JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION

FRIENDS OF THE 'SHAMROCK' HYDRANGEA COLLECTION

Journal n° 36 - Year 2025

www.shamrock-varengeville.com



« H. heteromalla in June at Shamrock »
© Robert Mallet

Letter from the President

Bryan Woy

"When you're close to nature, all you feel is happiness, and the happiness of nature is absolute happiness" Youssef Tawk *('L'homme qui plantait des cèdres' Arléa, April 2024)*

To all members of the Friends of Shamrock.

Now that the celebrations to mark our association's thirtieth anniversary are behind us, it's time to take stock and prepare for the future.

Looking back over the last few years, it is clear that the collection/garden in the route de la Cayenne has become a modest but definite marker of our times, in botanical, horticultural, aesthetic, ecological and cultural terms. The effects of recent climate change have made it necessary to carry out appropriate work to adapt our garden to this, which has made it a model for others today. From an aesthetic and cultural point of view, the presentation of the collection in a wooded setting has highlighted the beauty of each floral species and attracted many photographers, both amateur and professional. This unique pictorial creation has generated high-quality tourism from France and abroad,

which will no doubt continue. However, it is going to be important to avoid 'over-tourism' and to maintain conditions for a warm welcome to our visitors. Our new ticket office is a symbol of this: thanks to all those who helped finance it, and our congratulations to its designer and builder, Clément Varin and his father.

Our thanks also go to all the volunteer members and friends of our association whose hard work helps to make our garden a real work of art.

For 2025, we are planning to hold our Hydrangea Festival days on 12 and 13 April, these will, however, no longer be held at 33 Route de l'Église, but at the collection itself, in Route de la Cayenne. The times will remain the same: 10am - 6pm on both days. Hydrangeas from Hortensiartois, peonies from Jardins du Joncquoi and the Chênes de Caux multi-genus nursery will be taking part. Not to mention the many traditional gifts of new plants from our professional friends in the Angers region.

In other news for 2025, we will be receiving a visit in July from the American Hydrangea Association, which has supported us for many years, and from an Italian Garden Club from the Borromean Islands in Lake Maggiore.

Finally, we think we will be able to put an updated version (2024) of our International Index of Cultivar Names online on a paying basis (see our website: www.shamrock-varengeville.com).

We wish you a very happy 2025 flowering season and hope to see you again in our garden to enjoy the beauty of these marvellous plants, the hydrangeas.

Le 31/01/2025
Bryan Woy



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Thanks for 2024

Our association is particularly grateful to all those who helped make our 30th anniversary such a memorable success.
First and foremost, for our 'Garden Party' on 13 April, which brought together all the friends we could gather, both local and from afar, in the beautiful garden of the Clos Normand. Logistical support was provided by new members Didier and Pascale Bayle and their close helpers.
Then, for the inauguration of the new Ticket Office, to Clément Varin, his father and his family who contributed in different ways to this exceptional achievement. Many thanks to the donating members who helped to finance this, including the Luneray and Dieppe branches of Crédit Agricole and the AHS (American Hydrangea Society), who will be visiting us at the beginning of July.
Work in the garden has continued with the help of our precious team of volunteer friends who devote their time and energy to making the garden a haven of peace and beauty. (See details in our previous Journal on our website: www.shamrock-varengeville.com).
In short, we have to acknowledge that without the cooperation of our members, both on site and further away, this 'work of art' that is the Shamrock garden and collection would have little chance of enduring.

New cultivar introductions in 2024

- 'African Violet'
- 'Choco Chic'
- 'Dolce Chic'
- 'Ewald'
- 'Farfalle'
- 'Fragolla'
- 'Hortbux'
- 'Jardin des Lianes'
- 'Little Blue'
- 'Mademoiselle'
- 'Ningbo'
- 'Pink Lady'
- 'Pop Star'
- 'Schadendorffs Perle'
- 'Saishûtô'
- 'Tessa'
- 'Bright Side'
- 'Annie's Blue'

New members at Shamrock

BAYLE Pascale & Didier
BISCHOFF-VROBEL Erika (D)
BOULON Gilles
CALVO Nicole
CANNESSON Jean-Yves
CHRÉTIEN Anne
CLAIN Elisabeth & François
GROSE Peter (Australie)
JARDIN & PATIOS
ASSERAY-LEGAUD Jeanne
LE SAINT Felicitas
LENOIR Michel
PARADZINSKI J.Pierre
LEPRÊTRE José & Christine
POINT Nelly & Bernard
PUNTO Allan
RABIN Tangi
SENANT Armelle & Franck
SEYDOUX Sophie
SMITH Simon (UK)
VIGEL Michèle & Claude

Update on Lacecap Hydrangeas

by Bob Howard

(Extract adapted from an article by Bob Howard in the AtlanticRhodo Newsletter, August 2022, in Nova Scotia)

I would like to share with you my adventurous experiences growing lacecap hydrangeas in Nova Scotia.

In my garden, I focus on learning about, collecting, and growing lacecap forms of the mountain hydrangea. While millions of *H. macrophylla* plants are sold every year, we are hard pressed to find any *H. serrata* cultivars in our local nurseries. Yet these varieties are most popular in Japan. The Japanese Hydrangea Picture Book (2010) shows 210 different cultivars (and more recently even more in the very comprehensive "Kawashima Index" - Editor's note). These varieties have been selected by the Japanese over several hundreds of years. I think they are exquisite in flower, that their smaller size of the plant works better in contemporary gardens, and that we just need to find good ones and demonstrate good design placement to add a wonderful new (old) plant choice to our late summer and fall gardens.

I believe the most reliable flowerer for us (that is available in the trade) is *H. serrata* 'Blue Billow'. It fits into many garden styles.

Photo n° 1 shows 'Blue Billow' in July with a rhododendron nearby and some perennials. The yellow flowers are *Asclepias* 'Hello Yellow'.

Photo n° 2 shows the same 'Blue Billow' three months later, in late September. The long period of bloom and foliage color is a big positive for *H. serrata*. There are some late flowers of Anemone hupehensis 'September Charm' on the right.

Photo n° 3 presents *H. serrata* 'Blue Bird', another reliable variety that has long been in the trade in Nova Scotia. It blooms the same time as yellow daylilies, but the blooms and foliage give a show that lasts much longer.

Photo n° 4 is of H. serrata 'Blue Deckle'. This was introduced by Michael Haworth-Booth, an English hydrangea expert, in 1950. Perhaps it's an old Japanese variety that he renamed in English? Here it is with a variegated Hosta, *Rhododendron* 'Ramapo', and *Coreopsis* 'Moonbeam'. I got this variety from HydrangeaPlus, an online seller based in the States. It cost more for the phyto and shipping than for the plants. They have an extensive selection.

Photo n° 5 is a close up of 'Blue Deckle', showing the elegant flowers.

Photo n° 6 features *H. serrata* 'Mikata Yae'. I bought this plant from our Society plant sale in 2013. Japanese forest grass contrasts with the blue of 'Mikata Yae', while the last blooms of pink foxgloves and white Fair Maids of France flowers add a little sparkle.

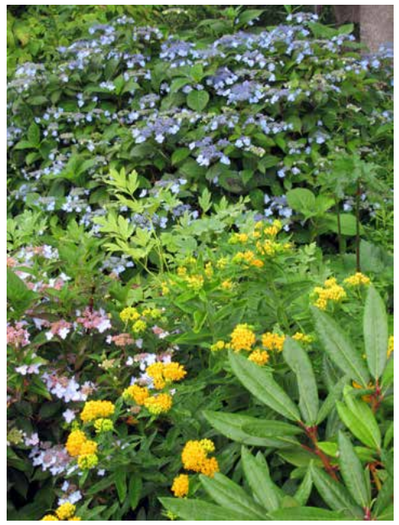
Photo n° 7 shows *H. serrata* 'Mont Aso" covered in bloom. I grew this plant from seed sown in 2019. Even a newly born plant needs to spend some time in the local soil to take up aluminum which turns flowers blue. This plant was born pink, and is now violet on the way to being blue. I'm not sure how large it will grow. This is an open-pollinated seedling from the variety 'Mont Aso'.

Photo n° 8 is of *H. serrata* 'Shiro-fugi': another plant I got through our Society plant sale. It changes color through the season, a common characteristic of the subspecies *angustata*. It opens pure white, with double, star-like blooms and will turn completely by fall to a deep matte red—except for a few new white flowers which keep opening as the season advances.

Photo n° 9 is an open-pollinated seedling of *H. serrata* ssp *yezoensis*. I sowed the seed in spring 2019. This may prove to be the hardiest *H. serrata* I grow. The subspecies *yezoensis* occurs inthe wild in Hokkaido, the northern-most island of Japan. It forms flower buds on the tips of the stems and along the stem. Even after the unusually cold 2023 – 2024 winter no stem tips died back. It's growing in the shade of a large lilac with *Carex* 'Ice Dance' and maidenhair ferns. It is about 18" tall now. I expect it to be a small shrub, not more than a meter tall. Its flowers also become bluer with each growing year.

Photo n° 10, the last image, is of *H. serrata* 'Blue Billow' with white astilbe. In 2018, I began sowing seed of 'Blue Billow' looking for variation: deeper, longer-lasting blues, better flower heads, and maybe smaller or larger plants. I'm seeing a lot of variation and hope to be surprised in some way. I've planted some rhododendron – hydrangea groupings. Those plants need to get bigger to have a good effect—and make good photos. I look forward to reporting again on these experiments in a few years.

Bob Howard *(1)*



1 - H. serrata 'Blue Billow' with leaves of R. 'Bellefontaine' and Asclepias 'Hello Yellow'



4 - H. serrata 'Blue Deckle' with Coreoposis 'Moonbeam., variegated hosta, and R. 'Ramapo'



2 - H. serrata 'Blue Billow' in the fall with yellow foliage of Corylopsis and pink flowers of Anemone 'September Charm'



3 - H. serrata 'Blue Bird' with yellow daylily



5 - H. serrata 'Blue Deckle' upclose



6 - H. serrata 'Mikata Yae' with Japanese forest grass and pink foxglove



7 - H. serrata ‘Mont Aso’



8 - H. serrata ‘Shiro Fuji’



9 - H. serrata ssp yezoensis with Carex ‘Ice Dance’ and maidenhair fern



10 - H. serrata ‘Blue Billow’ with white astilbe



H. paniculata ‘Great Star’, syn. ‘Le Vasterival’



H. macrophylla ‘La Vicomtesse de Vibraye’

Blue Billow’ history of selection H. serrata ssp yezoensis

by Richard Lighty, on 14 October 2019, transcribed by Bob Howard on 19 February 2024

Dear Bob,

Glad to hear of your success with Hydrangea serrata ‘Blue Billow’. I would not have thought it would thrive in Nova Scotia, although its performance in the mid-Atlantic states, and even as far north as the Adirondacks (from where I am presently writing), has confirmed the Korean collection to be hardier than those from Japan. As you must know, the latter dominated the Hydrangea scene prior to 1970. I collected cuttings on the slopes of the volcanic Mt. Halla; at 650m, on the large southern island of Cheju-do in 1966, while collecting as part of the Longwood Gardens/ U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Cooperative Plant Introduction Program in 1966. I collected as Hydrangea serrata var. acuminata, on advice of our principal contact, the Korean forest botanist from Seoul National University, Dr. Lee Tchang Bok. The USDA botanists reduced it to typical H. serrata in cataloguing our collections. Our field collection number was K-28. The USDA’s Plant Introduction number in the catalogue of our trip was Pl-318548. Around 1969 I received a cutting(s) that had been propagated from the original collection by Bill Ackerman at the Glen Dale Plant Introduction Station in Glen Dale, Maryland. I planted this on our property in Kennett Square, PA, where it quickly began to seed itself. I transplanted a number of these seedlings and noted the variation for flower color, size, inflorescence size, etc. I also gave a number of these seedlings to Harold Bruce, Taxonomist at Winterthur Museum and Gardens near Greenville, DE. Hal was a good friend, and came back to me several years later and said he felt that one of these seedlings should be named and distributed because of its better blue color. Together we named that clone ‘Blue Billow’. Unfortunately we did not register that cultivar at the time, so it was distributed without registration. It has continued to perform well everywhere I have seen it in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Sometime around 2000, I gave another group of small seedlings from the same site as those given to Hal Bruce, to our daughter, Ann Lighty. While visiting her around 2010, I noted one of those seedlings, by then 4 – 5 feet tall, had a spectacular appearance: many inflorescences arising from more than the usual number of axils on the flowering stems, and a bright blue color – possibly better color than ‘Blue Billow’. I propagated this and grew it in multiple sites, eventually giving propagations to Conrad-Pyle Co. for possible patenting and introduction. It proved its worth and was awarded U.S. Plant Patent #PP24,301 on March 11, 2014. It was, and as far as I know, still is distributed by Conrad-Pyle Co., although the company has recently been bought by the Ball Co. I suggest you try this cultivar in Nova Scotia. I know that it is popular in some places in Europe.

In my experience, the mature height of ‘Blue Billow’ can vary by location. My plants of that clone at “Springwood”, our home in Kennett Square, were always between 4 – 5 feet tall. Plants I’ve seen at Newton, NJ, and in Elizabethtown, NY (zone 4 – 5), are around 4-feet in height. This may be due to the routine kill-back in colder areas.

Best regards,
Dick

Hardy cultivars in Denmark

from Poul Hagedorn 27 January 2025

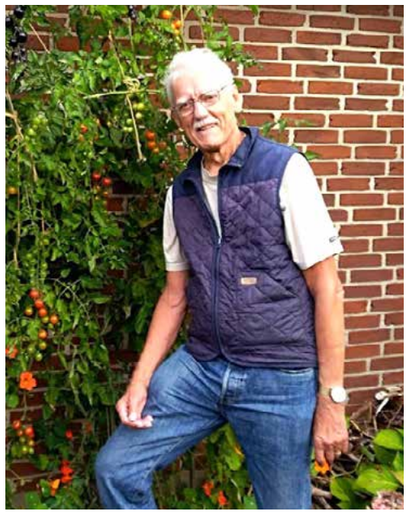
Dear Robert

It is very nice to hear from you.
Yes, I am rather well, thank you, and I am still working on a book of hardy hydrangeas in Denmark.
It is nice that you will publish my photo of 'Hallasky'.
According to 'Hallasky': It is a cross between H.s. 'Spreading Beauty' and H. s. ssp. yezoensis (the plant you gave me many years ago). 'Hallasky' is rather special. It is low and broad:

The old plant is 50 cm high and 150 cm broad. It gives new infl. even in October and the colour is light blue. It gave also infl. after a winter with minus 18°C.
The 3 pages description is not from me. I only know, that 'Hallasan I' and 'Spreading Beauty' comes from seeds from the Hallasan national park in the Korean Island Jedo and they are real frost hardy.

Best wishes for you and Corrine.
Poul





The H. ssp yezoensis serrata (J) and Korean serrata (C) at Shamrock

- 'Annie's Blue' C
- 'Barça' ou 'Barca' C
- 'Blue Billow' C
- 'Elisabeth' J
- 'Elise C
- 'Hallasan I' C
- 'Hallasan II' C
- 'Jolien' C
- 'Magic Pillow' C
- 'Kaikyou' C
- 'Spreading Beauty' C
- 'Varengeville' J
- 'Veerle' J
- 'Woodlander' C
- 'Wryneck' J

Report on our 30th anniversary

We've put together a collection of photos sent in by our friends following a lively weekend in April and a special day in July to inaugurate our new ticket booth, followed by a guided tour reserved for our members. Here are the names of those who contributed to this report: André Dièval, Martine Merlin, Milla-Kariina Oja, Yoke Mallet.

Fête des Hydrangéas



Tina, Madeleine, André



Arrival of Chênes de Caux



Bruno Blanckaert



Sophie, Thierry Lesaffre, Bruno



Jean-Marie, Francis, Claire



Josiane, Daniel, Eliane, Galia

Fête des Hydrangéas *(2)*



The evening after the effort



Madeleine, Bernard, Jacqueline, Daniel, André



Madeleine, Galia, Martine



Jacqueline, Nicole



Stand les Chêne de Caux



Stand of the Peonies



Stand Hortensiartois



When it's necessary!

Garden Party



The friends arrive



Anne, Dominiqe Vincens, Jean Guibert



Alice, Daphné, Valérie Lobry



2 Pascale, 2 Jean



Odile, Alice, Daphné



Bruno, Jean-Louis, Mark



Robert, Daphné



Didier, Pascale, Daphné

Garden Party *(2)*



Nicole



Bruno, Daniel, Corinne, Jean Guibert



Catherine, Emmanuel Gasdon, Sybil Clamageran



Pascale, Nicole and Christine



Christinne, Pascale



Dominique, Jean-Louis, Jean-Pierre



Dominique, Alexandre, Jean-Louis, Sylvie



Maxime, Galia, Madeleine and Jean-Pierre

Garden Party *(3)*



Martine, Bernard, Nicole



Jean-Louis, Robert, Patrick Boulier



Josiane, René Gueudin, Alice



The friends

Garden Party *(4) The speechs*



Bryan speaks



Corinne and audience



Dominique speaks



Robert speaks

Bryan Woy's Speech

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for coming here to celebrate with us the thirtieth anniversary of our Association, the friends of the Shamrock Hydrangea Collection. A big thank you to Robert's sister, Mme Constance Kargère, for receiving us here in her beautiful garden.

My own association with Corinne and Robert dates from 1992, when Robert was looking for an English translator to translate Corinne's first book into English. After that I began looking after the literature collection and became secretary of the association when it was founded.

Over the past thirty years I have often been asked why it is called "Shamrock" – in the 1990s in the English-speaking world an association with such a name could have been suspected of raising funds for the IRA. For those of you who don't already know, Shamrock is a Gaelic word meaning "little clover", adopted as a symbol of Ireland after it was used by Ireland's national saint, Patrick, to explain the doctrine of the Trinity. Robert and Corinne fell in love with the landscape, people and gardens of Ireland, naming their house "Shamrock" in honour of the country, and the hydrangea collection originated in the garden of this house.

I've just been re-reading the very first edition of our Journal, dated January 1995 – all of six pages, with an editorial by our first president, Robert de Bosmelet, an article by me about our collection of documents, and, above all, an article by Corinne describing the origins of the collection. In fact, we could even be celebrating forty years, as it was in 1984 that Corinne started presenting to the public examples of 'Blue Wave' that she had grown herself from cuttings, and when she began seriously studying and collecting hydrangeas. Thirty years ago, Shamrock already had the status of a national collection. Corinne had already made her first trips to Japan; contact had been firmly established with Takeomi Yamamoto and other Japanese experts. The collection began opening to the public, and our Association was founded to support and perpetuate it.

Since then the collection has changed location twice and now contains over two and a half thousand different varieties of the hydrangea genus. Our Association is above all a link and a bridge – between amateur hydrangea enthusiasts and professional nurserymen, between scientific botanists and horticulturalists, between hydrangea lovers of all origins and nations, and as a way to present this fascinating genus of plants to the general public.

Our garden serves as a test ground where professional nurserymen can see which of the multitude of new varieties are really suitable for growing as garden plants, but in the three months of the year when it is open to the public, it is also simply a beautiful garden to visit, just as a wonderful experience, or for gardeners to gain inspiration for their own gardens.

I would finally like to thank all those who have contributed their time and effort to the Association over the past thirty years, particularly our loyal team of volunteers who come every Tuesday, all through the year, come rain or come shine, to work in the garden.

I hope that our Association will continue to thrive for many more years.

Bryan Woy



Entrance to Bois du Dragon Vert

Anniversary dinner



The president's toast



The dinner !



Josiane, Dominique, Francis



Cristelle and Eliane

The late Chalet

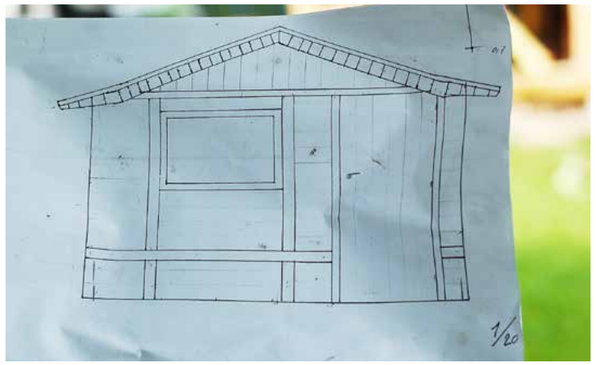








Construction of the new Chalet



Clément's preliminary drawing



The new chalet takes form



Clément and his father Philippe



First elements



Fitting the front panel



Inspection

Inauguration of the new Chalet



Inauguration



Clément receives the picture



Clément showing his present



The Spectators



General view



The new Chalet



Shamrock Saloon



Japanese chalet, the inspiration

Hydrangeas in my Scottish Garden

4 February 2025

Henry Lima

This is my first time writing about my experiences growing hydrangeas. Elsewhere, I've written about my 30-year long breeding project to create fragrant hardy maddenia rhododendrons to grow outdoors in Scotland. What I'm doing now is evaluating hydrangeas for their performance and garden worth, but I'm anticipating that it won't take so long to get results. Alongside the testing I'm also at the early stage of breeding my own hand pollinated crosses and open pollinated seeds from the best varieties.

I lived on the east and west coast of the USA for 40 years and I've lived in Scotland for the past 22 years. What's clear to me is that you need the right plant for the right place and that very few hydrangeas perform well everywhere. The same could be said for many types of plants. Climate will dictate which varieties are going to succeed, so success varies by region. In Central Scotland there is limited advice on which varieties are successful. There is no local hydrangea trial garden. The plant trial results from RHS Wisley, Bridgewater and anywhere with a different climate compared to this one, do not always provide good advice for gardeners here. Some Scottish authors have advised on which varieties of hydrangeas do well here, but often this advice is for woodland gardens or coastal regions. The average homeowner like me will find many varieties for sale that don't perform well in the garden, and ultimately this gives hydrangeas a bad reputation around here for being tender or never blooming.

The climate of Scotland varies by region, despite the nation's relatively small area. The sun is never directly above in the sky, and the amount of sun or cloud cover varies depending on how close you are to either coast or your elevation. Some east coast areas are dry and sunny, but my part of central Scotland gets up to 2.2m of rain annually, with much of it falling between July and December, so summers are almost never dry. Because of the usually reliable summer rain, I can plant *Hydrangea serrata* in full sun, but conversely, heat lovers like *H. scandens* are chlorotic yellow due to lack of heat. Summers are cool, in 2024 there were 4 days over 20c, but winters are mild, rarely falling below -10c. The last 2 winters have not been colder than -6c. Spring frosts in April and May can occur and if so are damaging. My garden soil is acidic, so I naturally get blue or purple hydrangeas. I can grow them in unusual combinations with *Meconopsis*, *Geum*, *Fuchsia*, *Rhododendron* and Pacific Coast Iris in full sunlight.

Locally the established and most often seen varieties of hortensia are 'Générale Vicomtesse de Vibraye', 'Madame Emile Mouillère', 'Hamburg', and 'Altona'. 'Bluebird', 'Blaumeise' and 'Mariesii', lacecap types are common too. In a bad year when we have late spring frost, as we did in 2023, very few hydrangeas carried any flowers, with 'Vicomtesse de Vibraye' being the most reliable. The hardiness of Vibraye here is not evident when it's grown in the USA. Vibraye has flower buds lower down on the stem which often escape from being damaged by spring frost. Other types of hydrangeas frequently seen here include *H. aspera* 'Macrophylla' and *H. anomala* which both bloom well despite any Spring frosts.

Some newer varieties between *H. serrata* and *H. macrophylla* are said to bloom on new growth, so a season of blooming is not lost if there is a late frost, at least in theory. Some varieties of this type that I'm growing are 'BloomStruck/'Bloomstar', Let's Dance ® 'Can Do!'/'Frozen Smoothie', 'Pop Star' and Let's Dance ® 'Rhythmic Blue'/'Sweet Marshmallow'/"Sweet Cupcake (yes, I am 'taking the mickey' about the plethora of names for the same plant). Also, there are those hydrangeas which are said to be extra cold hardy in other climates, such as 'Diva Fiori', 'Lady in Red', and 'Cherry Explosion'. Another innovation to improve hydrangeas was to breed very thick textured and often long-lasting flowers to extend the season of colour or vase life, often by breeding tetraploid varieties which have extra sets of chromosomes. This raises the question about whether these long-lasting flower types are cold hardy, for example the "Magical" series. I know with certainty that 'Amethyst' is not bud hardy here and suffers from stem bark split.

For my own curiosity I want to try many types of hydrangeas in my garden to see if they perform well here with the lack of summer heat and frequency of frosts in April and May. In the last 3 years I've dramatically increased my collection of hydrangeas from 10 to 180 so that I can evaluate those that are best adapted to this climate. I won't continue to grow many of these, some were from friendly cutting sharing or impulsive buying.

I'm susceptible to spontaneously buying plants, but I'm cautious of plants that I call nurserymen's friends. They are those lovely plants that die soon after I plant them, and that I've bought more than once, supporting the nursery trade but not supporting my garden. Sadly, I find that there are many varieties of hydrangeas that fall into this category, and I've bought many of them. One of these nurserymen's friends is 'Miss Saori'. My weaknesses include those tantalizing double varieties or those with black leaves. In my garden it's too soon to say which varieties are better than the next because there has not been enough time. However, I'll go out on a limb and make some comments about some of the varieties that I've tried.

There is a group that is, sadly, unsuccessful here. They are the wild collected doubles from the Izu Peninsula or from the mild coastal areas of Japan. They include 'Hanabi', 'Izu-no-Hana', 'Jogasaki' and probably others that I have not tried. All these grow and bloom well on the milder Scottish coasts. In my colder garden, 'Hanabi' grew to 1.5m tall in 3 years but never flowered. In 2010 when we had a record-breaking cold winter, 'Hanabi' died at -15c. I suspect many of the newer double hybrids were bred from these wild collected doubles, so I'm not confident that all of them will be hardy. They seem to need more heat to ripen the wood. Even 'Zorro' can have a lot of die back after a cold summer like we had in 2024. I'm hoping some of the new double varieties are derived from double forms of *H. serrata* and are more cold tolerant.

Some of the successful double varieties here are You&Me 'Together' and 'Wedding Gown'/'Dancing Snow' which both have *H. serrata* in their parentage. You&Me 'Together' has a mixed reputation. I've read bad reviews by M. Dirr in the southeast USA and good ones from Tim Boebel in upstate New York. It makes me think that it's not heat tolerant, which is certainly not my problem! It's too soon to tell which the other 25 doubles that I'm growing will be cold hardy.

I grow all my black leaved varieties in full sun all day, in slightly acidic soil. Of the black leaved varieties I've collected, the most spectacular must be 'After Midnight', 'Jong 02', PP33480, not to be confused with the American hybrid also called 'After Midnight' which was bred by the University of Georgia. When 'After Midnight', "Jong 02' is grown in very acid soil with aluminium, the lacecap flowers are a mix of black, burgundy and purple and if it's grown in neutral soil, they are glowing red. In my climate the leaves don't go green in summer because there is often very little summer heat. The same can be said for many other dark leaved varieties. 'Light My Fire'/'Kimono'/'Hokomabebos' is also spectacular in leaf and flower and stays black leaved all summer. 'FrouFrou' (Rendezvous series) is equally dark leaved, but it has not flowered in 2 years. It looks a lot like 'Julisa', and I suspect it was raised from it, and it may have inherited Julisa's poor rain tolerance. Also raised from 'Julisa', black leaved and hardy is 'Daredevil', or 'Pink Dynamo' as they call it in North America. The pink lacecap flowers age to deep red which blends with the black foliage better than the pink. 'Burning Hot' has green leaves and black and maroon flowers, a bit goth. I've added 'Eclipse' to my collection this summer and it was not black leaved, more of a blend of maroon and dark green. The Dutch Ladies Series varieties are similar in leaf, some darker than others. I'm surprised that 'Merveille Sanguinea" is doing well and blooms every year with maroon tinted leaves and plum coloured flowers. There are several more varieties that I'm trying out. Time will tell which are reliable and garden worthy in my climate.

One of the most successful remontant (reblooming) varieties that I've grown is called Let's Dance Rhythmic Blue in North America, and Sweet Marshmallow in the UK, also known as SMHMES14. It was not rated highly by Michael Dirr because it was susceptible to disease in his climate, but not here. It flowers from June to frost, late October. The sepals have a longer point than usual, and a wave to them, creating a lovely effect especially when they are grown to be blue. It's too early to tell which remonatant varieties will rebloom well in my climate. It may be that in this short season climate, remontancy is a worthless trait, and it's better to have longer lasting flowers. I didn't get any rebloom on 'Tuff Stuff' in its 3rd year, and this matches with other comments I've read from North America. However, the flowers stayed attractive from July to October. 'Pop Star' and 'BloomS'truck were too new and small plants to comment on them, but I am hopeful that they will rebloom. 'Vicomtesse de Vibraye' reblooms to some extent on established larger plants.

Some of my favourite hydrangeas are the rich blue mop head hortensias. Tried and tested is 'Enziandon', but I don't find that the flowers last very long. Of the newer varieties, 'Fabolo Blue' and 'Blue Boogie Woogie' are outstanding for beauty, but there has not been enough time to know how reliable they are as landscape plants. The same is true for 'Deep Purple', which has flowered 2 out of the 5 years I've grown it outdoors. I've not tried many of the old blue mop head varieties, since many are only terminal budding and our spring frosts often ruin any bloom developing on this type.

As mentioned, I can grow some *H. serrata* in full sun, but not all of them. 'White on White' does well in shade all day, and after 3 years planted, it has long lasting flowers that start white in June and turn red in September, much like a dainty version of 'Wedding Gown'. I plan to grow 'Grayswood'', Kurenaie', 'Kiyosumi Sawa', and 'Tiara' in full sun to get the autumnal pigment changes. They are grown in full sun at the UK National Collection of *Hydrangea serrata* on the west coast of Scotland. In my garden 'Bluebird' is better in some shade, but the hybrid 'Victoria' is great in all day sun.

Only recently have I tried to grow some types of *H. aspera* and *H. involucrata*. It's too early to comment on my experience, but locally I've seen terrific plants of 'Hot Chocolate', 'Mauvette' and 'Macrophylla'. I don't have much confidence that any *H. involucrata* will do well here, but I'll give them a try. I'm also growing open pollinated seeds from both species.

Of the *H. scandens* and *H. chinensis* types I've only grown 'Golden Crane', 'Cloud Nine' and ''Runaway Bride. 'Runaway Bride' didn't flower much at all, and the flowers were short lived, so I gave it away after 5 years of growing it in my garden. 'Golden Crane' and 'Cloud Nine' are too new to make comments. I'm also growing *H. chinensis, H. scandens, H. luteovenosa,* and *H. davidii* from seeds. Time is needed to see if any do better than others with little summer heat.

There is a lot going on in my little garden, and there is plenty to keep me busy! I post a lot more about my garden goings on in Facebook. Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts with you.

Henry 'Chip' Lima



Hydrangea 'After Midnight' grown with acidic soil and aluminum



Hydrangea 'After Midnight' neutral soil so red



My back garden with all its pots



***H. aspera* 'Macrophylla'**

Hydrangeas in my Scottish Garden *(2)*



Hydrangea 'Blue Boogie Woogie'



Hydrangea 'Daredevil' changed to red



Hydrangea 'Deep Purple' in the landscape



Hydrangea Let's Dance ® 'Can Do'



Hydrangea Let's Dance ® 'Rhythmic Blue' , 'Sweet Marshmallow'



Hydrangea 'Light My Fire'

Hydrangeas in my Scottish Garden *(3)*



Hydrangea macrophylla ‘Hamburg’ in the garden



Hydrangea ‘Merveille Sanguinea’ October



Hydrangea ‘Preziosa’ in blue



Hydrangea serrata ‘Bluebird’



Hydrangea serrata ‘Cap Sizun’



Hydrangea serrata ‘White on White’ going red in September

Hydrangeas in my Scottish Garden *(4)*



Hydrangea ‘Victoria’ summer lavender tones



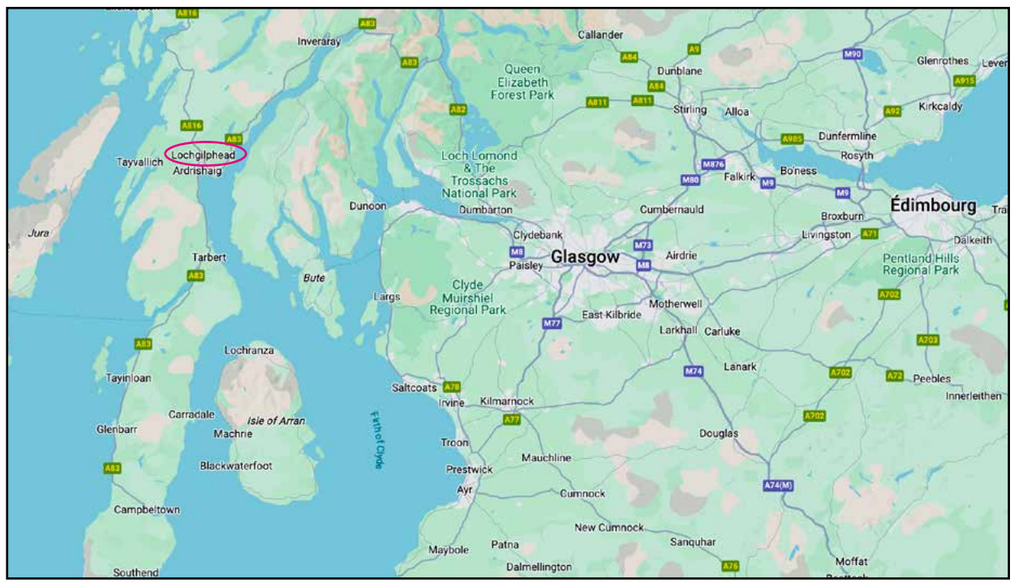
Hydrangea You&Me ‘Together’ in blue



Hydrangea ‘Zorro’ in autumn landscape Sept 24



Hydrangeas ‘Wedding Gown’, ‘Hopcorn’ and ‘Victoria’



Éliane Lebret and Saxony

Hallo Robert
We got back on Sunday lunchtime. It's still 1350 km to Saxony. A great trip full of discoveries, plant nurseries, hydrangeas... We made friends there two years ago and they invited us to the Czech Republic. We hosted them in 2023. I love the Saxons, especially the older people of our generation who knew the GDR. It's a pleasure to chat with them and find out about their life 'before' in the GDR.

I also had fun following in the footsteps of Hermann Dienemann in Bautzen, right on the Polish border. A very pretty little town. I understood why he had named two of his varieties 'Spreetal' and 'Spreeperle'. We had a drink on the banks of the Spree which flows through... Bautzen! But also 'Lusatia' because 10% of the city is populated by the Sorbs, a Slavic people originally from Lusatia. All the street names, but not only those, are written in German and in the Sorbian language.

That's where our hydrangeas lead us! I love immersing myself in their history.

I also went to Kühne, who stopped producing hydrangeas this year. That's probably why Katrin Meinl no longer works for them. Or it's the other way around. Too bad!

I brought back 21 Zuschendorf cuttings. I'll send you my summary table. Matthias says hello! Attached is a photo of Matthias, to whom I am giving the two plants of 'Schadendorffs Perle'. So now they have returned to their native land. They will have travelled 14,000 km to get home! We had time to teach them German again, but now they are going to have to learn Saxon! And that's no mean feat...

As I told you on the phone, there is a mistake in Shamrock's list. It was when I showed my list of cuttings that I wanted to take from Zuschendorf that Matthias realised: the H. 'Charm' and Meissner Dom' are not from Rampp. "Meissner Dom" is from Nieschütz or VEG Saatzucht Zierpflanzen in Erfurt. Breeder Gudrun Reichhardt. 1981. As for 'Charm', Matthias assures me that Rampp never created it.

All my cuttings taken at Shamrock in April have taken root without exception. I have just replanted them. Only 'Blue Earth' is a bit weak. But the plant was also weak on site.

I am continuing my research into the breeder of 'Universal'. Where does it come from?
All the best and see you very soon
Éliane

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37230 FONDETTES
Mobile: +33 (0)6 09 43 10 95
contact@lesjardinsdaltona.eu





Laurent Ballot, Benjamin Brument, and Camille Le Pape-Gardeux

For the conservation of Cayeux varieties provided by the Hanging Gardens of Le Havre

'Rosabel' (1)	Henri Cayeux, 1928
'Charme' (1)	Henri Cayeux, 1932
'Magicien'	Louis Cayeux 1967
'Gloria'	Henri Cayeux, 1931
'Splendens'	Henri Cayeux, 1919
'Superba'	Henri Cayeux, 1934
'Mousmé'	
'Yvonne Cayeux'	
'Merveille Sanguinea'	
'Geisha'	



Hydrangea 'Magicien'

Conservation Operation with the Hanging Gardens of Le Havre

The 'Charme' of Henri Cayeux, which has a round head, was in the collection of Gaston Allard in Angers, from whom we have just received a plant from the Hanging Gardens, who had obtained it from Angers. It was duly listed in the Haworth-Booth book as a hybrid between 'Rosebelle' and 'Normandie', 'self-coloured, deep pink', with an 'e' in 'Charme', as it should be.

Just for fun, below we have included some of Louis Cayeux's star varieties, which are little known, despite the fact that he was, like his father, the Director of Parks and Gardens for the City of Le Havre: 'Geisha', 'Royal', 'Marquise' and 'Mousmé'.

List of plants bred by Cayeux, père et fils *(continued)*



‘Geisha’



‘Marquise’



‘Mousmé’



‘Royal’



‘Yvonne Cayeux’



‘Merveille Sanguinea’

Introduction to the little world of the peony

(by Thierry Lesaffre, Les jardins du Joncquoy (33) 0616871201).

Although the peony is the third favourite flower of the French, after the orchid and the rose, it is still largely unknown. Many will remember it in their grandparents’ garden.

Despite old prejudices to do with ephemeral beauty and transience, these days its robustness and durability as a perennial are no longer in doubt.
Many of these prejudices are in fact only related to a lack of knowledge of this genus, the Paeonia, which has evolved enormously since its discovery, with plants bred by passionate enthusiasts.
We can currently differentiate between 3 types of peonies: herbaceous, tree peonies and intersectional or Itoh peonies.

Herbaceous peonies:
These are undoubtedly the most common in our gardens. They like all types of rich soil and sunny exposure. They bloom from mid-April to early June, depending on the variety. Height between 0.3m and 1.2m. Flowers from 5 to 22cm. Perennial from the root, they disappear in autumn. 3 types of herbaceous peonies, botanical, lactiflora and hybrids.
Botanical peonies are found in the wild in all temperate continental zones of the globe. They are ‘sturdy’ with often small, single flowers and very attractive foliage.

Lactiflora, originating from China, have generous, plump flowers with an intense fragrance carried on sometimes frail stems. In certain situations, and for certain varieties, they require the help of a stake or tutor. Ideal for cut flowers or landscaping.
Hybrids, the result of multiple hybridisations between botanicals (solidity, delicacy and vigour) and lactiflora (plump and generous), combine the advantages of their two parents. In recent years, we have been able to offer peonies in unusual colours, which are solid, free-flowering and plump. Sometimes, however, there is no fragrance.

Tree peonies:
As the name suggests, this is a deciduous shrub, the height of which varies greatly (0.8 to 3m). They like sunny or semi-shaded positions as well as rich, well-drained soil. They require at least one square metre of ground. Easy to grow, they will offer you breathtaking blooms. They do, however, take a little time to establish themselves.

We can divide this group into four categories:

Botanicals, with single flowers (5 to 8cm) and multiple flowers (in clusters) and pretty, indented foliage.
Rockii, which are little wonders of nature. Their flowers (15 to 25cm) have a spot at the base of the petal. They can be single, semi-double or even double and very often very fragrant. A vigorous shrub that can reach a height of 1.2m to 2m.

P. x suffruticosa, with oversized flowers (19 to 30cm), and beautiful segmented foliage. There is a lot of diversity in this category, linked among other things to the different selection criteria between Japan and China. These are more sensitive to excess humidity.
Lutea hybrids are a man-made creation, the result of the marriage of botanical peonies and P. x suffruticosa. After more than 180 years of selection, they combine hardiness, beauty and a free-flowering nature (secondary buds). The range of colours and shades has increased dramatically, with flowers from 15 to 25cm.

Intersectional or Itoh peonies:
The latest arrival, the pure product of selective breeding, they have a herbaceous peony as their mother and a tree peony as their father; an unnatural marriage. Hardy from the roots up, they have very woody stems and are very resistant to spring frosts. Very vigorous, they require a minimum of one square metre of ground, in sun or partial shade. Height varies from 0.7 to 1.10 metres depending on the cultivar and they grow in all types of soil. It is necessary to prune the wood to ground level in December and apply fertiliser every year.

The flowers are generous (15 to 25 cm) and numerous (many secondary buds), thus enabling an unequalled flowering period (2 to 4 weeks depending on the variety). Although they have only been around for about forty years, we can now offer very double cultivars with 3 or even 4 secondary buds. They are ideal for use in landscaping and keep their superb shrub-like foliage until late autumn.

For a very long time, we thought they were infertile, but for the last 3 to 4 years, herbaceous hybridisation tests on Itoh have been carried out successfully. It remains to be seen what the offspring will be like??? We’ll have to wait 4 to 5 years for the answer, because with the peony, the predominant factor is still time.



‘Caroline Constabel’



‘Danse du feu’



‘Blackpanther’



‘Rapsberry Charm’



Arrival of the Master and his treasures

List of historic Hydrangeas

(1800-1930)

XIX° siècle :

‘Stellata’ (H. serrata’) 1830
‘Tricolor’ 1843
*‘Grandiflora’ (H. paniculata) 1859
*‘Otaksa’ 1859
*‘Yodogawa’ 1846
*‘Thomas Hogg’ 1876
*‘Lanarth White’ <1876
*‘Rosea’ 1880 (H. serrata)
*’Mariesii’ 1880
*‘Grayswood’ 1888 (H. serrata)
*‘Ramis Pictis’ 1890 (H. serrata)
*‘Praecox’ (H. paniculata) 1893



‘Générale Vicomtesse de Vibraye’



‘Veitchii’



‘La Marne’

XX° siècle :

*‘Macrophylla’ (H. aspera) 1901
*‘Veitchii’ 1902
*‘Blue Wave’ 1904
*‘Lilacina’ 1904
*‘White Wave’ 1904
*‘Xanthoneura’ (H. heteromalla) 1904
*‘Générale Vicomtesse de Vibraye’ 1908
*‘Grandiflora ‘ (H. arborescens) 1908
*‘Souvenir de Claire’ 1908
*‘Mousseline’ 1909
*‘Radiant’ 1909
*‘Souvenir de Mme Émile Chautard’ 1909
*‘Annabelle’ (H. arborescens) 1910
*‘La France ‘ 1910 (Mouillère)
*‘Queen Wilhelmina’ 1910
*‘Vice-Président Truffaut’ 1913
*‘La Marne’ 1916
*‘Splendens’ 1919
*‘Triomphe’ 1919
*‘Princess Juliana’ 1921
*‘Neige Orléanaise’ 1922
*‘Parzifal’ 1922
*‘King George’ 1925 (Jones)
*‘Schöne Dresdnerin’ 1926
*‘J.F. McLeod’ 1927
*‘Merveille’ 1927
*‘Queen Elisabeth’ 1929
*‘Kluis Superba’ 1932
*‘Président Doumer’ 1932
*‘King George VI’ 1938 (Draps)
*‘Merveille Sanguinea’ 1939

**** Plants which are still available in collections***



‘Vice-Président Truffaut’

List of historic Hydrangeas *(continued)*



‘Otaksa’



‘Mousseline’



Kluis Superba



‘Souvenir de Mme Emile Chautard’



‘Yodogawa’

Remarkable visits in 2024

22/6/24	Peter Grose (Australia)
26/6/24	Michael et Isabelle POTEL (Blanche Maison)
24/7/24	Kat de Baerdemaeker (Ghent)
2/8/24	Martine Offroy (Académie des Jardins) and Fabien Caumont
28/8/24	Mme Christian Dantin (École d’Horticulture, Yonne)
3/9/24	Philippe Clément-Grancourt
8/9/24	Jean-Marie and Agnès Grunelius
30/8/24	Erwan Le Bec
12/9/24	Chantal Brun-Pesle (ABC Sotteville s/mer)
14/9/24	Michel Baverey
27/10/24	Dany and Barbara De Belder
27/10/24	Clare Foster (The White House Farm)
9/24	Marlien van der Linden (Boskoop)
9/24	Nico Huisman (Boskoop)
9/24	Luca Mancinelli (Borromean Islands)
9/24	Paola Bianchi (Borromean Islands)
9/24	Brigitte Fumery
9/24	Sébastien Hoyer
25/9/24	Michel Baverey
2/10/24	Yovenn Pignet
2/10/24	Antoine Cances



Erwan Le Bec 31/8/24



Marlien van der Linden and Nico Huisman



Mark Brown’s visit



Mark Brown’s visit

Guided visit for members and Raffle 05/07/2024



Guided visit for members



The visit



Robert and 'Blue Ball'



H.sikiokana at Shamrock



H. sikiokana in nature JPP



Happy members after the raffle - 23/7/24

A communication from Mark Brown

Hello Robert,
Thank you for being with us the other evening.
The presence of so many people every time I attend screenings of the film *(1)* comforts me in the idea that beauty MUST always be offered and shared, that not all humans are cowardly and greedy, and that intelligence has a bright future ahead of it.
Insects are indispensable in the life of many plants, especially angiosperms, but they are anecdotal in the film. For me, plants are still the basis of all life on earth and should be our primary concern every day.

Without them, we would not exist. We MUST be 'phytocentric'.

Yes, on limestone soil, diversity is much more remarkable than on acidic soils; it is magnesium, I believe, that favours it. You won't find 50 species per square metre on a moor, but you will easily on a limestone hillside. Orchids are a good example of this in our region, because almost all of them are found on limestone soil. Moors, peat bogs, acid woodlands, etc. are unique and sublime places with many rare, endemic and fascinating species, but not with as much diversity as a rule.

There is another screening at the DSN (Dieppe Scène Nationale) on Sunday 2 March (at 4pm). We will all be there again to promote the film. The DVD/book is in the making, I don't know when it will be available. We want to make a beautiful, rich object with lots of drawings, texts, poems, photos, etc.

Of course, if you think this little letter would be useful for the Journal, you can publish it. I hope there aren't too many mistakes in French. Maybe one day we could even write an article in the Journal about this new Hydrangeacea bed? (editor's note: which Mark is creating in a private garden) We need to give it a little more time to settle in properly. However, I haven't included H. heteromalla because we don't have enough space as they are so big! I already want to double this bed because there is so much to say about this family. Peter Vanlaerhoven is taking cuttings of Jamesia americana, a basic Hydrangeacea, for this project too. The Dichroa were already superb with their variously coloured fruits. This year it should be even better.

I have a small question for you, which white-flowered Hydrangea macrophylla is the simplest and closest to the classic wild form?
See you soon,

Mark

(1) **"Seven Walks with Mark Brown", on the coast of the Caux region, the extraordinary herbarium by Pierre Creton and Vincent Barré**

An excursion in the company of the erudite and inexhaustible palaeobotanist teaches us about nature's most archaic specimens. (Le Monde.fr)
A screening is scheduled for 4pm on Sunday 2 March 2025 at Dieppe Scène Nationale (DSN), with the film's principals in attendance.

Correspondence

David Wheeler *5/09/24*

Dear Robert & Corinne, this is a small part of our garden that we call Petit Shamrock in honour of you both and of your unrivalled collection of hydrangeas.
I now have about 150 serrata and macrophylla varieties, many grown from cuttings so kindly given by you.
I had hoped to visit you this month but I am awaiting an operation for a double hernia and my partner is about to have surgery for kidney cancer — not a good time to be abroad!
If you are on Instagram you'll see many more photos of my plants — at @hortusjournal — and over the next few days I will send you a list of all the varieties now thriving in this garden in south-west Wales.
I have been in touch with Maurice again and we are both still keen to set up a Hydrangea Society. Neither of us is travelling much at the moment so I doubt we'll do anything until next spring when I hope longer journeys will be easier for me.
In the meantime I am hoping to establish an online resource called The Hydrangea Exchange whereby serious amateur growers and collectors in the UK can swap cuttings and young plants.
I hope you are both keeping well and that September brings many delights to your beautiful garden.
With very best wishes,
David

David Wheeler
Editor: HORTUS



H. Kawakami BSWJ 7101 *5/09/24*

Dear Robert

Many thanks for your message, we do not appear have an image for BSWJ7101.

We were considering giving it a cultivar name of 'Taiwan Treasure' at one time, but never got around to doing it. Probably because I did not have an image of it in flower. We have so many of them here now, that are outstanding. I can see why some people regard them as being the best flowering of the aspera group. I must take a look at it in the garden, it is not in the best position unfortunately.

It was our highest collection of that species from the South X Highway at around 2,000m. 23 Nov 1999.

Some of the robusta group are maturing well here also.

Off to the Lucca Flower Show today. Been a good growing season for hydrangeas.

All the best

Bleddyn

On Thu, 5 Sept 2024 at 08:18, Robert Mallet wrote:

Dear both,
Just to point out this beautiful H. Kawakami of yours BSWJ 7101 (photo attached).
The bush is 2m50 in full bloom, scented and bee friendly. Guess this white form, hardy here since many years (planted in 2006) could be mentioned in our next newsletter. Said to have been collected on the western side of South Cross Highway in Taiwan. (altitude ?).
Hydrangea season here was exceptional and brought in thousands of visitors.
Hope you are well
Best wishes
Robert



Correspondence *(2)*

T. Sugimoto san *27/07/2024*

Dear Corinne, dear Robert

How are you?

Sorry about the month's delay in answering you

Concerning H. umbellata, I have obtained some information from my friend MR. Satoru Maeda, so I'm writing to share with you.

"Ogisu 92356", "Hydrangea pottingeri Prain" was discovered on 5 October 1992 at an altitude of 2510 m in the south of Sichuan Province.

"Ogisu 92356" is the taxonomic number of the plant.

"Hydrangea pottingeri Prain" is the current scientific name.

Jack Aldridge *16/03/2024*

Dear Robert,

Wonderful to hear from you, hope you are well.

Sorry I missed your calls yesterday; when I tried to return them it would not let me call back on that phone number. I am afraid I was busy yesterday so am only just getting chance to read your email now, so thanks for your patience.

Narisa and I are hugely honoured that our memorable visit last summer is to be featured in your upcoming newsletter, which I very much look forward to reading properly when it is published. Of course, it is no problem to publish my note to you, which I have translated into English below:

Thank you so much for the wonderful time we spent with you last week, you are so generous. It was a pleasure to meet you at last and a real treat to see your most incredible collection – wow! I am not exaggerating when I say I have never seen Hydrangeas growing and flowering so freely! There are too many highlights to name, but we both left more excited by Hydrangeas than ever before.

I hope we will keep in touch and this is the beginning of some good and useful correspondence. If you are happy for me to do so, I will send you what I am writing about H. longipes & H. robusta –

hopefully for a future article in the Plant Review – for you to comment on. I am very grateful for all your help.

Look forward to visiting again soon,

Jack and Narisa

I hope this okay? Let me know if you need anything else.

About my article on H. robusta and H. longipes, it is still work in progress I am afraid, as I ran out of time at the end of last year and need to revisit a couple of points this year before I am happy with it. As soon as that happens, I will send it onto you for your comments – which I'd still be very grateful for. Thanks again for all the information you sent me on this.

Hope you have been enjoying Maurice's incredible book? Look forward to seeing you again soon – I hope to get over sometime later this summer to see you and your brilliant garden, or if not before if you have plans to come over to visit Maurice before then.

With best wishes,

Jack

Roger Dinsdale *13/08/2024*

Bonjour, Robert.

Sans Paulownias, the current heatwave+drought means that the parasols have been deployed widely amongst the Hydrangeas. Sans Paulownias, too hot to venture out so have spent two days inside, finishing Maurice's book. I would like to contact him but have lost his email address, which I should have on my system because he emailed me to check about using my H J Jones material from the bulletin. Probably occurred when I had to replace my 'dead' PC last year. Can you let me have the address, please?

Excellent book, it reminded me so very much of the writing style of Haworth-Booth. So much personal experience brought to bear on the subject.

This year's stars are 'Nanping' and 'Doris'. They probably look very nice today but I can't see them under their parasols.

Kind regards,

Roger

Correspondence *(3)*

Tim Wood *14/11/2024*

Robert,

Good to hear from you. I hope and trust you and Corinne are well.

All is good hear. We continue to introduce and breed new hydrangeas. I no longer do the breeding, but rather I have been directing our breeding department. Megan Mathey and Davis Harmon do the hands on work and we have seven others that assist in one way or another. You and Corinne would get a kick out of seeing our trials, they have become quite large.

I miss seeing you guys and the Shamrock garden. I must try to get there in the next few years. I would love to see it in full bloom, but also come when there is seed. Perhaps I will have to visit twice.

I have hired someone to replace me in marketing. We now have a team of eleven. I have also hired my replacement as a plant hunter / breeder liaison. His name is Judson LeCompte. He is a young man from Alabama, so we have been training him over the last four years and this year he takes over my title.

I have been spending most of my time transition breeders over to Judson, training our breeders, and working on developing an overseas market for our plant varieties. We have been making good progress in Europe, and also Japan and Korea. Australia, New Zeeland and China are in their infancy.

I reviewed your document and after trying to edit it, decided to send you a spreadsheet of the plants we have introduced. I found I was having to do some formatting and organization and felt that was better left to you. You can sort and organize the document as you please. It is very accurate so I think you will find it useful.

Sincerely,

01 tw smaller
Tim Wood
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Mark Brown *22/03/2024*

Hi Robert, wonderful work as always. Thank you!

I was obviously very interested in the articles on white flowering hydrangeas.

The hydrangea phylogenetics exhibit we're working on is making good progress. The day before yesterday I received a large order of hydrangeas from "Sous un Arbre Perché". Most of them are white-flowered so that we can concentrate on morphology.

We're going to add another order this summer, which we'll pick up when they're at Jardin Plume at the end of June.

Your cuttings, kindly offered during my visit to Shamrock, have all taken, especially the anomala! There's even a flower on one ready to bloom.

The wild paniculata hasn't produced any shoots yet. Perhaps it wasn't the right time to take them? I have no experience of paniculata cuttings. At worst, if they don't succeed, I'll plant an example of 'Kyushu', which is close to the wild variety.

Jean-Louis gave me cuttings of his beautiful hybrid between Dichroa and hydrangea, which produces bright blue berries. This all goes to prove that these two plants are indeed hydrangeas.

We're going to plant everything we've got today.

See you soon,

Mark

Correspondence *(4)*

Peter Grose *10/06/2024*

Hi Robert,

We are home again! And exhausted! What a wonderful trip. You live in a wonderful country and it was a joy to visit. Our visit to Shamrock was one of the highlights and I have arrived home full of enthusiasm and plans further to improve the hydrangea collection at the Tindale Garden. We have so many hurdles in terms of importing plants, but I think the first step is to continue to try to identify the plants we do have more confidently. I am hoping that you don't mind if I send you some photos of plants I am unsure of to see if you can help me. You did mention that you had a list of the cultivars that had been imported into Australia. If you have access to it, would you mind emailing me a copy, please?

I went through the cultivar list today looking for some of the cultivars we have here and was interested to find the cultivar 'Prince Henry' listed as an Australian cultivar. I managed to get some cuttings a year or two ago but had never seen any reference to it, so it was good to find it. Do you know any more information about it? The plant I have has extremely serrated sepals (possibly the most serrated I have come across) and in our soil, it is a pale clean blue. This leads me to another question: do you have any descriptive information associated with the cultivar list? The descriptions from most of the references I have do not clearly detail the plants (which was one of the reasons I took so many photos in your garden)! However, I am sure I missed many...

I have searched through some of my photos and found some images of one of the two macrophylla plants with the unusual flowers and I will follow this up with the other plant I spoke about as well as an unusual white macrophylla known in Australia as 'Ice Cream' or 'Joshuas Special' (which although it is white with serrate sepals, generally has one or two florets that are bright pink). The photos I have attached look similar to the cultivar 'Hopcorn' but the timing is not right becuase I understand that Hopcorn is a relatively new cultivar and this plant has been in the Tindale Gardens since the 1980's or 1990's at the latest. As per the image titles, this plant was historically known as 'Ayesha Reverse'.

Anyway, enough for this email! I hope you are both well and that the weather is as pleasant as it was when we were there! Talk again soon.

Regards,

Peter

Tom Breuer *23/03/2024*

Huge congratulations to Corinne, you and the whole Shamrock Association team for the 30th years Anniversary.

What a fantastic gift to all that visit Shamrock and for pioneering the gardening of Hydreangea in France, EU, UK and USA and now the project to save the species as the warming of our planet will have such bad effects on nature and the human beings and vegetation and animals that live in our world.

Corinne and you must be so proud of this fantastic achievement and legacy.

The newsletter # 35 is beautiful and so well done. It is a pleasure to read it and learn from it. Alyson and I still remember our adventure at Hampton Court in 2003.



Seen and heard

21/6
A lady in blue with white hair from a neighbouring village, accompanied by her granddaughter, said to us: 'Sir, this garden is...nature, (then looking for a word to describe it) It's nature in its natural state!'

Answer: Madam, it's exactly what my wife and I wanted our visitors to feel, in other words, what we ourselves had felt in the natural world in Japan.

22/6
A German couple, on holiday at a campsite in Dieppe, who had decided to visit only small gardens, both confided in us, hand on heart, how happy they were in our garden, where they stayed for a long time; the hundred or so photos taken by the gentleman are proof of this. They saw it all, even the most concealed botanical treasures!

26/6
Emotion (with a gesture of flowing tears)
Fabulous (even though I know nothing about plants)
Magnificent

29/6
Extraordinary (with a slightly wild aspect)

6/7
Enchanting

10/7
Makes you dream.

12/7
Beautiful and relaxing.

18/7
Brilliant
Ausgezeichnet. (Excellent)

20/7
Bellissima
A garden like I've never seen before.

26/7
Dazzling.

28/7
My head is spinning.
The problem is that you don't know which way to turn
Fantastic.
We had a wonderful time.
Brilliant.

8/8
Plenitude (colours, ensemble)
Bravo, keep it up, don't change a thing, it's too beautiful.

9/8
Traumhaft. (Marvellous)

14/8
Perfekt, wunderbar.

15/8
Amazing, an enchantment.

17/8
I've never taken so many photos in a garden.

18/8
A suspended, meditative moment
A bubble of happiness and beauty.

28/8
A marvel.

31/8
Too much
A tray of jewels
A marvel.

11/9
Impressive, really.

12/9
Toll, wunderbar. (Great, marvellous)

14/9
Thank you for this discovery; touched by the fragile beauty of certain flowers.

Souvenirs



Madeleine, Anne, Jean-Marie



Courson



Courson autumn 2012



Jean-Renault, Stéphane Marie, Christening of 'Diamant Rouge'



Jean Renault and Bruno Blanckaert in Varengeville 5/2023



Guy Lahogue and Gilbert Baudoin 8-9 April 2018



Harry Van Trier 2007

Curiosities





In a small village of Yunnan 25/02/08



Cornus Kousa fruits 24/10



H. 'Elbe' (Éliane Lebret)



View of the Crop Circle, 24/7/28

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Fête des Hydrangéas Shamrock

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de 10h à 18h



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I.P.N.S.