

# American Horticulturist

## *Wildflower Research Center Report*

Landscape designers, horticulturists, city planners, gardeners and developers will all benefit from the research programs being conducted at the National Wildflower Research Center. The Center, which was founded in December 1982 with a gift of land and a pledge of \$125,000 from Lady Bird Johnson, aims to conduct basic scientific research on native and naturalized plants in an attempt to answer questions about their cultivation.



Tim Weber

The Center also plans to make information about wildflower products, projects, problems and research efforts available through a national information clearinghouse.

Currently, there are 72 test plots on the grounds of the Center. Five of the plots are planted with commercial wildflower or meadow mixes. Next season, plots testing native grasses are also planned; since most commercial meadow mixtures do not contain grasses, researchers are attempting to determine what grasses are compatible and what are the best ways to establish them. Various planting techniques are being tested in other beds, including grain drill planting, hand broadcasting, and establishing a meadow planting with

wildflower mulch. With the last technique, cut wildflowers are used as mulch, and the seeds remaining in the mulch establish the planting.

All of the test plots are designed to test species and wildflower mixtures under highly competitive conditions so that researchers can determine the least amount of preparation and care required to establish a successful planting. Based on the results of these tests, researchers hope to determine the most economical mixtures, planting methods and maintenance procedures.

The Center has also established a Scientific Advisory Board, which is the first step in setting up a network of universities, botanical gardens and arboreta, seed companies and gov-

ernment agencies, all of which will conduct similar tests. The ultimate aim is to collect and verify information about these plants for dissemination throughout the country.

Finally, the Center has established a computerized information clearinghouse that will provide information about our native plants and act as a referral service. A list of species that perform well and a list of sources for further information in

each state are already available. The Center hopes that as more individuals—both amateur and professional—participate in the clearinghouse program, more information can be collected and made available to users.

To order a plant and information source list for your state, send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to Clearinghouse, National Wildflower Research Center, 2600 FM 973 North, Austin, TX 78725.

**Join us October 31-November 3 in San Antonio for the American Horticultural Society's 1984 Annual Meeting! See page 13 for details.**



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## AHS to Co-Sponsor Seminars

### Urban Horticulture and the Sensible Gardener

"Urban Horticulture and the Sensible Gardener" is the theme for a special two-day program to be held October 6 and 7 at California State University, Fullerton. The American Horticultural Society and the Fullerton Arboretum are co-sponsoring the meeting, which will feature a full day of lectures and discussions, as well as a day-long garden tour.

The speakers for the meeting will be James A. Gibbons, horticulturist at the San Diego Wild Animal Park; Morgan Evans, landscape architectural consultant to Walt Disney Enterprises' EPCOT Center in Florida and to Tokyo Disneyland; Robert Cloud, director of the Association of Irrigation Consultants; Westley Humphreys of the USDA Extension Service; and Victor Voth, a pomologist specializing in strawberries. Discussion topics will include the introduction of trees and shrubs for urban landscapes, hybridizing strawberries for home use, irrigation methods, and the role of soil fungus in the urban landscape.

Program participants will have an opportunity to visit two award-winning planned communities. Both developments illustrate appropriate plant selection, water conservation and landscaping for private homes in southern California.

### Perennials: Plants for the '80s

The American Horticultural Society, in cooperation with The New York Botanical Garden, will sponsor a symposium on perennials on Saturday, October 13, at the Mount Vernon estate in Mount Vernon, Virginia.

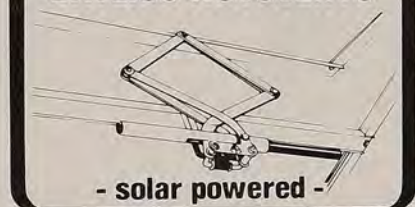
Entitled "Perennials: Plants for the '80s," the symposium is designed to familiarize both professional horticulturists and advanced amateur gardeners with new trends in the selection and use of herbaceous perennials for both residential and public landscapes. Speakers will include Rosemary Kern, director of the School of Horticulture of the New York Botanical Garden; Andre Viette, owner of the Andre Viette Farm and Nursery; John Elsley, assistant vice-president of Plant Product Development at George W. Park Seed Company; Pamela Harper, owner of the Harper Horticultural Slide Library in Seaford, Virginia; Frederick McGourty, co-owner (with his wife Mary Ann) of Hillside Garden Nursery; and Robert Hebb, horticulturist at the Mary Flagler Cary Arboretum of The New York Botanical Garden.

The symposium will also be conducted at The New York Botanical Garden in Bronx, New York on Saturday, September 29.

For further information, see the coupon below.

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## American Horticulturist

VOLUME 63 NUMBER 9

EDITOR, PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR: Barbara W. Ellis  
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Louise Baughn, Cindy Weakland.

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American Horticulturist, American Horticultural  
Society, Box 0105, Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121.  
AMERICAN HORTICULTURIST is published monthly by the  
American Horticultural Society, 7931 East Boulevard Drive,  
Alexandria, Virginia 22308, 703-768-5700. Dues for  
membership in the Society start at \$20 per year, \$12 of which  
is for AMERICAN HORTICULTURIST. Copyright © 1984 by The  
American Horticultural Society. The American Horticultural  
Society is a non-profit organization. Contributions are  
deductible for income tax purposes. ISSN 0096-4417. Second-  
class postage paid at Alexandria, Virginia and at additional  
mailing offices. Postmaster: Please send Form 3579 to  
AMERICAN HORTICULTURIST, Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121.  
Member of Society of National Association Publications.

YES! Please send me more  
information on:

- ☐ Urban Horticulture and the  
Sensible Gardener  
October 6-7, Fullerton, CA
- ☐ Perennials: Plants for the '80s  
September 29, Bronx, NY  
October 13, Mount Vernon, VA

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Robin Williams, Education  
Department, American Horticultural  
Society, P.O. Box 0105, Mount Ver-  
non, VA 22121.



## AHS Board of Directors Election

American Horticultural Society members are hereby notified that the Society's Annual Meeting will take place at the San Antonio Marriott Hotel in San Antonio, Texas on Thursday, November 1, 1984 at 10:15 a.m.

At this meeting, eight directors will be elected for three-year terms. All members in good standing are eligible to vote. If you cannot be present, please sign and return the attached proxy.

### **Mrs. Charles W. Allen, Jr. (Incumbent)**

Glenview, Kentucky. An active fund raiser, Mrs. Allen serves on the boards of many civic and cultural organizations in the Louisville, Kentucky area, including the Live Oak Gardens Foundation, Berea College (Berea, Kentucky), United Kentucky Bank Boards and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Foundation. She also serves on the executive committee of the Greater Louisville Fund for the Arts and on the Board of Governors of the J. B. Speed Art Museum of Louisville. Mrs. Allen is a past president of the Junior League of Louisville and president of the board of Macauley Theater.

### **Mrs. Erastus Corning, II (Incumbent)**

Albany, New York. Mrs. Corning is a member of the executive committee and a director of the New York Botanical Garden, as well as a past president of the Garden Club of America. She serves on the boards of several Albany-area organizations, including the area chapter of the American Red Cross, the Institute of History and Culture, Children's Hospital and the Landis Arboretum. Mrs. Corning is also regional chairman of the National Cathedral Association.

### **Mrs. Carolyn Marsh Lindsay (Incumbent)**

Columbus, Ohio. President and owner of Carolyn Marsh and Associates, Inc., a landscape design and installation company, Mrs. Marsh is also a member of the Ohio Nurserymen's Association, the American Forestry Association and the Columbus Landscape Association. She is active in horticultural education, and has taught courses and given lectures in her field.

### **Mr. J. Liddon Pennock, Jr.**

Meadowbrook, Pennsylvania. Past president of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and a member of the advisory committee of Longwood Gardens, Mr. Pennock was awarded the American Hor-

tical Society's Meritorious Service Citation in 1983. He is also a council member of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and a member of the executive committee of the Philadelphia Flower Show, as well as a member of the advisory board of Ladew Topiary Gardens.

### **Mrs. Daniel Pierce**

Dedham, Massachusetts. Current president of the New England Wild Flower Society, Mrs. Pierce is also a trustee of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, a Garden Club of America horticulture judge and the awards chairman for the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Mrs. Pierce has also been active in the New England Spring Flower Show.

### **Mrs. Frances Jones Poetker (Incumbent)**

Cincinnati, Ohio. Mrs. Poetker is owner of Jones the Florist, one of the 25 leading florists in America. She also serves on the boards of many national and local organizations, including the Society of American Florists, Allied Florists Association of Cincinnati, Garden Center of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Beautiful Committee, Cincinnati Bell, Inc., Air Pollution Control League of Cincinnati and the Women's Committee Historical Society. Mrs. Poetker is the only living woman to be elected to the Floricultural Hall of Fame of America.

### **Mrs. Edward King Poor, III**

Winnetka, Illinois. Mrs. Poor is a member of the board of directors and of the executive committee of the Chicago Botanic Garden, and is presently serving as a director of the Garden Club of America. She initiated the GCA's "Plants That Merit Attention" project and created a slide program depicting unusual trees of merit. Currently, she chairs a GCA committee involved in publishing a book on trees and cultivars that have thus far been neglected. Mrs. Poor is also a member of the national advisory board of Filoli in San Francisco, California.

### **John H. Whitworth, Jr.**

New York, New York. A partner in the Wall Street law firm of Dewey, Ballantine, Bushby, Palmer & Wood, Mr. Whitworth is also a long-time member of the American Horticultural Society, the Friends of the National Arboretum, the New York Botanical Garden, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Friends of the Cary Arboretum and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. He has a weekend home in the Hudson Valley, where he continues to work on gardens and a collection of deciduous trees and conifers that he started in 1975.

## PROXY

### **Notice of Election in conjunction with the 39th Annual Meeting of the American Horticultural Society**

(Cut proxy and return to Secretary, AHS, PO Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121.)

#### **Proxy to Vote at Annual Meeting**

Attention:  
Secretary, American  
Horticultural Society

I will not be able to attend the Annual Meeting of the American Horticultural Society on Thursday, November 1, 1984. Please assign my proxy to AHS Secretary Mrs. Charles W. Allen, Jr. or

to cast my ballot in the annual election of the Society as follows:  
(vote for eight)

- ☐ Mrs. Charles W. Allen, Jr.
- ☐ Mrs. Erastus Corning, II
- ☐ Mrs. Carolyn Marsh Lindsay
- ☐ Mr. J. Liddon Pennock, Jr.
- ☐ Mrs. Daniel Pierce
- ☐ Mrs. Frances Jones Poetker
- ☐ Mrs. Edward King Poor, III
- ☐ Mr. John H. Whitworth, Jr.

Write-In Candidate

Write-In Candidate

and to cast my ballot in other matters that may properly be brought before the Annual Meeting with the same effect as though I were personally present.

Date

Signature



# New Blight-Resistant Hybrid Chestnut



A selection of nuts from F<sub>2</sub> generation Dunstan hybrid chestnuts.

Robert D. Wallace

Chestnut lovers may want to experiment with a new, blight-resistant hybrid chestnut tree that combines the tree form and sweet taste of the American chestnut with the large nut size and blight resistance of the Chinese chestnut. This new hybrid, the product of noted plant breeder Dr. Robert Dunstan, is a cross between *Castanea dentata*, the American chestnut, and *C. mollissima*, the Chinese chestnut. Grafted trees have exhibited a very high degree of blight resistance for over 30 years of breeding and testing.

The development of this important hybrid, called the Dunstan hybrid, began just outside of Salem, Ohio in the 1950s. James Carpentar, a member of the Northern Nut Growers Association, discovered a large living chestnut tree in a grove of dead trees, a mutant tree assumed to be genetically resistant to the blight. Amazed by the size and the health of the tree, Carpentar obtained both

nuts and scion wood. He and a local pathologist inoculated the tree with active blight fungus over the next several years, but failed to induce the disease. He sent budwood to his friend Dr. Robert Dunstan.

Dr. Dunstan, then a professor at Greensboro College in Greensboro, North Carolina, had gained notoriety as the first person to successfully produce hybrids of French wine grapes and the native American muscadine, a feat that had eluded scientists for over 150 years. Realizing the potential for a chestnut tree with natural blight resistance, he set about using the Ohio tree in a breeding program to produce a superior chestnut hybrid. He grafted the American chestnut scions onto Japanese chestnut rootstock. The grafts grew vigorously, and Dunstan cross-pollinated their flowers with a mixture of three USDA-released Chinese chestnut selections—'Kuling', 'Meiling' and 'Nanking'. By 1962, six trees

from the first hybridization began to bear. In 1963, the tree showing the clearest signs of its hybrid parentage was backcrossed with both the original American and the Chinese parent trees. Later that year, Dunstan planted both seedlings and nuts from the resulting F<sub>2</sub> generation in north-central Florida.

Today, a grove of 40 healthy hybrid chestnut trees grows atop Dunstan's Chestnut Hill Farm near Alachua, Florida. None of these trees has ever shown any trace of blight, even though the blight-causing fungus is present in the area. The hybrid trees have grown vigorously and borne heavily, and have not been sprayed for any reason.

These second-generation trees show characteristics associated with each parental species in tree form, leaf shape and nut quality. Some trees are low and spreading, like the Chinese; some are straight-boled (trunked), like the American; and



some are intermediate in character. The nuts also show the range of genetic variability. They are very sweet in taste, like the American chestnuts. In contrast, Chinese nuts often have a very bland taste. Nuts of the hybrid trees are much larger in size than those of the American chestnut tree, which averages 75-150 nuts per pound. Some of the Dunstan chestnuts are more like the Chinese, which average 30-40 nuts per pound. The three hybrids with the largest nuts bear 23, 28 and 34 nuts per pound.

In tests conducted by Florida nurseryman Stanley Michelini and Dr. Edward Barnard, pathologist for the Florida Division of Forestry, 24 grafted Dunstan hybrid chestnuts were inoculated with active cultures of *Endothia parasitica* and observed for four years. Even after six months no cankers had formed, and some of the inoculation wounds had healed completely and were indistinguishable from other bark variations. When the culture was retested, it was found to be active, but the fungus had not produced any serious infection in the trees. In contrast, all inoculations had proved fatal in similar tests performed by the USDA on native American chestnuts.

The Dunstan hybrid chestnuts are undergoing further growth and blight resistance tests at university and USDA research stations in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and California. Plantings around the nation—from Florida to Massachusetts, Illinois and Washington—have shown that the Dunstan hybrids maintain their vigor and productivity in various climates and environments. They have survived freezes that killed Chinese chestnuts on the same farm last winter in North Carolina.

Dr. Dunstan is currently working with Chestnut Hill Nursery, Inc. to produce a large quantity of the best types of the Dunstan hybrid chestnut. Wholesale and quantity prices are available for commercial buyers, and special discount contract orders are available for the establishment of orchards. A free brochure with ordering and planting information is available from Chestnut Hill Nursery, Inc., Rt. 3, Box 267, Alachua, FL 32615, (904) 462-2820.

—Robert D. Wallace

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# Gardener's Dateline

## SEPTEMBER 7-9

### Herb and Perennial Fair

Wrenwood of Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. Information: Keyth Hackimer, Wrenwood, Route 4, Box 361, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411, (304) 258-3071.

## SEPTEMBER 12-16

### American Rose Society Fall Convention

Pittsburgh Hilton, Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Information: Lenna Easter, R.R. 1, Box 234, Green Forest Dr., Baden, PA 15005, (412) 266-2609.

## SEPTEMBER 15-16

### National Dahlia Show

Concord Mall, 3701 S. Main, Elkhart, Indiana. Information: Frances Van Kirk, 13573 Brick Rd., Granger, IN 46530.

## SEPTEMBER 16-19

### 2nd Annual American Greenhouse Vegetable Growers Association Conference

Avon Lake, Ohio. Information: Dr. James Farley, AGVGA, PO Box 20228, Columbus, OH 43220, (614) 459-1498.

## SEPTEMBER 23

### Rare Plant Auction and Annual Fall Plant Sale

Case Estates, 135 Wellesley St., Weston, Massachusetts. Hours: Plant sale 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.; Rare plant auction 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Information: Arnold Arboretum, The Arborway, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130, (617) 524-1718.

## SEPTEMBER 27

### Fall Herb Day

U.S. National Arboretum, Administration Building, Bladensburg Road & New York Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Information: Bobbie Champaign, 11441 Tanbark Dr., Reston, VA 22091, (703) 860-4681.

## SEPTEMBER 27-29

### 3rd National Technical Institute on Biotechnical Slope Protection and Erosion Control

San Francisco, California. Information: Prof. C. Allen Wortley, Univ. of Wisconsin-Extension, 432 North Lake St., Madison, WI 53706, (608) 262-0577.

## SEPTEMBER 29-30

### Harvest Show

Fairmount Park Horticulture Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Information: Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 325 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106, (215) 625-8250.



River Farm will be open Sunday, October 7, for the annual Autumn Festival

## SEPTEMBER 29

### Plants for the '80s—2nd Annual Symposium

New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Fee: NYBG or AHS Members \$60.00; Non-members \$65.00; Students \$25.00. Information: Elizabeth A. Molinari, NYBG, Education Dept., Bronx, NY 10458, (212) 220-8666.

## SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 3

### Society of Municipal Arborists 20th Annual Meeting and Trade Show

Sheraton Gardens Hotel, Freehold, New Jersey. Information: Dave Shaw, Local Chairman, 20 Court St., Freehold, NJ 07728, (201) 431-7903 or Robert Miller, Exhibits Chairman, 7447 Old Dayton Rd., Dayton, OH 45427, (513) 854-1338.

## SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 3

### American Forestry Association 109th Annual Meeting

Red Lion Motor Inn—Jantzen Beach, Portland, Oregon. Information: American Forestry Association, 1319 18th St., NW, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 467-5810.

## OCTOBER 3-7

### American Orchid Society Fall Meeting

San Antonio, Texas. Information: American Orchid Society, 6000 S. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, FL 33405, (305) 585-8666.

## OCTOBER 5-7

### Waterford Homes Tour and Crafts Exhibit

Waterford, Virginia. Information: Judy Patterson, Waterford Foundation, Inc., Waterford, VA 22190, (703) 882-3018.

## OCTOBER 6-7

### 22nd Annual Fall Gourd Show

Morrow County Fairgrounds, Mt. Gilead, Ohio. Hours: Saturday noon to 6 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: Adults \$1.00; Children under 12 free. Information: O. C. Stevens, Mt. Gilead, OH 43338.

## OCTOBER 6-14

### San Francisco Home and Garden Show

Moscone Center, San Francisco, California. Information: George Colouris, 1901 Old Middlefield Way, Ste. 17, Mountain View, CA 94043, (415) 969-8770.

## OCTOBER 7

### AHS Annual Fall Festival

River Farm, Mount Vernon, Virginia. Hours: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Information: Call or write the Society's Department of Education.

## OCTOBER 7-12

### 17th International Bedding Plants, Inc., Conference

Virginia Beach Pavilion Conference Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Information: BPI, PO Box 286, Okemos, MI 48864, (517) 349-3924.

## OCTOBER 9-12

### 6th Annual Garden Club of America Flower Show: "Autumn in the Atrium"

Citicorp Center, New York, New York. Information: GCA, 598 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022, (212) 753-8287.

## OCTOBER 12-14

### Rhododendron Species Foundation Fall Foliage Festival

Federal Way, Washington. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: Adults \$2.00; Children under 12 free. Information: Rhododendron Species Foundation, PO Box 3798, Federal Way, WA 98003, (206) 927-6960.

## OCTOBER 13

### Plants for the '80s—2nd Annual Symposium

American Horticultural Society (host), Mount Vernon estate, Mount Vernon, Virginia. Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Fee: NYBG or AHS Members \$60.00; Non-members \$65.00; Students \$25.00. Information: See September 29.



**OCTOBER 13-14****Tropical Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society 9th Annual Flower Show and Plant Sale**

Fairchild Tropical Garden, Miami, Florida. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission: Adults \$3.00; Members and children under 13 free. Information: Fairchild Tropical Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Rd., Miami, FL 33156.

**OCTOBER 15-19****International Association for Landscape Ecology Seminar**

Roskilde, Denmark. Admission: \$20.00. Information: Ms. Inge Birkelund, Institute of Geography, Socio-Economic Analysis and Computer Science, House 19.2, Roskilde University Centre, Post Box 260, DK-4000 Roskilde, Denmark.

**OCTOBER 15-NOVEMBER 1****AHS Tour of New Zealand**

Information: Call or write the Society's Department of Education.

**OCTOBER 18-21****29th Eastern Orchid Congress**

Parkview Hilton Plaza, One Hilton Plaza, Hartford, Connecticut. Information: American Orchid Society, Inc., 6000 S. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, FL 33405, (305) 585-8666.

**OCTOBER 18-19****University of Georgia Bicentennial Gardening Symposium**

Callaway Building, University of Georgia Botanical Garden. Information: Gardening Symposium, UGA Botanical Garden, 2450 S. Milledge Ave., Athens, GA 30605, (404) 542-1244.

**OCTOBER 21-26****6th International Conference on Jojoba and Its Uses**

Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel. Information: Sixth Intl. Conference on Jojoba and Its Uses, Box 3473, Tel-Aviv 61 033, Israel.

**OCTOBER 21-26****Caribbean Food Crops Society 20th Annual Meeting**

St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, West Indies. Information: Walter I. Knausenberger, Caribbean Food Crops Society, c/o V. I. Cooperative Extension Service, College of the Virgin Islands, PO Box L, Kingshill, St. Croix, U.S.V.I. 00850, (809) 778-0246.

**OCTOBER 22-24****1984 New England Greenhouse Conference**

Sheraton Sturbridge Inn, Sturbridge, Massachusetts. Information: Richard Shaw, Dept. of Plant Science, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881, (401) 792-2358.

**OCTOBER 24-28****National Trust for Historic Preservation 38th National Preservation Conference**

Baltimore, Maryland. Information: Peter Herrick, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Mass. Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036, (202) 673-4000.

**OCTOBER 25-30****Asian and Pacific Orchid Conference**

Exhibition Hall, Printemps Ginza Store, Tokyo, Japan. Information: See October 18-21.

**OCTOBER 27-28****Mid-America Orchid Congress**

95 North Moorland Road, Brookfield, Wisconsin. Information: See October 18-21.

**OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 3****AHS 39th Annual Meeting**

San Antonio, Texas. Information: See page 13 of this newsletter.

**OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 3****Annual Meeting of American Society of Consulting Arborists**

San Antonio, Texas. Information: ASCA, 12 Lakeview Ave., Milltown, NJ 08850, (201) 821-8948.

**NOVEMBER 1-25****AHS Tour of the Orient**

Information: Call or write the Society's Department of Education.

**NOVEMBER 7-9****National Agricultural Career Show**

H. Roe Bartle Exhibition Hall, 301 West 13th Street, Kansas City, Missouri. Information: Future Farmers of America, PO Box 15159, Alexandria, VA 22309, (703) 360-3600.

**NOVEMBER 8-10****American Camellia Society Fall Meeting**

Perry, Georgia. Information: American Camellia Society, Box 1217, Fort Valley, GA 31030, (912) 967-2358.

**NOVEMBER 10-11****Plantation Days**

Plantation Stables at Middleton Place, Charleston, South Carolina. Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission: Adults \$6.00; Students \$4.00; Children 4-12 \$3.00. Information: Middleton Place, Rte. 4, Charleston, SC 29407, (803) 556-6020.

**NOVEMBER 14****Day-Long Conference: "Plant Potential: An Update on Trees and Shrubs for the Urban Environment"**

New York, New York. Information: NY Dept. of Parks & Recreation, The Arsenal, Central Park, New York, NY 10021, (212) 360-8193 or 360-8194.

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First place for the most popular flower cultivar went to 'First Lady' marigold, an AAS winner from 1968. The two runners-up were zinnia 'Scarlet Ruffles' and marigold 'Queen Sophia', which won in 1974 and 1979 respectively. 'Sugar Snap' pea, the 1979 gold medal winner, was selected the most popular vegetable cultivar. Broccoli 'Green Comet', which won in 1969, was runner-up.

—ALI, May 1984

## Award An AHS Medal At Your Next Plant Show



The American Horticultural Society offers the Bole Memorial Medals, designed by Victor Schreckengost, a nationally known sculptor and industrial designer. These medals are awarded to individuals for horticultural excellence at regional shows put on by plant societies who are members of AHS. The gold medal requires 15 species or cultivars of blue ribbon quality; the silver medal 8 species or cultivars. These need not be all of the same species. The medal measures one and a half inches across with a ring attached so it can be worn on a chain or ribbon. The date and the recipient's name can be engraved on the back.

Requests for applications, which must be made three months in advance of the event, can be obtained from Mrs. Benjamin P. Bole, Jr., Chairman, 1 Bratenahl Place, Cleveland, OH 44108.

## New Germplasm Repository

The National Fruit and Nut Germplasm Repository System has established a national repository for apple and eastern grape cultivars at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, New York. A laboratory, greenhouses and a screenhouse are under construction, and a 50-acre tract of land nearby will be used to store cultivars of apples and grapes that are being preserved.

The Geneva Experiment Station is known worldwide as an important fruit breeding station. In the last 100 years the station has released 59 apple and 47 grape cultivars, in addition to other fruit cultivars. Scientists at the Station presently maintain nearly 1,000 apple cultivars for use in breeding programs.

The new repository is one of 12 repositories for fruits and nuts in the System, which is jointly supported by the United States Department of Agriculture and the State Agricultural Experiment Stations.

—Penn State Horticultural Reviews,  
January 1984



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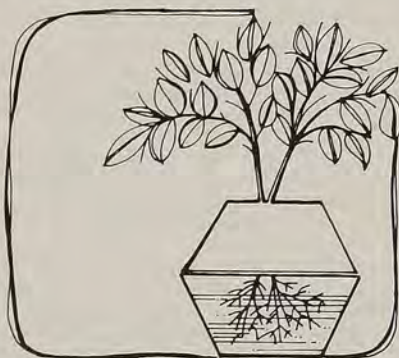
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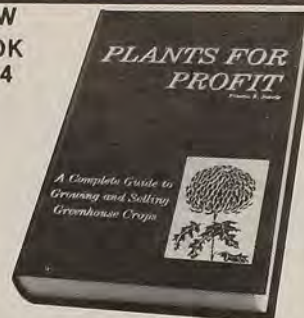
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# Plants Wanted

Members who are growing or who have access to any of the plants in this month's column are invited to help their fellow members locate seed, plants or cuttings of their "Plants Wanted" by writing directly to the addresses listed below.

Please send your "Plants Wanted" lists, including genus, species, common name and a brief description, to "Plants Wanted" in care of the Society. Please type or print neatly. We will publish them on a space-available basis.

- ***Symphytum officinale* 'Variegatum'**, a variegated cultivar of common comfrey or boneset whose leaves are margined with white.
- Acer negundo* 'Variegatum'** (formerly *Negundo fraxinifolium*, and sometimes listed as *N. aceroides*), a variegated form of box elder or ash-leaved maple with white margins on the leaves.
- Prunus dasycarpa***, commonly called black apricot. A species from China, Kashmir and Afghanistan that is hardier than the common apricot. Max M. Lund, Route 3, Box 460, Hayesville, NC 28904.
- ***Caltha leptosepala***, marsh marigold, a white-flowered species from the western United States.
- Syringa afghanica***, a lilac from Afghanistan

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- ***Clematis viticella* 'Abundance' and *C. viticella* 'Royal Velours'**, two cultivars of clematis, and ***Clematis* × *durandii***, a hybrid between *C. integrifolia* and *C. jackmanii*. Roger R. Nelson, Iris Country, 313 Lincoln Street, Wayne, NE 68787.
- ***Digitalis purpurea* var. *purpurea* 'Monstrosa'** (formerly *Digitalis monstrosa*), a purple-flowered cultivar with a large, regular flower at the tip of the spike. Earl J. Hensch, 2648 Highland Avenue, Poland, OH 44514.
- **Collard 'Louisiana Sweet'**. Lee J. Sondus, 312 Giles Street, Box 304, Pendleton, SC 29670.
- ***Fothergilla major***, a species of *Fothergilla* from Georgia. Similar to *F. monticola*, but slightly taller (to 10 feet) and with shorter flower spikes. W. G. Matton, Jr., 4112 Hermitage Point, Virginia Beach, VA 23455.
- ***Fritillaria imperialis***, any form with variegated leaves. Ramon Reyes,

100 Manhattan Avenue, Apartment 1213, Union City, NJ 07087.

- ***Ilex aquifolium* 'Coleman'**, a cultivar of English holly. Rick and Bev Coleman, Coleman Nurseries, 21 Valley View Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.
- ***Malus* 'York'**, an old apple cultivar with large fruit. Richard Rein, 13426 Pocono Court, Herndon, VA 22070.
- ***Prunus sargentii* 'Shiro-sugen' and 'Thai-haku'**, two old cultivars of Sargent cherry. Clara Allen, Dumbarton Oaks, 2217 Hall Place, NW, Washington, DC 20007.
- ***Wisteria macrostachya*** (or any other purple-flowered species other than Japanese wisteria, *W. floribunda*, or Chinese wisteria, *W. sinensis*). Looking for a late-blooming, dark-purple-flowered plant to replace one lost several years ago. Scattered bloom, flowers not fragrant. Thought to be *W. macrostachya*, a species native to the southern United States. D. Holtschneider, 2218 Middleborough, Baltimore, MD 21221.

## Ash Meadows Becomes Nature Preserve

Thanks to The Nature Conservancy, Ash Meadows—a unique desert wetland in Nevada that is home to seven species of plants that are currently proposed for listing as Endangered—will be protected as a nature preserve. Real estate development, coupled with the surface water diversion and ground water pumping it would cause, threatened to destroy this unusual oasis in the Mojave Desert.

According to the *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, "Due to their isolation in a desert where the average rainfall is only about 70 mm (less than 3 inches), the thermal springs of Ash Meadows contain the highest concentration of endemic plant and animal species in the continental United States." The *Bulletin* goes on to explain why this area is unique: "The Ash Meadows wetlands are fed by an aquifer consisting in

part of 'fossil water' that entered the underlying porous limestone more than 10,000 years ago. During the Pleistocene Epoch, an extensive system of interconnecting rivers and lakes covered the region. As the climate changed and surface waters receded, aquatic animals were left stranded in isolated springs and outflows. Adapting to their distinct 'island' ecosystems, these organisms underwent rapid speciation in circumstances that some biologists describe as a landlocked Galapagos Islands."

In October 1983, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed seven species of plants found only in Ash Meadows for listing as Endangered. These species—spring-loving centaury, Amargosa niterwort, and the Ash Meadows gumplant, ivesia, blazing-star, milk-vetch and sunray—were described in *American Horticulturist*, March 1984.

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# Beautiful & Useful— Our Native Plant Heritage

**Texas—home of one-fifth of our nation's wildflower species—is the setting for our 39th Annual Meeting. Join fellow gardeners in San Antonio, October 31-November 3, as we focus on the uses and conservation of native plants nationwide.**

**M**rs. Lyndon B. Johnson, founder of the National Wildflower Research Center, will join us at the LBJ Ranch for a talk on "The American Wildflower—A New Frontier." And two panels of leaders and experts in this important horticultural specialty will provide in-depth education sessions of interest to the amateur and professional horticulturist alike.

We'll have a specially guided tour of the magnificent San Antonio Botanical Center, which shows, through special historic exhibits, how Texas pioneers found the state, and how they set about cultivating its natural resources.

Tour spectacular private gardens, open exclusively to AHS members participating in the Annual Meeting. Enjoy the Old World atmosphere of Fredericksburg, a charming community in the lush Texas hill country. And in San Antonio, we'll have time to enjoy beautiful River Walk, a natural waterway winding through the city's business district. Bordered by a carefully planned terrain of lush foliage and cypress trees, River Walk is just one of the historic city's high points.

## Why Native Plants?

A field of glorious color, untended by human hand—a wave of wildflowers moving gently in a summer breeze—can turn the most pragmatic viewer poetic. But there's more to wildflowers than poetry. Consider these facts:

- By using wildflowers instead of turfgrass, highway departments across the nation could save millions of dollars in mowing costs each year. Part of the savings would reflect a drastic reduction in fuel use—an important conservation consideration.
- Many wildflowers are naturally drought-resistant, and don't need watering. Imagine the impact the widespread use of wildflower landscapes would have on water conservation!
- Building and highway development have destroyed the habitats of many animals. But wildflower plantings along a roadside provide wildlife with shelter and food sources, lessening the threat of human activity.
- Although American folklore is rich with uses for our native flora, we know next to nothing about the potential uses—medicinal, agricultural or industrial—of many of our native plants. Ignoring this potential at a time when

the earth's resources are stretched to the limit is foolhardy.

- Native plants are essential to low-maintenance gardening. Many gardeners have chosen wildflowers whose cultural requirements match the conditions in their own gardens—and the results have combined natural beauty with reduced work.

For all these practical reasons, the time for serious study of American native plants has arrived. But, as any plant-lover knows, pragmatic factors are only part of the story. As Lady Bird Johnson said of her participation in the opening of the National Wildflower Research Center, this area of horticulture has always been "the stuff of my heart."

Combine the practical and the poetic. . . . Have a wonderful and educational time in one of the nation's most exciting cities. . . . Share ideas and experiences with fellow gardeners and horticultural experts. Please join us in San Antonio!





# Annual Meeting Schedule

## Wednesday, October 31, 1984

**10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**—Registration on the ballroom level of the San Antonio Marriott Hotel.

Choose one of the following two optional activities for this afternoon:

**2:00 - 5:00 p.m.**—Optional Guided Bus Tour of San Antonio, \$15 per person. See "the Queen of the Missions," Mission San Jose, with its beautiful "Rosa's Window," one of the finest pieces of Spanish colonial ornamentation in this country. Then visit the city's King William area, including the Steves Homestead, a Victorian mansion built by a wealthy German merchant. The tour concludes with a visit to the Spanish Governor's Palace, the original seat of Spanish government in Texas, which was labeled "the most beautiful building in San Antonio" by the National Geographic Society.

**4:00 p.m.**—Optional Horticultural Tour of River Walk, \$3 per person. River Walk, 21 blocks of beautifully landscaped cobblestone walkways bordering the San Antonio River, cuts a path through the center of the city. Join the horticulturist in charge for an educational tour.

**6:00 p.m.**—No-Host Cocktail Reception for Meeting Participants at the San Antonio Marriott Hotel. Join fellow horticulturists for a relaxing welcome to our meeting.

**8:00 p.m.**—President's Council Dinner. Open only to members of the Society's President's Council. For information about membership in this special group, please write to President Edward N. Dane, AHS, P.O. Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121.

## Thursday, November 1, 1984

**8:45 a.m. - 12:00 noon**—Education and Plenary Session: "The Use of Native Plants in the Landscape." Featuring specialists in Texas horticulture, this session will cover the following topics:

- "Texas as It Was," Del Weniger, author of *Cacti of the Southwest* and *Texas as It Was*, and member of the Board of Directors of the San Antonio Botanical Center.
- "Meadow Gardening at River Farm," Steve Davis, Director of Grounds and Buildings, American Horticultural Society.
- "Native Woody Plants of Texas," Ben J. Simpson, Research Scientist at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Research and Extension Center, Dallas.
- "The Use of Native Plants in the Western Garden," Paul Cox, Horticulturist, San Antonio Botanical Center and a specialist in Texas native plants.

**12:00 noon**—Lunch at the San Antonio Marriott Hotel.

**1:30 - 5:30 p.m.**—Tour of San Antonio Botanical Center. Mr. Eric Tschanz, the Center's Director, will tell us about the Center and what it has to offer.

*Private Gardens Tour.* We will tour two gardens of exceptional interest in the San Antonio area, opened by their owners exclusively for AHS Annual Meeting registrants.

**6:30 p.m.**—Optional Evening: Mexican Charreada and Fiesta, \$35 per person. A charreada is a Mexican rodeo, full of the color and excitement of the old Southwest. Our evening will include a fiesta with a special Mexican menu and a mariachi trio.

## Friday, November 2, 1984

**8:30 - 11:45 a.m.**—Tour of Fredericksburg, Texas. This Old World German community boasts lovely restored homes and beautiful gardens. We will tour a Sunday house, built by a German farmer for use on his weekly trip to town, and private gardens in the area.

**11:45 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.**—The LBJ Ranch. We travel to the home of former President Lyndon B. Johnson. Set in the beautiful hill country of Texas, this national historic site is a working ranch. AHS Annual Meeting registrants will enjoy a Texas-style barbecue in the ranch's Pecan Grove, to be followed by a tour of the ranch and a special panel discussion, "Wildflowers—The Broad View."

*Special Introductory Talk:* Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, former First Lady, well-known conservationist, and founder of the National Wildflower Research Center, will speak to AHS members about "The American Wildflower—A New Frontier."



**Share ideas and experiences with fellow gardeners and horticultural experts. Please join us in San Antonio!**

After Mrs. Johnson's speech, a discussion will be led by Carlton B. Lees, recently retired Vice President of the New York Botanical Garden and a member of the Executive Committee of the National Wildflower Research Center. Panel members and their topics will include:

- Texas Department of Agriculture's Native Plant Marketing Program: Mary Sanger, Marketing Division, Texas Department of Agriculture
- Overview of Native Plant Research: William Jordan, III, Editor, *Restoration and Management Notes*
- Wildflowers and Roadsides: Craig Steffens, Landscape Architect, Texas State Department of Highways
- Native Plant Preservation: Mark Heitlinger, Director of Ecological Management, The Nature Conservancy
- Wildflowers in Urban Spaces: John Flanagan, Chairman of the Board of the Bronx Frontier and President of Urban Adventures in New York
- Wildflowers in the Designed Environment: Darrel Morrison, Dean of the School of Environmental Design, University of Georgia

**Evening**—On your own to explore historic San Antonio.

**8:30 p.m.**—Optional Evening: AHS Member's Showcase, San Antonio Marriott Hotel. A Society member will give a talk on his or her own horticultural experiences.

## Saturday, November 3, 1984

**7:30 a.m.**—Optional Education Breakfast, \$12.50 per person, San Antonio Marriott Hotel. Join Society board and staff members to discuss the Society's educational programs.

**9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**—Tour of San Antonio-area private gardens. We will enjoy in-depth tours of five specially



selected private gardens, open only to American Horticultural Society Annual Meeting registrants. A box lunch will be served in the garden of Don Morris, a prominent San Antonio landscape designer.

**6:00 p.m.**—*No-Host Cocktail Reception* at the San Antonio Marriott Hotel.

**7:00 p.m.**—*The American Horticultural Society Annual Awards Banquet*. Banquet Speaker Carlton B. Lees will give a talk entitled "At the Edge of the Field." The following awards will be presented:

**National Achievement Award**

—Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson

**Liberty Hyde Bailey Medal**—Miss Elizabeth Scholtz

**G. B. Gunlogson Medal**—Dr. Paul Bigelow Sears

**Amateur Citation**—Mrs. Paul Kane

**Individual Commercial Citation**

—Mr. Jack E. Christensen

**Company or Firm Commercial Citation**

—Lawry's California Center, Lawry's Foods, Inc.

**Horticultural Writing Citation**—Miss Rachel Snyder

**Landscape Architecture Citation**

—Mr. Lawrence Halprin

**Local Horticulture Citation**—Mr. Carroll Abbott

**Meritorious Service Citation**—Mr. Carlton B. Lees

**Professional Citation**—Dr. Marion T. Hall

**Scientific Citation**—Mr. Lester P. Nichols

**Teaching Citation**—Mr. & Mrs. C. Roy Boutard

## AHS's 39th Annual Meeting Registration Form

**Important:** Registrations must be postmarked by October 15, 1984. Please register earlier if you can.

**Hotel Information:** When we receive your registration form and check, we will send you a hotel reservation card. Please return the card to the San Antonio Marriott Hotel. Hotel staff will confirm your reservation.

Room rates for AHS Annual Meeting participants are \$60 single and \$68 double. Please be sure to reserve your hotel room early, as space is limited. The hotel will not hold extra rooms for late registrations after October 10.

**Cancellations:** A full refund, less \$40 per person for booking expense, will be made if written cancellation is postmarked by October 15. We cannot honor refund requests postmarked after October 15.

**Please send payment in full to: Mrs. Robin Williams, American Horticultural Society, P.O. Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's/Guest's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please list your name(s) as you wish it/them to appear on your name badge(s), if different from above:  
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### Registration Blank

Please enter the number of people registering and the total fee for each item in the spaces below.

	Member's Fee	How Many Registering	Total Fee	Non-Member's Fee	How Many Registering	Total Fee
<b>Full registration:</b>						
October 31-November 3.....	\$250	_____	\$_____	\$280	_____	\$_____
<b>Daily registration fees:</b>						
November 1 only.....	80	_____	_____	90	_____	_____
November 2 only.....	95	_____	_____	105	_____	_____
November 3 only.....	85	_____	_____	95	_____	_____
<b>Optional Activities:</b>						
<i>October 31:</i>						
San Antonio Bus Tour.....	15	_____	_____	15	_____	_____
<i>Or</i>						
River Walk Tour.....	3	_____	_____	3	_____	_____
<i>November 1:</i>						
Mexican Charreada and Fiesta.....	35	_____	_____	35	_____	_____
<i>November 3:</i>						
Education Breakfast.....	12.50	_____	_____	12.50	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>			\$_____			\$_____



# Mixture Thwarts Christmas Tree Thieves

Gardeners who have been plagued by Christmas tree thieves in the past can protect their trees this season by making them so ugly that potential thieves will pass them by. The easy-to-make "ugly mix," which consists of vegetable dye, hydrated limestone, water and other ingredients, was developed by Cornell Plantations gardener Gerardo Sciarra. Sciarra developed the mixture because Cornell Plantations has been victimized by Christmas tree thieves in recent years.

According to Sciarra, the ugly mix was successful last Christmas. The mixture was applied to all but one of the trees in the plantation's collection. That tree, thought too large to be stolen, was the only one taken by thieves last season. In the past, trees worth as much as \$3,000 have been cut down by thieves.

## Directions for Ugly Mix

Pour two gallons of water at 63° F into a large aluminum vat. In a separate bowl, mix 20 ounces of hydrated lime with four ounces of Wilt-Pruf (an anti-desiccant) until a uniform paste is produced. Fold the paste slowly into the water. When the mixture is an even, light, milky color, add two bottles of pink food coloring. (You may want to experiment with other colors, too; however, Sciarra suggests consulting neighbors before permitting your imagination

to run free.) Blend the mixture until it is a uniform color, then apply it to trees by spraying or sloshing when

the weather is relatively warm and dry. The rain will eventually wash the color away.

## Pollination Film Available

Plant enthusiasts can enjoy an unusual look at pollination by viewing a stunning film entitled *Close-Up Photography Reveals Mysteries of Pollination*. Created by Oxford Scientific Films with the assistance of University of Washington Botany Professor B. J. D. Meeuse and Science Screen Report, Inc., the film explores the various forms of pollination, from wind-blown and animal transfer methods to exotic species that use traps, lures and decoys. Spectacular time-lapse, ultra close-up and other advanced methods of photography allow the viewer to see pollination both in progress and in minute detail—for example, a hummingbird as it pollinates blooms otherwise protected by ant colonies, or an orchid mimicking the shape and scent of a female wasp in order to tag the frantic males with its pollen.

The film answers many questions that are likely to arise from children and adults alike: why is pollination necessary?; what roles do plants' colors, shapes and odors play in pollination?; what roles do the different parts of the flowers play in pollina-



Photo courtesy of Science Screen Report, Inc.

tion?; what are the main methods and go-betweens?; how did pollination traps, lures and decoys come into existence?

*Close-Up Photography Reveals Mysteries of Pollination* is available in video form (VHS or Beta formats) to AHS members for \$90. The cost of a 3/4-inch U-matic is \$110. For more information, write Science Screen Report, Inc., PO Box 691, New York, NY 10003.

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