

Friday Morning, December 8, 1989

## NEW PLANT FORUM, JACK ALEXANDER, MODERATOR

**SIDNEY WAXMAN:** *Pinus densiflora* 'Sunburst' is a dominant plant selected from many seedlings collected from a witches'-broom found on the grounds of the Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois. This tree was selected from among 70 seedlings because of its bold branches and bright-yellow, extra-long needles that radiate about each terminal bud. *Pinus densiflora* 'Sunburst' would be a good choice as a specimen or as a contrasting tree among other conifers. 'Sunburst' grown from seed has attained a height of 10 ft and a width of 12 ft in 10 years.

*Pinus strobus* 'David' was a seedling collected from a witches'- broom in Granby, Connecticut. It is faster growing than most of the other white pine dwarfs. After 25 years it has reached a height of 15 ft. and a width of 11.5 ft. This tree was selected because of its growth habit and form. While most other dwarf white pines are either equal in their height and width dimensions, or wider than high, this selection is taller than wide and should be a good addition in a landscape setting. Its branching is interesting in that there are clusters of cloud-like branches on its outer fringes

*Pinus strobus* 'Witches'-brew' is an unusual semi-dwarf white pine that was among several hundred seedlings collected from a witches'-broom in Hillsboro, New Hampshire. Its growth habit is interesting because of its strong asymmetric branch development and its dark green foliage. This selection should be pruned occasionally to provide the type of plant structure that is desired. Grafts of 'Witches'-brew' have grown to a height of 2.5 ft and a width of 2.5 ft in four years.

**RICK LEWANDOWSKI:** *Fothergilla gardenii* 'Blue Mist' is a selection of dwarf fothergilla named and introduced by staff at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania in 1984. It was registered in 1989. Though vouchered as part of the living collection when the University began its administration of the Morris Estate in 1932, the parent plant was not recognized for its unique qualities until 1979

'Blue Mist' is a striking example of dwarf fothergilla with its distinctive glaucous bluish-green foliage intensifying with maturity to a dark, glaucous, gray-green color. In the autumn the foliage becomes pale yellow to orange and occasionally russet-red. Fall color is not as intense as other dwarf fothergillas. As is typical of the species, 'Blue Mist' bears fragrant pure white flowers without petals in dense bottlebrush-like spikes in late April in Philadelphia

'Blue Mist' is a suckering shrub that grows to a height of 2 to 3 ft with an equal width. The leaves are borne on slender unbranched or sparsely branched upright stems resulting in an irregular plant habit. It prefers evenly moist, well-drained acidic soils and partial shade. While 'Blue Mist' grows best in particularly shaded locations, it develops its best fall color with higher light conditions. 'Blue Mist' has proven hardy to USDA Zone 5b and is generally unaffected by insects or diseases.

'Blue Mist' is an excellent, low-growing, carefree shrub that creates interest in the garden throughout the growing season. Because of its size and cultural attributes, it is particularly valuable for small gardens in masses, as a specimen, or as a foundation plant.

A number of nurseries have begun to produce *Fothergilla gardenii* 'Blue Mist' and the Morris Arboretum (University of Pennsylvania, 9414 Meadowbrook Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118) is distributing limited quantities of material to nurserymen. Softwood cuttings root easily and at high percentages (90%+), when treated with 0.4 to 0.8% IBA-talc or quick dips.

**DAN STUDEBAKER:** *Taxus × media* 'Ohio Globe' (formerly identified as Mitiska #5) was selected by Laddie Mitiska Nursery in Amherst, Ohio from seed of a 'Hatfield' source 'Ohio Globe' is a male cultivar with leaves having a bluish-green color cast. It is moderately slow growing and more easily maintained in a globe shape (even when unsheared) than even *T. × media* 'Brownii'. 'Ohio Globe' roots fairly easily from cuttings and is a very hardy cultivar that usually suffers little winter damage. Dr. L. C. Chadwick of Ohio State considers this as one of the best taxus cultivars

*Taxus × media* 'Slavin' originated from a single plant growing in Rochester, N. Y. that was observed by Eldon Studebaker on the 1964 Eastern Region pre-conference tour of the Rochester City Parks system. Dick Fenuchia, a long time member of IPPS, reported it was probably a *T. cuspidata* type and it was entirely hardy in the Rochester area. We began growing it the next year when he sent our nursery three cuttings. It is a low, spreading type with drooping branch tips, not unlike *T. baccata* 'Repandens' which is not hardy in our area. A 25 year old plant is 6 ft tall and 9 ft wide. Moderately slow growing type that keeps its shape with minimum pruning. Roots with some difficulty at times, probably because of the thinness of cutting wood.

This taxus is named in recognition of Bernard Slavin, long time superintendent in the Rochester, N. Y. Parks System.

**WILLIAM FLEMER III:** *Prunus × yedoensis* 'Afterglow' (Plant Patent # 5730) This exceptionally vigorous form of the Yoshino cherry is a seedling of the pale pink Akebono cultivar of *P × yedoensis*. It was noticed in a row of 'Akebono' seedlings because the flowers were a rich pink color that did not fade to white as the flowers matured. The flowers of the Yoshino cherry are white or pale pink in color. The Yoshino cherry is one of the most vigorous growers of all the Japanese cherries and is especially suited for street tree and park planting from Zone 5 south.

'Afterglow' is a rapidly growing tree, forming a flat-topped specimen 40 ft or more tall, and as wide at maturity. It bears masses of large single pink flowers in late April and is a choice cultivar for street tree use or mass plantings, either alone or in combination with the normal white Yoshino cherries.

'Afterglow' cherry is noticeably more cold-hardy than ordinary Yoshino cherries which have suffered serious bark splitting in cold winters. 'Afterglow' was unharmed.

When trimmed up to give pedestrian clearance, 'Afterglow' cherry is an ideal small tree to plant beneath overhead utility wires or whenever space is limited. Its broad spreading crown gives ample shade without excessive height. Like other Japanese cherries, it is a showy tree for massing in park plantings, especially along lakes and rivers where its clouds of pink flowers are reflected in the water.

*Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Snow Queen' is a cultivar of the native oakleaf hydrangea. It is notable for the large size and the pure white color of its flowers. The parent shrub, which was discovered on the Princeton Nurseries, has many more sterile florets in the flower panicles than is the case with the species. This means that the panicles are fuller looking and more decorative. They are a clear snow white color when they open in early July and gradually turn pink as they mature in August. Unlike the fully sterile forms of this species, the panicles are held erect on stiff stems even after the heavy summer rains, when the flower panicles of sterile plants droop down and become hidden in the foliage.

'Snow Queen' grows to a height of 5 to 6 ft and is winter hardy in Zone 5. It is one of the few deciduous shrubs which grow well in the shade as well as in the full sun. The bold, handsome foliage that resembles oak leaves, is dark green color in the summer and turns a beautiful red-purple color in the fall. The peeling bark of the stems and orange buds are attractive in the winter months. It is an ideal shrub for combination plantings with conifers and broadleaf evergreens.

**CHRISTOPHER ROGERS:** *Enkianthus campanulatus* 'Showy Lantern' For the past two decades Weston Nurseries has been selecting *E. campanulatus* for uniform deep pink flower color. Our selected pink seedlings vary only slightly, but we felt the public needed a predictable cultivar. 'Showy Lantern' blooms late May to early June with deep pink flowers. It is robust and upright with dense branching to the ground. Its dark green foliage turns rich scarlet in early autumn and remains brilliant for well over a month. It is hardy to USDA Zone 5. 'Showy Lantern' is being propagated in our tissue culture lab.

**H. WILLIAM BARNES:** *Morus alba* 'Holicong Weeping' was found as a seedling at Coles Nurseries. It is heavily pendulous to the point that it completely lacks apical dominance. If a weeping stem is staked to a vertical position it will die back to the point at which a lateral branch assumes a pendulous position. Some degree of an upright character can be achieved by gradually elevating the terminal to no more than 45 degrees. By continually staking and allowing for the terminal to droop a sinuous stem can be attained. If a straight stem is necessary the best approach is to graft onto a high standard. An interesting variation is to allow the plant to sprawl across and down an embankment or a high wall. The result is a creeping tree with vine-like characteristics, or a small tree which cascades upon itself. The mother tree, which has never been staked, is 4 ft high by 8 ft wide with a 3 in. caliper. The leaves of this plant are deeply lobed. This leaf characteristic appears to be consistent as I have never seen an entire leaf. 'Holicong Weeping' can be propagated by softwood cuttings with a 1000 ppm IBA quick-dip and placement under mist. Overwintering does not seem to be a problem. In the landscape the plant would be effectively utilized as a specimen placed strategically to attract the most attention.

*Populus simonii* is native to Northern China. It is a tall tree with an eventual height of 60 ft and width of 30 ft. The branches are tightly ascending giving the tree a broad oval shape. This outline is refined by a multitude of thin silvery branches and its symmetry is quite pleasing. The leaves are oval with a dark green upper surface and a pale glaucous underside. It is quite hardy, Zone 2, and appears to be quite tolerant of drought and poor soils. The tree could be conveniently used as a single specimen tree or in a grouping to provide a screen effect.

**JIM AULT:** *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Unique' is a floribunda type with 12-in. long upright inflorescences bearing an equal mix of fertile flowers and glistening white sterile flowers. The plant begins to bloom early to mid-July (USDA Zone 6b) and remains effective for four to six weeks, followed by pink coloration of the sterile flowers. Our plant at 17 years of age is 10 ft tall by 10 ft wide, with upright to arching branches. 'Unique' does not appear to basal sucker and requires little pruning. The plant was obtained in 1972 from Gulf Stream Nursery but does not appear to be commercially available today. Rooted cuttings are available from Longwood Gardens (P.O. Box 501, Kennett Square, PA 19348).

*Sorbus rufoferruginea* 'Longwood Sunset' The Longwood sunset mountain ash is heat and disease tolerant, and features rich burgundy autumn color and long-lasting orange fruit. The parent plant is 20 ft tall and 20 ft wide after 25 years, with a uniformly rounded crown. 'Longwood Sunset' has not shown susceptibility to scab or experienced premature leaf drop in six years of observation, including the abnormally hot and dry summer of 1988. Fall foliage coloration lasts for 2 to 3 weeks in October. Fruit ripening begins in August. The orange berries contrast nicely with the fall foliage, and then remain colorful until early December. Other plants of the species have been growing at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum (USDA Zone 4) since 1962. It is likely that 'Longwood Sunset' is equally hardy and can be recommended for use in USDA Zones 4 through 7. Scionwood is available from Longwood Gardens (P.O. Box 501, Kennett Square, PA 19348).

**ELWIN ORTON:** The four cultivars of *Ilex opaca* discussed below were introduced to commerce from the Woody Ornamentals Breeding Program at Rutgers University. At this time, all of them have been under test there for 30 years and have proven fully winter-hardy in USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 6a (-5 to -10 °F), and exhibit high vigor and superior foliage characteristics.

'Jersey Knight' is probably the best known staminate cultivar of *I. opaca* in the trade today. It was selected in the wild at Locust, New Jersey, by members of the New Jersey Holly Research Committee and was tested for a number of years under the designation Brown No. 9. I formally introduced this cultivar to commerce as 'Jersey Knight' in 1965. Plants of 'Jersey Knight' flower heavily and provide an abundance of pollen, exhibit high vigor, and display excellent, dark green foliage twelve months of the year. Thus, plants of this cultivar are very attractive and are a welcome addition to the landscape even without the benefit of berry display.

'Jersey Princess' resulted from a controlled cross in which 'Jersey Knight' was the staminate parent. Plants of 'Jersey Princess' develop a conical form, exhibit high vigor, are exceptionally winter-hardy and possess the darkest, glossy green leaves of any specimen of *I. opaca* this researcher has ever seen. 'Jersey Princess' was introduced to commerce in 1976.

'Dan Fenton' resulted from a controlled cross of 'Maurice River' × an unnamed staminate plant growing in the 55-acre holly orchard of the New Jersey Silica Sand Company at Millville, New Jersey. It was named in honor of the late Daniel G. Fenton, a co-founder of the Holly Society of America and a nationally recognized promoter of American holly. Plants of 'Dan Fenton' develop a broad, conical form and exhibit dark green leaves of a rather unique shape (squarish) for *I. opaca* and produce good crops of bright red fruit. The leaves are exceptionally dark green but are not quite as glossy as those of 'Jersey Princess'.

'Jersey Delight' resulted from a controlled cross of 'Old Heavy Berry' × 'Isaiah'. Plants of this pistillate cultivar are narrow conical in form and exhibit heavily textured leaves. The foliage color is not as dark as that of 'Jersey Princess' or 'Dan Fenton' but the leaves reflect sunlight in a manner that makes them appear glossy from a distance. The fruit display is superior to that of these other two cultivars.

Under conditions prevailing at our test gardens in central New Jersey, plants of all four of the cultivars listed above exhibit winter hardiness, vigor, plant form, and foliage characteristics superior to that of many of the older cultivars of *I. opaca* in the trade today. I will be pleased to provide interested propagators with cutting wood of any of these four cultivars.