

## NEW FACES AT CARLTON!

### Cassy Marion

The friendly voice on the phone and the warm smile that greets you at the front desk belongs to Cassy Marion, one of our newest employees. Cassy joined the administrative department in mid-August. In addition to reception duties, Cassy does accounts payable and general office work.

Her years of experience behind the desk have enabled her to catch on quickly to the routines at Carlton Plants. She has learned very quickly and often asks her co-workers if they need a hand.

Cassy grew up in Japan and lived in Guam for 14 years while raising her young children. She tells us that people from Guam are friendly and family-oriented. Cassy has 7 children and lives with her family in Lafayette. She enjoys spending time with her family, baking, gardening and exploring the Northwest.

### Esteban Herrera

Esteban will assist production in field inventory and quality control. In addition, he will help computerize some manual functions of the job. He is a recent graduate of the University of Idaho with a degree in Horticulture focusing on plant production, as well as a minor in Field and Crop Science. Raised in Shelley, Idaho, a small farming community in south-east Idaho, he worked in agriculture and construction prior to attending college.

Aside from his joy of working with plants, he enjoys skateboarding, snowboarding, hiking, guitar and generally any activity that is outdoors. Esteban is eager to learn the encompassing details of the nursery industry and we are happy to welcome him to Carlton Plants.

### Natasha Carothers

We are happy to introduce Natasha who is our new inside sales representative for the Midwest and Southern states. In addition she is entering orders and is the afternoon receptionist. She has worked in the commercial construction industry for the past 8 years and has customer service and administration experience. Natasha was raised and still lives in Newberg, Oregon and has been married for 5 years to her best friend Chris. She enjoys camping, riding quads, antiques and projects around the house.

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### 2012 WINTER TRADE SHOWS

Montana Green Expo	January 4-5	Booth 28
Northern Green Expo	January 4-6	Booth 1038
National Green (Western)	January 8-9	Booth 906
Great Lakes Expo	January 9-11	Booth 617
MANTS	January 11-13	Booth 809
Mid Am	January 18-20	Booth 1902
Idaho Hort. Expo	January 18-20	Booth 302
Green & Growin'	January 19-20	Booth 731
CENTS	January 23-25	Booth 1223
Mid States Hort Expo	January 27-28	Booth 314
New England Grows	February 1-3	Booth 3004
Great Plans Expo	February 6-7	Booth 13
Pro Green	February 8-10	Booth 734
Nor Cal	February 16	Booth 737



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# Plantline

January 2012

A Newsletter from Carlton Plants LLC

## Alnus x spaethii

Spaeth's Alder

By Catie Anderson

**A**lnus x spaethii is rarely heard of in the United States but widely known and valued in Europe. It is a nice tree to consider as a street, park or landscape tree or as an alternative to Fraxinus pennsylvanica varieties. Spaethii is a cross between Alnus japonica and Alnus subcordata. It was discovered in the Späth Arboretum in Berlin in 1908.

Spaethii is a rapid growing tree with a height of 40-65 feet and a spread of 15-20 feet. As

with many Alders, it can grow well in poor soils due to its nitrogen fixing ability which enables the trees to produce their own food.

The coarsely serrated, cut leaves are large and emerge coppery-purple in the spring. They become a lustrous dark green throughout the summer, persist well into the fall, and then turn yellow before defoliating. In the winter the decorative, brownish-yellow male catkins adorn the tree for yet another season of interest!

They prefer a normal to moist soil, but can cope with dry soil once established. They are able to stand up to winds, are salt tolerant, pollution resistant, and a very hardy zone 3.



Photo's from Van den Berk



IN THE END, IT'S NOT THE YEARS IN YOUR LIFE THAT COUNT. IT'S THE LIFE IN YOUR YEARS.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN



2

Conservation Corner

Hedgerows

Bee Report

3

Seeds

4

State and Provincial Trees

5

New Faces at Carlton

6

Carlton Field Reps

Winter Tradeshow Schedule



A few years ago we cleaned a property line full of brambles, barbed wire and debris and made it into an attractive functioning hedgerow. It was planted to enhance wildlife in addition to serving as a property barrier to reduce the effects of dust and wind. The wire, debris, old stumps and plant material were removed. We amended the soil with compost and planted the area with trees from our inventory and a few purchased natives. The first year we kept it weed free and well watered. As it matures it will maintain itself, requiring little or no irrigation and will shade out weeds. We water and weed for a nicer appearance. Raptor poles were installed to attract rodent predators such as hawks and owls. Other birds (pheasant and quail) along with wildlife are drawn in by berries, nuts, seeds and good hiding places in the low growing plants. Hedgerows can also conserve water, reduce soil erosion and even provide farm income if certain plants are selected for collection of seeds, fruit, herbs, flowers, willow branches or wood products. In the fall we're treated with beautiful autumn color and the evergreens stand out through the winter until the next spring.

**Bee Report**

By Mike Anderson

Carlton Plants has over 7 acres of seed orchard plantings, including over 50 tree and shrub species, many of which require pollination by bees. In April 2011 we embarked on a new adventure with the purchase of our first beehive, equipment, and a three pound package of honeybees. Six months and several bee stings later, we are the proud owners of three hives and had the satisfaction of harvesting close to 100 lb. (8 gallons) of honey. Bee-keeping knowledge has grown along the way, both through success and failure. One of our







hives struggled and ultimately collapsed despite our efforts to introduce a new queen. We finish the summer with two very strong hives and one that will need special care. Honey harvest was the high point of our beekeeping experience. The bees were placated using our smoker, which dulls their defensive instincts and makes the removal of honey laden frames less stressful for both bee and beekeeper. Lacking sophisticated equipment, our technique was to scrape comb and honey from the frame into buckets, smash it thoroughly and then filter the resulting goo to yield very clear, tasty honey. A portion of the harvest was produced from a field of buckwheat, which gave a very interesting, tangy honey. In the late fall and winter we will work to reduce parasite pressure on the bees and supplement their honey supply by feeding them sugar syrup as needed.



Esteban Herrera & Ian Biggi

**HONEY FACTS**

-  To make one pound of honey, the bees in the colony must visit 2 million flowers, fly over 55,000 miles and will be the lifetime work of approximately 300 bees.
-  A single honeybee will only produce approximately 1/12 teaspoon of honey in her lifetime
-  Honey is the only food that includes all the substances necessary to sustain life, including water.
-  Honey never spoils.

**Conservation Corner**

Carlton Plants produces well over 100 items from seed, producing quantities ranging from a few hundred to hundreds of thousands for the various species. Seeds range vary widely in the treatment needed to foster germination. Some can germinate very easily with no pre-treatment, while others need to have treatment to overcome restraints to germination. This may include physiological dormancy, which requires cold, moist treatment ("cold stratification") or physical restraint (hard seededness) which can be overcome by hot water soaks, acid soaks or warm, moist stratification. The single most significant factor determining success ultimately is the quality of the seed itself. Viability, age of seed, geographic origin and moisture content all play a role in the ultimate performance of the crop. Proper collection technique and handling are essential elements. Carlton purchases seed from a number of vendors, including private seed collectors and commercial seed distributors, both domestically and abroad. Many seed items are purchased from two or more vendors to spread the risk of inadequate supply. Hardiness is considered for many items, seeking north-

**Seeds**

By Mike Anderson



Aesculus seed



Acer tat. Hotwings\* seeds



Koelreuteria seed pods



Quercus macrocarpa seed

ern sources for items such as Cercis canadensis and some of the oaks and maples. About 40% of our seed needs are collected by the Carlton propagation crew. Numerous seed tree plantings are in place, including three seed orchards as well as numerous plantings along the edge of some of the fields. Trips to nearby cities occur in the fall for items such as Aesculus hippocastanum, where we like to collect about 1,000 lb. every fall. Our own collected seed is always our favorite for production. Being able to control the seed handling from start to finish gives very consistent results. The plantings include a number of species ranging from various species of Acer and Amelanchier to Styrax, Tilia and Viburnum. Once we plant a few Zelkova, we'll be able to claim our orchard runs from A to Z! Seed collecting starts in late summer with roses and Sorbus and is not finished until we shake down the last of the maple and linden seed in November/December. Many crops are hand-picked while others are either shaken or allowed to drop naturally on ground cloth covering the orchard floor. Numerous methods are employed for seed cleaning, depending on the nature of the seed.



Prunus avium seed orchard



Seed orchard

**State and Provincial Trees**

Every state in the United States has a State Tree, some have two! They are designated through legislation by each state. All state trees are native to the state they represent except Hawaii. The United States has a National Tree – the Oak (generic). Canada's trees are often chosen by public competitions. The Canadian official tree is the Maple (generic though represented by the Sugar Maple leaf) Do you know your state or provincial tree?

**State Trees**

AL, NC	Pinus palustris	Longleaf Pine
AK	Picea sitchensis	Sitka Spruce
AZ	Parkinsonia	Palo Verde
AR	Pinus	Pine
CA	Sequoia sempervirens	Coast Redwood
	Sequoiadendron giganteum	Giant Sequoia
CO, UT	Picea pungens glauca	Blue Spruce
CT, IL, MD	Quercus alba	White Oak
DE	Ilex opaca	American Holly
FL, SC	Sabal palmetto	Cabbage Palmetto
GA	Quercus virginiana	Live Oak
HI	Aleurites moluccana	Candlenut tree
ID	Pinus monticola	Western White Pine
IN, KY, TN	Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip Poplar
IA	Quercus	Oak
KS, NE	Populus deltoides	Eastern Cottonwood
LA	Taxodium distichum	Baldcypress
ME, MI	Pinus strobus	Eastern White Pine
MA, ND	Ulmus americana	American Elm
MN	Pinus resinosa	Red Pine
MS	Magnolia	Magnolia
MO, VA	Cornus florida	Flowering Dogwood
MT	Pinus ponderosa	Ponderosa Pine
NV	Pinus monophylla	Singleleaf Pinyon Pine
	Pinus longaeva	Bristlecone Pine
NH	Betula papyrifera	Paper Birch
NJ	Quercus rubra	Northern Red Oak
NM	Pinus edulis	Pinyon Pine
NY, VT, WV, WI	Acer saccharum	Sugar Maple
OH	Aesculus glabra	Ohio Buckeye
OK	Cercis canadensis	Eastern Redbud
OR	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir
PA	Tsuga canadensis	Eastern Hemlock
RI	Acer rubrum	Red Maple
SD	Picea glauca densata	Black Hills Spruce
TX	Carya illinoensis	Pecan
WA	Tsuga heterophylla	Western Hemlock
WY	Populus deltoids monilifera	Eastern Cottonwood

**Provincial Trees of Canada**

Alberta	Pinus contorta	Lodgepole Pine
BC	Thuja plicata	Western Red Cedar
Manitoba	Picea glauca	White Spruce
New Bruns	Abies balsamea	Balsam Fir
Newfoundland	Picea mariana	Black Spruce
Nova Scotia	Picea rubens	Red Spruce
Ontario	Pinus strobus	Eastern White Pine
PEI	Quercus rubra	Northern Red Oak
Quebec	Betula alleghaniensis	Yellow Birch
Saskatchewan	Betula papyrifera	White Birch



Sequoiadendron giganteum



Pinus strobus



Acer saccharum