

JOURNAL

FRIENDS OF THE "SHAMROCK" HYDRANGEA COLLECTION

Journal n° 26 - 2015



www.hortensias-hydrangea.com



Celestial Garden, summer 2014

E d i t o r i a l

Bryan Woy

Dear friends of 'Shamrock',

The past year, 2014, our society's 20th anniversary, has been beneficial in several ways:

- Different operations favourable to the *H. serrata* in the collection that were suffering from competition from roots (including those of a huge ash) and also lack of light in the wood. No less than eight tree stumps have been buried thanks to the legendary efficiency of our friend Henri Guyomard and his mechanical shovel.
- Increases both in general awareness of the collection and in visitor numbers.
- An early but exceptionally abundant flowering season.

We have, however, sometimes had to battle against circumstances:

As the annual sale in Varengeville in aid of 'Shamrock' was a little less productive than the previous year's one, we took the initiative of asking our friend Dr Marzec, organiser of the Doullens plant festival, if he could accommodate us in order to sell the plants that remained unsold. Thanks to Henry Lamache's invaluable help loading the pallets on to a rented truck, and especially help on the spot from Andre Diéval, Madeleine Alves, Daniel Kuszac, Jean-François Pelka, Martine Merlin and Bernard Tordeurs, the plants on our stand were a complete sell-out; many thanks to the Doullens association and its members for their very warm welcome.

E d i t o r i a l

(c o n t i n u e d)

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The early flowering resulted in more rapid wilting, therefore dead-heading: about ¼ of the flowering heads of *H. macrophylla* hybrids had to be removed at the end of August. Fortunately the *H. paniculata* put on a dazzling display of flowers.(see the picture on the front page).

Note that last year we were able to take part in the famous “Botanical Encounters” organised by the Academy of Varengeville-sur-Mer Gardens (*Académie des Jardins de Varengeville s/mer*).

The “Dieppe-Maritime” district’s brochure about five “star” local gardens open to the public will be issued again this year. We will also be taking part in two promotional operations: *Ambassadeurs* and *Jardins secrets* (Seine Maritime Department).

Given the number of new plants finding their way to the collection each year, we are constantly having to create new flowerbeds.

Our exchanges of information with our foreign correspondents continue to thrive, adding to all the cumulated knowledge about the *Hydrangea* genus gathered in the ‘Shamrock’ archives.

Here at the start of our 2015 season, I wish all of you a great year of planting and wonderment.

PRESS REVIEW N°26

Paris-Normandie 26/4/2014 Un double anniversaire - Les Informations Dieppoises 25/4/2014

L’association Shamrock fête ses 20 ans - Guide to the Parks and Gardens of Normandy, 2014 Edition

(republished in 2015) – Garden Guide, trilingual (Agglomération Dieppe-Maritime) - Ambassadeur Guide

76 (Seine-Maritime) (republished in 2015) – Jardins Secrets Operation (Seine-Maritime) (repeated and

extended in 2015) - My Normandy n°5 2014 p.78

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the local communities, tourist offices and journalists in Normandy who have never failed to support us.

EXCEPTIONAL VISITS TO SHAMROCK IN 2014

JEAN ASTROP

EVA BOASSA

MARK & REINE BULK

THOMAS EVELEENS

YAN OPRINS

HARRY VAN TRIER

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New members

Véronique Barrois

Jacques Bemberg

Yves and Catherine Bertrand

Gerrit and Alexander Blaas

Maxime Buchalet

Josiane Cadillac

Nicole Calvo

Jean-Louis and F. Couture

Pierre Giraud

Arnauld Guilly

Stéphane and Hélène Quédé

Edmond La Haye Jousselin

Daniel and Christine Lehmann

Gilles Manson

Anne Nicolle

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Anne Riom

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Roland and Sylvie Stutzmann

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Chief Editor: Corinne Mallet

Layout: Corinne Mallet

English Translation and Drawings: Bryan Woy.

The articles in this journal are published under their authors’ responsibility.

Friedrich Matthes (1870-1948), a breeder from Saxony

Mathias Riedel

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In 1923 the name of the Saxon hydrangea breeder, Friedrich Matthes, appeared officially for the first time. Matthes came from Ottendorf-Okrilla, and was born on 16 April 1870 in Chemnitz (west of Dresden). After working as an assistant gardener in England and Belgium, he occupied, while still a young man, a position as chief gardener in Montreal (Canada) for several years before returning to his native land in 1894 and founding his own nursery, where, among many other plants, he grew carnations, bougainvillea and boronias.

We do not know when he began breeding hydrangeas, but in 1923 he presented his first new varieties: 'Friedrich Matthes', 'Gerhard Glahn', 'Blauer Prinz' and 'Goliath', which attracted much attention throughout Germany. After 1923 he presented new cultivars every year or two: 'Mein Ideal', 'Gertrud Glahn' (1924), 'Schöne Dresdnerin' (1925), 'Heideröschen' (1926), 'Sachsenkind' (1927), 'Spätsommer' (1928), 'Willkommen' (1929), 'Graf Zeppelin' and 'St Bonifaz' (1930), 'Heinrich Seidel' and 'Gartendirektor Kunert' (1931), 'Mouillère Matthes' (1932) and 'Fortschritt' (1934).

Friedrich Matthes set himself the following objectives for breeding hydrangeas:

- Abundance of flowers
- Limited growth and compact habit
- Long-lasting inflorescences
- Intense and vibrant colour.

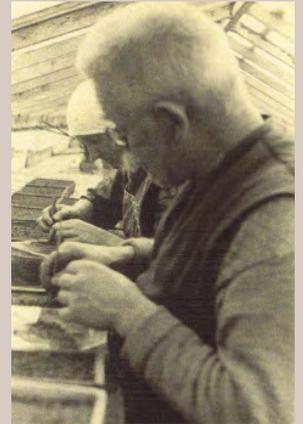
From comments in the specialist journals of the time we can see that he achieved these goals:

“With his new varieties of hydrangeas, the name of Matthes has become inseparable from the history of the development of our national horticultural production.” (Hahn, 1940)

“Friedrich Matthes is a permanent dictionary of the finest developments in plant breeding which form part of the growth of German horticultural production.” (Vogtländer, 1933)

“Anybody still growing the old varieties of hydrangeas (i.e. the French varieties), cannot claim that they are at the top level since Matthes's new varieties surpass the abundance, performance and colour of their flowers. Objective, far-sighted gardeners will therefore have to throw these old varieties on to the compost heap.” (Reiter, 1924)

In 1954, the Matthes firm once again produced a series of new plants which were evaluated by the Pillnitz Institute of Ornamental Plants. But that is where the story seems to end. Today there is a car dealership on the site of the former nursery.



Top photo, Friedrich Matthes in his greenhouse, Bottom photo: Gertrud Glahn, who had a hydrangea named after her.



'Gartendirektor Kunhert'



'Blauer Prinz'



'Gertrud Glahn'



'Goliath'

Labeling and signposting in the Shamrock garden

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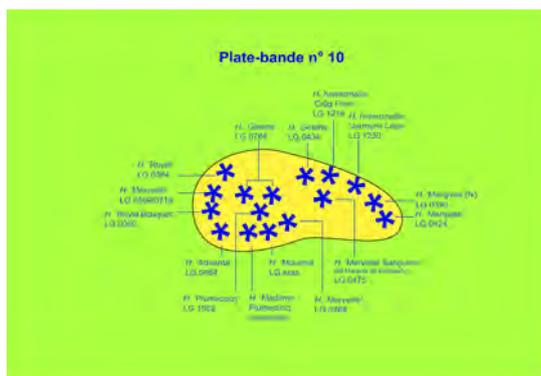
It is sometimes difficult for the public to access and read the security label at the base of each plant in the collection. The most accessible labels on the most prominent plants tend to disappear, and have to be replaced regularly. All botanical gardens have this problem.

Many suggestions have been made about making use of IT resources, with geo-location, using the potential of the most up-to-date smart phones.

After much reflection, the Society is currently putting a cost-effective installation in place which should, in addition, allow regular updating without incurring further costs. To do this it has been necessary to update the plans showing the situation of each plant in its respective bed. Let us not forget that there are over 100 beds directly affected by this project.

This has led to a major cleanup operation and checking of labelling; after 15 years some plants have grown and taken over territory at the expense of others, often by layering, while others have simply disappeared. Work on this began in 2014, especially with major efforts by our unbeatable team of Jean-Marie Le Rouet and Christiane Scanff.

Corinne Mallet has developed a procedure to draw up a plan for each bed, creating a model using three different software packages. A simple, economical and aesthetic support for these plans needed to be devised; it was once again Corinne who came up with this “lectern” type of support. Twenty of these lecterns had already been put in place in autumn 2014, and in the coming season we should see twice that number, or even more if possible.



Thanks for 2014

The Association would like to thank all members and non-members who have taken part in our activities through their work in the collection or their support, including everybody who took part in preparation and visitor reception for our annual event “2000 hydrangeas for Shamrock”, starting with Bérengère de Bodinat and Bruno Blanckaert for once again welcoming us to their home, “Casanova”, but also Gilbert Baudoin, Didier Boos, Pierre Courquin, Jean-Marie Dauchez, Daniel Kuszak, Martine Merlin, Bernard Tordeurs, Jean-Pierre Péan and Cyprien Vedrenne. Thanks as well to all those who provided plants for this event: Kees Evelyns, Lionel Chauvin, Hélène Croizier, Jean-Paul Davasse, Henri Mercier, Etienne Lemesle and, particularly, Jean Renault. Thanks to Jardiland (Antoine Brunet) for helping with the logistics. For work in the collection itself, we once again thank the “La Traverse” educational centre (Marie-Jo Boulanger) and its students, who helped with dead-heading the collection and organised the presentation of certificates to those who took part. Planting in the collection continued with the help of Jean-Pierre Péan, Pierre Courquin and Jean-Marie Rouet. The following members contributed in various capacities: Bernard Schumpp (publishing the Index and filing patents of plant names for HW2), Andre Diéval (rescuing and naming endangered plants), Hélène Béréhouc (propagating endangered plants), Josiane and Henri Lamache (public relations), Roger Dinsdale (plant protection monitoring), Philippe Picherit (IT help) and Ghislaine Le Gall du Tertre (who feeds us every Tuesday at the Piment Bleu). Major logging work was continued by André Diéval, Daniel Kuszak, Madeleine Alves, Jean-Marie and Christiane Rouet, Christiane Le Scanff, Hervé Lepetit and Jean-Baptiste Leroy. Significant weeding and clearing work in the beds on the western side of the collection was done by Christiane Le Scanff, Jean-Marie Rouet and Anne Nicolle. Many thanks, too, to our foreign correspondents: in the USA: Jean Astrop, Ozzie Johnson, and Lynden Miller; in Japan: Ishii Chitose, Takaaki Sugimoto, Tetsu Hirasawa and Kiyoshi Fujii; in Europe: Maurice Foster, Roger Dinsdale, Harry van Trier, Yan Oprins, Sieghart Prkno and Matthias Riedel; as well as media correspondents who have helped us: Isabelle Lebrun (of the France-Bleue radio station), Jinge Lim (of Les Jardins d’Eden magazine) and Yves Marchandain. Thanks also to the presidents of the associations to which we belong: Didier Wirth (Institut Européen des Parcs et Jardins) and Bruno Delavenne (Association des Parcs et Jardins de Haute-Normandie).

Hydrangeas in the wind

Bernard Schumpp

Hydrangeas are able to resist wind, storms, even typhoons ... without losing any of their magnificence.

Japan, especially the east coast, is subject to the vagaries of the Pacific Ocean, and the Izu Peninsula particularly is exposed to all kinds of weather conditions. And yet plants of the species *Hydrangea macrophylla* are highly resistant and thrive there.

Two of the particular characteristics of these plants can be seen in the following photos:

- Their resistance to adverse weather (Jogasaki National Park)
- Their invasive character (southern Izu Peninsula)

Hydrangea macrophylla is a coastal plant. Its natural habitat is a steep rocky coast battered by winds from the Pacific. If you go in the rainy season in June, the weather conditions will be perfect for you to see the most majestic plants in full flower. The temperature and humidity (35°C and 80%) are ideal for *Hydrangea macrophylla*; our greenhouses in Europe are unable to reproduce such conditions.



Top left: trees stripped of their leaves by the wind.

Top right: Plants that have taken root on a cliff side.

Bottom left: The east coast of the Izu Peninsula, beaten by ocean winds.

Bottom right: Map of Japan showing the location of the Izu Peninsula



Hydrangeas in the wind (illustrations)

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Top left: Hydrangeas growing down towards the sea.

Top right: the parent plant of 'Izu-no-Hana', defended by a colony of killer bees.



Centre left: the site where the parent plant of 'Shamrock' was found.

Centre right: Tetsu Hirasawa holding an inflorescence from the parent plant of 'Shamrock'.

Bottom left: the southern coast of Izu

Bottom middle: a photo showing the width of the leaves of wild hydrangeas

Bottom right: gigantic size of inflorescences in their natural habitat



Distinctions and awards

Once again this year we have been delighted by some plants, even right at the end of the season. In ascending order of our preferences: 'White Bouquet' a large, flawless white plant, 'General Patton' which continues flowering until December (in the absence of November frosts), 'Together' a plant from the "You & Me" series, still very beautiful when all the others have faded, also excellent for dry bouquets (like 'Passion' in the same series), 'Trebah Silver', a superb, continuously flowering variant of 'Ayesha' ('Shamrock' Award 2013), 'Elbtal' and 'Oslo', two fine blue flowered plants of compact habit which keep their colour late into the season, 'Violetta', a little-known plant bred by Haworth-Booth, with a reliable violet colour, and finally 'Mirage' a new lace cap from Challet-Herauld, distributed by Chauvin-Hortensia and tested in full sunlight in the Céleste Garden at 'Shamrock'.

DISTINCTIONS

H. serrata 'Kuju-no-Hanabi', which delighted us all through the autumn, even though its normal flowering should be in June

H. 'Trophy', an Australian plant with double flowers, protected but difficult to find

H. paniculata ssp. *yezoensis* 'Hime Nori-Utsugi', an early and fragrant *H. paniculata*, still little known.



Natural hydrangea hybrids in the Izu Peninsula (Japan)

Tetsu Hirasawa¹

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In the region where I live, the Izu Peninsula of Japan, an unusual hydrangea has developed. Until recently, however, it has been regarded as a common local plant, and nobody has paid any particular attention to it. As this hydrangea grows in an inhabited area, it is sensitive to environmental changes and its habitat, like many others, is now shrinking. I think that taking this opportunity to tell you about it could encourage its protection.

In examining the hydrangeas of the Izu Peninsula, a hydrangea has been observed with purplish blue to white flowers, which grows around human settlements and along the river, away from the coastline. About 30 years ago, I saw two white-flowered hydrangeas along the Matsukawa River (2km from the coast) in Ito-City (see map), but could not formally identify the species, because the plants were growing on a cliff. Two or three years later, I was again able to see an unusual hydrangea half way up the mountain on the northwest side of an urban area in Ito-City. Here and there along the roadside there were hydrangeas blooming with light blue and white flowers and leaves that were not glossy, and smaller and narrower than those of *Hydrangea macrophylla*. As I had observed similar hydrangeas growing in Yawatano, 8.5 km away from the Matsukawa River, in the same year, I concluded that the plant must be distributed over quite a wide area. After this I concentrated on studying *H. macrophylla*, and forgot about the existence of this hydrangea until my next encounter in 2002, when I came across it again in Higashi Izu-Town. This impressed me in a different way to the first time; along one small river, there were hydrangeas with a wide variety of flower forms growing together, ranging from *H. macrophylla* to others with flowers like those of *Hydrangea serrata*. From then on I was convinced of the presence of natural hybrids² in the Izu Peninsula, and I began to examine them carefully.

Distribution of the hybrids

Until now, in the Izu Peninsula, it has been believed that *H. macrophylla* with purplish blue flowers and broad leaves grow naturally on the coast and *Hydrangea serrata* var. *angustata* with white flowers and narrow leaves grow naturally in the mountains. However, from the eastern part to the southern part of the Izu Peninsula, on the coast, around the villages and along the river, groups of hydrangeas are to be found that have wide variations, unlike both *H. macrophylla* and *H. serrata* var. *angustata*. We can see these plants growing along the roadside and also in Atami-City and Matsuzaki-Town.

As far as I have been able to observe, in the urban area of Ito-City I have seen a few hybrids and many *H. macrophylla* on the coast, and then many more hybrids going inland up to about 800m from the coastline. In Okawa, near Higashi Izu-Town, the number of hybrids increases within a strip starting at a distance of 400m from the coast and continuing up to a distance of 2260m. In Shirada, south of Okawa, *H. macrophylla* and hybrids were found together at around 200m from the coastline, but hybrids were mainly found from around 600m to 2900m, while from a distance of 3600m inland, only *H. serrata* var. *angustata* were found growing naturally. To the south of Shimoda-City and Minamiizu-Town, *H. macrophylla* coexists with the hybrid on the coast. The further one goes up into the mountains, the stronger the influence of *H. serrata* var. *angustata* becomes. In the Toji area of Shimoda-City, there are many plants with small, narrow leaves, and some of these have sweet-tasting leaves, leading me to think that the influence of *H. serrata* var. *angustata* is strong. In this way, along the eastern and southern coasts of the Izu peninsula, there are many *H. macrophylla* and few hybrid species growing naturally. On the one hand, hybrids on the eastern Izu coast, the natural habitat of *H. macrophylla*, are dominated by this species because less under the influence of *H. serrata* var. *angustata*. On the other hand, on the southern Izu coast the predominant influence on hybrids is *H. serrata* var. *angustata*. The distribution of hybrids generally increases going inland from the coast up into the hills, with the highest inland parts remaining the domain of *H. serrata* var. *angustata*. There is strong evidence that the hybrids tend to appear more in areas with a greater human population.

See the site <http://www.izu.fm/hydrangea/yawatano.html> that shows pictures and gives a list of plants found by Tetsu Hirasawa

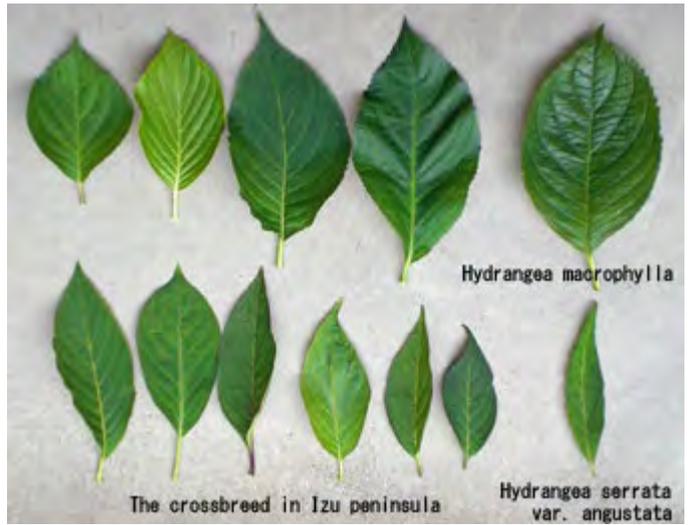
1. Tetsu Hirasawa is a naturalist specialising in the flora of the Izu peninsula on the east coast of Japan. He has created two museums in the region where he lives: a museum of nature and a musical box museum. Tetsu was Corinne Mallet's guide on her 1994 expedition to the dangerous cliffs of the Izu coastal region, the cradle of wild *H. macrophylla*.

2. Corinne Mallet has assigned them the specific name of *Hydrangea* ×*serratophylla*

Natural hydrangea hybrids in the Izu Peninsula (Japan)

(*i l l u s t r a t i o n s*)

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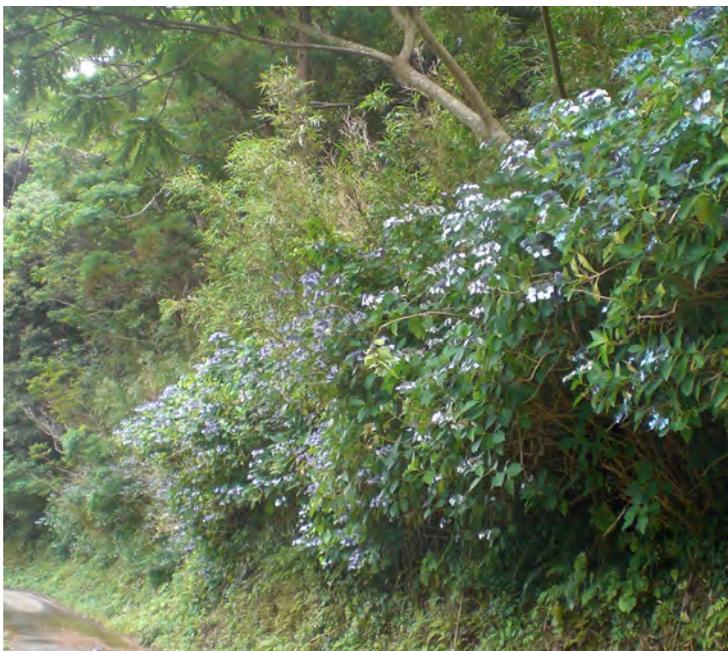
Plates showing the different kinds of sterile florets and leaves of hydrangea hybrids growing on the Izu Peninsula



A hydrangea hybrid in the Ito-City area



Map of the Izu Peninsula



A hydrangea hybrid in the Minamiizu-Town area



A hydrangea hybrid in the Shimoda-City area

Natural hydrangea hybrids in the Izu Peninsula (Japan)

(c o n t i n u e d)

Characteristics of the hybrids

1. There are wide variations between the hybrids from area to area, and wide variations between individual plants within a single area.
2. Generally, individuals growing near the coast have leaves, stems and flowers similar to those of *H. macrophylla*, while the further one progresses from the coast, the more resemblance there is with *H. serrata* var. *angustata*. There are, moreover, many individuals that are difficult to distinguish from *H. macrophylla* on the coast and similarly many which closely resemble *H. serrata* up in the hills.
3. The size, thickness, lustre and form of the leaves are highly variable, ranging from the form of *H. macrophylla* to that of *H. serrata* var. *angustata*. I have found that leaves tend to have short hairs on the midrib and veins, and that some petioles are coloured.
4. The size of the inflorescences and sterile florets ranges from that of *H. macrophylla* to that of *H. serrata* var. *angustata*. Sterile florets more than 8cm across can be seen in southern Izu. The colour of the flowers is from purplish-blue to white, and the incidence of white flowers increases nearer the mountains.
5. The heights and thicknesses of the stems also range between those of *H. macrophylla* and *H. serrata* var. *angustata*. Individuals with coloured stems are rarely seen.

What are the parent plants of the hybrids?

I conclude from the plant's form (phenotype) and distribution that one parent of this hydrangea must be *H. macrophylla*. And I think that *H. serrata* var. *angustata* is another parent because this grows naturally in the mountains nearby, and in southern Izu the hybrids have sweet-tasting leaves like those of *H. serrata* var. *angustata*. In addition, the hybrids may be affected by the *H. serrata* that grow wild near the Izu Peninsula. In many places I have found individual hybrids that are difficult to distinguish from *H. serrata*. Mr. Uemachi's¹ investigations show one parent to be *H. serrata* var. *angustata* in hybrids found in the area from Atami-City to Minamiizu-Town, and *H. serrata* in the northern part of Atami-City. *H. serrata* grows naturally in the virgin forest 8.5 km northwest from the coast of Atami-City.

Relations with people

The Izu Peninsula was originally covered with evergreen forest. Away from coasts, riversides and mountains, hydrangeas which needed sunlight did not grow. The new growing area for wild hydrangeas was created when people cut down the trees and cleared the land for houses, roads and fields, in order to colonise the peninsula. The place where two different hydrangeas, one from the mountains and one from the coast, could meet together to form a hybrid would be just such an inhabited area half-way between the two. And I think that this habitat must have spread out with the increase in population. How we can protect this hybrid, which grows naturally only in this limited area of Izu Peninsula, is a problem for the future. Sightseeing and tourism is important in the area where the hybrid grows naturally, and there is not much other industry. Young people leave the area to find work, so the population is ageing and declining in numbers. The number of unoccupied houses is increasing, fields are being abandoned and forested areas are taking over again, thereby reducing the natural habitat of wild hydrangeas. In addition, I have seen many gardens where horticultural varieties of hydrangeas have been planted recently. The influence of hydrangeas brought in from outside, including infection by diseases (Phytoplasma, etc.), will become a major problem from now on.

Conclusion

About ten years have passed since I began drawing attention to the presence of natural hybrids in the Izu Peninsula. Currently some scientists, including Mr. Oba² and Mr. Uemachi, are investigating them. I believe that the results of their research will be published in the near future and that more attention will be paid to these hybrids; this will, I hope, help to protect this wonderful wild plant which grows in such close proximity to us.

1. Mr. Tatsuya Uemachi, Associate Professor of the University of Shiga Prefecture.

2. Mr. Hideaki Oba, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo.

Natural hydrangea hybrids in the Izu Peninsula (Japan)

(illustrations continued)

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Some examples of plants found by Tetsu Hirasawa on the Izu Peninsula; the diversity and beauty of these hybrids can be plainly seen.



Invasive hydrangeas

Robert Mallet

After many years growing large numbers of hydrangeas of the species *H. macrophylla* and its hybrids, we have noticed while taking care of the collection that some varieties have a greater tendency than others to reproduce spontaneously by layering; sometimes to such an extent that many of these new plants need to be removed to stop them completely covering the paths between the beds. We were certainly familiar with photographic views of some islands like Madeira in which whole areas can be seen taken over by certain hydrangeas showing very little diversity. Among the plants to keep an eye on in gardens we have noted the following: *H.* 'Seafoam', which can reproduce by layering twice in a year, and *H.* 'Unesco 1', a plant brought back from Madeira by Claudine Leclerc in 1989.

The hydrangea 'Izu-no-Odoriko' is a beautiful plant which reproduces spontaneously by layering and can make the recipients of the resulting baby plants very happy. The hydrangea 'Yamato', one of the most beautiful plants found by Corinne Mallet (CM 1993 No. 18), behaves in the same way. *H.* 'Haruko san', a hybrid created by Ebihara san and acquired in 2000 at the Kitakoen exhibition, generates numerous offspring by layering at the expense of neighbouring plants. But the champion in this category is another hybrid, *H.* 'Weisse Königin', Auguste Steiniger, 1973, producing a dozen offspring by layering each year. Note also that *H.* 'Madame Plumecocq', although not reproducing by layering, grows so opulently that it, too, tends to overwhelm its neighbours.

Another way for some hydrangeas to expand into new space is by suckering. Some species are particularly notable in this respect: *H. aspera*, *H. involucrata* and some *H. serrata*. We should also mention *H. Sargentiana* (an especially useful plant in colder climates - see Shamrock Journal 25) and *H. aspera* 'Macrophylla'. *H. involucrata* var. *izuensis*, island plants with large leaves, produce suckers in a delightfully generous way. *H. serrata* ssp. *yezoensis*, early flowering plants from northern Japan, gratify us with beautiful suckers that can be removed to form new plants. *H. serrata* 'Chishima', the most northerly *H. serrata* since it originates from the Kuril Islands, suckers too, but is of no particular ornamental value.

The superabundant fertility of some hydrangeas can also make them invasive. This is particularly the case with *H. paniculata* whose seedlings can often start appearing as illegal immigrants in adjoining gardens. Young plants obtained in this way are, of course, different from the parent plant, so once you have made sure that your seedling it is not a "lucky" one that deserves to be preserved and given a name, each one should be destroyed without mercy.

New genetic research into the species *H. paniculata* presented by Robert Mallet

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This article presents the results of a study carried out by Winston T. Beck and Thomas G. Ranney, researchers at the Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University in the USA, published in 2014. The texts in bold italics are excerpts from this study.

To help understand these results, here are a few definitions. The ploidy of a cell is the number of sets of chromosomes in its nucleus: a cell is haploid if it has n chromosomes and diploid if it has $2n$ chromosomes arranged in n pairs. More rarely, triploid ($3n$ chromosomes) cells or stages of development may be encountered, or polyploid species whose chromosomal characteristics are double the normal (tetraploid = $4n$), or triple (hexaploid = $6n$) or more. The basic chromosome number of the genus studied is designated by x . In the genus *Hydrangea*, the basic chromosome number is 18.



The cultivar 'Wim's Red', one of the pentaploid cultivars

In nature, *H. paniculata* occurs as diploid, tetraploid, and hexaploid cytotypes, where $1x = 18$. There is evidence that most plants in cultivation are tetraploids.

***Ploidy levels and chromosome numbers for 'Jane' Little Lime®
H2009-149-046, and 'Dharuma' were confirmed to be tetraploid ($2n = 4x = 72$), pentaploid ($2n = 5x = 90$), and hexaploid ($2n = 6x = 108$), respectively.***

'Dharuma' and 'Praecox' were the only hexaploid cultivars found, though several wild-collected hexaploids from Japan were also identified. These two cultivars are noted for early blooming, although the panicles on 'Dharuma' have a flattened, less attractive appearance than other cultivars. The bloom-time differences and floral morphologies of 'Dharuma' and 'Praecox' have been noted before¹. However, these differences were thought to be a result of subspecific variation, rather than the effect of ploidy. Three commercial cultivars were found to be pentaploid including 'Bulk' Quick Fire®, 'SMHPLQF' Little Quick Fire™, and 'Wim's Red' Fire and Ice. These most likely resulted from interploid hybridization, potentially with 'Dharuma' as a parent².

In the centre of the photo on the front page of our Journal, you can clearly see *H. paniculata* that are already coloured: 'Early Sensation' = 'Bulk' and 'Wim's Red', which flowered 1 month before the *H. paniculata* seen in the background of the photo.

To obtain the full study, please contact Thomas G. Ranney, who has authorized us to share these results: (tom_ranney@ncsu.edu) or go to the following link: <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/fletcher/mcilab/publications/SNA/beck-and-ranney-2014.pdf>

1. See «Hydrangéas et hortensias» by Corinne Mallet, ed. Ulmer, 2003.

2. According to Wim Ruten, the plant's breeder, 'Wim's Red' is indeed the result of crossing 'Dharuma' and 'Pink Diamond'. Both its small size and its early flowering come from 'Dharuma'

About *Hydrangea glabripes* (illustrations)

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1, 2, 3: The type specimen, preserved in the herbarium of the Arnold Arboretum, United States. 1: The complete specimen, 2: the inflorescence, 3: detail of the underside of a leaf.
4: isotype kept in the herbarium at Kew Gardens in England.
5-11, the living plant kept in the 'Shamrock' Garden. 5: presentation in the form of a virtual specimen, 6: enlargement of the inflorescence, 7: enlargement of the sterile floret, 8: enlargement of a group of fertile flowers, 9 enlargement of the underside of a leaf, 10 and 11 (page 14): general view of the living plant.

About *Hydrangea glabripes* Corinne Mallet

HYDRANGEA glabripes REHDER is a plant of the Asperae subsection which was collected in China, in western Hubei Province, by Ernest Wilson in August 1907. The plant was described as a new species in *Plantae Wilsonianae* 1: 30. 1911 by Alfred Rehder, who gave it the name of *H. glabripes*. Dr E. McClintock, who carried out a general revision of the genus *Hydrangea*, renamed the plant *H. aspera* D.DON ssp. *aspera*, a name under which she also included *H. oblongifolia* BLUME, *H. longipes* var. *lanceolata* HEMSLEY, *H. Kawakamii* HAYATA and others. In view of the very many characteristics generally differentiating these plants from one another, it seems to us somewhat inappropriate to group them all under the same specific name. Regarding *H. glabripes* REHDER, the different specimens show us a rather slender plant, to which Rehder gives the following description:

Hydrangea glabripes REHDER, n. sp.

Frutex metralis ramulis glabris v. fere glabris, vetustioribus flavogriseis. Folia lanceolata, acuminata, basi late cuneata v. rotundata, dentato-serrulata serraturis mucronulato-acuminatis, 6-12 cm. longa et 2-3 cm. lata, supra obscure flavo-viridia, satis dense strigulosa, subtus pallida, hirto-villosa costa fere glabra excepta; petioli graciles, 1.5-4 cm. longi, glabri, tantum supra in canaliculo parce pubescentes. Cyma fere plana v. leviter convexa, 8-10 cm. diam., strigosa, radiis brevibus 7-9; flores radiantibus pauci, rosei, sepalis 4, late obovatis, leviter emarginatis integris; flores fertiles rosei; calycis tubus hemisphaericus, glaber ima basi excepta, dentibus triangularibus minutis; petala oblongo-ovata, 1.5 mm. longa; stamina inaequalia, longiora 4 mm. longa; styli 2. Capsulae maturae desunt.

H. glabripes REHDER, new species (Translation of the Latin text)

Shrub one metre tall, hairless or nearly hairless branchlets, the older ones yellowish grey. The leaf is lanceolate, acuminate, the base broadly cuneate or rounded, dentate-serrulate, the serration mucronate-acuminate, 6-12 cm long and 2-3 cm wide, upper side dark yellow green, fairly dense strigose hair, underside pale, covered with bristly hairs, almost glabrous except midrib, slender petiole, 1.5 to 4 cm long, hairless, only slightly pubescent in the upper channels. Cyme (floral) almost flat or slightly convex 8 to 10 cm in diameter, covered with strigose hairs, generally rays numbering from 7 to 9; sterile florets few, pink, 4 sepals broadly obovate, entire and slightly indented; pink fertile flowers, the calyx tube hemispherical, glabrous except at their base, very small triangular teeth (sepals), oblong-ovate petal, length 1.5mm; stamens of unequal length, the longest 4mm; styles 2 in number. Mature capsules absent.

Rehder's commentary in English is the following:

"Western Hupeh: Fang Hsien, thickets, alt. 1200-1800 m., August 1907 (No. 2391).

Closely related to *H. longipes* FRANCHET which is chiefly distinguished by broader strigose or glabrescent leaves, strigose branchlets, longer petioles and white flowers¹. From all allied species *H. glabripes* differs in the leaves having a densely villous under side and at the same time a glabrous petiole and a glabrous or nearly glabrous midrib."

In the 'Shamrock' Collection there is a living plant that corresponds fairly well to the description of the one collected by Wilson. Its early flowering in late June and early July does not correspond to that of *H. glabripes*, since the type specimen was collected in flower in August. But the climate of the mountains of Hubei, at 1800m above sea level, is necessarily different from that of the 'Shamrock' Collection, located by the sea at 70m altitude, and it is known that the flowering of the same plant can be significantly advanced or delayed depending on the climate. The size of its inflorescences and leaves, larger than the type specimen, does not count against identifying this plant as *H. glabripes*.

1. See the article «About *H. longipes*» in the 'Shamrock' Association journal No. 25.

About *Hydrangea glabripes* (continued)

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This plant, bought by Corinne Mallet at the Spinners Nursery around 1985, has several growth characteristics that make it quite different from other plants in the Asperae subsection.

- Early flowering: unlike many other plants in the Asperae subsection, anthesis takes place from June onwards.

- Suckering: some hydrangeas in the Asperae subsection such as *H. involucrata*, as well as other subsections, present this suckering character, but this remains an exception within the genus *Hydrangea*.

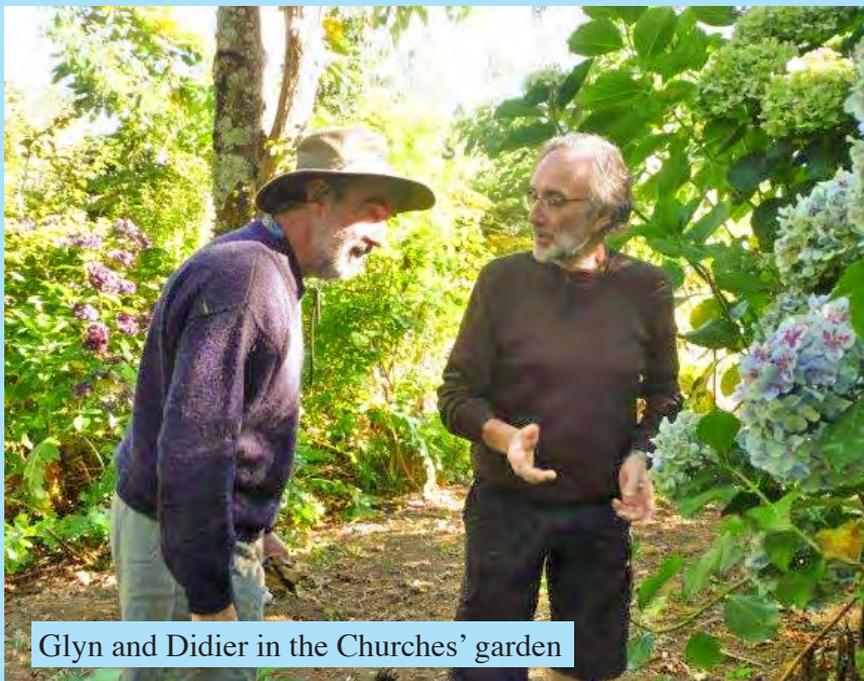
- Low height: if the low height of this plant (not exceeding 1m in the 'Shamrock' Collection) is not an exception in the subsection, it does, however, argue for the identification of this plant with Rehder's *H. glabripes*. In any case this low height means it cannot be identified with *H. aspera* D. DON.



If this living plant specimen really is Wilson's *H. glabripes* as described by Rehder, its growth characteristics provide even more evidence that this species should be well differentiated from other plants of the Asperae subsection.

Journey to New Zealand Didier Boos

In March 2013, we spent some "family" time with Gail and Glyn Church and old friends, visiting Glyn's garden and the beautiful luxuriant undergrowth at the foot of Mt Tanaka, the nearby volcano. The South Island is even more beautiful and wild than the North Island. The forests and mountains seem to come out of a fairy tale. This is really a region to be discovered on foot as much as possible.



Glyn and Didier in the Churches' garden



Didier and the "big head"

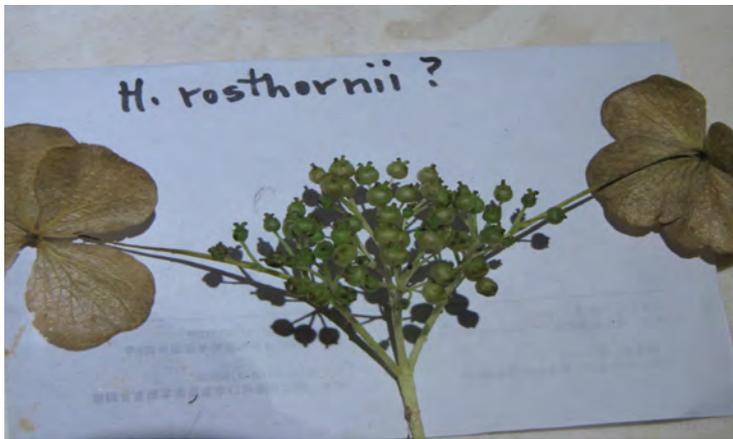
Expedition to southern China's Hubei Province

Ozzie Johnson

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Our society was one of the organizations that supported a small expedition to southern China's Hubei Province this past October of which I was a member. After arriving in Wuhan, the Capital city, we traveled by train, bus, and car to see the western part of the province to elevations where the climate approximates ours in Zones 6-8. First and foremost was Shennongjia National Nature Reserve, to view one of the most diverse plant eco systems in China, with an estimated 3400 higher plant species. Despite rain and poor visibility, hydrangeas encountered included *H. heteromalla* D. DON, *H. fulvescens* REHDER, *H. aff. rosthornii* DIELS, et *H. umbellata* REHDER. Other plants of note were many, but possibly one of the most magnificent specimens of *Emmenopteris henryi* in existence was in late flower and seed. It was an estimated 100 feet tall and 5 to 6 feet in diameter.

We traveled south through Badong County into Enshi County accompanied by Hubei Forestry personnel from the local district office. We were looking for *Acer griseum* in seed which had been reported collected on only one occasion by western botanists in the past 100 years. In a driving rain we were able to locate trees with seed on a hillside thick with bamboo. In this regard collecting sample seed and traveling in wet weather, it is difficult to get the seed dry and keep them dry. Seed and uncleaned fruit is packed for travel and then unpacked and spread out to prevent mildew and rot, a time consuming task. On previous traveling in South China the usual higher elevation hydrangea has been *H. heteromala*, and the usual lower elevation one has been *H. strigosa* and this trip was no exception. The more unusual species on this trip were a special treat. *H. hypoglauca* was also a probable collection in southwest Hubei and if verified, was the fourth hydrangea species that I had not seen in its native habitat, truly a dream come true for this old hydrangea lover!



Top left: A hydrangea, close to the species *H. rosthornii* DIELS, collected by Ozzie.

Top right: *Acer griseum* in the mist.

Bottom: Ozzie packing up his seeds for the return journey.



Work in the collection

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Work on 19 February and 29 March 2014. A great ash tree was blocking the light and choking the *H. serrata* and other rare species at the bottom of the 'Green Dragon Wood' (Bois du Dragon Vert). After logging work done by Hervé Lepetit, it was Henry Guyomard, assisted by a former student from "La Traverse" in Omonville, Maxime Loze, who undertook the task of digging up, then burying the remaining stump with a very large mechanical shovel.



Work on 25 and 26 March 2014. A huge thinning and clearing job was needed in the 'Green Dragon Wood' to bring light to the hydrangeas growing there. The team of northerners - Daniel Kuzsac, Madeleine Alvès and Andre Dieval (centre photo) were in charge of logging work with help from Hervé Lepetit (upper left photo) and the tireless Christiane Le Scanff and Jean-Marie Rouet took care of putting everything back in order.

Species of the *Hydrangea* genus in the 'Shamrock' Collection

Corinne Mallet

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HYDRANGEA Section

Americanae

H. arborescens LINNAEUS
H. cinerea SMALL
H. quercifolia BARTRAM
H. radiata WALTER

Asperae

H. aspera D.DON
H. aspera × *involutrata*
H. aspera × *Sargentiana*
H. aspera × *villosa*
H. glabripes ? REHDER
H. involutrata SIEBOLD
H. involutrata var. *izuensis* HAYASHI
H. Kawakamii HAYATA
H. longifolia HAYATA
H. longipes FRANCHET
H. Sargentiana REHDER
H. sikokiana MAXIMOWICZ
H. strigosa REHDER
H. villosa REHDER
H. sp. (ex Vietnam)
H. sp. (ex Taiwan)
H. sp. (ex Yunnan, China)
H. sp. (ex India)

Heteromallae

H. heteromalla D.DON
H. paniculata SIEBOLD
H. paniculata var. *velutina* NAKAI
H. paniculata SIEBOLD ssp. *yezoensis* YAMAMOTO
H. paniculata × *paniculata* ssp. *yezoensis*
H. xanthoneura REHDER

Macrophyllae

H. macrophylla (THUNBERG) SERINGE
H. serrata (THUNBERG) SERINGE ssp. *angustata* KITAMURA
H. serrata (THUNBERG) SERINGE ssp. *japonica* SIEBOLD
H. serrata (THUNBERG) SERINGE ssp. *sinensis* HORT. ex LAVALLÉE
H. serrata (THUNBERG) SERINGE ssp. *yezoensis* KOIDZUMI
H. stylosa HOOKER & THOMSON
H. ×serratophylla C. MALLET

HYDRANGEA Section (continued)

Macrophyllae × Petalanthae

H. luteovenosa × *serrata*

Petalanthae

H. angustipetala HAYATA
H. chinensis MAXIMOWICZ
H. grosseserrata ENGLER
H. hirta SIEBOLD
H. Lobii MAXIMOWICZ
H. luteovenosa KOIDZUMI
H. scandens SERINGE
H. umbellata REHDER
H. ×amagiana MAKINO
H. sp. (ex Sichuan, China)

Calyptanthae

H. anomala D.DON
H. petiolaris SIEBOLD
H. petiolaris SIEBOLD var. *yakushmanum* C. MALLET

CORNIDIA Section

Monosegia

H. integrifolia HAYATA
H. Seemannii RILEY

Polysegia

H. serratifolia (HOOKER & ARNOTT) PHILIPPI f.

Monosegia × Polysegia

H. peruviana × *serratifolia*
H. Seemannii × *serratifolia*



Asperae
H. longipes



Asperae
H. aspera × *involutrata*



Monosegia × Polysegia
H. peruviana × *serratifolia*



Macrophyllae
H. stylosa



Doullens Plant Festival, 24 and 25 May 2014. Martine Merlin, always very convincing, gives all the necessary information to a potential buyer, with Corinne Mallet's book in her hand.

At the traditional lunch provided for participants of the Doullens Plant Festival, Jean-Claude Marzec and Robert exchange memories of the first day of this type 30 years ago, when Robert's nursery, the 'Centre d'Art Floral' was present.



Work session, 9 and 10 May 2014. Everything has been sold, and the pallets are packed up under the thoughtful eye of Daniel Kuszac, while André Dieval attacks the beech hedges around the beds in the 'Shamrock' Garden. Sincere thanks to all the professionals who support our Society's work by donating plants for our annual sale.



A small gathering, September 4, 2014. The Society is also an enjoyable place to get together! It's great to share bread and wine with friends. The ladies go home bearing subtly coloured bouquets.

Hydrangeas on the island of Réunion

Jean Pierre Péan – Jean Renault

Visiting the beautiful island of Réunion in the first week of February 2015 was a wonderful opportunity for us; the island is well known for the presence of sub-spontaneous hydrangeas in the mountains; descendants of plants introduced by man.

Our 2,000 km drive, on generally very good roads, gave us the opportunity to discover the vegetation of this island (officially a French *département*) with well-preserved high altitude forests and well-maintained mountain trails. All this driving gave us the opportunity to make many discoveries along the way: how could we ever forget those huge tree ferns, many metres high, with thin stems and fronds up to 3 metres long? And all the gardens and streets of the towns and villages with so many different palms, and the Norfolk pines of our grandmothers, which here can reach from 5 to 10 metres in height?

We were lucky enough to be accompanied, in turn, by J. Fillatre and D. Richoux, both of whom are professional horticulturalists. They were able to provide us with some very interesting visits and encounters.

The hydrangeas are mostly to be found along roads or paths at altitudes above 1000m. (La Plaine-des-Palmistes, Plaine des Cafres, Bébour, the Tévelave forest road, etc.) There are the right conditions for them to thrive there - relatively cool conditions and, especially, a high degree of humidity. We were surprised to see little diversity among the sub-spontaneous hydrangeas found growing naturally - a total contrast to the Izu Peninsula in Japan, the cradle of the species *Hydrangea macrophylla*.

Two hydrangeas represent virtually all of the naturalized plants:

- An *H. macrophylla* with lace cap inflorescences with blue fertile flowers and white sterile florets.

- An *H. macrophylla* with ball-shaped inflorescences, with bluish-white sterile florets.

Young inflorescences are very pale, even white. In some sites the ball-shaped inflorescences are huge, certainly because of a rich and deep soil. All are predominantly blue, due to acid soils.

These hydrangeas do not appear to produce many fertile seeds; this seems to confirm that their natural increase in Réunion has taken place mainly by vegetative, rather than sexual, propagation. Our observations on site indicate the presence of many instances of accidental and spontaneous reproduction by layering. Nature is sometimes aided by man, with the spread of spontaneous cuttings derived from brush-clearing operations, as we saw on the forest road above Tévelave.

No one was able to confirm with certainty the origin of the two species we encountered. This could probably be the subject of a thesis by a horticultural graduate student, who could conduct research for the National Horticultural Society of France, etc.

There are two schools of thought about naturalized hydrangeas in Réunion. The first sees them as invasive plants that should be destroyed. The second (residents, tourists, and horticultural professionals), considers that their presence now forms part of the island's heritage. Hydrangeas would have been introduced to Réunion around 1770 at the time of P. Poivre and P. Commerson.

For us, the hydrangea has its place in the scenery along the roadside at high altitude, and does not represent a serious threat, unlike other invasive plants. Apart from in a few isolated spots, it stays within a band of 3 to 6 metres along the roads and paths, and does not reseed itself further; otherwise, it would have invaded the forests of the island.

In the side streets of the La Plaine-des-Palmistes, many hydrangeas are planted in gardens and hedges. We were also able to observe a very few different white and red cultivars there.

Hydrangeas on the island of Réunion (illustrations)

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It would seem that the hydrangeas seen in this photo are, exceptionally, hybrids of *H. macrophylla* and *H. serrata* descended from the first European hybrids.



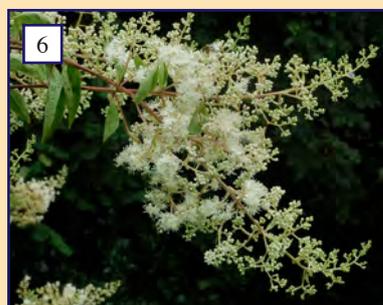
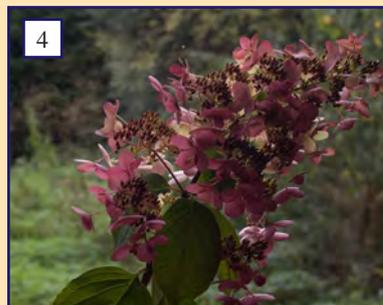
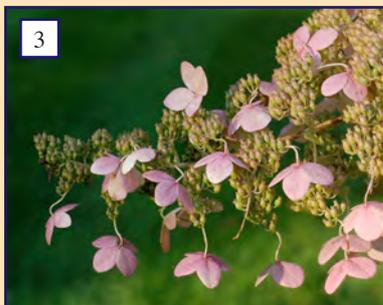
Upper photo: an example of *H. macrophylla* with lace cap inflorescences.

Lower photo: an example of *H. macrophylla* with ball-shaped inflorescences

Early and late *H. paniculata* cultivars

Robert Mallet

Before and after the *H. paniculata* that flower in mid-season (see our 3 ‘Shamrock’ favourites: ‘Phantom’, ‘Big Ben’ and ‘Mid Late Summer’), there is a series of early *H. paniculata*, and conversely, others are late and even very late flowering.



Early *H. paniculata* (small sized)

‘Daruma’
‘Sparkling’ (photo 1)
‘Harry von Trier’
‘Magical Flame’
‘Magical Fire’

Early *H. paniculata* (medium sized)

‘Praecox’ (photo 2)
‘Hime Nori Utsugi’ (see “Distinctions” on page 6)

Late-flowering *H. paniculata*

‘October Bride’ (De Belder)
‘Mount Aso’ (De Belder)
‘Melody’ (De Belder) (photo 3)
‘Pink Diamond’ (De Belder) (photo 4)

Very late-flowering *H. paniculata*

‘Big A’ (photo 5)
‘Sauvage’ (photo 6)
‘Papillon’ (De Belder)
‘Ruby’ (recent, excellent for dry bouquets), different from ‘Ruby’ (De Belder)

Notes on *H. grosseserrata* and *H. Kawagoena*

Kiyoshi Fujii

Letter from Kiyoshi Fujii san, a great collector of hydrangeas, whom Corinne met twice at his home in the Kobe area of Japan, and with whom she has kept up a correspondence. The hydrangea 'Shojo' was grown from a seedling which spontaneously appeared in Kiyoshi Fujii's collection; we know what a remarkable plant it is. *H. grosseserrata* and *H. Kawagoena* are plants from the *Petalanthae* subsection, endemic to southern Japan.

Dear Ms. Corinne Mallet

I read your "HYDRANGEA" in Japanese and learned that you are well and continuing great work. Although we haven't met since 1997, I am still impressed by your passion for hydrangeas.

'Shojo' is a strong kind of hydrangea which survives both coldness and direct sunlight. It can adjust itself to the change of soil. The colour of the flowers changes from white to pink (or blue) and afterward some petals turn over and show red side and white side. They look beautiful especially late summer because the leaves turn red.

Twenty years have passed since the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake. Many hybrid hydrangeas were born in the farm I borrowed. *H. kawagoena* and *H. grosseserrata* were collected from the southwest islands of Japan. The former is large, and the latter is rather small. Originally they had white flowers. But the hybrids have blue and pink flowers and I think that will contribute to the future hydrangea studies.

I truly hope your continuance of hydrangea studies.

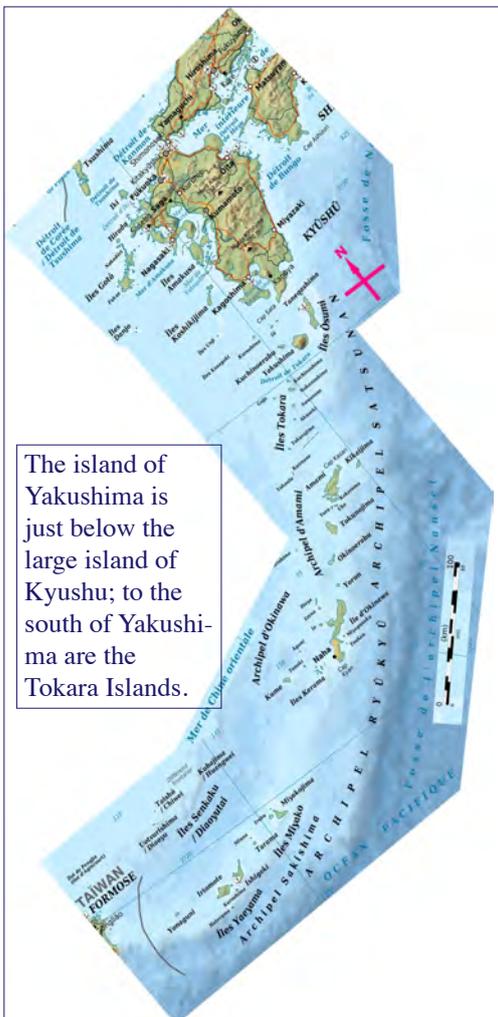
Best wishes

Kiyoshi Fujii

The illustrations on this page have been selected and captioned by Corinne Mallet. Photo of *H. Kawagoena* is by K. Fujii.



Hydrangea grosseserrata: the type specimen preserved in the Herbarium of the Botanical Garden of Geneva (Switzerland). The plant was collected by Faurie on Yakushima Island in 1900 and described by Engler under that specific name in "Engler & Prantl, *Natürlichen pflanzenfamilien*", ed.2, 18a: 207. 1930.



The island of Yakushima is just below the large island of Kyushu; to the south of Yakushima are the Tokara Islands.



"Yakushima-ajisai" (*Hydrangea grosseserrata*) is a Japanese plant endemic to the island of Yakushima, in the south of Japan. This plant is present in the 'Shamrock' Collection.



«Tokara-ajisai» (*Hydrangea Kawagoena*) is a Japanese plant from the archipelago of the Tokara Islands, in the south of Japan. *H. Kawagoena* and *H. grosseserrata* have often been confused in the horticultural literature.



Hydrangea Kawagoena: This specimen is preserved in the Herbarium of the Botanical Garden in Tokyo (Japan). The plant was collected by Kawagoe on the island of Nakanoshima (one of the islands in the Tokara archipelago) in 1910 and described by Koidzumi in 1918 in the "Botanical Magazine of Tokyo", 32: 138. 1918, and named specifically in honour of its collector, Mr Kawagoe.

Correspondence and other information

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Maurice Foster 21/04/2014

I meant to email you earlier to congratulate you on an excellent, colourful, busy and very interesting issue with lots of 'new' material on the more interesting species... I was particularly interested in Corinne's pièce on *H. longipes* and perhaps would have gone a bit further and elevated it back to full species level. The Franchet description is the evidence needed as it fits in every particular. The *H. robusta* discussion is also interesting, given the New York specimen. Could my introduction be *H. maximowiczii*? It is a very distinctive plant and I have two further as yet unflowered specimens that look to be the same thing, from eastern Himalaya...

Ed.: we are very sorry to have learned that the wonderful Rosemary Foster, Maurice's wife, passed away last year.

Ozzie Johnson 22/04/2014

I have been unusually busy busy busy for a long time...My greenhouse is finished for the most part. My repair of my garden has not gone quickly...I glanced at your newsletter... it is amazing! So much information. Cannot wait to get time to read it. We plan to collect seed in China this fall in Hubei and Hunan provinces. Thanks so much for the help you gave to us last year.

Joan Harrison 5/06/2014

This is a VERY belated thank you for allowing the Cape Cod Hydrangea Society access to the most recent Index of Cultivar Names. As you know we are readying our garden for the 2015 hydrangea conference and we are anxious to have everything just right I am working with the current director of horticulture at Heritage Gardens to get accurate signs in place for every plant in our collection. It would be wonderful if you could join us next year!

Isabelle von Groeningen 23/1/2015

"... I've always loved hydrangeas, but being a child of Kalmthout, my particular weak point has been the paniculatas. The parent plants at Hemelrijk are so wonderful that they're irresistible. But at your place I really discovered a new world. And your enthusiasm is like the flu - once contracted the infection passes from one to another in no time at all!"

Hungyi (Taiwan) 18/8/2014

"... Above all, it's the Shamrock garden which is an unrivalled surprise ... It's a theatre that produces a whole variety of shows at the same time. It's just too clever!"

Leo Quédé 1/4/2014 (former trainee)

"... We've received Corinne Mallet's book. My garden is great, it's beautiful. I got 20/20 in my internship report. In any case I had a great time with you during these three days. I learned a lot of stuff I could tell my father and my mother. Thanks a lot, and see you soon."

Jean Astrop (Atlanta) 16/10/2014

I just returned from the Cherokee Garden Library lecture by Lynden Miller. She gave a fantastic very inspirational talk. It goes to show what one person can do! Gardening is a great connection for wonderful people! We are both fans of yours.

Daniel Kuszac 28/09/2014

Who was it that said ... that roe deer totally disregard hydrangeas??? ME! But that was before - that was yesterday. It's well known that wild boars don't attack plants (except perhaps maize). They never damage trees, or shrubs, or perennials ... except by accident. This is not quite the case for deer, who don't hesitate to attack the bark of the trunks of young trees, either to feed or to rub and thus renew their antlers, and who don't hesitate to force their way through the rose bushes, in all seasons, gleaning on the way any flowers still present. That's what the fence is for. But they never, never touch hydrangeas ... except ... except ... for MY deer, who has taken it into his head to attack some quercifolia. 'Sikes Dwarf' has had this bitter experience, and even the delicate 'Little Honey', so well established in Bois Lurette, has not found favour in his eyes. Apparently only the leaves appeared on the menu, so the next flowering may not be entirely compromised. But the expected autumn colours have been postponed indefinitely. My affection to you ... and not to my deer, and, while I'm about it, not to my wild boars either.



Hydrangeas 2015

at HERITAGE MUSEUMS & GARDENS

An International Conference: July 14, 15 & 16, 2015
Keynote by Dr. Michael Dirr

HYDRANGEAS, HYDRANGEAS, HYDRANGEAS!
The Species, Cultivars, Newest Introductions, Breeding Innovations, Cultural Issues, Tours of Significant Private Cape Cod Gardens. Plus on-site displays by Major Hydrangeas Suppliers, and Plant Sales Stalls by Local Nurseries featuring hundreds of hydrangeas - all presented and available over three days in the cradle of the genus - Cape Cod.

Heritage is widely known for our rhododendrons, but we also feature a growing collection of hydrangeas. In concert with the Cape Cod Hydrangea Society, Heritage is the repository of the Society's Hydrangea Collection and has continued to expand hydrangea plantings throughout the property.

Lectures will be held each morning with garden tours in the afternoon. Tuesday and Wednesday lectures will be held at the Cape Codder Resort and Spa followed by tours featuring significant private gardens on the Cape. Thursday will be a full Heritage Day dedicated to tours of all garden areas including the Hydrangea Collection. Thursday evening will feature the Conference banquet followed by an Ice Cream Social and a Question & Answer Forum to conclude the event. Transportation will be provided to conference attendees from the Cape Codder Resort and Spa to and from the garden tours, as well as to and from Heritage.

Cape Cod is a historical treasure trove, a place of incomparable natural beauty, with a maritime climate befitting *Hydrangea macrophylla* - the crown jewel of the genus - at their blooming peak in July. Please join us for the Best of the Best in Hydrangeas, Horticulture, and Hospitality!

The Hydrangea Conference is at Heritage Museums and Gardens in Hyannis, MA :

<http://heritagemuseumsandgardens.org/hydrangeas2015>

10th Hydrangea Festival in Landschloss Zuschendorf (Saxony)
From 25/07 to 09/08/2015



The theme of the festival is dedicated to French producers. France has been the cradle of breeding for European hydrangeas for over 100 years, from Commerson to today. In collaboration with the largest collection of hydrangeas in the world, the 'Shamrock' Arboretum in Varengeville sur Mer (76119 - Normandy France), there will be an exhibition of the most emblematic varieties of French, and therefore European, culture (Mouillère, Lemoine, and Cayeux as well as many others, more recent); a retrospective of French expertise of the past 110 years. With 400 taxa of species and varieties, the botanic collection of Dresden University, based in Zuschendorf at the Landschloss Castle, is the largest in Germany. In collaboration with Claus and Torsten Kühne Plants GbR and the Reinhard Ullmann horticultural establishment, the castle is embellished with the most magnificent hydrangeas produced in Saxony.

For more information contact Bernard Schumpp:
Shamrock27@orange.fr

Several Shamrock members have passed on to us some very interesting observations about growing and propagating *H. serrata* and *H. ×serratophylla*.

PROPAGATION

Gallia Guillaume

A cutting from ‘Santiago’ taken from a branch with single flowers will produce a plant with predominantly single flowers. A cutting from the same ‘Santiago’ taken from a branch with double flowers will give a plant with predominantly double flowers.

Marie-France Doll

A cutting taken from a branch with variegated leaves will retain this characteristic in the plant obtained.

France Gosse

If your *H. serrata* lies down flat on the ground without any reason (i.e. in normal lighting conditions), this is probably because the cutting was taken from the side, rather than the top of the original plant. Cuttings taken from the vertical upper branches will give erect shrubs. Moreover, for *H. serrata* with thin stems which are difficult to propagate from cuttings, propagation by layering is fairly easy. (But, once again, beware of the risk of producing ‘horizontal’ plants if you propagate from side branches).

PRUNING *H. serrata* and *H. ×serratophylla*.

Several members have experimented with the pruning of plants with degeneration of the main stems.

Jean-Pierre Péan and André Diéval¹

Both of them have pruned *H. serrata* in their own gardens and at Shamrock, in the hope of regenerating a declining plant. Although pruning in winter sometimes rejuvenates a plant, it does not allow flowering in the following season. This is particularly true for *H. ×serratophylla* (*H.* ‘Shojo’, ‘Odoriko Amacha’, ‘Professeur Iida’)

Ishii Chitose

In Tokyo, where the atmosphere is drier than in the mountains, it is usual to prune back *H. serrata* after flowering to stimulate the growth of young branches that will bloom the following year.

Recent experience at ‘Shamrock’

A ‘Tiara’ plant which was showing signs of degeneration had its main branches pruned back by two-thirds by Jean-Pierre Péan in July 2014; this caused a strong growth of new branches during the summer and the following autumn, promising a rich harvest of flowers for the new season (provided that this winter does not prove too severe).

1. André has just written a booklet about pruning hydrangeas of different species. This document will be available at our Fête des Hydrangéas on 18 and 19 April 2015.

New hydrangeas in Japan *Takaki Sugimoto*

Because my good friend Mr Hirasawa, accompanied by Mr Tsuchiya, investigates the hydrangeas in Izu every year, there is a considerable number of new plants to report.

I send you pictures of varieties produced by me, varieties discovered by Mr Tsuchiya, and others discovered in Izu-oshima, as follows: “Izumonogatari”(1), “Sazanami” (2), “Mizuki” (3), “Ohse”, “Ohshimaryokka”(4).

In addition, there is another variety, “Junsui”, which is not illustrated. This is a plant which can bloom at any time of the year.



A n n o u n c e m e n t s a n d n e w i n t r o d u c t i o n s

The ANNUAL SHAMROCK “2000 Hydrangeas” FESTIVAL will take place over the weekend of 18 and 19 April 2015 in Varengeville sur mer , at the Villa Casanova, 33 route de l’Eglise. This year, the focus will be on clematis, those magnificent potential companion plants for hydrangeas. The famous «Travers» nursery offers Shamrock members the possibility of going directly to their website: <http://www.clematite.net/accueil.php>, to order plants for delivery in Varengeville during this weekend. There will be other clematis in bloom available to buy, but we do not yet have details of the cultivar names.



NEW INTRODUCTIONS IN THE ‘SHAMROCK’ COLLECTION

- H. serrata ‘Aya Ezo Yae’ LG 2153
- H. ‘Baroque Angel’ LG 2187
- H. involucrata ‘Blue Bunny’ LG 2196
- H. serrata ‘Chiri-san Sue’ LG 2173
- H. ‘Bianca Di Ceriano’ LG 2157
- H. paniculata ‘Fire Light’ LG 2190
- H. serrata ‘Hachibuse Temari’ LG 2172
- H. paniculata ‘Harry van Trier’ LG 2169
- H. aspera ‘Hot Chocolate’ LG 2176
- H. serrata ‘Iyo-no-Hoshi’ Lg 2162
- H. serrata ‘Ishizuchi-no-Hikari’ LG 2152
- H. serrata ‘Kohkansetsu’ LG 2164
- H. paniculata ‘Lammetje’ LG 2188

- H. paniculata ‘Little Quick Fire’ LG 2192
- H. ‘Love’ LG 2159
- H. serrata ‘Miyama Kurohime’ LG 20202
- H. serrata ‘Murasaki Kobai’
- H. ‘Papillon’ LG 2160
- H. paniculata ‘Pee Wee’ LG 2193
- H. aspera ‘Pink Giant’ LG 2197
- H. serrata ‘Shichihenge’ LG 2179
- H. serrata ‘Shiro Ogi’ LG 2171
- H. quercifolia ‘Snow Drift’ LG 2200
- H. ‘Spike’ LG 2158
- H. serrata ‘Tosa-no-Mahoroba’ LG 2189
- H. aspera ‘Velvet Lace’ LG 2198
- H. ‘Wedding Gown’ LG 2184

J ournées des **p** lantes
2000 h ydrangéas pour “**S**hamrock”
18 & 19 avril **2015**
de 10h00 à 18h00



Maison “**C**asanova”, 33 route de l’**E**glise
76119 Varengeville sur **M**er
Cette année, “**S**écial **C**lématites”

Avec le concours de Boos-Hortensias, Chauvin Production, Hortensiaritols, Hortensias France Production, Sicamus Production, Tous au Jardin.
VENTE AU PROFIT DE L’ASSOCIATION “SHAMROCK”, ROUTE DE L’EGLISE 76119, VARENGEVILLE SUR MER 02-35-85-14-64
A VARENGEVILLE SUR MER, À 10 KM DE DIEPPE, EN HAUTE-NORMANDIE



Our member Michaël Potel, in his garden with the plant *Hydrangea (Asperae)* ‘Gong Shan’ and its HUGE inflorescences!

Raymond Guillaume 1/1/2015
“The years go by and no two are alike ... By serendipity, chance directed me to hydrangeas, but only the chemical side. Everything started from aluminium, harmful to plants but harmless if it is trapped in a chemical complex (anthocyanin) giving this beautiful blue when the soil pH is acidic. Moreover, it soon became evident that an excess of nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) inhibits the absorption of aluminium. Only potassium (K) would go against this, bearing in mind, however, that muriate of potash (KCI) is not a recommended fertilizer. It suffices to say right away, then, that a large NPK is not favourable to the blueing of hydrangeas.”

T o c o n t a c t u s

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P i c t u r e c r e d i t s

Didier Boos: p. 14, lower, Arnold Arboretum Herbarium: p. 12 (nos 1, 2, 3), Kiyoshi Fujii: p. 21 lower, Tetsu Hirasawa: pp. 8 & 10, Ozzie Johnson: p. 15, Kew Gardens Herbarium: p. 12 (n°4), Geneva Botanical Gardens Herbarium: p. 21, Corinne Mallet: p. 12 (nos 5, 6, 7, 8, 9), 18 lower, Robert Mallet : pp. 1, 4, 6, 12 (n°10), 14 upper, 16, 17, 18 upper & 21, J.-P. Péan: p. 20, Michaël Potel: p. 24, Bernard Schumpp: pp. 5 & 6, Takaaki Sugimoto: p. 23, Tokyo Botanical Gardens Herbarium: p. 21, Bryan Woy: drawing p. 1