

Conifer Quarterly

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Summer 2006



Dennis Groh

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Cover photo: *Pinus parviflora* 'Bergman' from the Harper Collection at Hidden Lake Gardens in Tipton, Michigan.
Photo by Dennis Groh.

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Pinus quadrifolia

the garden produces rounded, brown cones just smaller than a tennis ball. The shade and fragrance provided by this stand make it a favorite destination in the garden for those in the know.

The Coastal and Island Garden contains specimens of the Bolander pine, *Pinus contorta* ssp. bolanderi. This rare pine is found in the wild in the pygmy forests of coastal, northern California growing in shallow, highly acidic soils. While understandably stunted in the wild, the Bolander pine retains a compact habit in the garden. The dark green needles hide the small, hard cones. Collectors may be concerned about providing proper conditions for this plant, but our results have found it to be very garden tolerant and worthy of wider attention.

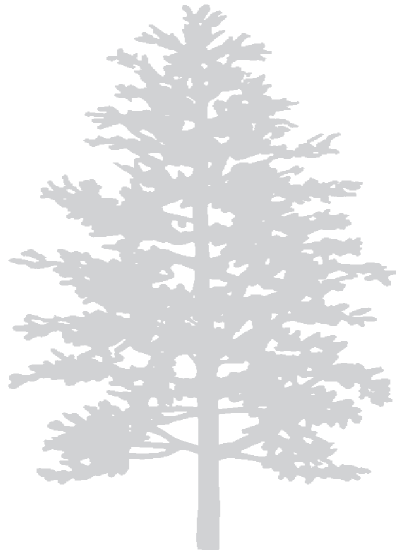
Specimens of *Pinus coulteri*, the Coulter pine, dot the garden, with the best specimens found in our North Garden. The needles can be up to a foot long and densely clothe the ends of the branches. While the swelling spring buds are like gargoyles on the ends of the stem, the Coulter pine is best known for



Pinus coulteri cone

will conclude the tour with a visit to the Museum of Glass in Tacoma where we will walk over the Chihuly Bridge of Glass and see glass making demonstrations in the Hot Shop, a 90-foot high tilted stainless steel cone.

Look for more details in future issues of the Conifer Quarterly and the ACS website as the Western Region finalizes the meeting plans in the following months. We look forward to seeing everyone in Washington State in 2007.



2006 Conifer Quarterly Advertising Rates

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The American Conifer Society welcomes advertising from companies and individuals selling conifers, companion plants, gardening supplies and other plant-related products and services.

look no further than my home state of Georgia where ACS membership has more than doubled in the past several years and retail nurseries are brimming with new conifers. These are indeed exciting times to be associated with the ACS. One prime example is our member renewal which is currently at 80%. This is an enviable rate for a society such as ours.

The membership mix of the ACS has changed since its creation. Looking at the early membership, we find it weighted towards those directly involved in the nursery industry. This has shifted as more and more of our members are hobby gardeners. We must continue to meet the needs of both groups as well as those that are somewhere in between, such as those in academia. This balance extends to the nature of our programs, the content in our Conifer Quarterly and what we offer at the grass roots level. Our organization must be relevant to a new member that might be overwhelmed by

scientific jargon as well as those with a need for more technical information. I welcome your suggestions and feedback as to how we can further improve. While I believe that all programs are presently of high quality and deliver member value, there is always room to improve. Excellent organizations continue to grow and to respond to change. I promise to listen and you can always expect a response.

As your new President, I intend to visit each Region at least once over my term of office. I want to get to know you and to understand the unique needs of each Region. I look forward to working with you and your representative Board of Directors in doing everything we can for the betterment of our Society.

COLLECTOR'S NURSERY

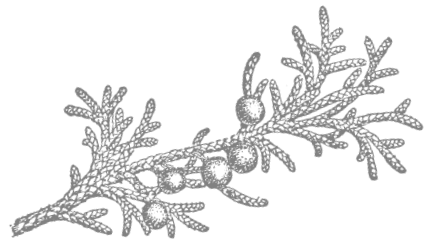
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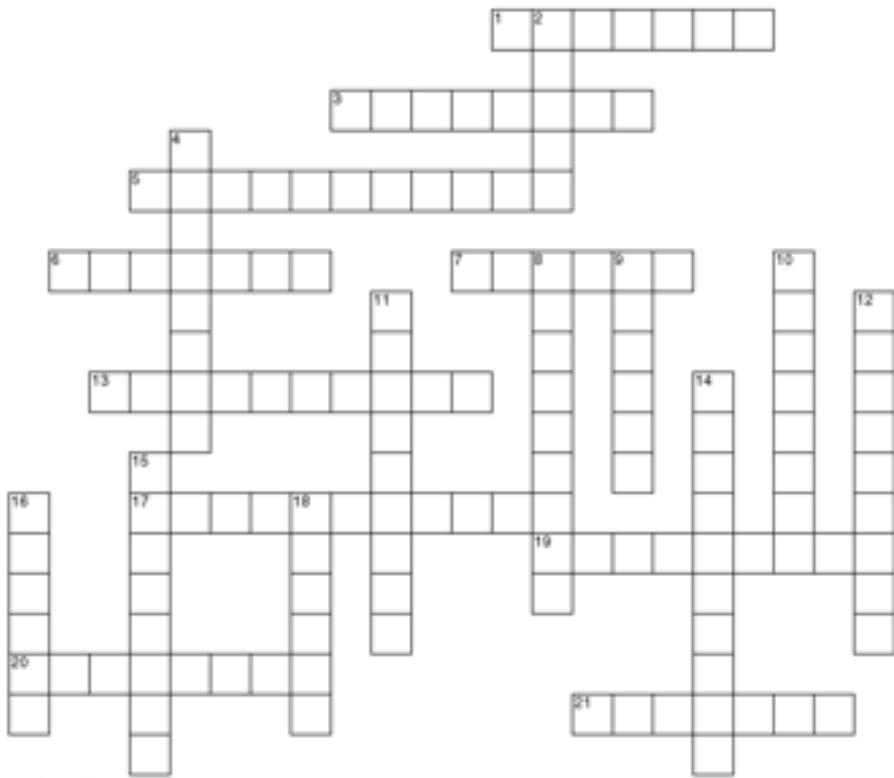
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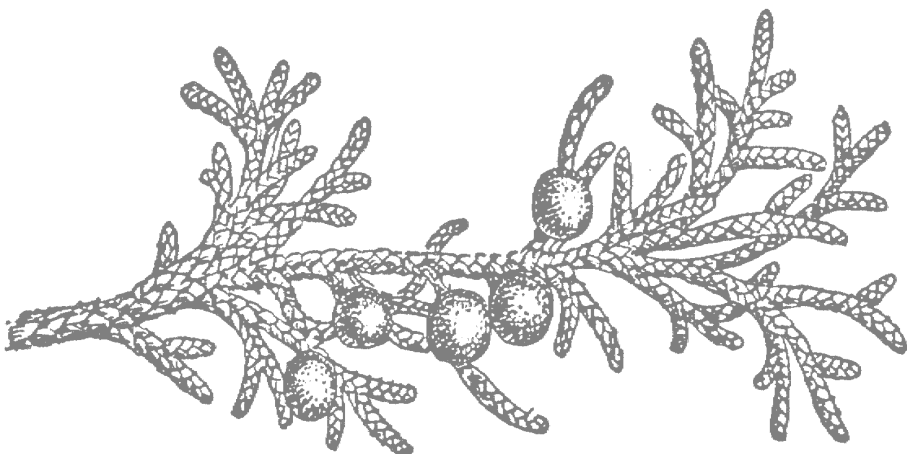
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Pinus



www.CrosswordGame.com



shade of redwoods come to just above waist height.

While some of these pines can fit into collectors' gardens, all are available to the conifer enthusiast whenever they visit southern California. A self-guided tour brochure of our conifer collection is in process to enhance visitor appreciation of these plants.

About the Author: Tim Thibault became Curator of the Living Collection at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden early in 2006 after three years as Associate Curator. He spent the previous five years at Descanso Gardens in curatorial positions, eventually as sole Curator. A proud graduate of Washington State University in

1996, Tim grew up in eastern Washington, developing his love of conifer species as a child in the forests of his home state.



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East Meets West – The Conifer Artistry of Man and Nature

By Kathleen Pottratz

Mark your calendars. The Western Region is planning a fantastic national meeting for you on July 26-29, 2007. The meeting will be based at the DoubleTree Hotel at Seattle-Tacoma Airport in Seattle, Washington. We will be visiting Coenosium Gardens in Eatonville where Bob and Diane Fincham will share their collection of rare and unusual conifers. We will also see the newly designed and planted dwarf conifer garden at South Seattle Community College Arboretum featuring a collection of conifers donated by Bob and Diane as well as a new Chinese Garden. The tour will also include Kubota Gardens, a five acre American-Japanese

garden featuring mature conifers in a setting of ponds, waterfalls and traditional Japanese artifacts.

The Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection offers over 50 bonsai exhibits from Canada, China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and the United States. The adjacent Rhododendron Species Botanical Gardens is home to one of the largest rhododendron collections in the world with over 10,000 rhododendrons growing in



BY EVELYN COX

Some people call all conifers, pines. In his article on page 28, Dennis Groh tells us about some Florida pines, and some that are called pines but aren't. From the opposite U.S. coast, Tim Thibault talks about California's native pines beginning on page 12.

After reading these enlightening articles, you may be ready for the crossword puzzle on page 34. Some of the answers can be found in this issue. For others, you may have to get out some of those conifer books you paid so much for.

I hope you enjoy this issue and find something here to enhance your love of conifers and to help you show them off in your garden. As you look to add to your conifer collection, hopefully this edition has expanded your palette for incorporating pines.



Evelyn

Next issue:

Fall 2006: Landscaping With Conifers

Did your love of conifers lead to some interesting landscaping opportunities? Do you have a story to tell about it? Do you have conifers that work well for a particular effect in the landscape? Please share your experiences with other readers.

Send your contributions to us by August 12.

Future Issue Themes:

Highway Treasures

Unusual, Rare and Endangered Conifers

Pendulous Conifers

We welcome news alerts about conifers or about our members.

Contact Evelyn Cox to discuss your ideas.



"It's mine."

"No, it's mine."

"It's mine. Get your own Wollemi pine."

(Left) Bill McNamara, Director at Quarryhill Botanical Garden in Glen Ellen, California and member of ACS. (Right) Tom Cox, ACS President. They're holding the coveted "Wollemi pine" (*Wollemia nobilis*).

This one belongs to Quarryhill. Look for an upcoming article on this unique botanical garden located in the heart of California wine country.

distinguishing characteristics.

Keeping these facts in mind, I will describe some of the pine cultivars that I think will be suitable for the rock garden. I will give the reader a mix of new and old selections.

The cushion-shaped cultivars can be planted almost anywhere in the rock garden, tucked up against a rock or out in an open area between rocks. They will give an appearance similar to an herbaceous alpine but with a different texture and color that may be seen throughout the year.

Pinus banksiana 'Chippewa' is the most dwarf of the Fordham *banksiana* selections. 'Chippewa' develops into a miniature, irregular, flat-topped mound. It grows less than 1 inch (2.5 cm) per year, and the foliage is light green with tiny needles mostly held parallel to the branchlets.

Keeping these facts in mind, I will describe some of the pine cultivars that I think will be suitable for the rock garden. I will give the reader a mix of new and old selections.

Pinus leucodermis 'Smidt', another small, congested plant, has thick, dark green needles and becomes almost conical as it grows. Its maximum growth is less than 1 inch (2.5cm) per year. This plant was found in the Czech Republic before WWII and the parent plant is still growing in the Pruhonice Arboretum near Prague. Two other forms of its name are 'Schmidtii' and 'Smidti', both of which are incorrect.

Pinus peuce 'Arnold Dwarf' is a dwarf selection that develops into a



***Pinus banksiana* 'Chippewa'**

Conifers in the News

Compiled by Evelyn Cox

ACS Receives Plant Discoveries Award (excerpts from an article submitted by Kimberly Karlin)

At the Southeastern Flower Show (SFS), the American Conifer Society exhibit tied for the Silver SFS Plant Discoveries Award. This award is given to the exhibit which "spotlights related plants of horticultural merit, adding to the public knowledge of these plants, their use in the garden and their beauty."

The display, designed by David McMullin and Flo Chaffin, was titled, "Cool Conifers for a Hot Summer Garden". Within the display of 56 plants, conifers were interplanted with cacti and other succulents, demonstrating how they can be successfully combined with other garden plants traditionally used in the southeast. The judges were quite impressed, with one commenting, "Beautifully laid out and very artistic". Another judge expressed, "Creative! Opens up new thought process in the garden... good variety". Friends and members of ACS volunteered their time during the 5-day show to answer questions and spread the word about the ACS.

The King's Pines

The article titled, "The King's Pines" written by ACS member, Joan Kutcher, in the Winter Newsletter of Mountain Top Arboretum in Tannersville, NY discusses *Pinus strobus* during colonial times. Joan has given us permission to use the following excerpts from her article:

To Europeans arriving on the east coast of North America during colonial

times, the white pine was a wondrous tree, being twice as tall as the tallest trees in England and continental Europe. Huge, straight, lightweight, durable, the least resinous of all pines; it provided the lumber for houses, furniture, coffins, and boats as well as masts for the tall ships.

Beginning in the 1750's, the Crown, in the person of King George I, began restricting the cutting of pine in the colonies. At first, only the largest trees were marked with "The King's Broad Arrow", three hatchet slashes, denoting them as King's pines.

By 1761, the restrictions expanded to include any pine with a diameter of 24 inches or more. The colonists' refusal to pay for the right to cut pines on their own land holdings led to rebellions like the Pine Tree Riot of 1772 in New Hampshire.

After the opening battles of the American Revolution, New Englanders sabotaged mast-tree cargoes awaiting shipment to Britain despite grave threats from the British and reduction of the town of Falmouth (Portland, Maine) to ashes. But the colonists survived to win their independence and ownership of their majestic white pines, whose image, first depicted on the New England flag in 1686, still appears on the state flags of Maine and Vermont.

New Caledonian Connection

ACS member, Ron Determann, Director of Conservatory and Conservation of the Atlanta Botanical Garden (ABG), has recently returned from New Caledonia where he was able to establish

The Luminous Winter Gold Pines

By Susan Martin

The fair, woodland elf home of Lothlorien, depicted in J.R.R. Tolkien's classic *The Lord of the Rings*, is a glowing forest filled with luminous golden trees that lift bedraggled spirits.

Many conifer lovers find that they too benefit from that glowing warmth, especially in the winter months and they plant a special group of pines that brighten the seemingly gray endless days of winter.

This small group, members of the genus *Pinus*, have been selected as cultivars solely for their winter color characteristics. Brought out by the onset of cold temperatures, the color of these pines changes from spring and summer green to a soft pale yellow to a vivid golden color during the coldest months of the year. With the warmer temperatures of spring, the golden color gradually turns back to green.

The same mechanism that triggers leaf abscission in deciduous plants in the fall causes some pines to lose a certain amount of chlorophyll each fall--just enough reduction to provide us with these golden gems.

This small group, members of the genus Pinus, have been selected as cultivars solely for their winter color characteristics.

While most of these cultivars will grow in moist, well-drained soils and in full sun locations, it is best to plant these pines in a spot in the garden away from strong winter winds and where they will not be subjected to temperatures that can fluctuate wildly.

The following is a list of a few of the best cultivars of gold colored winter pines that are commonly available:

Pinus strobus 'Winter Gold'- a selection of our native eastern white pine with a more open, upright habit that can reach a height of twelve to fifteen feet in twenty years. Its 3-inch long needles are of a soft, blue-gray color which turn a light lemon yellow in winter. By candling this pine each spring, 'Winter Gold' can be kept at a compact size if desired.



P. sylvestris 'Aurea' in lower center of photo at U.S. National Arboretum. See inside front cover for photo of the foliage.

Another *P. strobus* that is more compact is a cultivar called 'Louie'. Found by nurseryman Greg Williams in Vermont, 'Louie' will supposedly hold its yellow color throughout the year; but

northwest.

Slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*) is a southern yellow pine with the widest natural distribution in Florida. It is drought resistant, tolerant of poor drainage and its cones open best when exposed to the heat from a fire. There are two distinct populations in Florida. The variety found in north and central Florida has predominantly 3 needles per fascicle and 4 resin canals per needle. The south Florida slash pine has predominantly 2 needles per fascicle with 5-10 resin ducts per needle. This difference is found in the variety *densa* whose natural range extends to the lower Florida Keys.

The spruce pine (*Pinus glabra*) is a 2-needled yellow pine with short needles. It can tolerate poor drainage and is more shade tolerant than most pines. Its smooth gray bark is more typical of hardwood species than a conifer. It is found only in the Northwest Florida hill country.

Sources:
The Trees of Florida: A Reference and Field Guide. Gil Nelson. Pineapple Press, 1994.

Big Trees: The Florida Register. Daniel B. Ward Robert T. Ing. Florida Native Plant Society, 1997.



Araucaria heterophylla with female cones.



Casuarina equisetifolia with cone-like fruit.



short needles. It originated as a witches' broom seedling selected in 1978 by Dr. Sidney Waxman, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut. This selection has proven to be the most popular of all the Waxman seedlings. Of the four dwarf forms of *Pinus strobus* discussed here, it is possibly the most popular due to its soft texture and bluish foliage.

Pinus sylvestris 'Jeremy' originated from a witches' broom found at Wellingborough, Northants, England by B. Reynolds in 1973. It is a compact, broadly globular selection; growing up to 3 inches (7.5 cm) per year. Its foliage is dark green with short, straight needles and prominent, bright brown, pointed

winter buds.

Pinus sylvestris 'Repens' is a prostrate scots pine that grows about 2 inches (5 cm) per year. The winter buds are extremely resinous. As the plant ages, it mounds up slightly in the center. It looks especially nice growing among several large rocks on a slope.

Pinus uncinata 'Paradekissen' was found growing in the wild by the late Gunter Horstmann, in Schneverdingen, Germany before 1980. A dense, miniature, low-growing cushion, it grows about .5 inch (1 cm) per year as a young plant. The original plant is 6 inches (15 cm) high with a diameter of 28 inches (70 cm) and was estimated by him to be



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Ridge Goodwin Receives the Marvin and Emelie Snyder Award of Merit for Dedicated Support of the American Conifer Society

By Don Wild

Ridge Goodwin was presented with the Marvin and Emelie Snyder Award of Merit at the American Conifer Society 2006 National Meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Ridge was a charter member of the ACS. He worked steadily to develop the organization in the Northeast (NE) Region during its early years. Ridge not only has been generous with his time and talent but also with his plants as he contributes regularly to both regional and national auctions.

When the NE Region was having difficulty filling leadership positions a few years ago, Ridge voluntarily stepped forward and agreed to run for the NE Presidency. He was determined to revitalize the NE and return it to a thriving and active region. Ridge contacted the NE membership and called NE organizational meetings in an effort to identify individuals willing to take active leadership roles. His tireless recruiting efforts were successful and helped develop the current team leading the NE Region. During his term as President of the NE Region, he chaired the 2003 Regional meeting in Philadelphia. Ridge also co-chaired the very successful 2005 National Meeting and post tour held in New Jersey. As a result of his hard work, determination and vision, the NE has once again become our

largest region.

Ridge was not deterred in spite of heart by-pass surgery and an occasional stint placement. These temporary “set-backs” barely affected his pace and never his vision or dedication.

Ridge conceived and championed the new Collector’s Conifer of the Year (CCOY) program. Originally, he agreed to lead an effort to help publicize the ACS. However, this work led him to believe it would be better to focus on a CCOY project, which would serve as a fundraiser and member benefit. He chaired the committee and has been diligent in making it profitable for the ACS, as well as enticing to the membership. The early returns of the CCOY program show terrific results due to his professional leadership and creative vision. Ridge has already made arrangements for nurseries, plants and logistics for CCOY opportunities for the next three years.

It is with great pleasure that we present to Ridge Goodwin the Marvin and Emelie Snyder Award of Merit for Dedicated Support of the American Conifer Society.

Ridge lives in Holicong, Pennsylvania with his wife, Jo Ann. Their home has a beautiful setting, overlooking the rolling hills of eastern Pennsylvania. It is attractively landscaped with rows of

Pinus Maximartinezii

More about cotyledons

Photos and text by Daniel Luscombe

I was interested to read David de Laubenfels article on cotyledon numbers in conifers and thought I should put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) and mention my experiences of growing *Pinus maximartinezii*.

A few years ago, I was handed a small packet of very large wingless pine seeds and asked to germinate them! When I say large, they were at least 2 cm (.75”) long and at least 1 cm (.33”) wide. The other unusual thing about these seeds was the name on the packet – *P. maximartinezii*. I had never heard of this species. Out came the books and the more I found out, the more I became fascinated by this strange, rare (and as I was to find out later, stunning) pine.

The seed was sown and eventually the shoot appeared with the seed case still attached as is normal with pines. The seed case was gradually forced off by the shoot and they turned into the most stunning seedlings I have ever seen – a beautiful sky blue; but, even more amazing was the number of cotyledons – 24 in all! This is the highest number of any seed plant known – another conifer record breaker to add to the list of largest, oldest, etc.

The ecology and relatively recent discovery are also very interesting. A Dr. J. Rzedowski only discovered this species in 1964. Apparently, his attention was first drawn to the large seed offered for sale at a local market. He recognized them to be very different from the usually offered Pinyon nuts, so

he got the villagers to take him to the place from which they got the seeds. Here, a few thousand trees grow. They are described as being only five to ten meters or 16 to 32 feet (occasionally 20m or 64’) tall – beautiful blue color with huge cones weighing up to two kilograms.

Unfortunately, this beautiful tree is listed as being endangered by the IUCN Conifer Specialist Group whose description reads, “A total population of fewer than 10,000 trees exists. Regeneration is poor, possibly because the seeds are collected in considerable numbers for food. Cattle grazing and fires also pose threats. The land is privately owned but formal protection measures are being considered.” Researchers from the North Carolina State University (Dept of Forestry) made collections in 1992/1993 for ex-situ conservation purposes.

“A total population of fewer than 10,000 trees exists. Regeneration is poor, possibly because the seeds are collected in considerable numbers for food. Cattle grazing and fires also pose threats. The land is privately owned but formal protection measures are being considered.”

continued on page 26

Florida Pines And A Few Impostors

by Dennis Groh

Ten plants called “pines” are found in Florida. They are listed below alphabetically (the species not native to Florida are marked with an *). Seven of these are species of the genus *Pinus*; two are not true pines, but at least conifers; and one is not even a conifer!

Australian pine* (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) – not a conifer, has flowers and cone-like fruit. The fruit is like a smaller version of the fruit found on a sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*).

Coast cypress pine* (*Callitris columellaris*) – a conifer, not a pine, but a member of the cypress family.

Loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*)

Longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*)

Norfolk Island pine* (*Araucaria heterophylla*) – a conifer, not a pine, but a member of the Araucaria family. (It is related to the Wollemi pine, *Wollemia nobilis*, also not a true pine).

Pond pine (*Pinus serotina*)

Sand pine (*Pinus clausa* var. *clausa*) & (*Pinus clausa* var. *immuginata*)

Shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*)

Slash pine (*Pinus elliottii* var. *elliottii*) & **south Florida slash pine** (*Pinus elliottii* var. *densa*)

Spruce pine (*Pinus glabra*)



Pinus elliottii* var. *densa

South Florida slash pine – The National Champion Tree. It is located on the campus of the University of South Florida, Sarasota, FL. Circumference 130 inches. Height 67 feet. Crown Spread 75 feet.

Addicted Conifer Syndrome... 10 years later

By Susan Eyre

In 1996, my husband Rich and I were driving to the 4th Central Region Meeting of the American Conifer Society in Cincinnati, Ohio. Cincinnati was a hotbed of conifer enthusiasts under the leadership of major collectors Joe & Esther Libbie and Clark West. The Regenhold’s miniature conifer and fern collections were on the tour plus the estate-like conifer collection of Louis Gaker. Spring Grove Cemetery was an arboretum cemetery and showcased several national champion trees. We also planned a visit to Jack Hart’s phenomenal collection in Radcliffe, KY.

It is about an 8-hour drive from Woodstock, Illinois to Cincinnati. We were cruising through every cemetery between the destinations and I said to Rich, “This is going to take us two weeks to get there!” I realized at that moment that Rich was hopelessly addicted to dwarf conifers, looking for witches’ brooms, and propagating these found mutations. So this is when ACS was translated from American Conifer Society to Addicted Conifer Syndrome! In the car between cemeteries, I outlined the increased involvement with the Conifer Society and its members. I wrote it like the 12-step program since the 1990’s was all about drug and alcohol addictions.

Conifer sketches are a favorite part

of the meetings since anyone can get up and share a story or slides about a favorite tree or witches’ broom. This story was too good to keep to myself, so I announced I had a conifer sketch. When I read it to the audience, the crowd loved it. People were writing on their badges what level of addiction they had. The fact that individuals were attending the meeting made them all at least Level 4.

Members of ACS with ACS go to the meetings for information and inspiration (and to buy more plants). People with advanced ACS fill up their own yard and then start planting in their neighbor’s yard. Some buy or rent lots next door or they just start planting in the church, school, library, or park where they can view the plants. John Vrablic, DeEtta Montgomery or Chub Harper are classic examples of this affliction.

After attending several auctions at the meetings, some collectors start giving away plants that were early acquisitions when they find varieties they like better. They tend to collect dwarf varieties or become pruning experts.

All plant collectors can really relate to various levels of addiction and this diatribe has appeared in at least three gardening books. This is the tenth anniversary of the article’s publication in the Society’s summer issue. I was recently asked by the Quarterly for permission to reprint it this summer. Of

continued on page 24

The Award of Merit for Development in the Field of Conifers Honors Dennis Dodge

By Don Wild

Dennis Dodge was awarded the American Conifer Society (ACS) Award of Merit for Development in the Field of Conifers at the ACS 2006 National Meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Born in Connecticut, Dennis has been an avid collector and self-taught propagator of unusual and rare conifers for over 20 years. His knowledge and experience covers a broad spectrum of plants, but he has a special love and gift for *Sciadopitys verticillata*, with over 60 cultivars in his propagation house. His passion keeps him searching the globe for true conifer gems. His willingness to share scion wood and plant knowledge with conifer enthusiasts keeps him in the inner circle and keeps the conifer world knocking at his door.

His article in the 1997 ACS Bulletin, "At the Grafting Bench with Dennis Dodge", (Vol. 14, No. 2: Pp. 50-52), introduced Dennis to a much broader audience of Society members. His Bethlehem Nursery was featured on tour during the Northeastern Regional ACS meeting. He spoke at the ACS Northeast Region in 2002 and at the Central Region meeting in 2003, where he shared slides of his numerous introductions.

His normally shy personality is often overwhelmed by his great passion for plants while hunting for the unusual and sometimes bizarre varieties of

conifers. Extensive display beds of his favorite plants surround the Dodge home--for the education of visitors. He has donated significant quantities of plants to both ACS regional and national meeting plant auctions.

It is a great honor and pleasure to award the 2005 ACS Merit Award for the development of conifers to Dennis Dodge.

It is a great honor and pleasure to award the 2005 ACS Merit Award for the development of conifers to Dennis Dodge.

Dennis and his wife, Mary Lou, live in Bethlehem, Connecticut where his nursery has become familiar to top nurserymen, plant hunters and serious conifer collectors. Dennis retired after 45 years as the owner and operator of Denny's Auto Body shop.



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COLLECTORS' CONIFER OF THE YEAR

New Selections Soon To Be Announced

By Ridge Goodwin

Be on the lookout in the next edition of the Quarterly as the Collectors' Conifer of the Year Committee will announce its winning selections for the 2007 Conifer of the Year!

This exciting new program, begun last year, is for the sole benefit of American Conifer Society members and offers to our many enthusiasts the chance to purchase outstanding conifer selections. The plants are chosen each year by a panel of experts such as Paul Haladin, Don Howse, and Larry Stanley, among others, and produced for us by some of the country's leading conifer nurseries. This year there are again two selections. The dwarf is one of the most exciting I've seen in a long time, and perfectly suited for rock gardens, troughs, and diminutive landscapes. The other, an elegant weeper, will develop quickly into a dramatic and impressive specimen. Both plants should adapt well to growing conditions found in most of the country.

The dwarf selection for this year will be grown in a #1 (previously 1 gallon) container, and will have been grafted onto the rootstock of its parent species. The full sized selection has likewise been grafted. There will be 250 produced of each offering, and orders will be limited to one plant of each variety per member. Once we reach sales of 250 of either size, we will be "sold out" and unable to accommodate further orders.

Plants will be shipped at the appropriate

time by UPS Ground (typically the second or third week in March) and should arrive within a week. All plants will have care sheets written specifically for each plant to help you be successful, and will carry a one-year replacement guarantee. Additionally, each plant will contain a beautiful anodized aluminum plant tag which has been custom designed for us, that will permanently identify each selection with its full botanical name, the year of its award, and the designation that it is the American Conifer Society's Conifer of the Year!

The plants that we will be offering next spring, and those that will follow in succeeding years, represent those that typically attract the most attention at our plant auctions during our regional and national meetings, only with the Conifer of the Year program, there is no need to enter a bidding war! Everyone can be a winner - including the Society, to whom the proceeds will go, to be used in support of our mission of bringing conifers and people together.

Your participation is again cordially invited!

The dwarf is one of the most exciting I've seen in a long time, and perfectly suited for rock gardens, troughs, and diminutive landscapes.

continued from page 9

It is too cold at Bedgebury to grow *Pinus maximartinezii* (zone 9) outside but we do grow a few specimens under polythene and they come through our coldest winters fine. It makes a very attractive pot plant and grows slowly compared to other pines so you can keep it captive fairly easily. I always smile when we have non-believers visiting the nursery. As soon as they see it, their eyes light up and they start asking if we have any spare plants around or "Where can I get one?"

More proof: Conifers are not all green and boring!



About the author: Daniel Luscombe is assistant curator at Bedgebury National Pinetum in Kent, England. He is a founding member and current secretary of the British Conifer Society and a member of the IUCN Conifer Specialist Group. Because of his interest in species conifers and their conservation, he has travelled to New Zealand, New Caledonia, South Africa, Australia, Spain and Tasmania looking at species in the wild, especially those that have potential as garden conifers in the UK.

NEW SEED EXCHANGE COORDINATOR

Wayne Jope of Amesbury, Massachusetts has become our new Seed Exchange Committee chairman and will oversee our 2006-2007 Seed Exchange.

Send seed donations to:
ACS Seed Exchange
c/o Great Hill Hort Foundation
137 Kensington Road.
Hampton Falls, NH 03844

Email Wayne at Wayne@ghhf.org or
Fax to (603) 929-1810

A seed order list will appear in the Winter 2007 *Conifer Quarterly*.

money went for a good cause."

Level 4: Networking - Now you have a small collection started but you are still not satisfied. The ACS leads you to other people who have the same affliction. Beware of those who have lifetime memberships. There are two types of family members of those with ACS. The 'enablers' take care of business or family matters at home so the addicted can network alone at the meetings. The 'co-dependents' come to the meetings with the addicted and they blend in with the coniferites. Problems begin to occur when you attend a family wedding in Washington D.C. but you arrive to the reception late because you had to go see the Gotelli Collection one more time!

Level 5: Reading the Landscape - Now that you are integrated into the conifer network, you start reading the landscape and looking for witches' brooms in nature. Driving becomes more dangerous for 'Baby Broomers' as you are looking for brooms instead of watching traffic. Add plenty of extra travel time on trips so you can stop at every cemetery between here and there. It is devastating when another coniferite comes into your territory and instantly finds a broom you missed in your own neighborhood. Observation skills are developed.

Level 6: Propagation - Perhaps the ACS Seed Exchange excites you and you write for seeds. Or you find a

great broom. You can't continue to just admire it... you want to know "Could this be a new cultivar of the future?" This is where graft and corruption set in. At this level, there is 'mail-bonding'. There are packages coming and going in the mail at all levels of urgency: UPS, FedEx, Overnight, Priority Mail. You start grafting or rooting conifers.

Level 7: Going into Business - You have now reached the pinnacle of the addiction. You have made your hobby your livelihood. Now any tree purchase can be justified! It's a stock plant! Now there is satisfaction in helping distribute these beauties to the addicted.

Level 8: Benefactor - At this level you have spent a big part of your wallet collecting conifers. Now you start relocating your collection and you buy conifers to give away. This is the 'Harper Predilection' and difficult to explain to your wife. Whatever level you are, join in on the fun and JUST SAY YES!

ly

fied.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I begin my term as President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the trust and confidence you have placed in me. During my years of serving on the Board of Directors, I have had the opportunity to see and learn from the likes of Marvin Snyder, Dennis Groh and Don Wild. It is an honor to join the ranks of such individuals. The standards have been set very high and I pledge to you my commitment to uphold the fine tradition of those who have preceded me.

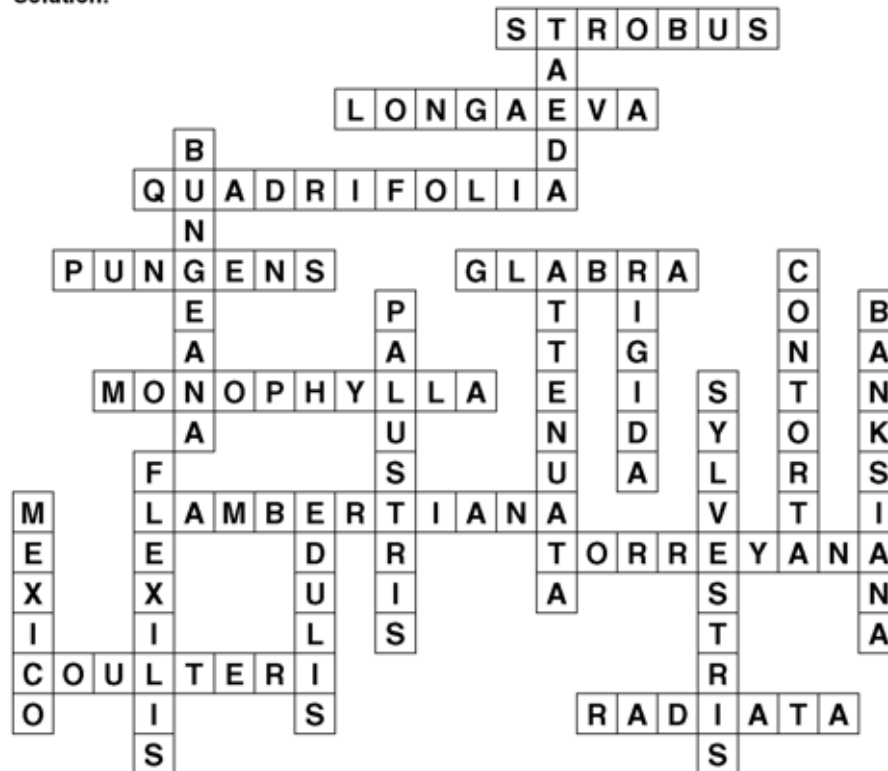
To be quite frank, when I joined the ACS I had no vision beyond just learning more and meeting others with similar interests. For those who know me, you understand my passion for plants. In 1990, Evelyn and I were fortunate enough to acquire a 13-acre plot and set about establishing a private arboretum. While conifers came late in the process, they are now a prominent feature in the landscape. There is never a night that a plant book does not wind up in my hand. Like the earthworm, I'd much rather dig in the dirt than go fishing.

Our society is in good shape, both financially as well as in the strength of our membership. Further, the current slate of officers and directors is a dedicated group that works very hard to add member value. This requires tremendous sacrifice of their time. Each of us understands that you are the customer and that we have to continually strive to meet your needs.

Everywhere I travel, I see conifers

Pinus

Solution:



Pinus torreyana



its cone. The heavy, yellow-tinted cones can be over a foot long and are armed with spikes up to two inches. Needless to say, we do not put benches under this species! It is not only the cone that is massive; this species approaches *P. torreyana* in size.

Needless to say, we do not put benches under this species!

Almost as far away from the entry as one can get and still be in the garden, adventurous visitors are rewarded with *Pinus muricata*, the Bishop pine. A chameleon in shape, from spreading to broadly pyramidal, this pine is best loved for its stout green needles and density, no matter what size. The cones are like elongated eggs held along the stem. They add color interest as they age from green

through brown to gray over three-plus years.

Pinus monophylla, the single-leaf pinyon pine, is a curiosity found in our Plant Communities section. As the name implies, this species has only one rounded, grayish-green needle per fascicle. The native habitat for this species is also somewhat unique, inhabiting our deserts, particularly in the mountains. Along with *P. sabiniana*, the foothill pine or gray pine, *P. monophylla* is one of the pines with ethnobotanical importance as a food source to the native peoples of California.

A stop in the Cultivar Garden finds our only pine cultivar, *Pinus contorta* 'Spaan's Dwarf'. Lower growing than even *Pinus contorta* ssp. *bolanderi*, this flattened pine fits well in the urban landscape. Our 15-year-old specimens in the

ACROSS

- 1 on first flag of U.S. revolutionary forces
- 3 oldest living organism
- 5 four needled pinyon
- 6 prickly cone may need 20 yrs to open
- 7 eastern U.S. pine with smallest cones
- 13 single-needled
- 17 longest cones
- 19 smallest range in U.S.
- 20 cone may weigh more than 3 lbs
- 21 shares habitat with *Cupressus macrocarpa*

DOWN

- 2 most common U.S. southern species
- 4 puzzled bark
- 8 retains seed cones for life
- 9 dominant species in pine barrens of New Jersey
- 10 teepee support
- 11 juvenile grass-like leaves aid in adaptation
- 12 northernmost U.S. species
- 14 most worldwide distribution
- 15 resistant to wind damage
- 16 country with most species
- 18 edible seeds

Plant Oktoberfest

The Dawes Arboretum's 2006 annual symposium on October 21st will focus on the selection, cultivation and uses of conifers.

Speakers will include:
 Dr. Richard L. Bitner
 Talon Buchholz
 Daniel Luscombe
 Susan Martin
 Joe Stupka
 Gary Whittenbaugh.

For more information, please contact The Dawes Arboretum in Newark, Ohio, at (800) 44-DAWES.

In this issue, we will take a close look at the genus *Pinus* (pines) and several of its garden worthy cultivars.

I grew up in Savannah, Georgia and spent some of my adult life there as a young homeowner. During that time, pines were, shall we say, under appreciated by the typical local gardener. While a walk on the soft needles in a pine forest and the fragrance from the tall trees was hard to beat, I remember that if you had pines in your yard, they were usually kept away from the house as they were not always hurricane friendly. Besides, that was a place where prolific spring blooming was the emphasis of one's garden.

Along my journey of developing appreciation for conifers, the beauty and

diversity of the genus *Pinus* became apparent.

If you are looking for something to light up your own garden this winter, Susan Martin may inspire you to start shopping in "The Luminous Winter Gold Pines" on page 7. Or, maybe you want something for your rock garden. In that case, Bob Fincham has some suggestions in his article "Pines for the Rock Garden" on page 16. Susan and Rich Eyre offer additional opportunities to find something special in their list of five favorite pines on page 25. We volunteered Susan for their top five list while talking with her about a reprint of her hilarious interpretation of the acronym ACS. Look for that article on page 21.

a beautiful 22 acre woodland setting of tall native conifers. Pacific Rim curator Dave Degroot and our own bonsai expert, Joe Harris, will offer demonstrations during the tour.

Just east of Eatonville, in the foothills of Mt. Rainier, we will visit the University of Washington's Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest where we will walk through old-growth timber and newly-planted timber demonstrating sustainable forest management practices.

Our meeting will conclude with a dinner cruise on the picturesque Puget Sound serving fresh Pacific Northwest Salmon cooked on cedar planks.

Post Conference tour

The post conference tour will take place on the Olympic Peninsula where we will see the natural bonsai collection of Dan Robinson at Elandan Gardens

followed by a guided tour of the 150 acre Bloedel Reserve on Bainbridge Island. We will drive from sea level up to over 5700 feet to Hurricane Ridge in the Olympic National Park where we will see old growth Sitka Spruce, Yellow Alaskan Cedar, Western Hemlock and Alpine Fir. The peninsula tour will also include a hike up to Marymere Falls above Crescent Lake, hikes through the Hoh Rainforest and a stop on the Pacific Ocean coastline with visits to some of the largest Sitka Spruce and Western Red Cedar.

Our visit to the area will include a traditional Native American salmon bake with traditional Native American dancers on the beach of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Our last evening on the peninsula will conclude with a catered dinner at Camaraderie Cellars where we will be treated to an evening of good food, good wine and good company. We

Publication Dates

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Spring	Apr/May/Jun	Feb 6	Apr 15
Summer	Jul/Aug/Sept	May 10	July 15
Fall	Oct/Nov/Dec 31	Aug 12	Oct 15

Submit articles/photos to:

Evelyn Cox, Conifer Quarterly Editor
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 E-mail: ConiferQuarterly@bellsouth.net



Pines For The Rock Garden

By Robert Fincham

The planting feature known as a "rock garden" takes on many different forms. But the true rock garden is a representation of an alpine area that has been reduced in scale and brought into a home landscape. It consists of rocks (of course), well drained soils, and an assortment of alpine plants suited for the gardener's part of the country. These alpine plants are mostly herbaceous plants that stay small and/or low and generally produce flowers sometime during the spring or summer.

These alpine plants often include a smattering of conifers. Since conifers are present in most parts of the world up to and even beyond the tree line, examples do belong in every rock garden. In my case, I have a rock garden with 90% conifers, but then I am prejudiced in their favor and make extensive use of them.

Pines are synonymous with great age. The Methuselah Tree is a pine, and the bristlecone pines (*Pinus aristata*) of the Sierra Nevada Mountains are works of art. Japanese gardens and bonsai make extensive use of pines. They are revered for the feeling of age that they give a garden.

Since conifers are present in most parts of the world up to and even beyond the tree line, examples do belong in every rock garden.

Knowing that pines work well in an alpine rock garden, the gardener then has to find the answers to two very important questions: First, what pine selections do I make for my garden? Second, where can I purchase these selections?

Both of these are difficult questions to answer. Hopefully, this article will help you with the first question. Finding these dwarf pines may not be as easily accomplished.

Alpine conifers take on two basic shapes, both of which result from their environment, not their genetic makeup. They are either sparsely branched, contorted, and wind swept, or they are cropped into cushions by grazing animals. Both growth habits are also possible in the rock garden and may be attained through the careful selection of the pine cultivars or by persistent, careful pruning or by a combination of the two.

Cultivars that have been grown twenty or more years will perform in a predictable manner. Cultivars that have been selected within the past twenty years may not be reliable and show some variation from their expected growth habits, especially those that are described based upon the performance of the mother plant or witches' broom that provided the selection.

Many of the newer selections are exciting, and a number of these will probably perform nicely in the rock garden. Others will disappear due to changeable growth habits or a lack of

tions and makes its recommendation to the ACS Board of Directors at the annual summer meeting. Announcements of the award recipient will be made by August 1, 2007.


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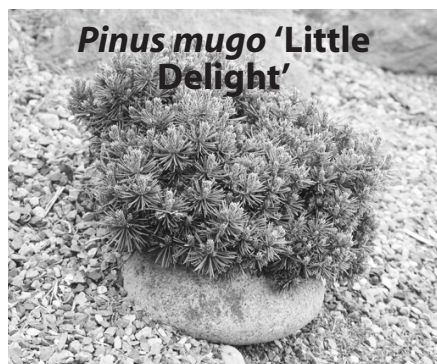
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Springtime at U. S. National Arboretum

dense, narrow, little mound. It grows about 1 inch (2.5 cm) per year. The foliage is dark green, and the needles are actually longer than its annual growth, giving it the appearance of a conical mound of needles. It was discovered as a seedling at the Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, about 1965. It is also found under the incorrect name of 'Nana'.



Pinus mugo 'Little Delight' is a miniature cushion that grows less than 1 inch (2.5 cm) per year. The tiny needles and miniature buds make it exceptionally attractive. It is an ideal choice for a small pine to grow in a crevasse between two rocks. I discovered it as a witches' broom on a specimen of *Pinus mugo* 'Mops' in 1990.

Pinus mugo 'Carsten Wintergold' develops into a compact, broadly globose plant. It grows about 2 inches (5 cm) per year. The foliage is a rich, bright yellow during the winter. It originated with Erwin Carsten, Varel, Germany before 1988. There are a number of mugo

pinus that turn gold in the winter with this selection being the brightest and most compact. It is an exceptional plant for brightening the winter garden with a splash of yellow gold.

Pinus mugo 'Jakobsen' is a slow-growing, bun-shaped selection with areas of exceptionally dense foliage. It grows about 1.5 inches (4 cm) per year. Its foliage is dark green with curved needles held tightly together against the thick branchlets and their dark green color contrasts nicely with the bright white winter buds. Its dense, irregular (bumpy) outline makes it a perfect choice for the alpine garden. It originated with Arne Vagn Jakobsen, Denmark before 1990.

Pinus mugo 'Sherwood Compact' develops a globular shape at a young age. It is quite slow and dense, making a distinctive plant for the rock garden. Growing just over 1 inch (2.5cm) per year, it is a reliable selection.

Pinus strobus 'Sea Urchin' is a very dwarf shrub that develops into a low mound. It grows about 2 inches (5 cm) per year. Its foliage is bluish-green with



contacts with the New Caledonian government. The trip was in collaboration with David Deutsch from Vallejo, California who has made eight previous trips. ABG was granted special permission to export some native plants and has added some, including conifers, to their collections. Ron generously shared some of his experiences and fascinating photos from this trip with local ACS members and others interested in learning more about the society at a recent rendezvous at the beautiful home and garden of ACS member, Ozzie Johnson.

Champion Trees

The only three trees that have been listed on the National Register of Trees since its inception in 1940 are conifers. According to the website www.americanforests.org, the giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) nicknamed "General Sherman" in California's Sequoia National Park, a western juniper (sp.?) in Stanislaus National Forest, California and a Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*) in Cache National Forest, Utah are the only three that remain from the original list.

The latest coniferous additions for 2006-2007 are described on the site as "a co-champion Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*) growing on a cotton farm in Mississippi, a Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) in California's Stanislaus National Forest and an Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmanni*) near Loman, Idaho". Visit the website to find out more about these and 860+ other Champion Trees as well as to learn how you can help American Forests find and nominate potential champions for the list which updates every two years.

Members in the News:

The website www.courierjournal.com posted an article on April 21 regarding the gift by Jerry Baker, an ACS member, of his home and gardens to Western Kentucky University along with a substantial cash endowment. The home and gardens will be used as a teaching facility for university students and for the enjoyment of the general public.

Gale Steves extols the virtues of conifers in "Compact Conifers Fit Anywhere", an article she wrote for Small Gardens. Gail recommended six dwarf conifers with photos and gave ACS more than honorable mention—interviewing Tom Cox who provided pointers for success with dwarf conifers.

Gale also pointed out to us that an article entitled "Extraordinary Evergreens" by Kathryn Whiteside appeared in the December 2005 issue of House Beautiful. Making Whiteside's list were *Pinus bungeana*, *Cedrus deodara* and *Pinus strobus* 'Sea Urchin' (this one also recommended in this issue of the Quarterly) along with cultivars of *Cupressus sempervirens*, *Juniperus virginiana*, *Juniperus scopulorum*, *Cedrus atlantica*, and *Juniperus horizontalis*. Try to get your hands on the December issue which also features an outstanding botanical print of a Deodar cedar and photos of the recommended selections.

Tom Cox was recently Lisa Bartlett's guest on the Joe Gardener radio program, discussing Tom's favorite subject (conifers) and answering questions from the listening audience. The program airs on a local Atlanta station and can be picked up over the internet at www.joegardener.com.

About the author: Dennis Groh is a past president of the Society. He and his wife, Carol, live in Dearborn Heights, Michigan and spend some of their time in Florida.

continued from page 25

banksiana has good adaptation to poor soil conditions. It returns to green color in spring.

5. *Pinus pumila* 'Dwarf Blue' Japanese stone pine

Also listed as 'Blue Dwarf', this is the best prostrate pine and it is the focal point at our pond. After 25 years, half of the plant hangs over the pond and it is 2' high x 10' wide. The twisted, blue foliage is decorated with bright red male strobili so it is a knockout in spring with its low spreading branches.

Contact the Editor

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Woody Plant Conference

Friday, July 28, 2006
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Presentations by noted horticulturists and landscape designers will include "Major Players: The Many Roles of Conifers in Design" by Fred Spicer, Executive Director of the Birmingham Botanical Garden.

For more information, call Longwood Gardens' Continuing Education Office at (610)-388-1000 ext. 507, or go to <http://www.scottarboretum.org/>.

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A little stiffer in habit, *P. sylvestris* 'Aurea' will also grow upright to about eight feet in ten to fifteen years. The needles are shorter and stiffer than those of *P. strobus* and the winter color is more golden. The summer color is a medium green color.

Two other exceptional *P. sylvestris* cultivars include 'Gold Coin' and 'Gold Medal'. Both have an upright irregular habit and grow 6-8" per year. Planting on lean soils and not fertilizing will keep the plants more compact. 'Gold Medal' stays somewhat golden year round, while the winter color on both is a beautiful clear yellow.

One other fine selection is *Pinus sylvestris* 'Moseri'. With its compact, dwarf habit and longish needles it is quite different from the other cultivars in habit, yet it still has great yellow winter color.



Pinus mugo 'Aurea' at U.S. National Arboretum. See inside front cover for photo of foliage.

Similar in color, yet with a tidy, mounding habit is *P. mugo* 'Aurea'. One of several winter gold Swiss mountain pines, it possesses good, clear yellow color in the winter months and a light green color the rest of the year. Other winter gold *P. mugo* selections include 'Winter Gold' (which is very similar

to 'Aurea'), 'Ophir', 'Pot o' Gold', 'Zundert' (lower growing and longer needles) and the exceptional 'Carsten' (syn. with 'Carsten's Wintergold'). This last cultivar has shorter needles, a compact habit, and deep orange-gold winter color.

Perhaps one of the best winter gold pines is *Pinus contorta* 'Chief Joseph'. This slow-growing, conical selection of lodgepole pine has slightly twisted needles that turn the most beautiful clear shade of gold in the winter. This is one plant that benefits from well drained lean soils.

And finally, from the scrub pine of the east coast, *Pinus virginiana*; we have the glorious *Pinus virginiana* 'Wate's Golden'. An open, irregular, wind-swept habit and exceptionally bright yellow needles in the winter are all part of this cultivar's endearing charm.

While many of the conifers that we grow provide a strong central focal point in the winter garden, it will be these sun filled pines that will cheer your soul on those long, dreary winter days that never seem to end. For that reason alone, they are worth their weight in gold.

About the author: Susan Martin is Curator of the Conifer Collections, Dogwood and Maple Collections at the U.S. National Arboretum. A founding member of the American Conifer Society, she serves as technical advisor to this publication and on the conifer nomenclature committee. She is the U.S. representative for the International Registration Authority for conifer cultivars.

400-500 years old when found.

Pinus virginiana 'Driscoll' is possibly the smallest Virginia pine available anywhere. It is an emerald green cushion that grows just over .5 inch (1.5 cm) per year.



The other growth habit that works nicely in the rock garden is that of a twisted, sparsely branched, deformed little tree much like those observed at the snow line in alpine settings. These trees are indicative of cold, windy areas with thin, nutrient-poor soils. They add a sense of authenticity to any rock garden. Several cultivars with these attributes are placed in this descriptive category.

Pinus parviflora 'Pygmy Yatsubusa' is a dwarf selection that becomes a dense, miniature tree with no effort on the part of its owner. Single trunked with a central leader and dense branching, it grows about 2 inches (5 cm) per year. Its foliage is light green with short, twisted needles and pronounced winter buds.

Pinus strobus 'Hillside Gem' was found as a seedling about 1964 by Layne Ziegenfuss, Hillside Nursery, Leighton, Pennsylvania. It is a dwarf, open tree with sparse, thin branches and

areas of congested growth. It grows about 2 inches (5 cm) per year with light green foliage and thin, short needles.

Pinus strobus 'Tiny Kurls' is an exceptional dwarf shrub for any rock garden. It has the characteristics of *Pinus strobus* 'Torulosa' (thin, twisted needles and crooked branches) but becomes a small shrub rather than a tall tree. It was grown from seed collected by Greg Williams in Vermont from a *Pinus strobus* 'Horsham' growing under a *Pinus strobus* 'Torulosa'.

There are many new pines that are suitable for the rock garden, but until they have been properly evaluated and prove themselves, the gardener should be prepared for a few disappointments. Meanwhile, work with the cultivars I have described to develop the backbone of an alpine rock garden that will be authentic and provide many years of pleasure.

About the author: Born, raised, and educated on the east coast, Bob has been a science teacher for thirty years. His interest in and passion for conifers began in 1974 when he traded a fern fossil for three choice conifers to landscape his home. In 1979 his passion led to the start of a part-time, mail order nursery business named Coenosium Gardens. A co-founder of the Conifer Society, Bob served as its first president for five years. He and his wife, Dianne, now live in Eatonville, Washington and their garden is a centerpiece of the 2007 national meeting of the ACS.

trees from Ridge's nursery. Of course, Jo Ann should also be acknowledged and thanked for her patience and support of all the personal time and effort Ridge has given on behalf of the ACS.



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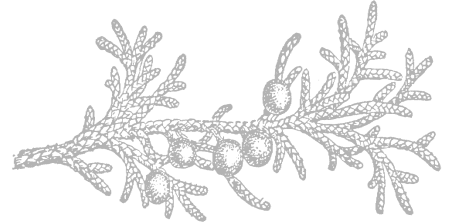
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Florida has a wide variety of environments and no true pine is found in all parts of Florida. For instance, the loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) is the largest and fastest growing 3-needled southern yellow pine. It is a shade intolerant species, adapted to well-drained sandy soil, but not well suited for most of Florida and found naturally only in the north.

Longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) is a 3-needled southern yellow pine that thrives in well-drained soils. Its needles are extremely long (8-18 inches). Its growth habit in youth and its thick mature bark make it fire resistant. This extends its natural range to northern and central Florida.

Pond pine (*Pinus serotina*) is a 3-needled shade-intolerant pine, but tolerates poorly drained soils. To help ensure survival of the species after fires, its cones can stay closed with viable seed up to ten years and will release the seeds

after exposure to temperatures exceeding 200 F. The term for this characteristic is serotinous and the specific epithet (*serotina*) means late.

Sand pine (*Pinus clausa*) is a 2-needled pine with short needles that prefers sandy well-drained soil. Its natural range is predominantly limited to Florida. There are two distinct populations that warrant unique varietal status. The largest population (*P. clausa* var. *clausa*) is referred to as the Ocala sand pine. It is found in north and central Florida. It has developed the serotinous cone trait to help the variety survive forest fires. The other population is found in northwest Florida and does not display this fire survival trait.

Shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*) is a 2-needled southern yellow pine with needles 3-4 inches long. Although it has the widest natural distribution of any of the southern yellow pines, its range within Florida includes only the



THE AMERICAN CONIFER SOCIETY AWARDS \$1000.00 SCHOLARSHIP

By Gerald Kral

The American Conifer Society is pleased to award its 2006, \$1000.00 Scholarship to Kevin C. Stevens of Indianapolis, Indiana. The committee received several excellent applications and selecting the best was difficult. Stevens is a past and current member of ACS. He is training for a career in historic landscape preservation and landscape design.

Joining the American Conifer Society in 2005, Stevens admits to having a passion for conifers for over a decade. Years before entering the "green trade" Stevens visited the Royal Botanic gardens in Kew, London. He happened upon a specimen of *Araucaria araucana* commonly called the Monkey Puzzle Tree. He began his conifer odyssey.

In 2000, Stevens accepted a position with a pharmaceutical company in Indianapolis, Indiana. He had the opportunity to purchase his first home. As a homeowner, he had to maintain the landscape around his home. Having never done this, he took a Master Gardener course and awakened a passion for gardening. After 15 years in public health and medical research, Stevens decided to pursue a career in horticulture.

After completing the Advanced Master Gardener Course, Stevens accepted an internship at the Indianapolis Museum of Art in 2003. He then went to the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew for a three-month internship. During this internship, he was assigned to the area that included the Monkey Puzzle tree

that he saw on his first visit. Returning to the United States, Stevens took a seasonal position with a landscape and build company in 2004. The company specialized in water gardens with a Japanese theme. Stevens designed and installed his first Japanese garden with an emphasis on dwarf conifers.

Stevens completed another three-month internship at the Holden Arboretum. He then went to the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University for a one-year apprentice position. During this tenure he worked with the bonsai master on the Larz Anderson Bonsai Collection. This is the oldest cultivated collection in the U.S. and the majority of the plants are conifers. In addition to this horticultural training, Stevens is currently a student in the Landscape Institute at the Arnold Arboretum. On January 31, 2006, Stevens passed the International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborists Exam.

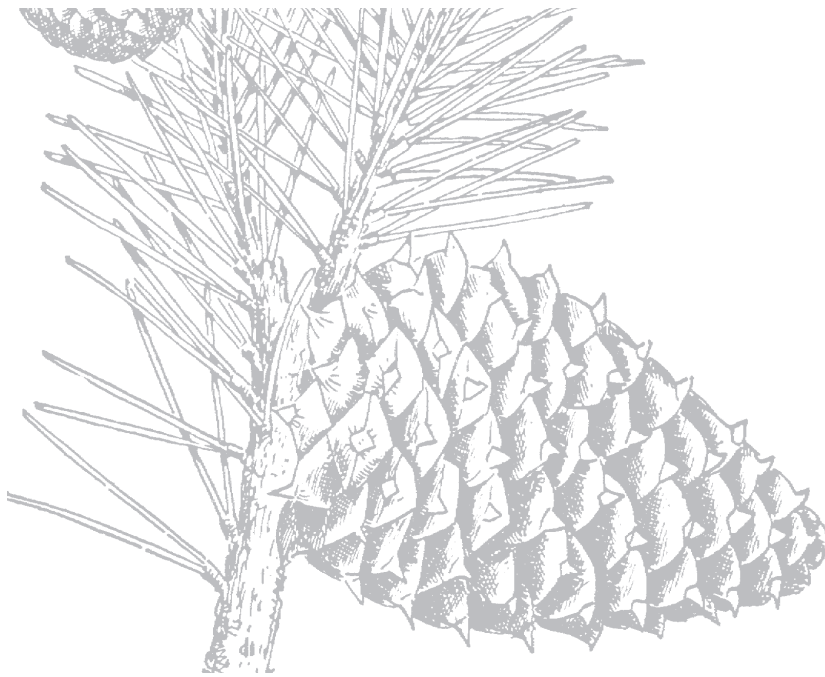
Stevens has been accepted to attend the "The Japanese Garden" intensive seminar in Kyoto, Japan at the Research Center for Japanese Garden Art in October of 2006. This is a prestigious seminar, only admitting 25 students worldwide each year.

The American Conifer Society is honored to help Stevens attend this seminar with our scholarship award. He will represent the American Conifer Society at the seminar and promises to write an article for the Conifer Quarterly upon his return to the States about his experience in Kyoto.

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Do You Have A.C.S.? (ADDICTED CONIFER SYNDROME)

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Many of you know that ACS represents the American Conifer Society. Through my association with this group for the last ten years, I have come to realize ACS really stands for Addicted Conifer Syndrome. The Central Region is well known for the Support Group offered to those phytoholics with a unique weakness for the search and research of mutant conifers. At the 1995 ACS National Meeting in North Carolina, there were even meetings for the families of those who are addicted (mainly at shopping malls). Many people ask "Can you get hooked on these trees the first time?" Absolutely! When analyzed, there are several levels of addiction to those who are powerless about these plants.

Level 1: Awareness - This is the initial phase where in some way, garden conifers are brought to your attention. It could be a magazine article on Ed Rezek or maybe a television program on the Victory Garden about Ed Rezek. Perhaps you were visiting a place that featured interesting conifers. Rich and I literally stumbled into the Hidden Lake Gardens and found "The Harper Collection of Rare and Dwarf Conifers" by accident. Needless to say, it changed our lives.

Level 2: Research - After the initial awareness, you start researching conifers. This is not an easy task for there is no one book or place to obtain all the information. It may start out innocently, reading about the redwoods, giant Sequoias, bristlecones or ginkgos. You join the American Conifer Society (ACS) for information and eventually the ACS Bulletin becomes the most exciting magazine you get! Krussmann, van Hoey Smith, Swartley, and Welch appear on your Christmas list.

Level 3: Acquisition - Reading about these conifers is simply not enough. You must have them! You try your local garden centers and perhaps you find a dwarf Alberta spruce at K-Mart. Tree dreams are common at this level. You find yourself driving longer distances to get to nurseries to purchase unusual plants. Many people are extremely willing to drive a whole day to buy one tree! Family vacations are arranged around these places and addiction is evident by the vacation photos where there are more plants than people in the pictures. The ultimate rationalization occurs before the ACS auction. On your way to the auction you say "I'm not going to spend much at the auction this year." On the way home you mention, "The

**Pine Facts
(Genus *Pinus*)**

- All species dislike shade.**
- No pines are native to the southern hemisphere.**
- No other conifer genus has a similar degree of cone variability.**
- There are 110 species – making it the largest genus of conifers.**
- Many pines have developed a mutualism with animals; such as *P. albicaulis*, which depends on the Clark's Nutcracker to break open the cone and bury the seed.**
- Pines are some of the first trees to repopulate an area after a fire (often referred to as a pioneer species). Pines also serve as protection (shade) for a number of angiosperms in their early development (often referred to as a nurse species).**

Compiled by Tom Cox

PINING AWAY AT RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN

By Tim Thibault

Photos by Barbara Eisenstein

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden is an 86-acre living museum in Claremont, California dedicated to research, conservation and display of the plants of California and northwest Baja, Mexico. Founded in 1927 by Susana Bixby Bryant, the garden moved from Orange County to the present site in 1951. In addition to a living collection and seed bank, the garden includes an excellent research library and its herbarium is one of the largest collections of preserved plant specimens in North America. The herbarium at Rancho Santa Ana houses 1.1 million specimens, including cone and wood collections.

The Living Collection features the Desert Garden, Coastal and Island Garden, Riparian Woodland, Oak Grove, Container Garden and Cultivar Garden in the southern 30 acres. The northern 56 acres is arranged ecologically by plant community, following the classification system of our former director, Philip Munz. Conifer enthusiasts will particularly enjoy the Yellow Pine Forest, Pinyon-Juniper Woodland and Northern Juniper Woodland communities.

Conifers, especially pines, are a significant part of California flora with about 60 species falling into our collection guidelines. The living and seed collections jointly hold over 50 species of conifers with a total of about 2800 taxa, or different kinds of plants, in the collection. Twenty-four taxa of pines are represented in the garden and 14 taxa are

conserved in our seed bank. A single favorite is difficult to pick, but several stand out in different ways.

It could be said that pines are the face of the garden. Stands of *Pinus torreyana*, the Torrey pine, are visible from both streets that border the garden. The lacy canopies rise to over seventy feet supported by trunks three feet in diameter. In addition to its grandeur, *P. torreyana* is also interesting for its natural distribution, limited to populations in coastal San Diego and on Santa Rosa Island. Only a few thousand plants occur in the two native stands. Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden holds five collections from the two sites, although none compete with the sentimental value of the San Diego collection made by Philip Munz himself.

It could be said that pines are the face of the garden.

As visitors enter the garden, two very different looking pines from the same seedlot greet them. One specimen of *Pinus quadrifolia*, variously known as the four-needle pinyon pine or the Parry pinyon pine, is dense and short, while the other has a more open habit, just over 40 feet tall. Many garden visitors think these two plants are different species! Both have tight fascicles of three to five (frequently four, hence the name) blue-green and white needles and a generally columnar form. Another stand of over 70 plants of the same species elsewhere in

Nominations Sought for 2007 American Conifer Society Awards of Merit

Every year the American Conifer Society honors its members with Awards of Merit. Nominations for next year's recipients must be received by November 30, 2006.

Award of Merit for Development in the Field of Conifers

The criteria for this award include the collecting and displaying of conifers, a willingness to share knowledge of plants, and the enthusiasm and drive to discover and develop noteworthy cultivars.

Also taken into consideration are published articles, books, or texts as well as new or improved propagation techniques and designs for the use of conifers.

Marvin and Emelie Snyder Award of Merit for Dedicated Support of the ACS

This award recognizes those who have made outstanding contributions to the American Conifer Society through their service, enthusiasm, commitment and promotion of membership in the Society.

Also, this award acknowledges those who have been deeply involved in the activities of the Society, organizationally or otherwise.



To be considered, your nomination must be accompanied by an outline of the nominee's contributions in the appropriate category. If you wish to nominate a member for either of these awards, include your candidate's name, address, and phone number as well as a brief description of why the person is deserving of the award.

Please send your nominations to:

Don Howse

41370 SE Thomas Road

Sandy, OR 97055

Phone/FAX: 503 668-5834

Email: don@porterhowse.com

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Whatever your area of horticultural interests, Rich and I would suggest that you join a society made up of members with similar interests so that you can learn from experts of that field. There, you can acquire the vocabulary necessary to ask intelligent questions and learn by listening. The great asset of the American Conifer Society is its members: gardeners, university types, nurserymen, and collectors.

For us, exposure to experts such as **Chub Harper, Jerry Morris, Joe Stupka, Ed Rezek, Tom Dilatush, Ed Hasselkus, Pete Girard, Al and Jeff Forinash** established a network for education. We became part of the next generation of Baby Broomers with **Randy Dykstra, Denny Hermsen, Jeff Rathje, and Dave Horst.**

This group helped launch the Central Region at the dedication of Chub's Heartland Collection at the Bicklehaupt Arboretum. Chub and Charlene Harris took over from there to start the Central Region. Generation X is paving the way for the next age group with collector/nurserymen James Wick, Darren Heimbecker, and Jason Smith.

Our association with the members of the American Conifer Society has enhanced our lives both personally and professionally. It has expanded our ability to dream.

When we broaden our exposure, we increase our capacity to achieve more. Life is not what you take but what you leave behind. For those of you with Addicted Conifer Syndrome – JUST SAY YES!

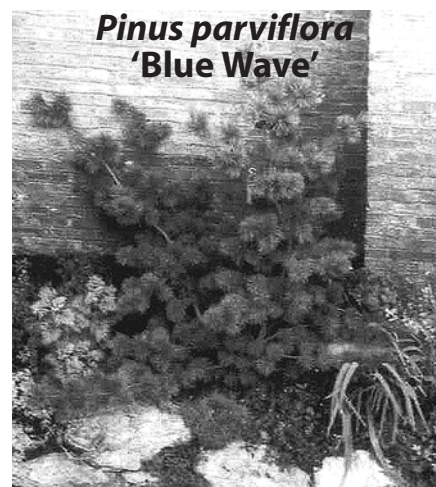
Editors Note: Having Susan Eyre captive for her preceding ACS article, we asked her to give us five top pine recommendations for a garden. The list that she and her husband, Rich, came up with follows. Long-time members of the American Conifer Society, Susan and Rich are owners of Rich's Foxwillow Pines nursery in Woodstock, Illinois.



Susan & Rich Eyre's Favorite Pines

1. *Pinus parviflora* 'Blue Wave' Japanese white Pine

'Blue Wave' is a unique Japanese white pine with a curving trunk. It is also known as *Pinus parviflora* 'Select'. Jean Iseli made selections for a prostrate form of Japanese white pine from a group of seedlings. This tree has dramatic form in a wind swept habit with fabulous bicolor needles. A must for your garden!

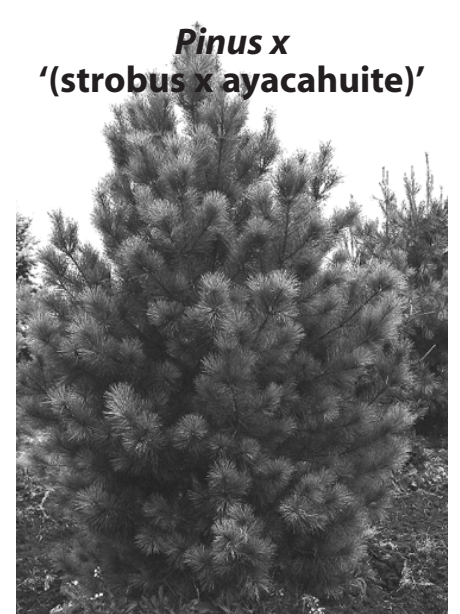


2. *Pinus x* '(strobos x ayacahuite)' hybrid pine

This hybrid pine has unique long, silver-blue needles. It has an attractive pyramidal, dense habit and does not burn in the wind like *Pinus strobus*. This hybrid seedling came from Ithaca New York and was selected by Earl Cully (who named 'Heritage' river birch) and Dick Jaynes (the mountain laurel expert) from an experimental block of trees.

3. *Pinus cembra* 'Glauca Nana' Swiss stone pine

'Glauca Nana' is a strong growing cultivar of Swiss stone pine and is the most shade tolerant of the pines. The generally narrow habit and superior plant vigor make it a superior specimen pine for small to mid-sized yards. This short needled, slow-growing, blue-green dwarf makes a natural growing bonsai in the garden.



4. *Pinus virginiana* 'Wate's Golden' Virginia pine

'Wate's Golden' is a strong grower in the Midwest and has a phenomenal dark gold color in the winter when the temperature drops. What a show with that intense color and spectacular wind swept appearance. This cousin of *Pinus*

continued on page 31



U.S. National Arboretum

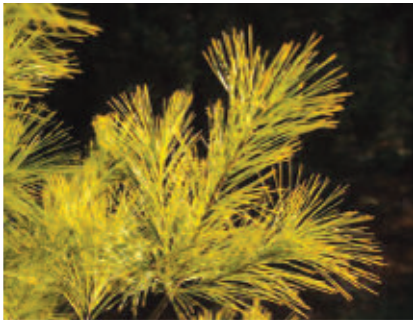
Pinus mugo 'Aurea' foliage

See Susan Martin's article "The Luminous Winter Gold Pines".



U.S. National Arboretum

Pinus sylvestris 'Aurea' foliage



U.S. National Arboretum

Pinus strobus 'Winter Gold' foliage



Rich's Foxwillow Pines Nursery, Inc.

Pinus pumila 'Dwarf Blue'

Pinus coulteri bud
See Tim Thibault's article.



Barbara Eisenstein



Robert Fincham

Pinus mugo 'Little Delight'
See Robert Fincham's article inside.

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Dennis Groh

Araucaria heterophylla
See Dennis Groh's article inside.



Robert Fincham

Pinus mugo 'Carsten Wintergold'
See Robert Fincham's article inside.



Dennis Groh