INTRODUCTION
1931

International Conifer Conference
held by the Royal Horticultural Society of England
1932

Colonel Robert H. Montgomery issues a call for 100 conifer enthusiasts to assemble and form a conifer society.
1939

Charles F. Jenkins attempted to start a hemlock society.
Jean Iseli and Joel Spingarn contacted known conifer collectors to form a conifer society.
Summer, 1983

First issue of the Bulletin is mailed to members. Robert Fincham, Acting Editor
1983

The American Conifer Society is born with Robert Fincham as its first President. Classification as a C3 Charity is quickly obtained through the efforts of William Schwartz, Esq.
July 30, 1983

The first ACS board meeting was held at the first annual meeting.
A TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW

Conifer collectors of the early and mid 1900’s and the founding members of the American Conifer Society

Presented July 19, 2003
ACS 20th Annual Meeting in Denver
by
Robert L. Fincham
Tsuga canadensis

• The Canadian hemlock was the primary focus of American conifer collectors during the 1920’s-1940’s.
The Hemlock Arboretum
At “FAR COUNTRY”
Germantown, Pa.

Bulletin No. 1
July 1, 1932

“No other conifers surpass the hemlocks in grace and beauty.”—Prof. Charles S. Sargent.
_Silva of North America, Vol. XII, P. 61._

“Far Country” is located on the outskirts of Germantown, a part of the city of Philadelphia, on a plateau overlooking the Wissahickon Valley and surrounded on three sides by the lands of Fairmount Park. Here in the romantic gorges and rocky hillsides of the Wissahickon the Eastern Hemlock, _Tsuga Canadensis_, grows naturally and in great profusion. In the spring of 1931, with a foundation of numerous specimens of three varieties planted in the spring of 1917, I determined to establish a hemlock arboretum and bring together all the varieties which would grow in southeastern Pennsylvania. My list is not yet complete but I am giving it herewith in the expectation that there are other varieties which a little publicity may enable me to secure.

The arboretum has been recognized by the Department of Agriculture.

While I lack the botanical and technical scientific training to get the most out of such a collection, I will be able to afford to students, botanists, horticulturists and nurserymen opportunities for comparative studies. I can determine which varieties are safely adapted to our climate and I may be able to introduce to my friends some new varieties which will give pleasure to them.

“Far Country” is located on Kitchen’s Lane, West of Wissahickon Avenue and is reached by trains on the Chestnut Hill branch of Pennsylvania Railroad to Tulpehocken Station or by trolley No. 63 on Wayne Avenue to Carpenter Lane. A cordial welcome is extended to all who may be interested in visiting this Embryo arboretum. Correspondence is invited with those who may have varieties not listed on the following pages.

CHARLES F. JENKINS
Charles Francis Jenkins

• Collected variations of *Tsuga* while documenting their origins and maintained a personal history of the collectors of his time.

• Financed the graduate work of John Swartley.
Tsuga canadensis

- Frank L. Abbott found many variations of *Tsuga canadensis* in Vermont and was one of “the big three collectors” during the 30’s and 40’s.

*Tsuga canadensis* ‘Abbott’s Pygmy’
Tsuga canadensis

• Frank L. Abbott found many variations of *Tsuga canadensis* in Vermont.

• George Ehrle, Curtis Nursery in Callicoon, New York grew many *Tsuga canadensis* variants from seed, which he germinated in the 1920’s.

• Joseph Gable grew *Tsuga canadensis* variants in Stewartstown, Pennsylvania, gathered from a variety of sources.
Daniel St. George

Collected hemlock seedlings for market. He often worked with Frank Abbott, George Ehrle (Curtis Nursery, New York), and Bill Horsford, as customers and as fellow collectors for special variants.

*Tsuga canadensis* ‘Minuta’
Important Early Public Conifer Collections

- Durand Eastmond Park, Rochester, New York

Established through the efforts of Bernard H. Slavin.
Important Early Public Conifer Collections

• Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts
Important Early Private Conifer Collections

• Hemlock Arboretum at Far Country, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Important Early Private Conifer Collections

Colonel Robert H. Montgomery

- *Picea pungens* ‘R.H. Montgomery’
COLLECTORS OF THE 1950'S
Collectors of the 1950’s

- Jon Spaan on the west coast

*Pinus sylvestris* ‘Spaan’s Slow Column’
Collectors of the 1950’s

- Jon Spaan on the west coast

*Pinus contorta* ‘Spaan’s Dwarf’ (L) *Pinus mugo* ‘Spaan’s Pygmy’ (B)
Collectors of the 1950’s

- Andy Sherwood in Gresham, Oregon
Collectors of the 1950’s
• Andy Sherwood in Gresham, Oregon

*Pinus aristata* ‘Sherwood Compact’ (L) *Tsuga canadensis* ‘West Coast Creeper’ (B)
Collectors of the 1950’s

- Andy Sherwood in Gresham, Oregon

*Abies procera* ‘Sherwoodii’

*Pinus mugo* ‘Sherwood Compact’
Collectors of the 1950’s

- James Caperci in Seattle, Washington

Tsuga mertensiana ‘Elizabeth’

Pinus parviflora ‘Ogon Janome’
Collectors of the 1950’s

- Ed Lohbrunner in Vancouver, British Columbia

Abies lasiocarpa
‘Duflon’
Collectors of the 1950’s

- John Vermeulen, Neshanic Station, New Jersey
Collectors of the 1950’s
• John Vermeulen, Neshanic Station, New Jersey

*Pinus flexilis* ‘Vanderwolf’s Pyramid’ (L) and ‘Pendula’ (B)
Collectors of the 1950’s

- John Swartley worked on refining his Thesis on *Tsuga candensis*
Collectors of the 1950’s

- John Swartley at the Delaware Valley College dedication of *Tsuga canadensis* f. pendula.
COLLECTORS OF THE 1960'S
Collectors of the 1960’s

- John Verkade, Pompton Plains, New Jersey

*Picea orientalis* ‘Tom Thumb Gold’

*Tsuga canadensis* ‘Verkades Recurved’

*Abies lasiocarpa* ‘Green Globe’

*Tsuga canadensis* ‘Jan Verkade’

*Tsuga canadensis* ‘Jacquelin Verkade’
Collectors of the 1960’s

• John Verkade at the ACS formative meeting.
Collectors of the 1960’s

• Don and Hazel Smith, Morris Plains, New Jersey
Collectors of the 1960’s

• Don and Hazel Smith, Morris Plains, New Jersey
Collectors of the 1960’s

• Don and Hazel Smith, Morris Plains, New Jersey

Sequoiadendron giganteum ‘Hazel Smith’ (F)

Pinus resinosa ‘Don Smith’
Collectors of the 1960’s

- Don and Hazel Smith at the ACS formative meeting.
Collectors of the 1960’s

- Fred Bergman, Feasterville, Pennsylvania

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About Raraflora... Many years ago our plant loving family established, in historic lower Bucks County, a private arboretum devoted to the growing of rare, dwarf and slow growing woody plants. Although an enjoyable hobby has evolved into a part-time enterprise, it must be stressed that Raraflora is not a commercial nursery and our grounds are not open to the public. Since maintenance and improvement of the Arboretum remain our major goal, propagation and resultant sale of plants* must be extremely limited in scope. (Obviously, wholesale quantities and prices are impossible.) Also, since outside help is not employed, it has become urgent that we carefully budget our time in order to adequately care for our many interests. Therefore strict adherence to the following suggestions is requested.

Visitation is by appointment only, but if unexpectedly in our area, a phone call may find us able to see you.
Collectors of the 1960’s

- Fred Bergman, Feasterville, Pennsylvania
Collectors of the 1960’s

- Fred Bergman, Feasterville, Pennsylvania

*Pinus parviflora* ‘Bergmani’

*Pinus sylvestris* ‘Barrie Bergman’
COLLECTORS OF THE 1960'S AND 1970'S
Collectors of the 1960’s and 1970’s

- John Mitsch, Aurora, Oregon

*Pinus sylvestris* ‘Mitsch Weeping’

*Pinus mugo* ‘Mitsch Mini’
Collectors of the 1960’s and 1970’s

• Alfred Fordham, Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts
Collectors of the 1960’s and 1970’s

- Alfred Fordham, Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

*Tsuga canadensis* ‘Brookline’
Collectors of the 1960’s and 1970’s

- Alfred Fordham grew *Pinus banksiana* seedlings: ‘Schoodic’ from seed collected from a prostrate form in Maine; and ‘Manomet’ and ‘Chippewa’ from a witches’ broom found in the midwest.
Collectors of the 1960’s and 1970’s

- Alfred Fordham also grew broom seedlings of *Pinus resinosa* and *strobus.*

*Pinus strobus* ‘Uncatena’ (L) and *resinosa* ‘Quinobequin’ (R)
Collectors of the 1960’s and 1970’s

• Alfred Fordham at the ACS formative meeting.

Al with Sid Waxman and Don Smith

Al and Hazel Smith
Collectors of the 1960’s and 1970’s
• Joel Spingarn, Baldwin, New York
Collectors of the 1960’s and 1970’s

- Joel Spingarn named several seedling selections of *Chamaecyparis obtusa*.

- **Golden Nymph**
- **‘Golden Sprite’**
- **‘Dainty Doll’**
Collectors of the 1960’s and 1970’s

- Joel Spingarn at the ACS formative meeting.
Collectors of the 1960’s and 1970’s

• Rudi Kluis, Marlboro, New Jersey

*Pinus densiflora ‘Jane Kluis’*

*Picea abies ‘Kluis’*
Collectors of the 1960’s and 1970’s

- Martin Brooks, Doylestown, Pennsylvania
COLLECTORS OF THE 1970'S AND 1980'S
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

• Layne Ziegenfuss, Lehighton, Pennsylvania and Greg Williams, Wolcott, Vermont

Picea glauca ‘Cecilia’
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- Layne Ziegenfuss and Greg Williams: plant introductions

*Picea pungens* ‘St. Mary’

*Picea pungens* ‘Walnut Glen’

*Picea pungens* Hillside #1’
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- Layne Ziegenfuss and Greg Williams: plant introductions

Pseudotsuga menziesii
‘Hillside Gold’

Pinus strobus
‘Hillside Winter Gold’

Pseudotsuga menziesii
‘Hillside Pride’

Pinus strobus
‘Hillside Gem’
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- Layne Ziegenfuss and Greg Williams: plant introductions

*Pinus sylvestris* ‘Hillside Creeper’

*Pinus strobus* ‘Greg’
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- Layne and Greg introduced many other plants through Layne’s Hillside Gardens.

*Pinus virginiana* ‘Wate’s Golden’

*Pseudotsuga menziesii* ‘Graceful Grace’ and ‘Little Jon’

*Pinus sylvestris* ‘Bennett Compact’
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

• Layne and Greg at the ACS formative meeting

John Verkade, Layne, and Greg

Greg, Layne, Bob Fincham, and Sid Waxman

Don Smith and Greg
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s
• Greg Williams: finds

*Pinus strobus* ‘Stowe Pillar’

*Pinus strobus* ‘Tiny Kurls’

*Pinus strobus* ‘Louie’
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- Greg Williams: finds

*Picea abies* ‘Vermont Gold’

*Picea abies* ‘Perry’s Gold’

*Picea abies* ‘Vermont Gold’
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

• Joe Burke, Merrick, New York

*Pinus parviflora*

‘Burke’s Bonsai’
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- Joe Reis and Ed Rezek were two names that were always said together, like Layne and Greg.

*Chamaecyparis obtusa ‘Bess’*

Joe Reis and his best selection (Elizabeth) are shown here.
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s
Joe Reis and his selections.

Chamaecyparis obtusa ‘JR’

Chamaecyparis obtusa ‘Meroke’

Chamaecyparis obtusa ‘Reis Dwarf’
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

The Joe Reis Garden

Chamaecyparis obtusa
‘Bess’
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- Ed Rezek and his garden
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

• Ed Rezek and his garden
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

• Joe Reis and Ed Rezek at the ACS formative meeting.
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

• Dave Patterson was in charge of the grounds at Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

• Dick Bush, Canby, Oregon at ACS meetings
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

• Dick Bush introductions

*Picea englemannii* ‘Lace’

*Picea pungens* ‘Porcupine’
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- Jean Iseli, Boring, Oregon
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- Jean Iseli, Boring, Oregon
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- Jean Iseli’s garden and introductions

*Picea pungens*
‘Iseli Fastigiate’

*Picea pungens* ‘Donna’s Rainbow’
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

• Jean Iseli’s introductions

*Picea pungens* ‘Iseli Foxtail’

*Picea pungens* ‘Fat Albert’
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- Jean Iseli at the ACS formative meeting
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

• Gordon Bentham, Victoria, British Columbia
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- Gordon Bentham and Flora Vista introductions

*Cedrus deodara* ‘Silver Mist’
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

• Gordon Bentham and Flora Vista introductions

*Cedrus deodara* ‘Cream Puff’

*Abies koreana* ‘Aurea’

*Picea sitchensis* ‘Bentham’s Sunlight’
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

• Edsel Wood, Wilsonville, Oregon

Cryptomeria japonica ‘Ryoku Gyoku’
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

• Edsel Wood discoveries

*Pinus densiflora* ‘Esdel Wood’

*Tsuga canadensis* ‘Mount Hood’

*Tsuga canadensis* ‘Canby’
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- Sidney Waxman, Storrs, Connecticut
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- Sidney Waxman, Storrs, Connecticut

*Pinus strobus*
‘Green Shadow’ (R)
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

• Sidney Waxman at the ACS formative meeting

Layne Ziegenfuss, Bob Fincham, and Sidney
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- Jim Cross, Cutcheague, New York

Harold Epstein and Jim
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- Jim Cross: entrance to Environmentals
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

• Billy Schwartz, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

• Tom Dilatush, Robbinsville, New Jersey at the ACS formative meeting
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- Augustus Kelly, Little Compton, Rhode Island

THEOPHRASTUS
Post Office Box 458
Little Compton, R. I. 02837

DWARF CONIFER Notes

Volume I, Number 1

Dwarf Conifer Notes is launched with the purpose of providing a focal point for dwarf conifer enthusiasts, hitherto scattered and lonely, to exchange information and discuss matters of mutual interest. With this first issue, I want to emphasize that there is no subscription charge. An expression of interest such as a post card or a letter will suffice to get on the mailing list. By mailing to the membership of organizations that may include dwarf conifer enthusiasts, I am trying to seek out those who might find this venture useful and interesting, but it does not follow that because you have received this first issue you will receive subsequent issues without some positive action on your part.

Humphrey J. Welch's Manual of Dwarf Conifers

Permission has been kindly given by the editorial board of the Bulletin of the University of Washington Arboretum to quote from a forthcoming review by Mr. Brain O. Mulligan of Manual of Dwarf Conifers. Mr. Mulligan is the former director of the Arboretum, and a member of the board of the Royal Horticultural Society, among other posts of honor in the horticultural world. I quote:

This is indeed the latest word on this fascinating group of small shrubs. It is written by a grower, propagator, and careful student of many years of experience among them. The amount of research and correspondence involved, as well as travel to the continent of Europe and the U. S. A., is obviously enormous and only to be fully appreciated by the author, who along with the publishers deserves much praise for this fine production.
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

• Augustus Kelly at the ACS formative meeting.
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

• Harold Epstein, Larchmont, New York at the ACS formative meeting
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

• Bob Fincham, a school teacher by profession, started collecting conifers in the 1970’s.
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- *Picea abies* ‘Gold Drift’
- *Picea glauca* ‘Beehive’
- *Picea mariana* ‘Blue Teardrop’
- *Pinus mugo* ‘Little Delight’
Collectors of the 1970’s and 1980’s

Bob with Al Fordham

Bob with Layne Ziegenfuss and Syd Waxman at the ACS formative meeting
Gardens of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- Alphonso Ossorio, East Hampton, New York
Gardens of the 1970’s and 1980’s

• Alphonso Ossorio: The Creeks
Gardens of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- Alphonso Ossorio: The Creeks
Gardens of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- Alphonso Ossorio with an ACS group following the first annual meeting in 1983.
Gardens of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- Gotelli Dwarf Conifer Collection at the United States National Arboretum
Gardens of the 1970’s and 1980’s

• Chub Harper and the collections at Hidden lake and The Bickelhaupt Arboretum
Gardens of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- Chub Harper and the collection at Hidden lake
Gardens of the 1970’s and 1980’s

- Chub Harper and the collection at The Bickelhaupt Arboretum
THE PRESENT INTO THE FUTURE

• Collectors are now able to network through the Conifer Society and the Tough Act to Follow is being followed up very nicely.
THE PRESENT INTO THE FUTURE

• Today a mix of experienced and new conifer collectors are adding to the conifer pallet at an astounding rate.
• This mix includes people like Joe Stupka, Dennis Dodge, Randy Dykstra and many others, too numerous to mention in a one hour presentation.
• It also includes people who were taken away too soon like Pete Girard and JC Raulston.
THE PRESENT INTO THE FUTURE

• Collectors

DON HOWSE
THE PRESENT INTO THE FUTURE

• Collectors

PANAYOTI KELAIDIS
THE PRESENT INTO THE FUTURE

• Collectors

LARRY STANLEY
THE PRESENT INTO THE FUTURE

• Collectors

JERRY MORRIS
THE PRESENT INTO THE FUTURE

• Collectors

CINDY PEASE

DENNIS LEE
THE PRESENT INTO THE FUTURE

ACS DENVER

• Collectors
THE PRESENT INTO THE FUTURE

MARTIN BROOKS • Collectors
THE PRESENT INTO THE FUTURE

• Collectors
THE PRESENT INTO THE FUTURE

- Collectors

GARY WITTENBAUGH
THE PRESENT INTO THE FUTURE

• Collectors

CHARLES PACQUELET

GEORGE OKKEN
THE PRESENT INTO THE FUTURE

RICHARD EYRE • Collectors
THE PRESENT INTO THE FUTURE

• Collectors

Clark Coe
THE PRESENT INTO THE FUTURE

• Collectors
THE PRESENT INTO THE FUTURE

MARLOWE MARCUS

• Collectors
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

ROBERT L. FINCHAM
ACS 20TH ANNUAL MEETING
JULY 19, 2003