

Conifer Quarterly

Vol. 24 No. 1

Winter 2007



Cedrus libani 'Glauca Pendula'

Randall C. Smith, courtesy of Iseli Nursery

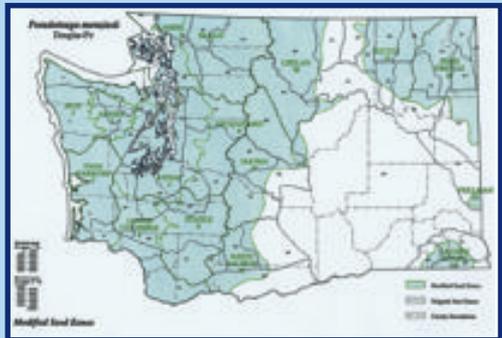
Color pictures for the **Conifer Genetics and Selection Article** that starts on page 7.



Photo credit: MSU Forestry Department

Looking for true blue: Variation in needle color stands out in this aerial view of the Colorado blue spruce improvement test at MSU's Kellogg Forest.

Foresters use seed zones to determine the optimum seed source for their geographic location.



Many ornamental conifers such as these at Hidden Lake Gardens start as grafted seedlings.

Contents

7 Conifer Genetics and Selection

Dr. Bert Cregg

16 Pendulous Conifers – A Brief Look

Bill Barger

18 Cascades in the Garden

Ed Remsrola

21 Shaping Pendulous Plants

A grower's and a collector's perspective

24 *Thuja occidentalis* 'Gold Drop' Plant Sale

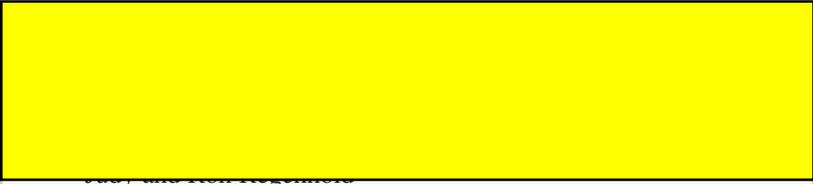
Supports ACS Research Fund

Dennis Groh

26 Information and History of the RHS

International Conifer Register and Checklist

Lawrie Springate



38 Changing Genes – Brooms, Sports, and Other Mutations

Don Howse

**46 Cornell Plantations Offers Many Favorites,
Not Just One or Two**

Phil Syphrit

Conifer Society voices

2 President's Message

4 Editor's Memo

42 Conifer News

44 ACS Regional News

Tsuga canadensis Cultivars at the South Seattle Community College Arboretum

by Peter Maurer

**FEATURED VENUE – 2007 ACS National Meeting
Seattle, Washington July 26-29**

Last year at this time I was enrolled as a student in the landscape horticulture program at South Seattle Community College (SSCC). As part of my studies I was evaluating plants in the arboretum there and kept coming across cultivars of *Tsuga canadensis*, each one different from the others. Everywhere I looked there was another little hemlock. While reading the names and planting dates on the plant labels, the proverbial light bulb lit up over my head. What a great learning tool this could be. This was a real opportunity to learn about the confusing array of *Tsuga canadensis* varieties. An appraisal of how these plants looked after fifteen years of growth could help identify the ones most valuable for home landscapes.

The idea of an arboretum at SSCC was conceived in the mid-1970's, primarily as a teaching facility for the brand-new horticulture program at the college. Former horticulture instructor Steve Nord led the effort to secure the funding and the volunteers needed for site development on a shoestring budget. With little city money available, funds were successfully raised from private donations. For example, initial plantings in the early 1980's included 125 Bosnian Pines (*Pinus heldreichii*) donated as a memorial to prominent

Seattle area nurserymen, Charles and Clark Malmo. Over time, the mission of the arboretum has grown to include demonstration gardens and community outreach, with guided walks and an annual "tea in the garden".

The 6-acre arboretum continues to grow and thrive today, thanks largely to the work of volunteers and horticulture classes under the guidance of horticulture instructor and arboretum coordinator Van Bobbitt. There are a dozen gardens with various themes, including perennials, maples, roses, rhododendrons, a winter garden, a sensory garden, and conifers large and small. The latest addition, dedicated in 2005, is the Coenosium Rock Garden. This alpine-style scree garden, complete with rushing mountain stream, displays hundreds of dwarf and miniature conifers in a naturalistic setting. The plants here were donated by Coenosium Nursery owner Bob Fincham, an American Conifer Society founding member. A walk through this jewel of a garden is an exciting experience for the conifer enthusiast and a great venue for publicizing the value of dwarf conifers in the home garden.

The seventeen cultivars of Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) found at the SSCC Arboretum display one of the most diverse public collections of the

species to be found in the Pacific Northwest. These plants represent over 10% of the 150-odd known cultivars, as listed in *The Cultivated Hemlocks*, by John C. Swartley. Nearly 100 of these cultivars are currently available for purchase at various nurseries throughout the western United States. "Some are so ugly that they defy adjectives", laments Michael Dirr in his book *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*. While it is true that there are some ugly selections, as well as some novelties attractive only to the hardcore collector, there are many, many forms that will appeal to the home landscaper. The less desirable selections - those that are ugly, poor performers - will weed themselves out over time. But when you walk through the arboretum as I did, you too will discover the many cultivars available - white-tipped, curly-leaved, golden-variegated, weeping, ground-hugging and more. With so many plants to choose from, the aim of the Arboretum's collection will continue to be the education of students and the public as to their ornamental potential.

Tsuga canadensis is notoriously slow growing in youth when compared to most other conifers. Careful observation by nursery operators over the course of many years has shown that seedling growth rate varies according to the age of the plant. For the first two years both seedlings and transplants grow about 1 to 2 inches per year. In the third to fifth years growth is from 3 inches to 8 inches per year. From the 6th year on, growth can be from 10 to 20 inches per year, depending on underground water supplies. Ten year plant sizes range from 4 ½ to 6 feet. As expected, dwarf garden cultivars will always grow much more slowly.

For a map and more information visit:
<http://dept.seattlecolleges.com/arboretum>, or www.coenosium.com. The 2007 ACS National Meeting will be in Seattle and members may want to familiarize themselves with some of the attractions beforehand. The SSCC Arboretum and its Coenosium Rock Garden will be one of the featured destinations, so book your reservations early! For details, see www.conifersociety.org.

"The intricate detail of creative design – That's why I love the conifers."

Edward Remsrola



30590 SE Kelso Rd. Boring, Oregon 97009
800-777-6202 - www.iselinursery.com



Seventeen cultivars of *Tsuga canadensis* at SSCC

Steve Nord has indicated a planting date of 1987 in the Milton Sutton Conifer Garden Phase II (MSCG Phase II) and of 1989 in the Milton Sutton Conifer Garden Phase I / Dawley Garden (MSCG Phase I). All of these plants were from 1-gallon containers. The plants found in the Coenosium Garden were planted in 2002, but were already quite large at that time.

The cultivars are categorized according to Swartley. Each plant is placed into one of 15 groups according to its dominant characteristic, whether foliage or growth habit. Categories include: LITTLE-LEAF; LARGE-LEAF; SPARSE-LEAF; DENSE-LEAF; WIDE-LEAF; CINNAMON-TIP; TWIGGY; YEW-LIKE; WHITE-TIP; GOLDEN; GLOBOSE; CONICAL; FASTIGIATE; SPREADING; & PENDULA. A few cultivars defy categorization, and are listed as UNCLASSIFIED.

Entries include:

Name; Category; Year and place of discovery, if known;

Arboretum location; Date planted; Size and condition at the time of this report (2006); Description; and Growth potential

1. 'Brookline' (formerly 'Sargentii #4') – PENDULA GROUP – Disc. ~1857 nr Fishkill, NY by Gen. J. Howland. Planted in Coenosium Garden 2002 – 1 foot tall x 3 feet wide, good condition

Mound-like, with horizontal branching, much wider than tall, new growth follows the contours of the branches. The original 'Brookline' was at Holm Lea, the former estate of Charles S. Sargent in Brookline, MA until it was destroyed by fire in the 1980's. In 1965 it was 7 feet tall and 30 feet wide. 4 feet x 10 feet /20yrs

2. 'Cappy's Choice' – PENDULA GROUP – Seedling selected in 1970 by James Caperci at Mount Rainier Alpine Gardens Nursery in Washington State

Two plants:

Planted in MSCG Phase II ~1987 – 3 feet tall x 4 feet wide, good condition

Planted in MSCG Phase I, west end ~1989 – 1 foot tall x 3 feet wide, fair condition, drainage issues

This is a compact and low-growing pendulous shrub. The fine-textured, light-green foliage shows some golden highlights in full sun. 2 inches/yr, or 3 ½ feet tall x 3 ½ feet wide/20yrs

3. 'Cinnamomea' – CINNAMON-TIP GROUP – Disc. 1929 by Frank L. Abbott nr Athens, VT

Planted in Coenosium Garden 2002 – 3 feet tall x 4 feet wide, good condition

Leaves near branch tips are pointed and whorled; mature leaves are blunt. Young shoots are densely red-brown pubescent. Plant grows 1/3 wider than tall over time. 5 feet tall x 7 feet wide/20yrs

4. 'Curly' – UNCLASSIFIED – Disc. 1969 by Harold Epstein, of Larchmont, NY in friend's garden

Planted mid-MSCG Phase I, west of *Pinus strobus* 'Torulosa', ~1989 – 3 feet tall x 5 feet wide, good condition

Short, broad, rounded leaves are held 90 degrees from shoot, more or less 2-ranked. Each leaf curls downward, giving a very unusual overall appearance. The growth habit is upright and compact. 3 ½ feet tall x 3 ½ feet wide/20yrs

5. 'Everitt Golden' – GOLDEN GROUP – Disc. 1918 on an exposed slope in NH by S.A. Everitt

Planted mid-MSCG Phase I, under *Acer platanoides*, ~1989 – 4 feet tall x 3 feet wide, shaded and leggy

A dense, stiff, coarse-textured tree, with upreaching branchlets. Leaves are closely set, not 2-ranked. Color is golden yellow in spring and summer, changing to greenish yellow, and finally bronzy. Plants can appear chlorotic. The color is best in full sun. Growth is compact and conical, but will eventually achieve 15-20 feet. 5 feet tall x 3 feet wide/20yrs

6. 'Golden Splendor' – GOLDEN GROUP – Selected and introduced in 1979 by John Mitsch of Mitsch Nursery, Aurora, Oregon

Planted in mid-MSCG Phase I, under *Acer platanoides*, ~1989 – 6 feet tall x 3 feet wide, shaded and leggy, distinctly drooping tips and pendulous branchlets, this plant is not golden. (Possibly needs sun for golden foliage to develop?)

An upright tree with golden foliage, it responds well to shearing. Takes full sun well. Normal growth habit except for golden color. 4 ½ – 6 feet tall/10yrs

7. 'Horsford Contorted' – UNCLASSIFIED – Disc. In 1970 in VT by William C. Horsford. Planted in MSCG Phase I, west end, ~1989 – 2 ½ feet tall x 3 feet wide, fair condition. Each year the branchlets twist into tight coils or even knots. As the branchlets mature, they partially untwist. This is a slow-growing, mounded small shrub of striking appearance. 3 inches/yr in youth, 3-5 feet tall and wide/10yrs

8. 'Hussii' – TWIGGY GROUP – Disc. 1900 in CT by John. F. Huss

Planted in mid-MSCG Phase I, east of *Abies pinsapo*, ~1989 – 4 feet tall x 4 feet wide, good condition.

Very crowded short and twiggy branchlets with densely crowded dark green needles. Slow growing and upright, with definite terminal shoots. It usually develops into a small tree of open, irregular habit. 6 feet tall x 4 feet wide/20yrs

8a) 'Everitt Densleaf' – Unrecognized cultivar name, indistinguishable from *T. canadensis* 'Hussii'

Two plants:

A. Planted in MSCG Phase I, under *Acer platanoides*, ~1989, 3 feet tall x 2 feet wide, fair condition

B. Planted in Coenosium Garden 2002, 3 feet tall x 3 feet wide, good condition

9. 'Jacqueline Verkade' – CONICAL GROUP – Seedling selected 1961 by John Verkade of Verkade's Nursery, NJ.

Planted MSCG Phase I, east end, ~1989 - 3 feet tall x 3 feet wide, shaded and leggy

A globose to conical dwarf form with very dense foliage. It has very small leaves on tiny stems. 3 feet tall x 2 feet wide/20yrs

10. 'Jeddeloh' – SPREADING GROUP – Discovered ~1950 in a cemetery in West Germany. Introduced in 1965 by Jeddeloh Nursery

Planted in MSCG phase II, ~1987 – 4 feet tall x 5 feet wide, good condition

A low spreading shrub with swirling, indented 'bird's nest' center. Globe-shaped in age, with gracefully pendulous outer shoots. Bright and fresh green needles. An outstanding landscape subject. 3 feet tall x 5 feet wide/20yrs

11. 'Jervis' – TWIGGY GROUP – Discovered as a seedling prior to 1956 near Port Jervis, NY by G.G.Nearing

Two plants:

A. Planted in Coenosium Garden 2002, 3 feet tall x 2 feet wide, good condition

B. Planted in Coenosium Garden 2002, 3 feet tall x 3 feet wide, good condition

Foliage is dense and congested, very dark green. Form becomes regularly conical, yet quite dwarf. It is similar to 'Hussii', but stays more compact with age. 4 feet tall x 3 feet wide/20yrs

12. 'Kelsey's Weeping' – PENDULA GROUP – Disc. 1929 in East Boxford, MA by H.P. Kelsey

Two plants:

A. Planted in mid-MSCG phase I, by streambed, ~1989. 3 feet tall x 2 ½ feet wide.

Good condition, shaded

B. Planted in Coenosium Garden 2002. 3 feet tall x 4 feet wide. Good condition

An asymmetrical form, combining one or more long-reaching stems ascending at an angle, with long pendulous branchlets, in time forming a living curtain of hanging branches. (Width is measured in direction of stem growth). 3 feet tall x 5 feet wide/20yrs.

13. 'Lewis' – TWIGGY GROUP – Selected in the early 1960's by C.M. Lewis of Skylands, Sterlington, NY

Planted in Coenosium Garden 2002, 4 feet tall x 3 feet wide, good condition

A slow-growing and rather narrow upright plant. It will form an irregular pyramid with stiff and rigid growth. Leaves are crowded, erect and tightly adpressed to the stem. 4 feet tall x 3 feet wide/20yrs

14. 'Mt Shasta' – WHITE-TIP GROUP – Selected prior to 1989 by Mr. Edsel Wood

of Bonsai Village, Wilsonville, OR.

Planted in MSCG Phase I under *Acer platanoides*, ~1989. 8 feet tall x 8 feet wide, good condition

An upright and open form, wide-reaching, with branches held at 45 degrees, tips weeping. Leaves are dark green and smaller than average. The very small forward-sweeping, creamy-white spring growth is held through the summer, followed by white changing-to-green summer growth. This results in an interesting white – green – white pattern by midsummer. It will develop into a conical tree in time. 10 feet x 10 feet / 20yrs

15. 'Pendula' – PENDULA GROUP – Unknown origin

Planted in MSCG Phase I, west end, ~1989. 3 feet tall x 6 feet wide, good condition

A prostrate, dense and undulating carpet that gradually builds height with new overlying growth. It is often trained as a small tree, forming a hemispherical mass of pendulous branches hanging to the ground and completely hiding the interior. This is one of four clones of the Sargent's weeping hemlock introduced by Henry Winthrop Sargent in the 19th century. 6-8 inches/yr

16. 'Rugg's Washington Dwarf' – CINNAMON-TIP GROUP – Unknown origin

Planted in MSCG Phase I, by streambed, ~1989. 4 feet tall x 3 feet wide, good condition

A globose or cushion-form plant, resembling a heath. It will eventually become an upright, loosely globose shrub. Spring foliage is bronze-yellow. Current and second year twigs are cinnamon-colored. 5 feet x 7 feet /20yrs

17. 'Wodenethe' (formerly 'Sargentii #2) – PENDULA GROUP – Disc. ~1857 nr Fishkill, NY by General J. Howland

Planted in MSCG Phase I, east end, ~1989. 1 foot tall x 3 feet wide. Good condition, quite prostrate

Forms a large spreading shrub of irregular habit, broader than high, with no vertical trunk unless trained. It eventually develops a few massive ascending branches with pendulous terminal shoots.

4 feet tall x 8 feet wide/20yrs. The 60 year size potential ranges from 10 feet x 20 feet to 20 feet x 40 feet

Bibliography

American Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants. Dorling Kindersley, 1996.

Bloom, Adrian. *Gardening With Conifers*. Firefly Books, 2002.

Bobbitt, Van. "The Creation of the South Seattle Community College Arboretum".

Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin, Autumn 2005.
 Cutler, Sandra M. *Dwarf & Unusual Conifers Coming of Age: A Guide to Mature Garden Conifers*. Barton Bradley Crossroads, 1997.
 Dirr, Michael A. *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*. Stipes Publishing Co., 1998.
 Grant, John A. and Carol L. *Trees and Shrubs for Pacific Northwest Gardens*. Timber Press, 1990.
 Hill, Susan and Susan Narizny. *The Plant Locator, Western Region*. Black-Eyed Susans Press, 2004.
The Hillier Gardener's Guide to Trees and Shrubs. David & Charles, 1995.
 Jacobson, Arthur Lee. *Trees of Seattle, 2nd Edition*. Arthur Lee Jacobson, 2006.
 Krussman, Gerd. *Manual of Cultivated Conifers*. Timber Press, 1985.
Sunset Western Garden Book. Sunset Publishing Corporation, 2001.
 Swartley, John. *The Cultivated Hemlocks*. Timber Press, 1984.
 Van Gelderen, D. M. and J. R. P. van Hoey Smith. *Conifers, The Illustrated Encyclopedia*, 2 volumes. Timber Press, 1996.

About the author: Peter Maurer, 49, is married and takes care of his 3-year-old boy. A professional chef for 28 years, he is currently changing careers to pursue his passion for plants. He lives in Seattle, Washington.

The American Conifer Society will offer a \$500 Scholarship for 2007. Eligibility requirements and applications may be downloaded from the TOP-ICS section of the ACS website or from:

**ACS Scholarship Committee
 Gerald P. Kral
 900 Winton Road N
 Rochester, NY 14609**

More than one Scholarship may be awarded.



**J. Carlson
 Growers, Inc.**
 Conifers & Ornamentals

*Specializing in
 fine garden plants*

8938 Newburg Road
 Rockford, IL 61108
 Phone: (815) 332-5610
 Fax: (815) 332-7495
 E-mail: sciadopity@msn.com

Just a Couple of Raving Coniferites from Cincinnati

by Judy and Ron Regenhold

Well, here we go again! We were leaving on a short, early-spring trip a few years ago, headed to the hills in east central Ohio to see the wildflowers bloom. We live in Cincinnati, in the far southwestern corner of the state, about 150 miles from our destination. Oops! On the Internet, just before leaving, we finally found a place that has that *Picea omorika* 'Pendula Brunns' in the very size that we have been "pining" for, but we have to go to central Michigan to get it. No problem. It's only an extra 600 miles. This is not the first time that we have gone a *little* out of the way for a plant. Of course, this plant will barely fit into our car's trunk, and we will be away for four days. Who needs luggage?

Such are the lives of raving coniferites, severely infected with A.C.S. (Addicted Conifer Syndrome), a disease that many members of the ACS (American Conifer Society) know well. In the early years of our infection, we would drive 1,000 miles round trip to central Pennsylvania for our latest fix of new grafts, over a *two-day* weekend. Then, turn right around a couple of weeks later and head to eastern Pennsylvania and New York for more plants - another 1,600 miles - over a *four-day* weekend. Our enthusiasm was insuppressible. After more than 25 years, this fever has not been quenched, only fed.

These days, we must be more selective with our choices. We have a small suburban lot that is packed with our favorite things. Our conifer friends know, however, that a lack of space does not mean much, whether in our car or our

yard. When we purchase yet another plant that we cannot live without, we call it an "upgrade" (a term we learned from a fellow conifer addict). While a soothing term and one we fully admit, we simply love the disease we acquired and share it freely. Something in the garden will get too big, forcing a hard choice. Our friends are happy when the discarded choice goes home with them. Conversely, our long, hot, horribly humid and bone-dry summers or erratic winters and springs will give us a spot. It hurts for a little while but then we're off again.

High moments in our garden

With a small garden, we have specialized in the very dwarf and slow-growing conifers. We also have many dwarf plants that grow with more vigor, and larger plants that need to understand our space constraints. We candle, trim, cut, move, whatever it takes to get the plants to understand that there is only so much room, so they had better be careful. Narrow and vertical plants are welcome because, with them, the sky is the limit. A conifer such as the *Picea omorika* 'Pendula Brunns' was a must-have, and it has been a winner for us - fairly slow growing, nice and narrow habit, with a wonderfully stylish flair. Very enticing. We were delighted when we learned of its selection as one of the two Collectors Conifers of the Year (CCOY) for 2007. Can this be validation that our disease is a good thing?

When we learned that the CCOY committee's choice for dwarf selection was also within our garden's treasure

trove, we thought that this is surely a sign that the hunt must go on. We had fallen in love with *Picea orientalis* 'Tom Thumb' at first sight, and like a tenacious suitor, pursued it with a passion. That was a challenge indeed. We scrounged and hunted until we found it. Not wanting to take a chance on that one, we acquired several over the years. It is still one of our favorite and most highly-prized dwarfs. A slow grower, at least here in Ohio, with great color and tight, neat habit, 'Tom' certainly deserves CCOY honor.

Conifers and friends

While our garden abounds with conifers, it also contains many companion plants. We feel that a garden of conifers with varying shades of green, blue, and gold provides a fabulous backbone for a northern (zone 5-6) garden. Conifers have strength and character, presenting a gardener numerous choices for companions. Japanese maples have long been a favorite of ours, and they are excellent companions for conifers. The vibrant spring leaves in greens, pinks, reds, and whites create gorgeous contrasts near conifers with their brilliant spring flush. The same can be said in fall, with leaves of intense scarlets, maroons, and golds. In summer, they combine to form dense screens in which the birds can find nesting sites. The structure of the maple branches in winter alongside the conifers, both laden with snow, is breathtaking.

Another deciduous-type tree, the *Ginkgo*, is a great favorite and close companion plant that provides excellent textural contrast in the garden. It is technically not a conifer but like a conifer, is a gymnosperm bearing seeds in an unenclosed (naked) condition. Over the years, we have collected slow growers, narrow growers, trees with tiny and small

leaves, trees with huge leaves, tubed leaves, variegated leaves, and those with narrow and strap-type leaves. You name it. The slow-growing 'Chase Manhattan' and the tiny-leafed 'Munchkin' fit well. For the latter, we drove an extra 300 miles early this fall. We find all gingkoes to be trees of distinction, especially the first one we ever planted in our backyard (30-plus years ago) that now towers above its companions.

We've found other strong contrasts with myriad forms of beech (*Fagus*). As it has few slow-growing varieties, we have to be brutal if we want them to remain. The *Fagus sylvatica* 'Tortuosa' has been in the front yard for some 25 years. Because it is our favorite beech, we offer it tough love. Primarily a lateral grower, drastic measures keep it "contained". Countless hours of hard pruning are spent trying to keep up with its rapid growth habit. At the other end of the spectrum is *Fagus sylvatica* 'Cochleata' that has grown to about 6 feet high in 20-plus years. Then there are the 'Rotundifolia', 'Tri-Color', the pendulous golden beech, and others that must be closely watched.

Our huge, old bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) with its knees growing everywhere, and the dwarf *Taxodium distichum* 'Peve Minaret', and the flat-growing 'Wooster Broom' work well with the other plants. The *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* 'Green Arrow' is another great love as it reaches for the stars. All of these friends share our space and our lives, along with many 'Kingsville' boxwoods, profuse spring wildflowers, Asian varieties of *Arisaema*, water gardens with miniature varieties of lotus and water lilies, a bog garden, and bog-troughs with fancy, laced pitcher plants to eat our bugs (we wish). And we can't not mention the

lady's slipper orchids, along with the acid-loving English crested fern and the alkaline-loving *Phyllitis scolopendrium* fern.

Somehow, all of the garden residents appear to be in scale with their surroundings, living in peaceful harmony with each other. This is true down to the smallest of the dwarf conifers, which are the plants we love most. Among a significant collection in a somewhat small space, the dwarfs find a very cozy home. Our list includes *Pinus parviflora*, *mugo*, *strobus*, *flexilis*, and *banksiana*; *Abies alba*, *concolor*, *koreana*, *procera*, *lasiocarpa*, *pinsapo*, *cilicica*, *nordmanniana*, and *bornmuelleriana*; *Picea orientalis*, *omorika*, *abies* and *glauca*; *Cedrus atlantica*, *deodara* and *libani*; *Pseudotsuga menziesii*; *Tsuga canadensis*; and more.

In some of these families, we have several to very many named cultivars. The *Pinus parviflora* species is our first love, especially 'Tamina No Yuki', 'Shiro-janome', 'Fubuki Nishiki', 'Shikukugoyo', 'Goldilocks', 'Myojo', and even 'Regenhold' from our own original broom tree.

Small and less-hardy varieties of conifers and other tender plants find their homes in troughs. We like these portable gardens within a garden. They can be displayed anywhere through the summer months and even moved and protected during some of the harsh winters. Troughs have saved many a botanical life.

Nature's gains and losses

Some years, our very warm late winter days are followed immediately by biting cold winds, low temperatures, and heavy freezes, frosts, and even snow. These have caused the most damage to the early budding plants. We have lost some old, established trees as a result. One of our

distressing losses was the *Pinus parviflora* 'Glaucua' that was the source of a distinctive witches' broom. For several years running, the late heavy frosts and deep freezes devastated the early buds. Luckily, early grafting has assured survival for descendants of the broom.

There are also a couple of other brooms and sports that have originated in this garden. Certainly notable is a broom on a 30-plus-year-old *Picea abies* 'Pygmaea'. The growth is so tight that even taking a cutting is difficult, much less attempting to graft it. The broom is now about 8 inches in diameter on a plant about a foot tall with a 32-inch spread.

We just keep looking around at all of the treasures we have accumulated. We watch intently for treasures unknown or not yet found. The hunt is still immensely exciting to us. Why quit now? Some things are just worth going the extra mile.

Happy gardening from a couple of raving coniferites. (And thanks to ACS, we have plenty of company!)

About the authors: Ron and Judy Regenhold garden in Cincinnati. They have been members of ACS since the formation of the Central Region.

**Dwarf Conifers, Rare Unusual
Plants & More**



**740-965-3789
740-972-0318**

DANNAHER LANDSCAPING
www.dannaherlandscaping.com
Email: Crazy_Irishman@msn.com
Great selection ~ reasonable prices!
Galena, OHIO