

BOOK NOTICES

CLAUDE A. BARR. EDITED BY JAMES H. LOCKLEAR. 2015. **Jewels of the Plains: Wildflowers of the Great Plains, Grasslands, and Hills (Revised Edition)**. (ISBN-13: 978-0-8166-9801-1, hbk). University of Minnesota Press, Suite 290 111 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401, U.S.A. (**Orders:** University of Minnesota Press c/o Chicago Distribution Center, 11030 South Langley Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60628, U.S.A., 1-800-621-2736; www.upress.umn.edu). \$27.95 US, 288 pp., 2 b/w photos, 63 color plates, 2 maps, 6" × 9".

From the publisher: From *Abronia* to *Zinnia*, *Jewels of the Plains* describes the natural history and garden merits of more than five hundred Great Plains wildflowers. Considered the authoritative guide by native plant enthusiasts and horticulturists, it captures the unique beauty, resilience, and variety of wildflowers in the Great Plains.

Claude A. Barr did not set out to be a writer. In 1910, he homesteaded 160 acres of prairie in the southwest corner of South Dakota, intending to become a farmer. Despite challenging conditions, Barr fell in love with the land and its native flora. He began contributing profiles of plains wildflowers to gardening magazines, which precipitated requests for seed and led him to start a mail-order nursery, Prairie Gem Ranch. What began as a Depression-era sideline eventually gained a worldwide clientele, and Barr became a respected ambassador for the wildflowers of this part of the American landscape.

Decades of observing plants in the wild and growing them for his nursery, as well as careful study of scientific sources, gave Barr unequaled knowledge that culminated in this acclaimed book. Wonderfully written and deeply researched, *Jewels of the Plains* is more than a field guide or how-to manual. It's a pioneering text on native plant horticulture that details plant life on the prairie in the voice of one with intimate familiarity with the subject. Each description reads like a mini nature essay, giving insight into both the plants and Barr's engaging personality.

Edited to incorporate new scientific information, this edition includes an Introduction and supplemental notes by botanist and horticulturist **James H. Locklear**. He places Barr's remarkable life and work in historic and scientific context, illuminating his accomplishments from a fresh perspective.

ANDRÉ GAYRAUD. 2013. **A Monograph of the Genus *Cornus***. (ISBN-13: 978-88-6315-663-8, hbk). Giorgio Tesi Group, Società Agricola Giorgio Tesi Vivai S.S., Via di Badia, 14 - 51100 Bottegone, Pistoia, Italy. (**Orders:** www.giorgiotesigroup.it, marketing@giorgiotesigroup.it, +39 0573 530051). \$55.39 US, 223 pp., illustrations, 21 cm × 29.7 cm.

From the publisher: The book contains descriptions of 620 varieties of the genus *Cornus* with details on species, varieties, hybrids, and cultivars on five continents. Of international scientific interest, this book contains the work of such leading international *Cornus* experts as Dr. Elwin Orton and Prof. Molnar, Rutgers University, New Jersey (USA) as well as Professor Klymenko of the Academy of Sciences in Kiev, Ukraine. In preparing the work, the author André Gayraud enlisted the help of botanist Annie Claude Bolomier.

André Gayraud was born 17 June 1938 in Le Creusot, Department of Saône-et-Loire, in southern Burgundy, France. He is the son, grandson, and great-grandson of a family of professional gardeners. He developed a passion for botany at a very young age. In 1952, at age 14, he became an apprentice on his father's horticultural farm, creating the "Parks and Gardens" division within the family company. In 1965, he started his own business as a landscaper in Bourg-en-Bresse, Ain. He immediately stood out among his competitors due to his interest in the "Art of Gardens" rather than the improvement and maintenance of green spaces. At the same time, he created a 12-hectare plant nursery to cultivate trees and shrubs for collectors and immediately introduced a large assortment of *Cornus*. The Bureau d'études—Entreprise et Jardins de Pépinières has 40 employees.

He was the first professional to introduce in France the Rutgers University *Cornus*, David Austin's English Roses, rare trees, and antique fruit tree, and the cloud pruning of large plants. He has organized and participated in several international events. His services have been used by President Giscard d'Estaing, Catherine Deneuve, Davidoff, Baron Bruno Bich, followed by other celebrities: the great castles of Bordeaux, the most important chefs in French gastronomy, historical monuments as well as artists, bankers, industrialists both in France and abroad have entrusted their gardens to André Gayraud, who has never failed to include at least one dogwood in his designs.