

New Plant Forum[®]

Compiled and Moderated by Jack Alexander

Presenters:

Penny Aguirre, Plant Haven, Plymouth, Minnesota 55446-3827 U.S.A.

Lavendula 'Silver Edge' PPAF, CPBRAFF

Silene dioica 'Clifford Moor' PPAF

Vinca minor 'Illumination' PPAF, CPBRAFF

Ron Amos, Evergreen Nursery Co., Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin 54235-8899 U.S.A.

Weigela florida × *W. hybrida* 'Pink Poppet' PPAF, CPBRAFF

Weigela florida 'Dark Horse' PPAF, CPBRAFF

Dave Bakker, Sr., J.C. Bakker & Sons Ltd., 1209 3rd St., R.R. #3, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada L2R 6P9

Chitalpa × *tashkentensis* 'Pink Dawn'

Dick Bir, North Carolina State University, 2016 Fanning Bridge Road, Fletcher, North Carolina 28732 U.S.A.

Hydrangea arborescens ssp. *radiata* 'Samantha'

Clethra alnifolia 'Sixteen Candles'

Paul Cappiello, Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, Highway 245, Clermont, Kentucky 40110-0130 U.S.A.

Fothergilla major 'Red Licorice'

Ruth Dix, U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C 20002-1958 U.S.A.

Cercis chinensis 'Don Egolf'

Syringa 'Betsy Ross'

Szczepan Marczyński, Clematis Container Nursery, Pruszkow, Poland

Clematis 'Błękitny Anioł' (Blue Angel)

Clematis 'Kardynał Wyszyeński'

Wayne Mezitt, Weston Nurseries, Hopkinton, Massachusetts 01748 U.S.A.

Wisteria frutescens 'Nivea'

Wisteria frutescens 'Amethyst Falls'

Wisteria floribunda 'Mon Nishiki'

Ron Strasko, Creek Hill Nursery, Lancaster, Pennsylvania U.S.A.

Phlox paniculata 'Becky Towe' PPAF, CPBRAFF

Veronica 'Royal Candles' PPAF, CPBRAFF

Sid Waxman, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut 06269 U.S.A.

Pinus strobus 'UConn Gold'

Sciadopitys verticillata 'Cynthia Waxman'

Tim Wood, Spring Meadow Nursery, Grand Haven, Michigan 49417-9621 U.S.A.

Hibiscus syriacus 'Notwoodone', Lavender Chiffon™ PPAF

Hibiscus syriacus 'Notwoodtwo', White Chiffon™ PPAF

Hydrangea paniculata 'Limelight' PPAF

Weigela florida 'Elvira', Midnight Wine™ PPAF

Michael Yanny, Johnson's Nursery, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin 53051 U.S.A.

Viburnum dentatum 'J. N. Select', Red Feather™ arrowood

PLANTS:

***Cercis chinensis* 'Don Egolf'**. A fruitless selection of *Cercis chinensis*, 'Don Egolf' is the first redbud cultivar to be introduced by the U.S. National Arboretum. This cultivar was selected from a population of open-pollinated seed obtained from a botanical garden in Kunming, the People's Republic of China. 'Don Egolf' was selected for its compact, slow-growing, vase-shaped habit; dark green, pest-resistant foliage; abundant rosy mauve flowers; absence of seed pods; and high field tolerance to *Botryosphaeria dothidia* canker. It is readily propagated from semihardwood cuttings using 3000 ppm IBA in talc. Hardy in U.S.D.A. Zones 6 to 9, in 15 years it has grown 9 ft tall and 9½ ft wide. Evaluated by cooperators in 14 states throughout the U.S. It has shown no signs of invasiveness.

***Chitalpa* × *tashkentensis* 'Pink Dawn'**. This unique specimen is an unusual hybrid between two U.S.A. genera, *Chilopsis linearis* (desert willow) and *Catalpa bignoniodes*. This cultivar was hybridized in Tashkent (formerly in the U.S.S.R.) and brought to the United States.

At J.C. Bakker & Sons Ltd., this chitalpa is topgrafted onto *C. speciosa* understock, which effectively eliminates suckering. 'Pink Dawn' makes a very nice small top-grafted tree, with large clusters of ruffled, lavender-pink, orchid-like flowers in August. The large drooping flower racemes are showcased against a backdrop of narrow, glossy leaves. The individual flowers measure between 1½ and 2 inches in diameter.

This is a fairly fast-growing cultivar, which blooms on new wood. We suspect it will bloom heavier when the tree matures. Chitalpa will tolerate most soil conditions, and is valued for its drought tolerance. While there are no known diseases, it has been reported that 'Pink Dawn' could experience mildew; however, no mildew was evident here at Bakker Nurseries this season, despite one of the wettest summers on record!

Chitalpa is available from J. C. Bakker & Sons Limited as a top-grafted standard on either a 6-ft or 8-ft stem. This cultivar is also available in shrub form from southern U.S.A. growers.

The unique qualities of this ornamental top-grafted tree with its compact size and abundant beautiful flower clusters in the summer, combined with its adaptability to most soil conditions and its drought tolerance are sure to make this variety a desirable addition to any landscape.

***Clematis* 'Błękitny Anioł' and 'Kardynał Wyszyński'**. There have been many clematis cultivars bred in Poland. Two important breeders, Władysław Noll and Brother Stefan Franczak, since the mid 1950s have bred over 50 precious cultivars of which over 20 have gained a wide international appreciation. In their breeding they carefully observed, over a period of 8 to 10 years, each cultivar before naming and introducing it to the market.

Many valuable Polish-bred cultivars still wait to be popularised.

My favourite cultivar is 'Błękitny Anioł', blue angel. It has flowers 4 to 6 inches in diameter, light blue, lighter in the middle of the sepals and darker on the edges, a very fine silky texture with ruffled sepals and curled edges, and stamens greenish-yellow that nicely contrast with the blue sepals. 'Błękitny Anioł' blooms abundantly from the middle of June until the middle of August and its flowers look fresh for a very long time. At the same time the shoot can have flowers on seven nodes. If,

however, blooming is weak, it can be cut back in the second part of July and it will flower nicely again in September to provide variety in the autumn garden. Plant height is 8 to 13 ft. It is a healthy plant; it can grow separately or in a group, or together with other plants, e.g., roses and other shrubs or conifers. The blooms contrast well with a dark background provide by other plants or a wall. It also grows well in a container. When covered in flowers it looks like a downy angel. This cultivar is also suitable as a cut flower. 'Błękitny Anioł' grows beautifully in a sunny, south-facing position, but a shadier, even north location also suit it. It likes to be hard pruned back every year and is hardy in Zones 4 to 9.

'Kardynał Wyszyeński' has flowers 6 to 7 inches in diameter. The broad glowing crimson sepals have a lightly waved edge and the stamens have dark crimson anthers and light pink filaments. 'Kardynał Wyszyeński' is very freely blooming and it has a very attractive bright color from June to September. Plant height ranges from 8 ft to nearly 10 ft. It can grow separately or over other shrubs or conifers; and can make a good groundcover. This cultivar is also suitable as a cut flower. It is easy to manage and can be grown in a large container. 'Kardynał Wyszyeński' can grow on any position and it likes to be hard pruned every year and is hardy in Zones 4 to 9. The cultivar was recommended by Brewster Rogerson as International Clematis Society Clematis of the Month for September 2000.

Both cultivars are very free flowering in nursery. They were introduced to the market in 1990 and both received the gold medal on "Plantarium" in Boskoop - the biggest ornamental nursery trade show in Europe - 'Kardynał Wyszyeński' in 1990 and 'Błękitny Anioł' in 1992 but they are not as popular as they should be and are waiting for recognition in U.S.A.

***Clethra alnifolia* 'Sixteen Candles'**. A seedling selection from *C. alnifolia* 'Hummingbird' which was grown and selected by Dr. Michael Dirr at the University of Georgia. 'Sixteen Candles' has very dark green foliage and is highly floriferous, even when young. Flowers are held upright like candles on a birthday cake and do not arch. Six-year-old plant is 30 inches high, 3.5 ft wide, and mounding in outline. 'Sixteen Candles' is more upright than 'Hummingbird' with no tendency to flop or fall over. To date, hardiness has been demonstrated to U.S.D.A. Zone 6 but should be hardy to Zone 5. Growth is rapid with plants filling a 1-gal container with a dense, full plant from a rooted cutting in one season.

***Fothergilla major* 'Red Licorice'**. This new selection is being offered by Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest. The selection was made from Bernheim's collections. It has been singled out based on its brilliant red fall foliage color, strong growth, and strong flower fragrance. The original plant was acquired by Bernheim in 1967 and has grown in the same location since that time. The plant now measures 7 ft in height and 9 ft in width. The plant produces profuse displays of white, apetalous flowers in May and has a strong sweet fragrance. Summer foliage color is a deep green, typical of the species. The brilliant red fall foliage color develops with most of the other *Fothergilla* accessions in Bernheim's collections. The selection is easily propagated from stem cuttings between late May and July treated with 3000 to 8000 ppm IBA. This plant is not patent or trademark protected.

***Hydrangea arborescens* ssp. *radiata* 'Samantha'**. Discovered in North Greenville County, South Carolina by Terry Greer, 'Samantha' was introduced to the nursery trade by Dr. Clarence Towe of Walhalla, South Carolina, through Broken Arrow

Nursery in Hamden, Connecticut, and Knight Hollow Nursery in Madison, Wisconsin. 'Samantha' displays good vigor with silvery-white leaf undersides characteristic of ssp. *radiata*. Corymbs are large, to 10 inches in diameter, and almost completely filled with sterile flowers resembling *H. arborescens* 'Hills of Snow,' not as radially symmetrical as *H. arborescens* 'Annabelle.' Mature height is anticipated as 4 ft. To date, hardiness has been demonstrated to U.S.D.A. Zone 5b.

***Hibiscus syriacus* 'Notwoodone', Lavender Chiffon™ rose of Sharon.** Hybridized by Dr. Roderick of England Lavender Chiffon™ is a whole new look for hardy hibiscus. Large single lavender flowers adorned with a lacy center to create an anemone-like bloom. The plant has a strong growth habit.

***Hibiscus syriacus* 'Notwoodtwo', White Chiffon™ rose of Sharon.** Hybridized by Dr. Roderick of England this hybrid has large single white flowers adorned with a lacy center to create an anemone-like flower. The plant has a strong growth habit.

***Hydrangea paniculata* 'Limelight' PPAF.** An extraordinary new hydrangea with exquisite bright lime-green flowers. The color is breathtakingly beautiful, and adds much needed color to the late summer landscape. Excellent vigor and floriferous blooming, Limelight presents itself well in a container.

***Lavendula angustifolia* 'Silver Edge' PPAF, CBRAF.** Represented by Plant Haven on behalf of plant breeders Tim Crowther and David Tristram of Walburton Nursery in England. David Tristram is the originator of *Scabiosa columbaria* 'Butterfly Blue' and *S. columbaria* 'Pink Mist' and *Spiraea japonica* 'Magic Carpet'.

'Silver Edge' was a sport from *L. angustifolia* 'Vera', a cultivar that has wider foliage than is typical for a *L. angustifolia* and there is some confusion over the botanical name of this cultivar, however most agree that it is now properly classified as a cultivar *L. angustifolia*.

'Silver Edge' has variegated foliage with blue-green centers and creamy leaf margins that mature to a silvery white. It has a compact plant habit and forms a tight mound of foliage 3 ft in height and 2 ft in width. Violet-blue flowers are held on upright stems, 18 inches in height in July and August.

This lavender has application as an accent plant as well as mass plantings and prefers well-drained soils as most lavenders do and is hardy in Zones 5 to 8.

Propagation is by cuttings and tissue culture and propagation licenses are available through Plant Haven. PPAF, CPRAF, COPF, Plant Breeder's Rights applied for in Europe.

***Phlox paniculata* 'Becky Towe' PPAF, CPBRAE.** 'Becky Towe' discovered by Mrs. June Towe of England and named after her flatcoated retriever. A portion of the royalties generated goes towards helping to fight the cancer that is prevalent in the breed.

'Becky Towe' is an exciting new phlox with variegated foliage that has broad golden leaf edges that change to a buttery cream at flowering time. The golden spring foliage is also accented by a bronze overlay on the young growth. The sweet scented flowers are a salmon-carmine rose with a darker magenta eye. Flowers abundantly from July to Sept and is a showy plant that stands out in the garden.

'Becky Towe' is unique among variegated phlox in that most on the market, such as the well known 'Nora Leigh', have cream to white leaf margins and light-colored flowers.

'Becky Towe' is a vigorous grower, more so than is typical for variegated phloxes and reaches 28 inches in height and 20 inches in width. It is also comparatively mildew resistant possible due to the waxy surface of its leaves.

Propagated by cuttings and tissue culture. PPAF, CPBRAf, COPF, Plant Breeder rights applied for in Europe. Propagation licenses for the U.S. and Canada are available through Plant Haven.

***Pinus strobus* 'UConn Gold'**. 'UConn Gold' was selected from a group of witches'-broom seedlings. It is a true dwarf with an annual growth rate of only 2½ inches. The major characteristic of this selection became quite noticeable when observed during the winter months. Its needles took on a golden yellow color. Another aesthetic characteristic is the arrangement of its twigs, which are formed, in dense clusters. At 12 years old it is 3½ ft wide and 2 ft high.

Overall its form is slightly asymmetric with cloud-like branches of dense clusters of golden foliage. During the summer months its coloration is a bright yellow-green.

'UConn Gold' provides a good contrasting color among other conifers during the summer and especially during the winter.

***Sciadopitys verticillata* 'Cynthia Waxman'**. 'Cynthia Waxman' is a selection that has been evaluated over the years to determine if it would retain its narrow pyramidal form. Its strongest characteristics are, in addition to its shape, its dark green color and its very dense foliage. This selection retains its good color throughout the winter months. Its glossy needles are curved and are dark green. Because of its curvature, light is reflected from its convex sides.

Another feature is its branch and needle configuration. Most umbrella pines are somewhat loosely branched with both their stems and needles visible. 'Cynthia Waxman' has shorter stems and is more densely branched. As a result, you see a solid barrier of needles while the stems are hidden. Its annual growth rate is approximately 3½ to 4 inches compared to other umbrella pines nearby whose growth rate is 4½ to 5½ inches.

At 22 years it is 11 ft tall and 5 ft wide at the base in contrast to a tree close by and planted at the same time, which is 15½ ft tall and 11 ft wide at the base.

Overall, 'Cynthia Waxman' is a slower growing umbrella pine with glossy dark green foliage and is perfectly pyramidal.

***Silene dioica* 'Clifford Moor'** PPAF, COPF. *Silene dioica* 'Clifford Moor' was discovered by Pandora Thoresby and Laurie Reed, owners of Yorkstock Nursery in England and is a Plant Haven introduction.

An attractive variegated *Silene* for the shady garden that spreads to 12 inches in width and 18 inches in height when in bloom. The narrow strap-like leaves emerge in the spring as a mound with dark green centers edged with creamy gold margins. The margin color changes to chartreuse color as the leafy flower stems elongate when in bloom. 'Clifford Moor' is long blooming with single pink flowers throughout the season. 'Clifford Moor' is unique in that other variegated *Silene dioica* selections that have been released have cream- to white-colored margins or the variegation is more mottled. The variegation of 'Clifford Moor' is very stable.

'Clifford Moor' prefers light shade and moist, well-drained soils and may perform best in cooler climates. Although it looks its very best in early spring until midsummer, it does offer interest the entire season. Although it appears to be hardy in Zone 4, it should be conservatively published as Zone 5 to 9 as the species is usually listed with a hardiness of Zone 6.

Propagation is by tissue culture and basal cuttings. PPAF, COPF, Plant Breeders Rights in England. Propagation licenses for the U.S. and Canada are available through Plant Haven.

***Syringa* 'Betsy Ross'**. *Syringa* 'Betsy Ross' is the first lilac cultivar to be introduced by the U.S. National Arboretum and is well suited for use both in northern and southern areas of the U.S.A. 'Betsy Ross' is a selection from a cross using *Syringa oblata* collected in China as the male parent. Abundant inflorescences of pure white, fragrant flowers are evenly displayed over the relatively compact, rounded shrub in early spring. It thrives in full sun, and the thick dark green foliage is field tolerant of powdery mildew and remains attractive throughout the growing season. 'Betsy Ross' is readily propagated from semihardwood cuttings taken from new growth after flowering, using 3000 to 5000 ppm IBA. Hardy in U.S.D.A. Zones 5 to 8, it has grown 9¾ ft tall and 13 ft wide in 16 years. 'Betsy Ross' has been evaluated by cooperators in states ranging from Alabama and Texas in the south to Michigan and Minnesota in the north and California and Oregon in the west with good results.

***Veronica spicata* 'Royal Candles' PPAF, CPRAF**. 'Royal Candles' was a discovery of Heather Philpott from England and promises to be an important garden plant as it combines the upright growth habit of 'Sunny Border Blue' with the long blooming habit of 'Goodness Grows', two popular veronicas. 'Royal Candles' has an upright growth habit but has a compact, nonspreading habit and reaches a height of only 15 to 18 inches in bloom. It blooms abundantly from early June to late July with deep violet blue flowers and is very appropriately named. It is a vigorous plant and does not exhibit browning of its lower leaves and is hardy from Zone 3 to 8.

'Royal Candles' is a great plant for the front of the border, mixed containers, rock gardens, and planted en masse. It is a perennial that can be used in container plantings and for bedding plant appeal as well. Grows best in moderately fertile, loamy, well-drained soil in full sun or partial shade.

Propagation is by cuttings and propagation licenses for the U.S. and Canada are available through Plant Haven. PPAF, CPRAF, Plant Breeders Rights in Europe have been applied for.

***Viburnum dentatum* 'J.N. Select', Red Feather[®] arrowwood**. Red Feather[®] arrowwood was selected in June, 1989 by Michael Yanny from a crop of seedlings at Johnson's Nursery, Inc. It was noticed in the block because of its beautiful red growing tips. As the new foliage ages, green veins appear on the red leaf surfaces, giving the leaves a colorful, feather-like design. Since the leaves resemble the feather on an arrow, the plant has been given the name Red Feather[®] arrowwood.

Red Feather[®] has an outstanding, long-lasting maroon fall color in southeastern Wisconsin. Most importantly, unlike other *V. dentatum* cultivars, its autumn foliage has been consistently colorful from year to year in our area.

The plant gets 6 ft tall by 4 ft wide in 9 years. Its creamy-white, flat-topped clusters of flowers and blue fruits are typical of the species.

This new selection should be of value in northern regions of the U.S.A. and southern Canada where other *V. dentatum* cultivars have not provided consistent fall color.

***Vinca minor* 'Illumination' (PPAF, CPBRAAF)**. *Vinca* 'Illumination' is a truly unique variegated form of *Vinca minor*. The golden centers with green margins are

very stable. Foliage starts out a chartreuse color, matures to a rich golden color and finally matures to a cream color. The stems are also interesting in that they are pink when mature. The primary effect is gold with a green edge. In trials, it has held up well in various soils and in a range of light and moisture conditions with very little scorching of the leaves.

The flowers of 'Illumination' are the typical blue of *V. minor* and appear in the spring and sporadically throughout the summer. The foliage and bloom color combine beautifully.

'Illumination' has uses as a groundcover, specimen plant in the front of borders, and rock gardens and makes a great container plant, combining well with a multiple of companions.

Grows best in sun or shade in reasonably fertile, moist but well-drained soils. Best colors are observed in shade or part shade as excessive sunlight in hot, dry areas may wash out the color or scorch the leaves if extreme. Hardy in Zones 4 to 8.

Vinca 'Illumination' was discovered by Christy Hensler in the Mountains near Spokane, Washington, and brought to Plant Haven's attention by Tony Avent of Plant Delights Nursery.

A U.S. Plant Patent is pending and Plant Breeder's Rights have been applied for in all major markets worldwide.

***Weigela florida* × *W. hybrida* 'Pink Poppet'**. 'Pink Poppet' is a new selection of *Weigela florida* resulting from Research Institute of Ornamental Gardening in the Czech Republic. 'Pink Poppet' is a new dwarf form that was selected for abundant bright pink flowers, vigor, hardiness and compact growth. Light pink flowers cover the plant in late May to early June. Plant height is approximately 24 inches with a spread of 40 inches. The general habit is erect to slightly spreading. Foliage is medium green and slightly smaller than typical cultivars. Plant hardiness appears to be to U.S.D.A. hardiness Zone 4. The small size makes this plant a useful landscape and container plant. Propagation can be easily accomplished from softwood cuttings and micropropagation. 'Pink Poppet' has a plant-patent-applied-for status.

***Weigela florida* 'Dark Horse'** 'Dark Horse' is a new *W. florida* cultivar resulting from crosses made by plant breeder Peter Moore of England. 'Dark Horse' is a new dark-foliaged form selected for very dark purple foliage, deep pink flowers, and compact growth habit. Deep pink flowers appear in late spring. Plants are compact and slightly prostrate attaining a height of 30 inches and a spread of 36 inches, about half the size of 'Wine and Roses'. Foliage is a very striking dark purple holds well throughout the season. Plant hardiness is U.S.D.A. hardiness Zone 4, possibly 3. Propagation is easy from softwood cuttings and micropropagation. 'Dark Horse' has a plant-patent-applied-for status.

***Weigela florida* 'Elvira', Midnight Wine™ weigela PPAF**. This weigela is a marvelous low mounding, dwarf version of WINE & ROSES® weigela with dark metallic burgundy-purple foliage and deep pink flowers. It is perfect for the front of the border, the perennial garden, or used as a groundcover.

Wisteria frutescens. *Wisteria frutescens* (American wisteria) is native to the southeastern U.S.A. from Virginia to Florida. In the 1700s this species was called the Carolina kidney bean, probably because mature plants produce fruit with small spotted seeds. The species is vigorous, slender and somewhat slower growing with

smaller leaflets than Asian species; the stems twine counterclockwise. The flowers are precocious, with tightly packed racemes of flowers the size of a clenched fist. It is better suited than Asian species to smaller gardens and close-up viewing.

***Wisteria frutescens* 'Nivea'**. An abundance of tight racemes of 25 to 35 white flowers with a yellow area in the center (standard) in late May; slightly fragrant.

***Wisteria frutescens* 'Amethyst Falls'**. Lavender, somewhat fragrant flowers with yellow centers packed in a tight raceme; heavy flowering even when young.

***Wisteria floribunda* 'Mon Nishiki'** (variegated Japanese wisteria). Green leaves with wavy margins spotted and streaked with yellow-ivory patches, particularly striking on new foliage. Variegation reportedly becomes less noticeable as leaf matures, but the foliage I saw in Italy in October was still clearly variegated. Nonvariegated shoots occur and must be removed to maintain appearance. Flowers are said to be lavender and of normal characteristics for the species.

I first saw this cultivar pictured and described in Peter Valder's book (Valder, Peter. 1995. *Wisterias: A Comprehensive Guide*. Timber Press. Portland, Oregon), and set out to find it. I learned that Raulston Arboretum in North Carolina listed it among their collections and I asked them for propagating wood. After three attempts I finally have a limited number of rooted cuttings. If this is as nice as it appears to be, it should be grown and used more widely.