

AMERICAN HORTICULTURIST

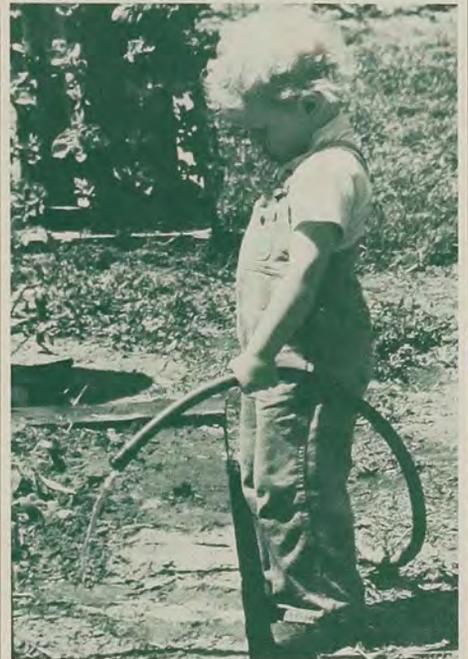
NEWS EDITION—JULY 1982

Spring Events at River Farm

Open House



Children's Garden



Photography by Barbara W. Ellis

Bedding Out Party



OPEN HOUSE: During our May 16th Open House over 800 visitors came to enjoy our new wildflower meadow, the book autographing party, arts and crafts sale and our Ideas Garden Living Wall™ and tall bearded *Iris* displays. **CHILDREN'S GARDEN:** This year a local kindergarden class planted our Children's Garden with sunflowers, tomatoes, corn, zinnias and strawberries. **BEDDING OUT PARTY:** AHS staff, local residents and Friends of River Farm helped us plant perennial borders and our Ideas Garden.

Seed Programs 1982 & 1983

Now that this year's seed program has come to an end it is time for us to reflect and evaluate our efforts. We have several very strong concerns about our 1982 program, and we hope that you will be able to help us initiate corrective action in our 1983 effort. Please do let us hear from you.

Obviously, this very important program is intended as a service for your enjoyment, but according to some of you, we have fallen short of this objective. In retrospect, your criticisms were generally quite fair, and we will do everything we can to improve future programs.

Our most blatant problem is centered around our not having sufficient quantities of seed to allow us to provide each and every one of you with exactly the seed you requested. Many of the rare, unusual and very desirable items in our 1982 program were made available (nec-

essarily in small quantities) by your fellow members, and it was these items that we ran out of so quickly.

We anticipated this problem and hoped to head it off, first through providing you with many more alternate selections, and second through advising you of this situation on the front cover of our seed program brochure: "Some of our members have indicated past disappointment when they have not received their first selections, and it has even been suggested that we not include any item for which we do not have sufficient seed for all. We feel that even if we have only enough seed to give a handful of members, we should not deprive that handful from acquiring the seed." This thinking is very similar to that employed by the Royal Horticultural Society in their seed program, and we do wish to continue our program in this vein.

We have decided to accept donations of seed in whatever quantity available, and do hereby solicit seed from you for our 1983 program.

Those items in short supply will be appropriately marked in next

year's program so that you will know ahead of time if you will run the risk of not receiving those selections. We will also greatly increase the number of alternate selections you will be able to make.

Another major problem we faced this year was the receipt of as many as 1,000 seed orders per day during our first few days of operation. As many of you have so advised, our limited volunteer staff quickly fell far behind. To counter this problem we are rebuilding our seed room to make it much more efficient, and we are greatly increasing our volunteer staff; we hope you will experience no more delays of the type that occurred this year.

If you have seed available or know of potential sources, please do let us know. We are prepared to take receipt of seed immediately. Our only request is that you send us seed that is properly identified. We look forward to hearing from you.

All of us at AHS thank you for your continued support and look forward to working with you in another seed program endeavor.

—Steve Davis

AMERICAN HORTICULTURIST

VOLUME 61 NUMBER 7

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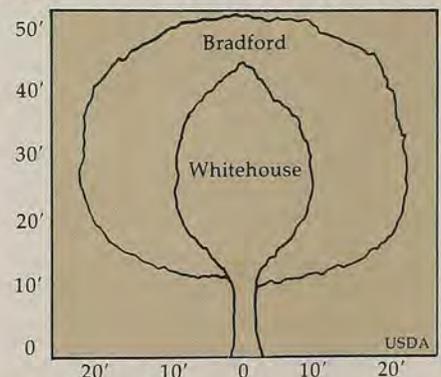
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Member of Society of National Association Publications

Ornamental Pear—Better Than 'Bradford'

'Bradford', the ornamental pear that has lined streets, shaded yards and charmed millions of people since its release by the National Arboretum 20 years ago, has grown up. Unfortunately, at a mature height of 50 feet and with a spread of 40 feet, 'Bradford' has become much too large for some suburban streets and yards, and until this spring there wasn't an acceptable substitute. This season gardeners can buy a smaller relative of 'Bradford', *Pyrus calleryana* 'Whitehouse', also released by the U. S. National Arboretum.

'Whitehouse' is a smaller, column-shaped version of the spreading 'Bradford'. It has a strong central leader and fine, profuse, upward-arching branches that produce a narrow, pyramid-shaped crown. Young 'Whitehouse' trees have reddish-brown bark with a white cast, and as the trees mature the bark becomes smooth and gray. Like 'Brad-



The new 'Whitehouse' pear is shown within the larger 'Bradford' variety.

'Bradford', 'Whitehouse' keeps its leaves long into the autumn, after most other shade trees have lost theirs. 'Whitehouse' bears its white, five-petaled flowers in April approximately one week after 'Bradford' blooms.

'Whitehouse' should be available from local commercial nurseries this season.

Board Election

Members of the American Horticultural Society are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of the Society will take place in Cincinnati, Ohio on Saturday, October 2, 1982 at 10:00 a.m. at the Westin Hotel (at Fountain Square, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202).

At this meeting 12 directors are to be elected for terms of various lengths. All members in good standing are eligible to vote. If you cannot be present, please sign and return the attached proxy.

Mr. Russell Clark

A partner in a Massachusetts investment firm, Mr. Clark is a former President of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. He is a graduate of the Harvard Landscape School. Term to expire in 1985.

Mr. Edward N. Dane (Incumbent)

Presently the 1st Vice President of the Society's Board, Mr. Dane has been a Trust Officer with First National Bank of Boston and the Boston Safe Deposit & Trust Company. He is presently a partner in the Boston investment counseling firm of Dane, Falb, Stone & Co. Term to expire in 1985.

Mr. Jackson R. Eddy (Incumbent)

Mr. Eddy has been a member of both state and national nurserymen's associations for many years. He is the President of Keeline-Wilcox Nurseries, Inc., a wholesale nursery in Irvine, California. Term to expire in 1983.

Dr. Thomas A. Fretz

A past Associate Professor of Horticulture at The Ohio State University, Dr. Fretz is now Professor and Head of the Department of Horticulture, Virginia Polytechnic and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia. Term to expire in 1984.

Mrs. Bruce Gunnell

From Middleburg, Virginia, Mrs. Gunnell is a Director of the Garden Club of America, a member of the Friends of River Farm and also a past National Chairman of Conservation for the Garden Club of America. Term to expire in 1984.

Mrs. A. Lester Marks (Incumbent)

A resident of Hawaii, Mrs. Marks has been active in the Garden Club of America and was a principal force in creating the Pacific Tropical Botanical Garden. Term to expire in 1985.

Ms. Carolyn S. Marsh

A resident of Columbus, Ohio, Ms. Marsh is the president and owner of Carolyn Marsh & Associates, Inc., a landscape design and installation company. She is active in horticultural education and has taught courses

and given lectures in her field. Term to expire in 1984.

Mr. Everitt L. Miller

Mr. Miller is the Director of Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. Term to expire in 1985.

Mrs. Edward C. Sweeney (Incumbent)

Currently the Secretary to the Society's Board of Directors, Mrs. Sweeney is an enthusiastic horticulturist who also serves on the Boards of the Fairchild Tropical Garden and the Pacific Tropical Botanic Garden in Hawaii. Term to expire in 1985.

Mrs. Philip Temple

Mrs. Temple is currently serving as the official White House Florist and unofficially served in the same position under the Nixon, Ford and Carter administrations. Term to expire in 1985.

Mrs. William C. Weaver (Incumbent)

Mrs. Weaver is a resident of Nashville, Tennessee and is currently the National Chairman of Public Relations for the Garden Club of America. She has also been active in the Botanical Gardens and Fine Arts Center at Cheekwood in Nashville and the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. Term to expire in 1985.

Dr. John A. Wott (Incumbent)

Formerly a Professor of Horticulture at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, Dr. Wott is currently a Professor of Urban Horticulture at the University of Washington, Seattle. Term to expire in 1985.

Tour Dates

The following Society sponsored tours have been scheduled for 1982. For information, brochures and reservation cards, write to Dorothy Sowerby at River Farm.

September 9-September 23
Autumn in England

September 7-September 30
China and the Grand Canal

September 29-October 3
American Horticultural Society
Annual Meeting
See page 14 for details

October 3-October 13
Post Meeting Tour of Kentucky and
Tennessee

November 1-November 17
Autumn in the Orient

Notice of Election in conjunction with the 37th Annual Meeting of the American Horticultural Society

(Cut proxy on dotted line and return to AHS, P.O. 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 October 2, 1982. Please assign my proxy to Mrs. Edward C. Sweeney (AHS Secretary) or

to cast my ballot in the annual election of the Society as follows: (vote for 12)

- Mr. Russell Clark
- Mr. Edward N. Dane
- Mr. Jackson R. Eddy
- Dr. Thomas A. Fretz
- Mrs. Bruce Gunnell
- Mr. A. Lester Marks
- Ms. Carolyn S. Marsh
- Mr. Everitt L. Miller
- Mrs. Edward C. Sweeney
- Mrs. Philip Temple
- Mrs. William C. Weaver
- Dr. John A. Wott

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

CALENDAR

July 5-9

Plant Growth Regulator Society of America
Annual Meeting
Asilomar Conference Center
Monterey, California
Information: David Parrish, Agronomy Department, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061

July 7, August 1 and August 4

Living Legends at the National Arboretum, a program series designed to introduce the public to the Arboretum. Free.
Administration Building Auditorium
24th and R Streets, NE
Washington, DC
1:30 p.m.

Information and reservations: Education Department, National Arboretum, 24th and R St., NE, Washington, DC 20002, (202) 472-9279

July 7-September 26

Los Angeles County Museum of Art Exhibition of 19th Century American Paintings. Of the 100 paintings in the exhibition 80 are of floral subjects.

July 8-11

North American Lily Society Annual Meeting and Show
St. Paul Campus
University of Minnesota
Information: Richard Prochaska, 200 5th Avenue N.W., New Prague, MN 56071

July 8-11

Bonsai Clubs International 18th Annual Convention
Cleveland/East Marriott Inn
Beachwood, Ohio
Information: Bonsai Clubs International, P.O. Box 2098, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

July 10-11

Lotus Blossom Festival
Lilypons Water Gardens
Lilypons, Maryland
Information: Lilypons Water Gardens, Lilypons, MD 21717, (301) 874-5133

July 17-21

American Association of Nurserymen
107th Annual Convention and Trade Show
Sheraton Waikiki
Honolulu, Hawaii

July 21-25

Society of American Florists Annual Convention
Fontainebleau Hotel
Miami, Florida
Information: Darryl McEwen, (800) 336-4743



International Garden and Horticultural Exhibition '83 Munich. The Rose Garden of the newly created West Park.

August 8-11

International Society of Arboriculture 58th Annual Conference
Galt House Hotel
Louisville, Kentucky
Information: E. C. Bundy, ISA Office, P.O. Box 71, Urbana, IL 61801

August 16-19

National Council for Therapy and Rehabilitation Through Horticulture
10th Annual Conference
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Information: NCTRH Program Committee, The Office of the Botanical Garden, The University of British Columbia, 6501 Northwest Marine Drive, Vancouver, BC V6T 1W5 Canada

August 28

Virginia Wine Festival and Vineyard Tour
Middleburg, Virginia
Admission: \$5.00
Information: Vinifera Wine Growers Association, Box P, The Plains, VA 22171, (703) 687-5134, (703) 687-5386

August 29-September 4

21st International Horticultural Congress
Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany
Information: 21st International Horticultural Congress, Hamburg Messe and Congress GmbH, P.O. Box 30 23 60, D-2000, Hamburg 36, Federal Republic of Germany.

September 9-12

Marigold Society of America Annual Convention
Chicago, Illinois
Information: MSA National Headquarters, Box 112, New Britain, PA 18901

September 11

Red Rose Rent Day
The Conard-Pyle Company
Star Roses
U.S. Route 1 & PA 796
Jennersville, Pennsylvania
The public is invited free of charge
Information: The Conard-Pyle Co., West Grove, PA 19390, (215) 869-2426

September 29-October 2

American Horticultural Society
37th Annual Meeting
Westin Hotel
Cincinnati, Ohio

Methods of Weed Control Being Studied

Biological control may be the key to controlling exotic weed species such as leafy spurge, curly dock and musk thistle (*Euphorbia esula*, *Rumex crispus* and *Carduus nutans*.) At a unique U. S. Department of Agriculture quarantine facility in Frederick, Maryland, such weed pests are being reunited with the disease-causing enemies they left behind when they spread to this continent.

The Agricultural Research Service scientists involved in the project are importing pathogenic rust fungi into the United States to attack these exotic pests. The fungal pathogens are collected in the countries where they co-evolved with our exotic weeds, then they are shipped, stored and tested extensively to find which

fungi are the most deadly to their host weed species but pose no threat to crop or other desirable plants. Fortunately, most rusts are host specific and won't attack plants other than their host weed. However, because of the potential risks involved in bringing unknown plant pathogens into the United States, physical security at the Frederick Plant Disease Lab is tight, and the required testing procedures are stringent.

Scientists have already had a major success with controlling rush skeleton weed, *Chondrilla juncea*, a serious wheatland pest in the Pacific Northwest. After only one application of the fungus the rusted skeleton weed produced 65 percent fewer seed the first year and 94 percent the second.

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Est. Annual Mileage			
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One way distance			
Is car used in business except to/from work?*			
Car location if different than mail address: City/State			

List All Drivers	Relation (Self)	Birthdate			M or F	Occupation	Percent of Use			Driver Training		Years Driving	Accidents in Past 5 years*		Traffic Convictions in Past 3 Years*		License Suspension*	
		Mo.	Day	Yr.			Marital Status	Car 1	Car 2	Car 3	Yes		No	Yes	No	Yes		No

*If "yes" explain _____

*For accidents, traffic convictions, or license suspension, give dates and complete details, including cost of damages, on a separate sheet. Check for information on Homeowners Insurance Boatowners Insurance Auto Insurance not available in New Jersey or Massachusetts.

HORTICULTURAL EXPLORATIONS



AUTUMN IN ENGLAND September 9-23

Our spring program to England was a grand success. Now visit an entirely different area of England—East Anglia. This area is saturated with history, great houses and castles such as Sandringham. We visit major botanic gardens and selected nurseries. But the highlight is the small private gardens such as Sheila MacQueen's and Lady Scott's. Also a full day at the Great Autumn Show of the Royal Horticultural Society.



KENTUCKY and TENNESSEE October 3-13

Following the Annual A.H.S. Congress in Cincinnati, Ohio (September 29-October 2), join us on this 10-day exploration at the peak of autumn color. From the vast beauty of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Bernheim Arboretum, to the famous landscaping at Biltmore Gardens in Asheville, North Carolina, this area is rich in horticultural, historical, and scenic interest. We visit private gardens in Lexington and Louisville, and an 1800's herb garden in Shakertown.



AUTUMN IN THE ORIENT November 1-17

The highlight of our travel year is always the Japan program, personally escorted by Mr. Harold Epstein. We visit the cultural highlights such as the famous temples of Kyoto and Nara, take the "Bullet Train" and enjoy a theater performance. The most unusual and enriching parts of this itinerary are the visits to select Japanese private homes and gardens, a privilege rarely available to tourists. There is an optional excursion to Taiwan and Hong Kong. Please write for your free detailed itineraries to: Mrs. Dorothy Sowerby, American Horticultural Society, Mt. Vernon, VA 22121.

Virginia Taxonomy Professor Identifies New Trillium Variety

Every horticulturist dreams of finding or breeding a new plant. To those of us who live and love all growing things, there can be no memorial more fitting than to have one's name linked to a new variety. And for a young taxonomy professor at James Madison University in Virginia, this dream came true.

Norlyn Bodkin could have been a West Virginia farmer, and when I asked him what caused his turn to taxonomy as a life's career, he said there were two reasons: one was that he had seen so much botany when he was mowing and baling hay on the farm where he grew up that he figured it would be a shame to watch it grow and be cut without knowing something more about those millions of plants that fell before the mower. "And then, the second reason", he said, "was Dr. Earl Core, head of the biology department at the university. He is a great man; he and Dr. Strausbaugh wrote the complete Flora of West Virginia. I would say he was one of the best examples a young man could follow. When you begin to comprehend, as I did, what a fantastic feat it is to put down every known vascular plant in the state on paper, have an accurate sketch of each plus a classification for public use . . . you know what a great man I had as a guiding light."

Bodkin went on to say that his upbringing so close to the earth and the myriad of wild plants in that region . . . plus the influence of Dr. Core, pointed him in the way he would go.

Bodkin received his degree at West Virginia and then stayed on to earn his masters in taxonomy. Eventually he settled at James Madison University at Harrisonburg, Virginia. He confesses now that he has had the best of both worlds since then: the infinitely beautiful West Virginia mountains and the academic atmosphere of the university.

He likes to quote from John Muir, his favorite conservationist: I have never been asked to endure a single boring day. "That", says Bodkin, "is me. Never a dull moment."

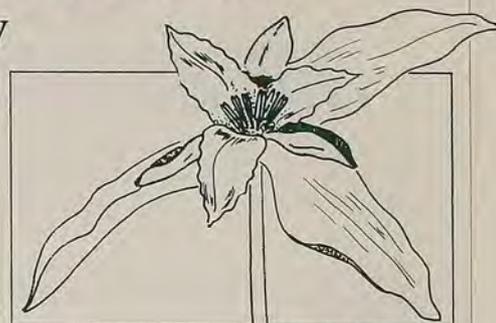


Illustration by Nelson Miller

From early childhood, this lithe man of the forests and mountain slopes had become familiar with every inch of his home region. For his masters, he put together a detailed flora of his home county; and today, when he takes a group of students into the Shenandoah or Alleghany Mountains, he knows everything that is growing and where it can be found.

In the mid 70's, Bodkin came across a research paper done by a friend of his, Jerry Roe, who worked at the Shenandoah National Park. In this paper, mention was made of *Trillium pusillum* var. *virginianum* being found at high elevations. Undoubtedly, other botanists, including Jerry Roe, had seen this trillium but had identified it as *virginianum*, according to Bodkin. In fact, he himself had been in that area hundreds of times. Could the same trillium be growing in low-lying coastal areas and at the top of 4,000-foot mountains? He decided to check it out. Roe had indicated finding the plant in the Reddish Knob area of Virginia, northeast of Sugar Grove and not far from the South Branch of the Potomac River at approximately 3,900 feet. Although Roe never pointed out the exact location of the population, Bodkin went into the area and found the plant under a thicket of *Pieris floribunda*, the mountain andromeda, close kin to the more common landscaping plant, *Pieris japonica*.

Bodkin noticed that there were other similar trilliums in the area, so he took one back to James Madison University where he went over it in careful detail. Feeling that he was on to something, but still needing more assurance, he contacted a professor at the University of Maryland, one

of the instructors who had helped Bodkin earn his doctorate in taxonomy. Dr. James Reveal, himself a discoverer of several plants, came down to Harrisonburg and together the two men went back to the Knob.

As Bodkin tells it, the delight in finding the trillium then became the mouth-drying anticipation of checking out each feature of leaves, stem and flower. And point by point, it became evident that this plant was indeed a new variety. What a great and glorious moment when Bodkin finally realized that he and Reveal, with Roe's initial help, had identified a new botanical find, the first in the mid-Atlantic area in 30 years.

Trilliums belong to the lily family, Liliaceae, but are not true lilies themselves. They are indigenous to North America, the Himalayas and Japan and number 30 odd species, of which 21 species and their varieties grow in the states east of Missouri.

What did they call this new variety? Drs. Bodkin and Reveal decided

on the name *Trillium pusillum* var. *monticulum*, which means "trillium of the little mountain."

How many are there? Dr. Bodkin says there are less than a thousand in that original population. If there are more, they haven't been found as of this writing. But in either case, he isn't telling a soul exactly where they are. Not even me. When we talked, he said people were calling and writing already, demanding, begging or just asking for seeds,

plants or directions so that they could go up to the site "and save him all the trouble of collecting." To all this, Bodkin smiles but tells no one. He feels the variety is rare enough to be placed on the endangered species list but as of now there is slim hope of federal protection for some time to come.

Meanwhile, this professor of the forests can only hope that his secret remains just that.

—Nelson Miller

First Native Orchid Listed as Endangered

A rare Texas orchid, *Spiranthes parksii*, the Navasota ladies' tresses, has been listed by the Service as an Endangered species. This rare plant, possibly North America's rarest orchid and the first native American orchid to be listed by the Service, was first collected in 1945 but later thought to be extinct until it was rediscovered in 1978. Biologists have counted approximately 20 of the plants.

The Service did not establish Critical Habitat for the species, because publication of maps describing the locations of the few remaining specimens would make these rare plants even more vulnerable to collection and destruction. For more information on this species see the November, 1980 issue of *American Horticulturist* news. The Navasota ladies' tresses was first proposed for listing on June 18, 1980.

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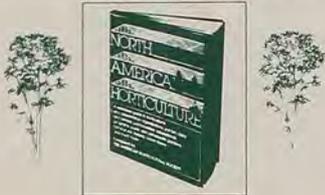
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NORTH AMERICAN HORTICULTURE

A Reference Guide

COMPILED BY THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURE SOCIETY



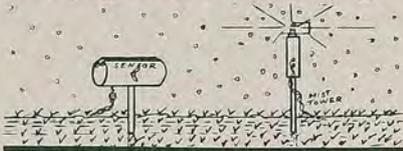
This major reference work, the first of its kind, offers a who, what, when, and where of horticulture, listing the thousands of public and private organizations and programs in North America. Now, both professional and amateur gardeners and horticulturists can find information or assistance on any aspect of horticulture in this single source book.

In addition to the listings of organizations and programs, *North American Horticulture* includes a history of horticulture in North America, a detailed bibliography, and such miscellaneous information as world record vegetables, fruits, and flowers, the Big Tree Program, pesticide and herbicide regulations, research grants and scholarships, and botanical and horticultural libraries.

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Western Regional Conference Report

The second AHS Western Regional Conference took place in California on March 27 at the South Coast Botanic Garden, a relatively new horticultural research garden located on the Palos Verdes Peninsula in the Los Angeles-Long Beach area. It was through the efforts of Julia Rappaport and Georgie Van de Kamp, the two national board members from California, that the first Western Conference took place in October 1981 at the Descanso Gardens in La Canada, to promote more AHS activity for the western United States. Volunteers from the October meeting constitute the Western Regional Development Committee, which was given the responsibility for this second conference and which will continue the effort to provide horticultural information and activities for AHS members in the West.

After registration, during which time a continental breakfast was served, AHS members and their guests were greeted by Dr. Rappaport, who described the goals and functions of AHS, emphasizing her concern for increased activity in the West and urging interested individuals to volunteer their services as part of the development committee. Her greeting was followed by a welcome to the South Coast Botanic Garden from its superintendent, Ed Hartnagel, who provided a most interesting history of the garden, from its beginning as a quarry through its years as a sanitary landfill to its present status as a part of the system of arboreta and gardens of Los Angeles County.

He discussed the unique problems of the garden caused by the buried garbage, such as the very high soil temperatures and the methane gas generation, illustrating both the problems and the history of the garden with slides.

Four speakers presented topics of interest to Southern California residents. Leo Song is a botanist and staff member of the biology department at California State University, Fullerton, who oversees the university's collection of carnivorous plants and is also co-editor of the official journal of the International Carnivo-



Western Regional Conference Committee members.



Leo Song, carnivorous plant expert and Georgie Van de Kamp, AHS Board Member.



Mrs. Myrna Pollock lectured on the adaptability of *Iris*.

rous Plant Society. He spoke about the unusual characteristics and horticultural requirements of such plants as sundews, flytraps, pitcher plants and cobra lilies, accompanying his remarks with slides and displaying pitchers clipped from the Fullerton *Nepenthes* collection.

Mrs. Barbara Schneider, president of the National Fuchsia Society and owner of Barbara's World of Flowers in Ventura, California, brought several live plants to show the many types of fuchsias available. She discussed species, pruning and training methods, soil requirements and other matters of interest to fuchsia lovers.

Mrs. Myrna Pollock, president of the San Fernando Valley Iris Society and the owner of Ingomar Iris Patch in Reseda, California, is a past regional vice-president of the American Iris Society and one of its accredited judges. Her slide presentation clearly showed that iris are to be

found anywhere (dry alleys, cemeteries, lush meadows, sun, shade) and that there are countless varieties, all beautiful.

Mrs. Donald George is president of the South Coast Camellia Society and editor of *Golden Gardens*, the official publication of the California Garden Clubs, Inc. The magnificent blossoms she had brought, together with her recommendations concerning camellia culture, provided inspiration for gardeners interested in growing this lovely subtropical so well adapted to Southern California.

Between speakers and after a delicious buffet luncheon, members and guests were treated to the excitement of a raffle for which numerous items had been donated. Prizes included many containers of GRO-POWER slow-release fertilizer from Southern California Organic Fertilizer Co., the fuchsia plants brought by Mrs. Schneider for her talk, *Diefenbachia* from Andy's Nursery, several ferns and other plants provided by Long Beach City College and by Dan Wheeler of the Regional Occupational Center, bonsai pruning shears from Paramount Perlite, and the floral arrangements from all the luncheon tables, done by committee member Al Bailey. All registrants had been provided on arrival with pens and note pads through the courtesy of Home Savings and Loan, Mercury Savings and Signal Hill Stationery. After the final speaker, tram and walking tours were conducted by South Coast Botanic Garden personnel for those interested in seeing first hand the results of developing such a difficult site.

The committee is pleased with the results of its initial efforts, in particular because a large number of young people attended (actual audience ages ranged from 14 to 89). It is hoped that this meeting has provided impetus for local and regional participation and that the third conference, to be in the fall, will be an even greater success. Those interested in helping to plan for the October event are invited to call or write the AHS Western Regional Development Committee, George Ghitto, Chairman, 702 Sunrise Blvd., Long Beach, California 90806, (213) 426-5649.

—Joy Carter



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New Crape Myrtles Soon to Be Available

Gardeners interested in planting a new crape myrtle, *Lagerstroemia* sp., should consider waiting for one of the three new mildew resistant cultivars just released to wholesale propagation nurseries by the United States National Arboretum. These three cultivars, 'Muskogee', 'Natchez' and 'Tuscarora', are the result of a controlled, interspecific hybridization of *L. indica*, the most commonly seen crape myrtle, and *L. fauriei*, a mildew resistant species introduced from Japan in 1956.

'Muskogee' bears light-lavender flowers in long, tapered panicles from July to September. Each inflorescence has from 160 to 600 flowers. In approximately 14 years the plant, which can be trained as a multi-stemmed large shrub or small tree, will reach a height of about seven meters. 'Muskogee' also has attractive bark coloration.

'Natchez' bears white panicles of from 100 to 800 flowers beginning in late June and continuing on to September with prolific recurrent bloom. The most outstanding characteristic of this plant is the dark, cinnamon-brown, mottled exfoliating trunk bark that develops when the plant is five years old.

'Tuscarora' is the first mildew resistant pink *Lagerstroemia* cultivar in the series. It bears dark coral-pink panicles with from 130 to 350 flowers per inflorescence.

These new cultivars are not yet available on the retail level, so gardeners who do not want to wait for them to become available should

look for one of the other mildew tolerant cultivars of *L. indica* released by the National Arboretum. They are 'Catawba', a dark purple; 'Cherokee', a dark red; 'Conestoga', a lavender bicolor; 'Potomac', an upright light pink; 'Powhatan', a medium lavender; and 'Seminole', a fall flowering, dark-pink cultivar.

New Treatment for Verticillium

Scientists at the U.S.D.A.'s Agricultural Research Service are testing a biological control agent that may prove to be effective against Verticillium, one of the world's worst crop diseases.

The agent is a fungus (*Talaromyces flavus*) that fights other fungi, especially those that cause Verticillium. In field tests at the Beltsville, Maryland Agricultural Research Center, eggplants treated with *T. flavus* developed over 75 percent less Verticillium than untreated plants. In the tests, potted eggplants were inoculated with *T. flavus* eight to 10 weeks before they were transplanted outside. The plants were grown in fields that held high levels of Verticillium built up over years

of testing tomato plants for wilt resistance.

In addition to controlling Verticillium in the treated plants, *T. flavus* apparently also boosted eggplant yields. For example, in test plots in Bridgeton, New Jersey, *T. flavus* treated plots yielded 71 percent more eggplants by weight than untreated plots.

Plant pathologist James J. Marois, who led the field tests, says the discovery of *T. flavus* as an aggressive enemy of Verticillium is a classic case of soil ecology studies paying off. Different strains of the Verticillium fungus, borne in the soil, can infect and disrupt the health of virtually every cultivated crop. However, in every ounce of soil there are thousands of species of microorganisms competing for survival.

Marois screened 34 species of soil-borne fungi in the greenhouse to identify the likely biological control candidates. Six species inhibited Verticillium significantly, but only *T. flavus* subsequently carried inhibition into the field tests. Marois and colleagues at the ARS Soilborne Diseases Laboratory will soon test *T. flavus* against verticillium of cotton, potatoes and alfalfa.

Grass Around Trees Inhibits Growth, But Not for the Reason You May Think

Turfgrass growing close to the stem or trunk of a woody ornamental can inhibit the plant's growth, and two scientists looking for the exact cause of the suppression have found that it is due, in part, to chemicals exuded from the grass roots—the process of allelopathy. Until now it was supposed that the growth suppression was caused by competition for moisture and nitrogen, with the grass taking up the nutrients before they percolated down to the roots of the tree or shrub.

To conduct their research, R. C. Wakefield, a professor of plant and soil science at the University of Rhode Island, and S. L. Fales, a research associate, grew flowering dogwood and forsythia plants in plots both with and without turf

cover. They were not surprised to find that the plants with no turf cover performed better, but additional water and fertilizer didn't help the suppressed (turf-covered) plants increase their growth rate. To see if allelopathy was partially to blame for the differing growth rates, the scientists leached some chemicals from the roots of various species of grass (perennial ryegrass, red fescue and Kentucky bluegrass) and applied the leachates to potted forsythia plants growing in greenhouse sand culture. Very shortly the liquid slowed the growth of the plants, demonstrating that allelopathy was at least partially to blame.

—*Crops and Soils Magazine*,
June-July 1981

Erratum

An error of authorship appeared in the April, 1982 issue of *American Horticulturist*. By not listing Ann E. Hajek's name first among the authors of the series on "Biological Pest Control," it was not clear that she was senior author of the second part of the series. The editors apologize to Ms. Hajek for this oversight.

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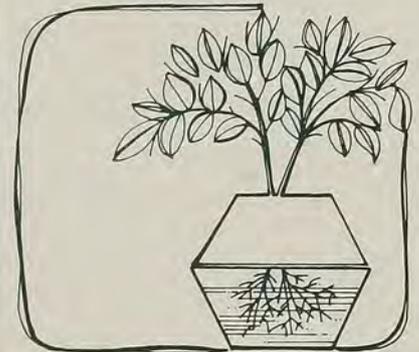
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Cincinnati



Arch bridge at the Krohn Conservatory, Eden Park.

Home of a variety of outstanding horticultural displays, this year Cincinnati, Ohio also will be the site of the Society's 37th Annual Meeting. It is with great pleasure that we invite you to participate in what promises to be a very exciting and interesting program. Here is what we have planned for your education and enjoyment:



ABOVE: Meyer Lake and Rara Flora Garden, Mt. Airy Arboretum.
LEFT: Cactus House, Krohn Conservatory, Eden Park.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.—*Registration* in the Presidential Foyer of the Westin Hotel.

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.—*Cocktail Reception* at the Krohn Conservatory in Eden Park, hosted by the Cincinnati Park Board Volunteers. This is a special opportunity to tour one of America's best designed greenhouses and enjoy their fall chrysanthemum display.

Wednesday Evening—Free to explore Cincinnati on your own.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.—*Lecture Session*. An introduction to Cincinnati. After welcoming addresses by AHS President Dr. Gilbert S. Daniels and the Honorable David S. Mann, Mayor of Cincinnati, the speakers will be Dr. Daniel J. Ransohoff and Frederick L. Payne.

- **Dr. Daniel J. Ransohoff**, who will introduce us to "Cincinnati Past and Present," is an Associate Professor of Community Planning at the University of Cincinnati.

- **Frederick L. Payne**, Director of Parks, will present a slide lecture on the horticultural attractions of Cincinnati.

10:45 a.m.-4:00 p.m.—Tour of the Mount Airy Forest Arboretum, historic Spring Grove Cemetery and Sooty Acres Botanical Garden adjacent to the Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati. We will have a box lunch at Mount Airy Forest's Oak Ridge Lodge.

6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.—Dinner and cruise on the Ohio River aboard the *Betty Blake* Riverboat.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1

7:30 a.m.-8:45 a.m.—*Optional No Host Breakfast*. Joint meeting between the Society's Education Committee and the Advisory Council to the Education Committee. Open

to all AHS members. Reservations taken at the AHS registration desk.

9:00 a.m.-11:45 a.m.—*Lecture Session*. Dr. Kenneth Reisch, Mr. John Lewis and Mr. John Griggs will be the speakers.

- **Dr. Kenneth Reisch** is Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics at The Ohio State University. He is well known throughout Ohio for his outstanding horticultural slide presentations, and this morning his topic will be, "Problems Facing Horticultural Education."

- **Mr. John Lewis** and his wife own and operate Hopewell Nurseries in Manchester, Ohio where they specialize in herb gardening. Mr. Lewis will discuss the development of an herb garden, plant selection and culture.

- **Mr. John Griggs** is the Librarian of the Lloyd Library and Museum in Cincinnati. He will discuss the history of this institution and how it became a world famous pharmaceutical, botanical and horticultural facility.

12:00 noon-5:00 p.m.—The afternoon will be spent touring the city.

- The first stop will be a visit to Cincinnati's famous Zoological Gardens. We will have a box lunch at the zoo's Whiting Grove.

- The private garden of Dr. and Mrs. Marcus Wigser is the second stop of the afternoon. This attractive 2 1/2-acre garden, which was just a gulch of bush honeysuckle and other unattractive growth until 10 years ago, features thousands of dwarf conifers, azaleas, rhododendrons, broad and narrow leaved evergreens and a selection of understory trees and shrubs.

- The afternoon will be topped off by a visit to the Cincinnati Historical Society and tea at the Cincinnati Art Museum garden.

Registration Form

IMPORTANT: All events described in the American Horticultural Society's Annual Meeting program—except the optional, no host breakfasts—are included in the registration fee. This fee covers all motor coach transportation, all entrance and guide fees, the cocktail reception at the Krohn Conservatory, the cruise and dinner aboard the Betty Blake Riverboat, the private dinner parties, the Society's Awards and President's Banquet and all three lunches.

\$249 for AHS member \$ _____

\$244 for spouse \$ _____

I enclose a check for \$ _____

MAIL CHECK AND REGISTRATION FORM TO:

Dorothy Sowerby, AHS, Box 0105, Mt. Vernon, VA 22121

It would be helpful if you would send the full amount due with this registration form. However, if you wish, you may pay only \$125 per person now, with the balance due upon your arrival at the Meeting.

CANCELLATIONS: Full refund if written cancellation is received before September 19 less \$35 per person for booking expense. No refunds will be made after September 19.

Upon receipt of your deposit, we will send you a hotel accommodations card you may complete and mail directly to the Westin Hotel. Hotel rates have been established at \$60.00 single and \$70.00 double. Suites are also available—\$148.00 to \$650.00.

(Below, list your name as you wish it to appear on your name badge.)

Full Name(s) Mr., Mrs., Ms. _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Delta Airlines will be our official airline for the 37th Annual Meeting. Upon registering, you will be provided with a special toll free Delta number you may call to make your plane reservations. Delta will guarantee you the best available rates when you call. If Delta does not service your area, they will make reservations for you at the best available rates with another airline that does fly from your home to Cincinnati.

Special Evening Gala

6:30 p.m.—Small, private dinner parties at the homes of some of Cincinnati's most notable residents have been arranged for all AHS participants—an unprecedented opportunity to sample gracious Cincinnati hospitality. An invitation card will be enclosed in your registration packet.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2

7:30 a.m.-8:45 a.m.—*Optional No Host Breakfast Round Table Discussions.* Sign up at the AHS registration desk and join in either the discussion of AHS Tours or the "Gardener's Forum" round table.

9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.—*Lecture and Plenary Session.* The speakers will be Mr. Alan D. Cook and Marlene Holwadel.

- **Mr. Alan D. Cook** is Horticulturist at The Dawes Arboretum, Newark, Ohio. Mr. Cook is also the editor of the arboretum's newsletter and served as guest editor of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's recent *Handbook on Pruning*. He will discuss how to use natural areas in arboreta.

- **Marlene Holwadel**, Director of the Cincinnati Park Board Volunteers and co-founder of the Parks Volunteer Organization in 1972, will discuss Cincinnati's unique "Adopt-A-Plot" program. For more information on this interesting program, look for the article in the August issue of *American Horticulturist*.

11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.—Depart Westin Hotel on foot for a short walk to the University Club for lunch followed by a walking tour of Lytle Park and the Taft Museum.

1:15 p.m.-4:15 p.m.—Board buses for a tour of private gardens and Ault Park.

- The first private garden of the afternoon features a series of landscaped terraces and a spectacular view of the Ohio River. The topmost terrace is enhanced by

Riviera-like pots of flowering plants and vines. The lower terraces are graced by a rose garden, pools, perennials and lawns.

- The second private garden of the afternoon is a native woodland that has been enhanced by introducing a large variety of maples, hemlocks, beeches, viburnums, dogwoods and conifers.

- The final stop of the afternoon will be a visit to Ault Park's Adopt-A-Plot gardens, planned to replace a rose garden the city of Cincinnati could no longer afford to maintain. Each plot is entirely maintained by volunteers.

6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.—*No Host Cocktail Reception and Rare Plant Auction* in the Presidential Ballroom of the Westin Hotel.

7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.—*The President's and Awards Banquet.* The Society will announce the winners of its special citations and the coveted Liberty Hyde Bailey Medal. The featured speaker will be Mr. Frederick C. Galle, Curator of Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia. In addition to being the current President of the American Rhododendron Society and a noted writer, Mr. Galle is a past president of the American Horticultural Society and the American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta. "Challenging Plants" is the theme for the evening's talk.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

Individual departures for home or departures for the Post Meeting tour of Kentucky, North Carolina and Tennessee, October 3-13, 1982, where participants will have the opportunity to visit Kentucky's famed horse country, enjoy the breathtaking autumn foliage in the Cumberland Gap and visit a number of the areas' finest gardens. For complete details, write to Dorothy Sowerby in care of the Society.

AMERICAN HORTICULTURIST

P.O. Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121

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LETTERS

Regarding the article "Mealy Bug Control on House Plants" that appeared in the January, 1982 issue of *American Horticulturist* news, if anyone plans to use a 50 percent alcohol/water and pesticide solution on African violets—DON'T.

I put 16 fluid ounces of denatured alcohol into my 32-ounce sprayer, brought the sprayer to volume with water and added one teaspoon of Malathion. The alcohol was from my local hardware store, and I had already used it for "spotting" mealy bugs. The Malathion was from my stock bottle and I had used it in a soap solution previously without any problems at the same strength.

The morning after I used the alcohol/water solution the flowers on one violet had wilted. The next day several others had "flopped," and the following day all had been affected. All the flowers wilted and have dried up. There was no withering of the leaves that would have indicated burning.

—Arthur N. Kay
Geneva, Illinois

The original title of our article [in February and April, 1982 issues of *American Horticulturist*] was "Biology and Control of Garden Insect Pests" and you changed it to "Bio-

logical Control of Insect Pests." In this article we mention many different types of pest control and few of them involve biological control. Biological control is a method of pest control which relies on natural enemies to reduce pest populations to tolerable levels. Releasing natural enemies in the garden and making sure not to spray beneficial insects with insecticides are a few examples we discuss in our article. The majority of control strategies mentioned in our article are cultural controls, e.g., using plants which repel pests, crop rotation, spreading certain mulches, etc. We feel this distinction between terms is an important one. Distinction between these different controls may aid gardeners in developing an integrated control approach for their gardens by using different techniques in concert.

Control strategies mentioned in our article included only those which do not employ synthetic organic insecticides. Since the advent of DDT in the 1940's, the vast majority of pest control research has been directed toward insecticides. Fewer studies have been conducted testing the efficacy of cultural controls and biological controls. We feel it is important to inform readers that few of our suggested controls have been scientifically tested. Most have been derived from repeated observations. Gardeners may consider this an opportunity to further test

these techniques in their own gardens.

Since so many gardeners have problems with aphids, we feel that some clarification is necessary regarding these pests. Aphids have complex life cycles with different forms occurring throughout the seasons. The majority of aphid species are found on only one species of plant. For example, the aphids on a birch tree will feed only on birch trees. Different species of aphids characteristically feed on certain parts of plants. However, aphids on new growth are generally most noticeable. It is very rare that aphids kill plants. If any harm is done, it is usually in the form of leaf curling, early leaf senescence and gall formation. Most aphids on tree leaves rarely harm the trees and are a nuisance primarily due to their honeydew production.

We feel that these are important points and that your readers should understand them.

—Ann E. Hajek
Graduate Research Assistant

Junji Hamai
Staff Research Associate

Kathy Sheehan
Former Graduate Research Assistant

Donald L. Dahlsten
Professor of Entomology
and Division Chair
University of California, Berkeley