

indeed, their vanguard, *Malus baccata* and its variety *mandschurica*, are in open flower. In this Crabapple the flowers are fragrant and may be either pure white or tinged with pink.

Centre Street Path, which is entered from the right of the Centre Street Gate, is bordered with a general miscellany of shrubs and trees. This section is protected somewhat from the north winds and a number of plants elsewhere tender in the Arboretum are grown here. At the moment *Corylopsis pauciflora*, *C. spicata* and *C. Gotcana* may be seen in good blossom, the original plant of *Prinsepia sinensis*, less shapely than its daughter in the Shrub Garden, is burdened with almond-scented flowers and nearby the Chinese Redbud may be seen, its naked stems studded with brightly colored flowers. The Path makes a pleasant walk now and later. It leads beneath the shade of Hickories, past the mixed border of rare shrubs to the collection of Deutzias and Spiraeas and beyond to the Conifers.

Cercis chinensis. It is to be regretted that the Chinese Redbud is not just a little more hardy. It does splendidly on Long Island and further south but in the Arboretum it only survives in a sheltered site along Centre Street Path. This tree is widely dispersed in eastern and central China, where it is often 45 feet tall with a trunk 5 feet in girth. The foliage in the autumn assumes fine tints. Such trees when laden with blossoms in the spring are conspicuous from afar. In the Arboretum, however, it is only a bush but it blooms freely and the flowers are larger and better colored than that of the native Redbud (*C. canadensis*).

Staphylea holocarpa is now for the first time blossoming freely in the Arboretum. There are two plants on Centre Street Path and the larger of the two is nicely furnished with white, hanging, clustered blossoms. Among the lesser trees of China this *Staphylea* is one of the most noteworthy. It is common on the margins of woods and thickets in central China, where it was discovered by Augustine Henry in 1888 but was not introduced until 1908 when Wilson sent seeds to the Arboretum. Usually a large bush, it sometimes forms a shapely tree from 25 to 30 feet tall with a slender trunk clothed with smooth, grayish bark. The flowers in pendulous, cymose clusters, each from 2 to 4 inches long, are borne on the naked shoots and are usually open before the 3-foliolate leaves, which subtend them, are expanded. The flowers are often suffused with pink but usually the sepals are pink and the petals white. The flowers are rich in honey and are much sought after by sunbirds, tiny brilliantly plumaged birds, which in Asia take the place of the humming birds of America. It is particularly gratifying that this ornamental tree should prove hardy in Massachusetts.

Docent Service. Commencing Sunday, May 13th, free public walks through the Arboretum under the guidance of Mr. G. M. Merrill will start from the Forest Hills Gate at 3 p. m.

E. H. W.



Wilson, Ernest Henry. 1928. "Centre Street Path." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 2(5), 20–20.
<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321920>.

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