

JOURNAL

FRIENDS OF THE 'SHAMROCK' HYDRANGEA COLLECTION

Journal n° 27 - 2016



www.hortensias-hydrangea.com



E d i t o r i a l

Bryan Woy

Dear friends of “Shamrock”,

The highlight of 2015 for all our members, many of whom largely contributed to it, was undoubtedly the award by the French government of the label *Jardin Remarquable* (“Remarkable Garden”) to the ‘Shamrock’ Hydrangea Collection. The 300 or so private gardens in France awarded this label by the ministry of culture and communication also benefit from the attention of other relevant ministries: those responsible for the protection of the environment, agriculture, education and tourism. Curiously the very same morning that this award was presented - in the presence of national and local authorities, including the director of the Ministry of Culture and the Mayor of Varengeville - the collection was visited by the representative of the French conservatory of specialized plant collections, Thierry Lamant, to confirm our “National Collection (CCVS)” label as the only collection in France gathering the whole *Hydrangea* genus together in one place.

Editorial

continued

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What makes this collection so original is that during each of our successive moves, we have continued to make progress in ways of showcasing the beauty of the plants. The result has been that the collection has turned into a real spectacle, a living reflection of the diversity of the plant world, with horticultural and educational repercussions both for adult plant-lovers and for the young nature conservationists of the future. In the pages of this journal, we express our gratitude to many of those connected with the Shamrock collection and the world of hydrangeas, including my greatly regretted predecessor, Bernard Schumpp, to whom we owe so much.

Bernard Schumpp's last message to our Association (about last year's Journal)

Friday 13 March 2015

Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

Excellent work in all the articles, reports and technical texts...

A special mention, among others, for Corinne for the new layout that presents 'Shamrock' in the way it deserves.

The simplicity of the cover page with the white background enhancing the colours of the "celestial garden" is a marvel. A really high-class job!

A simpler layout and an increasingly homogeneous typeface for all the articles make the whole thing easier to read - pictures grouped next to the text, everything to help us to take real pleasure in finding out about hydrangeas.

Once again, congratulations!

Thank you Corinne, thank you Robert, and thanks to all the authors and participants of the Association, in France and all over the world.

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New members

Béatrice BERTIN-MURAT
Catherine & Frédéric BLAMONT
Charles BOULANGER
M. & Mme BOUTILLIER
Anna BROCA
Xavier & Catherine de BAYSER
Rémy & Floriane DEMAREST
Thomas FERRERE
Clémentine GILLET
Marie GUÉRIN
Christophe & M.Hélène GUICHARD
Cesare JERMINI (Swiss)
Mariane LINTHORST
Dominique MACOUIN
Bruno de GROSBOSIS
Marc MORON
Anne-Marie CANTOURNET
Mireille CAVE
Suzel MULLER
Gérard & Chantal POURRAT
M & Mme ROUSSEL DEPRET
Philippe SIBOUT

Editorial team:

Marie-Hélène Bénetière, André Dieval, Roger Dinsdale, Maurice Foster, Alison Grimwood, Michael Hickson, Ozzie Johnson, F. Lenoble-Prédine, Corinne Mallet, Robert Mallet, Lynden Miller, Matthias Riedel, Bernard Schumpp(†), Siegart Prkno, Peter Smith, Takaaki Sugimoto, Bryan Woy.
Chief Editor: Corinne Mallet
Layout: Corinne Mallet
Drawings and French-English Translation: Bryan Woy.
English-French Translation: Robert Mallet
Rewriting: Corinne Mallet
Proofreading: Anne Nicolle, Bryan Woy

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

Three personalities from the world of hydrangeas have passed away

Robert Mallet

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Bernard Schumpp

Bernard left us suddenly, after undergoing another operation that he had announced to us during his last visit to 'Shamrock' with Nicole. To tell you about what he did for the collection, as president, honorary president, and also as a member of the HW2 (Hydrangea World Wide) Association goes beyond the possibilities of this modest journal. He always tackled issues head on and brought his long-term vision to the future of plant collections in general, and particularly to that of the *Hydrangea* genus. It is only now that we are starting to appreciate the real value of all the archive work he did, which, fortunately, has been passed on to us by his family. This work includes the "International Directory of *Hydrangea* Cultivar Names", to which he had devoted so much of his time. He will be regretted by many amateur and professional hydrangea lovers, including those of Angers, Dresden and Tokyo. There is a report of his passing in the Tokyo association's Bulletin, and the 2015 exhibition at the castle of Zuschendorf was dedicated to him.



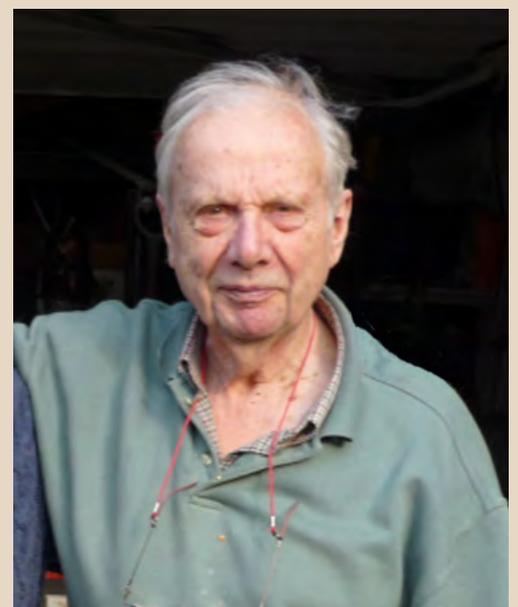
Harry van Trier

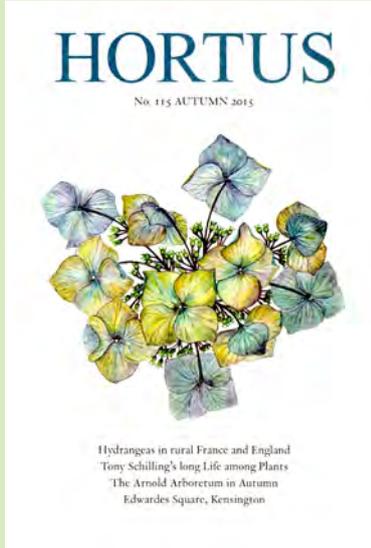
Harry's career in the world of plants began in a providential way. When he applied for the post of Curator of the garden of Kalmthout near Antwerp, Jelena De Belder gave him the job in spite of his lack of experience in the field, detecting his human qualities and scientific spirit, and she was not mistaken. For 'Shamrock', Harry was immediately recommended to us by Jelena to write the historical chapter of Corinne Mallet's first book. His adventure with plants continued after that, particularly with hostas and, above all, hydrangeas, for which he lavished his advice on Jan Oprins, who is now the custodian of his collections. Thank you, Harry, for your kindness and your passion for plants, especially Japanese ones.



Peter Chappell

Peter and his wife Diana were such good friends to us - ever since 1980 when they had just recently opened a nursery specializing in rare plants, including many *Hydrangea* species and cultivars. We now grow over twenty of them at 'Shamrock', including three famous *H. aspera*: *H.* 'Spinners', *H.* 'The Ditch' and, especially, *H.* 'Peter Chappell' with white flowers, given its name by Maurice Foster. In 2010, with our faithful friends Josiane and Henri Lamache, we visited Peter, coincidentally on the day of his birthday, and lunched together at the neighbouring 'Red Lion'. We met again in 2011, when his house and his nursery had been sold. We are sure that he is now sharing his traditional cup of tea and biscuits with his beloved Diana, both of them benevolently looking down on us from on high.





LE FIGARO Friday 26/06/2015, “Hydrangéas en majesté”, by Catherine Saint -Jean

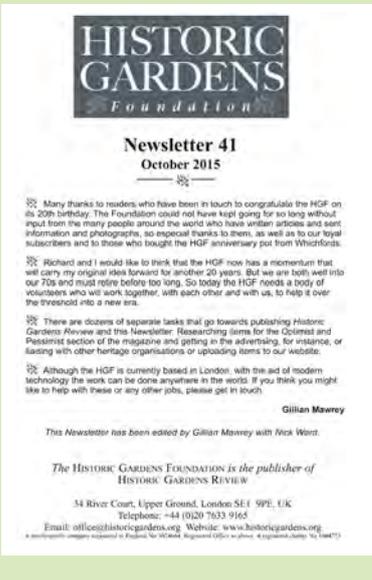
Paris-Normandie 3/07/2015 “Shamrock, jardin remarquable”

Informations Dieppoises 07/07 /2015 “Un label d’excellence pour le jardin Shamrock”

RUSTICA, letter, 26/08/2015

HISTORIC GARDEN REVIEW, newsletter 10/2015: “Congratulations”, by Gillian Mawrey

HORTUS n°115, Autumn 2015 “From the Editor’s desk”, by David Wheeler (see also HORTUS n°109, spring 2014 “Hydrangea Happiness” by Sally Gregson).



Congratulations!



To Robert & Corinne Mallet who run the Shamrock National Hydrangea collection at Varengeville near Dieppe, which has received the national 'Jardin Remarquable' label from the French Ministry of Culture in recognition of the beauty of the garden (right). The 2ha (5 acre) garden contains more than 1400 plants (species, sub-species and cultivars), some of which are found nowhere else in the western world. More on www.hortensias-hydrangea.com

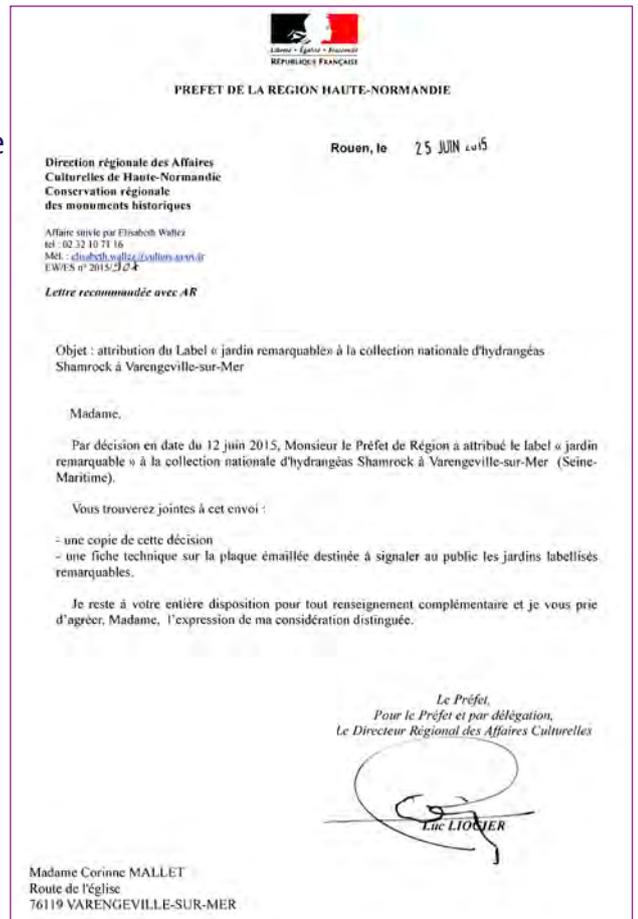


T h a n k s f o r 2 0 1 5

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 Didier Boos, Pierre Courquin, Daniel Kuszak, Martine Merlin, Bernard Tordeurs and Jean-Pierre Péan. 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 (†2015) (publishing the Index and archiving patents of plant names for HW2), Andre Diéval (rescuing and naming endangered plants), Hélène Croizier (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, Jean-Baptiste Leroy and Anne Nicolle. Significant weeding and clearing work in the “Green Dragon Wood” was done by Christiane Le Scanff, Anne Nicolle, Christine Renard and Jean-Marie Rouet. Pruning of the avenue of lime trees was taken on by Emmanuel Gasdon. 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(†2015), Yan Oprins, Sieghart Prkno and Matthias Riedel; as well as media correspondents who have helped us: Isabelle Lebrun (of the *France-Bleue* radio station), Yves Marchandain, Gillian Mawrey (Historic Gardens Review) and David Wheeler (Hortus). 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).

Award of the label *Jardin Remarquable* New recognition for the 'Shamrock' National Collection

At 3 pm on 30 June 2015, the 'Shamrock' National Collection of hydrangeas was awarded the label "Jardin Remarquable" ("Remarkable Garden"), complete with a plaque. Members of the Haute-Normandie DRAC were there, including Elizabeth Wallez who had worked personally for Shamrock to be given this label; and many friends of 'Shamrock' gathered together to attend and celebrate this noteworthy event. It was Mr. Luc Liogier, director of DRAC Haute-Normandie, who placed the official plaque into the hands of our president, Bryan Woy and those of Corinne Mallet, the founder of the 'Shamrock' Collection. Patrick Boulrier, the Mayor of Varengeville, was kind enough to honour us with his presence, and after the speeches and thanks, everybody gathered under the gazebo for a friendly drink.



Twinning with a Japanese Collection

Our main correspondent in Japan, Takashi Sugimoto, wrote us this letter to propose that the 'Shamrock' National Collection of hydrangeas twin with the future Japanese National Collection – a proposal which the Council of our Association gladly accepted.

31 July 2015. Dear Robert and Corinne,

I hope you are well. Because of my eye problems this year, I could not do as much exploration at each location. Last year and this year, I explored the Boso Honto Peninsula on the Pacific Ocean side of Japan. The leaves of *H. macrophylla* are thick in Higashi-Izu and Izu-Oshima and many of them are "shiny". There is not a great deal of variation in colour. I think the northern limit of *H. macrophylla* is a little further north. I found plants with ball-shaped inflorescences with half in flower, the other half flowering 10 days later. It was just a quick glimpse, because unfortunately the flowers fade rapidly.

As the final work of my life, I would like to create a national collection like that of 'Shamrock' in my home city of Izu-Oshima, and I have started the preparations. We would be interested in creating a twinning link with 'Shamrock'. If this link was created, we would quickly be able to send Japanese native species to 'Shamrock'. I think it would also be an opportunity for us to obtain original plant species that Shamrock possesses. T. Sugimoto.

The *Hydrangea* Collection at New York Botanical Garden

Lynden Miller

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I have always been a passionate lover of hydrangeas. For many years I collected and grew many *H. macrophylla** at my own garden in Northwest Connecticut where the plants were perfectly hardy but they seldom bloomed without heroic measures. Fortunately for me, I had a gardener who was as obsessed as I and he was willing to dig them up each fall, wrap them and cover them with many layers of dry leaves and plastic tarpaulins to protect them from late spring frosts which killed the flower buds. Then they would be put out in garden in late May. After many years, I decided it was too expensive and time-consuming to do this and I gave about 30 good sized plants (about 15 cultivars) to the New York Botanical Garden¹ where they bloom in a nice border each year. Now I collect all the



other wonderful species which thrive and bloom in my garden².

1: see photos 1 & 2, hydrangea cultivars given to N.Y.B.G

2: see photo 3, *H. serrata* ssp. *yezoensis* 'Blue Billow'

*: these are actually *H. macrophylla* and hybrids of this species. (Ed.)

L a t e b e a u t i e s

Robert Mallet



They are not lacking in beauty early in the season, especially 'Twist and Shout' (2), bred by Michael Dirr by crossing 'Endless Summer' with 'Lady in Red', but one remains amazed at their autumn splendour, which for some, such as 'Libelle', is combined with superb long-lasting flowers.



1. 'James Grant',
3. 'Libelle',
4. 'Messaline'.

The United Kingdom National Collection of hydrangeas*

Alison Grimwood and Peter Smith

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In 1984 the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG – since re-titled Plant Heritage), contacted all parks and gardens requesting that they explore the possibility of starting national collections. Derby Parks agreed that Darley Park, with its disused walled garden, the neighbouring Butterfly Garden and its unmistakable horticultural legacy, would be the most suitable place to start one of these collections.



Initially viburnums and hydrangeas were collected but later in the 1980s it was decided that the collection should include only hydrangeas. *Viburnum* was a very large genus and it was unlikely that a complete collection was possible in the space. Added to that the newly arrived viburnum beetle was devouring the leaves and shredding some plants to bare branches. There was also a much larger collection of viburnums at Gredington in the nearby county of Shropshire. On the *Hydrangea* side, there were far more public and professional enquiries about the *Hydrangea* Collection and the only other *Hydrangea* collection of a similar size was at the Holehird Garden in the Lake District.

To accommodate the collection, beds were dug in the walled garden. The outer garden was re-landscaped with the construction of retaining walls, paths in the shape of a figure of eight pattern with alternating steps and also slopes to allow for disabled access. Three plants of each variety were purchased and planted as a triangle but because of space constraints it was decided to buy two of each and place one behind the other. British nurseries, notably Hilliers of Winchester supplied the first plants. When it was necessary to look abroad for new cultivars Esveld in Holland were very supportive (and negotiations with the finance department were conducted to ensure the bill was paid in euros and not pounds) and so the collection grew to over 450 taxa.

In 2009 two things happened. 2009 represented a turning point for the collection. After the 2008 financial crisis, central government severely restricted the funding paid to local councils which meant that it was unlikely that money would be available to develop and expand the collection, and Peter Smith, who had taken over the task of sourcing new plants and arranging their planting, was due to retire. He approached the Friends of Darley Open Spaces (FoDOS), who enthusiastically took on the maintenance and development of the collection.

A sub group called Hydrangea Derby was formed and policies and procedures developed to bring a business-like approach to the venture, successfully running this national collection and visitor attraction for 6 years now. During this time we have added 150 new varieties and held an annual open day which attracts 80 to 90 visitors for the guided tours.

We are all volunteers who find pleasure, exercise, companionship and purpose every Tuesday morning and one Saturday a month in hoeing, pruning and edging and taking part in the annual deadheading day. This year we've clocked up 230 volunteer hours. We've been awarded the Community Green Flag for 4 years running because amongst other criteria we are sustainable, biodiverse and care about conservation and heritage; key criteria when applying for funding.

In our half hectare garden all the cultivated species of *Hydrangea* are well represented. On our alkaline soil the blue cultivars of *H. macrophylla* turn pink. A thick layer of wood chippings, surplus to requirements from Council green space maintenance, keeps the plants warm, wet and weed free but is slowly acidifying the soil and bringing out a bluer tint to the petals of some plants.

The United Kingdom National Collection of hydrangeas*

c o n t i n u e d

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In 2008, at the end of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) *H. paniculata* trial, Peter Smith took a lorry to the RHS trial garden at Wisley in Surrey and brought back many of the paniculata cultivars. This has helped us to establish a comprehensive collection of cultivars of this species.

Serratas don't do so well in the exposed beds of the walled garden even though we have 19 birch trees to provide shade. The walls of the garden are obvious canvases for the climbing varieties and we've recently added a few more. We are particularly interested *H. quercifolia* and *H. involucrata* although the new cultivars of latter species seem to be less hardy and difficult to overwinter particularly in the first few years.

In April this year the RHS delivered 24 varieties of *H. macrophylla*¹ Magical Series as part of their current four-year trial of this species. The trials' judging panel visited in August to view the plants and also gave us the benefit of their advice and experience on the rest of the collection. As a result, we have instigated a review of our identification and labelling. Labelling each plant is an ongoing project which we are gradually completing. We use engraved plastic labels mounted on to posts made from recycled plastic which are inserted in front of each plant, giving visitors a clear view of the name of each taxon.

Our future planning has changed since the Plant Heritage 2015 Review. Following their suggestion, we are initially going to restrict our National Collection to just *H. paniculata*. We already have 60% of all known varieties and have in the last few months started making hardwood cuttings from other collections as well as our own. When the *H. paniculata* National Collection is more or less complete we will consider adding *H. quercifolia*. We will, however, still collect other species of *Hydrangea*, if and when spectacular cultivars are bred and providing we have surplus funds. Hydrangea Derby will remain an important visitor attraction for Derby and we will encourage visitors to take pleasure in all our hydrangeas, not just the National Collection. Our Open Day is Sunday, 7th August 2016 with 2 guided tours

As 2016 begins, the unseasonably warm weather has already stirred the plants into action so we're keeping our fingers crossed that the deadheads still in place and the mulch will protect them from any later frosts. The plants put in this autumn have taken hold and make a valuable addition, our hardwood cuttings are in place so, while the plants get on with what they do best, we'll continue with the cataloguing, marketing, finding the funding, liaising with our partners, adding to the bank of *Hydrangea* knowledge and keeping our highly appreciated volunteers busy.

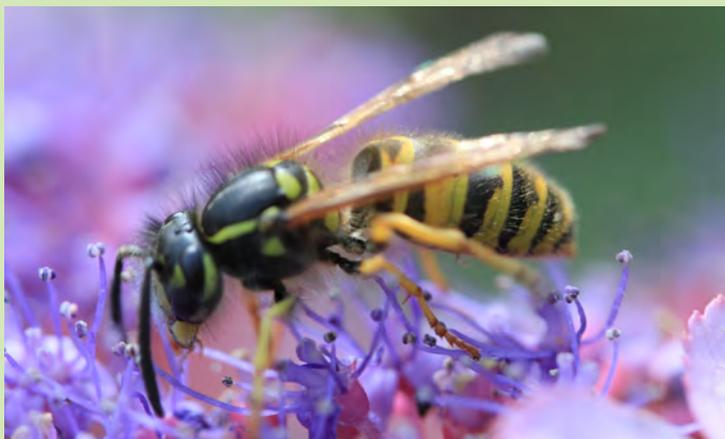


Presentation by the Mayor, Paul Pegg, of the Green Flag award to the two volunteer managers from the Derby National Collection: Alison Grimwood (in pink) and Peter Smith.



The most active volunteers of the Derby National Collection.

*Summary of the text by our member Roger Dinsdale - Note 1: these are in fact hybrids of *H. macrophylla* (ed.)



From left to right, top to bottom: a butterfly settled on *H. villosa*, a honey bee foraging in *H. petiolaris*, a wasp drinking the heady nectar of *H. villosa*, and a dragonfly hanging from an inflorescence of *H. 'Hopcorn'*.

C . C . V . S . S i l v e r J u b i l e e

Françoise Lenoble-Prédine

Dear friends,

What a very sad time we are going through. This can only encourage us to communicate the values of the CCVS*: loving plants, nature, generosity and solidarity ... This is our sincere wish and hope.

Remembering that beautiful autumn day in Segrez, I particularly wanted to thank you for sharing the opportunity to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the CCVS. Your presence and attention throughout the day brought home to all of our team the extent of the network we all belong to. Nothing was missing: neither your own warm presence, nor the intensity of the encounters, nor the exceptional sumptuous autumn setting, nor the sunshine, nor the recording of resolutions and dreams through the palaver tree, not to mention backpacks-full of energy. It was a fine tribal gathering for “plant and botany crackpots”, and we will be creating other occasions like this...

Just to repeat a few phrases from the palaver tree:

- we have brought together “the 3 ‘V’s of Victory: Vision, Values, Volition”;
- we have decided that CCVS stands for a Collection des Cinglés Végétalement Sereins (“Collection of vegetably-serene crackpots”) or in other words a Concentration de Collectionneurs Vraiment Sérieux (“Concentration of Really Serious Collectors “);
- we have emphasized “the importance of green as a hope for sharing the living world”;
- we have caught a “serious illness with no intention of being cured: that of the love of plants”;
- we wish for a “long fruiting period for CCVS with long intellectual exchanges about plants”;
- we bring “all our affection to this tool, so vital for the preservation of our roots...”

“There once was a great adventure - that of CCVS: may it last and last”: this is what you all wish for. With such invigorating words, we will do our best to make your wish come true, and our entire team thanks you again. We will do whatever we can to fuel the fire of botany and love of plants.

The delicious smell of humus during our meeting and stroll through the Segrez Arboretum was a reminder of the importance of our own interior humus, to be composted together with the help of all of us. By preserving the living world, especially plants, by “properly cultivating the planet”, we also regain an interior and exterior oasis, marking out our territory under the eyes of others to encourage everybody to find out more about it.

It is through Hommes et Plantes (“People and Plants”) that we can convey this message, through the articles and testimonies that you send us. If you can subscribe to it, encourage your friends to subscribe, and make it better known, this is one way we can encourage a “fine financial rain” to fall on our association that needs it so much. Thank you once again. We hope to see you very soon.

Françoise Lenoble-Prédine, CCVS President, in charge of the journal *Hommes et Plantes* - www.ccvsv.org

* ‘Conservatoire des collections végétales spécialisées’ - the French equivalent of the British ‘Plant Heritage’

The Züschenendorf exhibition *

Matthias Riedel

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The annual hydrangea exhibition held at the Landschloss Castle from 27 July to 28 August, 2015 was visited by 9000 visitors in 10 days. It was dedicated to Bernard Schumpp whose collaboration we greatly appreciated before he left us so suddenly.

The main theme of the exhibition was “France and hydrangeas”. Each room in the castle corresponded to a different theme:

- In the main salon was the story of Philibert Commerson and his adventure around the world with Jeanne Barré disguised as a man, and the herbaria they compiled.
- In the “Loien Room” we presented Victor Lemoine before the pollination of H. ‘Mariesii’ next to documents from old horticultural journals mentioning varieties bred by him.
- In the “aisle” there were old French cultivars - three or four specimens of each, in tones of red and blue. In this context we displayed documents on varieties bred by Mouillère, father and son, as well as the reception given to these innovations at the time by German gardeners and horticultural journalists.
- In the ballroom, the main scene represented a Parisian street in 1910. In the centre of the room, surrounded by hydrangeas, was a stall selling old varieties of hydrangeas in the colours of France. In contrast, a selection of Saxon varieties was placed in the foreground. Visitors could thus discover 100 years of breeding work at a glance.
- In the vestibule recent French hydrangea cultivars by Chauvin were on show. We also placed a winged dragon there, a symbol of an imaginary journey through the air between Paris, Angers and Züschenendorf. Everywhere there were French fleur-de-lis in many shapes and sizes, made of hydrangea flowers.
- In the “fireplace room”, a woman wearing a dress made of hydrangea flowers could be seen.
- In the “smoking room”, a non-French plant was presented. This was a new variety by Katrin Meinl, called ‘Diva Fiore’, grown in blue or pink. It is a plant with strong stems, very resistant to cold, which should make it possible for gardens hitherto too exposed to the elements to grow hydrangeas.

The Chauvin, Kühne and Ullmann nurseries provided us with plants for this exhibition.

Furthermore, we were able, for the first time, to display our collection of hydrangeas growing in open ground that was in full flower, following the previous winter’s clement weather.

In total, the exhibition encouraged visitors to come in even greater numbers to discover the diversity of hydrangeas. The love of these wonderful plants is growing more and more in our region of Saxony.

* German text by Matthias Riedel, translated into French by Sieghart Prkno.

www.landschloss-zuschendorf.de

The la Roche Branlante collection of hydrangeas

Robert Mallet



It was Jean Laborey, one of the founders of the Association of Botanical Parks of France (APBF), who had transformed his garden in Ploumanac’h in Brittany into an experimental haven for new plants, or older ones. These photos are taken from an inventory by Olivier Colin of the hydrangeas in this garden: la Roche Branlante. Jean Laborey’s son, Vincent, now has several C.C.V.S. collections.

Origin and descendants of the hydrangea ‘Hot Chocolate’

Maurice Foster

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Exploring *Hydrangea aspera* at White House Farm

I first became interested in *Hydrangea aspera* when I spent a summer working for the late Michael Haworth – Booth some 55 years ago, an interest since reinforced by observing the species in several visits to Yunnan where it is a pioneer, indeed a weed, in some places omnipresent between about 1800 and 2400m altitude. It was notable for its variability in form and flower.

This triggered an interest in exploring the species by hybridising and selecting forms over more than 20 years. I focused on three types - those with dark foliage with a reddish leaf reverse; secondly others with unusually ‘blue’ fertile flowers; and finally one or two with a tendency to mophead form. Hardiness was an essential character, along with a relatively compact habit, generally desirable from a garden point of view.

Coloured foliage forms and hybrids

My first batch of coloured foliage seedlings came from a form called ‘Koki’ that ostensibly originated in Japan. This yielded plants with a similar relatively bushy compact habit, but some with flowers of a more attractive pink colour as well as good foliage. A selection from these was made by Jan Oprins, the late Harry van Trier and myself with beautiful shell pink flowers and named ‘Hot Chocolate’. This has now been available in Europe for some years and here in the UK has proved a perfectly hardy selection, coming unharmed through the severe frost-bearing easterly winds of the 2012/13 winter, which damaged other forms. It was a worthwhile extension to the range of *aspera* cultivars then available, bringing an attractive new combination of foliage and flower.

A second seedling from another provenance, a form with significantly darker leaf reverse, preserving a compact habit, and with a striking combination of red buds, vivid prominent blue/purple stamens and white ray flowers, gradually staining pink, was my late wife’s favourite and when she died in 2014, I named it ‘Rosemary Foster’ in her memory. It is also proving hardy here and is a first class garden plant, flowering later, in August and over a long period. It has been a big hit with visitors to the garden. Jan Oprins is propagating ‘Rosemary Foster’ and this year I plan to also distribute plants to nurseries in the UK.

I hand pollinated ‘Rosemary Foster’ with pollen from ‘Hot Chocolate’ to yield a further interesting batch of seedlings, among which was an intensely coloured form which shows great promise and which has not yet been propagated. It is very showy and I have named it ‘Marietta’ after a pretty girl. It has a striking flower and retains the coloured foliage. As a four year old plant it has not yet demonstrated its habit, though to date it looks possibly taller and more upright.

Finally, I crossed ‘Hot Chocolate’ (seed parent) with a cultivar with good dark green foliage and red petioles and with extra large white heavily fimbriated flowers called ‘Titania’ in an attempt to develop an attractive fimbriated large pink flower on a coloured foliage plant. Unfortunately the marked serrations on the flower turned out to be recessive, but the cross has produced some very promising large flowered pink and cream forms with both coloured and green foliage which I shall continue to trial, bearing in mind that flower size can reduce as plants mature.

In the greenhouse I have small plants of another cross between “Hot Chocolate” and a tall form with reddish leaf reverse called ‘Gongshan,’ which is less hardy, killed back to three year old growth by the freezing winds of 2012/13. However, it has the potential to make a small tree in appropriate conditions. Curiously only about one in ten seedlings produced the coloured foliage. It will be interesting to see these develop and if any have inherited the hardiness of ‘Hot Chocolate’, the male parent, combined with the tree form of the mother plant.

Origin and descendants of the hydrangea 'Hot Chocolate'

illustrations

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Left to right, reading downwards: Comparison between sterile florets of hydrangeas 'Hot Chocolate' and 'Koki'; 'Hot Chocolate' plant; 'Rosemary Foster' plant; 'Marietta' inflorescence; unnamed pink seedling; unnamed pink and white seedling; the cultivar 'Blue Haven'; unnamed blue seedling.

Origin and descendants of the hydrangea ‘Hot Chocolate’ *c o n t i n u e d*

‘Blue’ forms

It is said that *H. aspera* will preserve its ‘blue’ flower colour in alkaline conditions. I have found that in some forms an excellent blue is achieved in acid soils but I doubt that this is likely to be preserved in a high pH. I have produced a batch of seedlings from one of these plants and they have developed excellent shades of blue and blue/purple. One I have selected and given it the ‘kennel’ name of ‘Blue Haven’. It seems perfectly hardy, has vivid colour, but rather small and too few white ray flowers. I have not yet trialled these blue forms in alkaline soil, but suspect the vivid colour may revert to a more typical mauve/purple.

A further rather dramatic blue originated unexpectedly against the run of play from my ‘Rosemary Foster’ × ‘Hot Chocolate’ cross. It has a loose informal inflorescence with white ray flowers and fertiles of a striking blue with green foliage. It looks promising but is still a young plant and needs further testing.

Mophead types

One of a batch of seedlings had ray florets scattered across the inflorescence as well as around the perimeter. It looked interesting, with some potential and I sowed seed from it, open pollinated. One of its progeny I know informally as ‘72 flowers’ this being the number of florets I counted in just one inflorescence. It is not a true ‘mophead’ but is very different in style to any other *aspera*, is perfectly hardy in this garden and could be a useful addition to the range. I find it an attractive plant of individual character. One or two friends have it, but as far as I am aware, it has not filtered out into the trade and it has not been distributed.

Perhaps the most interesting, as yet with unproven potential, is a single seedling from my ‘Hot Chocolate’ × ‘Rosemary Foster’ cross. It is a genuine mophead with no fertile flowers, and its first flower is a rather shapeless untidy mix of purple, green and pink. It flops about, still in the nursery bed where it has been bullied by its big brothers and looks like what we call in English a ‘runt’. Having said that, it is something for me to play with as a possible parent (should it ever produce any fertile flowers !), and I plan to trial it in various situations to see if it itself has any merit as a garden plant. Watch this space. If proof is needed, it is a convincing demonstration of the genetic instability of *Hydrangea aspera*, this most beautiful weed that is such fun to explore.

NB For anyone interested , I reviewed old and new H aspera cultivars with comments on horticultural merit in the June 2014 issue of The Plantsman (Vol 13 Pt 2) www.rhs.org.uk/plantsman



Left: the seedling with the nickname ‘72 flowers’, grown from seeds resulting from natural pollination, and Right: crossbreed with completely sterile inflorescences between the cultivar ‘Hot Chocolate’ and the cultivar ‘Rosemary Foster’.

List of CPVO protections*

Roger Dinsdale

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AB GREEN SHADOW	HAOPR012	INSPIRE	RAWI
ABETWO	HAYES STARBURST	JANE	RAZUER
AGRIHYDRADRIE	HBA 20 903	KLAZU	REBECCA
AGRIHYDRAZEVEN	HBA 202903	KOLMAGIMO	RED-ANGEL
ANDA	HBA 202911	KOLMARU	RED BEAUTY
ANGELS-TUTTI-FRUTTI	HBA 202912	KOMPEITO	RED-OPERA
ANKONG	HBA 205904	KORIA	RED-RED
ATLANTIC BLUE	HBA 206906	LE VASTERIVAL	RED-WONDER
B003095	HBA 208901	LEVANA	RENDIA
BARCAROLLE	HBA203901	LIBERTIN	RENHY
BAROQUE ANGEL	HBA208902	LIMELIGHT	RIE 01
BASTEI	HBABAB	LITTLE HONEY	RIE 02
BEIJING	HBABIA	LOLLY POP	RIE 06
BELA	HBACHAR	LOVE YOU KISS	RIE 09
BENXI	HBACHI	LUTIN	RIE 13
BLUSHING BRIDE	HBADU	MADAME-ELINE	RIPPLE
BOKRAFLAME	HBASPRED	MAK 20	RODEO
BOKRAPLUME	HBAVASK	MAMMOET	ROSENGARTEN
BOKRATHIRTEEN	HBAWHIRO	MARGARITA	SABRINA
BOKRATORCH	HEDI	MARSEPEIN	SANTIAGO
BOMBSHELL	HENAN	MELBOURNE	SCHLOSS-HIRSCHSTEIN
BOXIAN	HOBELLA	MINI PENNY	SCHROLLA01
BTI	HOBERGINE	MIRAGE	SCHROLLA02
BULK	HOKOMAC	MIRAI	SELINA
CAMILLA	HOKOMANO	MORITZBURG	SELMA
CAROUSSEL	HOKOMAREVO	MULTI-PURPLE	SHOOTING STARS
CHALLENGE	HOKOMATHYST	MY SISTERS GARDEN	SIDSALIMP
COQUIN	HOLIBEL	NANPING	SIDSASKIMP
DARDOM	HOMIGO	NAPO	SILVER LINING
DARK-ANGEL	HOPALINE	NCHA1	SORAYA
DARLIDO	HOPCORN	OSK0004	SPIKE
DOLGIP	HORATH	P001095	SPRING FIRE
DOLKIS	HORBAST	PEACE	STEPHANIE
DOLMYF	HORCOS	PERFRIE	STRAGRUM
DOLPRIM	HORGEANN	PINK BEAUTY	STRAMADA
DVPPINKY	HORGEW	PINK DELIGHT	STRAMADSCHI
EISBÄR	HORKLEWI	PINK SENSATION	STRAMALYN
ELBTAL	HORKRON	POLAR BEAR	STRAMINI
FANFARE	HORMEI	PRINSES CLAIRE	SUGARBABY
FANTASIA	HORO	PUNCH COCO	SWEET DREAMS
FARANDOLE	HORPILL	RABE	TANGO
FREEDOM	HORSTOL	RACO	TROPHY
FRIPON	HORTEST-01	RACOLOR	VEERLE
GOLDEN SUNLIGHT	HORTEST-02	RACOPEN	VENDETTA
GOUDREINET	HORTMAHAR	RAGRA	VERENA
GREEN SHADOW	HORTMAJA	RAHAM	VICTORIA
H211901	HORTMAWIN	RALIS	W002095 WALES
H211902	HORTMOC	RALO	WHITE-WATER
H211903	HORWACK	RAMA	WIM'S RED
H211904	HORWES	RAMARS	WUDU
H211905	HORZU	RAMST	XIAN
H211906	HPOPR013	RANICE	YOUMEFIVE
H211907	HQOPR010	RAOSLO	YOUMETHREE
H211908	ILVOBO	RARO	ZEBRA
HABRORE	ILVOMINDY	RASTO	ZORRO
HAOPR012	INOVALAUR	RAVEN	

* This unprecedented list has been patiently drawn up by Roger Dinsdale; it is a compilation of protections of *Hydrangea* cultivars in the European Union, established by the CPVO (Community Plant Variety Office) in Angers from 1995 to 31/12/2015. This information is freely available on Internet. Cultivars whose protection has lapsed and which can now be propagated without restriction are marked in bold. Some cultivars which have not been given a trade name bear a code name in numbers and letters. Their trade names can often be found in the "International Directory of *Hydrangea* Cultivar Names", published regularly by 'Shamrock'. A new edition is planned for 2016, as the previous one is now out of stock.

'Shamrock' awards 2015

dazzling beauties

Every year we establish a 'hit parade' of plants that have performed well – both through the beauty of their flowers, and the length of their flowering period. This year our choice has fallen on: 'Xian' (1), 'Trophy' (2) (which is 'out of copyright' so can be freely propagated), 'Doris' (3), 'Bastei' (4), and 'Twist'n'Shout' (5).



"Shamrock" Distinctions 2015

H. robusta 'Pink Cloud' (photo 1) (see article p. 21). This little known plant richly deserves to be multiplied and distributed.

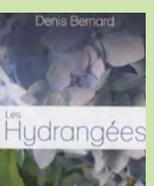
H. macrophylla 'Variations' (photo 2). One of the 30 plants found on the Izu Peninsula (Japan) by Corinne Mallet in 1993. It differs from 'Shamrock' (sometimes found under the name of 'Etoile Violette') by a longer flowering period and a great variation of colours in autumn, ideal for dry bouquets.

H. serrata 'Kocho-no-Mai' (photo 3) syn. 'Kocho-no-Shichidanka' or 'Ogi Yae'. This was Yamamoto Sensei's favourite plant; he said it looked like a wild orchid. This hydrangea was discovered by Akifumi Hamada-san on Mt. Ogi-no-sen. Its propagation is in progress.



Les hydrangées by Denis Bernard, pub. Sommet, 2013 This French Canadian book is very pleasant to read. It covers botany, species and their places of origin, and the growing and care of hydrangeas. The last chapter is about the description of species and cultivars, Symbols indicate the hardiness of plants - recommended or not for Quebec - the type of plant (inflorescence in the form of ball, lace cap or panicle); the symbols are very clear and the information comprehensive. Denis Bernard is very confident about the future of hydrangeas - a future that is sure to have many surprises in store for us all. A fine book on hydrangeas, worth reading. André Diéval.

This book can be ordered on Amazon Quebec.



About *Hydrangea virens* illustrations

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1. The type specimen of *H. scandens* (L. f.) SERINGE, collected by Thunberg, preserved in the herbarium of the Linnaean Society of London. 2. *H. virens* (THUN.) SIEB., illustrated by Zuccarini in *Flora Japonica* SIEB. & ZUCC., 1835. 3. *H. scandens* collected on Mt. Kumotori, in Japan in 1965. 4. *H. scandens* collected near the river Bonbori in Japan in 1973. 5. *H. virens*, collected by Maximowicz in the Nagasaki region in 1863. 6. *H. virens* collected in Japan, without any further specification of place or date, by Goering. 7. *H. luteovenosa* collected at Tonomine in Japan by G. Murata et al. in 1965. 8. *H. luteovenosa* collected at Tagata Kiriyaama in the Izu Peninsula in Japan in 1969. Photo n°. 1 comes from the herbarium of the Linnaean Society of London, and photos 3-8 from the herbarium of the Museum of Natural History in Paris.

The first Japanese species of the Petalanthe subsection of the *HYDRANGEA* genus to be described include *Hydrangea scandens*, by Carl Linnaeus the Younger in 1781 in Supplementum¹, under the name *VIBURNUM scandens*, and *Hydrangea virens*, by Carl Peter Thunberg in 1784 in his Flora Japonica², under the name *VIBURNUM virens*.

Regarding *H. scandens*, the herbarium specimen that was used by Linnaeus to describe the species has been preserved: it is a plant collected by Thunberg in Japan during his fruitful stay there (1775 -1776). It can be distinguished as having leaves that are fine textured, oblong, rather large, longly acuminate and attenuated at the base, and light green in colour, grey stems, and sterile flowers with one sepal much larger than the other two. These features are found in other specimens collected in nature, two examples of which are shown on the illustrations page. Thunberg at that time had confused the hydrangeas that he had collected with plants of the genus *VIBURNUM*, so his specimens are designated by the generic name “*VIBURNUM*”, not “*HYDRANGEA*”. In his description, Linnaeus, following Thunberg, made the same confusion at the genus level. The specimen of *H. scandens* (*Viburnum scandens*) shows a plant that is still familiar to us under the same specific epithet.



H. scandens

Similarly, in his Flora Japonica, Carl Peter Thunberg described *H. virens* under the name of *Viburnum virens*. The original specimen is not known to us, but Franz von Siebold in 1829, in Nova Acta³, correctly reclassified the plants described by Linnaeus and Thunberg into the genus *HYDRANGEA*. However, probably because the two plants, *Hydrangea scandens* and *Hydrangea virens*, both belong to the Petalanthe subsection (which was to be defined only much later), he grouped them together under one name: *Hydrangea virens*. Among the illustrations of Siebold and Zuccarini’s Flora Japonica of 1835 there is a plate representing the said *H. virens*. The leaves, small, elliptical, and very dark green, and the thin, sinuous mahogany coloured stems, are characteristic of Thunberg’s *Hydrangea virens*. Note also the sterile florets, usually with four rounded sepals of largely similar widths. These same characteristics can be seen in specimens collected in nature, two of which are reproduced on the illustrations page.



H. virens

In the decades that followed these descriptions numerous examples of both *H. scandens* and *H. virens* were collected in different areas of Japan, and we have very many specimens of these plants, distributed in herbaria all over the world. These specimens clearly demonstrate that there are two species distinct from each other, and not a single species as claimed by Siebold.

In her monograph⁴, Dr. McClintock mistakenly groups together *H. virens* and *H. liukiensis* NAKAI, under the specific name of *H. scandens* (!) ssp. *liukiensis*. Although *H. liukiensis* NAKAI, is indeed a plant belonging to the Petalanthe subdivision, it is a different species, endemic to the Ryukyu Islands, and in particular the island of Okinawa, and too fragile to live in the open air on the large island of Honshu or in a temperate climate. Furthermore *H. liukiensis* has the peculiarity of having only fertile flowers, grouped together in tiny inflorescences, and no sterile florets.



H. liukiensis

In 1925, the botanist Genichi Koidzumi described *Hydrangea luteovenosa* in The Botanical Magazine, Tokyo⁵. The type from which he made his description is unknown, but the syntype in the Tokyo Museum of Natural History shows a plant with a striking resemblance to *H. scandens*. Unfortunately the definition in the online photo of the specimen does not allow us to be sure about all this plant’s features. Following Koidzumi’s description and in the absence of the type plant, plant collectors and other Japanese experts have considered that *H. luteovenosa* was the new name of *H. virens* (and not *H. scandens* as would be expected) and replaced the name of *H. virens* in their collections with that of *H. luteovenosa*. Whether Koidzumi’s plant is a new plant, or whether it is *H. scandens* or *H. virens*, there is no need to abandon the name of *H. virens*, and to designate *H. virens* under the name *H. luteovenosa* is incorrect. I believe it is therefore best to return to the original name of *HYDRANGEA virens* to designate this species, since that name is valid and anterior to the name *H. luteovenosa*.

1 Supplementum Plantarum Systematis Vegetabilium 184. 1781 - 2 Flora japonica 123. 1784 - 3 Nova Acta : Academia (caesarea) Leopoldino-Carolina, vol. 14, pp. 686-692. 1829 - 4 A monograph of the genus HYDRANGEA, proceedings of the California Academy of Science, fourth series, vol XXIX, n° 5, pp.147-256. 1957 - 5 The Botanical Magazine, Tokyo, volume 39: 4. 1925.

Activities of the Society

'Shamrock' Festival, Ceremony and work in the collection

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Bruno Blanckaert & J.- Marie Rouet



Daniel Kuszac, Martine Merlin, Madeleine Alvès (back) and Bernard Tordeurs



Pierre Courquin, Jean Renault, Nicole Hagneré & J.- Pierre Péan



J.- Pierre Péan, Pierre Courquin, and Dr. Dominique Evrard



Robert Mallet



The 'Shamrock' plant festival was an exceptional success this year: on Sunday evening, there wasn't a single plant left to sell! Group photo, centre left, from left to right and from top to bottom: (standing) Bernard Tordeurs, André Diéval, Martine Merlin, Galia Guillaume, Franck David, Daniel Kuszac, Josiane Lamache, Henri Lamache, Madeleine Alvès, Robert Mallet, Jean-Pierre Péan, Jean-Marie Rouet, Pierre Courquin & Bérangère de Bodinat, and seated: Corinne Mallet, Marie-Claude David, Jean Renault & Bruno Blanckaert. The group photo at lower left shows the members who were able to attend the remembrance ceremony in honour of the late Bernard Schumpp (planting a hydrangea 'Otakea' in the Shamrock Garden – a plant that Bernard had brought back from Japan), and the last two: the workers and some of the work in the Garden this autumn.

Back home from the New York Botanical Garden

Robert Mallet

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On the occasion of a speech I gave at the New York Botanical Garden in March 2015 about my book “Envisioning the Garden”, recently translated into English, I was very warmly welcomed by staff members and the Director, Todd Forrest, Vice-President for Horticulture and Living Collections. With Lynden Miller I visited their fabulous library, a Mecca for horticultural bibliophiles, and Vanessa Bezemer Sellers, the librarian, showed me a beautiful book which she had written with Susan M. Fraser: “Flora Illustrata” that brings together numerous illustrations of American plants.

Back in France, it was a lovely surprise to discover that a copy of this book had been sent as a gift to my home. Leafing through it, I discovered on p.184 the engraving depicting the species *H. quercifolia* described for the first time by William Bartram (1739-1823). What was most surprising was the authors’ commentary on the illustration:

“William Bartram did not have any living plants of H. quercifolia in Philadelphia before Michaux sent him a specimen in spring 1791. The species H. quercifolia was introduced in England in 1803”.

Note: André Michaux (1746-1802) travelled extensively in New Jersey and South Carolina between 1785 and 1796. His son François André, who accompanied him for a few years, returned to France in 1790.



Top, cover page of Susan M. Fraser and Vanessa Bezemer Sellers’ book “Flora Illustrata”
Below, the original engraving from William Bartram’s book “Travels”

Hydrangea quercifolia and dry conditions

Robert Mallet

Corinne and I went to see this American species growing in its natural habitat in the state of Alabama in 2001, accompanied by Eddie Aldridge (who was the discoverer of *H. quercifolia* ‘Snow Flake’ in 1969). We found it growing on rocks, with practically no soil, lightly shaded by deciduous trees, with its surface roots creeping underneath the protection of flat rocks. This native environment explains the drought resistance of the species, hence its success in an urban setting, which has not been contradicted in recent years. Last summer’s heat wave, however, got the better of the foliage of these plants in some gardens even in temperate areas – although this did not kill the plants.

During a visit this winter to the wonderful initiatory garden of Regaleira in Sintra, near Lisbon, we noticed mass plantings of this species on hillsides that were irrigated through porous pipes laid directly on the ground. We should note that this would be risky in our regions because the roots of the species are very sensitive to excess moisture, which causes a fatal deterioration in the plant.

It is the burning wind which now seems to be a threat to all species of the genus *Hydrangea*, whatever efforts we make to try to combat its drying effect by more abundant watering. To protect our plants from the expected adverse effects of future heat waves, the most appropriate solution would be to install suitable windbreaks.



A family likeness between hydrangea cultivars

Robert Mallet

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We have noticed three plants in the collection that appear to be so close from the point of view of forms, foliage, early flowering and repeat flowering, internode distance, bud colour and node colour, for us not to think they share a history. For ‘Trophée’ and ‘Satinette’, it is probably a case of two plants bred from the same Lemoine seedling before 1919, because two plants with such a strong resemblance from the same date would strongly suggest a common source.

Furthermore it is their strong colour that raises questions, because the colour of these two old plants seems surprisingly colourful for the time. Here is the description given at the time in the Lemoine catalogue: “‘Satinette’ (satin-like crimson) and ‘Trophée’ (dark carmine, approaching red), both having obtained certificates of merit in Paris in 1919”.

Emile Lemoine himself declared that this deep colour came from “a seedling of several thousand plants resulting from artificial crossbreeding between them.” This is, therefore, some way from the first plants produced by Lemoine from ‘Rosea’ or ‘Mariesii’ (bred by Maries in 1880), although in 1908 the cultivar ‘Lorraine’ is already presented as “soft pink changing to bright pink” and the following year in 1909 ‘Radiant’ is given as “bright carmine pink, the darkest variety among the hydrangeas.”

The year 1919 is just after the war and French breeders have apparently continued working (for example Henri Cayeux who brought out ‘Triumph’ in the same year as our two Lemoine plants ‘Trophée’ et ‘Satinette’).



From left to right: ‘Draps Wonder’, ‘Trophée’, ‘Satinette’

There remains the case of ‘Draps Wonder’ (1951) (syn. ‘Forever Pink’), the third plant observed here, which has a certain family resemblance with the other two, morphologically speaking. Are we to believe that the breeder of the Draps-Dom enterprise chose one of these two plants as the parent, or a later plant from Lemoine’s “red” line, such as ‘Rouget de l’Isle’ (1923), for example?

Practical hydrangea pruning

A booklet and a video



In addition to his talents as a nurseryman (Jardin Hortensiartois) and photographer, not to mention the immense services rendered to our Association for many years in the company of Madeleine Alvès and Daniel Kuszac, Andre Diéval had started on a didactic work, close to his heart, about the pruning of hydrangeas, and not just *H. macrophylla* and its hybrids. This has now been done, with the release of this booklet with around a hundred photographs, now available at the Collection during the season or by post from our Association for a price of € 7 (including shipping). In it there are many pictures showing the pruning of *H. paniculata* at ‘Shamrock’. Furthermore a video is being prepared on the same subject through the Jardin-jardinier website (the Creacom production company with Philippe Minot as director).

Origin of *Hydrangea* (Asperae) ‘Pink Cloud’

Michael Hickson*

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Email, 7 October 2015

“Trying to trace the origins of ‘Pink Cloud’ has taken awhile but worth it, as I have discovered another form from the same natural source seed collection. From what I have un-earthed the seed was sent from RBG Kew to Trelissick in 1995. This had arrived from Roy Lancaster after his expedition to the Baoxing mountainous region in N.W. Sichuan in 1993. Collectors number L.2021; 2100m in mixed woodland. Some authorities regard ‘Pink Cloud’ as a form of *Hydrangea aspera*, others *H. robusta* or even *H. longipes*. Can your experience shed any light on the species ?



I am given to understand that a second seedling has been named from the same packet of seed, namely *Hydrangea aspera* ‘Trelissick Blue Skies’ and is good.” (...)

*: Former manager of the famous garden at Knightsthayes, he it was who brought to Courson, with his own hands and on two occasions, a fine specimen of this plant to give us.

Comment by Corinne Mallet: Even a cursory examination shows that the hydrangea ‘Pink Cloud’ (shown in the photo, top right), can be neither a *Hydrangea aspera* nor a *Hydrangea longipes*. The cordiform leaf shape and serration of the edges of the sepals clearly evoke *H. robusta*, as discovered by Hooker f. and Thomson (see the specimens below). Hooker f. and Thomson’s plants were discovered in Sikkim (North India) at about 2400 m. altitude, and those of Roy Lancaster in Sichuan, southern China, i.e. at very similar latitudes. Furthermore the plants were collected in similar habitats and at similar altitudes.

Type collection for *Hydrangea robusta* Hook. f. & Thomson
Catalog Number: US 2498347
Collection: Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Department of Botany
Verification Degree: Original publication and alleged type specimen examined
Preparation: Pressed specimen
Collector(s): J. D. Hooker
Locality: Himalayas., Sikkim, India, Asia-Tropical
• Type collection: Hooker, J. D. & Thomson, T. 1858. J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 2: 76.



Variegated *Hydrangea macrophylla* and their descendants

Robert Mallet

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Since the article by Corinne Mallet entitled “Louis van Houtte and hydrangeas” in the Association’s newsletter No. 8, p. 8, giving the origin of the first variegated mutation of *H. macrophylla* ‘*Mariesii*’, several forms of this type have appeared and today we are witnessing a renewed interest in these plants with variegated foliage. Their flat-headed inflorescences are always similar, identical or very close to the original ‘*Mariesii*’; it is on growth habit that the selections have been concentrated, especially with the work of James Zampini with ‘*Guilded Gold*’ and ‘*Guilding Light*’ which are compact plants, the latter closer to ‘*Maculata*’ (1) than ‘*Quadricolor*’ (2).



‘*Lemon Wave*’ (3) and ‘*New Wave*’ (4) are other recently-bred plants.

Silver, white or gold variegations? That is the question, as well as the number of colours on a single leaf. Then there is the shape and serration of the leaves. Even more important for our gardens is the hardiness of some of these plants: ‘*Tricolor*’ is deemed more fragile than ‘*Quadricolor*’, for instance, and ‘*Quadricolor*’ at ‘*Shamrock*’ annually produces an abundance of late season flowers and is also generous enough to spontaneously produce large numbers of babies by layering.



‘*Lemon Wave*’ (3) and ‘*New Wave*’ (4) are other recently-bred plants.

The *Jardin Remarquable* label

Marie-Hélène Bénetière

Proposed by the Parks and Gardens Committee, headed by Didier Wirth, to the French National Council of Parks and Gardens (CNPJ) in 2003, the *Jardin Remarquable* (“Outstanding Garden”) label was put in place by the Ministry of Culture and Communication in 2004. This label is given to gardens and parks, both old and contemporary, which are extremely well maintained and open to visitors.

Today, more than 400 parks and gardens in all regions of France, of which 300 are private, benefit from this label of quality awarded by the Ministry of Culture. Whether historical or contemporary, whether they have botanical or artistic collections, whether they are public parks or artists’ gardens, they are all representative of the great wealth of the gardens of France. This label represents official recognition for exceptional parks and gardens, whether or not they are protected as historical monuments.

Criteria for obtaining the label are precise: composition, integration into the site, remarkable elements, botanical interest, historical interest, communication media, educational value, documentation, upkeep, management plan and respect for the environment. Opening to the public is essential.

What are “types” in botany?

Types in biology – both botany and zoology - are grouped under terms such as holotype, isotype, lectotype, paratype, syntype etc.

A holotype, when a species is being described by its inventor or its descriptor, describes a unique specimen that has been used to establish a new taxon (genus, species, variety, etc.).

In the case of a series of specimens (instead of a single individual), the term syntype is used. A holotype specimen is therefore unique, but as the description of a new species must have at least two specimens, there is also at least one paratype.

The illustration (photo, drawing, etc.) of the organism described is called an iconotype.

The holotype specimen serves as the original from which a new taxon is described and thus serves as a reference.

In systematics, the term isotype refers to a sample taken at the same time as the holotype of a species.

If an author designates a posteriori one of the syntypes as the holotype, this specimen is called a lectotype. It is therefore a specimen from which a new taxon is described when it originates from the dismantling of an existing taxon.

(Source Wikipedia and www.aquaportail.com)

The Purple Leaf *Hydrangea aspera*, what I know

Ozzie Johnson

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I first started seeing small plants of this plant in Japan sometime around 2005. My friend Takayuki Kobaiyashi acquired a plant and put it in his garden. Our small group of nurserymen from Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, started bringing small plants shortly after this.



In 2012 I asked Mikinori Ogisu if he had any knowledge of this plant. He said he had seen this in Hubei Province, China, but was unable to collect it at that time. He asked a fellow countryman Seiju Yamaguchi to find and bring it back to Japan. He said (Ogisu) that he named it *H. a.* 'Beni Hata'.



Ted Stevens of Nurseries Caroliniana in South Carolina had brought the plant to the US and sells it with the name *H. a.* 'Burgundy Bliss'. Dan Hinkley brought the plant back and Monrovia Nurseries California + Oregon now offers it named 'Plum Passion'

*: The plant was collected near Wufeng, at 1320 m. altitude in 1998 by Seiju Yamaguchi (Gifu-Ken)

Note: Although this plant is distributed under the name of *Hydrangea aspera*, its appearance reminds me more of *H. Kawakamii* HAYATA. Although the type of *H. Kawakamii* originates from Taiwan (Formosa), it seems possible that the species has in fact a much broader distribution and extends to regions with a mild climate in mainland China, such as Hubei. *Corinne Mallet*

Hydrangea News from the Southeastern USA

Ozzie Johnson

The most impactful news of the 2015 season began in November 2014 with an early and damaging freeze on plants yet to go into dormancy, followed by a late freeze early spring 2015 on emerging leaves and swollen buds. This "double whammy" resulted in a very poor *Hydrangea macrophylla** bloom season. As most of our southern gardens use more *H. macrophylla* than any other species, there was a lack of hydrangea color. Those *H. macrophylla* cultivars that had reblooming character showed their value. My personal favorite is hydrangea 'Bloomstruck'.

Gardeners who had a more diverse hydrangea planting using *H. serrata*, *H. paniculata*, *H. aspera*, *H. scandens*, hybrids and our very hardy natives *H. arborescens*, and *H. quercifolia* also had a more colorful gardening season.

The American *Hydrangea* Society lectures were well received with Dr Michael Dirr and Mal Condon among the speakers. Also of note was the approval of a grant for the purchase and installation displaying the diversity of the Genus *Hydrangea* by the Atlanta History Center(AHC) throughout the 22 acre campus including the Goizueta Gardens in a long term planning project. Those of us who could, attended the international *Hydrangea* conference, *Hydrangeas 2015* at the Heritage Museum and Gardens in Sandwich, Massachusetts. Local *Hydrangea* personalities who were a part of the program included our AHS President Gloria Ward, nursery owner Elizabeth Dean and Dr Michael Dirr.

After our successful seed collection trip to China's Hubei Province in 2014 our seed collection group returned to China in 2015 to visit Jiangxi and Hunan Provinces. Among our accessions were 5 collections of *Hydrangea* species.

We look forward this year to another successful fall seed collection trip which would hopefully include more members of the Genus *Hydrangea* to further our studies.

*: Note: Ozzie is of course referring to the species *H. macrophylla* and its hybrids. (Ed.)

Announcements, news and new introductions

journées des plantes shamrock

le samedi 30 avril
&
le dimanche 1^{er} mai 2016
de 10h00 à 18h00



maison casanova
33 route de l'église
76119 varengueville-sur-mer

avec le concours de boos-hortensias, chauvin production, hortensiarthois,
hortensias france production, pépinière des avettes, sicamus production.

vente au profit de l'association "shamrock", route de l'église 76119, varengueville-sur-mer 02-35-85-14-64
varengueville sur mer, à 10 km de dieppe, en haute-normandie

'Shamrock' Festival 2016

Hydrangea Festival (30 April/1 May)
33 route de l'Eglise Varengueville-sur-Mer
(France)

As happens every year, hydrangea enthusiasts and collectors will be coming to stock up with different beauties at this sale to benefit the 'Shamrock' association, supplied by professionals who support the work of this national collection (CCVS), which they use as their experimental research laboratory.

This year we have the pleasure of welcoming Marion and Cédric Basset of the Avettes nursery (in the Lyons region). They specialise in Japanese plants and will certainly provide us with the opportunity to acquire new plants to install in our gardens. "Avettes" is another name for honey bees, which are so threatened today. So they will be bringing some melliferous plants, giving us the opportunity to combine the practical with the pleasant. As always, any help you can give us will be welcome from Friday 29 April onwards.

New Introductions

H. arborescens 'Ryan Gainey'

H. BSWJ 11381 (ex Shikoku) LG 2230

H. chinensis 'Golden Crane' LG 2215

H. involucrata × *serrata* 'aspera' LG 2258

H. kawagoana × *serrata* 'Tokara-no-Sora' LG 2261

H. paniculata 'Fraise Melba' LG 2216

H. (Asperae) 'Koki' LG 2257

H. quercifolia 'Jet Stream' LG 2205

H. quercifolia 'Munchkin' LG 2208

H. quercifolia 'Queen of Hearts' LG 2206

H. quercifolia 'Ruby Slippers' LG 2207

H. serrata 'Iyo-no-Jujisei' LG 2214

H. serrata 'Tosa-no-Nanpu' LG 2219

H. serrata 'Golden Sunlight' LG 2220

H. serrata 'Mt Hakusen' LG 2231

H. serrata 'Murasaki Kobei' LG 2232

H. serrata 'Tsurugi-no-Mai' LG 2233

H. serrata 'Orihime' LG 2240

H. serrata 'Hanfubuki' LG 2239

H. serratifolia 'Carolina 539' LG 2260

H. sp. ? CHB13.CH06 LG 2254

H. 'Amor' (Rendez-vous) LG 2236

H. 'Bloomstruck' LG 2212

H. 'Julisa' LG 2238

H. 'Moonlight' LG 2211

H. 'Red Angel' LG 2218

H. 'Star Gazer' LG 2213

Visitors' Comments

"Half an hour of joy and peace"

"Peaceful moments"

"Swimming in peace and quiet"

"Our eyes can never tire of looking at these flowers"

"We do not have enough eyes to see"

"A feast for the eyes"

"Idyllic"

"Crazy garden for crazy people"

"It's wonderful, incredible"

"I'm overwhelmed - it's as if I'd drunk champagne"

"Visiting this garden is like a prayer"

"What a gift!"

"I've taken too many pictures, my camera's exploded!"

Notable visits in 2015

(in chronological order)

Jean-Paul Davasse (Boos-hortensias)

Thierry Lamant (CCVS)

Frédéric Pautz (Conservatoire de Nancy)

Peter R. Smith et John et Alison Grimwood

(Derby Hydrangea Collection)

Romarc Perrocheau (Nantes Botanical Garden)

Marc Libert (Ghent Botanical Garden)

Clément Lacroix (Rouen Botanical Garden)

Alt Hans Hartkirchen (German nursery)

Jean Astrop (American Hydrangea Society, Atlanta)

Jean-Louis et Diane Srydonck (De Belder)

D. Magain (IPES school, Tournai)

To contact us

Association des Amis de la Collection d'hydrangéas Shamrock
(or "Association Shamrock")

route de l'Eglise, 76119, Varengueville sur Mer - France
tel : 33 (0)2-35-85-14-64, email : shamrock76@wanadoo.fr
website : www.hortensias-hydrangea.com

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