



April Showers bring May flowers
Happy Spring Everyone!

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Mail: Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Foundation

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SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Announces 2013 Scholarships

The Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Foundation is pleased to present scholarship winners of 2013. We thank SWU Scholarship Committee members most sincerely for their work and salute our young scholars for their academic, civic, and community proficiency.

JOSEF PRINC MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP for a Graduate Student of \$4,000.00 has been awarded to **Danielle Venturi Carey** of Glendale, Colorado. She graduated from the Community College of Aurora and will enter Texas Tech University's Master of Occupational Therapy Program at the School of Allied Health Sciences.

BRANCH 2, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS AWARD for a College Student of \$2,000.00 was awarded to **James Koci, Branch 100**, Laguna Niguel, California. James has graduated from Dana Hills High School and will study Physics at the University Of Notre Dame.

JEAN KURILICH SCHOLARSHIP for a College Student of \$1,000.00 has been awarded to **Jared Morrisette, Branch 99**, Joliet, Illinois. Jared is currently a student at the University of Illinois, Chicago, studying Mechanical Engineering.

JEAN KURILICH SCHOLARSHIP for a College Student of \$1,000.00 has been awarded to **Amy Koncar, Branch 20**, Joliet, Illinois. Amy has graduated from Joliet Catholic Academy and will enter Fontbonne University to study Speech and Language Pathology.

FRANCES BARMAN SCHOLARSHIP for a College Student of \$1,000 has been awarded to **Alex Kossakoski, member of Branch 42**, residing in Walpole, New Hampshire. Alex will graduate from Fall Mountain Regional High School and plans to enter Sacred Heart University where he will major in Sports Management and Business Administration.

FRANCES BARMAN SCHOLARSHIP for a College Student of \$1,000 has been awarded to **Matthew Fitzsimmons, Branch 108**, Gaithersburg, Maryland. Matthew will be graduating from DeMatha Catholic High School and will enter Mount St. Mary's University in fall to study Biological Sciences and Music.

SWU SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION MERIT AWARD winners:

BARBARA PROKUP, Branch 24, Peru, Illinois will graduate from Saint Bede Academy and will enter Saint Mary's College in fall majoring in Occupational Therapy.

ANGELA PEREZ, Branch 3, Pueblo, Colorado will graduate from Pueblo South High School and enter Colorado State University in fall majoring in Medicine / Microbiology.

KIRSTEN LOREK, Branch 14/50, Mentor Ohio will graduate from Lake Catholic High School and will attend Duquesne University this fall majoring in Athletic Training.

MEGAN JOHNSON, Branch 102, Eau Claire, Wisconsin is attending the University of Wisconsin- Stout where she is majoring in Professional Communication

For further information on the SWU Scholarship Foundation or for greatly appreciated contributions, contact Mary H. Turvey, Director, SWU Scholarship Foundation, 4 Lawrence Drive, Marquette, Michigan 49855 or email mturvey@aol.com. Or contact Marge Church, Vice President and Treasurer, 1028 Skyland Drive, Macedonia, Ohio 4406 or email yemecl@windstream.net

Hellebores- (telohi) Slovenia's gift to the world

By Yul Yost* and Joze Bavcon**

Plant hunters that scour the world for interesting plants invariably visit Slovenia. Two such trips are described in a pair of recent monographs. One is about cyclamens by Christopher Grey-Wilson (*Cyclamen*, 2003) who found in Slovenia around the picturesque Lake Bled a cyclamen which he named *C. europeum forma Bled*. Cyclamen readily establish themselves by seeds on bare soil (and colonize the trenches and bunkers remnants from WWI when one author's father, Johann Jost, fought as an Austrian Unteroffizier against Italy.) In 2004 author Yost received cyclamen seeds from Slovenia, then planted them in St. Paul, MN where seven years later the plants still grow, see picture. While blooming, they emanate a very pleasant, strong aroma. In fact, they can be detected olfactorily much sooner than visually; they make very pleasant nosegays. These cyclamens have survived in St. Paul, MN area without protection the last six winters. Still, especially in the absence of snow cover, it is advisable to cover plants in winter with leaves being mindful of possible damage by mice. Alternatively, if grown in pots, the plants should be kept during cold months indoors in a cool place.



The other monograph is by C. Colston (Cole) Burrell and Judith Knott Tyler, "*Hellebores: A Comprehensive Guide*", 2006. Still another, the most recent one, is by: Joze Bavcon, Klemen Eler and Andrej Susek, "*Heleborus in Slovenia*", 2012; it is a useful book, with numerous pictures and written in Slovenian and in English. (It is available for ca. \$25 by contacting the authors or in Cleveland Felix Gaser at 216-381-2602, or: fe-lixigaser@roadrunner.com). Both books feature numerous pictures of hellebores growing on the alpine meadows and slopes in Slovenia, where hellebore is known by over 50 different common names, e.g. glavobolka, kurja smrt (evidently, it is toxic to chickens!!), tavn, teloh, etc; teloh being the most common. The many names for hellebores may be the evidence that hellebores have grown in the present-day Slovenia for a long time and were known and used by people who lived there and who spoke the Slovenian language. Slovenia is the epicenter of the hellebores. The genus *Helleborus* is now naturally distributed in Central and Southern Europe as far as Western Asia, where it is represented by 15 different species.

In USA hellebores are also known as the Lenten roses, for many bloom during the season of Lent. Now the very latest: Just two days ago Wall Street Journal of Feb. 23, 24; 2013, p. D11 reported that growing hellebores inspired a global cult.

Continued on page 4

Hellebores— continued from page 3.....**Joze Bavcon, Ph. D. is the director of University of Ljubljana Botanic Garden, which was established in 1810. He authored numerous books on plants, among them two books on cyclamens and the most recent on hellebores. He is reachable at: joze.bavcon@botanicni-vrt.si It is of interest that the hellebores reached North America already in late 17 century, reportedly brought from Austria where they are known by eight common German names; Lenzrosen being the most common. On the east coast of USA hellebores were already cultivated by Dr. Hosack in 1811 in *the Elgin Botanic Garden* in Manhattan in NYC on the site of the present-day Rockefeller Center. Dr. Hosack was a known herbalist who grew plants, including the hellebores, for their medicinal use. Also, Maggie Campbell-Culver, (*Origin of plants, 2001*) writes that Romans may have brought hellebore from eastern Europe to England, where it was first recorded in 1626 and was called setter wort or bear's foot. Moreover, Brian Mathew in his monograph "Hellebores" (1989) also writes that they were brought to England from Austria. We can safely assume here that for these introductions, the plants (more likely as seeds) really came from Slovenia which was until 1918 part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Therefore, in older German literature that area was called Krain or Steiermark, or even Nieder-Oesterreich (Lower Austria). It's only in a recent book (*The Plant Hunter's Garden* by Bobby Ward, 2004) where the territory is called Slovenia. In fact, Ward's book starting on page 210 contains text with numerous pictures of hellebores growing in Slovenia, where they are now sold as cut flowers made into bouquets and posies.

Until about 2005 hellebores were propagated mostly by seeds and therefore, of course, the plants did not always come true to the parent plant. On the other hand, hellebores are by now propagated by tissue culture or by division and thereby they do inherit the parent-plant characteristics. Such plants have recently become available online. The site www.pineknotfarms.com features a great selection, moreover, for the last 18 years the farm has organized *The Hellebore Festival* which is held on the last week-end of February. Another site: www.sunfarm.com features many thousands blooming hellebores.

In March 2011 the author Yost attended a Cole Burrell's presentation on hellebores in St. Paul, MN to The Rock Garden Club of Minnesota. The presenter enthused the audience convincingly about the beauty and ease of growing the hellebore, a perennial plant. They are available in many colors. Named varieties are clones with desirable features, which may be color of the blossoms, their size, and hardiness of plants to cold, etc. Less expensive are those grown from seeds. They are often labeled a "selection" or a "mix". When grown from seeds, it is best to plant the seedlings in a "holding" area until they bloom. After that, the selected plants can be replanted in a permanent flower bed. There are plenty of choices of plants for USDA Zone 4 or 5 which comprise the "upper" half of USA and includes St. Paul, MN. Below pics: hellebs in Roseville and Slovenia.

*Yul Yost is a retired chemist who gardens in St. Paul, MN, where he grows cyclamens, lady slippers and, of course, hellebores. His garden has been on numerous garden tours and is often a venue for picnics for the local Slovenian community. He can be reached at: yulyost@gmail.com. **Joze Bavcon, Ph. D. is the director of University of Ljubljana Botanic Garden, which was established in 1810. He authored numerous books on plants, among them two books on cyclamens and the most recent on hellebores. He is reachable at: joze.bavcon@botanicni-vrt.si