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AHS Hortline news winter 2011

A quarterly house bulletin



The Agri Horticultural Society of India founded by Rev. Dr. William Carey in the year 1820 is serving the Nation for the last 191 years towards the promotion and improvement of Agriculture and Horticulture in India and is engaged in educational and research activities.

Hortineews Team

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DISCLAIMER

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Welcome to HORTI NEWS AHSI!!

We have over 3,000 members who are passionate about gardening and the environment. Since our membership runs the gamut from beginner to professional, we learn from each other as well as from our experts, and we foster life-long friendships. In addition to the opportunity to mingle with experts and exchange horticultural advancement, the HortiNews is launched.

“Our mission is to provide a forum for gardeners and plant lovers in West Bengal to share their interests and learn about horticulture.”

Dear Members

The Agri-Horticulture Society of India is bringing out a Quarterly News Bulletin which is the first of its kind in the history of the Society.

The Bulletin will cover all current and future events planned by the Society. It will also highlight some important projects which are in hand or planned to be implemented.

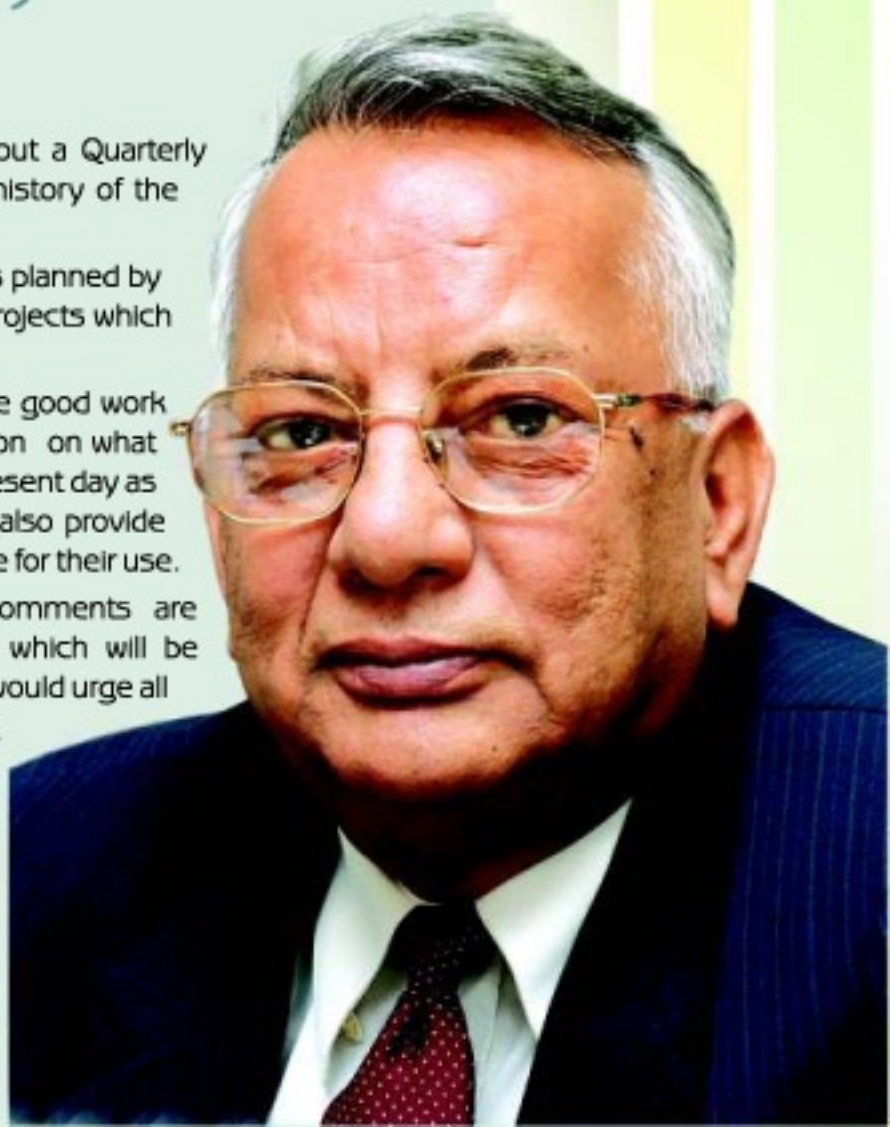
This will no doubt give Members an insight into the good work being done by the Society and the latest information on what its plans for betterment of its facilities both in the present day as well as for the future not only in the Garden but also provide information to its members on the facilities available for their use.

Members interested in contributing articles /comments are welcome to send their views to the Secretary, which will be considered on merit for inclusion in future issues. I would urge all Members to wholeheartedly participate in making this a success.

This Bulletin has long been overdue and I take this opportunity to wish it all success.

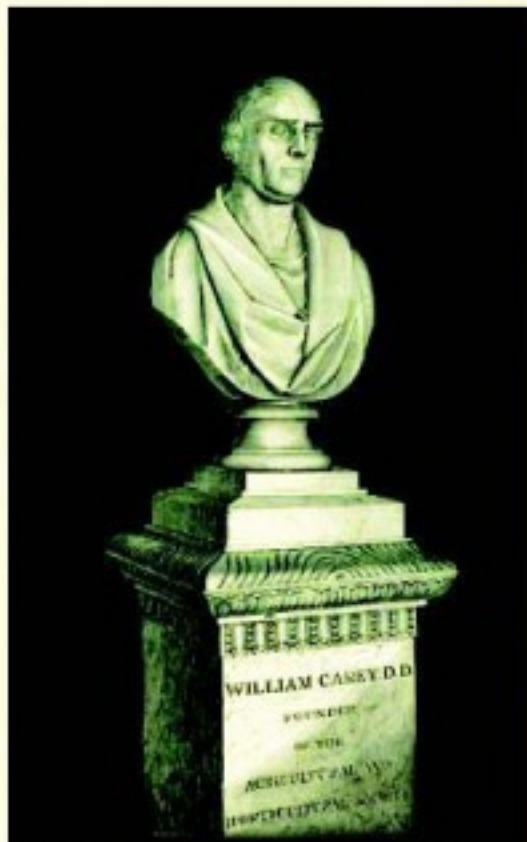
S B GANGULY

President



R EV. DR. WILLIAM CAREY

250th Birth Anniversary of the Founder of the Agri Horticultural Society of India



BUST OF DR. CAREY IN THE MUSEUM HALL OF THE
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF INDIA.

A tribute to a man of eminence, who desired to be recognized simply as a plodder.

"Shoemaker by trade, but scholar, linguist and missionary by God's training," William Carey was the greatest and most versatile Christian missionary sent out in modern times."

Carey was born in Paulerspury, a typical Northamptonshire village in England, August 17, 1761, of a weaver's family. He possessed a passionate interest in the natural objects.

In 1793 Carey came to Kolkata. William Carey's interests in botany and agriculture were expansive. In 1820, he established the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of India. The William Carey Bust in the AHSl memorializes Carey's contribution to the Society.

In addition, Carey's botanical interests are evident through his corresponding membership in the Linnean Society of London, where some of his archival papers reside. One of the standard biographies of Carey, highlights his botanical interests: S. Pearce Carey, William Carey, D.D., Fellow of the Linnean Society (New York: George H. Doran Co., 1923).





In 1814 at the Mission Press in Serampore, William Carey edited and published Dr. William Roxburgh's *Hortus Bengalensis*, or a Catalogue of the Plants Growing in the Honourable East India Company's Botanic Garden at Calcutta. Later in 1820 and 1824, Carey posthumously edited and published Roxburgh's *Flora Indica*; Vol 1 & 2. At the time of these two volumes' publication, Dr. Nathaniel Wallich, a botanist and physician, held the position of Superintendent of the Botanic Garden, Calcutta. Carey's role in *Hortus Bengalensis* extended beyond the role of a contemporary editor. Carey and Wallich's friendship continued long after the publication of *Flora Indica*. In 1834, both Carey and Wallich contributed botanical specimens to the Royal Society of Agriculture and Botany's Winter Show in Ghent, Belgium. Also, in the 1834 edition of *Flora Indica*, *Indigofera violacea* is discussed along with twenty-four

other varieties of indigo. Of interest is the fact that Carey worked in an indigo factory for several years prior to settling in Serampore (1800) with Joshua Marshman and William Ward.

In the *Missionary Memorial* (New York: E. Walker, 1845), p. 335, Roxburgh named the *Saul tree* *Careya aborea*, after Dr. Carey. The *Careya arborea* tree was planted at the AHSl on his 250th Birth Anniversary.

Dr. Carey made such progress in the study of Bengalee as to be able to preach intelligibly to the natives. He started a school, and worked vigorously at translation.

Besides translating the Bible into seven different languages, Dr. Carey wrote grammars and elementary books of all the languages he had acquired. The improvement upon native paper for press purposes, by manufacturing it so as to be proof against destruction by insects, was an immense advantage gained by the ingenuity of the missionaries, and the importation of a steam-engine of twelve horse-power for working their paper-mill was a striking evidence of the enterprise of these men.

No memoir of William Carey would be complete which did not record his benevolent endeavors to improve the social condition of the natives of India. The first reform he helped to effect was the prohibition of the sacrifice of children at the great annual festival at Ganga Sagor. The year 1829 is rendered

memorable in the annals of India by the abolition of suttee [sati]. He more than once drew the attention of the Government to the iniquity. The necessary edict was signed on December 4, 1829, and Carey was requested to translate the English into Bengalee, in order that it might be published at the same time in both languages.

But he kept the grand project of his life distinctly in view; he set himself to the acquisition of the language, he erected schools, he made missionary tours, he began to translate the New Testament, and above all he worked at his printing press, which was set up in one corner of the factory and was looked upon by the natives as his god.

Even these facts, however, are insufficient to show the magnitude of the work which Carey had so important a part in promoting on the shores of India.

The Agri Horticultural Society of India pays tribute to Dr. W. Carey by celebrating his 250th Birth Anniversary with multifarious programs throughout the year.



New Vegetable

Fruit Introduced at Society !!



Dr. S.K. Basu introduced a new vegetable from UK **BUTTER SQUASH** (*Cucurbita moschata*) in the AHSl trial plot. The vegetable is matured in 3 months. It can be roasted , toasted and pureed excellent source of vitamin A and vitamin E .

Rare & Miraculous

Medicinal Plant Discovered by Patanjali Yogpeeth

Haridwar, 12 Oct. : 'Teliya Kand' (*Sauromatum venosum*) is among these miraculous plant which has been described in ancient Ayurvedic text and is discovered by only a few fortunate-people in the past. It is having strong aphrodisiac property. It is very much effective even in diseases like Cancer. Ancient Saints and Ayurveda experts think that it is having the property of binding mercury and can also convert Copper into Gold. The team along with Acharya Ji included Dr. Anupam Srivastava, Dr. Rajesh Mishra and others.



House Plant Show 2011

The House Plant Show 2011 was organized jointly with the Department of Food Processing Industries & Horticulture, Govt. of West Bengal and in Collaboration with the APEDA and NHB, from 10th to 13th November 2011.

Prof. Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, former chairman of Indian Council of Historical Research, inaugurated the show while Pandit Tanmoy Bose, eminent Percussionist and Mr. Debasish Kumar, Hon'ble MMIC- Parks and Garden, KMC grace the occasion being as Guest of Honour.

Aim of this show is to exploit huge market potential of indoor/ Foliage plants for decoration of office, Hospital, House, Market Plaza etc. Scope of growing such plants escalated due to continuous reduction due to dwindling gardening land.

The show attracted total exhibited plants of 1974 in comparison to 1891 last year. Anthurium, Begonia, Croton, Palm, Fern sections were of superb quality despite the advent of dry, cool breeze. Prominent participants were Mr. Harish Bagla, KMC, Sonali Roy chowdhuri, Ayan Jati etc. Competitive Bonsai section was also excellent. Pushpa Bitan Friendship Society's simulated drawing room at the allotted space decorated with proper house plants received thumping applaud by visitors and obviously received 1st prize.

Other Co-events organized during the show were Inter School Debate Competition on



11th Nov. and
Seminar /
Workshop on 12th Nov.

The motion of the Debate was

"Genetically Modified Crops are not the Answer for Food Security"

Apeejay School received the best school while Birla High School (Boys) secured second best School. The Seminar/ Workshop on **"Recent Developments of Fruits and Vegetables Scenario in West Bengal and Export Potential There off"** was highly absorbing by the deliberations of eminent Scientist Prof. Sisir Mitra, Dr. Subhodip Nath Asst. District Horticulturist, Dr. Pinaki Acharyya, Head Deptt. Of Horticulture, Calcutta University as well as experienced, award winning growers guava, mango and pineapple.

Report by
Dr.S.L.Rahman
Jt. Secretary AHSl

Medicinal plant of the quarter

In Hindi / Bengali It is called Nagdana .Another member of the daisy family is *Artemisia annua*, an annual herb as the name might suggest. It is native to temperate Asia but is widely grown around the world. The plant itself will grow to 2m high, is very sturdy and requires no staking normally. It has aromatic ferny leaves and small insignificant flowers late in the summer.

Malaria is a threat to almost half of the world's population. Every year approximately 100 million people suffer from malaria and one million people die from the disease. The parasite *Plasmodium falciparum* is responsible for the majority of the cases and it is transmitted when people are bitten by female *Anopheles* mosquitoes that are infected. The first effective treatment for malaria came from a plant - bark from the cinchona tree (*Cinchona officinalis*, *C. pubescens*) is the source of the natural product quinine.

The Quechua people of Peru used the bark of the cinchona tree to halt shivering in cold temperatures, the quinine acting as a muscle relaxant. The bark of the tree was ground up and mixed with sweetened water to mask the bitter taste of the bark and hence tonic water was born. The discovery and use of quinine's anti-malarial properties has been a key influence on the history of the world's civilisations.

Drinking tonic water enabled white settlers to gain a footing in Africa and drinking gin and tonic became a civilised way to stay healthy in colonial India!

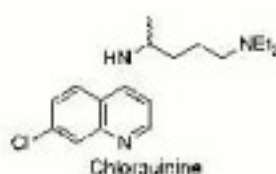
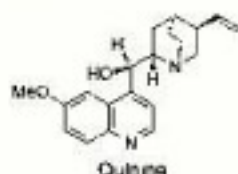
The cinchona tree became a sought-after commodity, and Peru and surrounding countries outlawed its export in the early 19th century. Chloroquine is a simplified synthetic analogue of quinine which has been in

widespread use until recently.

In the 1960s the Chinese government initiated a systematic investigation of the Chinese materia medica. They were looking specifically for an anti-malarial medicine and found it. One of the extracts, named Qinghao, was effective at killing the malarial parasite. Qinghao is *Artemisia annua*, also known as sweet wormwood. The key natural product is called artemisinin and the structure was determined in 1972. Artemisinin and its more soluble derivatives, artemether and artesunate, have become the treatments of choice for malaria. Cultivation tips — requires a minimum of six months.

- a. Artemisias tolerate drought, heat, and cold but not wet feet in winter. They grow in any decent garden soil with good drainage. Plants perform best in full sun and become somewhat leggy in partial shade.
- b. Step 1. Plant in full sun in well-drained soil. Step 2. Add a light application of organic fertilizer to the planting hole. Step 3. Place the plants no deeper than 8-10inch. Step 4. Set the plants 12 to 18 inches apart. Step 5. Mulch around but not on top of the plants with 3 inches of organic compost. Step 6. Water well until soil is completely moist. To care for *Artemisia* remove old foliage in spring. Also, apply a light application of organic fertilizer on top of the soil in early spring. Finally, top dressing with 3 inches of organic compost in pre monsoon.

Artemisia is a genus comprising up to 400 species including other economically interesting plants such as tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculus*). The genus name is in honour of Artemis, the Greek god of chastity.



Anupama Mitra
Asst Secretary AHSA

Artemisia annua, sweet wormwood,
annual wormwood, Asteraceae

William Carey Xero Garden

Inauguration



Display of
Exotic Cactii &
Succulent plants



Refurbished in Nov. '11



Darbhanga Tropical Plant House



Exotic ORCHIDS introduced

Visit to RHS

Chelsea Flower Show 2011 in Chelsea,
England on 27th May 2011 by
Dr. S.K. Basu Sr. Vice President AHSI

The Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show is the world's most famous flower show. It is a source of inspiration and the place where gardening trends are created.

Royal Horticultural Society, England is a charity committed to providing a voice for all gardeners. The Society is driven by the simple love of plants and belief that gardeners make the world a better place. RHS continues to safeguard and advance the science and practice of horticulture.



The Chelsea flower show comprises of display of horticultural plants and flowers, floral designs and the feature gardens. Several gardens were designed and built in small space. There were four categories of gardens. Show gardens, the largest in size, have no style or subject matter imposed on them, resulting in a diverse range of design. Artisan Gardens are staged against a wooded backdrop that highlights the designer's artisan approach to designing, selecting of plants and building these gardens. Urban gardens are stylish and striking and challenge designers to find the clever solution to the restriction of space in urban environment. Generation garden. There were 17 gardens in the Show Garden category, eight gardens in the Urban garden style. Designers have been challenged to find to find clever solution to the restriction of space from ground to the roof top and choice of material and plants for long term solution. The Artisan Gardens were located against a wooded back drop. There were seven gardens in this category Designers were challenged to use an artisan approach in designing,

building and choosing materials from natural and sustainable source in an artistic manner. The Generation Gardens displayed different ways of using a modest sized front garden plot. There were four garden in this category.

The Great Pavillion housed awe-inspiring floral display from leading nurseries, florists and plant societies from U.K. and around the world. Section for floral design and floral arrangement.

The most interesting feature of the Great Pavilion was the Continuous Learning Section. That featured ten interactive displays of scientific and educational interest that challenge the boundaries of science and the practice of horticulture. Those were Germplasm, Linking Gardens to Forests, Green Roof, Beverage Botanic, Live design Indoor Garden Design, Why should planting be integrated into an interior environment? Showcasing skill that shapes our world, Phyto-inspiration, The Plant behind the Arts, Green Manure, and the Power of Plants See some photographs of the Feature gardens and of Great Pavilion.



Visuals of Landscape around the World



Blue Poppy
Meconopsis spp.
Altitude : 4000 mts
Uttarakhand

Bramha Kamal
Saussurea obvallata
Altitude : 4500 mts
State Flower of Uttarakhand
Photograph by :
Dr. D.C. Pal

Don't Miss !!

Winter Flower Show

January 7-10, 2012

Engage all your senses as you experience nature first-hand in one of the most anticipated horticultural events of 2012. You get the chance to see the best Dahlias, Chrysanthemums, Roses and Dahlias in full bloom. Also, enjoy a fantastic array of Flower arrangement and involvement of Students with nature.

Sit n Draw Competition

January 8, 2012

School children are invited to take part in the event.

Annual Flower Show

February 12-14 2012

Visit AFS 2012 – India's oldest and best-loved flower show. Marvel at the fabulous show gardens, get advice and inspiration, and see the latest in garden design and equipment. With a visit to historic Horticulture Garden, this is a break no garden lover will want to miss.

Winter Garden Competition

28th – 29th January 2012

The object of the Garden Competition is to encourage and assist the gardeners to make the best use of the plot at their disposal. In addition to judging on the merits of each garden, the judges may suggest improvement which can be made without much expenditure or making drastic changes.

SHORT TRAINING COURSE CALENDAR : 2012

Sl. No.	Course Name	Details	
1	HOME GARDENING DATE OF COMMENCEMENT 21.12.2011	Duration	: 2 Months
		No. of Classes	: 18
		Days (Twice a week)	: Wed & Sat
		Time	: 2.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.
		Course Fee	: Rs. 800/-
2	BONSAI BASIC COURSE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT 24.12.2011	Duration	: 2 Months
		No. of Classes	: 8
		Days (Once a week)	: Sat
		Time	: 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
		Course Fee	: Rs. 800/-
3	MUSHROOM TRAINING DATE OF COMMENCEMENT 24.12.2011	Duration	: 2 Months
		No. of Classes	: 9
		Days (Once a week)	: Sat
		Time	: 11.00 p.m. to 1.30 p.m.
		Course Fee	: Rs. 800/-
4(A)	FLOWER ARRANGEMENT (IKEBANA-BASIC COURSE) DATE OF COMMENCEMENT 24.12.2011	Duration	: 9 Weeks
		No. of Classes	: 9
		Days (Once a week)	: Sat
		Time	: 12.00 Noon to 2.00 p.m.
		Course Fee	: Rs. 850/-
4(B)	FLOWER ARRANGEMENT (IKEBANA-ADVANCE II COURSE) DATE OF COMMENCEMENT	Duration	: 9 Weeks
		No. of Classes	: 9
		Days (Once a week)	: Sat
		Time	: 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.
		Course Fee	: Rs. 850/-
5	ROOF GARDENING DATE OF COMMENCEMENT 19.12.2011	Duration	: 4 Weeks
		No. of Classes	: 8
		Days (Once a week)	: Mon & Thurs
		Time	: 2.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.
		Course Fee	: Rs. 1,000/-
6	HERBAL DATE OF COMMENCEMENT 25.11.2011	Duration	: 2 Months
		No. of Classes	: 16
		Days (Once a week)	: Tues & Fri
		Time	: 2.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.
		Course Fee	: Rs. 600/-

Why AHSI needs your help

AHSI couldn't deliver its important scientific work or maintain its beautiful Indian Heritage Site without our many generous donors, supporters and members. Plant science is the key to understanding all life on our planet and AHSI holds the India's one of the best concentration of knowledge about plants. We work here, to rescue species and habitats from destruction - vital work for which we urgently need your help.

By becoming a Friend of AHSI

Your membership helps maintain the magnificent trees, the many thousands of plant species, and the structures and building you see in the gardens.

Everyone can do something to help AHSI to deliver its mission to inspire and deliver science-based plant conservation worldwide, enhancing the quality of life. BECOME A FRIEND OF AHSI, ADOPT A PLANT IN PERIL. For further information Contact Secretary cum CEO AHSI,



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