

New Plant Forum

Compiled and Moderated by Jack Alexander

PRESENTERS:

Dale Deppe, Spring Meadow Nurseries, Inc., Grand Haven, Michigan

Hydrangea paniculata 'Pink Diamond'

Hydrangea paniculata 'White Moth'

Ruth Dix, U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.

Acer rubrum 'Sun Valley'

Acer rubrum 'Somerset'

Acer rubrum 'Brandywine'

Viburnum rhytidophyllum 'Cree'

Ilex 'Scepter'

Ilex crenata 'Geisha'

Barry Glick, Sunshine Farm and Gardens, Renick, West Virginia

Spiranthes cernua var. *odorata* 'Chadds Ford'

Oenothera 'Cold Creek'

Penstemon 'Early Dawn'

Helleborus hybrid seedlings

Ajuga reptans 'Carol'

Richard Jaynes, Broken Arrow Nursery, Hamden, Connecticut

Clethra alnifolia 'Ruby Spice'

Kalmia latifolia 'Little Linda'

Steve McCulloch, Briggs Nursery, Inc., Olympia, Washington

Pieris 'Spring Snow'

Rhododendron 'Haaga'

Christopher Rogers, Weston Nurseries, Inc., Hopkinton, Massachusetts

Fragaria 'Wildfire'

Euonymus planipes (syn. *E. sachalinensis*)

Gregory Tormey, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut

Clethra barbinervis

Ken Twombly, Twombly Nursery, 163 Barn Hill Rd., Monroe, Connecticut

Acer palmatum 'Red Sentinel'

Picea pungens 'Lemonade'

Sidney Waxman, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut (retired)

Pinus strobus 'Connecticut Slate'

Sciadopitys verticillata 'Jim Cross'

Ajuga reptans 'Carol'

This plant was found in the Wyncote Pennsylvania garden of Roger Copeland. 'Carol', a sport of 'Burgundy Glow', has proven to be 100% stable. It is probably one of the most colorful variegated foliage plants on the market. The maroon, cream, and

green variegation is exceptionally vivid and distinct. As with all *Ajuga* taxa, 'Carol' is extremely easy to propagate by division.

***Acer palmatum* 'Red Sentinel'**

Originally found as a witches broom on *A. palmatum* 'Bloodgood' about 15 years ago. More compact, growing 8 ft high and 5 ft wide in 15 years. It holds its dark red foliage all summer, and it intensifies in autumn. It holds its foliage into December, then sheds it all at once. An excellent plant for summer and fall color, a nice size for small yards and patios.

Acer rubrum

The following three new cultivars of *Acer rubrum* were released in December, 1994 by the National Arboretum. All three resulted from controlled crosses made in 1982 by A.M. Townsend. The new cultivars produce only male flowers; no fruit are produced. Each one also has a significant level of tolerance to the potato leafhopper. They will make excellent lawn, street, highway, or park trees. Their combination of widespread adaptability, leafhopper tolerance, symmetrical shape, and outstanding autumn leaf color will fill important needs in the nursery and landscape industries. In addition, all three are easy to propagate by softwood cuttings using conventional means, with rooting generally occurring in less than 4 weeks.

- ***Acer rubrum* 'Sun Valley'**. *Acer rubrum* 'Sun Valley' is the result of a cross between 'Red Sunset' and 'Autumn Flame'. It has a symmetrical, ovate crown with leaves that turn a brilliant red color in autumn—mid-October in the Washington, D.C. area. The original selection has reached 21 ft in height with a crown spread of 10 ft after 12 growing seasons. It is adapted to U.S.D.A. Zones 4 to 7.
- ***Acer rubrum* 'Somerset'**. *Acer rubrum* 'Somerset' resulted from a cross of 'October Glory' with 'Autumn Flame'. It shows autumn color 1 to 2 weeks later than 'Sun Valley', late October in the Washington, D.C. area. 'Somerset' has outstanding red autumn color, combined with an unusually broad range of adaptability. The crown shape is moderately ovate, and its height at 12 years has reached 23 ft with a spread of 11 ft. It is adapted to U.S.D.A. Zones 4 to 8.
- ***Acer rubrum* 'Brandywine'**. *Acer rubrum* 'Brandywine' also resulted from a cross of 'October Glory' with 'Autumn Flame'. In autumn, the vibrant red leaf color gradually turns to a brilliant purple red as the days grow shorter. This results in a long period (frequently 14 days or more) of effective peak red autumn display. The crown form is moderately columnar and at 12 years, it has reached a height of 25 ft with a spread of 12 ft. It too is adapted to U.S.D.A. Zones 4 to 7.

Clethra barbinervis

Clethra barbinervis, Japanese clethra, is a large shrub or small tree that grows to a height of 15 to 18 ft. One of its finest attributes is its gray, brown and even sometimes white bark which is similar to *Stewartia pseudocamellia*.

Japanese clethra is hardy in Zones 5 to 8 and has white flowers in July and August. We have one plant here that stays completely covered with blooms for up to 2 months. It is easily propagated by cuttings and the seeds germinate with no pretreatment. Feel free to write for seeds or cuttings.

***Clethra alnifolia* 'Ruby Spice'**

Flowers of 'Ruby Spice' are significantly deeper and richer pink than any other selection to date. It was found in 1992 by Andy Brand of Broken Arrow Nursery as a branch sport on 'Pink Spires'. Cuttings were taken and the plants bloomed true for the rich pink color. Flowers are very fragrant and attractive to butterflies. Foliage is darker green than 'Pink Spires'. 'Ruby Spice' is a vigorous grower and expected to be 6 to 8 ft in 10 years and hardy in Zones 4 to 8. Like the species, it is tolerant of shade, adaptable to wet sites, easy to root, and relatively free of insect and disease problems.

Euonymus planipes

This under utilized shrub grows to 15 ft tall and can be trained into a wide, upright low-branched tree. It is very showy in the fall with its bright scarlet fruits. The bright green new foliage turns yellow in autumn. No major pests bother it. Fresh seed takes 1 to 2 years to germinate.

***Fragaria* 'Wildfire'**

This plant originated from seed collected from the patented plant *Fragaria* 'Pink Panda' PP7598. Dark pink to red flowers are produced primarily in May and June, and continuing less heavily throughout the summer. Edible red strawberries are produced in low numbers. The plant produces numerous runners that root anywhere they touch the earth. Performs best in full sun.

***Helleborus* hybrids**

The first results of Barry's decade-long quest for the best hellebores are finally here. Those of you who know me are aware of my insane passion for this genus, and how I have combed every continent for the highest quality parental stock for my hellebore breeding program. The pictures I am showing you are a very small representation of the rainbow of colors and forms that are possible with careful selecting and cross pollination. At this point, the plants that are available are unflowered seedlings from high quality parents. There are several people working feverishly at the perfect regimen for tissue culture, but it seems that we are still a couple of years away.

***Hydrangea paniculata* 'Pink Diamond'**

Grown unpruned this cultivar forms an enormous shrub. The tall panicles of interspersed fertile and sterile cream flowers open in late summer. The panicles are well shaped with slightly rounded tips and are carried in profusion. Starting from the panicle base, the florets gradually develop a pink coloration which advances towards the tip, deepening as it progresses until the whole is a deep shade of rose.

***Hydrangea paniculata* 'White Moth'**

A vigorous and prolific plant. Flowering starts in July and continues well into the autumn, the flowers maintaining their creamy white color throughout.

***Ilex* 'Scepter'**

Ilex 'Scepter' originated from a controlled cross of *I. integra* with *I. xaltaclerensis* 'Hodginsii' made in 1960 by W.F. Kosar. It was selected and released by Gene K. Eisenbeiss in March, 1995. It is a rapid-growing tree with a pyramidal habit, compact without shearing. At 16 years it reached a height of 19-1/2 ft with a width of close to 14 ft. The leaves are an excellent glossy dark green, leathery, thinner and more flexible than either parent species. The fruit is bright red, borne in clusters

of 2 to 10 fruits and is persistent throughout the winter. 'Scepter' is sexually compatible with male plants of the parent species and other *Ilex* species such as *cornuta*, *xmeserveae*, *pernyi*, *rugosa*, and *latifolia*. Hardiness is rated at U.S.D.A. Zone 7. It propagates readily from semi-hardwood and hardwood cuttings.

***Ilex crenata* 'Geisha'**

Ilex crenata 'Geisha' is an F3 *I. crenata* hybrid made by W.F. Kosar in 1966 and released by Gene K. Eisenbeiss in March, 1995. 'Geisha' is a small, evergreen shrub with a spreading habit. At 10 years it can be expected to reach approximately 2-1/2 ft in both height and width. Although 'Geisha' is not a dwarf plant, the leaves are unusually small and glossy, and it has the smallest leaves of any *I. crenata*. The fruit color is yellow, which is very distinct from the black fruit typical of this species. 'Geisha' branches quite readily following shearing. Hardiness is rated at U.S.D.A. Zone 7. It propagates readily from semi-hardwood and hardwood cuttings.

***Kalmia latifolia* 'Little Linda'**

Miniature or small-leaved mountain laurel (form *myrtifolia*). 'Little Linda' resulted from a sequence of five generations of controlled crosses begun in 1963, with the final crosses made in 1982. Significant features of 'Little Linda' are the red-budded flowers that open near white and age to a medium pink. In addition the plant is dense and low growing with leaves that are 1/2 to 2/3 normal size and glossy and dark green. The plant is expected to be 30 by 30 in. in 10 years and hardy in Zones 5 to 8. This is the most recent release of a series of miniature mountain laurel that includes 'Elf', near white flower; 'Tiddlywinks' and 'Tinkerbell', rich pink flowers; and 'Minuet', burgundy flowers. Like most ericaceous plants, 'Little Linda' requires an acid well drained soil. The miniature mountain laurels by virtue of their smaller habit are adapted to landscape situations where normal mountain laurel would be too large. 'Little Linda' is difficult to root from cuttings, so as with other mountain laurel selections, plants are best multiplied by micropropagation. There is a breeders fee of \$0.15 per plant payable to Richard Jaynes, Broken Arrow Nursery, 13 Broken Arrow Rd., Hamden, CT 06518

Sources—all are producing plants in tissue culture:

Briggs Nursery, 4407 Henderson Blvd., Olympia, WA 98501

Planeview Nursery, 770 Wapping Road, Portsmouth, RI 02871

Prides Corner Farms, Waterman Rd., Lebanon, CT 06249

Stoneboro Nurseries, R. D. 2, Stoneboro, PA 16153

***Oenothera* 'Cold Crick'**

'Cold Crick' was almost dismissed as another nice but weedy evening primrose. Definitely not the case here. When Polly Rowly of Coki Crick Farms brought this plant to me several years ago, I graciously accepted her gift and tucked it out of the way expecting the worst. Boy, was I surprised. This plant has no bad habits. It is day-blooming, compact, non-invasive, bright yellow, long-lived and very floriferous. It flowers continuously during the summer and is a good cleaner-upper. Cuttings root in 2 weeks under mist with no bottom heat and a dip in a 10% solution of Ed Woods rooting hormone.

***Penstemon* 'Early Dawn'**

'Early Dawn' was a chance seedling discovered in the Garden of Norm Beale of

Raleigh North Carolina. Untypical of the large-flowered *Penstemon* hybrids, this plant is very long lived and hardy so far to 2F with no snow cover. It has icy white flowers kissed on the tips with the lightest pink blush. Propagation is by cuttings or division.

***Picea pungens* 'Lemonade'**

Picea pungens 'Lemonade'. Bright lemon-yellow new growth in spring lasts for 3 to 4 weeks, then turns to a pleasing blue-green in summer.

***Pieris* 'Spring Snow'**

Pieris 'Spring Snow' is reported to be a hybrid of *P. floribunda* × *P. japonica*. It was selected by Del Brown of Marysville, Washington. In 1979 'Spring Snow' was registered and introduced to the trade by Briggs Nursery Inc. Although this selection is nearly 16 years old, it still remains a superb ornamental. 'Spring Snow' is appropriately named. In the early spring, 'Spring Snow' is smothered with a blizzard of snow white blooms. Flower corollas are very white, borne in upright *P. floribunda* like panicles. This selection does require dead heading. Plants are dense and compact with attractive *P. japonica* like foliage. 'Spring Snow' is hardy to parts of Zone 5 (U.S.D.A.).

***Pinus strobus* 'Connecticut Slate'**

Pinus strobus 'Connecticut Slate' originated not as a seedling, but as a graft taken from a witches'-broom found hanging high above a river near Putnam, Connecticut. This plant was selected for its unique color and for its unusual growth habit. Its foliage is a bright grayish-blue, and contrasts sharply with other white pines. Its form is indeed variable having densely tufted branches which arise at chance locations. By no means is it symmetrical. It was named Connecticut Slate for its place of origin and for the color of its foliage. After 11 years it has grown 4 ft high and 6 ft wide.

***Rhododendron* 'Haaga'**

'Haaga' is a new elepidote hybrid rhododendron from the breeding program at the University of Helsinki, Finland. The breeding program's goal is to produce winter hardy ornamental plants that can tolerate temperatures below -31F. This hybrid resulted from the cross of the extremely hardy species (USDA Zone 4) *R. brachycarpum* ssp. *tigerstedtii* with the red-flowered ironclad rhododendron 'Dr. H.C. Dresselhuys'. 'Haaga' is a profuse blooming and hardy rhododendron. Upright trusses containing 14 florets are deep pink that fade to pink. Plants are well branched and upright growing, with a mature height of 5 to 7 ft. Foliage is attractive, coarse, and dark green. Plants are rated H-1 and have performed well in Zone 5.

***Sciadopitys verticillata* 'Jim Cross'**

Sciadopitys verticillata 'Jim Cross' was selected for its two main features: its needles and its form. The needles are curved, more so than on most other umbrella pines. Its relatively short shoots and its dense branches present a solid surface of glossy needles which effectively shield the stems from view. The slightly downward curve of its needles causes them to reflect light and present a glossy surface. This tree is broadly conical and in 20 years has grown to a height of 10 ft and a width, at its base, of 8 ft.

Jim Cross was admired for his knowledge, his love of plants, his humor, and his modesty. He was a good friend. I named this plant for him.

***Spiranthes cernua* f. *odorata* 'Chadd's Ford'**

Just imagine a fragrant, native, terrestrial orchid that just about anybody, anywhere can grow. Hardy to Zone 5, this is primarily a moisture-loving plant, but it will tolerate drier soil and is not that particular about sun or shade. Propagation is quick and easy as the root tips curl up to the surface of the soil and produce copious amounts of new plants. In the late summer, early fall, large spikes of vanilla scented, long lasting flowers will grace the landscape. It also makes a very attractive and saleable cut flower.

***Viburnum rhytidophyllum* 'Cree'**

Viburnum rhytidophyllum 'Cree' was initially selected by Donald R. Egolf in 1989 from a seedling population grown from seed collected in 1980 by T.R. Dudley in Shennonngjia Forest District, Western Hubei Province, the Peoples Republic of China. 'Cree' was chosen specifically for its compact growth habit and superior dark evergreen foliage throughout the winter. Although the leaves will droop during cold weather, they appear less likely to curl or roll during extremely cold periods. 'Cree' has excellent flowering and fruiting. In mid May it is covered with cymes of fuzzy, creamy-white flowers. The bright red fruit ripens in late August through September, gradually maturing to black before being eaten by birds. In form 'Cree' is a somewhat spreading, dense-branched shrub that has reached a height of 8-1/2 ft x 8 ft width in 14 years. It is reliably evergreen and hardy in USDA Zones 6 to 8.