

# THE NATIONAL (AMERICAN) HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE

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Published Quarterly and Owned Exclusively by  
THE NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
Permanent Headquarters to Be Established at Washington, D. C.  
Office of the Secretary: Henning, Minn.

Volume II

Henning, Minn., January, 1923

Number 1

## SOME WILDLINGS OF THE SOUTHWEST

By Eva Kenworthy Gray, 32 and Woolman Avenue, San Diego, Calif.,  
Regional Vice President, National Horticultural Society, for the South Pacific Coast.

It is a far cry from the northern boundary of the United States to the southwestern part of the country where I live, and the flowers differ as widely. You of the north have the advantage of more moisture and can grow many things that do not live through a long, sometimes eight months draught, but still we have many lovely and fine wildlings in this desert country. We may as well call it desert, for it would be a barren waste with only a short bushy growth of scrub oak and sage brush if the hand of man had not put all his ingenuity to work and brought a water supply down from the mountains that we might grow many things that otherwise would not thrive here. And now we have in our parks wonderful collections of shrubs and trees from all over the world. We have brought to our home gardens many of the wild shrubs and herbaceous plants that are found in the valleys and canyons where they have hitherto found footing and moisture enough to carry them through the dry season. The *White Lilac*, *Ceanothus negacarpus*, is easily transplanted from its wild state and the blooms are beautiful in the spring time when the dainty white plumes cover the branches. There is also a blue lilac, *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*, and in its native haunts is a mass of foliage and blue flower spikes. The white variety can be grown from seed and its growth is so rapid that it will bloom the second year. There are many varieties of the *Lupine* of the blue flowering kind. Another wildling is the *Lemonade Berry*, *Rus integrifolia*, which is a spring bloomer, has little clusters of

berry-like, tight folded buds; the foliage is thick, leathery, and can be planted in very dry places. The *Wild Coffee* abounds everywhere, has glossy green foliage and when crushed emits a strong odor of coffee. Its botanical name is *Rhannus Californica*. We find also the *Wild Gooseberry*, *Ribes hesperium*, sometimes called *Fuschia-flowering Gooseberry*; in spring it has greenish-red flowers followed by prickly fruit.

At our last flower show there were on exhibition 150 varieties of named wild flowers, gathered and brought in by the school children. When we are fortunate enough to have plenty of rain in the winter the flowers respond by blooming profusely, over hillside and mesa. We find two varieties of snowberries; the dwarf, *Symphoricarpus mollis*, which grows best in shady, moist locations, and *S. racemosa*, a taller variety. We have here a variety of pine that is found in only one other locality in the world, the *Torrey Pine*, *Pinus Torreyana*, called the pine of mystery, for its origin is not known by scientists. It grows on the rocky bluffs above the ocean—the only trees along the coast in this part of California. They were named after the great naturalist, Dr. John Torrey, who has many plants named in his honor which include four of our most highly prized evergreens, one of Florida, one of California, one of Japan, as well as the famed *Torrey Pine*.

For fall bloomers we have *Chaparral Broom*, *Baccharis sarathoides*, with tiny buds of creamy white; the foliage is a bright green and is very noticeable among other shrubs. As the seed matures some

of them are almost a solid mass of white-feathered pappus, (pappus is the parachute by which tall composite flowers spread their seed on the wings of the wind). As you go about among these plants you carry on your clothes the life-giving germ from one plant to another.

The little mossy plants that appear as dead all through the dry summer begin to enjoy the rains and soak up the moisture through their network of rhizoids which are root-like structures. The *Mesa Moss*, *Selaginella cinerascens*, is a very interesting and useful species. It makes a ground cover and prevents the washing of the soil by the rains and it also prevents the water from carrying the rocks and soil pell mell down the hill. The rains start the new tips into growth and so it spreads its usefulness.

There is one of the *Euphorbia* Family found growing on the mesas which goes by the humble name of *Turkey Mullein*. If you examine the leaves through the magnifying lens you will be surprised to note the little matted star-like hairs. It is one of our *Poinsettias*, and it bears many seeds, of which the wild birds, especially the doves, are very fond. Naturalists call it *Eremocarpus setigerus*. Among other shrubs that claim our attention during the fall, especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas time, are the *Holly-leaved Cherry*, *Prunus ilicifolia*, and the *Christmas Berry*, *Heteromeles arbutifolia*. If you try to eat the fruit of the latter you will find it quite puckery in flavor, and when I was younger we loved to string the berries for beads.

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## NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Incorporated July 1, 1922

### OBJECT OF THE SOCIETY

An altruistic and educational society, national in scope, organized for "the increase and diffusion of horticultural knowledge, and the stimulation of universal interest in horticulture."

### OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

C. Z. Nelson, President, Galesburg, Ill.; Mrs. Fannie Mahood Heath, Vice President, Grand Forks, N. D.; Hamilton Traub, Editor-Secretary, Henning, Minn.; Eric B. Magnusson, Treasurer, Henning, Minn.; John F. Traub, General Counsel; A. L. Truax; Axel A. Tervola.

### THE NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE

Published quarterly and owned exclusively by The National Horticultural Society.

All Fellows of the Society are requested to send in for publication signed articles on gardening and allied subjects. An effort will be made to publish as much of this material as space will permit.

Advertising rates on application.

Edited by the Secretary of the Society—Hamilton Traub, Henning, Minn.

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Mr. William Robinson, Gravetye Manor, Sussex, England.

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(Additional names will be published in the April and July issues of the Magazine)

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Mrs. May Senn, Rotan, Texas.

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Mrs. Fannie Mahood  
Heath

Hamilton Traub



Axel A. Tervola



Eric B. Magnusson



John F. Traub

## DECEMBER MEETING

At the meeting of the board of trustees on December 22, 1922, Mr. A. L. Truax, of Crosby, N. D., and Mr. C. Z. Nelson, of Galesburg, Ill., were elected to serve on the board of trustees. Mr. Nelson was unanimously elected president of the society to succeed Mr. Axel A. Tervola, who was elected to the honorary office of past president of The National Horticultural Society of America. Two additional trustees will be elected to the board of trustees each year until the number of trustees reaches twenty-five and thereafter the board will consist of twenty-five members.



A. L. Truax



C. Z. Nelson

GREETINGS TO THE FELLOWS  
OF THE SOCIETY:

In entering upon my duties as a servant of the Fellows of the Society, I wish to begin by wishing all a most Prosperous and Happy Year for 1923. We are all one great family—all striving for the same result, which is to stimulate a more general interest in horticulture, and the road is never lonesome when one is accompanied by cheerful and sympathetic fellowship. At the present time I can make no suggestion other than that each do his or her best to promote the usefulness of The National Horticultural Society of America, and to help build it up so that it may become one of the greatest and most useful institutions in America. Space will not permit discussion of plans for the future, but it may be stated that the officers desire to enter into no plans which are not understood and approvable by the Fellows of the Society. As one of the officers, I shall always have an open ear for suggestions; write to me as you would write to any life-long friend.

Fraternally and for progress,  
(Signed) C. Z. NELSON.

## COMING EVENTS

The scope of The National Horticultural Society of America, incorporated on July 1, 1922, covers the entire field of horticulture, but it was thought proper to cultivate at the start the relatively neglected field of American wild flowerlore as a fitting introduction to the great program of the Society for the popularization of horticulture. In this issue Mrs. Gray writes of the "Wildlings of the Southwest"; Mrs. Jean D. Jensen has prepared an article on the "Wildlings of Northern Illinois, and the Rare American Lotus" which will appear in the April issue; Mrs. Walter E. Revo, who lives in Glacier National Park, has in preparation several articles on the "Wildlings of the North Rocky Mountains," and the other sections, including the Philippines, will also be adequately treated during the year. Mrs. Wilda Carson's interesting article, "Shall We Specialize?" will appear in an early number of the Magazine. Articles on other phases of horticulture will also be published during the year.

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## JOHN BARTRAM MEDAL

At the December 22d meeting of the board of trustees it was unanimously decided to dedicate the medal of the society to the memory of John Bartram, America's first great horticulturist, and the Bartram medal will be awarded at all the leading horticultural exhibitions of the country as soon as practicable. For the present the name of the great horticulturist will appear upon the medal for unfortunately there is no authentic portrait of John Bartram known, and the trustees have decided to reproduce a sculptor's likeness of Bartram on the medal later when a sculptor can be commissioned to chisel in marble a conception based upon the only bit of authentic description of Bartram, by his son William, which we possess:

"His stature was above the middle size, and upright. His visage was long and his countenance expressive of a degree of dignity with a happy mixture of animation and sensibility." (W. J. Younman's "Pioneers of Science in America.")

## COMING EVENTS

Mr. A. K. Kunderd, an Honorary Fellow of the Society, is preparing an article on the Gladolus which will appear in the April issue; Mr. Leon A. Rodriguez, Lopez, Tayabas, P. I., Regional Vice President for the Philippine Islands, is writing an article on "Philippine Horticulture" which will be published in the next number of the Magazine, and an article from the pen of Mrs. Sarah A. Pleas, an Honorary Fellow of the Society, will also be published in the near future.



## GARDEN GOSSIP

News Notes, Correspondence,  
Reminiscences, Questions,  
Answers

## PRESSING FLOWERS

In response to a request in the August issue Mrs. Gertrude R. Woodward, 47 Stillman Ave., Westerly, R. I., a Charter Fellow of the Society, gives the following instructions regarding the pressing of flowers: "Lay flowers between layers of sheet wadding, and put the whole between the leaves of a large book. This will not harm the leaves of the book at all as the sheet wadding absorbs the moisture."

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## TRAILING ARBUTUS

In response to the request of Mrs. Heath in the November issue, Mr. A. F. Yeager, Horticulturist at the North Dakota Agricultural College, and a Charter Fellow of the Society, writes: "While I have never grown the Trailing Arbutus, I do know that in the neighborhood of State College, Pennsylvania, it was practically always found in Blueberry soil. It was only found in partially shaded places such as an open woods. The United States Department of Agriculture Farmers' Bulletin on the growing of Blueberries may give valuable hints on the method of preparing soil for Arbutus."

In response to the same request, Mr. Willard N. Clute, editor of *The American Botanist*, Joliet, Ill., writes: "I have this plant (Trailing Arbutus) growing in my back yard and last spring it gave me ten bunches of flowers from a single plant. You will find several articles on the subject in back numbers of *The American Botanist*."

## MEDAL FOR ACHIEVEMENT

At the meeting of the board of trustees of The National Horticultural Society of America on December 22, 1922, it was unanimously resolved that the person making the most valuable contribution to horticultural progress in America during 1923 and succeeding years is to be awarded the medal of the society in recognition of his or her achievements.

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## CLUTE'S "AMERICAN PLANT NAMES"

Announcement has just been received from the publisher, Willard N. Clute & Co., Joliet, Ill., of the publication of the first part of "American Plant Names," a work to be issued in several parts. The important features as announced are: It gives the correct scientific names, all common names, indicates the most used common names, gives generic common names, is cross indexed, indicates misapplied names, lists all the out-of-date names, is arranged by families, and shows whether the names you use are standard. Such a work should appeal to all interested in horticulture and certainly fills a long felt want.

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## JOEMMA BULLETIN

No. 3, Vol. 4, of a delightful and wholesome publication entitled, "Joemma Bulletin," was received recently. It is the "official organ of the Joemma Estate and personal organ of Joe Smith, its owner, messenger for the Potlatch Bug, and catalogue of Joemma products, published occasionally, when he can afford it, by J. Smith, Longbranch, Wash." It is a feast for the horticultural enthusiast, and the subscription is free to all who are interested enough to ask for it.

## A NEW PUBLICATION

"Fruit, Garden and Home," a monthly periodical devoted to the orchard, garden and home, edited by Mr. Chesla C. Sherlock, and published by Mr. E. T. Meredith, at Des Moines, Iowa, was received recently. It is a virile publication and is filled with useful and interesting garden information.

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## LITERATURE OF THE TRADE

For the convenience of the Fellows of the Society, the literature of the horticultural trade received by the Secretary will be briefly described in this department.

H. W. GROSCHNER, Napoleon, Ohio. "Price List of Bearded Iris, Season of 1922." "List of Peonies."

BERTRAND H. FARR, Wyomissing Nurseries, Wyomissing, Pa. "Better Plants by Farr," First Edition, 1922-1923, pp. 68 and cover; a catalog of selected hardy perennials.

MRS. WILLIAM CRAWFORD, La Porte, Ind. "Peonies, Irises and Perennials," an important list. "Crawford Seedlings." A list of the peonies originated by Mrs. William Crawford.

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## SOME WILDLINGS OF THE SOUTHWEST

(Continued from page 9)

In the Southland here we find one of the *Fritillarias*. We call it the "Black" or "Chocolate Lily," and it resembles the "Brown Lily," *F. lanceolata*, of the woods of the North. Here we also find the beautiful red and yellow species which I have often picked in the shady canyons of Napa County, and it is of them that Aurelius Martin writes:

*I kneel to one here by the rocks  
That just broke, in its morning of bloom  
To pure alabaster box  
Of noble and precious perfume;  
I will leave this to live its bright day  
And fill the whole place with its scent,  
While I take but the pleasure away  
Its beauty and fragrance have lent.*

## NOMINATION FOR FELLOWSHIP IN THE NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

All Fellows of the Society are privileged to nominate as many eligible friends as they desire. Fellows may use either the nomination blank provided at the right, or send in their nominations by letter to the Secretary of the Society.

Those who are not at present Fellows of the Society and who desire to apply for fellowship, should write to the Secretary of the Society.

To the Secretary, National Horticultural Society, Henning, Minn.

I nominate.....  
(Print names and addresses of nominees)

.....  
.....  
.....  
for Fellowship in the Society.

.....  
(Name and address of nominating Fellow)

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