

Helianthus angustifolius eventually grows 8 ft tall, has a bushy habit, and requires no staking. Its northern hardiness range is reported to be Zone 6 but further testing is certainly warranted

MODERATOR ALEXANDER: Bruce Briggs has three rhododendrons to show us.

BRUCE BRIGGS: *Rhododendron* 'Trinidad' ('Calcutta' × 'Tahiti'). Cross (1960), raised, and introduced by Dr David G. Leach, North Madison, OH. Pictured in *American Horticulturist*, 52:4 (Winter 1973, p 17). Buds Red Purple Group 63B. Flowers of good substance, openly funnel-shaped, 2¾ in across × 2 in long, with 5 wavy lobes. Red Purple Group 62D with ⅜ in. Red Purple Group 66C edging, sparse dorsal, Greyed Yellow Group 162B spotting, reverse Red Purple Group 64C. Calyx variable in length, dorsal lobes 1¼ to 1¾ in. Yellow Group 4D, striped Red Purple Group 63D. Truss 6½ in across × 5¾ in high, ball-shaped, with 14 flowers. Floriferous. Leaves held 3 years, 5¼ × 2⅛ in. elliptic, apiculate, rounded, flat to convex, glabrous, dull, Yellow Green Group 147A, under surface with inconspicuous, golden brown, scattered hairs to patchy indumentum. Plant rounded, semi-dwarf, branching moderately, 4 ft tall × 5 ft wide in 21 years. Blooms in late May. Hardy to at least -20°F.

R 'Normandy' Newburyport Beauty (Fowle #18) × Newburyport Belle (Fowle #19) (Both parents are unregistered Dexter hybrids.) Cross (1968), raised, and introduced (1983) by Dr David G. Leach, North Madison, OH. Flowers of good substance, opening funnel-shaped, 2⅞ in. across × 1¾ in long, with 5-6 wavy lobes, Red Purple Group 73C flushed 73A around the perimeter, with dorsal spotting Orange Group 24B. Calyx of 2⅛ in dorsal lobes, pink. Truss 6½ × 6½ in ball-shaped, with 17 flowers. Leaves held 2 years, 4⅞ × 2¼ in elliptic, mucronate, rounded, slightly bullate, Yellow Green Group 146A. Plant broad, rounded, branching well, 5 ft tall × 6½ ft wide in 15 years. Blooms in late May. Hardy to at least -20°F.

R 'Creamy Chiffon' (H-3) is of unknown origin but probably has *R. campylocarpum* or *R. wardii* in its lineage. 4 ft, -5°F, 4-5/4/- A most unusual rhododendron with its double creamy-yellow flowers which appear in profusion. The rounded deep-green leaves, that hold for 2 to 3 yr make a most attractive plant that looks good in the garden. A compact, semi-dwarf, blooming very young, plant.

EASTERN REGION 1984 AWARD OF MERIT

PRESENTED BY J. PETER VERMEULEN

The individual recognized for the Award of Merit at this, our 34th Annual Meeting, personifies in an exemplary manner the purpose and spirit of our Society, as well as that of our cherished national heritage, which offers to everyone opportunities for success commensurate with their talents, initiative, and efforts.

Our recipient was born in 1934 in Bowling Green, Ohio, into a farming and gardening family. Boyhood employment at Ilgenfritz Nursery, where his father also worked, gave him early life exposure to horticulture and, no doubt, influenced

his preparation for college and later life. His father purchased land at Toledo, Ohio, to start a small nursery, primarily to generate funds for higher education. The nursery was successful and so was our recipient's academic efforts in high school, where he earned a 4-year scholarship at Michigan State University. At Michigan State he received his bachelor's degree in Horticulture in 1956 and his advisor was our good member, Dr. Fred B. Widmoyer.

That same year marked the first of what would be many publications. That first paper was entitled, "Experiments Yield Information on Correct Pansy Culture Procedures."

His quest for knowledge and excellence led him to the College of Agriculture (now Cook College) at Rutgers University. Here again his advisor was an honored and well known member of this society, Dr. William E. Snyder. There he received a Master of Science degree in 1959, and the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in 1962. Three publications during that era carry his name as sole author.

After graduation our recipient conducted research on rooting cofactors in selected southern pines with the Texas Forest Service at Texas A & M University. A paper on this research was presented to this Society in 1963.

From Texas A & M he moved to Beltsville, Maryland with the Fruit Laboratory at the USDA Agricultural Research Center. His work at Beltsville on pear and crabapple resulted in 25 or more excellent papers. In the late 1970's there began an impressive succession of 27 publications relating to various aspects of tissue culture.

He has organized a number of highly successful symposia on micropropagation, and also has authored entire chapters in several books. The recently published Index for volumes 1-30 of our IPPS Proceedings is due solely to his efforts.

Our recipient is currently a Senior Plant Physiologist at the USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. This past summer he also received the prestigious Norman Jay Coleman Award, given by the American Association of Nurserymen.

We are indeed pleased and honored to confer to Dr. Richard H. Zimmerman the Eastern Region IPPS 1984 Award of Merit.