

October, 2024

**Special points of interest:**

- The Methuselah Tree
- Alpine conifers take on two basic forms
- Nightwalker proves her value
- A Broomer without peer
- What kind of food gets trashed in a school cafeteria?
- Guess who was on a podcast?

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# Bob's News & Musings



## Pines for the Rock Garden in Two Parts

The planting feature known as a 'rock garden' takes on many different forms. But the true rock garden is a representation of an alpine area that has been reduced in scale and brought into a home landscape. It consists of rocks (of course), well drained soils, and an assortment of alpine plants suited for the gardener's part of the country. These alpine plants are mostly herbaceous plants that stay small and/or low and generally produce flowers sometime during the spring or summer.

These alpine plants often include a smattering of conifers. Since conifers are present in most parts of the world up to and even beyond the tree line, examples do belong in every rock garden.



Pines are synonymous with great age. The Methuselah Tree is a pine, and the bristlecone pines (*Pinus aristata*) of the Sierra Nevada Mountains are works of art. Japanese gardens and bonsai make extensive use of pines. They are revered for the feeling of age that they give a garden.

Knowing that pines work well in an alpine rock garden, the gardener then has to find the answers to two very important questions: First, what pine selections do I make for my garden? Second, where can I purchase these selections?

Both of these are difficult questions to answer. This article will help you with the first question. Finding

these dwarf pines will not be as easily accomplished.

Alpine conifers take on two basic forms, both of which result from their environment, not their genetic makeup. They are either sparsely branched, contorted, and wind swept, or they are cropped into cushions by grazing animals. Both growth habits are also possible in the rock garden and may be attained through the careful selection of the pine cultivars to be planted or by persistent, careful pruning or by a combination of the two.

Cultivars that have been growing twenty or more years, will have a reliable history regarding growth habits and variations. These selections will perform in a predictable manner. Cultivars that have been selected within the past twenty years may not be reliable and show some variation from their expected growth habits, especially those that are described based upon the performance of the mother plant or witches' broom that provided the selection.

Keeping these facts in mind, I will describe some of the pine cultivars that I think will be suitable for the rock garden, giving the reader a mix of new and old selections.

Part One in this issue focuses on the bun-shaped conifers. Part Two in the November Issue will focus on conifers that can be used for a more abused, tree-like appearance.



## Cushion-shaped Pines

The cushion-shaped cultivars can be planted almost anywhere in the rock garden. One can be tucked up against a rock or in an open area between rocks. They will appear similar to an herbaceous alpine but with a different texture and color that may be seen throughout the year. However, if it has an exceptionally dense growth habit, it may be too tight to accomplish an alpine appearance. For example, *Pinus mugo* 'Benjamin' (right pic) is so tight and small-needled that it creates a more formal appearance in the garden. It looks as if it has been heavily sheared. It is possible to give it an alpine appearance, but it would require more work than most of the plants in this article.

The cushion-shaped conifers in an alpine setting have been sheared to some extent by the wind and animals, which makes for an uneven outline with some open areas. Many of the pines I list here as cushion-shaped tend to be symmetrical in outline, but they are easy to adjust to an alpine appearance with a pair of pruners.

The picture below is not a rock garden but shows a few of the many cushions to be found in collections.





### ***Pinus banksiana* 'Chippewa'**

*Pinus banksiana* 'Chippewa' is the most dwarf of the Fordham *banksiana* selections, 'Chippewa' develops into a miniature, irregular, flat-topped mound. It grows less than 1 inch (2 cm) per year, and the foliage is light green with tiny needles mostly held parallel to the branchlets. The buds are elongated, gray-white, and slightly resinous. 'Chippewa' was seedling grown from a witches' broom about 1970 by Alfred Fordham, Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. Fordham was one of the first to experiment with this type of seedling. A.G. Johnson of Minneapolis, Minnesota, a close friend of Fordham's who sent him the seeds for a number of named seedlings, was possibly the first. Fordham's other witches' broom seedlings in this species include 'Manomet' and 'Neponset'. Neither of these is as diminutive as 'Chippewa', but both are excellent, compact selections that could be pruned into alpine like little trees in the rock garden.



'Chippewa' to the left and  
'Neponset' to the right.



### ***Pinus flexilis* 'Witches' Broom'**



*Pinus flexilis* 'Witches' Broom' is a miniature bun that grows horizontally rather than conically, at less than 1 inch (2 cm) per year. The foliage is green with a bluish tinge. The origin of this selection is uncertain. It was given to the Arnold Arboretum by Layne Ziegenfuss in the 1960s. I obtained my start from this same plant, and to the best of my knowledge, all of the plants in circulation came from this source. Layne never shared the name of the discoverer nor the plant's name, so it has always been offered under the illegitimate name of 'Witches' Broom'. Many other *flexilis* witches' brooms have recently been appearing in gardens and plant lists through the efforts of Jerry Morris. Many of them are also very nice but need more years of evaluation for dependability. I have not seen any superior to this selection, but quite a few have stayed small for over ten years in

garden settings.

An assortment of witches' brooms from this species have been introduced over the years. They were discovered by Jerry Morris and most are special. However, they are difficult to grow in the Midwest and Northwest, possibly due to the humidity of the Midwest and the wet, mild winters of the Northwest.



L-R 'Fugate', 'Navajo', 'Wyoming' are all great selections and would serve nicely as rugged, upright alpine conifers in a rock garden, but only in parts of the country where *flexilis* can tolerate the climate.



## ***Pinus heldreichii* var. *leucodermis* 'Pygmy'**

During my visits to the Czech Republic there was always one plant I could count on finding in every conifer garden. *Pinus heldreichii* var. *leucodermis* 'Smidtii' is possibly the most popular conifer in that country. It is often labeled as *Pinus leucodermis*, actually a variety of *heldreichii*. For many years it went under the name 'Schmidtii'. This is a Germanization of the name of its discoverer, Eugene Smidt, who found the original plant in the mountains near Sarajevo, Yugoslavia (then Bosnia) in 1926 as a 1' (3 m) tall tree estimated to be over 100 years old. It has also been grown in gardens under the incorrect name of *Pinus heldreichii* var. *leucodermis* 'Pygmy'.

*Pinus heldreichii* var. *leucodermis* 'Smidtii' has a compact growth habit, becoming oval as it ages. It is very slow-growing and densely branched. The needles are deep emerald green, maintaining this color throughout the four seasons. Some specimens will develop an upright growth habit under ideal conditions. The upright form was once thought to be a mutation so it was given other names.

The first plant to be propagated is still growing in the Pruhonice Park near Prague. It is near the top of a very steep slope and marked off limits to visitors due to the unstable approach path. From time to time it has had to survive vandalism and must now be nearly 100 years old.



Left- The 80 year old plant (in 2002) at Pruhonice.

Below- showing upright habit even though propagated from the same source as the one in the bottom picture that shows the more desired growth habit.





***Pinus mugo* 'Carsten Wintergold'**

*Pinus mugo* 'Carsten Wintergold' develops into a compact, broadly globose plant. It grows about 2 inches ( 5 cm) per year. The foliage is a rich, bright yellow during the winter. It originated with Erwin Carsten, Varel, Germany before 1988. There are a number of mugo pines that turn gold in the winter with this selection being the brightest and most compact. It is an exceptional plant for brightening the winter garden with a splash of yellow gold. The name has been shortened by some nurserymen to 'Carstens'. This change was probably made to prevent confusion with a totally different plant named *Pinus mugo* 'Wintergold'.

***Pinus mugo* 'Corley's Mat'**

*Pinus mugo* 'Corley's Mat' is a prostrate mugo pine that grows less than 2 inches (5cm) per year. The needles are thin and twisted, adding a distinctive quality to the plant. This selection would make a very interesting, slightly rounded, irregular cushion in the smaller rock garden.





## ***Pinus mugo* 'Mitsch Mini'**

One of the dwarfest *Pinus mugo* cultivars yet named with commercial value, *Pinus mugo* 'Mitsch Mini' becomes a dense, miniature cushion with slightly contorted new growth. It grows about 1 inch (3 cm) per year, even slower on its own roots. The foliage is green with short needles. It was found as a seedling and introduced by Mitsch Nursery, Aurora, Oregon, U.S.A. about 1975. It does root from cuttings taken in the summer and the lack of a graft union makes it popular for Bonsai enthusiasts.



## ***Pinus mugo* 'Fructata'**

*Pinus mugo* 'Fructata' is a compact, globular selection that grows 2" (5 cm) per year. Its foliage is light green and consistently produces large numbers of small cones that stay small throughout the growing season. Originating as a witches' broom, it was discovered about 1981 by Karel Kalous in the Czech Republic.

This mugo pine stays small enough to use where space is limited and produces quantities of small cones as an added attraction. It prefers full sun and does best in well drained soil.





### ***Pinus mugo* 'Jakobsen'**

*Pinus mugo* 'Jakobsen' is a slow-growing, bun-shaped selection with areas of exceptionally dense foliage. It grows about 1 ½ inches (4 cm) per year. Its foliage is dark green with curved needles held tightly together against the thick branchlets and their dark green color contrasts nicely with the bright white winter buds. Its dense, irregular (bumpy) outline makes it a perfect choice for the alpine garden. It originated with Arne Vagn Jakobsen, Denmark before 1990.



### ***Pinus mugo* 'Little Delight'**

*Pinus mugo* 'Little Delight' is a miniature cushion that grows less than 1 inch (2 cm) per year. The tiny needles and miniature buds make it exceptionally attractive. It is an ideal choice for a small pine to grow in a crevasse between two rocks. I discovered it as a witches' broom on a specimen of *Pinus mugo* 'Mops' in 1990.





## ***Pinus mugo* 'Sherwood Compact'**

*Pinus mugo* 'Sherwood Compact' will propagate from rooted cuttings, but with mixed results. As with many rooted conifers, the plants will be smaller and denser. Grafting of *Pinus mugo* 'Sherwood Compact' will produce faster growing plants when young, but as the root-to-shoot balance re-establishes itself, the growth rate will slow.

Also called 'Teeney' in some lists, *Pinus mugo* 'Sherwood Compact' becomes a dense, symmetrical globe. It grows about 2" (5 cm) per year. Its foliage is dark green with needles arranged radially around each branch. Use it in any garden where a dark green globe with a twenty year diameter of 2'-3' (1 meter) is desired.



## ***Pinus parviflora* 'Hagoromo'**

*Pinus parviflora* 'Hagoromo' is a dwarf selection that develops into a dense, globose bush, becoming more conical as it ages. Many of the branches will have small cones develop at their terminal ends. The foliage is bluish with short, strongly twisted needles. The growth rate is about 2" (5 cm) per year.

This plant has long been one of my favorites, but it does appear to have a problem. I have always propagated it by grafting onto *Pinus strobus*. This understock works well for *Pinus parviflora*, but sudden death is not uncommon for established plants. Analysis seldom reveals any disease or insect problems, and the compatibility appears to be satisfactory. However, *Pinus parviflora* 'Hagoromo' seems to have a survivability rate of only about twenty years. I have had universal loss of old plants, grafted at ground level and grafted onto 3' (1 m) high standards. Other collectors I have talked to have the same problem. This may be a plant that has a definite life span. If it does, twenty years is a good length of time since most landscapes need renovation after that long anyway.





## ***Pinus parviflora* Seedling Proliferation**

John Proudfoot, a Scottish heather and conifer collector worked with seedlings of *Pinus parviflora* and introduced a nice selection of dwarf to miniature cultivars. Iseli Nursery in Boring Oregon has also introduced several *parviflora* seedlings, many of which are great possibilities for the rock garden. These cushion-like seedlings range in size from 'Catherine Elizabeth' (left) to Iseli E5 (right) which is almost too slow for anyone other than a collector. I have seen many other seedlings with initials and numbers for names, some of which are very intriguing.



***Pinus ponderosa* 'Dixie'**



*Pinus ponderosa* 'Dixie' is a large globe in the garden. It is hard to find a ponderosa pine that is dwarf, although Jerry Morris found a nice range of witches' brooms during his explorations. I tried growing them in my Eatonville garden and every one died after a few years. I have not written much about this species in my books because I could not grow the dwarf forms. However, they add some uniqueness to a rock garden with their long needles and thick stems. *Pinus ponderosa* 'Dixie' is below left and 'Canyon Creek' is to the right. It would make an interesting up small tree in the rock garden with some judicious pruning.





## ***Pinus strobus* 'Greg'**

*Pinus strobus* 'Greg' is a dense, miniature bun that grows much like 'Horsford' and 'Sea Urchin' but with some differences. 'Greg' grows about 2 inches (5 cm) per year with light green foliage and needles half the length of 'Horsford', and was selected from a batch of witches' broom seedlings sent to an unknown person on Long Island, New York, by Greg Williams, Vermont, about 1970.



## ***Pinus strobus* 'Horsford'**

*Pinus strobus* 'Horsford' is a cushion-shaped, dense little bun that grows about 1 inch (3 cm) per year. Its foliage is light green, and its relatively long, thin needles and short annual growth give it the appearance of a shaggy little cushion. This selection originated as a seedling discovered by William Horsford, Vermont, about 1960. As with most of the miniature *Pinus strobus* it must be cleaned of dead needles each winter or sudden death may occur in the spring.





***Pinus strobus* 'Sea Urchin'**

*Pinus strobus* 'Sea Urchin' is a very dwarf shrub that develops into a low mound. It grows about 2 inches (5 cm) per year. Its foliage is bluish-green with short needles. It originated as a witches' broom seedling selected in 1978 by Dr. Sidney Waxman, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut. This selection has proven to be the most popular of all the Waxman seedlings. Of the four dwarf forms of *Pinus strobus* discussed here, it is possibly the most popular due to its soft texture and bluish foliage.

***Pinus strobus* buns harder to find but very useable**

Many new brooms are being found and appearing in collections. These are not part of the mainstream nursery business and harder to find. Starting below at the top left and going clockwise: *Pinus strobus* 'Buck's Broom', 'Dove's Dwarf', 'Laird's Broom', 'Northway Broom'.





## ***Pinus sylvestris* 'Bennett Compact'**

*Pinus sylvestris* 'Bennett Compact' was discovered in the 1960's by William Bennett, Virginia, who was adept at discovering unusual plants growing along the highway as he traveled. This miniature selection becomes a dense, irregular little mound. It grows about 1 inch (2 cm) per year with an occasional shoot of up to 5 cm. Its foliage is blue-green with relatively long, stiff, thick, sharp needles. Occasionally a plant will send up strong growing shoots, most commonly in colder climates.



## ***Pinus sylvestris* 'Calle' and 'Cerik' and 'Hexguld'**

*Pinus sylvestris* 'Calle' (right pic) and 'Cerik' (left pic) were found as witches' brooms by Carl-Erik Johannsen on Halleberg, a small mountain in Sweden. 'Calle', the slower of the two, grows about 1" (2.5 cm) per year, becoming a dense globe with light green foliage. 'Cerik' will grow up to 2" (5 cm) per year, also becoming a dense globe with darker green foliage than 'Calle'. Both cultivars will thrive in full sun when planted in well drained soil.

*Pinus sylvestris* 'Hexguld' (center pic) is the third of the dwarf selections. It was found near Vanersborg, Sweden, by Carl-Erik as a golden witches' broom. The broom was twenty-five years old and attached to the tree by a stem that was only 1/2" (17 mm) in diameter. The foliage remains gold throughout the year, intensifying during the winter. It grows just over 1" (3 cm) per year, becoming a dense globe and adding a splash of gold to the smaller garden. 'Hexguld' is also interesting because it is a male broom. Anyone interested in growing dwarf conifers from seed would find 'Hexguld' a very valuable source of very special pollen.

*Pinus sylvestris* 'Hexguld' is not as densely branched as 'Calle' and 'Cerik' so it will not be as full. It also means that scion wood is more difficult to obtain so the plant will always be in short supply and require some searching to obtain.





***Pinus sylvestris* 'Little Ann'**

*Pinus sylvestris* 'Little Ann' grows about 2 inches (4 cm) per year. This dwarf, dense, little globe with a flattened top has dark green foliage with short needles. It originated from a group of witches' broom seedlings grown by J. D. Hoste, Manchester, England about 1970. Older plants become more conical and can be pruned into more upright alpine plants.

***Pinus sylvestris* 'Little Brolly'**

*Pinus sylvestris* 'Little Brolly' is a dwarf, flat-topped globe with curved and twisting branches. Its foliage is dark green with short leaves. The small winter buds are prominent and sharply pointed. It originated as a witches' broom seedling at Almondell Nursery, Methven, Scotland before 1989.





## ***Pinus sylvestris* 'Jeremy'**

*Pinus sylvestris* 'Jeremy' originated from a witches' broom found at Wellingborough, Northants, England by B. Reynolds in 1973. It is a compact, broadly globular selection; growing up to 3 inches (7 cm) per year. Its foliage is dark green with short, straight needles and prominent, bright brown, pointed winter buds.



## ***Pinus sylvestris* 'Pixie'**

*Pinus sylvestris* 'Pixie' was introduced in 1983 by Don Hatch, Chantry Nursery, Honiton, Devon, England. This dense, globular selection; grows about 2 inches (4 cm) per year; and has green foliage with short leaves.





***Pinus sylvestris* 'Repens'**

*Pinus sylvestris* 'Repens' is a prostrate scots pine that grows about 2 inches (5 cm) per year. The winter buds are extremely resinous. As the plant ages, it mounds up slightly in the center. It looks especially nice growing among several large rocks on a slope.

***Pinus thunbergiana* 'Ogi Matsu'**

*Pinus thunbergiana* 'Ogi Matsu' is unique because it has a tendency for the stems to develop as cockscombs with scattered normal shoots. It is a very dense, dwarf selection, growing up to 2 inches (5 cm) per year, although most years it grows less than 2 cm. Its foliage is dark green with relatively long needles. It was introduced into America during the 1970's.

Many taxonomists prefer to use thunbergii for this species name. However, I have always accepted the argument put forth by Edward Cope of the L. H. Bailey Hortorium at Cornell University favoring the name of thunbergiana. I accepted his argument for a number of reasons that I will not go into at this time. The United States National Arboetum also accepted his reasoning. Right or wrong, both names refer to the Japanese black pine.





## ***Pinus uncinata* 'Paradekissen'**

*Pinus uncinata* 'Paradekissen' was found growing in the wild by the late Gunter Horstmann, Schneverdingen, Germany before 1980. A dense, miniature, low-growing cushion, it grows about ½ inch (1 cm) per year as a young plant. The original plant is 15cm high with a diameter of 70cm and was estimated by him to be 400-500 years old when found.

In my collection 'Paradekissen' has shown a very interesting growth pattern. When it is first propagated by grafting, its diameter will be about 9" (25 cm) in three years. Then the rate slows considerably, and after a few more years it is growing less than 1" (3 cm) per year.

*Pinus uncinata* 'Paradekissen' is a dense, miniature, low cushion, growing about

.5" (1 cm) per year as an older plant. My original plant was about thirty years old and 18" (50 cm) wide and 9" (25 cm) high. It was flat-topped with small, green needles and prominent, small, pointed brown winter buds. I had to leave it behind when I sold my Eatonville property.



To the left is Gunter's original collection of *Pinus uncinata* brooms. The bottom center is the original 'Paradekissen'.



***Pinus virginiana* 'Driscoll'**

*Pinus virginiana* 'Driscoll' is possibly the smallest Virginia pine available anywhere. It is an emerald green cushion that grows just over ½ inch (1 cm) per year.

***Pinus virginiana* 'Wates Golden' witches' broom**

I do not believe this selection has been given an actual name, but it is appearing in gardens around the country. It was found as the name implies, as a witches' broom in 'Wates Golden' Virginia pine. It has the characteristics of its parent but becomes a dense, globular plant. I prefer grafting it onto *Pinus nigra* or *contorta* v. *latifolia*. It had an early reputation as a short-lived plant. I believe that was because it was grafted onto *Pinus sylvestris*. It does not color up very well for me here in the Northwest, but neither did 'Wates Golden, except during a rare cold spell in January.





## Snow Woman: The Wolf Part 2

Deciding not to argue with her, Night Buffalo lifted the dead wolf away from the entrance to the den. Then, as Snow Woman removed the cradleboard from her back and sat it against a tree next to Night Buffalo, she said, "Do not take the fur from this wolf. It is not for us."

Turning away, she crouched down in front of the den entrance and proceeded to crawl into it. Night Buffalo sat by their daughter and listened carefully for any sounds of trouble from the den. Just as he started becoming concerned, Snow Woman emerged from the lair with a small, blind wolf pup.

"All but this one are dead. We were meant to be here to help it," she said as she showed the helpless little animal to Night Buffalo. "It is pure black, much like you and Nightshade. I will name it Nightwalker."

Night Buffalo just shook his head and said, "How are you going to keep it alive? It will die without milk, and no dogs in the village have pups just now."

"It will be a sister to our daughter because I will feed it from my left breast while she feeds from my right one. I have enough milk for both. There is big medicine at work here. The Great Spirit is guiding us."

Knowing better than to argue with her, Night Buffalo tried a different approach. He said, "That little pup already has small, sharp teeth. It will be painful."

"No matter. I will feed it now. When we return to the village, I will place milk in a bowl and use my finger to feed it. Several dogs in the village will soon bear litters, and one of them will feed it at that time."

When she bared her left breast and held the wolf pup next to it, Night Buffalo turned to the two dead wolves and took out his Bowie. Before he took a step, Snow Woman pointed to the wolf that had killed the pup's mother, saying, "Skin only that one. It will provide a warm resting place for our daughter and Nightwalker, her milk sister."

After skinning the one wolf and rolling up the fur, Night Buffalo placed the body of Nightwalker's mother into the den with her dead pups. Then he sealed it with large rocks.

After placing the last rock, he picked up his Henry Rifle and reached for his pack just as a young doe walked into view near where the wolf pack had disappeared. In no time at all, it was shot, cleaned, and placed across Night Buffalo's shoulders.

"The Great Spirit is pleased," was all Snow Woman had to say as they started home.

Nightwalker, the wolf pup, was nestled in a leather bag that she wore over her shoulder while their daughter was in her cradleboard on Snow Woman's back. Night Buffalo carried the young doe on his shoulders, and each of them still carried their weapons.

Their return to the village created quite a stir, especially when everyone heard the story of the wolf pup. Snow Woman had a reputation for being somewhat reckless while being protected by the Great Spirit. She had even become the wife of Night Buffalo, a man with big medicine. No one was surprised whenever she did something unusual.

Night Buffalo gave the doe to the village for a feast and celebration. The Great Spirit had given the people a gift and a sign that the hard winter was over.

By the end of June, Nightwalker had opened her eyes and immediately showed a high level of curiosity. She also showed an attachment to Laughing Waters, her milk sister. Laughing Waters had been called this child's name because she was always smiling and trying to laugh when Snow Woman would sprinkle her with warm water after a bath.

Nightwalker was learning to walk without falling over her legs. She was always near Laughing Waters. More than once, she fell across Laughing Waters, who would grasp her thin fur in her tiny hands and hold her in place. They often fell asleep in this position.

At feeding time, Snow Woman would tend them both. As she nursed Laughing Waters, Nightwalker would feed on small pieces of raw meat, as was proper for a wolf pup. Later, when Snow Woman was doing her daily chores, Laughing Waters was often out of her cradleboard and trying to crawl across her sleeping fur. Nightwalker was never far from her side and sometimes underfoot. Whenever Laughing Waters seemed upset about something, Nightwalker would become agitated and concerned. She would then lay beside her, and that usually calmed her, allowing Snow Woman to continue her work.

As the summer days passed, Nightwalker grew at a rapid pace and became more independent. She would often run off into the forest for short spells, sometimes returning with a small animal in her jaws.

One morning, Snow Woman was picking berries, and Laughing Waters was laying on a warm rock. It was also a



## Snow Woman: The Wolf Part 2 (cont.)

favorite sunning spot for an adult diamondback rattlesnake. As the snake approached the stone from a clump of brush, it sensed the presence of a small mammal laying upon that rock. The diamondback slithered toward it. When the snake came within striking distance, it reared up and opened its mouth, baring its fangs. Since this diamondback was almost seven feet in length, it might even be considering the small mammal as prey.

When it shook its rattles before striking, Snow Woman dropped her basket and rushed to protect Laughing Waters. In a panic, she knew she was too far away to prevent a tragedy. A dark blur swept past her as Nightwalker hurried to the scene and grabbed the Diamondback at the base of its head just as it struck. She crushed its spine in her jaws and carried it away while Snow Woman scooped Laughing Waters up into her arms.

Letting the dead snake writhing on the ground, Nightwalker trotted over to Snow Woman and sniffed around Laughing Waters to make sure she was alright. Then she went back to the snake and settled down for a meal.

As the story of the young wolf and the rattlesnake circulated throughout the village, it grew with each telling. People looked at her with special reverence and offered her special treats whenever she walked among their tepees.

Nightwalker was often seen walking alone through the village, showing little interest in its people or animals. The village dogs avoided her. Once, challenged by three of them, she tore one to shreds and severely injured the other two.

Always aware of the location of Snow Woman and Laughing Waters, she was continuously in their vicinity when they were outside of their tepee. Inside at night, she still shared the sleeping fur of Laughing Waters while Night Buffalo and Snow Woman slept on their own. Nightwalker sensed the love shared by Snow Woman and Night Buffalo and responded to his commands as much as hers.

It was during the late fall when Laughing Waters was crawling around the tepee and trying to take her first steps that Snow Woman showed signs of a second pregnancy. Night Buffalo became almost overprotective and decided to kill more game to process for a good winter food supply.

Early one morning, as they lay together in their furs, Night Buffalo said, "Today I will go for fresh meat and take Nightwalker with me. I want to see if she is of any value to us on a hunt for food."

Snow Woman wanted to go along on the hunt but sensed that he needed to go without her. She replied, "I will gather extra firewood so we can smoke the meat for this winter. Soon I will not be able to hunt with you and Nightwalker eats more every day."

"If he helps me on this hunt, he can be a big help during the winter when you are too large to go with me."

Night Buffalo stood and took his Henry from its usual place on the tepee wall. Then he stood at the tepee entrance for a moment and signaled Nightwalker to come with him.

Nightwalker had been laying next to Laughing Waters. She stood and stretched before glancing around the tepee and trotting outside after Night Buffalo. She had been on hunts with the family several times during the summer and early fall. She enjoyed the forest and loved the many new scents that assailed her nose. Once she even noticed a faint scent that was very similar to the smell of her sleeping fur. She did not like that odor, and when she sensed it, she bared her teeth and produced a subdued growl. She wasn't sure why she reacted that way, and it did cause her some slight confusion.

Night Buffalo knew winter was approaching and hunting was becoming more serious and vital. Soon the game would be scarce. He hoped Nightwalker would use her heightened senses to help locate places where large animals sheltered from the elements and follow their scent trails when necessary. If so, they would be able to get enough meat for a comfortable winter.

The Crow used to hunt buffalo and would take large quantities of the meat for winter survival. Lately, the Sioux and Cheyenne had been very active and attacked any hunting parties in their territory. They did not care that the land belonged to the Crow Nation by treaty with the United States Government. A war would cost the Nation many lives, and since game was plentiful in the mountains, they chose not to force the issue at this time.

Part 3 Next Issue



## Blast From the Past: Jerry Morris

If there was a Hall of Fame for “Broomers”, Jerry Morris would be the Charter Member and first person to be entered. His territory was vast. It mainly included the mountains of the western United States that make up the Rockies and the Sierra Nevada ranges. Jerry collected witches’ brooms throughout these ranges and kept meticulous records. His knowledge was extensive and he was always ready to share it with interested people.

For an idea of the work Jerry did, I included a single page of the 1996 Jerry Morris Broom and Form List as compiled by Chub Harper.

Jerry was much more than a collector of witches’ brooms. He kept voluminous records and was constantly working on theories about brooms and their causes.

Those of you who knew Jerry and have stories to share, email me and I’ll put them in the November newsletter. I do Blast From The Past as a remembrance to friends who are gone and in the hope that I can get little tidbits from my readers about them that I can share with all of you. If response doesn’t improve, I’ll use this newsletter space for something of more interest to my readers.

I constantly revise and try to share things in my newsletters that people will enjoy so I can increase my readership. When something does not appear to be working, I change it.





## Jerry Morris Broom and Form List-Sorted by number

GENUS	Species	#	Broom or Form	Location	CITY	ST.	Height	Size	Comments
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	6	'Woodland'	Near Woodland Park	Woodland P	CO	Low	Large	Tight growth
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	7	'Smile'	S. of Six Mile Gap	Three Way	CO	Medium	Large	
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	8	'Thickstem'	Near Three Way	Three Way	CO	Tree	30'	Compact tree
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	9	'Florie'	Near Three Way	Three Way	CO	Medium	V. large	Typical
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	10	'J. Pies'	Near # 38 Limber	Encampmen	WY			
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	11	'No. 11'	E. of 'The Grove'	Three Way	CO	Tree	Compa	Tall-narrow
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	12	'Boswell'	West of 'The Grove'	Three Way	CO	High	Large	Thick stems
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	13	'Mr. Slim'	North of Three Way	Three Way	CO	Tree	25'	Fastigate
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	14	'Howie'	Near Pearl bridge	Pearl	CO	Medium	V. large	Open growth
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	15	'Hyland'	Near Pearl bridge	Pearl	CO	Low	Small	Pincushion
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	16	'Fugate'	NE of 'Thickstem'	Three Way	CO	Low	V. large	Open growth
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	17	'Lazy'	S. of Six Mile Gap	Three Way	CO			DIED 1890
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	18	'Ginger Quill'	Near 'Broccoli' Jun.	Three Way	CO	Medium	V. small	Pincushion
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	19	'Lisa'	S. of Six Mile Gap	Three Way	CO	Tree	10'X	Dwarf-tight
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	20	'Sunny'	So. of 'Lisa' P. flex.	Three Way	CO	Tree	12'X 30	Dwarf-v. old
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	21	'Elton'	Near 'Pearl' P. flex.	Pearl	CO	Tree	10'X	Dwarf-compact
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	22	'B-Mine'	South of Pearl	Pearl	CO	Medium	Medium	
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	23	'Medicine Bow'	West of Encampment	Encampmen	WY	Medium	Large	Tight
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	24	'Lazy II'	Same tree-Lazy No. 17	Three Way	CO	Low	Small	Nest Shape
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	25	'Deans Mountain'	Near two-stem	Three Way	CO	Medium	Medium	Chub find
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	26	'Wyoming'	North of No. 12-Limber	Three Way	CO	V. high	V. large	Tight-G. looking
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	27	'Parsons'					Small	
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	28	'Hunter Creek'	WY line to east of #29		CO	Low	Large	V. green-Vigorous
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	29	'Caban County'	To east of P. flex. #28		CO	Medium	Large	Tight
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	30	'Doane'	West of Encampment	Encampmen	WY	High	Large	E. of Med. Bow
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	31	'Mt. Evans'	Squaw Pass	Evergreen	CO	High	Large	Typical
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	33	'South Park'	Near 'The Buffalo'	Como	CO	High	Large	Average-typical
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	34	'Sugar Loaf'	Near 'Ginger Quill'	Three Way	CO	Medium	Medium	Boswell type
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	35	'Campy'	Near 'Sugar Loaf'	Three Way	CO	Medium	Large	Average-typical
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	36	'Little Small'	Near state line	Three Way	CO	Low	Small	3/5 yrs. old 81
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	37	'Andy D.'	Near Fugate	Three Way	CO	Low	Small	3/5 yrs. old 81
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	38	'DuFurmy'	SW of Encampment	Encampmen	WY	High	Large	On Blackhawk Rd
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	39	'J. Kieth'	North of Pearl	Pearl	CO	High	Medium	On top of hill
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	40	'J. Michael'	North of Pearl	Pearl	CO	Low	Large	Nice full-rig.
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	41	'Cow Creek'	West of Encampment	Encampmen	WY	Low	Medium	Round ball
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	42	'Linda Jane'	Head of creek	Three Way	CO	Medium	Medium	Tight
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	43	'Ron D.'	Located in Wheeler Draw	Pearl	CO	Medium	Medium	Good looking
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	44	'Ririe'	East of Ririe, ID	Ririe	ID	Low	Large	Fine texture
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	45	'Little Indian'	Mt. Evans road	Idaho Spring	CO	V. high	Small	V. tight
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	47	'Weston Pass'	Weston Pass east	Fairplay	CO	High	Medium	Top of tree 30'
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	48	'No. 48'	Near State Line Ranch	Three Way	CO	Low	2x2'	Tight - Half dead
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	50	'Two Mile High'	Above Limber grove	Fairplay	CO	12'	3'x3'	Delicate, small broom
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	51	'Joy Morgan'	Going up Squaw Pass	Echo Lake	CO	8'	2x2'	Tight growing, green
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	52	'Overlook'	G. Basin NP-Wheeler Peak	Baker	NV		Small	Thick growth
<i>Pinus</i>	<i>flexilis</i>	53	'Wee Rogue'	W. of Kenosha Pass		CO	15'	2x2'	Tight growth



## Tree of the Month: *Fagus sylvatica* 'Bicolor Sartini'

The variegation on *Fagus sylvatica* 'Bicolor Sartini' is not all that noticeable from a distance, but upon closer inspection, it is quite attractive. Each leaf has a bright yellow margin that becomes more apparent as the growth matures. The leaves have a slightly crinkled appearance. It was found as a sport on 'Purpurea Tricolor' at Sartini Nursery, Piatto, Italy, and it was introduced about 1990. The name should be more correctly given as simply 'Sartini' due to the Code of Nomenclature.





### Conifer of the Month: *Picea pungens* 'Copeland'

I remember one evening talking to Layne Ziegenfuss about the blue selections of *Picea pungens*. I was extolling the outstanding color on my recently obtained *Picea pungens* 'Thomsen' when Layne mentioned *Picea pungens* 'Copeland' to me. He was of the opinion that it was one of the best selections around. Its foliage was bright blue, although not as intense as 'Thomsen', but the overall tree was enhanced in its brightness by its white bark on young stems. This enhancement created an exceptionally bright blue tree well into the summer. The bark would not turn brown until its second year.

It is a dense, pyramidal tree, quite narrow for its height. It will grow about 1 foot (30 cm) per year. It is an excellent choice for landscape use but is not very easy to find in garden centers. It requires less work to develop into a nice specimen than many of the other cultivars available. I have not been able to determine its origin, although

M.G. Coplen of Rock Creek Nurseries Rockville MD is believed to have traded the original plant to Henry Holman for a selection of *Tsuga Canadensis* in 1921. It was then introduced by Kingsville Nursery, Maryland.





## Stack 'em Deep & Teach 'em Cheap- Lunches: I Want My Pizza

As a student in the Jim Thorpe School District, Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, I always ate my lunch out of a brown paper bag or a tin lunch box during my twelve years of attendance. The only times I ever had a hot lunch was when I attended elementary school and bought a hot dog at Corky's store across from the school or ate Dinty Moore Beef Stew out of a thermos.



Cafeterias came to the Jim Thorpe schools after I graduated, and I became familiar with them after becoming a teacher. I liked the one at Weatherly Junior-Senior High. The serving people usually slipped an extra entre onto my plate. Either they favored me or felt I should get a little more since I had to pay more than the students. But then, just when I started getting used to it, I changed districts, and that perk went away for good. When I taught at Tamaqua High School, I often had lunch duty.

I was assigned to wander about the cafeteria to watch for problems and ensure the students cleaned leftover trash from their eating areas. I used to liken it to “slopping the hogs.”

One day, I recall a boy (a real pain in the ass in my class) bet he could eat something of everything on the menu mixed in a single bowl. Of course, anyone who put something into the bowl had to ante up a dollar. A large bowl of “slop” and \$10.00 sat in front of the boy in a minute.

He got almost half of it down before running to the restroom. I suspected that would happen. I did not interfere because this happened during the student's free time, and I hoped he might learn a lesson.

Once a parent volunteered to help monitor the lunchroom. She lasted one day. I heard later through the secretaries that she was so shocked at the students' eating habits that she could not return.

The students ranged from fourteen to eighteen and tended to congregate according to eating habits. The younger boys were by far the worst. Not only did we have students with disgusting eating habits, but they also threw away as much as they ate. After every meal, the garbage cans would fill with good food, particularly healthy foods like fruits and vegetables. Interestingly, cheese sandwiches, pizza, and hamburgers rarely made it into the garbage cans.

After my six-year hiatus from the classroom, I returned to teaching at Keithley Middle School in Washington State. I noticed immediately that the students ate their food and cleaned up with minimal direction from the lunch proctor (not a teacher). I often sat among the students eating my lunch, always ensuring I was welcome and not an uninvited guest. Students seemed to appreciate the attention of a teacher outside of the classroom.

When the government directed food service to include a piece of fruit with every meal, most students threw it into the garbage on the way to their seats. The Federal Government subsidizes student meals from K-12. That meant teachers had to pay actual value for their food (about triple what a student paid), and the government had some control over cafeteria policies. Unfortunately, these policies also required that food not served be discarded. Eventually, the government relented, and students threw their unwanted fruit into a specific container for donation to a local food bank.

Cafeteria waste was high everywhere I taught, especially if the district offered healthy food.



**Stack 'em Deep & Teach 'em Cheap- Student Work Deadlines: I'll Turn Work in When I Get Around to It**

I believe I picked a good time, June 2012, to retire from teaching. We live in an age of entitlement, and its effects work their way into public schools. I always believed in giving a reasonable amount of homework and setting deadlines for its completion. I applied consequences for work that students did not turn in on time.

During the 2012-2013 school year, I substituted and could not believe what I heard from other teachers about the new system. They gave students assignments to complete in the classroom and as homework. Teachers expected students to complete the tasks but could not grade them. The belief was that the students would complete the assignments because they needed them to pass the chapter or unit test. Since work could be turned in any time before the end of the grading period without a penalty, due dates were meaningless. Teachers had to treat these adolescents like committed college students

I also discovered that if a student failed a test, they would have a chance to take a retest. They were not to start on the next unit until they passed the test on the previous one. If several retests were required, then so be it. Most students would take the test until passing it without special preparation.

Under those conditions, I would have trouble functioning as a classroom teacher. I would figure I was wasting my time in the classroom and needed to do something else for a living.

I remember when homework counted for something. I had one young man who was not doing his work. When I talked to him about his problems, he told me he did not like to write and would prefer to take a zero on any written assignment. If we did projects in science that involved building things, he would be fine. When I reminded him that he did not complete a bridge project earlier in the year, he pointed out that the project involved building with craft sticks. He would prefer to work with power tools. I was tempted to give him a chainsaw and assign him to make me a pile of toothpicks from a log.

I had another boy who loafed along, regularly missing class and avoiding work whenever he did show up. Finally, he came into class one day and spent the whole period on task. Then an email came from the counselor telling me the student had just realized he needed to pass courses to earn credits. I guess he thought he was still at the middle school. He was not a discipline problem but was one of those students who just sat and failed. His hard work lasted for about three days.

I think these students would never learn to be successful in life under the new system. Hopefully, it did not last long. However, I cannot say for sure since I gave up substituting years ago when I saw how things were going.



## Organization

COENOSIUM PUBLISHING

Robert Fincham  
12609 118th Street Ct. E.  
Puyallup WA 98374

Phone: 253-208-0233  
Email: [bobfincham@mashell.com](mailto:bobfincham@mashell.com)

I am on the web.

[www.robertfincham.com](http://www.robertfincham.com)



I was recently a guest on the Mr. Maple Podcast talking about conifers. If you'd like to hear it, it is on YouTube. Do your search on Mr. Maple Podcasts for Conifers. I will also put a link on [www.robertfincham.com](http://www.robertfincham.com)

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New dog cross breeds The following new cross breeds are now recognized by the Kennel Club - allegedly!

Collie + Lhasa Apso  
Collapso, a dog that folds up for easy transport.

Pointer + Setter  
Poinsetter, the traditional Christmas pet.

Pekingese + Lhasa Apso  
Peekasso, an abstract dog.

Irish Water Spaniel + English Springer Spaniel  
Irish Springer, a dog fresh and clean as mountain air.

Terrier + Bulldog  
Terribull, not a good dog.

Bloodhound + Labrador  
Blabador, a dog that barks incessantly.

Malamute + Pointer  
Moot Point, owned by...oh, well, it doesn't matter anyway.

Collie + Malamute  
Commute, a dog that travels to work.

Deerhound + Terrier  
Derriere, a dog that's true to the end.

Bull Terrier + Shitzu  
You figure this one out



Conifer Expert & Author Bob Fincham | MrMaple Show Podcast