

New Plant Forum

Compiled and Moderated by Jack Alexander

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Ilex glabra 'Peggy's Cove'

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Cercis chinensis 'Kay's Early Hope'

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Hamamelis ovalis
Gleditsia triacanthos 'Draves' ppaf, Street Keeper™ honey locust

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Helianthus × multiflorus 'Sunshine Daydream' ppaf
Alstroemeria 'Tangerine Tango' ppaf
Coreopsis 'Route 66' ppaf

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Buddleja 'Blue Chip' pp# 19,991, cbraf, Lo & Behold® blue chip butterfly bush
Buddleja 'Miss Ruby' ppaf, cbraf
Hydrangea arborescens 'Abetwo' pp# 20,571, cbraf, Incredibal® smooth hydrangea
Hydrangea arborescens NCHA1 ppaf, cbraf, Invincibelle® spirit smooth hydrangea
Hydrangea paniculata 'Jane' ppaf, cbraf, Little Lime® panicle hydrangea
Syringa 'Penda' pp# 20,575, cbraf, Bloomerang™ purple reblooming lilac

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Fargesia nitida 'Isle of Man', Great Wall™ bamboo
Fargesia murielae, Oprins Selection, New Umbrella™ umbrella bamboo

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Acer palmatum 'Twombly's Red Sentinel'

Picea pungens 'Lemonade'

***Acer palmatum* 'Twombly's Red Sentinel'**. Originally found by Ken Twombly in Easton, Connecticut in 1978 as a witches broom on *Acer palmatum* 'Bloodgood'. Growth is upright and compact, foliage is deep red all season. It holds its foliage the longest of any Japanese maple we have.

***Alstroemeria* 'Tangerine Tango' ppaf.** 'Tangerine Tango' was produced by the breeding program of Mark Bridgen of Cornell University. It produces a vibrant array of tangerine colored flowers with bright yellow and lime green accents and a brown speckling pattern on inner petals; it blooms May until first frost. Uniform soil temperatures extend the bloom period.

This *Alstroemeria* has a sturdy, upright habit (height: 30 in., spread: 12–18 in.).

It prefers a well-drained, humus-rich soil and full sun. Hardiness is rated at USDA Zones: 6–9; can take Zone 5 when protected and well mulched. It is suitable for the middle of the border, mass plantings, cutting gardens, and container gardens.

'Tangerine Tango' is propagated via tissue culture.

***Buddleja* 'Blue Chip' pp# 19,991, cbraf, Lo & Behold® blue chip butterfly bush.** This is the first blue flowered dwarf butterfly bush. This is a dwarf plant with a continuous display of blue flowers from June until frost. No deadheading is required. It is the first introduction in this series of miniature butterfly bush from Dr. Dennis Werner at North Carolina State University. It is a non-invasive, complex *Buddleja* hybrid with very low seed production. It has attractive silver foliage. It's good for ground covering, mass plantings, mixed border, and great for decorative containers. Exposure: full sun, flowering season: continuous blooming mid-summer to frost. Zone 5, full sun to partial shade, Size: 24–36 in.

***Buddleja* 'Miss Ruby' ppaf, cbraf.** Out of over 70 cultivars under evaluation this was the most popular butterfly bush at the Wisley RHS *Buddleia* Trails. 'Miss Ruby' is a sweetheart of a plant noted for its compact habit, attractive grey foliage, and remarkably vivid, rich pink blooms. The flower color is unlike any other *Buddleja*. Developed by Dr. Dennis Werner of North Carolina State University. Exposure: full sun, flowering season: continuous blooming mid-summer to frost. U.S.D.A. Zone 5, full sun to partial shade, Size: 4–5 ft.

***Cercis chinensis* 'Kay's Early Hope'.** Named for the incomparable Kay Yow, North Carolina State's great women's basketball coach, this redbud has been admired for years at the J.C. Raulston Arboretum. Over the last 12 years, this plant has grown to be one of the showiest of our spring flowering trees. It is one of our first redbuds to begin flowering and continues to open masses of flowers until well after the leaves emerge making it also one of our last to finish. The habit is typical for a Chinese redbud, forming a multi-stemmed small tree or large shrub with heart-shaped leaves. 'Kay's Early Hope' is distinguished from other redbuds by the volume of pinkish-lavender flowers it produces appropriately enough just in time for the basketball tournaments. This is one of the first offerings of this newly named plant. Propagation is easy from softwood cuttings. Get in touch if you'd like to take cuttings.

***Coreopsis* 'Route 66' ppaf.** 'Route 66' discovered as a chance seedling in the garden of Patti Bauer of Bauer's Forever Flowers in Lucinda, Pennsylvania, along Route 66. It shows remarkable vigor (height: 24–28 in., spread: 24 in.) with USDA Hardiness Zone rating of 5a–8, will most likely winter in Zone 4 as well. 'Route 66' has a compact, upright habit and is a bit more compact than *C.* 'Moonbeam'. It blooms from June until mid-October in Zone 5. It prefers full sun to part shade for best growth.

'Route 66' flowers are a bright yellow with a large red eye. The red is most often dominant to the yellow. In the fall it becomes predominantly red.

'Route 66' is vegetatively propagated.

***Fargesia murielae*, Oprins Selection, New Umbrella™ umbrella bamboo.** New Umbrella™ bamboo is a non-invasive clumping bamboo. One of the very best clumping bamboos for the garden. New generation clone of seedling selected from field trials in Belgium. It is exclusively from BambooSelect® <www.bambooselect.us>. Available as liners from North American Plants LLC, Lafayette, Oregon <www.naplants.com>.

This "Umbrella Bamboo" is graceful and extremely reliable. New shoots emerge in late summer. Older leaves turn yellow and give autumn color. Native to the mountains of western China. And cold hardy to -20 °F. Use as a specimen or group as a hedge or screen. Features include: hardy to U.S.D.A. Zone 4–8, full shade to part sun, height to 12 ft tall, and width to 10 ft.

***Fargesia nitida* 'Isle of Man', Great Wall™ bamboo.** Great Wall™ bamboo is a non-invasive clumping bamboo. It is a new generation "Fountain Bamboo" seedling from the Isle of Man, U.K. It is exclusively available from BambooSelect® <www.bambooselect.us>. Available as liners from North American Plants LLC, Lafayette, Oregon <www.naplants.com>.

Clump-forming, upright and graceful with new shoots emerging in late summer. New culms are covered in bluish-white powder and remain branchless and leafless throughout winter, forming its "fountain" shape. Native to the high mountains of China, it is one of the cold-hardest bamboos in the world. This selection tolerates temperatures below -25 °F. Use as a solitary specimen, hedge or screen.

Features include: hardy to U.S.D.A. Zone 4–8, full shade to part sun, height to 15 ft tall, and width to 12 ft.

***Gleditsia triacanthos* 'Draves' ppaf, Street Keeper™ honey locust.** This plant was discovered near Darien, New York, by Mr. Tom Draves who first observed it nearly 20 years ago. It was remarkable for its narrow, columnar habit. Today, at an age of approximately 50 years, it is about 45 ft tall, 18 ft wide and has a trunk diameter of 14 in. DBH. No spines have ever been observed on the parent tree or on 1- to 3-year-old liners produced from it. Foliage is also a much darker green than other cultivars. The original plant has maintained a strong central leader with lateral branches emerging from the trunk at 60 to 45 degree angles. Branches eventually bend inward to form a fairly consistent 30° angle to the central axis of the tree, thus easily withstanding the heavy snows common in this area.

During this 20-year period Mr. Draves had never observed any seed pods, nor had the family who lived at this site since the tree was first planted. However, since 2007, variable pod production has occurred. This may or may not be a response to insect control measures maintained by Mr. Draves, or the well-known sexual variability observed in this genus.

Plant patent protection has been applied for in the U.S.A., and a PBR is being pursued in Canada and Europe. Street Keeper® has been accepted as a registered mark in the U.S.A. Licensed production is underway in the U.S.A. with first sales to be made in 2010.

***Hamamelis ovalis*.** *Hamamelis ovalis* was discovered in 2004 at Camp Shelby near Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Shortly thereafter it was recognized as a new species of witch hazel. In 2009 it was also found in Alabama. In both locations, but especially at Camp Shelby, the populations are very small, access is difficult, and there has been limited opportunity for scientific study. During 2009, I was able to visit the Mississippi population in January and the Alabama site in September.

General characteristics and differences with our other native species, *H. vernalis* and *H. virginiana*, are as follows: Leaves are generally pubescent on both sides, with lengths up to 9 in. long by 6 in. wide. In Alabama, plants were found with both very oval leaves, as well as narrower. Flowers open during late December to mid-January, colors of scarlet, rose, and yellow-orange have been observed. The populations in Mississippi have been subject to periodic fires and many colonies have been damaged, but individual plants to 9 ft with light suckering from the base were observed. Most remarkable to me were two rhizomatous colonies in Mississippi which stood approximately 18 in. high \times 10–12 ft wide. Although their habit may have been induced by the fires, their form as well as references made by Mr. Steve Leonard (our guide and the man who first discovered the species) to “zones” of the same flower color supports the idea that all individual colonies are in fact clonal. If this is the case, then there may be far fewer unique plants than were first thought.

Plants in Alabama have not been subject to fire, so colonies in general had more stems. All colonies were quite open and in most cases they were surrounded by many small plants which had the appearance of seedlings. Closer investigation revealed that in almost every case, these small plants were interconnected and rhizomatous. The tallest plant we saw was about 12 ft, with a habit very much like *H. virginiana*. Although a shorter, mat-like population was reported in Alabama, I have not seen it. *Hamamelis vernalis* is also a suckering shrub, but does so very densely and primarily from the base, unlike *H. ovalis* which produces underground runners extending out for several feet. *Hamamelis virginiana* does not make extensive suckering.

Seed production appears to be very limited as only a small number of capsules have been observed, perhaps a factor that most plants found have been growing under reasonably heavy overstory.

At the moment Brotzman's Nursery and Hidden Hollow Nursery (TN) are working with the U.S. Forest service to propagate and distribute plants collected from the Camp Shelby site. Propagating material has started to come out from the Alabama locations. The intent is to conserve as wide a representation of the gene pool as is possible. Northern hardiness limit is not known. Propagation by budding on *H. virginiana* has been successful and cuttings (yet to be overwintered) have been rooted.

For more information and to read Steve Leonard's original article go to: Leonard, S.W. 2006. A new species of witch-hazel (*Hamamelis*: Hamamelidaceae) apparently endemic to southern Mississippi. *J. Bot. Res. Inst. Texas* 22(2):849–856. 2006.

***Helianthus* \times *multiflorus* ‘Sunshine Daydream’ PPAF.** ‘Sunshine Daydream’ resulted from a branch sport of *Helianthus* ‘Capenoch Star’. This new selection has many, completely double yellow blooms and deep green foliage on a tall, sturdy plant with a height of 5 to 6 ft and spread 2 to 4 ft. The golden-yellow blooms are

fully double with petals that re-curve towards the stem, reaching nearly 2½ inches, and are continuously produced from June to August.

‘Sunshine Daydream’ has fully rounded, dahlia-like blooms that are smaller in diameter, but much more numerous in quantity to ‘Floro Pleno’. In comparison to ‘Loddon’s Gold’, the blooms of ‘Sunshine Daydream’ have a much more pincushion or dome-like appearance and a much more uniform shape. This selection is also the most golden-yellow of the three.

It is suitable for the middle of the border, foundation plantings, mass plantings, butterfly gardens, cutting gardens, and cottage gardens. It likes a moist, but well drained average garden soil, in full sun, and is hardy in Zones 4–8. ‘Sunshine Daydream’ is generally free of powdery mildew.

It is propagated by vegetative stem cuttings with intermittent mist and bottom heat.

***Hydrangea* NCHA1 ppaf, cbraf, Invincibelle® spirit smooth hydrangea.** Finally — a pink flowered form of ‘Annabelle’ hydrangea! As if that wasn’t exciting enough, it’s a rebloomer, too! After years of breeding Dr. Tom Ranney and his team at North Carolina State broke the color barrier. This hydrangea grows from Manitoba to Mobile, blooming with abundance every year in mid-summer and continuing to produce new flowers right up until frost. A donation of \$1.00 is given to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation with each plant sold. USDA Zone 3, exposure: full sun to partial shade, size: 3–4 ft.

***Hydrangea arborescens* ‘Abetwo’ pp# 20,571, cbraf, Incrediball® smooth hydrangea.** This *Hydrangea* has incredibly large flowers on a strong-growing plant with rich dark green leaves and stems which hold the blooms upright even after a heavy rain. Flowers exhibit a fantastic change of color from green to white and back to green. Hybridized by Tim Wood of Spring Meadow Nursery. U.S.D.A. Zone 4, Sun to partial shade; 4–6 ft.

***Hydrangea paniculata* ‘Jane’ ppaf, cbraf, Little Lime™ panicle hydrangea.** A new dwarf form of the ever popular ‘Limelight’ hydrangea. Little lime hydrangea sports the same great flowers and coloration as ‘Limelight’, but at one-third the size you can fit it in any spot in your garden. U.S.D.A. Zone 3; exposure, full sun to partial shade; size: 6–8 ft.

***Ilex glabra* ‘Peggy’s Cove’.** Originally found growing wild along the Atlantic coast near Peggy’s Cove, Nova Scotia by Jack Alexander. This selection is distinguished by its smaller leaves and compact habit of growth. ‘Peggy’s Cove’ is female and produces the small black fruits typical of the species. It tends to be wider than tall and maintains its lower leaves and branches as it ages, unlike some other compact cultivars which have been criticized for losing their lower limbs.

***Picea pungens* ‘Lemonade’.** Found by Ken Twombly in 1976 in Sheton, Connecticut, on a Christmas tree farm. Growth is same as the species except in the spring new growth is a bright lemon-yellow which turns lime-green and hardens off to a nice blue-green. Truly a multi-season conifer.

***Syringa* ‘Penda’ pp# 20,575, cbraf, Bloomerang® purple reblooming lilac.** This new reblooming lilac has highly fragrant flowers that burst forth in spring and then again in mid-summer and continue right up until frost. It has a compact, full growth habit and small leaves that make it the perfect shrub for smaller gardens. Good root rot and mildew resistance. Hybridized by Tim Wood of Spring Meadow Nursery. U.S.D.A. 3; exposure: full sun to partial shade; additional features: attracts butterflies, deer resistant, 4–5 ft.