

THE HOLDEN ARBORETUM  
LIBRARY.

# Crab Gab

International  
Ornamental Crabapple Society  
Bulletin

Summer 1985

Vol.1 No.1





INTERNATIONAL ORNAMENTAL CRABAPPLE  
SOCIETY

OFFICERS

Thomas L. Green, Executive Director, pro tempore  
(Directors and officers to be elected at the August  
8, 1985 meeting.)

COMMITTEES

Membership

Fred Buscher (OH)  
Thomas L. Green (IL)  
Bill Hendricks (OH)  
Norbert Kinen (OR)  
Mike Scott (NJ)

Organization

Peter W. Bristol (OH)  
Fr. John Fiala (IL)  
Thomas L. Green (IL)  
Robert Lyons (OH)  
Les Nichols (RI)

Publications

Thomas L. Green (IL)  
Edward Hasselkus (WI)  
Francie Hill (IA)  
Joe Hill (IA)  
John Martens (IL)

ORNAMENTAL CRABAPPLE SYMPOSIUM AND  
FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE IOCS

Thursday, August 8, 1985  
OARDC, The Ohio State University  
Wooster, Ohio 44691

# Crab Gab

International  
Ornamental Crabapple Society  
Bulletin

Editorial Participants:

Thomas L. Green            Joe Hill  
Edward R. Hasselkus      John Martens

Volume 1, Number 1

Summer 1985

ORNAMENTAL CRABAPPLE SYMPOSIUM  
FIRST ANNUAL IOCS MEETING

On August 8, 1985, an Ornamental Crabapple Symposium and Annual Meeting of the IOCS will be held at The Ohio State University (Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center) in Wooster, Ohio. This Symposium/Annual Meeting is planned for the nursery industry, landscape architects, landscape contractors, university and research personnel, and members of the public interested in the production and use of the new and better ornamental crabapples.

Hosted by The Ohio State University Cooperative Extension Service, this Symposium/Annual Meeting is cosponsored by the International Ornamental Crabapple Society, which itself is in the process of being formally established. A short business session devoted to furthering the formation of the Crabapple Society will be a part of the symposium.

Registration will be handled by:

Mr. Fred K. Buscher  
Administration Building  
OARDC  
The Ohio State University  
Wooster, Ohio 44691-9982  
(216) 263-3831/3832



The registration fee for the symposium is \$15.00 per person. Further information about registration, accommodations, etc., is available from Mr. Buscher.

Included here are the program and registration form for the Symposium. Again, it is emphasized that anyone, professional or amateur, with a fondness for ornamental crabapples is invited to attend the Symposium and to participate in the formation of the Crabapple Society.

ORNAMENTAL CRABAPPLE SYMPOSIUM  
FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE IOCS

8 August 1985

OARDC

The Ohio State University  
Wooster, Ohio

- 8:00 Registration --Fred K. Buscher, OARDC, Wooster, OH
- 9:15 Crabapple Diseases and Their Control  
Les P. Nichols, Prof. Emeritus, Penn State University
- 10:00 Evaluating Crabapples for Aesthetic Qualities  
Thomas L. Green, The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL
- 10:45 BREAK
- 11:00 Evaluation/Selection of Ornamental Crabapples  
Edward R. Hasselkus, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- 11:45 Annual Meeting of the International Ornamental Crabapple Society
- 12:15 Fried Chicken Box Lunch
- 1:00 Propagation and Production of Ornamental Crabapples  
Keith Warren, J. Frank Schmidt & Son Nursery, Boring, OR
- 1:45 Design Aspects of Crabapples for the Landscape  
Tom Evans, Hoag-Wismer Partnership, Cleveland, OH
- 2:30 Wagon tour of Secrest Arboretum

## The Secrest Arboretum

The Secrest Arboretum consists of approximately 85 acres of land set aside at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center to test and display trees and shrubs suitable for the climate in the Wooster area. At present there are more than 2,000 species, varieties, and cultivars of trees and shrubs growing in the Arboretum, including various plants from around the world as well as native Ohio species.

The first planting in the Arboretum area was a plantation of Tulip poplar set out in 1903. Three of these are still alive and growing. Several additional plantings of trees were made in 1904 and 1907. Starting in 1909, plantings of trees and shrubs have been made continuously up to the present time. Many of the early plantings were made by Edmund Secrest, first state forester in Ohio and former director of the Research Center (then known as the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station). In 1950 the Arboretum was dedicated to Mr. Secrest.

Some of the earliest planting stock set out in the Arboretum came from Europe -- even typically American trees such as the Baldcypress plantings of 1909. During the 1912 to 1918 period, much of the fir and pine planting stock came from the Biltmore Estate nurseries near Asheville, N.C.

The Arboretum is open to the public during daylight hours throughout the year. The named, improved roads are open for driving. The service roads and trails are closed to driving but are open to the public as walking trails.



## MALUS COLLECTIONS

Each issue of Crab Gab will include a list of the holdings of a particular crabapple collection -- beginning in this issue with the Secest Arboretum's collection, since the Secest Arboretum will be the site of the August Crabapple Symposium. This, we believe, may help readers locate particular specimens in which they have special interest.

Further, it is hoped that the Society can soon assemble a master computerized list of the holdings in collections throughout the world so that information on the locations of any desired specimens can be easily supplied. To this end, readers are urged to send data about their Malus collections to the Society, c/o The Morton Arboretum.

### The Secest Malus Collection

'Adams'	'Indian Summer'	'Rosseau'
x <u>adstringens</u>	'Jay Darling'	'Royalty'
'Almey'	'Katherine'	'Rudolph'
'Amisk'	'Kibele'	<u>sargentii</u>
x <u>arnoldiana</u>	'Klehms'	'Rosea'
'Arrow'	'Klehms Improved'	x <u>scheideckeri</u>
x <u>atrosanguinea</u>	<u>lancifolia</u>	'Scugog'
<u>baccata</u>	'Leslie'	'Selkirk'
'Columnaris'	'Liset'	'sentinei'
var. <u>jackii</u>	'Makamik'	<u>sieboldii</u> var <u>zumi</u>
'Beverly'	'Marshal Oyama'	'Calocarpa'
'Brandywine'	'Mary Potter'	<u>sikkimensis</u>
<u>brevipes</u>	'Masek'	'Silver Moon'
'Centennial'	x <u>micromalus</u>	'Simcoe'
'Cheal's Crimson'	'Minn. 11-AB'	'Simpson 6-39'
'Chestnut'	'Minnesota #1472'	'Simpson 6-48'
'Coralburst'	'Morden 52-12'	'Simpson 8-36'
<u>coronaria</u>	'Morden 454'	'Simpson 10-35'
'Charlottae'	'Oakes'	'Sissipuk'
'Nieuwlandiana'	'Oekonomierat Echtermeyer'	'Snowcap'
'Cowichan'	'Ormiston Roy'	'Snowdrift'
'Crimson Brilliant'	'Pink Beauty'	x <u>soulardii</u> 'Soulard'
'Dainty'	'Pink Cascade'	'Sparkler'
'David'	'Pink Perfection'	<u>spectabilis</u> 'Albi-plena'
'Dolgo'	'Pink Spires'	'Riversii'
'Donald Wyman'	'Prairie Rose'	'Spring Snow'
'Dorothea'	'Prince Georges'	'Strathmore'
'E.H. Wilson'	'Profusion'	x <u>sublobata</u>
'Elise Rathke'	<u>prunifolia</u> var. <u>rinkii</u>	'Sundog'
'Ellen Gerhart'	<u>pumila</u> 'Niedzwetzkyana'	'Tanner'
'Evelyn'	'Purple Wave'	<u>tschonoskii</u>
'Flame'	x <u>purpurea</u>	'Turesii'
<u>floribunda</u>	'Aldenhamsensis'	'Valley City'
'Geneva'	'Eleyi'	'Van Eseltine'
<u>glaucescens</u>	'Lemoinei'	'Vanguard'
x <u>gloriosa</u>	'Radiant'	'Velvet Pillar'
'Golden Hornet'	'Ralph Shay'	'Wabiskaw'
<u>halliana</u>	'Red Barron'	'White Angel'
'Parkmanii'	'Red Jade'	'White Candle'
x <u>hartwigii</u>	'Red Jewel'	'Wilson'
'Henry F. DuPont'	'Red Silver'	'Winter Gold'
'Hillieri'	'Red Splendor'	'Wooster #1'
'Hopa'	'Ringo'	<u>yunnanensis</u> 'Veitchii'
'Hopa Rose'	'Robinson'	
<u>hupehensis</u>	x <u>robusta</u>	
'Indian Magic'	'Erecta'	
	'Leucocarpa'	
	'Persicifolia'	

## THE ORIGIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORNAMENTAL CRABAPPLE SOCIETY

Les Nichols

The author began his work with the flowering crabapples, searching for disease resistant cultivars, in 1961. As the years went by and more and more crabapples were seen, a strong attachment for these beautiful trees developed. At some point, perhaps in the seventies, the thought arose as to why there had never been a Flowering Crabapple Society. After all there were societies for lilacs, roses, day lilies, hollies, and even rock garden plants so why not one for crabapples. This matter was discussed many times with people interested in flowering crabapples such as Father John Fiala, Dr. Ed Hasselkus, Bill Hendricks, Keith Warren, Norbert Kinen, Roland Jefferson, Fred Buscher, and Dr. Tom Green and all agreed that it would be advantageous to have a crabapple society.

It was not until 1983, however, that any effort was made to form a society.

Ed Hasselkus suggested to the WAA to put together a program devoted to the ornamental crabapple. Talks by Les Nichols (disease), Dan Makr (insect pests), Ed Hasselkus (evaluation/selection), and Tom Green (National Crabapple Evaluation program/crabapple society) drew the largest attendance ever for this group's winter program. This convinced Dr. Green that a symposium during the summer of 84 in Illinois would be successful.

The Northern Illinois Ornamental Growers Association (OGA) and the Morton Arboretum agreed to sponsor the meeting. It was planned that an informal meeting of people interested in crabapples be held at that time to explore the possibility of forming a society. This meeting was held the evening of August 21, 1984 and was attended by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Simpson and son, Tom, Mr. Bill Hendricks, Dr. Tom Green, Dr. Ed Hasselkus, and Les Nichols. It was evident from the large number of people in attendance at the



crabapple symposium that there was indeed a widespread interest in ornamental crabapples and agreement that a society should be formed.

Some time later interested persons decided to hold an organizational meeting at the Mid-Am show in Chicago in January of 1985. Prior to this meeting Tom Green, with the guidance of by-laws of the American Lilac Society kindly provided by and commented on by Father John Fiala, worked up tentative by-laws for the crabapple society along with guidelines for the organization. The meeting in Chicago was attended by 18 crabapple enthusiasts. Committees were selected and it was decided to call the new society The International Ornamental Crabapple Society. The Society was to be incorporated in Lisle, Illinois, the site of the Morton Arboretum. The first meeting of the Society was to be held at the Secrest Arboretum, Wooster, Ohio, on August 8, 1985. Another crabapple symposium will be held in conjunction with the Society meeting. At the meeting officers will be elected, dues set, and other items concerning the establishment of the society will be discussed. Already an invitation to become charter members has been sent out to any persons interested.

#### LOGO CONTEST

For the mailing sleeve of this initial bulletin, we borrowed a sketch from Charles S. Sargent, The Silva of North America (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1891-1902), IV, Plate CLXVII. It would be nice to have a unique logo for the Society. So a contest is called for. Anyone with an artistic flair is invited to enter the contest by sending a suggested logo (no restrictions as to form) to the Society, c/o The Morton Arboretum. The contest ends December 31, 1985, so all entries must be received by then. The judge will be Les Nichols and his decision will be final. As for a prize, the winner will receive a free one-year membership in the Crabapple Society and, of course, a published announcement of his/her accomplishment.

#### SPECIAL INVITATION

Applications for CHARTER MEMBERSHIP in the International Ornamental Crabapple Society are now being accepted by the newly forming society. The fee is \$25.00. For this fee, the donor will receive a certificate and the gratitude and respect of all who are endeavoring to establish a formal society to promote the development and appreciation of ornamental crabapples.

In effect, the fee for Charter Membership is a one-time donation to enable the volunteer officers to organize and incorporate the society for the benefit and enjoyment of crabapple tree fanciers throughout the world. Applications by anyone - professional or layman - will be accepted.

Charter Membership is solely limited to calendar year 1985. Beginning in 1986, yearly dues will be as prescribed by the IOCS Board of Directors.

Charter Membership donations should be made payable to:

International Ornamental Crabapple Society  
c/o Dr. Thomas L. Green  
The Morton Arboretum  
Lisle, IL 60532  
(312) 968-0074

#### Crabculture

Growers:

We would like to feature a growers' column whereby you can share your unique growing experiences with crabapples. I have heard statements like "'Mary Potter' is one of the more difficult crabs to transplant" and "'Profusion' is one of the easiest of the red leaf cultivars to move."

I know there is a lot of crabapple growing experience out there. Submit what you would like to share to: The International Ornamental Crabapple Society, c/o the Morton Arboretum.



Malus "obscurus"

Malus "obscurus" is a term we have chosen to head a series in succeeding issues about unfamiliar crabapples. To begin with, we have selected Malus fusca as the first "obscurus", featured on our cover.

Malus fusca (Raf.) Schneider, also known as the Oregon crabapple, is the only native representative of this genus that grows west of the Rocky Mountains. Its range of latitude extends from coastal central Alaska south through British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon to Northern California. The largest specimens grow to 40 ft. (13 m) with trunks of 12-18 in. (30-45 cm) in the valleys of western Washington and Oregon.

In its native habitat it is found in moist areas where the soil is deep and rich. Its habit is often shrubby with numerous slender stems, in some cases forming large impenetrable thickets.

Archibald Menzies is believed to have been the first European to encounter this species about 1793. David Douglas collected specimens about 1823.

The oblong fruit of this species differs from that of most other crabapples. According to Professor Emeritus Les Nichols, Malus fusca is resistant to scab and fireblight.

The Oregon crab is seldom used ornamentally. However, its germplasm has potential. It has attractive yellow and red fruit with an unusual shape, and it is very hardy, disease resistant and tolerant of moist soils. It is reported growing in Fairbanks Alaska (-70° F., -57° C.) and up to 11,000 ft. (3350 m) in British Columbia (-50° F., -46° C.). In older literature M. fusca can be found listed in the genus Pyrus and/or species diversifolia and rivularis. M. fusca var. levipes is reported to be a common form in the Willamette Valley and along the western slope of the Cascade Mountains. A hybrid M. Dawsoniana (M. fusca x pumila) originated in Oregon.

Trying to determine where M. fusca can be found as a cultivated plant has not been easy. Prof.

Nichols has evaluated this species at Arnold Arboretum, Holden Arboretum, Morton Arboretum, and on the Michigan State University Campus. Mr. John Sabuco, a local landscape architect and author of the book, The Best of the Hardest, has observed this species at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, University of Oregon, Eugene, Butchart Gardens in Victoria, British Columbia and University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. The University of Washington Arboretum Bulletin reports M. fusca as a native plant on the Arboretum grounds. It can probably be found at all Botanic Gardens and Arboreta within its native range.

I have run across a M. fusca 'Wagener' but have been unable to find any information about it.

There is definitely much more to learn about M. fusca. It still appears to be a part of M. "obscurus".

(Articles about unfamiliar crabapples are invited. If you have information on some crabapple or would like to know more about a certain taxon, contact the Crabapple Society c/o the Morton Arboretum.)

DESCRIPTION.—*Tree*, 15-30, sometimes 40 ft. high, the trunk 1-1½ ft. in diameter; young shoots clothed with grey hairs at first, becoming glabrous; purplish-brown the second season. *Leaves* deciduous, ovate to ovate-lanceolate, acute or acuminate, usually rounded or occasionally cuneate at the base, sometimes obscurely lobed above the middle, finely and sharply serrate; 1½-3½ in. long, ¾-1½ in. wide; dark dull green, and at first puberulous above, finally glabrous; paler and pubescent beneath; petiole ½-1½ in. long, pubescent. *Flowers* ¾-1 in. wide, terminal or produced in the axils of the terminal leaves, 8-12 forming a corymb 2-3 in. wide, expanding in May. *Calyx-tube* obconic, pubescent; lobes 5, lanceolate, ⅓ in. long, slightly pubescent or glabrous outside, thickly covered with pale grey wool within. *Petals* 5, orbicular with a short claw and a few jagged teeth near the base, ⅝ in. long, creamy white. *Stamens* 16-20; filaments glabrous, flattened. *Styles* 2-5 (usually 3) joined near the base, glabrous. *Fruit* ovoid-oblong, pendulous, ½-¾ in. long, ⅜ in. wide, glabrous, ripe in October and then yellow tinged with pink on the sunny side, greenish in the shade, the calyx falling away and leaving a small pit at the apex; peduncles slender, 1-1½ in. long, glabrescent. *Seeds* ⅓ in. long, pointed, compressed, pale brown, usually 3 in each fruit.

--Curtis's Bot. Mag. 1919, t. 8798



MINUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORNAMENTAL  
CRABAPPLE SOCIETY  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

January 19, 1985  
Chicago, IL, Hyatt Regency

A. Justification

It was agreed there was enough interest in the Crabapple Society to justify forming it; 18 individuals represented at the initial meeting.

B. Society Name

The name suggested by Tom Green was International Ornamental Crabapple Society. The group agreed to this.

C. Society Location

The Morton Arboretum was suggested as a base location for the Society and this was agreed to. The question of the date of incorporation was left to the organizational committee to decide. Incorporation in Illinois would incur a modest fee.

D. Society Goals and Services

The goals were reviewed by this group, but it was agreed that the Organizational Committee should address the job of revising the goals and preparing the by-laws.

1. Plant taxa - The Society will mainly be concerned with the genus Malus. In OGA Notes, Spring 1984, a major goal listed for the Society was to bring together all people who are interested in ornamental Malus and Pyrus. A motion was made by Les Nichols to remove Pyrus from the spotlight and designate it and other genera (Prunus, etc.) as companion plants (related plants). Ed Hasselkus suggested that papers written on these related plants and printed in the Society's publication would be sufficient.

2. Groups served - Educators were added to the list in the Agenda. Landscape designers were changed to landscape architects.
3. Exchange of information - All items listed in this subheading pertain to information to be disseminated in the publications. Researching the taxonomy of Malus was considered to be a major goal.
4. Registration and description - It was decided that registration of crabapples should be turned over to the Society from Arnold Arboretum, as long as it was agreed to by Arnold Arboretum. A society form for standard registration of crabapples would be composed to provide more information for separating species and cultivars. Species and cultivar descriptions will be published by the Society.
5. Plant introduction - The Society will assist in the introduction of plants, and in choosing suitable names for the plants.
6. Germ plasm location records - The Society will maintain records of where plants are located to avoid the accidental loss of unique cultivars.
7. Research - The Society should suggest ideas for research. Bob Lyons asked about having educators working with Malus publishing in the Society journal. This will be strongly encouraged. Because the journal will not be refereed, it may not get some of the scientific papers.
8. Maintain Malus directory - A computerized Malus directory will be located at the Morton Arboretum. The work of establishing and maintaining this list will be undertaken initially by volunteers.



9. Other - It was suggested that the publication of a newsletter and periodic journal be considered a high priority goal. Proceedings from annual meetings would be published. Invited papers would be given at annual meetings. The initial publication would be the newsletter beginning semi-annually and possibly increasing to quarterly. The newsletter will not be refereed.

Another goal suggestion was coordination of seed, scion, and pollen exchanges for fund raising purposes.

Dale Wayland suggested that virus indexing of varieties be another service performed by the Society.

#### E. Establishment of Committees

The group was asked for volunteers to be on the committees.

1. Organizational Committee - The following volunteered to serve: T. Green, F. Fiala (not present), P. Bristol (not present), B. Lyons, L. Nichols.

It was suggested that the committee examine several additional items, such as 1) base figure for dues; 2) directory charge; 3) charter membership fee to obtain initial capital. The membership committee would also be responsible for reviewing these financial items.

2. Membership Committee - The following volunteered to serve: T. Green, F. Buscher (not present), B. Hendricks, Norbert Kinen, M. Scott (not present).
3. Publications Committee - The name of the journal committee was changed to Publications Committee. The following volunteered to serve: J. Hill, F. Hill, E. Hasselkus, J. Martens (not present).

An idea was proposed that the first issue of the newsletter be sent out free of charge along with a cover letter explaining about the Society. This will be taken under consideration by the committee along with the question of advertisements in the journal, etc.

#### F. Other Business

The discussion of the location of annual meetings and the regional divisions of the Society will be delegated to a committee. The general time of the year of the meetings was suggested as late summer, because the nurseries are very busy in spring and fall. There would also be the possibility of combining with other groups for meetings.

It was suggested and approved that the next meeting for the group be in Ohio in Summer 1985. The goal is to have the Society underway by the time of this meeting.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Cover Illustrations: Malus fusca from **Curtis's Botanical Magazine**, 1919, Vol. XV: 8798 (originally cited as M. rivularis), Courtesy of Sterling Morton Library
- Photography Credits: John Kohout, Staff Nature Photographer, Bob Phillips and John Baker, Assistants, the Morton Arboretum
- Editorial: Joe Hill, the Bickelhaupt Arboretum. John Martens, Fay Hinton, and Joe Larkin, the Morton Arboretum
- Design: Sabine Huhndorf and Nancy Hart, the Morton Arboretum