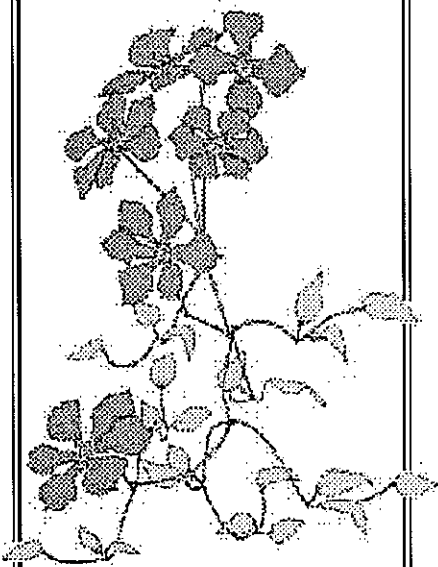


# Collection News

## ROGERSON CLEMATIS COLLECTION



AT LUSCHER FARM

### Mission of the Friends of the Rogerson Clematis Collection

To preserve and foster the Collection in a permanent homesite, observing its longtime objectives of assembling and maintaining as comprehensive a collection of the genus *Clematis* as possible, for the advancement of botanical and horticultural research and the education and pleasure of all who visit it.

## In Praise of an American Duchess

*Brewster Rogerson*

“What is your favorite clematis?” Like anyone else who is irremediably hooked on clematis, I have been asked this question more times than I can count, and have never developed a comfortable answer. How could I show up at the greenhouse and face all those wonderfully various plants after naming one or two of them—or three or four of them—as my favorites? Excellence can come in so many different forms. (I do have to admit I keep a private honor roll, revisable at will, of my 48 top choices.) But habitual visitors to the collection probably know that one rare hybrid there, a great performer over the years, has earned a place of special note. We may have the only specimens of it; it vanished from the trade a quarter-century ago. The name: ‘Duchess of Waverly.’

It is a Spring-bearing vine, sturdy and capable of spreading well at the base. The flowers, both in the Spring and later on the new wood, go through a fascinating set of color changes. There are many good clematis with purple or violet-purple flowers, but not another that knows how to fade quite the way this one does. On first opening, the sepals are a dark violet-purple, suffused — especially down the middle — with intense red. The red is soon gone, and as it goes the purple fades also, first to violet and then to one

*(Continued on page 2)*

## PNCS Issues Challenge Grant

*Linda Beutler*

Because in all likelihood FRCC and the Pacific Northwest Clematis Society (PNCS) will not be joining forces (and bank accounts) before October of 2006, the PNCS board has voted to issue a challenge grant to FRCC. If the members can raise \$2500 before July 31st, 2006, PNCS will match this amount with an equal donation of \$2500, giving FRCC \$5000 in total revenue. There are a few stipulations: The \$2500 raised by FRCC must come from new donations and fund-raising events, not those already planned prior to March 12, 2006. (This means that money raised at the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon’s spring plant sale will not count toward this challenge, nor will the proceeds from the Garden Conservancy’s tour of Washington County Gardens this summer.) And the money from the challenge grant shall be used to purchase soil amendments and plants (both clematis and non-clematis) for phase one of the display garden surrounding the farmhouse at Luscher Farm.

Phase one is the installation of antique clematis and other cottage garden plants, especially roses, which might have been available when the farmhouse was built in 1900. We are calling this “The Historic Garden.”

## New Volunteers Always Wanted

*Sharon Kaito*

A schedule for new volunteer orientation and training sessions from April through November, 2006 has been set. There will be two two-hour sessions per month, and attendees have the option of staying on after their session and helping with the plants.

We are always seeking out new volunteers to help maintain the plants at the new Luscher Farm greenhouse. If you want to learn more about a wide variety of clematis, as well as the old favorites, volunteering at the Collection is the way to do it. If you would like to work with Brewster Rogerson, sign up to volunteer on Thursday afternoons. Brewster is an excellent teacher. I was fortunate enough to have volunteered at the Collection when it was at Gutmann Nursery in Mountaindale, and I learned, almost one-on-one with Brewster, so many things about clematis.

New volunteers have a first-hand opportunity to see this new botanic garden grow from the ground up! Volunteer!

If you would like to sign up for one of the new volunteer orientation and training sessions, contact Sharon Kaito at 503-236-6315 or e-mail [sekjbr@msn.com](mailto:sekjbr@msn.com).

### Saturday

April 1st

June 3rd

August 5th

October 14th

### Wednesday

April 19th

June 21st

August 16th

October 25th

### Friday

May 5th

July 7th

September 15th

November 3rd

### Wednesday

May 17th

July 19th

November 15th

## American Duchess *(continued from page 1)*

shade after another of blue. What makes this process absorbing is that the bloom doesn't come on all at once, but spreads out over many days, so that various stages can be occurring side by side. Almost to the end there are little glints of red. I shouldn't fail to mention, by the way, that all this play of color harmony is considerably heightened by a creamy white tuft of stamens at the center of each flower. Withal, a beautiful and long-lasting display, rich without a hint of harshness or excess.

So, a valuable cultivar, and it may seem strange that it was allowed to drop from the market. The truth is, the only known source of this and a few other "Northwest introductions" simply went out of business in the early 80's, and whatever remained of its stock was lost in anonymity.

It's quite possible that someone reading this will be able to add to what I am saying here, for the business in question was local—Arnold's Clematis Nursery in Milwaukie, Oregon. In its last years it was owned by Mrs. LaVerne Bybee, who probably was the person responsible for the name 'Duchess of Waverly.' But I will save that part of the story for another time.

My own first meeting with the Duchess occurred in the late 70's, at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, where I was generously permitted to take cuttings of it and one or two other clematis. I drove home with them to Kansas through scorching July weather, and was amazed that any of them survived. A cutting taken in turn from one of them has been with me for twenty years or more. From what we know at present it seems likely that that trip to Minnesota saved the Duchess from extinction.

Well, and what are we doing to make this rare plant available again? We do mean to propagate it, of course, and have already begun. But it is a slow process, requiring a build-up to ensure even a small yearly supply. So for the moment we need every plant of it we have. We do have a recent piece of good news, already reported to you by Sharon Kaito: The veteran plant I mentioned above underwent surgery and had its roots divided into several independent Duchesses — a great help in our early stage of propagation.

I wish it were otherwise, but just now patience is the watchword.

# Report of the FRCC/PNCS Retreat

*Susan Toler, with assistance from Mike Snyder*

On February 18, 2006, there was a retreat of the boards of FRCC and PNCS. A good representation from both organizations was on hand at the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon office for the purpose of investigating the merger of the two organizations. Deb Furry, the excellent moderator hired by FRCC for the occasion, had met several times with a number of board members, toured Luscher Farm, and has had experience with other horticultural non-profit retreats. Two items she felt necessary to cover were 1) Identifying the structural questions to be addressed prior to the merger, and 2) Establishing a common vision and setting goals to bring the two organizations together.

Ms. Furry handled the climate of the day very well. She knew her subject and subjects. I was very impressed with her expertise at keeping us on track. We all agreed that a lot of ground was covered and that a lot of work still needs our attention.

The following areas need careful thought and organization, and three committees will address them: Linda Beutler and Sally Geist (membership & board structure), Lucy Hardiman and Rick Meigs (revenues), Sharon Kaito and Susan Toler (volunteer structure). These committees and areas of study are by no means static. The two boards will be meeting again on April 13th for preliminary reports.

Another area of study to come out of the discussion was fund raising. We have done well so far, but we need to be vigilant to the ongoing need for funds. Plant sales, workshops, and charging admission to tour the collection

at Luscher Farm are just a few ways to make money, but these will not be enough to meet all projected expenses. We will keep you all informed as to what transpires and welcome your ideas and expertise.

“Board Skills and Expertise” was another topic covered at the retreat. Our boards do a tremendous job now, but boards are fluid; we are always looking for qualified new board members. Please contact anyone on either board if you or anyone you know would be a good candidate.

We continue to ask new board members to:

- ◆ get your hands dirty when asked,
- ◆ be a strong advocate for the organization, the Clematis Collection, and the educational opportunities that are available,
- ◆ tirelessly promote and fund raise on behalf of our shared vision. Care to join?

The groups were asked to do a fun yet educational exercise called “back casting.” We began with a vision of the collection in 2012. We were then asked to make a backward timeline, listing what needed to be accomplished each year until now, 2006. **The culminating goal is to have the International Clematis Society annual meeting held at the new collection site.** How we plan to get to that point over a six-year period is exciting. It includes a kick-off fund raising event; implementing a trial garden and propagation program; getting plants in the ground; developing a web-site; establishing a plant sales area; establishing our own Clematis breeding line and marketing campaign; setting up an office and library; hiring a curator initially part time, then developing this to a fulltime position; publishing a *Clematis Century* (Brewster’s opus and his time frame); securing a large endowment; completing the Orchard Garden; developing an education center; and being in all other ways fully operational with our World Class Clematis Collection.

I think you can agree with me that these are exciting times for us all.

*Susan Toler is the Vice President of the Pacific Northwest Clematis Society.*

## New FRCC Website

Friends of the Rogerson Clematis Collection now has its own website where you will find regular collection updates, information on events, announcements, volunteer opportunities, resources, and much more. The URL is [www.RogersonClematisCollection.org](http://www.RogersonClematisCollection.org).

Check it out.

# News from the FRCC Board

Linda Beutler

**Board Departure:** The FRCC Board is very sorry to have received the resignation of one of its founding directors, Karen Suher. Karen was a long-time employee of Gutmann Nursery, which is where she first met Brewster and began helping with special projects for his collection. Those of you who helped with “the big move” will have met Karen. With her house on the market and children in high school, Karen’s domestic life must take center-stage at this time. However, she assures us she will still be available for special events at Luscher Farm, and will assist FRCC at Teufel’s Nursery, where she works in the landscaping department.

We will miss Karen, but we hope to see her often as a volunteer.

**Changes to the FRCC Board:** In an effort to both expand the FRCC Board of Directors, and have directorships reflect what officers/directors are actually doing, Linda Beutler has stepped down as FRCC Membership Secretary, and is assuming a new, non-officer position of “Greenhouse Manager.” Although she must define her new role as she assumes it, Linda is pleased to accept this new challenge.

The new Membership Secretary is June Collins, whom many of you will recognize as a collection volunteer and partner in the successful amateur clematis propagation duo of “Collins & Geist.” In fact, June has again offered the use of her personal greenhouse to tend the 2006 cuttings from the RCC. (She and Sally Geist did this in 2005.) The Luscher Farm greenhouse will not be ready to change functions from storage to propagation in time for this year’s crop of potential baby plants.

The above changes to the board were made at the February 16, 2006 board meeting. See page 5 for a complete list of officers and directors.

## New to the Collection in March

The RCC has just purchased the following plants from Thorncroft Nursery in England:

### Species:

*Clematis alternata*

*Clematis florida* ex Thorncroft

### Hybrids:

‘Asagasumi’ (large-flowered hybrid [LFH], Japan)

‘Bella’ (LFH, white, Estonia)

*C. herecleifolia* ‘Cassandra’ (small, hyacinth-shaped flowers, blue, England)

‘Cicciolina’ (viticella type, red, France)

‘C. W. Dowman’ (LFH, reddish, England)

‘Edith’ (LFH, white, named by Raymond Evison for his mother)

‘Eetika’ (purple, LFH, Estonia)

‘Haru Ichiban’ (LFH, Japan)

‘Iola Fair’ (LFH, England)

*C. integrifolia* ‘Jan Fopma’ (purplish bells, The Netherlands)

‘June Pyne’ (LFH, England)

‘Lawsoniana’ (LFH, lavender-blue, England)

‘Lilactime’ (LFH, England)

‘Miss Christine’ (montana type, England, large white flowers)

‘Omoshiro’ (LFH, Japan, similar to ‘Fond Memories’)

‘Pohjanael’ (LFH, lavender-red, Estonia)

‘Semu’ (LFH, lavender-blue, Estonia)

‘Thyrislund’ (LFH, double, lavender, Denmark)

‘Wesselton’ (atragene, Jim Fisk’s last named introduction, blue)

## Calendar Tidbits

The following are not FRCC sponsored events, but may be of interest to our members:

♦ Joy Creek Nursery and PNCS again co-sponsor a Clematis Celebration, June 17 and 18, at Joy Creek Nursery in Scappoose, OR. The event includes free seminars both days, and a botanical display by members of PNCS. For more information visit the nursery website [www.joycreek.com](http://www.joycreek.com).

♦ The International Clematis Society’s annual conference is in Dublin, Ireland this year, June 30 through July 7. They are hosted by the Ranunculaceae Society. For more information, visit their website [www.buttercupsonline.com](http://www.buttercupsonline.com).

## Gifts to the Collection

The following clematis are donations to the Rogerson Clematis Collection as gift plants received since January 2006:

From Dave McCoy, of McCoy Family Nursery we have received a large plant of the late-flowering large-flowered hybrid, 'Madame Baron-Veillard'.

From Fred Wein, Sr. of Clearview Horticultural Products in British Columbia, we were given 'Joe Zary', which is a Canadian C. macropetala hybrid, and 'Nelly Moser', the classic striped large-flowered hybrid (LFH) which the collection has not previously owned (!).

From Joy Creek Nursery in Scappoose, Oregon, the collection has received the Japanese, purple LFH, 'Sano-no-murasaki', which was bred to bloom on short stems for growing in containers, and 'Ania', an early introduction by Brother Stefan Franczak of Poland, named for his mother (lavender, LFH).

### Friends of the Rogerson Collection

#### Officers:

**President: Sally Geist**

503-223-8017, hjgeist@earthlink.net

**Vice President: Lucy Hardiman**

503-231-0025, lucyflora@msn.com

**Treasurer: Howard Geist**

503-223-8017, hjgeist@earthlink.net

**Recording Secretary: Sharon Kaito**

503-236-6315, sekjbr@msn.com

**Membership Secretary: June Collins**

503-297-3598, collinsjune@earthlink.net

#### Directors:

**Linda Beutler** - greenhouse manager

503-238-8571, clematis@ipns.com

**Nancy Gronowski** - design team

liaison with Farm Partners

503-697-3248, pknancy@ci.portland.or.us

**Rick Meigs** - website development

greenhouse pest manager

503-244-2104, rickm@meigs.org

**Cheryl Tutka** - liaison with newsletter editor

503-642-7800, cheryl.tutka@artisansw.com

Newsletter Editor: Barbara Houser

262-639-6782, bbhouser@sbcglobal.net

## FRCC Wish List

The garden and greenhouse workers are in need of some basic tools and equipment. Listed below are some needed items. Keep in mind that the list is constantly changing as purchased equipment is deleted and new wishes are added. Before you buy something, please check with Sharon Kaito, 503-236-6315, sekjbr@msn.com. for an updated list. Even better, make a cash donation to the FRCC for their wish list fund so items that are most needed can be purchased.

- 2 commercial grade wheelbarrows  
[1-wheel and 2-wheel]
- 6 commercial grade shovels/spades
- 2 commercial grade square point shovels
- 2 commercial grade bow rakes
- 1 commercial grade spading fork
- 2 commercial grade weeding hoes
- 1 gravel tamper
- 2 loppers with different length handles
- 2 long handled pruners
- 6[12] professional [Felco #2 or #6] pruners, each
- 6 red handled [Corona] trowels
- 2 BIG metal dust pans
- basic hand tools
- 1 50' length 4' width green-coated wire fencing
- 2 50' length 3' width green-coated wire fencing

#### On-going need:

- Velcro tape
- green tape
- insecticidal soap
- 1 box each S/M/L gloves
- box permanent tag marker pens

ADDRESS

STAMP

Friends of the Rogerson Clematis Collection  
1425 S.W. Upland Drive  
Portland, OR 97221

Annual Membership Levels:

\$25.00 *Individual Member* (allows free or discounted admission to selected Friends events)

\$35.00 *Individual Member Plus* (allows members to include one guest at the free or discounted admission)

\$100.00 *Patron* (Member Plus benefits; increased access to the collection, with visitation allowed any time staff/volunteers are present; free admission to on-site classes)

All members receive the Friends' Newsletter, which includes information about who is volunteering and visiting, what's in bloom, seasonal tips for maintaining your own clematis garden, and a calendar of upcoming events.

FRCC Membership Form

Please check this box if you do not wish to be included in a membership directory

Please print clearly

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Day phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening phone \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Level

- Individual \$25
- Individual Plus \$35
- Patron \$100

Contact me for volunteer opportunities

- Gardening at the collection
- Fundraising/Board participation
- Event Planning
- Acquisitions

I wish to make an additional tax-deductible donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to FRCC (Friends of the Rogerson Collection) and mail to FRCC, 1234 S.E. 18th Ave., Portland, OR 97214