

AMERICAN HORTICULTURIST

NEWS—NOVEMBER 1981

River Farm Notes

In this installment of River Farm notes I want to take the time to tell you a little about two of the beds we have constructed this year in our Ideas Garden. One of these is a children's garden, and the other is a daylily garden that promises to give us extraordinary color and enjoyment for many years to come.

Let us begin with the children's garden. We owe great thanks to Dr. Julia Rappaport, a very dedicated member of our board, for giving us the initial concept of a children's garden and the initiative and support we needed to make this project go. Thanks should also go to the people at *The Family Food Garden* magazine for providing us with the special idea we used in our children's garden (Volume 9, number 4, April/May, 1981, page 30).

There are two primary reasons why we decided to establish this garden. First, we wanted to show children that they too could find joy in gardening. Second, we wanted to show parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and other adults they could help to open a child's eyes to the exciting world of gardening.

We designed this garden so that it would provide a child with his or her own hideaway right in the middle of a flowery kingdom, an abode for learning, or thinking or just good old-fashioned playing. Another design feature was that this garden be "child proof," that is, it was to be planted, cared for and harvested by children. Our planting design was very simple, one that used only plants that would easily grow from seed, that would grow quickly and that would either flower profusely or provide for a good harvest of fruit or vegetables.

Our garden is built around a teepee that we constructed from bamboo poles. The teepee is located in the center of a 10' x 15' raised bed, and all plantings radiate from it. The poles are lashed together at the top, and twine ladders run from ground to teepee top between the



Our children's garden at River Farm features a bamboo frame, vine-covered teepee surrounded by easy-to-grow marigolds and sunflowers.

poles. We planted 'Sugar Snap' peas, cucumbers and squash around the teepee so that these plants could climb the twine ladders and become the living sides of our structure. For the remainder of the plantings we used a mixture of plants that would give us splashes of bright color. At the front of the bed are waves of several different cultivars of marigold, starting with dwarfs and ending with giants. These were followed with zinnias and finally with masses of giant sunflowers. We also had a tomato corner and a rambling path of melons.

Our children's garden is now a reality; what a fun way to bring the wonders of the plant world to the attention of curious little minds. I have so enjoyed this project and the responses of our younger visitors that I plan to construct a similar garden next spring for my own children. Why not try your hand at starting such a garden next year too?

On now to the second garden that

I mentioned, our daylily garden. We owe special thanks to the American Hemerocallis Society, the National Capital Daylily Club, and especially Mr. Carl Orndorff, without whom this project would never have been accomplished. Mr. Orndorff and his fellow club and society members have made it possible for a collection of 106 daylily cultivars to be planted at River Farm. We incorporated this collection into a bed that was already partially planted with everlastings and other plant material. The plantings in our mixed bed should complement one another and result in glorious color through much of the growing season.

Though we will look at this garden in more detail in a future article, I do want to make note of a few specifics. First, the daylilies given to us were all donated by individual members of the National Capital Daylily Club, so we owe them a great debt of thanks. Second, their donation is a varied one and includes the whole daylily spectrum—miniatures, small-flowered cultivars, large-flowered cultivars, doubles and spider-type cultivars. Third, these plants are all award winners, and every single one should be a delight. Though we can't expect tremendous bloom the first year, 1982, we can all look forward to a very, very colorful 1983.

As in many past articles, I am going to end my ramblings with an invitation: our grounds are open (free of charge) from 8:30 til 5:00, Monday through Friday—please come and see us.—Steve Davis

Guides for AHS Tours Being Sought

The Society is interested in hiring horticultural guides for its tour program. If you think you can qualify, please send your resume outlining your special horticultural and geographic knowledge to the attention of Tom Richards, AHS, Mt. Vernon, VA 22121. Compensation will be in the form of free passage on the tour.

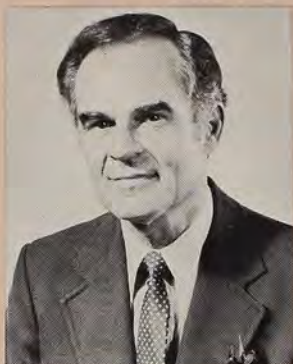
Barbara Ellis

American Horticultural Society Announces Its 1981 Award Winners

AHS President Dr. Gilbert S. Daniels announced the 1981 American Horticultural Society award winners Sunday, September 27th at the organization's 36th annual meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.

Dr. Henry Marc Cathey, recently appointed director of the U. S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., has been awarded the Liberty Hyde Bailey Medal, the most prestigious annual honor given in American horticulture.

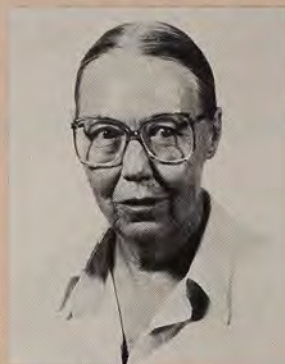
Dr. Cathey's contributions to horticulture are numerous. For over eight years he was chief of the Florist and Nursery Crops Laboratory in SEA's Horticultural Science Institute at Beltsville, Maryland. Last year he was selected as the first appointee to the D. C. Kiplinger Chair in Floriculture at Ohio State University, where he assessed the future



Dr. Henry Marc Cathey



Mrs. Corinne Willard



Sara Groves

priorities and problems of ornamental and flowering plant research.

A native of Davidson, North Carolina, Dr. Cathey received his B.S. degree from North Carolina State University in 1950. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Cornell University and studied a year in Europe as a Fulbright Scholar at the Agricultural University in the Netherlands before joining USDA as a research scientist in 1956.

Throughout his career he has received many awards, among them, the Foundation for Floriculture Award from the Society of American Florists; the Norman J. Colman Award from the American Association of Nurserymen; the Silver Seal Award from the National Council of State Garden Clubs; and the Medal of Honor from the Garden Clubs of America. He has also been made a fellow of the American Society for Horticultural Science and was inducted into the Floricultural Hall of Fame of the Society of American Florists.

In addition to his contributions to science, Dr. Cathey has devoted a great deal of time to popularizing the hobby of gardening for people all over the world. He is known for his televised horticultural presentations and has been a regular guest on NBC's *Today* and *Morning Break* shows. He has also produced 22 "Home and Garden Bulletins" over the years and has been instrumental in the success of the annual Williamsburg Garden Symposium. From 1974-1978 he was president of the American Horticultural Society.

Seven citations may be given by the American Horticultural Society to an individual, firm or institution that has accomplished the unusual

without being accorded proper recognition. These accomplishments must be of national significance. It is important to note that no category is filled if it is deemed there is no qualified candidate.

The categories for the citations are: Scientific, Commercial, Professional, Amateur, Teaching, Landscape Architecture and Horticultural Writing. Five citations were awarded this year in the following categories: Commercial, Landscape Design, Teaching, Writing and Professional.

The Commercial Citation is given to an individual who, because of his or her commitment to the highest standards of excellence in the field of commercial horticulture, contributes to the betterment of gardening practices everywhere.

The Commercial Citation is awarded this year to **Mrs. Corinne Willard**, president of Comstock, Ferre & Company Seed House of Weathersfield, Connecticut, which recently celebrated its 161st year in business, and which represents the commitment of four generations of the Willard family to the seed industry.

Before becoming president of Comstock, Ferre she served as a horticultural consultant to the company and hosted a company-sponsored "Gardentime" weekly radio program for 12 years that sought to educate and inform the public about all aspects of gardening.

Mrs. Willard is also the immediate past president of the Garden Writers Association of America and for 15 years served as executive secretary of the Connecticut Horticultural Society. Today she is technical director for the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show. Mrs. Willard is also a busy lecturer in southern New

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England, New York and Pennsylvania. Her specialty is daffodils, and she is an accredited judge.

The Landscape Citation is awarded to an individual whose work in landscape architecture or design contributes to a better awareness of the field of horticulture.

This year the Landscape Citation goes to Sara Groves, who was the first woman selected to become a member of the board of Bedding Plants, Inc. and was also the first woman selected to the board of The Georgia Commercial Flower Growers Association. As a result of her activities during her four-year term there, she received their outstanding service award. But it is mainly for her achievements at Georgia Tech University that she is being recognized by the Society. Jim Wilson, who nominated her for this citation, wrote to AHS, "at a time of life when many people decide to take it easy, Sara Groves, who is married to a retired serviceman, opted for a new career when he retired from the military." With little or no formal, technical education in horticulture, Mrs. Groves started a successful greenhouse that produced bedding plants. Her true love, however, was landscaping with flowers. She went to work at Georgia Tech as a gardener and was soon running the show. Today her efforts are noted by everyone who visits the campus. As Jim Wilson stated, "the extraordinary aspect of these flower beds is not only their number, size and good design, but also their rich range of kinds and varieties. Mrs. Groves has achieved nearly year-round color with annuals and perennials in a climate where the deck is stacked against her."

The Teaching Citation is awarded to an individual whose ability to share his knowledge of horticulture with others has contributed to a better public understanding of the plant world and its impact on man.

The Teaching Citation is given this year to Carlton B. Lees. Some of the most illustrious horticultural institutions in America have been the settings for his educational programs: The Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Kingwood Center in Mansfield, Ohio, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, The Massachusetts Horticultural Society and The New York Botanical Garden, where he

now serves as senior vice-president.

Mr. Lees is a noted lecturer, author and landscape designer. He is the author of *Budget Landscaping*, published in 1960, and the revised and updated *New Budget Landscaping*, published in 1979. At the New York Botanical Garden he was responsible for the development of new horticultural programs when he joined the staff in 1973, and he was a part of the design team that renovated the Conservatory. At the Garden's Cary Arboretum, the visitor and education center was planned under his guidance.

When Mr. Lees was with The Massachusetts Horticultural Society, he was responsible for the Society's library, educational and service programs, the publication of *Horticulture* magazine and the planning, management and staging of the famed New England Spring Garden and Flower Show. Previously he was executive secretary of The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, horticulturist at Kingwood Center and a member of the staff of Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Mr. Lees has a Master's degree in horticulture from Cornell University.

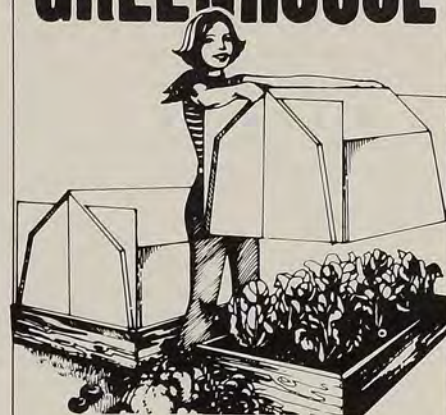
The Writing Citation is given to an individual who, through the body of his written work, has made a significant contribution to horticulture. This year's recipient is Thomas H. Everett.

A distinguished member of the staff of the New York Botanical Garden since 1932, he has earned an international reputation through his long career as horticulturist, author, lecturer, educator and consultant. While on the staff, he performed at various times the duties of the Director of Horticulture, Superintendent of Maintenance and Senior Curator of Education.

In 1968 Mr. Everett relinquished active directorship and supervisory roles at the Garden to engage in writing a new, definitive encyclopedia of horticulture, which was titled *The New York Botanical Garden Illustrated Encyclopedia of Horticulture*. Six volumes of this 10-volume work have now been published.

As an author T. H. Everett is widely known in the United States and abroad. Among his many books are *The American Gardener's Book of Bulbs* and *How to Grow Beautiful House Plants*.

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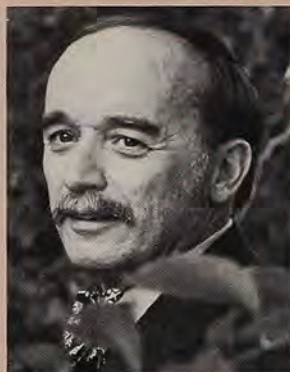
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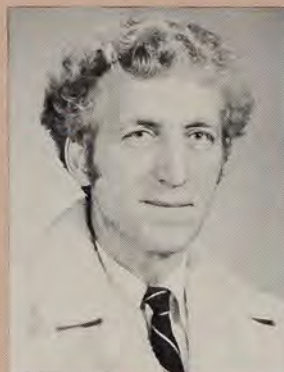
The Massachusetts Horticultural Society awarded him the Thomas Roland Medal for skill in horticulture. As elected president of The Kew Guild, an association of graduates of Kew, Mr. Everett was only the second American in nearly 80 years to be so honored. He is also a founding member of The New York Hortus Club.

The Professional Citation is given to an individual who makes his living as director of an arboretum or botanical garden and whose achievements during the course of his career represent a significant contribution to horticulture.

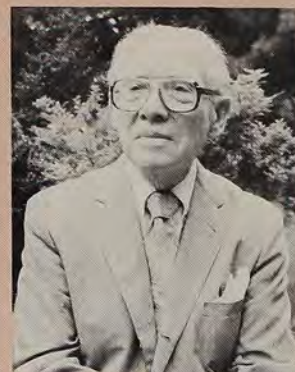
This year's recipient is **Henry A. Ross**. He is founder and director of Gardenview Horticultural Park in Strongsville, Ohio and has devoted 30 years of his life to developing Gardenview as a horticultural park for the education and enjoyment of the people in his community. Gardenview is a 16-acre public park supported entirely by membership and admission fees. It includes 500 varieties of flowering crabapples, thousands of daffodils, tulips and azaleas and over 1,500 tuberous begonias. In addition, it contains two small lakes, a library and meeting room (built by Mr. Ross), rose gardens, and perennial beds of



Carlton B. Lees



Henry A. Ross



Harold Epstein

hemerocallis, iris, peonies and rhododendrons.

Mr. Ross conceived the idea for Gardenview soon after graduating from the horticulture program at Ohio State University. He designed the landscape and maintained the garden singlehandedly for many years.

Gardenview is now a non-profit organization, still maintained almost singlehandedly by Mr. Ross. It is a tribute to his expertise as a plantsman and to his belief in the educational value and enjoyment to be derived from a public garden that Gardenview has thrived in spite of lack of funds and local government support. Gardenview's thousands of visitors over the years confirm that his dream was meant to come true.

The Meritorious Service Award may be given annually to a member or friend of the Society to recognize publicly outstanding and exemplary service in support of the Society's programs, services or activities.

The Meritorious Service Award is being given this year to **Harold Epstein**. His name is familiar to almost everyone in the horticultural field. Although by training a certified public accountant, Mr. Epstein has devoted almost 50 years of his life to promoting an interest in gardens and gardening. He was an organizer and president of The Hortus Club of New York. He is past president of The Men's Garden Club of New York, the northeast region of the American Rhododendron Society and The American Rock Garden Society. He has also received Distinguished Service Awards from The New York Horticultural Society, The American Rock Garden Society and The American Orchid Society.

Members of AHS know him as a faithful and supportive member of the board who has been instrumental in establishing a horticultural travel program for the Society that is the best of its kind now in operation. Through his many contacts all over the world, he has managed to arrange garden tours that are unique. AHS members come back to him again and again to see the horticultural delights of Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and the United States. The Society is proud of the educational benefits he has provided to so many of its members. The success of his program assures the Society a significant source of income which allows it the means to generate yet more educational benefits for its members. Without Harold Epstein's support, the Society would surely not be where it is today.

New Board Members Elected

At our 36th Annual Meeting in Boston the Society elected three new members to the Board of Directors. Two incumbents and one returning board member were also elected.

The new members of the board are Mrs. Charles W. Allen, Jr., Mrs. Malcolm Matheson, Jr. and Mr. Mark Sullivan. Mrs. Erastus Corning, II is a returning member of the board and the incumbents reelected are Mr. J. Judson Brooks and Mrs. Frances Jones Poetker.

Mrs. Charles W. Allen, Jr., of Glenview, Kentucky, is an active participant in the civic and cultural affairs of Louisville and the surrounding area. A trustee of Berea College in Berea, Kentucky and a member of the board of United Kentucky Bank, Mrs. Allen also is on the Executive Committee of the Greater Louisville Fund for the Arts and a director of the Kentucky Cen-

ter for the Arts Endowment Fund, Inc.

Mrs. Erastus Corning, II, of Albany, New York, has rejoined the Society's board of directors. A past president of the Garden Club of America, Mrs. Corning also is a member of the Executive Committee and a Director of the New York Botanical Garden.

Mrs. Malcolm Matheson, Jr. is from Mt. Vernon, Virginia. Currently she serves on the Woodlawn Council of the National Trust and on the gardens and grounds committee of Kenmore. The Matheson family home was formerly at River Farm.

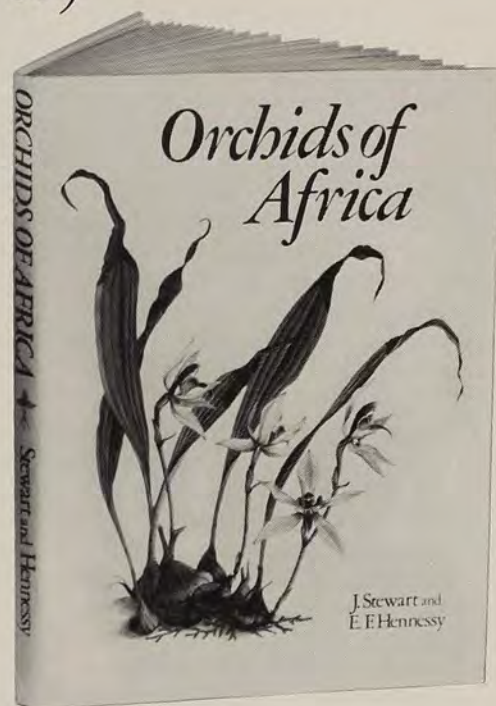
Mr. Mark Sullivan, III has represented the Society as legal counsel for four years. A partner in the firm of Hamel, Park and Saunders, Mr. Sullivan is an amateur horticulturist who gardens in Washington.

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Letter To The Editor

America's wild plants are under severe pressure. The Fish & Wildlife Service has identified about 3,000 species and varieties from all parts of the country which are biologically endangered or threatened as a result of habitat loss, over-collecting, competition by introduced animals or plants or other causes. Those centers of naturally greater diversity that are also areas of rapid economic development contain high concentrations of threatened species: over 40 per cent of the native flora of Hawaii are considered extinct or endangered, over 700 species from California and 200 from Florida are under study for listing. Some taxa are particularly vulnerable: nearly 25 per cent of our native cacti and carnivorous plants are either already protected or candidates for listing.

There is only one national program to conserve wild plants, the Endangered Species Act. While listing of rare plants under the Act has not proceeded as rapidly as it should (only 60 species are now protected), the Act has stimulated development of rare plant conservation programs by the Forest Service and at least 15 states. The Bureau of Land Management is now in the process of formulating its policy.

Equally important, the Endan-

gered Species Act identifies habitat destruction as the primary cause of endangerment and creates a process to conserve rare species' habitats. Section 7 of the law requires any Federal agency which is undertaking an action which may affect a protected species or its critical habitat to consult with the Fish & Wildlife Service to assure that their actions do not jeopardize the species' continued existence or modify or destroy its critical habitat.

The Endangered Species Act must be reauthorized by Congress before the end of May 1982. Hearings are expected to begin in January. During this process the Congress may change significantly or abolish important aspects of the program.

Some economic interests are pressing for the effective repeal of Section 7's vital habitat protections and reduced legal protection for the species themselves. The Reagan Administration may be sympathetic to these views; it is already considering requests by some land-managing agencies that they be exempted from Section 7's consultation requirements.

A second line of attack may be to exempt plants and "lower" animals (invertebrates) from the Act. Already at least one Congressman has advocated this step. These taxa lack broad public appeal, so the Con-

gress may conclude that it can sacrifice them to the developers at little political cost.

The Endangered Species Act is the most important conservation statute in the world. Reauthorization of a strong and effective program is essential to maintaining our own and the world's rich flora and fauna. All who value our wildlife should participate in defending the Act.

Lovers of plants, because they are less numerous than supporters of wildlife conservation, have a particular responsibility. If they do not speak up, wild plants may well lose that legal protection from which they now benefit. Such a loss would be a tragedy for plant lovers and for all Americans.

Whether acting as individuals or as members of plant societies, garden clubs, or conservation organizations, plant lovers should coordinate their efforts with those of the growing coalition of supporters of the Act. Please contact Faith Campbell at Natural Resources Defense Council, 1725 I Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20006, to learn the latest developments in the reauthorization struggle and how you can participate most effectively. —Faith Thompson Campbell, Director, Plant Conservation Project, Natural Resources Defense Council

Former President of AHS Dies

John Hamilton Walker, 68, president of the American Horticultural Society from 1965 to 1967, died September 2, 1981 at his home in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

Mr. Walker was a retired executive vice president of the Society of American Florists, where he was instrumental in establishing the American Florists Marketing Council and the endowment fund for the Society. Before beginning his career in association management, Mr. Walker served as an authority on presidential protection with the United States Secret Service from 1943 to 1948, and as an officer of the National Geographic Society.

When he retired from the Society of American Florists in 1978, Mr. Walker was elected to the Horticultural Hall of Fame. He was also awarded the American Society of Association Executives' highest

award, the Key Award. Mr. Walker had served on the boards of several organizations, including the National Council of Therapy and Rehabilitation Through Horticulture and the National Junior Horticultural Association.

Society Receives Significant Gift

The Society is the recipient of a bequest from the estate of Mr. Ernest F. Quick in the amount of \$164,742. Mr. Quick, who was a resident of Spearville, Kansas and a member of the Society since 1972, died on April 16, 1980.

The Board of Directors has passed a resolution authorizing the staff to prepare a plaque for placement in the garden at River Farm as a fitting memorial to his interest and generosity. Proceeds from Mr. Quick's bequest will go into the operating fund.

New Booklet on Ivies

The American Ivy Society has published a 12-page booklet that will interest ivy enthusiasts everywhere. *The Care of the Ivies and the Cox Arboretum-American Ivy Society Ivy Collection* includes seven pages of cultural tips, information on the registration of ivy cultivars and a helpful list that suggests various cultivars of *Hedera helix* for specific uses such as bonsai, terrariums and topiary. A four-page appendix in the booklet lists all of the ivy cultivars currently in the Cox Arboretum-American Ivy Society Ivy Collection.

To order a copy of this booklet send \$1.75, including postage and handling, to Cox Arboretum, Ivy Care, 6733 Springboro Pike, Dayton, OH 45449. Make checks payable to the Cox Arboretum Ivy Research Fund. Reduced rates are available for quantities of 12 or more.

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							Yes	No	= 1	= 2	= 3	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
		SELF															

If student away at school, how many miles to school?
_____ miles.

	CAR 1	CAR 2	CAR 3
Year & Make			
Model (Nova, Granada, etc.)			
Body type: 2/4 dr. sdn, hardtop, sta. wag			
No. of cylinders			
Est. Annual Mileage			
Days per week driven to work or parking area			
One way driving distance			
Is car used in business (except to/from job)?			

If "yes" explain _____

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New Watering and Planting Method for Staghorn Ferns

Platyceriums, commonly called staghorn or elk-horn ferns, are perhaps the most striking ferns in cultivation, but, because of their epiphytic nature and unique habit of growth, they can be very difficult to accommodate in a northern apartment or home. In the wild these plants are found growing on the sides of trees with a set of sterile, shield-like fronds that collect humus and debris falling from the tree above to create their own growing medium. These fronds point upward and a set of fertile fronds point out perpendicular to the tree trunk or hang downward. I have often envied greenhouse owners and gardeners in the southern portions of the country who can easily grow these unique plants. For them watering is accomplished with a hose, water runoff is no problem, and adequate humidity and air circulation is easily maintained. Not so in my northern apartment!

Over the years my mother, who also collects platyceriums, and I have developed a system for potting these plants that helps minimize the problems of watering and dripping plants, but also allows us to grow them vertically, as they are found in nature. Our plants are grown indoors in shallow lath baskets partially lined with plastic and are wick watered. With these few modifications in potting style, we have found our platyceriums to be excellent, easy to care for, durable house plants. In fact, mine have proved to be very adaptable and not at all bothered by moves from apartment to apartment. This potting method also would be very suitable for potting some of the other humus collecting ferns such as *Aglaomorpha* and *Drynaria*.

Our plants are grown in shallow baskets made of three-quarter by three-quarter-inch strips of pine or redwood that have been sawed to the proper length and securely nailed into a square or rectangular shape. The baskets sold for orchids would do nicely, but I make my own because they do not need to be as deep as orchid baskets, and they are quite easy and inexpensive to make. The size of the basket depends on the plant. I have a small *Platycerium bifurcatum* 'Netherlands' in a basket that is 10 inches



TOP: The supplies you will need to mount your *Platycerium*. MIDDLE LEFT: To construct a basket nail the first four slats into a rectangular shape, place three or four cross-pieces between them and nail them in place to form the back of the basket. Build up the sides of the basket one level at a time by nailing two slats across from each other in a criss-cross pattern. RIGHT: The finished product viewed from the top. BOTTOM LEFT: View from the front. As the plant grows, it will cover the wire holding it in place.

Barbara Ellis

high, eight inches across and four inches deep, a *P. grande* in a 9×9×4 basket and a *P. bifurcatum* with several pups (suckers) in a 17×4×3 basket. I also made a large octagonal basket for one of my mother's plants, a beautiful *P. ste-maria*. Since these plants resent being disturbed, they should be potted in a basket large enough to accommodate two to three years growth. A good estimate would be to use a basket five or six inches wider (about three inches on each side) than your plant and eight to

10 inches taller. The baskets should be sealed with a varnish-type sealant before planting to prevent rotting. Do not use creosote, as it is toxic to plants. If desired, the baskets can be stained before they are sealed.

Line the back and bottom of each basket with medium-weight plastic. A staple gun is handy for attaching it to the basket. I staple the plastic at the top back of the basket, once or twice down each side and just inside the front rim. It doesn't need to be stretched tight, in fact a little extra plastic at the bottom of

the basket will serve to hold a few errant drips of water until they are taken up by the growing media. The plastic not only serves to keep the media in the basket, but also to increase its moisture holding capacity and keep the back of the basket dry. Don't cover the sides of the basket because platyceriums like well aerated soil.

At this point I usually pound a nail part way into each side of the second-to-the-top crosspiece and string wire across the back of the basket to serve as a hanger. Once the plants are in place, the baskets can be hung on the wall exactly like a painting.

My plants are generally growing in long fibered sphagnum moss. If I have any on hand, I also include some leftover orchid mix, bark chips and/or osmunda. Pre-soak the mix in a bucket of water because it can be difficult to moisten, and then fill the basket about half full.

Next add the wick system. Place an aluminum can (a beer or most soda cans will do) at the top of the basket and position the hole of the can so that you can see it when looking through the top slats of the basket. This is where you will water the plant, and the more visible the hole, the larger the target you will have for your watering can. After experimenting with candle wicking, various types of string, yarn and various other types of cording, we have found that a piece of old nylon stocking makes the best wick. To make a wick, cut a nylon stocking in half and then cut off the foot and part of the top, leaving a piece about one foot long. Place one end of this in the can so it touches the bottom and drape the other end over the front of the can and into the center of the basket. The wick system does not need to be wired in at this point; it will be secured as the plant is wired in on top of it.

Fill the basket three-quarters full of potting media before positioning your plant, and then place the plant two inches from the bottom of the basket. Your platycerium will grow up, that is, the new fertile fronds will rise above the old ones. The "body" of the plant, that portion covered by the sterile fronds, should be above the rim of the basket when the plant is finally positioned. If sunk too deep in the basket the

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plant may not receive adequate aeration and rotting will be a problem.

You will need to wire the plant, media and wick system in place with plastic florist wire or some other type of rust-proof wire. Attach the wire to one side of the basket with a staple gun or wrap it around the second slat, and then cross back and forth across the plant to make sure all is held securely, but not too tightly, in place. Extra bits of sphagnum can be tucked in to fill in the spaces. When you are finished, the can should be entirely covered by the potting media. Scraps of chicken wire are very useful for holding the potting media in place; they will discolor quite quickly and will soon be all but invisible. The sterile fronds of the plant will eventually cover the wire that holds it in place.

Although I occasionally take my plants off the wall for a thorough soaking, for the most part they can be watered exclusively by filling up the can whenever the plant gets on the dry side. The can does not remain filled with water all the time. It merely serves as a reservoir while the wick pulls water slowly out of the can and into the potting media. You may want to test for drips the first few times you water. Some of my plants drip a bit, some not at all. Once the media is thoroughly saturated, it will always drip. By adjusting when and how much water I give each plant I have learned to recognize the "dripping point" for each plant, and I adjust my watering accordingly.

Platyceriums are available from Jerry Horne, 10195 Southwest 70th Street, Miami, FL 33173. Send a business size, stamped return envelope for a list; and Endangered Species, 12571 Redhill, Tustin, CA 92680, catalogue and newsletters, \$4.

—Barbara W. Ellis

Seed Donations Sought

The AHS 1982 Seed Program is about to get underway. If any member of the Society has seed he or she would like to share with other members, donations will be appreciated. We can accept seed if there is enough available to fill at least 100 orders. Naturally, more unusual and hard-to-come-by seed is preferable. Please write Steve Davis in care of the Society, Mt. Vernon, VA 22121 for details.

New Variety of Flower Discovered; First Since WWII

Botanists Norlyn Bodkin of Virginia's James Madison University and James Reveal of the University of Maryland have discovered the first new variety of flower to be found on the Eastern Seaboard since World War II. Discovered in the Shenandoah Mountains on the Virginia/West Virginia border, the plant has been classified as a new variety of *Trillium pusillum*, a member of the Liliaceae family. It has been named *T. pusillum* var. *monticulum*, *monticulum* signifying "of the little mountains." The new plant's common name will be the Shenandoah wake-robin.

The search for a new variety of *Trillium* began when Dr. Reveal heard reports that the Virginia wake-robin, *T. pusillum* var. *virginianum*, had been sighted in the Shenandoah mountains. In April Bodkin contacted Reveal for help in identifying plants resembling the Virginia wake-robin that he had located at an altitude of about 4,400 feet in the Shenandoah mountains, an unlikely habitat for the Virginia wake-robin, which normally occurs only in low-lying coastal areas. Reveal and Bodkin spent several days during the plant's April flowering season recording statistics about the

plant, after which they took samples back to James Madison University to compare them to the Virginia wake-robin. Although the two plants look similar to the casual observer, the botanists found enough distinguishing characteristics to designate a new variety. The mountain variety bears shorter and broader leaves than the coastal variety. It also has a wavy petal edge. Furthermore, the anthers and stigma of the Shenandoah wake-robin are the same length and its sepals are boat shaped. The Virginia wake-robin bears flat sepals and its stigma is longer than its anthers.

Reveal and Bodkin located fewer than 1,000 plants of *T. pusillum* var. *monticulum* and consequently will try to have the plant listed as an Endangered Species. Unfortunately, the chances of success are small. On June 22 of this year the Department of the Interior announced that vertebrates as opposed to all "lower forms of life" will receive priority for protection. This is a biased priority that botanists often suffer, says Reveal, and the protection of rare and endangered plant species "is going to be up to the citizen now." —*The Washington Post*, August 3, 1981

Forcing More Blooms on Bougainvilleas

Potted bougainvilleas can be forced into bloom as many as three times a year using a method passed on from the Royal Horticultural Society's journal in the April, 1981 issue of *Bonsai Clubs International*. The method is not intended for use on plants grown as bonsai but for plants grown for exhibition in deep, 12-inch pots.

1) After flowering, prune each plant heavily and feed with a high potassium (potash) fertilizer such as 12-12-17, one tablespoon per 12-inch pot.

2) Water twice a day for two weeks.

3) Spray the new, rapidly growing foliage with a weak fertilizer solution once a week, and if any signs of disease appear spray or treat accordingly.

4) After two weeks of heavy watering gradually reduce the amount of water given until the

plants are only watered enough to keep them from wilting.

5) Six to seven weeks after the plants are pruned and fed (step 1) they should be in full flower. Fertilize the plants again with a high potassium fertilizer and foliar feed again.

6) Water heavily for two weeks to help the plants take up the fertilizer and then resume normal watering. It is not necessary to let the plants dry out as thoroughly as in step 4, where the severe watering schedule seems to promote flower bud initiation.

7) The plants should bloom for about six weeks before it is time to restart the cycle.

Bougainvilleas should be potted in a rich, organic medium that includes compost and some peat. Good drainage is essential. Since they are greedy feeders, top dress the pots every three months.

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CALENDAR

November 7

Callaway Gardens' Founders Day
Pine Mountain, Georgia
Information: Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, GA 31822

November 7

Middle Atlantic Region of the American Daffodil Society Fall Regional Meeting
Boar's Head Inn
Charlottesville, Virginia
Information: Mrs. J. Raymond Moore, Jr.,
904 Applewood Lane, Baltimore, MD 21212

November 8-29

Pittsburgh Fall Flower Show
Phipps Conservatory
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Hours: Daily 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

November 10

Lecture
Indianapolis Museum of Art's Horticultural Society Study Center
Indianapolis Museum of Art
1200 West 38th Street
Indianapolis, Indiana
Speaker: Dr. Gilbert S. Daniels, President, American Horticultural Society
Topics: River Farm, house plant cultivation
Time: 8:00 p.m.; No admission fee
Information: (317) 923-1331

November 11-13

National Agricultural Career Show
Kansas City, Missouri
Information: George Verzagt, National Agricultural Career Show Manager, National Future Farmers of America Center, 5632 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, PO Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309,
(703) 360-3600

November 11-14

Holly Society of America, Inc.
Annual Meeting
Mobile, Alabama
Information: Holly Society of America, Inc.,
407 Fountain Green Road, Bel Air, MD 21014, (301) 879-0976

November 18-20

Second Annual Convention and Trade Show
Professional Lawn Care Association of America
Commonwealth Convention Center
Louisville, Kentucky
Information: Jane Stecker, Administrative Director of PLCAA, Bostrom Management Corporation, Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 644-0828

November 20-22

Central Florida Orchid Society Fall Show



Florida Festival, Opposite Sea World
Orlando, Florida
Hours: 11:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday and
Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sunday
No admission fee
Information: Ann Mann (305) 876-2625

November 21-24

American Society of Landscape Architects
81st Annual Meeting and Educational Exhibit
Washington Hilton Hotel
Washington, D.C.
Information: American Society of Landscape Architects, Attn. Bill Oyler, 1900 M Street, N.W., Suite 320, Washington, DC 20036,
(202) 466-7730

November 29-December 3

Entomological Society of America
Annual Meeting
San Diego, California
Information: Program Chairman, Dr. Vahram Sevacherian, Department of Entomology, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521, (714) 787-3588

December 18-January 10

Pittsburgh Christmas Flower Show
Phipps Conservatory
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

January 15-16

American Rock Garden Society
Eastern Winter Study Weekend
Marriott Hotel
Newton, Massachusetts
Information: Donald M. Hughes, 157 Circuit Street, Hanover, MA 02339

If your horticultural club or association is planning an event that may be of interest to our national audience, please send us information concerning the nature of the meeting, the dates, times and location *at least three months prior* to the time the meeting will take place. We will be happy to include it in our *Calendar* unless space limitations prevent us from doing so.

Dates to Remember

Kenya, China, Hawaii, Arizona and England are just some of the destinations for Society sponsored tours scheduled during the coming winter and spring.

First, though, members and residents in the Washington area will not want to miss our annual **Christmas Open House**, scheduled from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on December 17 here at River Farm. In addition to tours of the house and refreshments, all of our guests will enjoy watching Bobbi Birra from the Yacht Haven Garden Club demonstrate how to make holiday decorations. We are also planning a holiday plant sale, and guests are invited to register to win a traditional boxwood wreath that is to be awarded as a door prize to a lucky visitor.

From February 4 to 18 members will have the opportunity to travel to East Africa on the Indian Ocean to participate in a unique tour that emphasizes both the **Flora and Fauna of Kenya**. Learn about the plants and animals of this nation so famous for its national parks, wildlife and beautiful scenery.

Horticulture, botany, history, archaeology and the arts and cultural aspects of **Southwestern Arizona** will be the focus of our tour to this fascinating state from February 15 to 30. Participants will visit Organ Pipe National Monument, the Desert Botanical Gardens, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Frank Lloyd Wright's winter home, Taliesin, several private gardens as well as such spots as "Too-Tough-To-Die," Arizona and the O.K. Corral.

Visits to gardens and natural areas in our 50th state are scheduled from February 20 to March 5, 1982 on our tour of the **Wonders of Hawaii**. Enjoy exotic foliage, breathtaking scenery and lovely beaches on four of Hawaii's beautiful islands.

Peking, Canton, Shanghai, the Great Wall and the Forbidden City are just some of the destinations on what is sure to be a very exciting exploration of the **Wonders of China**, scheduled from April 3 to 22, 1982. Participants will visit Hong Kong before traveling to the mainland to tour historic gardens, parks and museums and learn more about China's history and culture.

From April 9 to 22 members will

enjoy the Natural Wonders of Georgia and South Carolina during the height of the spring blooming season. Destinations include the famed Okefenokee Swamp, Callaway Gardens with its well-known azalea display, Park Seed Company and Wayside Gardens as well as natural areas with native carnivorous plants.

Finally, two very exciting tours are scheduled for May and June, 1982. From May 6 to 20 members will again have the opportunity to visit the Gardens of England and the Chelsea Flower Show. The ship *World Discoverer* will be home from June 8 to 18 for participants in our tour of Mediterranean Villas and Palaces as it visits Italy, Spain, Portugal and France.

For more information, brochures and reservation cards for any of the above activities, write to Dorothy Sowerby in care of the Society.

Delayed Again

The Englishwoman's Garden by Alvide Less-Milne and Rosemary Verey has been one of the most popular books made available to Society members thus far. Unfortunately, since the books are shipped from England, there have been delays of

from four to six months in filling orders. If you have ordered or are planning to order this popular book, please be patient. Your order will be filled as soon as possible.

Old Cultivars The Best

This year's African Violet Society of America's Annual Convention and Show proved that newest is not necessarily best.

Tinari Greenhouse's 'Pink Philly', a cultivar registered in 1969, was selected as Best in Show, and 'Katy Did', registered by Cathene Hawley in 1970, was selected as runner-up. 'Blue Excitement', registered in 1969 by C. Wilson, placed third.

The first and second place entries in the Collection category also contained old cultivars. The First Place Collection consisted of Hawley's 'Superfection', registered in 1971, 'Katy Did' and Max Maas' 'Mary C', registered in 1975. The Second Best Collection consisted of Granger's 'Starshine' and Mrs. T. Corryell's 'Colorado Knight', registered in 1972 and 1974 respectively, as well as a very old cultivar, 'Admiral', registered by Armacost & Royston in 1948. —*African Violet Magazine, September 1981*

Biological Control of Chestnut Blight Effective

Biological control may be the answer to solving the problems of the American chestnut, say researchers at West Virginia University's Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station. They have just received a grant from the United States Forest Service to continue their studies in controlling chestnut blight through this means.

"The occurrence of a disease of the blight-causing fungus has provided a new outlook for the American chestnut," says Professor William L. MacDonald of the University's Plant and Soil Science Division. Weakened or diseased strains of the fungus, called hypovirulent, have been responsible for the natural remission of chestnut blight in Italy and in several isolated locations in the United States.

The program at the University of West Virginia was established to "evaluate the potential of using weak (hypovirulent) strains of the blight-causing fungus to control the

pathogenic forms that were responsible for destroying more than 13 million acres of American chestnut," says Dr. MacDonald. Researchers also are studying the biology of the hypovirulent strains to understand what causes them to lose their ability to kill trees, and ways of artificially establishing the weakened strains within the forest. The hypovirulent strains of fungus have been deployed in study areas in three of West Virginia's counties, Pendleton, Pocahontas and Tucker. To date these strains have been used successfully to treat and control infections caused by pathogenic forms.

Researchers also are gathering information on the natural spread and establishment of the hypovirulent strains. According to Dr. MacDonald, "with successful establishment of hypovirulent strains comes the hope that chestnut blight can be controlled biologically and the American chestnut can again be grown successfully."

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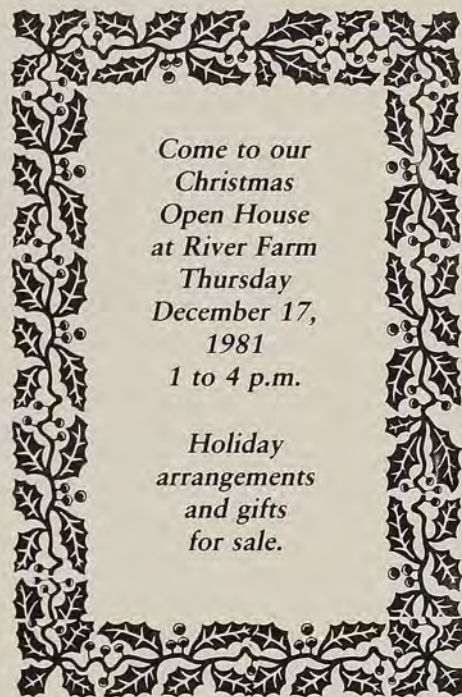
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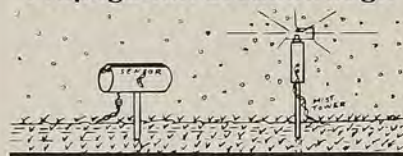
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Biological Control of Codling Moths

Entomologists at the United States Department of Agriculture and farm advisors from California's Fresno and Tulare counties hope to develop a "living" insecticide that not only will control codling moth in walnut orchards but also leave a tiny beneficial wasp unharmed. The insecticide is granulosis virus, and the wasp is *Trioxys pallidus*, a parasite of aphids which has been doing an adequate job of controlling these insects ever since it was introduced into California in 1962. Unfortunately, every time growers use a chemical pesticide to control codling moth they also kill all of the beneficial wasps and other insects in their orchards.

Granulosis virus has been used to control the codling moth in apple and pear orchards where it is sprayed on trees for the larvae to ingest while eating portions of the plants. The virus was first isolated from codling moth larvae on apple and pear trees near Chihuahua, Mexico. Granulosis attacks only codling moths and similar pest insects and is not harmful to warm-blooded animals or insects like *Trioxys* wasp. Researchers have obtained 97 percent control on the granulosis virus-sprayed trees, results that are equivalent to the control obtained on trees sprayed with a commonly used insecticide. That is, where 100 nuts fell from unsprayed trees, only three nuts fell from virus-sprayed trees.

Unfortunately, two factors make the granulosis virus treatment prohibitively expensive at the moment. First, only a small amount of the virus is being "manufactured" for use in this research as a public service by a California company. Secondly, granulosis, like all viruses, is protected by a protein shell which breaks down when exposed to the ultraviolet light in sunlight, heat and the alkaline pH in the insect's gut. These conditions also break down the infectious material contained within the virus. Researchers have found that by adding dried milk powder to the water in which the virus is sprayed they can extend the life of the virus. With dried milk added to the spray solution the virus will last about two weeks, although it begins to lose its vigor in five or six days. Without dried milk granulosis breaks down even sooner. Dried milk in the amounts used by the researchers is still quite expensive.

The codling moth is one of the most destructive insects in walnut groves, and aphids are a close second in inflicting damage to the 200 million dollar crop.

Nylon Filament Trimmers A Danger To New Trees

Gardeners who use weed-wacker-type nylon filament trimmers to edge and control weeds around their yards should be careful when using these trimmers around newly planted trees and shrubs. According

to the Cooperative Extension Service of Purdue University these trimmers can easily damage the bark around the base of a young tree, and newly planted, thin-barked trees can easily be completely girdled through careless use of this type of weeding/edging equipment.

Manual For Hort Therapy Programs Published

Professionals, students and gardeners with an interest in horticultural therapy will want to order one or more of the new horticultural therapy manuals published by the Chicago Horticultural Society. Each 130-page manual in the series of four is written for a different client group and is an invaluable idea-and-technique-filled guide presenting information on how to initiate and set up year-round therapy programs.

The four manuals are: *Horticultural Therapy for Nursing Homes, Senior Centers, Retirement Living*, for work with the elderly; *Horticultural Therapy at a Physical Rehabilitation Facility*, for work with the physically disabled; *Horticultural Therapy for the Mentally Handicapped*; *Horticultural Therapy at a Psychiatric Hospital*, for work with the emotionally ill.

The manuals are \$10.00 each, including postage and handling. To order send a check payable to the Chicago Horticultural Society to "Books," Horticultural Therapy Department, Chicago Horticultural Society, Box 400, Glencoe, IL 60022.

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