

JOURNAL

FRIENDS OF THE 'SHAMROCK' HYDRANGEA COLLECTION

Journal n° 33 - Année 2022



www.hortensias-hydrangea.com



Letter from the President

Bryan Woy

At the moment, early in 2022, our Association is doubly in mourning.

On 25 January we lost our old and faithful friend Henri Lamache, who, together with his wife Josiane, now Secretary of Shamrock, experienced with us the very first years of the collection. And on the 29th of the same month we lost Henri Pavie, our Treasurer, after a devastating illness. Our hearts go out to Jeanne, his wife, as well as to Josiane, who are both experiencing this terrible separation from a loved one after many decades of happiness together (see the obituaries below).

Looking back on the year 2021, we can see how far we have come.

We have had to adapt to foreseeable climate changes. The first concern was to put as many plants as possible in the shade, especially the mountain plants that are most sensitive to dry conditions. This move (yet another one, but this time within the Collection!) required the creation or enlargement of less exposed and cooler beds in the lower part of the Bois du Dragon Vert. Several members of our Tuesday team have been working hard on this. Replacement plants have had to be found in the driest area in the upper part of the wood. Windbreaks have been installed on the eastern side of the wood to reduce the impact of the increasingly dominant winds, which can cause damage with heat in summer and cold in winter. Other work is under way to prepare for the future: additional water reserves, new areas devoted to the propagation of endangered plants, and various other improvements.

With the report filmed by TF1 at the beginning of September and broadcast on the national TV news, the collection experienced a great wave of visitors, increasing the total number for the year. We are therefore being very careful to maintain the quality of care we give to welcoming them all and to answering their questions. The leaflets on pruning hydrangeas, generously provided by André Diéval, and “Valeurs sûres” the list of recommended plants published in 2021 by your Association, have both been very successful.

With this Journal n°33, available in French and English on our website, we are continuing our work of disseminating new knowledge about the genus *Hydrangea*.



*Le 15 mars 2022
Bryan Woy*

Missing member:

Henri LAMACHE

Henri quietly passed away on 24 January. He was a force of nature.



He was a pillar of the collection's difficult years and always gave excellent advice.

He was a good old-fashioned multidisciplinary gardener like no other, with the tools and effective methods of his time. He had worked for Maison Vilmorin for a long time, in particular for the staging of exhibitions. This is why he was invaluable when we were invited to Hampton Court to present the Shamrock collection on an area of 42 m², and we were at a loss to set up any kind of stand, as we had brought nothing with us to do so. We had Didier Boos' splendid plants, but they were there «in bulk»! No sooner said than done, Henri surprised us by setting up a superb installation, and we ended up by winning the bronze medal - no small exploit for French exhibitors at the Hampton Court Garden Festival.

Whether in the collection, undertaking the most difficult tasks, or on trips to England with Josiane and Nicole, there are only good memories and, looking back, the recognition of a faithful friendship.

Missing member:

Henri PAVIE

A few days after the loss of our friend Henri Lamache, we had the great shock of losing our other great friend Henri Pavie on 29 January. Their funerals took place on the same day, so we had to divide ourselves up to attend their respective services.



After a brilliant career with the Crédit Agricole, including years of high responsibility in Reunion Island, Henri and his wife Jeanne settled in Seine-Maritime, at La Gaillarde, near Luneray.

It was there that they undertook a wide range of tasks according to their talents. As owners of a large garden, they quickly became interested in collecting hydrangeas and joined our Association. Later, when the position of Treasurer became available, Henri offered to take charge of the accounts, and from 2010 onwards he did this admirably and with exemplary rigour, scrupulously looking after the sometimes-unstable balance of our finances.

But beyond this wise and prudent management, he accompanied us in the difficult decisions that we sometimes had to take. Always open to new ideas and ready to take risks, he was an irreplaceable advisor and support. We liked to see him happy when our operations were running smoothly.

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Thanks for 2021

The Association would like to thank all its members and friends who have contributed in so many ways to the preservation and embellishment of the collection.

For regular weekly work in the collection, here are the 'shock team', whom we can't thank enough: Jean-Marie Rouet, Jean Marc Schoepfer and Pascale Gicquel, Claire Perrin, Anne Nicolle, Stéphanie Poullain, Valérie Lobry and Benoit Granger, and Francis Mulot. Also, a huge thank you to Ghislaine du Tertre, our outstanding accompanist.

André Diéval and Madeleine Alves often did the woodcutting, hedge trimming and tidying up, assisted by the precious and faithful Hervé Lepetit. As a professional tree surgeon, we can always count on our friend Emmanuel Gasdon from "Sol en cimes": emmanuel.gasdon@orange.fr. This year once again we had the unfailing help of Christophe Pannequin for the mowing of a large part of the collection and of Clément Varin for numerous transplantations and various other work.

Finally, on the American side, let us note the unfailing support we've received for years from the AHS (American Hydrangea Society) and particularly from their vice-president Ozzie Johnson, himself a researcher and explorer and a very dear friend.

Special mention

Finally, the year 2021 was supported by the Crédit Agricole bank, through its two branches in Luneray and Dieppe, each of which paid us a bonus when we opened an account with this establishment. We would like to thank them warmly for this.

New hydrangea cultivar introductions

- *H. Asperae* 'Tatiana'
- *H. integrifolia* CHB11T23
- *H. paniculata* 'Skyfall' (syn 'Frenne')
- *H. paniculata* 'Pinkachu'
- H. * 'Bel Alexandre'
- H. * 'Doppio Nuvola'
- H. * 'Romance'
- H. * 'Daredevil'
- 'H. * 'Tiffany'
- H. * 'Tokyo Star'
- *H. serrata* 'Seikai' (syn.'Ohmi')

*hybrides

VISIT FROM JAN OPRINS

In our Journal n°32 pages 17-19 we wrote an article about the Botanical Garden 'De Kleine Boerderij' created by Jan and his son Wout in memory of the former curator of the Kalmthout park, Harry Van Trier. Nowadays Jan, a young retiree, has more time to visit his collector friends and bring them and share little-known plants with them.



From left to right: André Diéval, Madeleine Alves-Teixeira, Jan Hendrickx, Magda Rombouts, Jan Oprins, Maria Breugelmans, Galina Guillaume.

AGM 2021

For those who could not come in person and sent us their votes by proxy, we thought you would like to participate indirectly and retrospectively in this AGM of our Association.



The members, with the presence of Dominique Evrard as a friend and representative of the CCVS.



Henri the Treasurer and Bryan the President



In the foreground André and Madeleine, Jean-Marc Schoepfer, Claire Perrin, Jeanne Pavie, Dominique Evrard and members of the Bureau

The Tuesday team at Shamrock



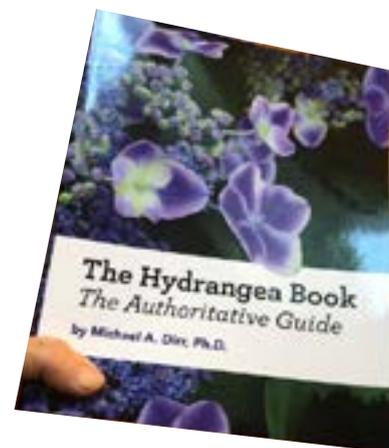
Solace after the effort



The coffee break

'Irish Lace'TM Dr. Michael A. Dirr, Ph.D

From "The Hydrangea Book, an
Authoritative Guide" (Stipes Publishing, 2021)
p.272 (with the author's permission)



In our UGA (University of Georgia) breeding we were so focused on developing remontan t /re blooming mophead *H. macrophylla* that we did not envision a future for a more refine, elegant hydrangea. Dr. Josh Kardos crossed *H. angustipetala* (Editor's note: now *H. chinensis* f. *angustipetala*) with 'Lady in Red' and 'Midnight Duchess' ®, in 2005. Many beautiful lacecap seedlings resulted and all were given away or moved to the compost heap. My partners and I thought there was no market for lacecap, non-remontan t hydrangeas. On April 8, 2015, 10-years after our first hybrid seedlings flowered, I visited the Hydrangea Collection at the Atlanta Botanical Garden-Gainesville. The 2014-15 winter was the worst in our area in 20 years with few hydrangeas even leafing. I spied two plants in the collection with leaves emerging to the top of the stems. One was 'Lady in Red' and the other 'Lady in Red' x *H. angustipetala*, the later one of our throw-away seedlings. Hardy as 'Lady in Red' with semi-evergreen foliage, white lacecap flowers speckled with green and flowers developing from every node. The interspecific crosses with *H. macrophylla* 'Lady in Red' and 'Midnight Duchess' ® were only successful when *H. angustipetala* was used as the male. This resurrected hybrid was evaluated for several years and given the name 'Irish Lace'TM.

Added comments from Michael Dirr (on January 22nd)

I believe Robert and readers would be interested in this story on 'Irish Lace'. Plants by Katie's home, west side, are holding 1/2 of their leaves (1-22-22), still lustrous dark green and largely *Cercospora* free. The foliage does not flag in the heat of summer. We have hybrids this year with 'Blowing Rock' ('After Midnight') and 'Summer Crush'. Hoping for a mophead with the great foliage characteristics.

I kept reasonable records on hybrids that flowered in 2021 since flowers would have been produced on new growth and thus potentially remontan t. 'Blowing Rock' x 'Irish Lace' produced no 1st year flowering seedlings. 'Summer Crush' x 'Irish Lace' produced 15 flowering seedlings from total of 105 for a 14.3% return. Unfortunately, I did not see the inflorescences yet. It will be exciting to see this year what I missed last year.



'Irish Lace'



H. chinensis f. *angustipetala* BSWJ 3667
(Alishan, Taiwan)

***H. chinensis* f. *angustipetala* in the Shamrock collection (Robert Mallet)**

In his excellent book, referenced above, Michael Dirr cites on page 270 a plant of this species collected by Dan Hinkley (under collection no. 9916) that was still green in his collection after a cold snap of -5° C. on 6 December 2018.

In the Shamrock collection we only have plants acquired from our friends at Crûg Farm, collected in different parts of Taiwan under collection nos. BSWJ (Bleddyn and Sue Wynn-Jones) 3543 3454 3476 3667 3814.

Some of these plants are quite low, others grow to a height of three metres, such as the cultivar 'Macrosepala' BSWJ 3476. The spectacular flowering is early (mid-June) and very fragrant. The foliage is semi-evergreen. The location is shaded but bright. A large plant has been lost due to two years of drought in 2019-2020. Possibly rotted due to frequent watering at the base.



H. chinensis f. *angustipetala* 'Macrosepala'



Cape Cod by Jennifer Petritz

Visit to North American Hydrangea Test Garden at Heritage Museum and Garden
Jennifer Petritz, newsletter editor for *The American Hydrangea Society (AHS)*

I was fortunate to travel with a contingent from the American Hydrangea Society in the summer of 2021 and attend the ribbon cutting ceremony of the new hydrangea test garden at Heritage Museum and Garden. The test garden initially opened in 2016 and was spearheaded by Dr. Michael Dirr with the support and backing of Bailey Nurseries, Star Roses & Plants, Proven Winners, The Cape Cod Hydrangea Society, Mike and Bonnie Dirr, and the American Hydrangea Society. The mission of the test garden is to evaluate new hydrangea introductions across several species and make the resulting data available to the public. According to the Heritage website, there are currently eight cultivars of *Hydrangea arborescens*, 21 cultivars of *Hydrangea macrophylla*, 11 cultivars of *Hydrangea paniculata*, and one cultivar of *Hydrangea serrata* being evaluated. A link to the research reports can be found at <https://heritagemuseumsandgardens.org/gardens/hydrangea-test-garden-research/>.

Criteria for evaluation includes ability to re-bloom, bloom quality and quantity, bud hardiness, sun tolerance, and resistance to pests and disease. The test garden also includes many older, more well-known cultivars which are used for the purpose of comparison. Horticulture staff at Heritage document and collect data, which benefit both hydrangea breeders as well as gardeners.

The new test garden is very attractive and thoughtfully designed by Les Lutz, Heritage's director of horticulture. Rather than rows of hydrangeas, there are grouped plantings, seasonal color, and swathes of perennial companion plants. The overall effect is that of a pleasure garden and it flows seamlessly into the hydrangea display garden.

It was interesting to learn that Cape Cod has three distinct growing zones; Heritage is in USDA Hardiness Zone 6A. Much of the rest of the Cape is in 7A with some areas designated as 6B. Additionally, the Cape has several microclimates due to it being a peninsula. Plant hardiness can vary greatly from a garden near the water to one several streets inland. The gardens of Heritage have come up with an ingenious method of planting in their display gardens to help buffer the effects of weather and fast draining soil. As Mal Condon, the Heritage hydrangea curator explained, they use a pot-in-pot system, essentially an in-ground container planting which allows the plants to be moved around or replaced and the approach makes it easier to manipulate the pH. The natural soil of Cape Cod is a glacial composition of stone, sand and clay which is free draining and doesn't hold moisture. Heritage mixes in their own compost and adds a drip irrigation emitter ring to each plant which are then linked to create irrigation zones. This irrigation method of watering only the root zone also helps with preventing leaf spotting. By combining this pot-in-pot method and carefully controlled irrigation, Heritage display gardens can be virtually assured of having blooms. I would expect that the test gardens would not be as carefully controlled as the point would be to evaluate the plants on their own merits or lack of.

Heritage Gardens takes a unique approach to pruning *Hydrangea macrophylla* under Mal's direction. The garden uses what he calls a seasonal 'step' approach. Step 1 begins in late winter/ early spring with a regenerative prune where all dead and aging canes are removed. This is followed by Step 2 in mid-spring with a detailed pruning where any wood that fails to bud up properly is removed back to a pair of viable buds. Step 3 is a pinch pruning done in July where non-blooming summer growth is pinched back to improve the overall form and appearance of the plant and prevent blooming canes from being obscured by leafy growth. This last step is important to get the timing right so that any resulting new growth can harden off and create new buds for the following season. Additionally, this method of pinch pruning can produce rapid new growth in re-blooming varieties, allowing for a flush of new blooms and extending the season.

The winter of 2019 -2020 was a mild one on Cape Cod with moderated temperatures and no big late winter spikes, which made for a spectacular summer season of hydrangea bloom. Fortunate weather and careful horticultural practices made both the new hydrangea test garden and the hydrangea display garden a sight to behold last summer. I look forward to returning soon and following the research and evaluations of the Heritage hydrangea test garden.



Mal Condon and Dr. Michael Dirr looking at 'Twist'n Shout'



The new Heritage experimental garden



Companion plants in the experimental garden



The 'pot-in-pot' and irrigation system



Decorative ground cover plants



‘Seaside Serenade’



‘Wedding Gown’



Different views of the Heritage experimental garden



Paul BRUGGER

Translation of a letter from Manfred Heck, nephew of Paul Brugger, to Matthias Riedel in 2017.

My uncle was born in Tett nang on 13 November 1903, son of the nurseryman Georg Brugger. After the death of our grandfather (1954) he took over the nursery in Tett nang together with his sister Anna Brugger. Before that he had already worked for the Ziegenbalg company in Dresden. As the cultivation of ornamental plants was not allowed during the Second World War (under the Reichsnährstand), he had to hide his favourite plants, hydrangeas, for a brief period.



But after the end of the war, he immediately began breeding new hydrangea varieties, which, thankfully, continue to be cultivated by yourself. I see you mention the hydrangea varieties ‘Montfortperle’, ‘Alpen-glühen’ and ‘Bodensee’ in your letter to the Heck family in Tett nang. Other varieties I can remember were ‘Hildegard Königer’ and ‘Rosamunde’. Our uncle had also dealt with the improvement of the cultivar ‘Soeur Therese’.

The Königer company in Aalen took over the rights to the cultivars and our uncle received compensation for it. Before my military service in 1965 and 1966 I was employed as a gardener’s assistant in my uncle’s and aunt’s company and had to deal intensively with the cultivation of hydrangeas. At that time, breeding of new hydrangea varieties was no longer so intensively pursued and the production and marketing of hydrangeas was the main source of our income.

Paul Brugger continued to develop new varieties until the mid-1970s. All his attention was focused on hydrangeas. Brugger’s varieties were compact (even without artificial growth regulators), kept their colour well, and were relatively easy to grow, which met the expectations of customers and growers alike.

Paul Brugger could be very sensitive to criticism when it came to his plants. His weak point was the marketing of his new varieties.

In July 1978 my brother Berthold took over the horticultural business from the joint heirs Paul and Anna Brugger in Tett nang and, together with my sister-in-law, converted it into a service business (floristry, cemetery, bedding and balcony plants).

Since 2017, their daughter Steffi Heck has been in charge of the family business.

On 14 February 1983 our uncle died in Tett nang. His breeding successes were not given much publicity because our uncle remained a modest man and marketing the varieties was not his forte.

On the trail of Paul Brugger’s plant varieties

Armed with this information and a little imagination, I “downloaded” myself to the region and time of Paul Brugger.

His small hometown, Tett nang, with a population of 20,000, is located in southern Germany, in the Swabian region (Schwabenland), next to Lake Constance (‘Bodensee’) and Montfort Castle (the Pearl of Montfort – ‘Montfortperle’).

From here, there is a splendid view of the Alps and their meteorological phenomena, known there as ‘Alpenglühen’, the famous twilight glow that sets the mountain tops ablaze.

Did Brugger contemplate these splendours to the sound of Schubert’s ‘Rosamunde’ and ‘Ave Maria’ or was he inspired by the pop song of the fifties, ‘Rosamunde’, sung by his compatriots who had finally been freed from the horrors of war?

As for 'Hildegard Königer', one can imagine that she must have been a member of the Königer family, whose company acquired the rights to Paul Brugger's varieties.

Editor's note: We also have 'Merkur' in the Shamrock collection, a well-known plant from the Brugger nursery. 'Merkur' is similar in colour to 'Leuchfeuer', but is half its size. This compact form was the reason why Herr Preisig (Haller's breeder) chose it when he was looking for low-growing, very colourful plants. At least that is our assumption. Finally, we have 'Chamberlain', which some people give as a synonym for 'Schwabenland' (Swabia), a plant we hope to find out more about.



Berthold et Conny, and their daughter Steffi

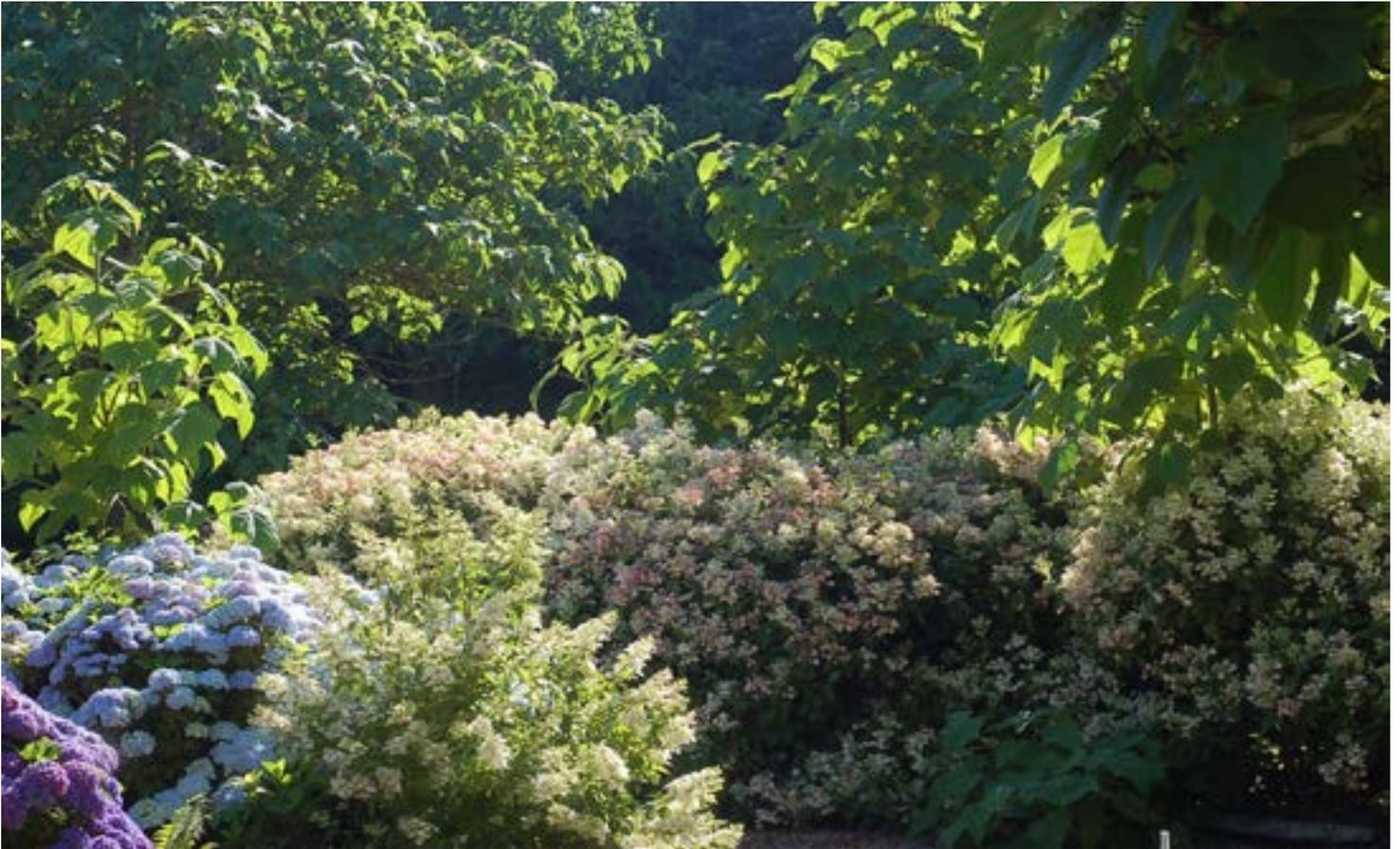


'Chambellan'



'Merkur'

Some recent views of the Shamrock Collection



An explosion of early H. paniculata



Panoramic view in summer



H. 'Nikko Blue' & H. 'Victoria'



Late September view



'Mariesii' & 'Together'



'James Grant'



Shaded view



'Hopaline' & 'Blue Deckle'

Hydrangeas in Vizcaya (Spain).

From Gonzalo Gonzales Landa and Javier Gonzales Navajas.

This note is to introduce a new book on hydrangeas published in Spanish, written by Gonzalo Gonzalez Landa and his son Javier Gonzalez Navajas. Gonzalo writes: “I must begin by saying that I am a scientist, a doctor by profession. Science drives me to be rigorous and this aspect conditions the approach of the book I have written, I have a certain qualification as I have a Basque farming background and used to help my aunt and uncle in Lekeitio during the summer. The title of the book is *Hydrangeas. Afición por la flor del siglo XXI*, to be published in the spring of 2022, with the aim of writing the first original book in Spanish about hydrangeas and to report on the advances in the cultivation and marketing of hydrangeas in the last ten years. We started to buy hydrangeas in 1992, without any pretensions because it was a plant that needs little care and has a long flowering period; at that time, I lived on a farm with a garden. In 2000, during a visit to London, I bought my first book “*Hydrangeas*” by Glyn Church, which was a real discovery. Later, in 2005, I came across Corinne Mallet, through her book *Hortensias et Hydrangeas*, Ulmer, 2002. Through this little gem I began my definitive connection with these plants, and Corinne has been my guide in this journey. My acquisition of books on hydrangeas became almost compulsive, and now includes practically all the available bibliography on the genus published in English and French. In the same year, my friendship began with Patrick Labbe, of the nursery Pépinière Côte Sud des Landes in St-Geours-de-Marenne, Landes. He has become my major provider of hydrangeas. That year, 2005, we acquired a one-acre farm, next to the University of Leioa, Vizcaya, Basque Country, where I started my first collection, Collection 1, with plants arranged around the main building, the swimming pool and the periphery of the farm. The collection grew to 70 varieties, grown on a neutral ph loam soil, to which I added aluminium sulphate and oak leaves in an attempt to blue the hydrangeas, without a great deal of success. Collection 2 was started around the same time in 2006; my son Javier and I started this second collection in Gatica, Vizcaya, on a 10-acre site. The garden occupies one hectare, and has very poor acidic soil, Gerard Mendiburu of the Pépinières Laffite nursery commented during a visit: “you are working against nature”. After much effort and some failures, we now have about 400 hydrangea plants, with more than 250 varieties of 9 species. With the objective of minimizing transplant stress, we grow our plants in successively larger pots for between one and three years before planting them out. In this region oak, willow and chestnut trees grow spontaneously, and some areas have become too dark and gloomy recently.”



Plants in larger pots before being planted out



Henri Lamache and Marco Cobo



Views of Marco Cobo's garden in Comillas (Cantabria - Spain)

Sugimoto new plants

Letter to Robert and Corinne

March 21, 2021

Translation: Robert Mallet

I sent you photos of “Hachijochidori” and “Kumoiduru” the other day.

I was planning to send a sentence with the characteristics immediately, but I am sorry that I was late due to poor physical condition.

“Hachijochidori” A variety registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

No. 18598. It is a native species of Hachijojima in the Izu Islands, and it blooms all year round in four seasons. The flowers that bloom in winter are petals as shown in the photo, and they are really beautiful. The width of the petals increases depending on the season. “Kumoiduro»” A variety registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

No. 24276. *H. macrophylla*, a giant ring that grows naturally in the southern part of the Izu Peninsula. The diameter of the inflorescence is 30 cm or more. There are 8 decorative flowers. The length of one decorative flower is 8 cm. Small flowers also come out well. The meaning of “Kumoiduro” is noble. «Reihoh-no-yuki» is a variety registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

No. 24277. *H. scandens* that grow naturally in the southern part of the Izu Peninsula. It is upright and has a height of about 2 m. Side buds come out from each decoration, and many flowers are attached to the side buds. It becomes a raceme.

It will bloom in May, so I will take a picture of the flowers that bloomed this year and send them.



‘Hachijochidori’



‘Kumoiduro’

Various new cultivars



'Black Lace'



'Gotemba Nishiki'



'Hatijo Tidori'



'Iyo-no-Usuzumi'



'Rêverie Blue'



H. serrata 'Seikai'

Seen on Facebook



'Phloxinia' by Dirk Staels



'Tetsu' *x var angustata*, by Tetsu Hirasawa

HISTORY and DESCRIPTION of the JARDIN DES LIANES

After seven years of living in the big city, without a garden or balcony, we came to live in Chériennes in 1983 on a 5400 m² plot of land.

Once the house was built, our dream and our common passion could finally become reality.

In the autumn of 1985, the first planting began.

Priority was given to the surroundings of the house and to the planting of trees and shrubs that would serve as a background and shelter for future plantings.

Then, year after year, we created different flowerbeds in order to fill the whole area. No plan was defined beforehand. We have created our garden by inspiration, by looking, by observation, by simply respecting a few lines of perspective. The aim is to achieve the most natural look possible, a place that is meant to be free and romantic, where people like to walk and relax.

The choice of trees and shrubs depends on their size, shape and colour. We like to combine green, grey, purple and yellow foliage and favour 'mixed colours' to light up the scene as much as possible. This also allows us to have a diversity of colours (even without flowers) from the time the leaves open in April until the magnificent colours of autumn.

But for us, a garden should also surprise with its scents. This is why we have chosen many fragrant flowering shrubs such as viburnums, lonicera, prunus, ... and, of course, roses. We are passionate about old roses (the most beautiful and most fragrant in our eyes) and David Austin's English roses. The garden now has over 450 varieties, chosen for their colour (preferably pastel), fragrance, disease resistance and adaptation to the region. The roses are mixed with other shrubs and associated with perennials and hydrangeas (a collection of over 500 varieties). The hydrangeas are the perfect complement to the roses. The "serrata" start to flower here around 15/20 June, July is the peak flowering time for most varieties. The later ones bloom around mid-August.

We have developed a particular interest in this species, which adapts quite well to our soil and climate. And it is with pride that we introduce our visitors to new and interesting varieties, as well as older ones, sometimes on the verge of extinction, but which we maintain, in association with a few other collectors, to ensure their continuity.

In order to limit weeding, we use a lot of ground cover such as geraniums, lamiers, ajugas, periwinkle (vinca major), comfrey...; this has the effect of giving a 'country garden' look.

Over the years, the garden has been enhanced by numerous structures such as the pigeon house (built by us with recycled stones in 1994), a well, three wooden huts, two ponds, numerous pergolas and, of course, numerous benches and places to contemplate and dream.

About forty nesting boxes have been installed in order to favour the numerous species of birds that we are lucky enough to observe throughout the year.

This garden has now reached a good level of maturity, which does not prevent us from enriching it each year with many new varieties.

We have been happy to open the garden to the public for the past twenty-two years in order to share our passion and experience as self-taught growers.

The garden is interesting all year round, but our favourite time of year is May-June-July. Visitors can then enjoy the roses and hydrangeas to the full and appreciate the place looking its very best.

Our garden was awarded the Jardin Remarquable label in July 2006, and this was renewed in 2010, 2015 and 2020.

The Jardin des lianes also represented the Nord-Pas de Calais region in Stéphane Bern's programme on France 2: "Le Jardin Préféré des Français 2014".



Guy Lebel in front of 'Jogasaki'



'Nikko Blue'

Le Jardin des Lianes

8 Rue des Capucins

62140 CHERIENNES

Tel 03 21 81 68 22

Mail : guy.lebel@orange.fr

Website : jardindeslianes.fr

“Jardin Remarquable” Label

“Qualité Tourisme” Label



This 5400 m² garden of collections is designed to be loose, romantic, fragrant, colourful and easy to maintain.

It is structured from specimen trees and shrubs, providing a wide variety of foliage, from spring colour to magnificent autumn colours.

The fragrance of viburnums and other flowering shrubs is followed by 450 varieties of old roses and fragrant English roses, which can be enjoyed along the many small pathways.

A very fine collection of hydrangeas (over 500 varieties) also provides variety, offering, along with the perennials, flowers to be admired until the first frost.

A dovecote, a small well, a few huts, numerous gazebos and benches all contribute to the decor.

The charm of this now mature garden lies as much in its romantic allure as in the richness of its plantings.

Admission fee

Individuals : 5 €

Groups : 5 € (Including guided tour)

Free for children under 12 accompanied by their parents

Dates of opening

From 1 May to the end of September

Every day (except Wednesday)

From 2 pm to 7 pm on weekdays

From 10 am to 7 pm on weekends and public holidays

By appointment outside these dates



Events in 2022

4, 5 and 6 June: Rendez-vous aux jardins (Gardens and climate change)

From 11 to 26 June: Roses and fragrances festival (with sale of numerous varieties of fragrant roses)

From 2 July to 7 August: Spotlight on hydrangeas (with the sale of numerous varieties from the Hortensi-Artois hydrangea collection)

‘Butterfly’: a very attractive *H. paniculata* for pollinators

During the last 20 years of experimenting with *H. paniculata* at Shamrock, we have noticed that some of them are fragrant and attract insects, such as bees and butterflies. The first of these was a cultivar named ‘Papillon’ bred by Jelena De Belder. This attraction was noticed the day we saw a large specimen in the collection covered in butterflies. Less late-flowering and less cumbersome, ‘Butterfly’ is even more remarkable for its abundance of fertile flowers and strong fragrance. It could have been called ‘Giga Pearl’, as the sepals of the sterile flowers are long and numerous (up to 6) ending at the end in a gutter shape. Its real name ‘Butterfly’ was found by Olivier Beziel of the “Jardins d’Avremesnil” nursery.



‘Butterfly’



‘Mega Pearl’

Butterflies love Shamrock (Inventory to be followed)

Identified by Jean-Marc Schoepfer



'Le Paon-du-jour'



'Le Gamma'

Vagaries of a gardener and his cuttings

by André Dièval

2021 was a rather sad year for the gardener and nurseryman that I am. Late frosts and ravaging field mice took their toll on a large part of my production.

A plan "B" was necessary. The end of the summer was pleasant. The temperature was right, not too hot and not too cold. Why not take cuttings using perlite?

Perlite is a material of volcanic origin. It is a silica sand containing water, with neutral pH, ideal for cuttings. (Photo 1) It has a white granular appearance and is very light. In a basin, fill a pot with this material. (Photo 2) Perlite absorbs water. Soaking time is a few hours. (Photo 3) After emptying the water from the container, it's time to take cuttings. I chose a Hydrangea Kawakamii, a spontaneous seedling from the Garden, very pretty. (Photo 4)

Labelling is essential. The name of the plant, the date of the cutting (14 September 2021) on a plastic label. I reinforce identification with a marking on the pot and in a booklet intended for this purpose. (Photo 5)

The propagation session is over. I place the clearly identified pots under a plastic tunnel. (Photo 6) Success of the operation will depend on the special attention paid to aeration, watering, etc.

4 weeks after taking the cuttings, I can see some roots. At the beginning of November, I start repotting. Roots are present (Photo 7), but they are very fragile.

It is essential to sift the soil. (Photo 8) The repotting is done with great care. (Photo 9: n°105 corresponds to *H. involucrata* ‘Yoraku’) A close-up of the roots justifies repotting in a light potting soil (Photo 10)

Plants of the subsections *asperae* and *macrophyllae* root very well in perlite. (Photos 11-12-13) A trial on other species should be considered.

The pots are placed under cover. (Photo 14)

The good propagator’s kit, with perlite! (Photo 15)

Timeline: cuttings taken on 14 September 2021

Start of root production on 12 October 2021

Re-potting on 8 November 2021 (result in spring 2022).









The good propagator's kit, with perlite!

Sieve, pots, marker, secateurs and pruning shears, planter, labels and pencil, basin and watering can, and perlite.

Work in the collection in 2021

This damp year fortunately favoured the recovery of plants that had suffered in 2020.

The aim was to prepare for a year of probable heat and drought in 2022.

Three aspects of this problem had to be addressed: drought, wind, and direct sunlight.

With regard to drought, we were mainly concerned with finding the funds to install a second rainwater storage tank, to draw up estimates for it and to start installing it at the end of the year. The supply lines for both tanks were modified for simplicity and two filtering manholes were installed.

To reduce the impact of easterly winds, we have installed a barrier of 3 large holm oaks, viburnum and holly along the road. This will be complemented by windbreaks along the eastern boundary. For the scorching southerly winds, it is prudent not to open up the existing wall of vegetation. However, an opening should be kept towards the plain to facilitate the flow of cold air from the north in the event of frosty periods.

In terms of shading plants that suffered in the summer of 2020, especially *H. serrata*, a lot of work was done by several members of the team to enlarge the existing shaded beds, which simultaneously controlled the root invasion of nearby trees. The arrangement was completed by adding potting soil and mulch. The plants affected by the drought could then be transplanted.

In addition, several unsightly stumps were removed to limit the proliferation of honey fungus (*Armillaria mellea*).

Finally, in general, in order to comply with the conditions of our recognition by the French Ministry of Agriculture as a “National Collection Manager”, we have taken steps to increase our capacity to propagate certain endangered plants, as a conservation measure.



The new tank awaiting installation

Correspondence

Michael Dirr (translation 2nd letter of 27 November 2021)

Dear Robert

I loved the picture of the Shamrock Garden (mid-season) and would like to visit it again and enjoy its beauty.

Thank you for your information on 'Runaway Bride'. I had been told that *H. scandens* was one of the parents. (NDLR : *H. scandens* ssp *angustipetala*, is now named *H. chinensis* f. *angustipetala*) I did not know that *H. luteovenosa* and *H. virens* were the same entity.... I have added a plant of 'Runaway Bride' to my garden and it has been beautiful this spring. Unfortunately, no repeat flowering. The foliage has been disease resistant with no evidence of mildew and a few rare spots of *Cercospora*.

Please feel free to use cultivar names from my book to include in your superb Index. This index is an excellent reference for all hydrangea lovers. I am sending you an index that was made by a professional indexer and wish I had known about it before publishing my book.

Best wishes to you and Corinne.

From Maurice Foster, 03/24/2021

Good evening,

Thank you for sending me your recent excellent newsletter. Some very interesting plants were featured, notably Magic Pillow which looked a stunning and unusual cultivar.

Fingers crossed for your planned opening on June 19. Things dont look too good in France at the moment.

Hope you are keeping well and out of mischief. I am expecting my second vax in a couple of weeks, so hopefully will soon be able to take the car out and visit friends for the first time for mre than a year. When you are 85, a year is a lot more than 365 days and a significant percentage of what remains.

bestest, Maurice

From Daniel Kuszac

There are no more seasons.

At Bois Lurette, the late frost last spring undoubtedly affected the flowering of some of the hydrangeas. Nevertheless, this same frost allowed some resilient varieties to gratify us with a single inflorescence at the end of October. This is the case for 'Corsage', 'Cotton Candy', 'Komachi', 'Princess Diana', and 'Star Gazer'.

One can easily imagine the "explosion" in 2022 if we are spared a frost in April.

All the best.

Correspondence (more)

Eliane Lebret, 11/21/21

Hallo Robert

Just a quick note to let you know about the tribulations of my dear “plant friend” ‘Schadendorff’s Perle’ whose name was Americanised to ‘Schnadendorf Pearl’ after crossing the Atlantic.

Thanks to the AGM of the CCVS, in which I had the good idea of participating by video the other day, Jan-Willem Vos offered to receive the parcel for me in Holland, where he seems to be used to importing plants and where the formalities, even if they are the same, seem easier than in France.

I am in contact, almost close I would say despite the 8000 km that separate us, with Kristin VanHoose, the American nurserywoman of Hydrangeasplus. My plant is still in Oregon at the moment, where it has successfully passed its first phytosanitary inspections by the Agriculture Inspectorate. Kristin is pampering it, disinfecting it and subjecting it to all sorts of hygienic treatments to rid it of any American impurities and make it “Europe Compatible”.

Now we are impatiently waiting for the first frosts to accelerate the vegetative dormancy of this Germanic Pearl. For the time being, the temperatures are still too mild in Oregon. So, Kristin and I are begging for a little frost in the next few weeks. Then UPS will take over, with my friend’s health certificate. I hope that the altitude will not make it sick and that it will pass the last controls at the Dutch border. From there, Touraine will only be a short distance away. I would even be prepared to pick it up in Alkmaar, near Amsterdam, where it is due to land.

I’ll keep you informed about developments...

About Kristin VanHoose: I saw that there is a hydrangea with her name in the Shamrock directory. No date, no breeder’s name. I asked her about it and she told me that she and her husband had found this hydrangea, which looked like no other, in the corner of a greenhouse when they bought the nursery in 1999. That’s how come they named it like that.

Schönen Abend.

Tetsu Hirasawa

I want everyone to know about wild hydrangeas. And I want anyone to use my photos freely. Thank you so much.

(Facebook 08/07/21)

Correspondence (more)

Ozzie Johnson and Robert, 08/18-20/2021

Climbing 'Dooley'

Hello my friend, I thought that you would be astonished by this climbing hydrangea named 'Dooley'. I remember Vince Dooley (Vincent J. Dooley is the famous American Football coach at the University of Georgia) being here in 2007 and discovering with surprise this plant at the entrance of the collection. He exclaimed, "but 'Dooley', that's me!" This year with so much rain, it certainly is climbing (on a Japanese maple).

Very best,

Robert

Reply from Ozzie Johnson 08/18/2021

Love it! How tall is that climbing, 3 m? My irrigation well went out this last week and all my plants were getting very dry. Fortunately I was able to get a company out here and it has been repaired and we had a tropical storm yesterday dump a ton of rain. Mike Dirr has a new update on his hydrangea book. I bought some and asked him if he was going to send to you because I wanted to get one to you and he said he was going to send you the new book. If he does not, please let me know and I

will. I am working on paperwork for a begonia I have bred and I am introducing. There will be four in this "Moon" series The first one I patented was 'Sterling Moon':

these are very large growing, have some hardiness in that they have come back after winter for five years in my garden. The mother plant which I got these seedlings was a species I collected in northern Vietnam. It is being produced in Europe by Vitro Westlan in the Netherlands. Fingers crossed for success.



Correspondence (end)

Robert's answer:

Dear Ozzie,

'Dooley' is 2m50, on a single branch. Michael did send me his impressive book. I am half-way through it and admire the considerable work behind it. Really a book mainly for the States. Including the difficulties offered by the 'continental' US climate (see the Cape Cod Heritage experimental garden's latest statistics!). It is Corinne's descriptions that she has grouped together as *H. x serratophylla* that are doing best: 'Tokyo Delight', 'Veitchii', 'Odoriko Amacha', (attractive all summer). But, like all, *H. serrata* (and mountain plants like *H. involucrata*) they need more shade and more water. Very useful to evaluate the latest plants selected by American hydrangea breeders and offered to the market. Also propagation tips, just when we are starting propagation in our new greenhouse donated by the French Ministry of Agriculture. Plants provided by Tim Wood through their Dutch distributor are doing well at Shamrock. This year we had in flower at the same time the *H. serrata*, *H. ssp yezoensis* (ground cover), *H. paniculata* (early and late), *H. aspera* and sub-section, *H. quercifolia*, *H. arborescens*. Incredible (thanks, we guess, to the two months of intermittent rain we have had). Lots of visitors and next week a TV channel (the National channel TF1, with a very large audience) which is coming to film the garden. This new begonia of yours looks very promising. Congratulations. Have a very good late summer season. The photo of yourself posted on Facebook was very good (can we publish it in the next newsletter?).

Very best,

Robert



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