garden from modest beginnings after building their showplace craftsman style home, which is shown in Figure 2. The house is inspired by the famous Gamble House in Pasadena, California, which



Figure 1) Ken and Elena Jordan shown in an enclosure for a glider which is not yet built

was designed by the renowned architectural firm of Greene and Greene. Ken, a master carpenter and woodworker, did all of the carpentry with the help of his brother, as well as much of the other work including the cabinetry and most of the beautiful brickwork evident in the photo. Elena is very active in the garden and contributed greatly to the construction of the house though she is employed full time as an anesthesiologist. The ascending stairway in Figure 2 leads to a large brick terrace across the full front of the home. The terrace is surrounded by a brick wall upon which are located several interesting potted plants of diverse genera.



Figure 2) Frontal view of the Jordan's home. The highlight of the rock garden to the left of the stairway is a beautifully laid out dry stream bed, only a portion of which can be seen.

Their home is located on a bluff overlooking the juncture of the north and south forks of the Umpqua River on what may be the most scenic building site in the county. Their property has several large Oregon white oaks (*Quercus gar-*

ryana) which give a mature feel to this relatively young garden. One of these oaks is evident in Figure 3, framing a southeasterly view out over the south fork. The river and valley views are best from the decks at the back of the house, where the bluff is so steep that little of it can be gardened.

Ken and Elena have composed some interesting raised beds in relatively flat grassy areas at either end of the house, but it is the large terraced garden on the front side of the house which is of most interest to me. As they developed this area, they acquired a growing interest in conifers, particularly Hinoki cypresses (*Chamaecyparis obtusa*). That interest

was greatly enhanced when they met Larry Stanley at a garden show in Portland about seven years ago. Larry convinced them to join the American Conifer Society.



Figure 3) A small bed containing diverse companion plants under a native white oak, with the south fork of the Umpqua River evident in the valley below

When they got their membership list they searched it for other members in this area. From it, they discovered that my wife Sharon and I are the only other members in the area. Noticing that our garden was open to visitors, they called to ask if they might come by for a tour. We were pleased to show them around and delighted to discover what a wonderful couple they are. Both of our gardens have benefited from this friendship. They initially benefited from our then greater knowledge of conifers and we from their

enthusiasm for rocks and their knowledge of sources for nearly free rocks in the National Forest Service rock quarries in the nearby Cascade Mountains. (The Forest Service issues permits to gather for \$20 per ton.)



Figure 4) View to the west from the drive in front of the house. All the rocks were collected in Forest Service quarries.

A few such rocks can be seen in Figure 4, a view from the front of their house out over the top of the terraces into the small valley separating the bluff they live on from the first low ridge of the Coast Mountain Range. This borrowed scenery enhances their garden. That the small pond in the valley is on common land has not deterred the Jordans from planting several larger-growing conifers and red maples which are just beginning to show their potential. The dwarf conifers in the foreground include several small Douglas firs (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) on the left with an *Abies pinsapo* 'Horstmann' behind them, *Picea pungens* 'Swiftly' just to the right of center, *Picea glauca* 'Pixie' to the right of it, *Picea glauca* 'Alberta

Globe' peeking over a rock, and *Ilex crenata* 'Dwarf Pagoda' in front of a rock.



Figure 5) Garden view featuring a group of volcanic columns gathered in the nearby Cascade Mountains

A portion of the garden with a somewhat more structured group of rocks is featured in Figure 5. Some readers might find it interesting to learn that these volcanic pillars, and most of the other rocks shown here, were formed from magma generated by subduction of the Juan de Fuca oceanic plate under the North American continent, a process which often produces lavas more rich in silica (white colored silicon dioxide) than the more widely known black basalt lavas. Most columns we find locally have a dark grey internal color and are weath-

ered to lighter colors on their surfaces.

Ken and Elena are amused to tell visitors that they originally placed the pillars of Figure 5 in upright positions, but that they sagged and tilted. Most observers believe as I do that this happy accident produced a beautiful, natural looking ensemble. Behind the rocks is one of the most distinctive trees in the garden, *Cedrus libani* 'Pendula'. Ken has removed the larger horizontal branches from this 30-foot tall tree working from a 16-foot orchardist's ladder. Prominent plants in the foreground are, from the right, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* 'Gold Rush', *Acer palmatum* 'Otto', *Berberis thunbergii* 'Rosy Glow', *Acer palmatum* 'Emerald Lace', and *Acer palmatum* 'Shidara Gold'. This photo illustrates Ken and Elena's effective use of more than 75 cultivars of Japanese maples in their garden.

Figure 6 illustrates two of the several types of retaining walls used in the garden. The central wall was built by a contractor with stone called bearcat from a Forest Service quarry of the same name. Ken built the less regular bluestone walls



Figure 6) A view showing the effective blending of conifers and stones in the garden



Figure 7) A stairway built by Ken in a lush, diverse planting

above and below it from stone purchased from a local road building company. The rounded stones between the walls are sandstone concretions purchased from the same company at minimal cost. The large stones above the central wall were gathered locally and placed by machine, though the Jordans with the help of their son have placed some remarkably large rocks. In Figure 6 the small plant between the concretions is *Picea rubens* 'HB', immediately above them is *Pinus sylvestris* 'Albysn', and to the right is *Cedrus deodara* 'Devinely Blue'.

In most portions of the hillside garden, grade changes are traversed by way of large stepping stones that were gathered in the mountains. But as Figure 7 illustrates, Ken has also built some very nice stairways. The one shown here is constructed from a stone called Three

Rivers slate and quartzite, both purchased at a rock yard. The pine to the left is *Pinus strobus* 'Pendula', the plants just above the wall are *Berberis thunbergii* 'Aurea' and *Picea glauca* 'Little Globe', while the prominent plants in the background and foreground are *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Torulosa' and a blue fescue.

The most recently developed portion of the garden is shown in Figure 8. This relatively steep area, to the right of the house and above the driveway, is terraced with bluestone walls and short volcanic columns. Somewhat surprisingly, these columns are from the same small quarry as the bearcat stone in the more regular walls. Sharon and I particularly like this stone and have used it to border two elevated beds in our own garden. Unfortunately, this popular quarry is now nearly picked clean of any interesting



Figure 8) Terraced beds constructed with volcanic columns collected in a Forest Service quarry

stones of either type. We have probably vain hopes that the Forest Service will someday soon bring in some heavy equipment and enlarge this quarry.

The near portions of the area shown were constructed and planted within the past two years so it does not look as lush as other portions of the garden. It is, however, very interesting to study because as the Jordans run out of planting room they are increasingly concentrating on miniature cultivars, only a couple of which can be seen in the photo. The fence at the top of the picture was placed to keep deer out of their productive vegetable garden. They have surprisingly few deer problems in the major unfenced portions of the garden because their lovable labradoodle Augie keeps them at bay.

Those unfamiliar with the climate of the Northwest may assume that it rains all the time here, but the reality is somewhat different. We have a Mediterranean climate, meaning that we have wet winters and dry summers. Furthermore, the wetness of the winters and the dryness of the summers varies substantially within the region. Sharon and I grew up in the Northwest, spent our working careers in the Washington, D.C. area, and returned to the west when we retired.

I found the long wet winters too dreary when we lived in Seattle, so I convinced Sharon to settle in southern Oregon where only the winter months normally have more than 3 inches of rain, and the summers are long and dry. Most conifers do very well here, but some plants, such as rhododendrons, require much more supplemental water here than they do further north, and some do not thrive at all. This is particularly true of

the mosses employed in the traditional Japanese moss gardens, a style of garden which particularly appeals to Elena.

As Figure 9 illustrates, she has solved this problem admirably by employing a small naturalized plant, *Sagina subulata*, which I have considered a weed because it springs up even in our unwatered, crushed rock paths. Although it is a flowering plant, the flowers are inconspicuous, and on casual inspection one would think it to be a moss. Elena has used it very effectively in the area shown and in several other spots within the garden. The beautiful foreground conifer in Figure 9 is *Cedrus libani* 'Green Knight', the maple is *Acer palmatum* 'Wilson's Pink Dwarf', and under it is *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Koshiyi'.

The relatively flat areas at either end of the Jordan's house have nice lawns with raised beds and are surrounded in part by mixed gardens, one of which is shown in Figure 10. This small garden is located to the left (north) of the house, and the view shown looks down toward the pond evident in Figure 4. The garden contains several fine plants, of which I will name only three, the purple leafed tree *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy' on the left, the beautiful *Pinus parviflora* 'Goldilocks' in the left foreground, and the *Picea jezoensis* 'Chitosemaru' in the group of rocks to the right of it.

I particularly like these rocks because of their unusual structure. They are stubby basaltic columns which are unusual in that they are filled with large pores created when gas escaped from the hot lava as it flowed over the earth's surface. I am very fortunate to have gone with Ken and a friend of his who owns a truck with a boom to a quarry high in the



Figure 9) Small section of garden with a Japanese motif, featuring *Sagina subulata* as a moss substitute

Cascades so that the friend could load a very large column (which proved to weigh over 13,000 pounds) onto the truck. With much help from Ken and some from me, the column was loaded. Then we moved to another part of the quarry where the friend used the boom to load Ken's pickup with the columns shown and mine with similar ones. Sharon and I have since returned there to gather smaller stones of this type to border a landing in our garden.

The highway leading to this quarry follows the north fork of the Umpqua River and is one of the most scenic drives in the country. This highway proceeds on to Crater Lake, one of the true wonders of

the natural world. If you are ever in western Oregon you really should make this drive, and I know you would enjoy a visit to the Jordan's garden. You are also welcome to visit our more humble garden.

About the author: Jack and his wife Sharon are life members of the Society, having joined in 1990 while living in northern Virginia. There Jack was employed as a civilian scientist at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, DC. He took early retirement in 1998 and they returned to their native northwest to indulge their passion for gardening.



Figure 10) The small moss garden of Figure 9 is located in the center of this beautifully laid out bed.

Winter Burn on Conifers

by Ellen Kelley

Once again it's spring. As homeowners and gardeners emerge from their winter hibernation and venture forth into their yards and gardens, they will inevitably notice the ravages of winter on some of their prized trees and shrubs. This is the time of year when the winter damage known as "winter burn" appears on evergreen plants, especially conifers.

Winters can be really tough on landscape plants. The combination of cold temperatures, winter sun, reflection from snow, and drying winds can damage or even kill buds, bark, and roots by drawing upon the reserves of moisture in the needles. The injury occurs during sunny and/or windy winter weather when plants lose water from their leaves through transpiration faster than it can be replaced by roots which are in frozen soil.

Gardeners can identify winter burn by looking for golden or brown needles or needle tips. Sometimes, entire

branches are dead, and a truly severe case of winter burn can completely kill the plant, rendering it brown and crispy.

This normally occurs on the south or southwest side of the plant, or if it is in an exposed location, on the windward side. A very important contributing factor is lack of snow cover, especially when the soil freezes early before the needles get a chance to acclimate to the cold weather, causing even more moisture loss. Reflection off the snow on sunny days or a late cold snap in the spring after the new growth has appeared can also cause browning.

The most susceptible plants are juniper, pine, hemlock, arborvitae, and yew. New plantings can get hit especially hard, as can yellow or variegated plants. The best way to prevent winter burn is to plant your conifers in the right location. Avoid locations that are both exposed to the northwest winter wind



and to the winter sun. Also keep them away from your furnace or clothes dryer vent!

In addition, several other practices can minimize or prevent winter burn:

- Don't let your conifers go into the winter with dry soil. Plants need moisture in the soil to replace the moisture loss from the needles. Keep plants watered well, especially if they have gone through a dry spell in the late summer or fall. October, November and sometimes December are not too late for watering, as long as the soil is not frozen and will take the water.
- Provide some winter protection for newly planted conifers, yellow or variegated cultivars, plants in susceptible locations, or plants which for other reasons might need protection. A common method is to use a sheet of burlap, available at most large garden centers, wrapped around the plant and held together by twine. Just make sure you don't wrap it too tight, and leave it open at the top for air to get in and out.
- Use anti-desiccants, which are mixed with water and sprayed on the plant, leaving a "waxy" coating to prevent moisture loss. Be aware, however, that anti-desiccants will need to be re-applied at intervals during the winter. This will need to be done when the temperature is above 40° F. Unfortunately, recent research has shown the results to be generally disappointing.
- Mulch around the bases of root-tender plants (it's a good idea to mulch around

all of your conifers in the fall) to help protect their crowns and roots from freezing temperatures, and from heaving due to wide variations in temperature.

- Avoid heavy applications of nitrogen fertilizers in late summer to allow proper hardening of plant tissues.



Even with good management, injury to young growth or insufficiently hardened tissues may still occur as a result of unusual weather patterns. Little can be done to prevent injury in these instances.

The good news is that after several years, many, if not most, of the conifers that have had the tendency to burn will have adjusted and won't burn unless the winter, especially late winter weather, is particularly fierce. The other good news is that a mantle of burlap can be applied at any time, if the signs of winter burn begin to appear.

Evaluating Landscape Adaptability of Hemlock Species (*Tsuga* spp.) in Western North Carolina

by Anthony V. LeBude and Thomas G. Ranney, NC State University

This article was originally published in the November/December 2007 edition of Nursery Notes, the bi-monthly magazine of the North Carolina Nursery and Landscape Association.

The hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), (*Adelges tsugae* Annand), is a major threat to *Tsuga* spp. in forested and urban areas in the eastern United States (McClure 2001, 1987). This insect is currently in more than 16 states where it has contributed to the decline of eastern and Carolina hemlock and has substantially altered plant communities and ecosystems. HWA has recently moved into and rapidly spread throughout western North Carolina and is a considerable threat to the nursery industry, established landscape plantings, and native forests in these areas. Skeletons of large hemlocks haunt the streams and mountainsides throughout the high forests. The ecological and visual consequences of large scale loss of hemlock due to HWA are predicted to parallel those of chestnut blight. Attempts to identify and release natural predators of HWA are underway, but losses continue to escalate as the range of HWA expands. While Eastern hemlock (*T. canadensis* L.) and Carolina hemlock (*T. caroliniana* Engelm.) have shown little or no resistance within areas infested by HWA, there may be a range of resistance in other species of hemlock or in the over 270 cultivars of eastern hemlock that exist.

One long-term management option is to plant resistant hemlocks to reduce the impact of HWA on ornamental plantings and forested areas. In Asia, HWA appears to be a relatively minor pest. Although this may partially be due to climate and natural enemies, observations and studies of different Asian species including Chinese hemlock, (*T. chinensis* (Franch.) Pritz.), northern Japanese hemlock (*T. diversifolia* (Maxim.) Mast.) and southern Japanese hemlock (*T. sieboldii* Carr.) have indicated considerable host plant resistance (McClure 1996, 1995, 1992; Lagalante and Montgomery 2003; Lagalante 2003; Montgomery et al. 2005; Montgomery 1999). From anecdotal reports in western North Carolina, some accessions of Chinese hemlock may not be adequately cold hardy. However, Chinese hemlock has a broad range and some selections from more northern provenances are doing well in USDA zone 5. Mountain hemlock (*T. mertensiana* (Bong.) Carr.) and western hemlock (*T. heterophylla* (Raf.) Sarg.), both native to northwest North America appear to be somewhat more resistant to HWA than their east coast relatives; however, mountain and western hemlock generally grow poorly here.

Hybridization studies between North American hemlocks and Asian hemlocks have shown promise (e.g. Bentz et al. 2002). The potential for resistant plants to survive in areas that have been heavily infested should be evaluated along with progeny of crosses between susceptible and resistant *Tsuga*. A comprehensive, replicated planting of diverse species of hemlock would also provide a foundation for additional work on mechanisms and genetics of host plant resistance.

The hemlock woolly adelgid now infesting the eastern United States is thought to have originated from southern Japan (Havill et al. 2006), which is the native range of southern Japanese hemlock. There is, most likely, considerable variation in host plant resistance within all species. Sue Bentz (US National Arboretum, personal communication) reported that infestations and damage on southern Japanese hemlock at USNA, Glenn Dale, MD and Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia, PA have ranged from none to severe. Information on resistance of other Asian species, varieties, populations, and clones is lacking for the western part of North Carolina. Further research is needed to determine adaptability to growing conditions and to determine variation in resistance, within and between species especially in a field setting.

Approximately 40 taxa comprised of *T. caroliniana*, *T. canadensis*, *T. sieboldii*, *T. chinensis*, and *T. diversifolia* were planted at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center, Fletcher, NC (elev. 2200') in spring 2008. Growth habit of many of the Asian hemlock species is highly variable and efforts have been made to select particu-

larly desirable clones from collections throughout the United States. Evaluations for resistance, form, and commercial merit will begin following planting in the field. Evaluations will continue for 5-10 years.

Cooperators for this project include: Bill Barnes, Lorax Farms, Warrington, PA; Charles Tubesing, Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, Ohio; David Parks, Camellia Forest Nursery, Chapel Hill, NC; Denny Werner, J.C. Raulston Arboretum, Raleigh, NC; Kunso Kim, Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL; Paul Cappiello, Yew Dell Gardens, Crestwood, KY; Andrew Bell, Chicago Botanical Garden, Chicago, IL.; Richard Olsen, US National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.; Tomasz Aniśko, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square PA.; Tony Aiello, Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia, PA; Washington Park Arboretum, Seattle, Washington.

We anticipate finding and documenting a broad range of resistance to HWA among these accessions, particularly among species. If adequate resistance is found within any of the species this will provide opportunities to select and introduce clonal cultivars and genotypes that may have utility for establishment of seed orchards to produce planting. It is also anticipated that some of the Asian species and genotypes will exhibit high levels of resistance and that selections (including cultivars) can be made for desirable nursery and landscape characteristics including regional adaptability, desirable form, and rapid growth rates.

Literature Cited

Bentz, S.E., L.G.H. Riedel, M.R. Pooler and A.M. Townsend. 2002. Hybridiza-

tion and self-compatibility in controlled pollinations of eastern North American and Asian hemlock (*Tsuga*) species. *J. Arboric.* 28: 200-205.

Havill, N.P., M.E. Montgomery, G. Yu, S. Shiyake, and A. Gaccone. 2006. Mitochondrial DNA from Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (Hemiptera: Adelgidae) suggests cryptic speciation and pinpoints the source of the introduction to eastern North America. *Ann. Entomol. Soc. Am.* 99:195-203.

Lagalante, A.F. 2003. Analysis of terpenoids from hemlock (*Tsuga*) species by solid-phase microextraction/gas chromatography/ion-trap mass spectrometry. *J. Agr. And Food Chem.* 51: 2115-2120.

Lagalante, A.F., and M.E. Montgomery. 2003. Analysis of terpenoids from hemlock (*Tsuga*) species by solid-phase microextraction/gas chromatography/ion-trap mass spectrometry. *J. Agr. And Food Chem.* 51: 2115-2120.

McClure, M. S., 1987. Biology and control of hemlock woolly adelgid. *Bull. Conn. Agric. Expt. Stn. No. 851*, p. 9pp McClure, M. S., S. M. Salom, and K. S. Shields, 2001. Hemlock woolly adelgid.

USDA, For. Serv. For. Health Tech. Enterprise Team, Tech. Transfer, FHTET-2001-03, p. 14pp McClure, M.S. 1992. Hemlock woolly adelgid. *Amer. Nurseryman* 175(6):82-89.

McClure, M.S. 1995. *Diapterobates humeralis* (Orkbatida: Ceratozetidae): An effective control agent of hemlock woolly adelgid (Homoptera: Adelgidae) in Japan. *Environ. Ento.* 24(5):1207-1215.

McClure, M.S. 1996. Woolly Bully. *Amer. Nurseryman* 138(11):52-57.

Montgomery, M.E. 1999. Woolly adelgids in the Southern Appalachians: Why they are harmful and prospects for control. USDA Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team (FHTET-98-14). In: *Proceedings of the Southern Appalachian Biological Control Initiative Workshop*, Sept. 26-27, 1996, p 47-57.

Montgomery, M.E., A.F. Lagalante, and K.S. Shields. 2005. Resistance of Hemlock to *Adelges tsugae*: Promising new developments. *Third Symposium on Hemlock Woolly Adelgid*, Asheville, NC. Abstract.

C
O
N
E
C
T
I
O
N
I
F
E
R



Rare, miniature,
dwarf and unusual conifers

Pembroke, Massachusetts 02359

www.coniferconnection.com

781-789-7647

Nominations Sought for 2010 American Conifer Society Awards of Merit

Every year the American Conifer Society honors its members with Awards of Merit. Nominations for next year's recipients must be received by November 30, 2009.

Marvin and Emelie Snyder Award of Merit for Dedicated Support of the ACS

This award recognizes those who have made outstanding contributions to the American Conifer Society through their service, enthusiasm, commitment and promotion of membership in the Society.

Also, this award acknowledges those who have been deeply involved in the activities of the Society, organizationally or otherwise.

Award of Merit for Development in the Field of Conifers

The criteria for this award include the collecting and displaying of conifers, a willingness to share knowledge of plants, and the enthusiasm and drive to discover and develop noteworthy cultivars.

Also taken into consideration are published articles, books, or texts as well as new or improved propagation techniques and designs for the use of conifers.

To be considered, your nomination must be accompanied by an outline of the nominee's contributions in the appropriate category. If you wish to nominate a member for either of these awards, include your candidate's name, address, and phone number as well as a brief description of why the person is deserving of the award.

Please send your nominations to:

Don Howse

41370 SE Thomas Road

Sandy, OR 97055

Phone/FAX: 503 668-5834

Email: don@porterhowse.com

Collecting Northern Conifers

by William Journey

For many years I have marveled at the extreme variations in our native trees. As I travelled the forest of eastern Canada during my career in the forest industry, I discovered some very strange plant forms. Since retiring, my wife and I have joined the American Conifer Society. We are amazed at the many cultivars previously unknown to us in this area. We also noticed that many of the northern conifers were not as widely publicized.

Several years ago, I decided to start

collecting and propagating some unique and yet bizarre plants. I would like to introduce a few of the many selections I have found and named and hope that others might enjoy them as much as we do. Most of my selections can be found at Kingsbrae Gardens (ACS Member) in St. Andrews, New Brunswick. I strongly recommend a visit to the gardens where they have recently added to their conifer collection. I continue to add new specimens as I find them each year.

Red spruce (*Picea rubens*) is quite common in Atlantic Canada and some very interesting dwarfs have been discovered. One that I'd like to share is the very slow growing conical *P. rubens* '**Halle's Cone**' that was discovered growing in an industrial plantation in Nova Scotia. The tree is currently about 5 feet tall with dwarf foliage and cones and is about 30 years old. A very dense conical shape has been retained with annual height growth about 2 to 4 inches per year. This tree has



Picea rubens 'Halle's Cone'



Picea rubens 'Charlotte's Pillow'

been successfully transplanted into cultivation but is not yet propagated.

Another red spruce *P. rubens* '**Charlotte's Pillow**' was also discovered growing in the wild in Nova Scotia and is a dwarf dense mound with typical red spruce foliage and a darker green color. The tree is also about 30 years old and 2 feet tall with very slow annual growth (<2 inches per year). It has not yet produced seed. This tree has also been successfully transplanted into cultivation but is not yet propagated.



Picea glauca 'Scotia Spider'

A few years ago I discovered a bizarre white spruce I have named *Picea glauca* '**Scotia Spider**' growing in the ditch along a major highway in Nova Scotia. This tree is quite breathtaking in that it has very rapid height growth with little or no internodal branching at any part of the tree and a pronounced hook at the ends of lateral branches. This tree has

been successfully propagated by grafting but has not yet produced any cones.



Picea mariana 'Jack William'

Another interesting specimen is *Picea mariana* '**Jack William**'. This was discovered growing in the wild in a spaced young conifer forest, which is a natural population that has been mechanically thinned to optimize growth for commercial purposes. It has a very upright habit with very attractive weeping branches. It has good annual height growth (>1 foot per year) and has been successfully grafted. It is now established at several locations.

Recently I discovered another very exciting black spruce *Picea mariana* '**Craig**' growing in a young forest plantation. This extremely dense and perfectly symmetrical compact black spruce is very similar to *Picea glauca* 'Laurin' and *Picea abies* 'Ohlendorffii'. This is a



Picea mariana 'Craig'



Picea glauca 'Sandy's Gold'

beautiful tree for any location. It has been transplanted to cultivation but has not yet been propagated. A red spruce and white spruce exhibiting the same compact and symmetrical shape have also been discovered and collected. The small conical red spruce and white spruce were discovered at other locations. The white spruce was along a highway and the red spruce was discovered in a wild population in the forest. All three are now established at Kingsbrae gardens in St. Andrews, New Brunswick.

Lastly, I would like to introduce *Picea glauca* 'Sandy's Gold'. One of my wife's favorites, this beautiful tree was discovered along with a few other wild trees growing in an old farm field. It is a well shaped tree with an amazing yellow flush of new growth that seems to last longer each year as the tree matures. We expect about 4 weeks of brilliant show



Picea glauca 'Sandy's Gold'

followed by a gradual fading to green needles with faint white tips. I have heard of a few other similar white spruce and a black spruce in the area but have not seen them. This tree is very comparable to *Picea orientalis* 'Aurea' and *Picea orientalis* 'Early Gold'. It grafts well and has been established at several locations.

These are but a few of the many strange conifers that I have identified and hope to have officially recognized. I have many that are still under investigation and have not yet been named or propagated. Most are at least established in my garden. If there are any readers with a particular interest in all northern conifers, I look forward to hearing from them to exchange ideas and photos.

About the author: Bill and Sandra Journey recently joined the ACS. They live and garden in Nova Scotia Canada.

Editor's Note: Cultivars are named selections of plants, usually clonally propagated. To formally name a cultivar, the name needs to appear in print. With this article, Mr. Journey has officially named the plants. The plants not yet propagated will become useful cultivars once they are propagated.

Turn Your Trough Gardens into Little Landscapes



Add a unique touch to your trough gardens with these little accessories.

- Benches
- Arbors
- Chairs
- Pergolas
- Bird Houses
- Bird Baths
- Tools
- and much more...

MiniatureGardenShoppe.com

Conifer Destinations

by Tom Cox



For those looking for a different experience, consider a visit to Francis Beidler Forest in Harleyville, South Carolina. As an added bonus, visit the antebellum city of Charleston and the nearby Magnolia Plantation and Gardens – the oldest public garden in America.

Beidler Forrest is one of few remaining locations where one has an opportunity to see old-growth stands of bald-cypress (*Taxodium distichum* var. *distichum*). Most of the huge bald-cypress are in the neighborhood of 1,000 years old. The oldest known tree in the sanctuary is approximately 1,500 years old. Along with live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), bald-cypress is a legendary tree of the Deep South, famous for its knees, dangling Spanish moss, and buttressed trunk. Bald-cypress is in the *Taxodiaceae* family, which are not true cypresses. True cypresses are in the *Cupressaceae* (cypress) family and are not native to the southeastern United States.

Beidler has a 1.75-mile boardwalk trail, which affords a close-up view of

life in the midst of an old-growth swamp. It also offers a canoe trail on which guided trips are led, providing visitors the chance to explore deep into the swamp's interior.

As a footnote, the largest remaining old-growth stand of bald-cypress is located at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary near Naples, Florida.

About the author: Tom Cox is past-president of the ACS and a rabid conifer lover. When he is away from his collection, he must always find conifers somewhere.

Websites:

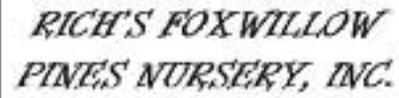
www.corkscrew.audubon.org
www.beidlerforest.com
www.magnoliaplantation.com



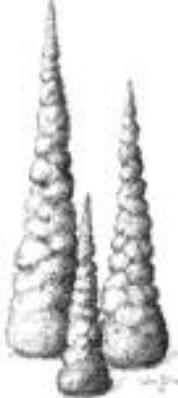
2009 is our 63rd year in business.
We offer dwarf and unusual conifers
and Japanese maples.

**Please call ahead
(717) 486-5142**

816 Holly Pike
Mt. Holly Springs, PA 17065
www.suncrest-gardens.com



*Dwarf Conifers,
Ginkgos,
Beeches,
Hostas & more!*



*Create drama
in your garden
with unique
trees.*

Rich & Susan Eyre
11618 McConnell Road
Woodstock, IL 60098

Phone: 815-338-7442
Fax: 815-338-7446
email: coniflora@richsfoxwillowpines.com
www.richsfoxwillowpines.com



THE ENHANCEMENT OF
NATURE'S DEFINITIVE SPACES

**WOLF-RUN
NURSERY
LANDSCAPES**

- RARE AND UNUSUAL PLANTS
- EXOTIC CONIFERS

Karen & Mark Priebe
610-779-5717
Toll Free 877-779-5715 29 Klappenthal Road
Fax 610-779-0555 Reading, PA 19606
E-mail: landscapes@wolfrunnursery.com
wolfrunnursery.com



ornamental evergreens,
trough gardens, alpine &
unique garden plants

www.evergreen-gardens.com
pam@evergreen-gardens.com

Ames, IA
515-232-7633

Conifers with Leaves

by Maud Henne

It took me 20 years of caring for and about conifers to find out that there are conifers with leaves. We hobby gardeners commonly associate the term “conifer” with trees that bear cones and have needles. I acquired a leafy conifer at the plant auction of the SE Region meeting at Clemson University, South Carolina, in fall 2008. It is a donation of the Friends of the State Botanical Garden in Athens, Georgia. It is labeled “Broadleaf Conifer – *Nageia nagi*.” The name did not mean anything to me, so I asked an expert.

“It is in the family of the podocarps,” I was told.

I asked, “Will it grow in zone 7?” I was assured it would if the location is more 7b than 7a.

“It is a tough plant,” somebody said.



It is a pretty plant. It is 4 feet tall. When I inquired about the age of the plant, I was told, “Eight months, but it was grown in a greenhouse. It will slow down now.” I was reminded of an *Araucaria bidwellii* I got stuck with at a silent ACS auction because I was the sole

bidder. That plant put out 1.5 feet of growth in each direction in my living room within six months, between September and March. Since I was not willing to raise my ceiling, I donated this plant to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond, Virginia. It is kept in a greenhouse there. When I visited in spring 2008, it looked fat and happy.

Having acquired an 8-month-old, 4-foot-tall baby leafy conifer, I could not wait to get home and consult various tree books. Here is what I learned:

1) *Manual of Cultivated Conifers* (Gerd Krüssmann): Among approximately 100 species listed and described, there it is *P. nagi*. Tree, 15–20m (49–65 feet) from southern Japan.

2) *Conifers: The Illustrated Encyclopedia Volume 2: L to Z* (D.M. van Gelderen and J.R.P. van Hoey Smith): This book shows the tree and a branch with fruit.

3) *Trees and Shrubs*: In a Firefly Encyclopedia of more than 8,500 plants, I learn that all six species in the *Nageia* genus require well-drained soil and water during dry periods. Their frost tolerance is minimal. They are evergreen trees; their distinguishing feature is broad, lance-shaped, multi-veined leaves, a character that is unique in conifers. *Nageia nagi* is described as a tree that grows to 70 feet (21m) or more and occurs in Japan, China, and Taiwan, which verifies Dr. Krüss-

mann’s outline in his world map. Hardiness: Zone 8–10.

4) *Trees of North America–Golden Field Guides*: This book from St. Martin’s Press lists podocarps under “Some Introduced Gymnosperms” and shows a drawing of *P. nagi* that illustrates the leaves and fruit.

I know a lot more about podocarps by now. In time, I will have to make a decision:

Should I risk planting it outside? Or, should I keep it as a house plant and, as soon as it threatens to outgrow my living room, take it to Richmond and donate it to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden?

About the Author:

Maud Henne, a native of Germany, residing in Charlottesville, Virginia, has taken care of her late husband’s conifer collection since 1989. She increased it to over 200 plants. Maud has been a member of ACS since 1985 and is a Past President of the Southeastern Region. She gives lectures about garden conifers with slides and cuttings for plant societies and garden clubs, and is part of the lecture program for the Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards. In 2007, her collection was featured on regional PBS.



KLEHM'S SONG SPARROW
FARM AND NURSERY

Fine selection of woody plants includes conifers and additional trees and shrubs.

New catalog section!
Junior Conifers, a collectable group of unique evergreens in smaller pots with smaller prices.

Peonies, Tree Peonies,
Daylilies, Clematis,
and select perennials.

View online or request complimentary catalog at
1-800-553-3715

www.songsparrow.com



Don't miss your
Conifer Quarterly!

Contact the Society with
your new address.

John Martin
American Conifer Society
175 Charisma Lane
Lewisville, NC 27023-9611

The Jean Iseli Memorial Award

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED AND MUST BE RECEIVED BY
JUNE 1, 2009

The American Conifer Society, which supports the development, conservation and propagation of conifers with an emphasis on dwarf or unusual varieties, awards a \$3,000 grant to a public garden, arboretum or horticultural institution.

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

Proposals must contain the following:

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

Send Applications to:

Ethan Johnson
ethjohnson@yahoo.com (Microsoft Word documents)

or by regular mail

c/o The Holden Arboretum
9500 Sperry Road
Kirtland, OH 044094

Ethan Johnson 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
August 1, 2009.

ACS 2009 National Meeting

The 2009 ACS National Meeting will be held August 6–8, 2009, in Hauppauge, New York. Our host hotel will be the Hyatt Regency in Hauppauge.

The Northeast Region is calling all coniferites to attend our annual meeting to be held in Hauppauge, Long Island, New York, on August 6–8. We will embark on a tour reminiscent of the Great Gatsby, visiting some of the best examples of late 19th and early 20th century “robber baron” estates, complete with magnificent specimen trees, lush gardens, and 100-year-old (in some cases older) pinetum plantings. Most of these conifers had only recently been discovered in China and Japan by Western horticulturists and plant explorers and were considered wildly exotic at the time.

For those spouses whose enthusiasm for conifers may be forced, you have the option this year of visiting these estate houses and seeing the furnishings, personal effects, and lifestyles of the Coe, Phipps, and Cutting families, almost as if they had only recently moved away and left everything there for you to see. There is a great deal of history here, captured in architectural revival styles, furniture, and fabric design. This was a period of landscape innovation, with the Olmstead brothers having been very active on Long Island and, in particular, with the Planting Fields, which you will see on the tour.

Taking our venues in order, on August 7, we will begin with Hofstra University (the site of the presidential debate last fall), a Dutchman’s college, which at one time devoted a significant proportion of its budget to campus plant-

ing and beautification. There are magnificent specimen trees of all species to be found here, and over the years, the university brought into its sphere some of the most distinguished early members of our Society such as Ed Rezek, Joe Reis, Joel Spingarn, and James Cross. Their



Old Westbury Gardens

influence and plant contributions are evident throughout the campus.

We will then board the buses for Old Westbury Gardens, still owned by the Phipps family and a prime example of a Charles II-style mansion with interior furnishings and garden amenities typical of the era. We will tour the mansion or grounds, according to your interests, and then assemble in the café in the woods for a picnic lunch.

Following lunch, we will board the buses for the Coe Estate, known as the Planting Fields, and a New York historic public arboretum and state park. The Tudor revival mansion will again be open to conifer refusenics, but as always, the perfectly spaced ancient specimen trees, the pinetum, and the dramatic Olmstead landscape make it difficult for you to choose!

The next day, Saturday, will be full of adventure! We start off with a bus ride to the prominent and internationally known New York Botanical Garden, considered by many to be the finest public garden in the United States. They have a 95 million dollar annual budget, which supports not only the gardens but also the International Plant Science Center. The center, along with the Mertz Library and Steere Herbarium, are regarded as among the best in the world.

Funds for the arboretum have traditionally been raised by the “must have” ticket of the New York social season, the annual New York Botanic Garden Ball. The NYBG is delighted to host the American Conifer Society and will be particularly pleased to show off their newly restored Benenson Ornamental Conifers, a collection of dwarf and unusual conifers that our late member Sid



New York Botanical Gardens

Waxman was instrumental in assembling. Tram rides will be available to ensure that we see as much as possible of this historic and beautifully maintained arboretum and spectacular public garden.

The next stop on Saturday may well be the sleeper of the entire weekend. Bayard Cutting was a wealthy financier and railroad investor who built an extensive estate on Long Island’s south shore bordering the Connetquot River. He was a well traveled man who, like his peers, became interested in the flow of new plants coming into the country. Instead of settling with just your ordinary everyday pinetum, Mr. Cutting seems to have been an early victim of coniferitis and went on

to start an arboretum devoted to conifers.

Some of these early trees were venerable specimens when a terrible hurricane occurred in the 1960s that wiped out a distressing number of them. Today, after a determined effort to replant, there is a nice mix of the old specimens with younger trees, some of which are now approaching 50 years old. Everyone at the arboretum is very excited about our visit. The director said, “Wouldn’t Bayard have been pleased?” You will be pleased, too!

Come to Long Island this summer and prepare yourselves to be well taken care of and well entertained!



Bayard Cutting Arboretum

Extended Tour

The four-day extended tour (August 9–12) will range from gardens that are charming and will delight you to those that will amaze and astonish you! The

fabled Hamptons on the eastern end of Long Island, a playground of the once rich and famous, will be our primary focus. We will visit public as well as private gardens, some devoted to conifers, one to sculpture, one to perennials, one with a strong Chinese classical design style, and one that is an intimate garden so cleverly composed and packed with plants, you’ll be very cross when told its time to leave.

We have been invited to have lunch at two of the area’s foremost garden centers and design firms, The Bayberry in Amagansett and Marders in Bridgehampton. Lastly, very good wine is made in Eastern Long Island, and a winery stop is planned to let you sample some!

The extended tour usually sells out quickly as there is room for only 50 people. This is going to be a good one as extended tours go, so don’t miss out.

Send your application back by return mail!

We invite you to visit these Web sites to learn more about the great things in store for you at the 2009 National Meeting:

www.nybg.org

www.bayardcuttingarboretum.com

<http://www.hofstra.edu/Community/Arbor/index.html>

www.oldwestburygardens.org

www.plantingfields.org

Conifers, Japanese Maples and Alpines – Oh My!

by Marc McCalmon

The 2009 Western Region meeting will be held in Olympia Washington, June 26-28. The meeting will focus on the utilization of conifers, Japanese maples, and alpine plants in gardens.

The forests of the western United States range from temperate rainforests to sub-alpine environments. Across the distribution of these coniferous forests, several species of maples can be found, growing primarily on sites having a balance of moisture (mesic sites). The fiery red, orange and magenta fall colors of vine maple (*Acer circinatum*) and Douglas maple (*Acer glabrum*) contrasted against the rich dark green of their conifer neighbors is striking. Gardeners can achieve this same effect with the use of Japanese maples.



As coniferous forests transition to the alpine zone, visitors can see an amazing assortment of herbaceous plants, shrubs and grasses. The transition between subalpine and alpine environments can provide a perfect template for a conifer collector's garden design.

Boulders, stunted and contorted conifers, and a tapestry of alpine plants create a diversity of texture, form, and color. Conifer enthusiasts range from dedicated collectors who enjoy planting groups of cultivars from one species, to gardeners who use conifers to achieve a desired design effect; all can benefit from good design principles.

The 2009 Western Region meeting will provide an opportunity to learn more about the use of conifers, Japanese maples, and alpine plants. Friday evening, Robert Fincham will kick things off with a presentation on conifer cultivars and their uses in the landscape, including a comparison of old selections with new selections. With a presentation title of: *The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly: Beauty is in the eye of the beholder*, you know it will be good!



Saturday morning Frank Byles will talk about the use of Japanese maples in the landscape. Frank has amassed a collection of about 800 Japanese maples, many of which have been installed on the campus of South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC). Following his presentation, the group will tour the collection at SPSCC.



After lunch on Saturday, the group will tour three not-to-be-missed gardens! One garden was voted to be one of best six gardens on Puget Sound; another was featured in a national garden magazine. The evening will include a no-host bar, silent auction, dinner, a keynote presentation, and the oral auction. Lucy Hardiman will present the keynote. Lucy is a fifth generation Oregon gardener. She is recognized for her innovative approaches to garden design. Her garden and those of clients have appeared in many magazines and books. Lucy is well known as a fun, dynamic speaker.

A Sunday breakfast presentation by Rick Lupp will be on constructing sand beds for growing alpines and conifers. Rick is owner of Mt. Tahoma Nursery, a small specialty nursery involved in the selection, propagation and selling of choice rock garden, alpine house and

woodland plants. Following this, folks can travel to Coenosium Gardens where they can tour the pinetum and purchase plants from Robert Fincham, Rick Lupp and Frank Byles.

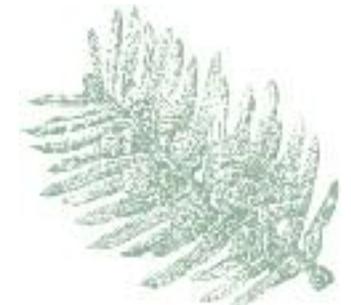
Hope to see you there!
(Need more information? Contact Marc McCalmon (nwlanding@gmail.com)



Trees Wanted
Ornamental, Specimen
&
Unique Conifer Trees

Healthy 6-12" caliper material for Re-Wholesale. Northeast grown in or out of the ground, we dig! Individual pieces or by the lot. Before it gets too big or you clear cut, call us!

Contact:
Chris@PlantNJ.com
Phone: 888-752-1100
Fax: 201-785-9181



\$7,000 Awarded to Four Southeast Regional Gardens

by Barbie Colvin

Four Southeast Reference Gardens received great news in early February, as grants designed to improve their conifer programs were approved by the ACS, both nationally and regionally.

East Tennessee State University Arboretum (ETSUA), Johnson City, Tennessee, led the list by receiving a \$3,000 grant, which was awarded to the Southeast Region from the American Conifer Society. This National Grant, designated for a Reference Garden, rotates among the four regions each year. In 2009, it was the Southeast Region's turn and ETSUA was our Region's recommendation. The grant will pay for a new conifer garden designed to showcase two interesting biological themes. The first theme will show the close evolutionary relationship between geographically distant species within a conifer genus.

The second theme will highlight the extreme morphological variation in size and growth form which occurs within a single conifer species. This size-variation theme continues ETSUA's emphasis on dwarf conifers and their many interesting variations. Our regional president Duane Ridenour presented a recommendation about ETSUA to the ACS National Board at their February meeting, and the recommendation to fund the \$3,000 project was unanimously approved. Dr. Frosty Levy and Dr. Tim McDowell from ETSUA proposed this new conifer garden as a

natural extension of the education-based conifer gardens that already exist on campus. Work on the new garden will begin soon, and a full report on the completed garden will be made later this year.

Three other regional gardens submitted grant requests, and the Southeast Region awarded funds to these gardens:

The Atlanta Botanical Garden (ABG), Atlanta, Georgia, requested and received \$1,000, which will be used to replace many conifers which have grown beyond their allotted space over the past several years. With our grant money, ABG will remove some oversized specimens and replace them with varieties that will better fit the space. Stay tuned for updates on which new cultivars are included in this planting. The SE Region is glad to support ABG's continuing commitment to showcasing a diverse and unique conifer collection in the Southeast.

The University of Tennessee Gardens, Knoxville, Tennessee, was awarded \$1,500 toward updating conifer signage on new specimens as well as helping to defray some expenses of a planned conifer symposium scheduled for September 2009. The Garden has substantially expanded its conifer collection in the past few years, so keeping the signage current is an important component of the Reference Garden program. We are always glad to hear of pending conifer-related programs, so helping to fund such a

program makes good use of our Regional money.

The **J. Sargent Reynold Community College (JSRCC), Goochland, Virginia**, was awarded \$1,500 toward the installation of a conifer garden which will qualify as a Reference Garden once completed. This new garden will serve as an educational, outdoor, hands-on classroom focused on conifer diversity, cultural care, and use/evaluation by future landscape and nursery professionals studying for their Associate's Degree at JSRCC. The Al Gardner Conifer Garden has a high level of support from the college, area nurseries and suppliers, garden clubs, and avid conifer enthusiasts. Contributing toward the development of a new garden, which will also serve as a Reference Garden, is another good investment by the Southeast Region.

You might wonder where the regional grant money comes from. Each

year, one of the highlights of the Regional Meeting is the plant auctions, both live and silent. The proceeds from these auctions go directly into our treasury and then are funneled back to our regional gardens through the Reference Garden Grant Program. The amount available year to year varies, depending on the success of the auction. The 2009 Southeast Regional Meeting is scheduled for September 18–19 in Richmond, Virginia. We're encouraging all members to start saving their pennies to spend during the auction, as their frenzied bidding will result in improvements for more of our Reference Gardens next year.

About the Author: Barbie Colvin and her husband Rick live and garden in Milledgeville, Georgia. Barbie is Vice President of the Southeast Region and also chairs the SE ACS Reference Garden Committee. She can be reached at colvinrcbc@windstream.net.

Publication Dates

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

Submit articles/photos to:

Evelyn Cox, *Conifer Quarterly* Editor • 1621 N. Lake Dr., Canton, GA 30115
PH (770) 663-7576 • E-mail: ConiferQuarterly@bellsouth.net

Directorate

Officers

<i>President</i>	Ellen Kelley, 3445 Oakory Ln, Bettendorf, IA 52722-3938 PH (563) 650-2212
<i>Vice President</i>	Ridge Goodwin, P.O. Box 310, Holicong, PA 18928
<i>Treasurer</i>	PH (215) 794-3216
<i>Secretary</i>	Kathleen Pottratz, 42438 SW Vandehey Rd., Gaston, OR 97119 PH (503) 985-7561, E-mail: kpottz@highstream.net
<i>Past President</i>	Tom Cox, 1621 N Lake Dr., Canton, GA 30115 PH (770) 772-9747, FAX (770) 663-4063, E-mail: coxarb@bellsouth.net

Directors

<i>Term expires 2010</i>	Scott Burrell, 428 North Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23221 PH (804) 339-0873, FAX (804) 354-8247, E-mail: scott@vahistorical.org
	Christopher Daeger, Stanley M. Rowe Arboretum, 4600 Muchmore Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45243 PH (513)-561-5151, E-mail: cdaeger@ihill.org
	Joe Harris, III P. O. Box 518 Boring OR 97009-0518 PH (503)-663-3822, E-mail: jharris@iselinursery.com
	Gerald Kral, 900 Winton Rd. N, Rochester, NY 14609 PH (585) 288-5082, E-mail: gkral1@rochester.rr.com

Regional Presidents

<i>Northeastern Region</i>	Larry Nau, 25 Knollwood Dr., Churchville, NY, 14428 PH (585) 202-1815, E-mail: lnau@frontiernet.net
<i>Central Region</i>	Bill Barger, 3200 Rohrer Rd, Wadsworth, OH 44281 PH (330) 336-9695, E-mail: billb@conifergarden.com
<i>Western Region</i>	Brian Jacob 13455 SE Lafayette Hwy., Dayton, OR 97114 PH (503) 868-7941 Email: bjacob@monrovia.com
<i>Southeastern Region</i>	Duane Ridenour, P.O. Box 361, Jacksboro, TN 37757 PH (865) 310-1026

Conifer Society Staff

<i>National Office</i>	John Martin, 175 Charisma Lane, Lewisville, NC 27023-9611 PH (336) 945-0483, FAX (336) 945-0484, E-mail: conifersociety@aol.com
<i>Editor, Conifer Quarterly</i>	Evelyn Cox, 1621 N. Lake Drive, Canton, GA 30004 PH (770) 663-7576 E-mail: ConiferQuarterly@bellsouth.net
<i>Graphic Design & Printing</i>	Monya Barnes, 2255 Barrett Drive, Cumming, GA 30040 PH (770) 888-0434, E-mail: monya@mindspring.com

www.conifersociety.org



Picea pungens 'Blue Pearl'

Photo by Dennis Groh



Picea pungens 'Blaukissen'

Photo by Dennis Groh