

PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY, A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Annual Meeting & Picnic

Saturday, Sept. 23, 1995

James Long Park, Haymarket

Members received a notice of the annual meeting with a ballot in a special mailing sent out in August. The meeting will begin with a social hour at 11:00 a.m. and the picnic at noon. Bring a salad, vegetable or main dish to share. Beverages, bread, desserts, plates, etc. will be furnished. The annual meeting will be at 2:30 p.m. with election of nominating committee members (return ballot if you can't come) and voting on the 1996 proposed budget. At 3:00 p.m. we will take a walk through our registry site to look for gentians, cardinal flower and other fall wildflowers.

Directions: From Manassas, take Rt. 234 north to Rt. 15, left on Rt. 15 and James Long Park is on the left. Or, take Rt. 66 west to the Rt. 15 exit, go north on Rt. 15, the park is on the right.

October Board Meeting

The October board of directors meeting will be on the second Monday, Oct. 9, 1995, at 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church. Future board meetings will also be on the second Monday. All chapter members are welcome to attend board meetings.

Great Falls Wildflower Walks

Marion Lobstein will lead walks at Great Falls Park on the third Sunday of each month. Fall dates are October 15 and November 19. Meet at the Virginia side visitors center at 10:00 a.m. Call Marion for more information, 703-536-7150.

Birding at the Woodbridge Refuge

Over 200 bird species including flocks of indigo buntings and nesting ospreys have been sighted at the Woodbridge Refuge during the past few years. Jim Waggener, founder of the Prince William Natural Resources Council, leads bird walks there on the last Wednesday of each month and at other non-scheduled times. Call him, 494-0506, to accompany him or learn more about the Refuge of the PWNRC.

BayScapes Program

PWWS members are invited to attend a BayScapes program sponsored by Lake Jackson Garden Club, Wednesday, Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m. at Lake Jackson Fire Department on Coles Dr.

Catherine Firth, Program Coordinator for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, will present the program which emphasizes landscaping that saves time, energy and money, while conserving water, lowering or eliminates pesticide and herbicide use, and improving wildlife habitats. All these practices benefit local lakes and streams and eventually the Chesapeake Bay.

For more information, call Nancy Arrington, 368-8431.

Next Meeting

The November membership meeting will be on the third Monday, Nov. 20, 1995, 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church. In addition to our program and business meeting we will have our annual "craft fair." Details in next newsletter.

VNPS Clean-ups

Two VNPS clean-up days are scheduled this fall. The Buffalo Creek registry site near Lynchburg, heavily damaged by this year's flooding, is scheduled for clean-up on Saturday, Sept. 30. In Northern Virginia, efforts to rid Roosevelt Island of ivy will continue with a "pull party" at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 21. For information, directions or car pooling for both events, call Nicky Staunton, 368-9803.

Medicinal Plants

Marion Lobstein will present a program on Medicinal Plants of the Old and New Worlds at Green Spring Gardens Park, Annandale, on Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 7:30 p.m. She will explain how the Europeans brought medicinal plants such as dandelions to the new world and took back our natives for use on the Continent. Cost is \$10. Call Green Spring, 703-642-5173, to register.

Proposed 1995 Budget

Nov. 1, 1995 -- Oct. 31, 1996

RECEIPTS:

Dues	\$ 800.
Plant Sale	1,700.
Miscellaneous	300.
Total	\$2,800.

DISBURSEMENTS:

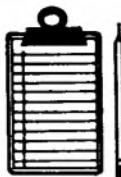
Postage	\$ 750.
Printing	800.
Gifts & Honoraria	250.
Programs & Speakers	150.
Plant Sale Expenses	150.
Sales Tax	125.
Education	475.
Wildflower Week	100.
Total	\$2,800.

WILD NEWS

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Editor, Nancy Arrington, 368-8431
Artist, Nicky Staunton, 368-9803

Deadline for the Nov.-Dec. issue is Nov. 1, 1995.



From the President HELEN WALTER

This should be captioned: "What I did on my summer vacation." since my summer included trips to the Bruce Peninsula and Highlands, N.C. Hot and dry seems to be the theme this summer. In June, Ontario was suffering from record breaking heat and drought. It was murderously hot in Highlands in August, a place that brags about its cool mountain air, and as I write, our area is going for a record number of days without rain.

In spite of the heat, the mosquitoes, and the metric system, how can you take a high of 39° seriously when you think your clothes might spontaneously combust? The Bruce was the trip of a lifetime. Instead of rambling about it page after page, I'll refer you to Nicky's wonderful description of all the things we saw, in the state newsletter. I'm still amazed by all the yellow lady slippers growing wild as dandelions along the roadside. This was also my first trip to Niagara Falls, the Thousand Islands, and the Finger Lakes, and I want to go back to the Canadian side of the falls for another look at those beautiful gardens.

I've moved from the mountain to the river, so I have a new phone number, 330-9614, and a new address, 10553 River Run Ct., Manassas, VA 22111. We're right on the river in Occoquan Forest close to the playground and boat ramp, perfect for wildflower picnics. This year's picnic will be in my old neighborhood at James Long Park, a nice way to say good bye to this end of the county.

See you there, Sat., Sept. 23.

Native Plants in the Gardened Landscape

Rick Darke, Curator of Plants at Longwood Gardens will speak on the use of hardy native plants in the garden at the U.S. National Arboretum's Administration Building Auditorium at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 26. Cost is \$25 and includes lunch followed by a tour of a major arboretum plant collection. Call the arboretum, 202-245-2726, for information and to register.



Viburnums

(*Viburnum* species)

MARION LOBSTEIN

Associate Professor, Biology, NVCC

Viburnum species, along with dogwood, provide floral beauty to our local woods each spring and colorful fruits and foliage in the autumn. In northern Virginia there are five species of viburnum that are shrubs to small trees: mapleleaf viburnum (*V. acerifolium*), Southern arrowwood (*V. dentatum*), possumhaw (*V. nudum*), blackhaw (*V. prunifolium*), and downy arrowwood (*V. rafinesquiatum*). Of these species, blackhaw and possumhaw may reach small tree size. Maple leaf viburnum and downy arrowwood have a range distribution from Quebec to Georgia and west into the midwest while the other three species range from Connecticut to Florida and also into the midwest. These species are found in the understory of dry to moist woods and thickets except possumhaw which is found in swamps and even bogs. Possumhaw is not common in our area but the other species are.

The genus name is a classical Latin name and the species name derivations are as follows: *acerifolium*—mapleleaf, *dentatum*—toothed, *nudum*—naked, *prunifolium*—plum-leaved, and *rafinesquiatum*, named for the discoverer of this species, Constantine Rafinesque-Schmaltz. The common names except for possumhaw come from characteristics of the leaves or twigs or from distribution patterns. This genus is part of the honeysuckle family, the *Caprifoliaceae*.

Fall Lawn Care

Learn how to have a great looking lawn and landscaped while protecting the quality of our drinking water a Prince William Cooperative Extension's lawn care field days this fall.

"Lawn Fertilization" is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 14 at Anne Wall Park, Montclair, and Saturday, Oct. 21 at Ben Lomond Park, Manassas.

"Leaf Recycling and Mulching" will be covered Saturday, Nov. 11 at Anne Wall Park, and Saturday, Nov. 18 at Ben Lomond Park. All sessions are 9:00-11:00 a.m. For more information, call the extension office, 792-6285.

The flowers of all five viburnum species are small and are borne in flat-headed inflorescences known as cymes. Each flower has a five-toothed green calyx, a five-parted white-to-cream corolla, five stamens, and a pistil that has an inferior ovary and one- to three-parted stigma. The flowers are generally insect pollinated and all produce fruits that are drupes (fleshy fruits with a hard covering around a single seed). The attractive blue-black to purple-black fruits are favorites of many bird and mammal species which are the primary seed dispersers, voiding the seeds through their digestive tracts.

Mapleleaf viburnum, southern arrowwood and downy arrowwood are all shrubs that can range in size from three to more than six feet tall with mapleleaf viburnum typically being the smallest of the three species. Blackhaw and possumhaw can be up to 25 feet tall with blackhaw being the taller of the two. The leaves of all members of the caprifoliaceae family are opposite. The leaves of mapleleaf viburnum do indeed resemble those of a red maple. The leaves of the other species are more elliptical or ovate. The margins of the leaves of all five species are toothed. Twigs are typically slender with both terminal and axillary buds.

Historical uses of the viburnums include both edible and medicinal as well as the use of the bark of blackhaw by some Indian tribes to smoke like tobacco. Blackhaw viburnum fruits are edible and taste like a very sweet prune to this author. These fruits if overeaten may cause constipation, and because of this characteristic they have been used to treat diarrhea and dysentery. Extracts of bark were also used to prevent miscarriages, relieve cramps and after birth pains, and stop heavy menstrual flow. It also was used to treat tumors, stomach problems, heart palpitations, kidney and bladder problems, and as an astringent and emetic. Not only were these previous medicinal applications common in Indian and folk medicine in this country, but this plant was also exported to Russia and to other parts of Europe for similar uses in the past.

This autumn enjoy the rich color of the fruits and foliage of these viburnums. You might even want to taste a blackhaw viburnum fruit or two! Next spring look for these beautiful native shrubs and small trees in bloom in our woods.

NATIVES FOR THE GARDEN

NANCY ARRINGTON
Propagation Chairman



Mapleleaf Viburnum

Viburnum acerifolium

Mapleleaf viburnum's best season is fall when its leaves turn an amazing range of colors from creamy pink through dusty rose and scarlet to deep purple. Blue-black berries held in upright clusters add even more fall color.

This is one of our most common viburnum species occurring in dry woods in almost every Virginia county. It is our smallest species sometimes reaching six feet, but usually staying around four feet. Plants are stoloniferous and will often form large colonies in the wild. Upright branches carry three-lobed, opposite, maple-like leaves that are two to five inches long. Creamy white flower clusters, two to three inches across, appear in late May and into June.

Mapleleaf viburnum is an excellent understory shrub for a low maintenance naturalistic garden. It grows well

and will flower in fairly deep shade; however, flowering will be much better with some sun. Many native species grow well in the same shady, slightly acid conditions that suit this viburnum. Some that naturalize well and bloom when it is fruiting and beginning to flaunt its lovely fall foliage include white wood aster (*A. divaricatus*), heart leaved aster (*A. cordifolius*), black snakeroot (*Eupatorium rugosum*), and blue stemmed goldenrod (*Solidago caesia*).

In addition to its suitability for naturalized woodland gardens, mapleleaf viburnum is a good shrub for cultivated beds and borders. Like many other native plants it appreciates a gardener's attention and becomes more attractive than it is in its native habitat. In his *Ornamental American Shrubs* (1942), William R. van Dersal stated, "In cultivation it may become a thick, lusty bush, profusely flowering and fruiting, obviously a fine shrub for ornamental planting."

Most viburnums, including this species, are easily propagated by stem cuttings taken in June and July. Michael Dirr (*Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*) says seed shows a double dormancy and requires warm and cold periods of different durations in order to germinate.

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Mapleleaf Viburnum

Viburnum acerifolium

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