Join American Horticultural Society members in Miami for our Spring Symposium, March 14-17. We will have a chance to stroll through the world-famous palm collection at Fairchild Tropical Garden (above) and visit many other fascinating gardens in the area. For more information turn to page 14 of this newsletter.
River Farm Notes

A ny staff member of the American Horticultural Society who writes as part of his or her duties experiences the frequent temptation to start a letter, article or report with this phrase: "As I look out my window toward the Potomac River..." I have certainly fallen prey to this temptation, and it becomes more enticing when the trees are bare and snow is on the ground. In winter, the world outside my window lacks color. Often even the river seems to have gone to a predictable, flat grey. But the pattern of the bare branches of black walnut, maple, gingko and oak trees compensates for the dullness of this monochromatic scheme.

Winter brings us some surprises, too. Flocks of Canada Geese have frequented our snow-covered lawn, decorating what, in warmer seasons, is our vibrant meadow. One year in late winter 42 Whistling Swans made for the shoreline at River Farm, bringing our Publications Director, Barbara Ellis, tearing across the barren field with her binoculars. (The rest of us, not so hardly, awaited her report indoors.) In autumn and winter, I occasionally glance out the window to see a fox trotting along the top of the brick patio, the tip of my roof and the top of the meadow.

Certainly the most surprising winter visitor came in the form of a man-made moving object. On a busy February morning, my co-worker and I glanced up from stacks of mail to see the conning tower of a submarine moving northward in the water. Other staff members took this vision as further evidence of our being overworked. Later we learned the submarine was visiting Washington from the Netherlands in celebration of 200 years of friendship between our countries. I'm grateful there was a source of independent corroboration on that one.

It's easy to write nostalgically of past winters from January's viewpoint, but in another month I will join all gardeners in the itch for spring. A recent trip to the Society's seed room helped get that itch going even earlier this year. The seed room, a tiny space carved out of the first floor of our old carriage house, overflows with bins, boxes and bags of seed awaiting distribution to our members through the annual Seed Program. Members from across the country have generously sent in specimens of all kinds. In color alone, the seeds have the power to fascinate.

This year we have seed from Texas mountain laurel (Sophora secundiflora). These flame-colored beads, about 1/4 inch in diameter, are smooth and glossy enough to remind me of penny candy. Another candy look-alike, the seed of castor bean plant (Ricinus communis), reminded this sweet-tooth owner of a peanut M&M in size and shape, but its mottled bronze-red color should warn the hasty that this seed is definitely poisonous.

Almost identical in size and shape, the seeds of red cedar (Juniperus virginiana) and cherry laurel (Prunus laurocerasus) contrast beautifully in color. The cedar seeds are a chalky blue, almost the color of lapis lazuli, while the laurel seeds are garnet red.

One of our very special offerings this year, a nearly extinct hybrid of Indian corn (Zea mays), wins the color competition hands down. On a single ear, it presents every conceivable intensity of indigo, from near black to the palest slate blue, with a creamy white providing occasional relief. Steve Davis, who coordinates the Seed Program, ran through the office displaying this wonder the day he received it. He is particularly excited about this contribution because it gives the Society a chance to help preserve this corn, which was a food crop for Southwestern Indians for thousands of years.

Steve's enthusiasm for the Seed Program matches his daily eagerness for all the Society's projects. In the middle of winter, he finds plenty of outlets for his gardener's soul as he oversees the distribution of seed from our tiny storehouse, Jane and Aubrey Glass, River Farm's caretakers, have kept Steve sane through the years by spending hours packaging seed and filling orders. Because of the efforts of Steve, Jane and Aubrey, and because of the help of many local volunteers, this year's Seed Program promises to help you knock the winter dust off your garden plans and dreams. (Please try to send your seed order in early, so we'll have the best chance of giving you all your first choices.)

I would never want to underestimate the beauties of winter, but I know you'll join me in happy anticipation of the results these seeds will bring. After all, who could honestly prefer a clear view of an icy river to the softly waving leaves of tulip, gum and sycamore?

—Connie Clark

Winter at River Farm—view toward the Potomac.

American Horticulturist

VOLUME 65 NUMBER 1
EDITOR, PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR, Barbara W. Ellis
ART DIRECTOR, Rebecca J. McIlvaine
ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Lynn M. Lynch,EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: Lynda Steely
Address all editorial correspondence to: The Editor, American Horticulturist, American Horticultural Society, Box 9105, Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121.

AMERICAN HORTICULTURIST is published monthly by the American Horticultural Society, 391 First Boulevard, 1st Floor, Alexandria, Virginia 22315. In Canada: 391 First Boulevard, 1st Floor, Alexandria, Virginia 22315. (For membership in the Society, call at $20 per year, $22 of which $18 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 0960-4477. Second class postage paid at Alexandria, Virginia and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Please send Form 3579 to AMERICAN HORTICULTURIST, Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121.)
National Gardening Survey Results

According to the 1983-1984 Gardens for All/Gallup Organization National Gardening Survey, approximately 35 million American households (42 percent) planted food gardens in 1983. The survey indicates that gardening maintained its place as the number one outdoor leisure activity of Americans. This year’s figures represent a drop of four percentage points from last year’s record high of 38 million households (46 percent).

According to Jack Robinson, president of Gardens for All, the survey results show that “35 million households are gardening principally to save money, to get fresh vegetables, and for enjoyment. This year we saw a slight decline in several kinds of gardening, from flower and food growing to landscaping and shrub care. The main reasons households gave for not gardening were lack of suitable space (35 percent), lack of time (28 percent) and too much work (13 percent).”

Gardens for All has conducted a National Gardening Survey for 12 years, and their results indicate a relationship between gardening and the nation’s economy. According to Robinson, “While there is a core group of dedicated gardeners who raise food every year, there is also a small segment of the gardening population that will garden one year and not the next depending on economic conditions. . . . When the economy shows even a slight gain, the popularity of gardening decreases for this marginal group.”

Upcoming AHS Events

The following Society-sponsored tours and other events have been scheduled for this fall. For more information about any of these events, write or call the Society’s Education Department, PO Box 0105, Mt. Vernon, VA 22121, (703) 768-5700.

March 14-17
AHS Spring Symposium in Miami, Florida. See page 14 of this newsletter for details on the program.

March 18-26
AHS Post-Symposium Tour of Florida’s west coast, the Everglades and EPCOT. Visits to Selby Botanic Garden, Edison Gardens, the Ringling Mansion and Cypress Gardens are also scheduled.

March 23-April 5
AHS Spring Tour of Israel. Tour the historic and horticultural sights of Jerusalem and the Dead Sea, Nazareth, Dome of the Rock and the Wailing Wall.

March 23-30
AHS Spring in the South Tour. Visit private homes in New Orleans during peak azalea season in the South, ride up the Mississippi on the Delta Queen and tour private homes in Natchez, Mississippi that are only open once a year.

April 26-May 16
AHS Tour of Japan in the Spring. Visit the subtropical island of Kyushu with its active volcanoes, famous parks and magnificent landscape gardens. Also, tour the temple gardens of Kyoto, beautiful Nikko, nurseries in Angyo, the bonsai village of Omiya and the city of Tokyo.

May 21-June 4
AHS Cruise to Morocco and the Canary and Madeira Islands. Board the yacht Argonaut for a spring garden cruise. There will be a stop in London for opening day of the Chelsea Flower Show.

Free Jiffy-7 Samples Offered

Gardeners are invited to send for a free sample of the new Jiffy-7 Plant Starter Pellet and a Growing Guide brochure explaining how to use it to start seeds and root cuttings. The brochure, which opens into a poster, provides step-by-step instructions on starting flowers and vegetables from seed, rooting cuttings and growing transplants.

To order a sample and a brochure, send a self-addressed, business-size envelope with 40¢ postage to Carefree Garden Products, Department 10, PO Box 338, West Chicago, IL 60185.
Coal Pollutants: New Fertilizer?

An emerging technology that strips burning coal of pollutants may soon provide gardeners with an important new source of fertilizer.

In this new process, called fluidized bed combustion (FBC), coal is burned in a slurry of limestone or dolomite (a calcium-rich mineral). Although the process produces tons of granular waste, it reduces sulfur and nitrogen emissions by more than 90 percent. The pollutants, which become a major source of acid rain if released into the atmosphere, are trapped as a granular residue that is surprisingly rich in plant nutrients, including calcium, magnesium, and sulfur.

However, the mere presence of nutrients in the soil does not guarantee their absorption by plants; certain chemical forms or extraneous compounds can render some of the nutrients unavailable to crops. Furthermore, FBC residue often contains heavy metals that can be toxic to plants, animals and humans. Scientists are studying the absorption process in an attempt to deal with these problems.

Overall, plant growth studies have been encouraging. Tomatoes, lettuce, radishes and other vegetables that tend to accumulate heavy metals were fertilized with FBC residue. After harvesting the crops, researchers could find no significant increases in heavy metals. Instead, test plants responded favorably to the treatment. In some cases their content of calcium and sulfur, two plant nutrients also important to humans, actually increased significantly.

According to Orus L. Bennett, Director of the Appalachian Soil and Water Conservation Research Laboratory in Beckley, West Virginia, "FBC residue will be a major source of liming material if fluidized bed combustion is widely accepted by the power industry, as is expected."

—Agricultural Research, July/August 1983

Egg-Laying Stimulant Developed for Beneficial Wasp

New Leafminer Control Method

Commercial florists have discovered a key to controlling leafminers in greenhouse-grown chrysanthemums. Apparently adult leafminers need a source of nectar for maximum egg laying. Since they can't obtain enough nectar from chrysanthemums, they fly to alternate hosts such as Gerbera, Gypsophila, marigolds, zinnias, asters, tomatoes, onions, squash, broccoli and cucumbers. One grower had difficulty controlling leafminers in chrysanthemums when he grew them next to snapdragons. For effective control, the alternate hosts and adjacent plants must be treated.

Since leafminers are not strong fliers, physically separating those plants being propagated from those in the finishing stages can help prevent the insects from reinfesting later crops. A light bulb mounted in a yellow cylinder covered with light machine oil is effective in trapping adults. Adult pupae, which drop to the ground under greenhouse benches, can be controlled by sprinkling hydrated lime.

—Florascope August 1983

Scientists have developed a chemical mixture that stimulates Trichogramma, a beneficial parasitic wasp species, to lay eggs by the thousands—enough for biologically controlling many insect pests. Trichogramma is a genus of miniscule wasps (45 adults can be lined up head to tail in one inch) that have excellent potential as biological control agents because they parasitize eggs, thus preventing insect pests from hatching and damaging plants.

U.S.D.A. Agricultural Research Service entomologist William C. Nettles formulated the new egg-laying stimulant, which is a simple salt solution of potassium chloride and magnesium sulfate. Both of these salts are present in relatively large amounts in insect blood.

Trichogramma is present in nature but doesn't reproduce well enough to be effective for biological control, according to Nettles. His new chemical stimulant will serve as the basis for an inexpensive way to produce thousands of Trichogramma eggs and will allow scientists to mass rear the wasp for release. Trichogramma parasitizes at least 75 families of insects, including beetles, flies and moths, and will help protect vegetables, fruits, forest trees and such crops as cotton, corn and soybeans.

An artificial diet for the wasps still needs to be developed if they are to be produced successfully in large quantities. The Chinese use a natural diet composed of insect blood, egg yolks, milk and salts; however, the use of insect blood is expensive, so scientists are still looking for an inexpensive artificial alternative.
Four New Plants Proposed for Listing as Endangered

T

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed that four new plants be added to the list of Endangered and Threatened Species. Two of the species are native to the Hawaiian Islands, one is native to south Texas and another is native to a small area in southwestern Oklahoma.

Gouania billiebrandzi, a shrub bearing 1- to 2½-inch, oval leaves and small white flowers on branching stalks, is known from only two small sites on the island of Maui, in the district of Lahaina. It was proposed for listing as Endangered with Critical Habitat because introduced livestock and insects have caused a serious population decline. The few remaining plants range in size from a few inches to six feet in height.

Livestock grazing and trampling present a threat to the species, since they destroy native plants and promote erosion, thus creating conditions that favor the survival of exotic plants. In addition, Gouania billierandizi is seriously threatened by an introduced insect pest, the hibiscus snow scale. The remaining plants have also been damaged by an unknown leaf-chewing insect.

According to the Endangered Species Technical Bulletin, all of the species of Gouania native to Hawaii seem to be unusually susceptible to "environmental alterations brought by human settlement of the islands.... Of 15 described species of Gouania in Hawaii, 10 are almost certainly extinct and 2 more may be extinct. The remaining 2 species (Gouania gagnei and Gouania setum setaceum), besides the one just proposed, are candidates for listing.

Kokia drynarioides, commonly called Hawaiian tree cotton or, in Hawaii, *bou behelieha*, is an attractive, small tree bearing palmately lobed leaves and large, red flowers subtended by three large bracts. The plant, which was first collected during Captain James Cook's 1779 voyage to the Pacific, has been proposed for listing as Endangered with Critical Habitat. Livestock grazing, habitat damage and competition from introduced plants have all contributed to the population decline of this species. In 1929 there were approximately 200 individual trees, and now there are only 15 known in the wild.

*K. drynarioides* is very attractive to cattle and feral herbivores such as goats, which browse on the mature trees and eat any seedlings that may appear. Rodents, especially the introduced roof rat, eat many of the seeds. The recent invasion of Pennisetum setaceum, an exotic fountain grass, further inhibits germination and increases the danger of wildfires.

According to the Endangered Species Technical Bulletin, this plant is "one of only four species belonging to the endemic Hawaiian genus *Kokia* and the only one growing on the island of Hawaii. (Of the other species, *Kokia cookii* is listed as Endangered, *Kokia kauaiensis* is a candidate for listing, and the fourth is extinct.) These plants are related to domestic cotton (Gossypium spp.), but do not produce usable fibers. A red dye extracted from the bark of *Kokia drynarioides* was formerly used to color fish-nets."

Styrax texana, Texas snowbells, is a 10-foot shrub that has smooth bark and rounded leaves, and bears clusters of snowy white flowers. It has been proposed for listing as Endangered because only 25 individual plants are known to exist, and there are no known seedlings or saplings. Botanists have recommended further studies to determine if this is due to browsing by cattle or deer. The remaining plants are scattered about in several locations in southern Texas. Critical Habitat has not been designated for this species because its flowers and foliage would make it attractive to collectors.

Phlox pilosa var. longipilosa, commonly called long-haired phlox, is an attractive perennial found in only two counties in southwestern Oklahoma. The primary threat to this species is habitat loss or disturbance due to quarrying, overgrazing, development and recreation. The plant has been proposed as Threatened without Critical Habitat, since publication of the precise locations of the remaining populations would make them vulnerable to collection.

Phlox pilosa var. pilosa is a 12- to 17-inch plant that is densely covered with long, pointed hairs. Its flowers are rose-purple and tubular, and many flower clusters are borne per stem. The species is part of the midgrass prairie ecosystem and is found in a very small range in the Quartz Mountains.

—Endangered Species Technical Bulletin, September and October 1983

*Phlox pilosa var. longipilosa*, commonly called long-haired phlox. Courtesy of Endangered Species Bulletin
A national community gardening contest—the first ever in the United States—has been scheduled for 1984. Sponsored by GLAD Wrap and Bags in conjunction with the American Community Gardening Association (ACGA), the program is designed to focus public attention on the importance of community gardening and to recognize and encourage the efforts of community gardeners nationwide. Over $20,000 in cash prizes will be awarded. In addition, participating community gardening groups will be permitted to redeem proof-of-purchase coupons on GLAD plastic products to help fund gardening necessities.

A national winner, first-place runner-up and winners from eight regions will be selected. The categories will include existing gardens (large and small), new gardens and honorable mention gardens.

George Vestal, vice-president and general manager of GLAD Wrap and Bags, said, "Since the beginning of the GLAD Gardens public service program, we have seen the good that community gardening can do. We started out thinking that vegetable gardening was ideal for economy, nutrition and family fun. It is, but it's also much more. We've seen neighborhoods revitalized, spirits lifted, a new sense of community pride and cooperation evolve where these programs have taken hold. Working with the ACGA on a national contest, we hope, will draw attention to this important activity and reward the outstanding community gardening groups across the country."

Any community gardening group with 10 or more people engaged in the operation and maintenance of a community garden site(s) is eligible to enter the contest. The group must have at least one adult leader or advisor, and the community garden must be at least 10 feet by 10 feet. In addition, a minimum of four vegetables must be grown, and over one-half of the garden must be used to grow vegetables.

Gardens will be judged on plant and soil condition, crops selection, spacing and yield, and color and variety, as well as maintenance and overall aesthetic quality. Gardening groups will also be judged on answers to questions on the entry form. All entry forms must be mailed on or before June 15, 1984. Preliminary screening of gardens will begin July...
Community Garden Book

Gardens for All, The National Association for Gardening, has published an inspirational guide for individuals and groups who would like to develop and run successful community gardens in their neighborhoods. The Community Garden Book is divided into seven chapters that cover the following general topics: finding sponsoring organizations and planning; budgeting and building local support; finding and keeping land for community gardens; site design; developing the soil; problem solving; and new directions for community gardens.

Each chapter offers many case studies, examples, ideas and practical suggestions for solving such diverse problems as preventing vandalism, finding local funds for a community garden, and improving the soil and composting in a community garden. There are also numerous check lists designed to help beginners develop a successful program. In addition, an extensive book list at the end of each chapter provides references for further study.

Perhaps the most inspirational parts of the book are the many case studies—specific examples of what individuals, groups, organizations and companies throughout the country are doing to solve problems and promote gardening in their communities. The book is also filled with photographs of community garden projects from around the country.

The Community Garden Book is available from the Society for $8.95, including postage and handling. To order a copy write Deborah Harps—ter, American Horticultural Society, PO Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121.
Gardener’s Dateline

JANUARY 11-14
American Camellia Society Annual Meeting
Langford Resort Hotel, Winter Park, Florida. Information: American Camellia Society, PO Box 1217, Fort Valley, GA 31030.

JANUARY 18-22
Calgary Home and Garden Show
Round-up Center, Stampede Park, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Hours: Weekdays Weekdays 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: Adults $6; Children under 12 $2. Information: Trade Shows, Inc., 3700 Willistown Rd., Minnetonka, MN 55343, (612) 933-3850.

FEBRUARY 3-12
Colorado Garden and Home Show

FEBRUARY 3-12
Vancouver Home and Garden Show

FEBRUARY 9-12
Minneapolis Home and Garden Show
Minneapolis Auditorium, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Hours: Thursday 5 to 10:30 p.m.; Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: Adults $1.50; Children 6-12 $1.50. Information: Trade Shows, Inc., 3700 Willistown Rd., Minnetonka, MN 55343, (612) 933-3850.

FEBRUARY 9-13
Ark-La-Tex Home and Garden Show

FEBRUARY 15-19
Indiana Flower and Patio Show
Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis, Indiana. Hours: Weekdays 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturdays 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Information: Trade Shows, Inc., 3700 Willistown Rd., Minnetonka, MN 55343, (612) 933-3850.

FEBRUARY 15-19
Ohio Home and Garden Show
Central Ohio Home and Garden Show, Suite 401, 6055 Primacy Parkway, Columbus, OH 43229.

FEBRUARY 23-26
Memphis Home and Garden Show

FEBRUARY 24-26
American Rock Garden Society Study Weekend

FEBRUARY 24-MARCH 4
Cleveland Home and Flower Show
Cleveland Public Hall, Convention Center Complex, Cleveland, Ohio. Information: Cleveland Home & Flower Show, 116 St. Clair Ave. N.E., Suite 100, Mall Building, Cleveland, OH 44114, (216) 621-3145.

FEBRUARY 25-MARCH 4
Central Ohio Home and Garden Show
Ohio State Fairgrounds, Columbus, Ohio. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sundays 1 to 7 p.m. Information: Bonnie Primacy, PreSident, Hart Productions, Inc., 1172 W. Galbraith Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45231, (513) 522-7350.

FEBRUARY 25-MARCH 4
Southern Living Show
Charlotte Merchandise Mart, Charlotte, North Carolina. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Information: Advance $4.00; Children free. Information: W. James Hadley, Vice President, Hart Productions, Inc., 1172 W. Galbraith Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45231, (513) 522-7350.

MARCH 1-MAY 20
Exhibition: Reflections of Nature: Flowers in American Art

MARCH 3-11
Indiana Flower and Patio Show
Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis, Indiana. Hours: Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Horticultural Explorations

All members of the American Horticultural Society are eligible to participate in these exclusively planned explorations. The arrangements are high-quality, with first-class hotels, most meals and tips included. Besides public and private gardens, visits to diversified nurseries are included.

Spring & Fall England (May, September) Here are two opportunities to visit the International Garden Festival in Liverpool, held only once every 10 years. Our spring trip also includes the Chelsea Flower Show and the rolling country-side of Kent, Surrey and Chester. The autumn trip takes in the Royal Horticultural Autumn Show and East Anglia, an unspoiled area. We will be greeted by the hosts of some of the most impressive private homes, guided through their homes and gardens, and sometimes served tea or meals. Enjoy one of the most avid gardening countries in the world.

Switzerland (June 5-18) Visit the famous castle and gardens of the Mainau Island in Lake Constance, public botanical gardens, as well as interesting private gardens. The picturesque lake country of northern Italy, delicious chocolate factories and spectacular Alpine scenery are all part of this spectacular tour.

Other horticultural explorations available in 1984 are: Florida (March 18-26), Israel (March 23-April 5), Spring in the South (March 23-30), Japan (April-May, July-August), Pacific Northwest (May), New Zealand (October-November), Autumn in the Orient (November).

For any of these programs, please write for your free brochure to the Education Department, American Horticultural Society, Mt. Vernon, VA 22121. Or telephone 1-703-768-5700.

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Gardener's Marketplace

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GRAPEs—AMERICAN HYBRID VINES

GREENHOUSE ACCESSORIES
COMPLETE MIST PROPAGATION SYSTEMS. Get phenomenal propagation results—Greater financial yield. Unbeatable—Inexpensive—FREE BROCHURE. AQUAMONITOR, Box 327-B Hunting- ton, NY 11743.

HEATHS & HEATHERS
Colorful low-cost HEATHER COLLECTIONS shipped UPS. Send SASE for 100 catalogue list. HEATHER GROWERS, Box 850, Elma, WA 98621.
The International Palm Society members receive the quarterly journal "Principes," and have access to a seed bank which distributes seeds of rare palms collected worldwide. Exciting 1984 Biennial meeting in San Francisco, followed by a tour of Australia. Membership: $15 per year. THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY, Box 568, Lawrence, KS 66044.

PERENNIALS

UNUSUAL ROCK AND SHADE PLANTS, Hosta, Hemerocallis, Sempervivums, Shrubs, Iris, Native Americans, Seed, Dwarf Evergreens, Grapes. 24-page Catalog. Please send 49c in stamps. ROCKNOLL NURSERY, 9210 U.S. 50, East, Hillsboro, OH 45133.

WRENWOOD'S Mid-Winter Perennial Sale- Maltese Cross (Lychnis chalcedonica), Mint (M. Emerald 'N Gold'), Yellow Stonecrop (Sedum echiocarhium), English Pennyroyal (Mentha pulegium), Maiden's Pink (Dianthus delt. 'Zarg'), Dwarf Coreopsis (C. Baby Sun'), Mountain Alys- sam (A montanum), Cottage Pink (Dianthus phlomif- formis 'Somnus'), Tea Mint (M. 'Blue Balsam'), and Rose Campions (Lychnis coronaria atropur- parea). All are well established in pint perennial cans—$1.95 each, or 3 of the same varieties—$5.70 each. Will be shipped in the spring. Prices to change Feb. 1—order now and save. WRN- WOOD, Rt. 4, Box 561, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411.

HARDY PERENNIALS, herbs, wildflowers. Strong plants, reasonable prices. Descriptive catalog $1.00. SEXTON NURSERY, 2330-00 758T Rd. Rd. Goshen, OR 97378.

PHALAENOPSIS (MOTH) ORCHIDS

Blooming size, values to $200. Minimum order 3 plants, $8.50 each, prepaid. Catalog $1.00, credited on first order. GREEN VALLEY ORCHIDS, Rt. 1, Box 238, Pocatello, ID 83207 (504) 790-5785.

PLANTS—RA R E BUT AFFORDABLE

Affordable containerized starter-plants. Informa- tional catalog—$1.50. FORESTFARM, 390 Teheran, Williams, OR 97544.

RARE NATIVE PLANTS

Rhododendron chaparrani, R. austrium, R. spect- rsum, R. prattianum, Magnolias. (Weigelia lana- alata, Magnolia grandiflora, Stewartia malacodendron. Grown from native seed or cuttings. Write for prices and shipping dates. SALTER TREE FARM, Rt. 2, Box 1522, Madison, FL 32540.

RHODODENDRONS & AZALEAS

NEW 1984 CATALOG, $2.00, over 50 pages, many helpful lists, pictures. Do you have special needs, a collector's taste? Personalized attention to your order. Superior plant quality guaranteed. THE BOWERS NURSERY, 1757-A SW Coronado, Portland, OR 97219.

ROCK PLANTS—UNUSUAL


SEEDS

Asian greens, Italian chicories, European lettuce. American heirlooms including the White Cheesewake pumpkin. These and many more in our 1984 catalog which is richly illustrated with fine art, and packed full of cultural tips, historical anecdotes, and over 20 culinary processes and recipes. Send $2.00 to LE MARCHE SEEDS IN TERNATIONAL, Dept. V, P.O. Box 566, Dux, VT 05620.

ROCKNOLL'S FRESH SEED—Over 75 varieties ROCK PLANTS, Perennials, American Natives, HOSTA, Siberian Iris. Large Stamped Envelope 60c. ROCKNOLL NURSERY, 9210 U.S. 50, Hills- boro, OH 45133.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST and most famous seed catalog 200 pages, 4,000 varieties, 1,000 color pictures. A major book of reference. The Encyclopeda of how and what to grow from seed. The Bible of seed catalogs to gardeners in over 100 countries. Vegetables, pot plants, exotics, perennials, alpines, rockery, heat and best annuals, trees, shrubs and bulbs from seed with rare items unobtainable elsewhere. Write for FREE copy. THOMPSON & MORGAN, INC., Dept. A.H.S. 14, P.O. Box 531, Piscataway, NJ 08850.

NON-HYBRID SEED PORTFOLIOS: Hundreds of non hybrid seeds individually selected for all United States growing regions. Includes fruits, nuts, grains, herbs, vegetables and instructions. Write to the SEED PROJECT, P.O. Box 1675, Weav- erdale, CA 93569.

FREE CATALOG: Unusual Seed Varieties, plus-wide selection of tomatoes. GROW: Purple Peppers, Purple Broccoli, Pinky Eggplant, Green Ripe Tomatoes and more. GLEUCKER'S SEEDSMEN, Mecosta, MI 49336.

SEMINARS

Bulbs in the Residential Garden Saturday, March 31, 1984, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This symposium designed for the knowledgeable gardener, will explore the principles of using bulbs in the landscape. Topics: Using Bulbs in the Landscape • Bulbs in the Garden Plan • Specialized Uses of Bulbs: Perennial Beds, Naturalized Areas, Rock Gardens, Containerized Cut Flowers. Write or call The Education Department, THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN, Bronx, NY 10454, (212) 239-8747.

UNUSUAL INDOOR PLANTS

NEW Color catalog, 1984-86—$3.00, now lists 2,000 unusual Indoor Plants: Begonias, Exotics, Orchids, Amaryllis, Jasmines, Herbs. LOGEE'S GREEN- HOUSES, AH, 55 North Street, Danbury, CT 06810.

VEGETABLE PLANTS

GROW YOUR OWN SWEET ONIONS—best varieties. FREE instructions and recipes with each order. Onion plants are hardy—PLANT EARLY! 500 plants—$12.50, 250 plants—$10.00. Write for complete list. TEXAS ONION PLANT CO. Box 1711 HS, Farmersville, TX 75447. "Home of the Sweet Onion."

WANTED

Sponsors and donations needed to help a small serious plant person expand into growing rare, exotic, endangered plants. Write GROWER, P.O. Box 118, Moyock, NC 27588.

WILDFLOWERS

"HOW TO GROW WILDFLOWERS FROM SEED" Send $3 for new detailed brochure that makes it all easy. When where to plant—for less work, less cost, and more beauty. FREE seed list included. VERMONT WILDFLOWER FARM, Box A, Charlotte, VT 05445.

WOOLANDERS

RARELY OFFERED SOUTHEASTERN NATIVES, woody herbs, succulents, nursery-grown. Many hardy nowhere. Also newly introduced exotics selected for southern gardens. Send SASE for extensive mailorder list. WOOLANDERS AH, 1128 Colleton Ave., Aiken, SC 29801.
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 after checking for retail sources through our catalogue file.


- **Taxus baccata 'Adpressa Variegata'**, a rare cultivar of the common English yew. William D. Burke, 55 Havenhurst Road, West Springfield, MA 01089.

- **Distictis laxiflora**, vanilla trumpet vine, a native of Mexico bearing 3½-inch, trumpet-shaped flowers that are violet fading to white and have a vanilla scent. Bob Feingold, The Houston Heights, 1327 Ashland Avenue, Houston, TX 77008.

- **Catacbrosa aquatica**, water whool-grass, a pale green, one- to two-foot creeping or floating plant found along pond margins and in ditches. Carol Bishop, 2309 N. Ridge Road, Findlay, OH 45840.

- **Muscari botryoides 'Carneum'**, a pink cultivar of the common grape hyacinth. Also looking for the cultivar 'Roseum' which was listed in an old gardening magazine. Mrs. Arnold Hughes, RR 21, Box 485, Terre Haute, IN 47802.

- **Corylus chinenesis**, Chinese filbert or hazelnut. Sometimes considered a botanical variety of *C. colurna* (*C. colurna var. chinenesis*). Robert G. Seip, R.D. #1, Box 683, Alburtis, PA 18011.


- **Ilex opaca**, any older named cultivars of the American holly. Rick and Bev Coleman, Coleman Nurseries, 21 Valley View Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

- **Amorpha canescens**, lead plant, a four-foot shrub with grey, hairy foliage. Artemas P. Richardson, North Road, RFD 1, Box 95A, Fremont, NH 03044.

- **Larix laricina**, tamarack or American larch, any cultivar or variety that is an especially heavy cone bearer. Peter J. Knop, Ticonderoga Farm, Rural Route 1, Box 413, Chantilly, VA 22021.


- **Castanea dentata**, American chestnut. A special request for information on chestnut trees that have survived in the southern Appalachian portion of the species’ natural range. Trees that have had growth above the root collar during at least some of the years since 1940 may provide worthwhile parent material that might otherwise be lost. Would also like information on any chestnut with a trunk diameter of 12 inches or more. P. F. Brown, 113 Columbia Drive, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

- **American native plants**, a special request for seven species native to North America, all of which are known for their medicinal properties. *Apoecytum androsaemifolium*, common dogbane; *Aristolochia serpentaria*, Virginia snakeroot; *Epigalium aromaticum*; *Helianthemum canadense* (formerly *Crocanthemum canadense*), frostweed; *Onosmodium virginianum*, false gromwell, *Penthorum sedoides*, Dutch stonecrop; *Polygonum sagittatum*, arrow-leaved tearthumb, Alain Vendres, 7 rue du Vicomte, 40140 Soutons, France.

**New Uses for Kudzu**

Researchers around the country continue to study kudzu, *Pueraria lobata*, in an effort to find new uses for this rampant growing plant that carpets many parts of the Southern United States.

Graduate students at the University of Alabama have discovered a chemical in the leaves and stems of kudzu that reduces blood pressure in laboratory animals and that may someday be used in humans. At Vanderbilt University, scientists have discovered two other possible uses for the plant: its starchy roots can be fermented to produce baker’s yeast as well as ethanol fuels. Researchers at Vanderbilt are also trying to develop a decomposition process for separating the softer parts of the kudzu vine from the high tensile strength fibers. These fibers, which have long been used by Japanese weavers, would be used in cloth making.

—Virginia Wildlife, August 1983
AHS Spring Symposium Program

Leave winter woes behind and join us in Miami for our Spring Symposium. Tour Fairchild Tropical Garden and stroll through Vizcaya. We’ll also visit The Kampong—once home to world-renowned plant explorer David Fairchild—and the Orchid Jungle. Be sure to join us—South Florida promises to be in the full bloom of spring.

Wednesday, March 14
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.—Registration, ballroom level, Omni Hotel, Biscayne Boulevard at 16th Street, Miami, Florida.
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.—No-Host Cocktail Reception for Symposium participants at the Omni Hotel.
Wednesday Evening—Dinner on your own. There will be an informal evening program for Symposium participants. Look for details in your Registration Packet.

Thursday, March 15
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.—Late Registration, ballroom level, Omni Hotel, Biscayne Boulevard at 16th Street, Miami, Florida.
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon—Education Session. The Symposium speakers will be:
• Thomas A. Fennell, Jr.: President of the Orchid Jungle, a 20-acre orchid and tropical plant nursery in Homestead, Florida, Mr. Fennel is an expert on growing, hybridizing, exhibiting and propagating orchids. He is an authority on meristem propagation (tissue culture). He will talk about new developments in the orchid world.
• DeArmand Hull: An Ornamental Horticulturist for the Florida Extension Service and a member of the faculty of the University of Florida, Mr. Hull is also an international authority on palms. He will discuss palms as indoor plants.
• Nat DeLeon: President of the International Bromeliad Society, Mr. DeLeon is also the horticulturist in charge of the grounds at Miami’s famous Parrot Jungle. He will demonstrate and discuss the cultural requirements of bromeliads.
• Paul Soderholm: A horticulturist and Curator of Plant Germplasm at the U.S.D.A.'s Subtropical Horticulture Research Station in Miami and the U.S.D.A.'s Tropical Agriculture Research Station in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. Mr. Soderholm has hybridized many ornamental plants. He will talk about introducing new ornamental plants for the landscape.
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.—Lunch at the Omni Hotel.
1:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Afternoon Garden Tour of Vosters Nursery and the U.S.D.A. Subtropical Horticulture Research Station.
• Vosters Nursery, Inc.: This is a wholesale nursery that specializes in tropical house plants, especially caladiums (miniature orange trees), bromeliads, and aglaonemas. Our tour will include an in-depth look at the production and propagation of tropical plants.

Palms, cycads, bromeliads, orchids, hibiscus and many other trees native to South Florida and the Bahamas await us at Fairchild Tropical Garden.

• U.S.D.A. Subtropical Horticulture Research Station: This 200-acre station has played a primary role in the study and development of tropical plants in this country and abroad. Special emphasis has been placed on such diverse plants as coffee, mango, palm, avocado, lychee and other miscellaneous fruits and ornamentals. We will take a bus tour of the test gardens and research plots where scientists continue to develop new cultivars of tropical plants and study such diseases as Lethal Yellowing of palms. U.S.D.A. guides will accompany each bus.
Thursday Evening—Dinner on your own. There will be an informal evening program for Symposium participants. Look for details in your Registration Packet.

Friday, March 16
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.—All-Day Tour of Fairchild Tropical Garden and the Orchid Jungle. We will have a box lunch at Fairchild Tropical Garden.
• **Fairchild Tropical Garden:** Famous for its palm and cycad collections, Fairchild also boasts a Rare Plant House filled with exotic plants; a Hibiscus Garden, a tropical rain forest, a Sunkien Garden and many other displays of tropical flowering plants. We will tour the garden (which also features seven lakes) both by tram and on foot.

• **Orchid Jungle:** Orchids, ferns, bromeliads, anthuriums and other tropical plants fill this 20-acre retail nursery and garden. We will have a guided tour of the three main display houses and conservatories, explore the original Florida hammock with its jungle-like plant community, and see a demonstration on tissue culture. Symposium participants will receive a special 10 percent discount on purchases.

6:15 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.—Moonlight Cruise in Biscayne Bay and Miami Harbor. We will board the Show Queen for an evening of dinner and dancing under the stars.

**Saturday, March 17**

9:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.—All-Day Garden Tour of Vizcaya, The Kampong and a Private Garden. We will have lunch at The Kampong.

• **Vizcaya:** This magnificent Italian Renaissance villa was built from 1914 to 1916 by James Deering of International Harvester. We will tour the house—with its Renaissance, Baroque, Rococco and Neoclassical rooms—and the formal gardens, which feature innumerable grottoes, pools, fountains and sculptures. During our visit, Vizcaya will be hosting its annual Renaissance Fair, featuring a Human Chess Game and other colorful attractions.

• **The Kampong:** Former home of world-famous plant collector and hybridizer David Fairchild. The Kampong is now owned by an AHIS Board Member. This 10-acre property on the shores of Biscayne Bay houses a unique collection of tropical plants. Look for the article featuring The Kampong in the February, 1984 issue of *American Horticulturist*.

• **The Fogg Residence:** This private garden is landscaped entirely with native Florida plants. The owner's goal was "to work with nature and to recreate a [Florida] hammock effect."

6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.—No Host Cocktail Reception and President's Banquet. The evening speaker will be Dr. Robert J. Knight, who is a Research Horticulturist specializing in fruit at the Subtropical Horticulture Research Station in Miami. He is also a plant explorer who has written numerous articles and research papers. His topic will be "Frontiers of Horticulture—View from the Subtropics."

**Sunday, March 18**

**Departures for home** or for the Society's Post-Symposium Tour of Florida's West Coast. For more information on the Post-Symposium Tour, see page 3 of this newsletter, or call or write the Society's Education Department. Omni Hotel check-out time is 12:00 noon.

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**Registration Form**

**American Horticultural Society's Spring Symposium**

**March 14-17, 1984—Miami, Florida**

**IMPORTANT:** Registrations must be postmarked by March 2, 1984.

**PLEASE REGISTER EARLY!** All of the events described in the program are included in the registration fee.

**HOTEL INFORMATION:** When we receive your registration form and check we will send you a hotel reservation card. Please return the card to the Omni International Hotel. You will receive room confirmation directly from the Hotel's reservations office. Hotel room rates for the Society's Spring Symposium have been established at $60 single or double. PLEASE register early to guarantee room availability. The Hotel will hold rooms for AHIS Symposium participants until February 22, after which time reservations will be made on a space-available basis.

**CANCELLATIONS:** Full refund, less $35 per person for booking expense, if written cancellation is postmarked by March 2nd. No refunds after March 3rd.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Eastern Airlines will be our official airline for the Spring Symposium. The toll-free number for the Convention Desk is 800-327-1253 (in Florida 800-442-1257). To speed your service, please request #E23-P58. Eastern will guarantee you the best available rates when you call. If Eastern 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 Miami.

**IMPORTANT:** Registrations must be postmarked by March 2, 1984.

**PLEASE REGISTER EARLY!**

$225 for single

$450 for double

Enclosed is a check for

Please send payment in full to: American Horticultural Society, Education Department, Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121.

Name ____________________________

Spouse's/Guest's Name ____________________________

Address ____________________________

City __________________ State _______ Zip ____________

Please list your name as you wish it to appear on your name badge, if different from above. ____________________________
Gardening Books to Order

Longwood Gardens Plant and Seed Sources

Longwood Gardens has published a 74-page booklet listing sources for over 1,300 superior species and cultivars grown at the gardens. The list is divided into sections on annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, conservatory flowers and needled evergreens. Each plant is keyed to commercial sources, and the book lists both retail and wholesale companies.

To order a copy of Longwood Gardens Plant and Seed Sources, send $2.50, including postage and handling, to Longwood Gardens, Visitor Center, Kennett Square, PA 19348. (PA residents add 9¢ sales tax.)

Low-Maintenance Gardening

This is the newest title in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden’s series of useful publications. This informative, 73-page book provides work-wear gardeners with many useful ideas that will help reduce unnecessary workloads. Chapters on perennials, trees and shrubs, annuals and vegetables suggest many species that require little maintenance. There are also several chapters that stress the importance of planning and design in reducing workloads. Other subjects covered include low-maintenance lawns, construction materials, practical rock gardening, native plants, mulches, integrated pest management and ground covers. Each chapter ends with a list of suggested references. Low-Maintenance Gardening is well illustrated with useful drawings and photographs.

To order a copy of Low-Maintenance Gardening, send $3.05, including postage and handling, to Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225.

Fuchsia Checklist

Fuchsia enthusiasts will want to order a copy of the American Fuchsia Society’s 91-page booklet, A Checklist of Fuchsias Registered 1973-1983. The booklet lists and describes over 700 fuchsia cultivars introduced by hybridizers all over the world. Each description includes information on the plant’s habit, brief cultural notes and a detailed description of the flowers.

To order a copy of A Checklist of Fuchsias Registered 1973-1983, send $4.00, including postage and handling, to American Fuchsia Society Book Sales, 867 South Knickerbocker, Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

Rose Handbook

The 1984 edition of the American Rose Society’s popular Handbook for Selecting Roses is now available. The 35-page booklet lists 1,000 roses (including hybrid teas, climbers and miniatures), classified them by color, and provides a national rating based on their performance. The information presented in this handy booklet is compiled from the reports of thousands of American Rose Society members from around the country.

To order a copy of the Handbook for Selecting Roses, send $5.00 and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the American Rose Society, Department US, PO Box 30,000, Shreveport, LA 71130.

Zinnia Bacterial Leaf Spot Control

Bacterial leaf spot on zinnias originates on the surface of the seed and is best controlled before sowing. For best results, place seeds in a plastic bag containing a slurry of about one ounce of Captain Wettable Powder to three ounces of water. Shake the bag to thoroughly cover the seeds, then dry them on a paper towel. Plant within 24 hours of treatment. Foliar sprays are ineffective in controlling the disease.

In tests reported by Canadian Florist, zinnias grown at temperatures below 68°F did not exhibit bacterial leaf spot, while plants grown at temperatures of about 84°F under very humid conditions had the most severe infection.

—Florascpe May 1983