



# WILD NEWS

## Prince William Wildflower Society

A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

Number 2015-05

September-October 2015

**Prince William Wildflower Society  
32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting  
Monday, September 21, 2015, 7:30 p.m.  
Bethel Lutheran Church  
8712 Plantation Lane Manassas, Va. 20110  
"Potomac Environmental Research and  
Education Center," with Professor Chris Jones**

The Prince William Wildflower Society will celebrate its 32<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting with a presentation by R. Christian Jones, professor and director of Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center (PEREC) at George Mason University. Dr. Jones will talk to us about the building of new home for the Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center (PEREC), a 45,000 square foot, LEED gold environmental research and education facility at Belmont Bay near the mouth of the Occoquan River. PEREC, which plans to

move from its current location in Fairfax to the new facility in 2016, focuses on Potomac River restoration and local sustainability practices with regard to sustaining a healthy local ecosystem. Plan to join PWWS members to hear about this exciting new development in Prince William County.

Dr. Jones is a freshwater ecologist whose research focus includes tidal freshwater ecosystems (emphasizing plankton and macrophytes), stream ecology (emphasizing benthic macroinvertebrates), and watershed management. He teaches courses in waterscape ecology, freshwater ecology, and

[Images: Chris Jones, courtesy of the author; Osprey at OBNWR, Michael Hawk, Nature's Archive Blog, <http://blog.naturesarchive.com>; *Platanthera ciliaris*, Alan Cressler, NPIN Image no. 40317, [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)]



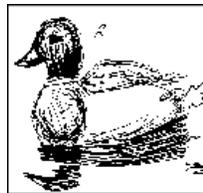
multivariate analysis at George Mason University, where he has been a faculty member since 1980. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Botany (Limnology and Oceanography minor) and an M.S. in Biology from Vanderbilt University.

Please plan to join us for this fascinating program, cast your vote to elect our nominating committee, and enjoy refreshments and doorprizes! The program is free and all are welcome, so bring a friend or two.

### President's Corner

Have you enjoyed our summer? For the most part, the rains were plentiful and the temperatures fairly moderate. It's only recently that that the faucet has shut off and vegetation has started to turn crispy.

I've been fortunate to find lots of natural areas to explore this summer. Weekly trips to Huntley Meadows Park in Fairfax County, where Harry leads a morning bird walk, allow us to observe wetland vegetation along an extensive boardwalk. Summer blooms progressed from sweeps of Swamp rose (*Rosa palustris*) to Lizard's tail (*Saururus cernuus*), which gave way to common Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) and Crimson-eyed rosemallows (*Hibiscus moscheutos*), and more lately



turned to clumps of Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), and White turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*). Another favorite local spot is Merrimac Farm, where, in addition to natural areas with abundant common milkweed, the Prince William Conservation Alliance has a fabulous wildlife garden that attracts a wealth of birds, butterflies, and other pollinators to its colorful blooms. The Manassas Battlefield has interesting meadows and many attractive native grasses. Farther afield is the State Arboretum at Blandy Experimental Farm, near Winchester, where the Virginia Native Plant Society maintains a small office. The native plant trail at Blandy includes both a woodland and large meadow habitats.

This summer marked two special native plant events for me: the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference at Western Carolina University (Marion Lobstein's alma mater in North Carolina) and the VNPS field trip to Mountain Lake Biological Station in Giles County. The Cullowhee conference has been held for more than 30 years now and is geared toward horticulture of native plants. In addition to hearing informative lectures, I participated in a couple of excellent field trips along the southern section of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Its flowers, including Turk's Cap lily (*L. superbum*), Phlox, Monarda, and much more, were stunning. I highly recommend this conference for anyone interested in gardening with native plants, so mark your calendars now for July 20-23, 2016.

The late July/early August trip to Mountain Lake was led by Johnny Townsend, staff botanist with the Virginia Natural Heritage Program, and included other botanists of note, such as Sally Anderson and Mary Jane Epps. We saw many species of orchids in fruit or flower, including the very rare Bentley's coral root (*Corallorhiza bentleyi*) and the very showy Yellow-fringed orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*). I will be prepared to show some of my photos from these trips at our January member slideshow meeting.

In sad news, we mark the passing of longtime member Joann Krumviede and also that of Stan Fowler, husband of charter member Jeanne Fowler. Joann had been in declining health so had not been to meetings in recent years. Though she lived in Vienna, she chose our homey

chapter back in the early 1990s and became a faithful volunteer, serving as our hospitality chair for many years and always contributing to our annual plant sale. She was an excellent baker and spoiled us with her treats at our meetings. Stan was a consummate gentleman and master vegetable gardener who always accompanied Jeanne on our garden tours and to our annual picnics. We send our condolences to both families.



We now have two new hospitality coordinators, Brenda Hallum and Beverly Houston; I hope that you will help Brenda and Beverly with providing refreshments at our meetings. We thank Rose Breece for having served in this position for several years. We also have a need for someone to handle publicity for our chapter. This would entail providing meeting and event notices to our local print and online newspapers. Please let me know if you would be willing to serve in this capacity.

This month's meeting serves as our annual meeting where we will elect members of our nominating committee (who will nominate officers for election NEXT year) and adopt our budget. We also are pleased to welcome Dr. Jones of George Mason University, who will tell us all about a new science center at Belmont Bay in Woodbridge. ~ Nancy

### Prince William Wildflower Society Meeting Minutes, Monday, July 20, 2015, 7:30 p.m., Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas, Virginia

President Nancy Vehrs called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and introduced the speaker, Nancy Berlin, who spoke on "Why Have a Meadow?" Nancy Berlin is the natural resource specialist for the Prince William Master Gardeners and has made the area around her home in Yorkshire into a meadow. She also has worked with the Master Gardeners in starting and managing meadows in Prince William County. Nancy Berlin introduced Rebecca Arvin, Master Gardener volunteer, who discussed why you would want a meadow and also the advantages of having a meadow instead of turf. It would be nice to not have to mow a lawn, but Nancy did caution us that a meadow was still a lot of work, as there are challenges in the form of diseases, pests,

weeds, and invasives. To prove that it was all worth it, though, she showed beautiful pictures of blooming wildflowers, native grasses, butterflies, and other wildlife viewed in the meadow around her home. If you would like a copy of her very informative handout, please call the Extension Horticulture Help Desk at 703-792-7747. Nancy Vehrs thanked Nancy and Rebecca for their presentation.

**Announcements:** Nancy Vehrs encouraged all to attend the upcoming PWWS annual meeting on September 21. There were announcements of walks and volunteer opportunities, and these events are also listed in *Wild News*. Barbara Deegan was thanked for having her garden on the April PWWS Garden Tour. Barbara had not been in attendance in May when the other hosts for the Garden Tour were introduced and thanked. Rose Breece was thanked for serving as refreshments chair for the last several years. Beverly Houston and Brenda Hallam were introduced as the new co-chairs for refreshments and hospitality. Nancy also introduced Libby Pemberton, who recently joined as a Life Member.

**Doorprizes:** Butterfly weed plants were chosen by Judith McDaniel, Libby Pemberton, Charles Smith, and Brenda Hallam; a VNPS baseball cap went to Beverly Houston; *Wildflowers of the Potomac* was chosen by Glen Macdonald; a framed watercolor of a trillium by David King was given to Dee Brown, and *Wildflowers of the Appalachians* went to Jannell Bryant.

**Those in attendance:** Nancy Vehrs, Beverly Houston, Brenda Hallam, Libby Pemberton, Tamie Boone, Leslie Paulson, Laura Farron, Barbara Farron, Karen Waltman, Janet Wheatcraft, Jannell Bryant, Nancy O'Leary, Karen O'Leary, Rita Romano, Barbara Deegan, Helen Rawls, Rebecca Arvin-Colon, Nancy Arrington, Rose Breece, Susy Stasulis, Judith McDaniel, Janis Stone, Charles Smith, Jeanne Endrikat, Dee Brown, Glen Macdonald, Nell Benton, Helen Walter, Carol Thompson, Tom Attanaro, Jenny Caco, John Caco, Veronica Tangiri, Bonnie Fulford, Sandi Smith Piccirilli, Harry Glasgow.  
~Respectfully submitted, Karen Waltman, Secretary

### *In Memoriam*

PWWS mourns the passing of longtime PWWS member **Joann Krumviede** on August 28 and of **Stan Fowler**, husband of PWWS charter member Jeanne Fowler, on July 20.

Joann joined PWWS when we first hosted a VNPS annual meeting back around 1993. She then joined our board as hospitality chair and provided homemade refreshments at our regular meetings for years. Joann

was also a regular contributor and volunteer for our plant sale. In recent years, her health declined and she was no longer able to attend meetings. PWWS members remember her fondly and mourn her passing. We extend our condolences to her family.

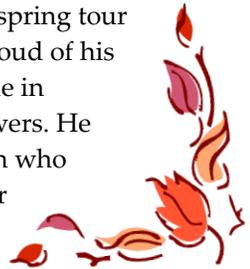
Below is a message from Joann's daughter, Jane Cox, to PWWS Secretary Karen Waltman:

*Karen,*

*I want to thank you for coming to my mother's (Joann Krumviede) visitation in Vienna last Thursday. We were very touched that the Prince William Wildflower Society remembered my mother after all these years. She loved flowers of all kinds, especially natives, and she enjoyed and believed in all the good work the PWWS does. She loved to cook and bake, and I am so glad she shared so many of her special baked goods with PWWS. We are also touched by the kind words Nancy Vehrs wrote in my mother's online memorial. Although in recent years my mother could no longer garden, I will always remember her love of PWWS and flowers.*

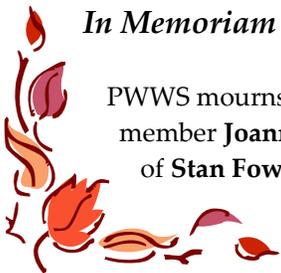
*Thank you again for sharing your memories of my mother. She will be greatly missed, and always loved.*

**Stan Fowler**, husband of charter PWWS member Jeanne Fowler, amiably accompanied Jeanne to PWWS events for many years. Stan and Jeanne opened their lovely Woodbine Woods garden on our annual spring tour at least three times, and Stan was very proud of his vegetable garden. He also took great pride in Jeanne's extensive knowledge of wildflowers. He was a gracious and welcoming gentleman who will be missed. Our hearts go out for their loss to Jeanne and her family.



### Plant NOVA Natives Campaign

The Plant NOVA Natives Campaign continues to expand as we move into fall. The second edition of the *Native Plants for Northern Virginia* guides is selling well and we are ready to reprint. Copies are available at our meetings for \$5 each and soon will be available for purchase online through the VNPS office. Volunteers are ready and available to present programs to garden clubs, homeowners associations, and other civic groups. Other volunteers are reaching



out to nurseries and garden centers. Fall native plant sales will be posted on the website [www.plantnovanatives.org](http://www.plantnovanatives.org), and we urge you to take the online pledge to plant natives. Follow us on Facebook as well and look for us on Twitter soon. ~Nancy Vehrs

## EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

**Tuesday, September 15, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. "Viewing Our Region through Geology-Colored Glasses: The Epic Tectonic Saga of the Rocks Beneath Our Feet," with Callan Bentley,** NOVA geology professor. Bull Run Regional Library, 8051 Ashton Avenue, Manassas, Va. 20109. Award-winning NOVA geology professor Callan Bentley provides a fascinating tour of our region's geologic history, looking at the modern landscape and interpreting these ancient tectonic events. Please reserve your seat through the library's online Calendar of Events or contact [relic2@pwcgov.org](mailto:relic2@pwcgov.org) or (703) 792-4540. For more details, see <http://www.pwcgov.org/library/relic>.

**Wednesday, September 16, 7:30 p.m., What Is a Healthy Forest? A Talk by Joe Marx,** Huntley Meadows Park, Norma Hoffman Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Boulevard, Alexandria, VA 22306. Sponsored by the Powtomack chapter of VNPS *et al.* Program is free and open to the public. Joe Marx will discuss what a healthy mid-Atlantic forest might look like, whether pre-settlement forests were in fact healthy, and what chance such a forest would have in our era of invasive aliens and global warming. Mr. Marx is an instructor in geology and forest ecology in the Natural History Field Studies program sponsored by the Graduate School USA and the Audubon Naturalist Society. If you use a GPS device to find the park, enter the address, 3701 Lockheed Boulevard, Alexandria, Va. 22306, not the park's name.

**Monday, September 21, 7:30 p.m., Prince William Wildflower Society Annual Meeting,** Bethel Lutheran Church, Manassas, Va. Join us for our 32<sup>nd</sup> annual gathering and a fascinating program by Chris Jones on the building of a new Research and Science Center in Woodbridge. Free, all are welcome. Doorprizes awarded; refreshments served.

**Sunday, September 27, 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Bird Walk at Merrimac Farm** with Prince William Conservation Alliance, Merrimac Farm Wildlife Management Area, 14712 Deepwood Ln, Nokesville, Va. 20181. Join Harry Glasgow and others to look for birds through the uplands to the edge of the floodplain, covering a variety of habitats. Everyone is welcome. View the bird list for Merrimac Farm at <http://www.pwconserve.org/wildlife/birds/lists/merrimacfarm.htm>. Dress for the weather, bring binoculars and cameras. More info and RSVP (appreciated not required) to PWCA, (703) 499-4954 or [alliance@pwconserve.org](mailto:alliance@pwconserve.org).

### OCTOBER

**Saturday, October 3, 2015, 10:00 a.m., "Gardening with Native Plants," Merrifield Garden seminar, Fair Oaks** Alan Ford, chair of the Plant NOVA Natives Campaign and Laura Beaty, of the Powtomack Chapter of VNPS. Native plants are beautiful, resilient and offer benefits to wildlife and the environment. Discover what native plants can offer and how to successfully blend them with existing garden favorites to make an environmentally friendly yard.

**Saturday, October 10, 8:00a.m. to 9:30a.m., Fall Migration Bird Walk at Metz Wetlands** (Historic Preservation Division, Prince William County). Julie J. Metz Neabsco Creek Wetlands Preserve, 15875 Neabsco Road, Woodbridge, Va. Join local birding experts on a guided walk along the trails and boardwalks to discover this unique 120 acre property in the heart of Woodbridge. Bring binoculars and guide books. Please dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. No pets please. For more details, contact Prince William Historic Preservation Division at (703) 499-9812.

**Saturday, October 10, 9:00 a.m. to Noon, "Saturday in the Garden: Living Soil,"** with Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteers, Teaching Garden at St. Benedict Monastery, 9535 Linton Hall Road, Bristow, Va. 20136. Learn about the necessary elements of a healthy soil web and about selecting and purchasing trees. Program is free. Registration is requested call (703) 792-7747 or email [master\\_gardener@pwcgov.org](mailto:master_gardener@pwcgov.org).



**Volunteers Needed!** *Keep Prince William Beautiful* has two upcoming plantings scheduled for **Saturday, October 10**, and they need our help. Members with gardening knowledge are needed to supervise eager volunteers. We certainly applaud KPWB's interest in planting natives. Contact me at [nvehrs1@yahoo.com](mailto:nvehrs1@yahoo.com) if you can assist. ~Nancy Vehrs

**Sunday, October 17, 10:00 a.m., Merrifield Gardens Seminar, "Native Plants for Wildlife & Pollinators"** with Andy Johnson, Merrifield Plant Specialist. Gardens are so much more than planting flowers when they can support pollinators, birds and other wildlife. Learn how you can have it all – an inviting habitat for wildlife and a beautiful garden.

**Sunday, October 25, 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Bird Walk at Merrimac Farm with Prince William Conservation Alliance,** Merrimac Farm Wildlife Management Area, 14712 Deepwood Ln, Nokesville, Va. 20181. Join Harry Glasgow and others to look for birds, covering a variety of habitats. Dress for the weather, bring binoculars and cameras. More info and RSVP (appreciated not required) to PWCA, (703) 499-4954 or [alliance@pwconserve.org](mailto:alliance@pwconserve.org).

**Saturday, October 31, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Prince William County Community Paper Shred, Prince William County Landfill and Balls Ford Road Yard Waste Facility.** Prince William County Solid Waste Division is sponsoring two community shredding events that are open to county residents. Residents may bring up to 4 boxes (18"x12"x15" or smaller) of confidential documents for secure shredding at no charge. No business or commercial shredding will be accepted at these events. Locations: Prince William Landfill, 14811 Dumfries Road, Manassas, Va. and Balls Ford Road Yard Waste Compost Facility, Manassas, Va.

**Saturday, October 31, 10:00 a.m., "Gardening in Deer Country,"** with David Yost, Merrifield Plant Specialist and Renatta Holt, Merrifield Landscape Designer. Merrifield Gardens, Merrifield, Va. Has your garden become a smorgasbord for deer? If so, don't miss this seminar. David and Renatta will help you develop an effective strategy to protect your landscape.

## NOVEMBER

**Monday, November 16, 2015, 7:30 p.m.,** Bethel Lutheran Church, Prince William Wildflower Society's November membership meeting will feature **T'ai Roulston, curator and research associate professor of the State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy.** Dr. Roulston will talk to us about native pollinators, particularly wild bee species, and their connections to native Virginia plants. He will also discuss "insect hotels."

### Viburnum: Common Beauty

By **Marion Lobstein**, Botany Chair, Prince William Wildflower Society and Professor Emeritus, North Virginia Community College

*Viburnum* species, along with flowering dogwood, provide much beauty to our local woods each spring and show an array of colorful fruits and foliage in the autumn. Worldwide, there are approximately 150 species in this genus, with roughly 18 native species in North America. In our area, there are relatively common species of *Viburnum* that are shrubs to small trees: Maple-leaf Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*), Southern Arrow-wood (*V. dentatum*), Southern Wild Raisin or Possum-haw (*V. nudum*), Black Haw (*V. prunifolium*), and Downy Arrow-wood (*V. rafinesqueanum*). Of these species, Black Haw and Possum-haw may reach small tree size. This genus traditionally was part of the honeysuckle family, Caprifoliaceae. Based on DNA evidence, however, this genus (along with the genus *Sambucus*, the Elderberries) is now placed in the

Adoxaceae, the Moschatel family. This change is discussed in the accompanying taxonomy article on changes in the Caprifoliaceae.

Maple-leaf Viburnum and Downy Arrow-wood 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 west into the

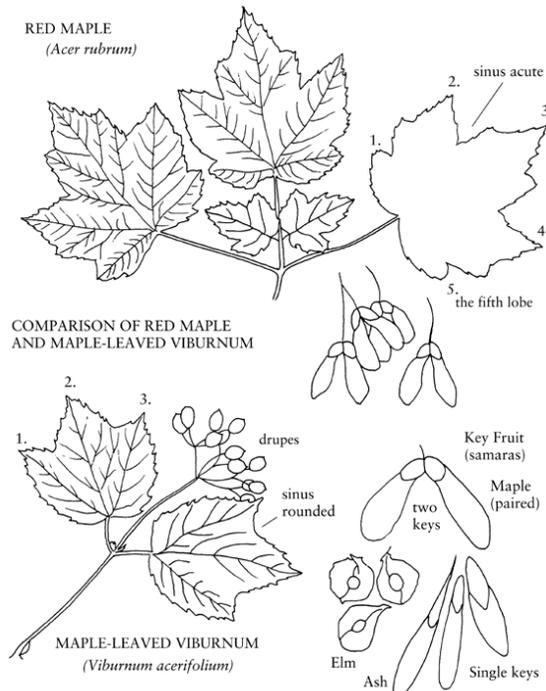
Midwest. Except for Possum-haw, these species are found in the understory of dry-to-moist woods and thickets, with Possum-haw found also in swamps and even in bogs. In the *Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora*, there are listed an additional three *Viburnum* species that are naturalized but only locally common in northern Virginia. These are *V. sieboldii* (Siebold's Viburnum), *V. opulus* (Guelder-rose or Snowball Viburnum), and *V. setigerium* (Tea Viburnum). All of these *Viburnum* species are spring bloomers.

The genus name *Viburnum* is a classical Latin name, and the

species epithets derivations are as follows: *acerifolium*, maple-leaved; *dentatum*, toothed; *nudum*, naked; *prunifolium*, plum-leaved; and *rafinesqueanum*, named for the discoverer of this species, Constantine Rafinesque-Schmaltz. The common names, except for Possum-haw, come from characteristics of the leaves or twigs, edibility, or from distribution patterns.

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 with an inferior ovary and one- to three-parted stigma. 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. These animals are the primary seed dispersers, voiding the seeds through their digestive tracts.

Maple-leaf Viburnum, Southern Arrow-wood, and Downy Arrow-wood are all shrubs that can range in size from three- to more than six-feet tall, with Maple-leaf Viburnum typically being the smallest of the three



species. Black Haw and Possum-haw can grow up to twenty-five feet tall, with Black Haw being the taller of the two. The leaves of all of these species are simple and opposite. Maple-leaf Viburnum leaves do indeed resemble those of Red Maple, while leaves of the other species are more elliptical or ovate. Margins of the leaves of all five species are toothed, and twigs are typically slender, with both terminal and axillary buds.

Historical uses of *Viburnum* are both edible and medicinal; some Native American tribes also used the bark of Black Haw Viburnum to smoke like tobacco. As the common names imply, Arrow-wood species were used by Native Americans to make arrow shafts. Black Haw viburnum fruits are edible and taste like a very sweet prune to this author. The fruits of the other species also are edible. Overeating of the fruits, however, may cause constipation; they were used medicinally to treat diarrhea and dysentery. Extracts of bark also were used to prevent miscarriages, relieve menstrual cramps and after-birth pains, and stop heavy menstrual flow. In addition, extracts of viburnum also were 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 of our native species common in Indian and folk medicine in the North America, but these species were also exported to Russia and to Europe for similar uses.

In the spring, enjoy the beauty of the blooms of these species of *Viburnum*, and in the autumn, the handsome and edible fruits! Our locally native *Viburnums* are handsome shrubs and small trees that provide year-round interest and beauty.

**Caprifoliaceae, the Honeysuckle Family: Viburnums and Elderberries Out; Teasels and Valerians In!**

By **Marion Lobstein**, Botany Chair, Prince William Wildflower Society and Professor Emeritus, North Virginia Community College

Caprifoliaceae, the Honeysuckle Family, has undergone significant taxonomic changes based on DNA research over the last twenty-five years. M. Adanson proposed the name of this family in 1763, but since he did not publish his work, A.L. de Jussieu published the name in 1789 and is thus given credit for it. Deriving from the work of both of these botanists, the traditional genera of

Virginia included in Caprifoliaceae were: *Lonicera* (Honeysuckle), *Symphoricarpos* (Snowberry, Coralberry), *Triosteum* (Horse-gentian), *Diervilla* (Bush-Honeysuckle), *Viburnum* (Viburnum), and *Sambucus* (Elderberries). Both Adanson and de Jussieu also included *Cornus* (Dogwoods) and *Hedera* (Ivies) in this family. The derivation of Caprifoliaceae is from the Latin *capri* for goat, and *folia* for leaf, thus goat-leaf, based on the shape of the leaves of *Lonicera caprifolium*, the Goat's leaf honeysuckle that resembles a goat's foot. *Lonicera* (Linnaeus, 1753) has about 180 species worldwide and nine in the Flora. This genus is named for Adam Lonitzer (Lonicer), a German botanist of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. As Caprifoliaceae currently is defined, it includes about 36 genera and just over 800 species.

Until the early 1990s, the following Virginia genera were included in Caprifoliaceae: *Lonicera* (Honeysuckle), *Symphoricarpos* (Snowberry, Coralberry), *Triosteum* (Horse-gentian), *Diervilla* (Bush-honeysuckle), *Viburnum* (Viburnum), and *Sambucus* (Elderberry). By the 1980s, taxonomists were questioning if *Sambucus* instead belonged in Adoxaceae, based on similarities of flower morphology of the species of this genus to *Adoxa moschatellina* (Moschatel, Five-faced bishop) (Linnaeus, 1753) in Adoxaceae (E. Meyer, 1839). The *Flora* and many other sources cite R.E. von Trautvetter (1853) as the botanical authority for Adoxaceae, while Britton and Brown credit Karl Fritsch (1891). The family name Adoxaceae is based on the genus *Adoxa* which is derived from Greek *a-*, without, and *-doxa*, praise, which means inglorious, based on the inconspicuous nature of this species! Additional DNA analyses provided final evidence to move both *Viburnum* and *Sambucus* genera to Adoxaceae. Currently, Adoxaceae contains five genera and 200 to 245 species. There are about 150 species of *Viburnum*

worldwide with 12 species in the *Flora*. The name *Viburnum* (Linnaeus, 1753) is based on an ancient Latin word that refers to the wayfaring-tree. *Sambucus* (Linnaeus, 1753) comprises nine species worldwide with two in the *Flora*. The genus name *Sambucus* is derived from the Greek word *Sambucca*, an ancient musical

Southern wild raisin (*V. nudum*)



instrument made from the wood of a European elderberry.

In a number of *Flora*, *Sambucus* (Elderberries) was placed in its own family, Sambucaceae (A. Batsch, 1797), and *Viburnum* in Viburnaceae (C. Rafinesque, 1820). Some taxonomists included *Sambucus* in Viburnaceae. *Diervilla* was often placed in its own family, Diervillaceae (N. Pyck, 1998). *Linnaea borealis* (Twinflower) (Linnaeus, 1753) is found in West Virginia but not in Virginia. Previously placed in Caprifoliaceae, it is now in its own family, Linnaeaceae (A. Backlund and N. Pyck, 1998). There has been quite a bit of taxonomic activity with all the genera once included in Caprifoliaceae.

The use of *Viburnum* species in Europe goes back before recorded history. Ötzi the Iceman, from 5,000 years ago, had an arrow shaft made from *Viburnum* in a quiver or pouch. *Viburnum* species were mentioned in the works of Aristotle, Pliny, and Dioscorides in ancient Greek and Roman times. Herbalists of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, such as John Gerard and Nicholas Culpeper, included uses of *Viburnum opulus* and of various European species of *Sambucus* or elderberry as well as uses of *Lonicera caprifolium* and *L. periclymenum*.

The Valerianaceae (Valerians) (A. Batsch, 1802) and Dipsaceae (Teasels) (A.L. De Jussieu, 1789) have been added to Caprifoliaceae based on DNA evidence. These two families have long been considered closely related to Caprifoliaceae. The two genera from the former Valerianaceae are *Valeriana* (Valerians) (Linnaeus, 1753), with 200 species worldwide but with only one in the *Flora*, and *Valerianella* (Corn Salads) (P. Miller, 1754), with 50 species worldwide and four species in the *Flora*. The genus name *Valeriana* is from third-century Roman emperor, Valerian, and *Valerianella* is a diminutive of *Valeriana*. The former Dipsaceae has one genus, *Dipsacus*, with fifteen species worldwide and two species in the *Flora*. The genus name *Dipsacus* is derived from the Greek word *dipsa*, meaning "thirst," which refers to the



property of teasels having fused leaf bases that hold water. Species of both of these groups have been known since ancient Greek and Roman times and have medicinal and other uses.

There are two other genera in the *Flora* included in Caprifoliaceae: *Symphoricarpos* (Snowberry or Coralberry) (Duhamel, 1755) with 17 species worldwide and two species in the *Flora* and *Triosteum* (Horse-gentian) (Linnaeus, 1753) with six species worldwide and two in the *Flora*. The name *Symphoricarpos* is from the Greek *symphora*, meaning bringing together, and *karpos*, for fruit, referring to the structure of the fruit of this genus. *Triosteum* is derived from the Greek word *treis* for three and *osteon* for bone and refers to three hard nutlets inside the fruit of genus.

The 1762 *Flora Virginica* listed descriptions of species in all of the genera now in the Caprifoliaceae and Adoxaceae families included in our current *Flora*. It is interesting to know that most of the genera now in the *Flora* also were known in the time of John Clayton.

### Under the Understory: Fall Color

Common but lovely Mapleleaf viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*) is an understory shrub that grows 3' to 6' tall and 3' to 6' wide in sun or shade. Blooming in late spring, Mapleleaf viburnum displays fluffy white flowers that lighten the woods and delight the eye. But a colony of them really start to show off in October and November when their leaves turn an astounding variation of shades, so walking in the woods is from ankle to chest like wading in a delicate sea of color.

Some of the leaves of Mapleleaf Viburnum around our house turn a curious spotty-white-to-green, as if the chlorophyll has leaked out of the leaves, but even this variation is interestingly pretty. In any case, *V. acerifolium*'s colorful abundance helps bring to life the middle to lower layer of the autumn woodland landscape. When its blue-black berries are still around—and they do hang on for a long while, unless eaten—the combination with the pale, lovely leaves is especially appealing.

Mapleleaf Viburnum is fairly easy to transplant if enough root is gathered. Propagation is possible by

taking cuttings, but it is reputedly difficult to start from seed—I haven't tried, but may take a whack at stratifying some seeds this fall just to see.

Understated but not dull, a big clump of Mapleleaf

Viburnum—perhaps underplanted with ferns and spring bulbs—is a great way to add year-round beauty to a shady corner.

No longer a member of the Honeysuckle family (see Marion's articles in this issue), but instead having "crossed the road" to join the Moschatel family (Adoxaceae), Mapleleaf Viburnum (sometimes called Dogmackie), develops large, open colonies in the wild and is adapted to shade—and especially important for those of us who garden—*dry shade*. Fall colors range from creamy pink, salmon rose, red, grayish pink to "grape-juice" purple (Dirr). It roots well from cuttings taken in June or July, is cold-hardy to Zone 4, and bears



creamy white flowers in May. Rick Darke claims that the loose and open form of Mapleleaf Viburnum in shade will become full and bushy if sited in a sunny spot. I have not yet tried growing it in sun, but may experiment with transplanting a few to a sunnier spot this spring.

Mapleleaf Viburnum is a host plant for the Spring/Summer Azure butterfly, and "an excellent source of berries and caterpillars for birds," according to Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy's chart in the *Living Landscape* (Timber Press 2014). Darke's photos of Fothergilla and Mapleleaf Viburnum growing together on p. 187 of the same book are a good illustration of how well *V. acerifolium* works in the spring and fall garden landscapes.

~Deanna LaValle High

*Photographs:* Summer leaves with berries, Albert F.W. Vick, NPIN Image 2701, [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org); Spring Azure (Celastrina ladon) on Redbud, David Govoni, photographed near Brentsville, Va., 2011, accessed at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/dgovoni/5632894540>. *References:* Michael A. Dirr, Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation, and Uses, 5<sup>th</sup> ed, Stipes Publishing LLC, 1998; Rick Darke, The American Woodland Garden: Capturing the Spirit of the Deciduous Forest, Timber Press, 2002; Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy, the Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden, Timber Press, 2014.



MAPLELEAF VIBURNUM  
*Viburnum acerifolium* L.

PRINCE WILLIAM WILDFLOWER SOCIETY  
A Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 83, Manassas, Virginia, 20108-0083

*Next Meeting:* Monday, September 21, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

"Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center," with Chris Jones, GMU  
Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 8712 Plantation Lane, Manassas, Virginia 20110