

## NEW PLANT FORUM

Compiled and moderated by Jack Alexander.

### PRESENTERS:

**Rob Nicholson**, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts

*Tetracentron sinense*

**Kris Bachtell**, The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois

*Acer* × *freemanii* 'Marmo'

**John Larsen**, Bailey Nurseries, St. Paul, Minnesota

*Cornus alba* 'Bailhalo' Ivory Halo™ PPAF

**John Pair**, Kansas State University, Wichita, Kansas

*Maclura pomifera* 'Wichita'

*Cornus florida* 'Ozark Spring'

**Jack Alexander**, The Arnold Arboretum, 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain,

Massachusetts 02130

*Styrax obassia*

**Kathleen Freeland** for **Sid Waxman**, Storrs, Connecticut

*Pinus strobus* 'Sarah Rachel'

*Pinus strobus* 'Goldie'

**Steve McCulloch** and **Bruce Briggs**, Briggs Nursery, Olympia, Washington

*Oxydendrum arboreum* 'Chameleon'

*Arbutus* 'Marina'

*Hosta* 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd'

*Rhododendron* 'Horizon Dawn'

**Elwin R. Orton, Jr.**, Rutgers University, Department of Horticulture Box 231,

Cook College, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903

*Cornus florida* 'D184-11' Wonderberry®

*Cornus florida* 'D376-15' Red Beauty®

### PLANTS

Plants presented in alphabetical order.

***Acer* × *freemanii* 'Marmo'**, Marmo Freeman maple, is an interspecific hybrid of *A. saccharinum* (silver maple) and *A. rubrum* (red maple). The original tree, located in the plant collections of the Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois, was received from an unknown nursery source in the mid 1920s. It is cold hardy to U.S.D.A. Zone 4. It has a medium-fast growth rate.

It is a large deciduous shade tree with an upright-oval habit and strong central leader. The original tree is approximately 80 ft tall with a spread of 35 ft. Leaf shape

resembles silver maple, but is not as deeply lobed. Foliage is an attractive medium green with a contrasting silver-grey underside and colorful red petioles. Fall color is often an interesting kaleidoscope blend of scarlet and maroon, offset with tints of green. Branch structure and general strength of the plant have proven to be superior to silver maple. No seed is produced.

With the exception of extremely dry locations, adapts well to most site conditions in full sun or light shade. Drought and alkaline soil tolerance are superior to red maple. 'Marmo' is pest and disease resistant as an established landscape specimen. Adaptability and quick establishment make this selection an excellent candidate for residential and commercial sites, especially in the urban environment.

It is easily rooted from softwood cuttings taken in June when treated with 5,000 ppm IBA. Grafting on silver or red maples should be avoided to eliminate the potential of graft incompatibility.

***Arbutus* 'Marina'** is a hybrid of *A. ×andrachnoides* and *A. canariensis*. Tree trunk is a satiny, cinnamon color similar to *A. menziesii*. Leaves are dark green, leathery texture, elliptical in shape and 4 to 5 in. long. The drooping, to 6-in., bell-shaped, rose-red flowers are followed by clusters of 2 to 4, bright-red fruit in late fall.

***Cornus alba* 'Bailhalo' Ivory Halo™**, ivory halo dogwood, is an introduction of Bailey Nurseries. It is a compact, rounded selection of variegated dogwood that retains the beautiful green and white variegated foliage in summer and the attractive red twigs in winter. Fall color is insignificant. Ivory halo dogwood is a finer textured, fuller, more compact form that should be useful in smaller landscape areas. Height is 4 to 5 ft with a spread of 4 to 5 ft. It is hardy within Zones 3 to 7 U.S.D.A.

***Cornus florida* 'Ozark Spring'** has been under evaluation since 1975 and just released. It is flower-bud hardy to -22°F (Zone 5) in University of Minnesota laboratory tests. Seedling selection originally from seed collected in Cookson Hills of northeast Oklahoma, by the former Ozark Nurseries of Tahlequah, Oklahoma. It was selected by John C. Pair of Kansas State University out of a population of 125 seedlings having survived the record low of -23°F during 1982 and still flowered. It is upright when young like 'Cherokee Princess'.

Outstanding characteristics include: white overlapping bracts which are more likely to open following dry, desiccating winters; foliage more tolerant of heat under exposed conditions in sunny locations; and excellent wine-red, fall color.

Propagation is by T-budding on seedling understock or softwood cuttings treated with 5,000 to 10,000 ppm IBA in June.

Expected to be best adapted to the Ozark region of Missouri, Arkansas, and eastern Oklahoma but was ready to bloom at Iowa State University when the southern rootstock died.

***Cornus florida* 'D376-15' Red Beauty®**. Plants of this early flowering, red-bracted clone of *C. florida* are semi-dwarf, very dense and self-compacting. The large red bracts are very attractive and provide a spectacular floral display starting in late April in the vicinity of New Brunswick, New Jersey. The original seedling of Red Beauty® resulted from a controlled cross.

***Cornus florida* 'D184-11' Wonderberry®**. Plants of this clone are unusually vigorous, possess thick and leathery, glossy, dark green leaves and are highly

floriferous with an attractive floral display of white bracts in early May. The name Wonderberry® was chosen as the plants produce large, tubular, bright red fruit that are nearly 200% of the size of typical fruit of wild seedlings and other named selections of this species. The original seedling of Wonderberry® resulted from a controlled cross.

***Hosta 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd'*** is a hybrid between *H. tokudama* and *H. sieboldiana*. The foliage is glaucous, large (8 in. × 8 in.) and distinctly cupped like a drinking gourd. Plants grow to 14 in. in diameter and reach 16 in. high. Flowers are white, bell-shaped on scapes 22 in. tall.

***Maclura pomifera 'Wichita'*** is a male, thornless selection found on the Glen Goering farm south of Wichita, Kansas, of moderately upright growth, although suppressed by other nearby trees. The mature 30-year-old specimen is approximately 40 ft tall but would be expected to approach 50 to 60 ft on a good moist site. Leaves are a glossy, dark green, measuring 10 to 12 cm in length and 4 to 6 cm wide. Petiole is grooved, 3 to 4 cm long and contains milky sap as do other parts of the tree. Occasional thorns are produced on juvenile growth, otherwise mostly thornless. A plant known primarily for use in hedgerows and windbreaks, it could be an excellent choice for difficult sites being drought tolerant and pest resistant. Fall color is a good yellow. Tested as far north as Clinton, Iowa.

Propagation by hardwood cuttings is best done in January to March and treated with 5,000 to 10,000 ppm IBA or Hormodin No. 2 or 3 over bottom heat. Softwood cuttings also root easily in May or June with 2,500 to 5,000 ppm IBA. It can be budded in May or August on seedling understock.

***Oxydendrum arboreum 'Chameleon'*** is a chance seedling selected by Polly Hill. At 30 years, it reaches 30 to 35 ft tall with an oval crown. It has a characteristic variable fall color from season to season—sometimes rich red, red to yellow or green, due to early leaf fall. It is hardy to at least Zone 6 U.S.D.A. Briggs Nursery, Inc., Olympia, Washington is the introducer.

***Pinus strobus 'Goldie'*** is also a witches'-broom seedling. Its major attribute is its bright golden yellow foliage. A variegated white pine I have named previously is 'Golden Candles'. 'Golden Candles' is more tree-like and usually has one or two leaders. 'Goldie' is a dwarf shrub with dense branching. Its golden yellow foliage is attractive and remains so throughout the year. It grows approximately 10 in. annually. As with 'Golden Candles', its stems are a bright yellow green. After 12 years of growth it has reached a height of 5 ½ ft and a width of 5 ½ ft. Propagation is by grafting.

***Pinus strobus 'Sarah Rachel'*** was selected from a group of dwarf witches'-broom seedlings. Its major attribute is its form. While most dwarf white pines are broader than tall, 'Sarah Rachel' is taller than broad. Annual growth is approximately 5 in. Its form is ovate with a truncated top. Its branches are all upright and densely arranged. The needles are dark green and appear as thick clusters at each terminal. Propagation is by grafting.

***Rhododendron 'Horizon Monarch'*** is a hybrid between *R. 'Nancy Evans'* and *R. 'Point Defiance'*. Flowers are in a truss of 15 openly funnel-shaped, yellow flowers with a small flare. It has a heavier than average texture. Plant has a spreading

rounded habit, 6 ft wide × 6 ft tall after 10 years. Foliage is elliptical, 6¾ in. long. It is hardy to at least 5°F. This cultivar was bred and introduced by Edwin C. Brockenbrough, Bellevue, Washington.

***Styrax obassia***, the fragrant snowbell, is native to China, Korea, Manchuria, and Japan where it is reportedly common. It is, however, still uncommon if not rare in the U.S. At the Arnold Arboretum it flowers in late May, displaying terminal racemes of fragrant, white flowers. It normally reaches heights of 20 to 30 ft, occasionally more, and tends to be narrower than tall. A small tree or large shrub well suited to the understory, it grows best in light shade and well drained soil.

The fragrant snowbell is usually considered hardy to U.S.D.A. Zone 6, but Michael Dirr of the University of Georgia has performed laboratory tests of individuals from colder parts of the range and found them to be hardier.

We have successfully propagated it from softwood cuttings and from seed stratified warm for 5 months followed by 3-months cold.

For further information on this and other species of *Styrax* see the article by the same name authored by J.C. Raulston in *American Nurseryman*, November 1, 1992.

***Tetracentron sinense*** Oliver is a rare Chinese tree of the ancient, monotypic family, the Tetracentraceae. It is a deciduous tree and in cultivation in the U.K. has grown to 50 ft while in the wild trees of 90 ft are reported. It is native from central and western China and ranges east to east Nepal. In China it can be found in the transitional region between the northern forests and the mixed mesophytic forests of the south. In east Guizhou it is reported at 1,800 m with such trees as *Fagus longipetiolata*, *Nyssa sinensis*, *Prunus wilsonii*, *Cephalotaxus oliveri* and *Acer sinopurpurascens*. *Tetracentron sinense* has ovate to heart-shaped leaves with a long tapered point. The largest size I have seen is 5.5 in. long by 3 in. wide. The inflorescence, which I have not yet seen, is a slender, pendulous, catkin-like spike with numerous small yellow flowers. The fruit is a deeply lobed capsule. Bean's Encyclopedia describes it as a tree of "great elegance and beauty when bearing its slender catkins around midsummer." Propagation is easy from cuttings. A trial of 40 cuttings (July) in four lots of 10 used treatments of control, 5,000 IBA dip, 10,000 IBA dip, and 20,000 IBA dip, under mist, in sand and perlite (1 : 1, v/v). Rooting percentages were 80%, 100%, 60%, and 80% respectively with the heaviest roots on the first two lots. This material came from J.C. Raulston, who obtained his material from University of British Columbia, Botanical Garden. I would guess that its hardiness could be a Zone 7B U.S.D.A..