

HYBRID

THE SCOTT ARBORETUM OF SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

Spring 2010



Five Excellent Witch Hazels for Delaware Valley Gardens

Julie Jenney

One of my favorite groupings of woody plants at the Scott Arboretum is the witch hazel collection. It may be because of their often bright and fragrant, crinkly, crepe-paper-like flowers that appear in late winter before the foliage – but it is also for their reputation as outstanding shrubs for Delaware Valley Gardens. We currently have 44 different types of *Hamamelis* on campus, all with their own unique characteristics. I could write about many more than five, but following is a selection of excellent *Hamamelis* growing here on campus recommended by the Curator, Andrew Bunting.

Hamamelis × *intermedia* ‘Jelena’

Hamamelis × *intermedia*, a hybrid between *Hamamelis japonica* and *Hamamelis mollis* is described in *Dirr’s Hardy Trees and Shrubs* as ranking among the best shrubs for color in the winter garden due to its excellent pedigree. ‘Jelena’ is a favorite of Dirr’s “Because of its strong horizontal habit and coppery colored, fragrant flowers.” It seems, however, that the scent may vary, because in Chris Lane’s, *Witch Hazels*, it is described as having no fragrance. But according to Lane, it does have a sweet story:

This selection was...named by Robert de Belder in 1954 after his wife Jelena. The story goes that Robert was showing at the Royal Horticultural Society in London the new plant, which had not as yet received a name. People were so taken by the beauty of this witch hazel, that it was causing quite a stir, and they were pressing Robert with regard to the name of it. As he was recently married, he decided there and then to name it in honour of his wife Jelena.

con’t on page 3

The early April blooms of *Magnolia* × *soulangiana* in the magnolia collection next to Worth Health Center.

Director's Corner

Annual Appeal Results

I am grateful to all of our members (Scott Associates) who provided financial support for our educational programs in 2009, and to our loyal volunteers who provided time (12,976 hours in 2009) and talent to make the year another rewarding and memorable one at the Scott Arboretum. The end of the year was highlighted with the dedication of the Wister Center in November; those who attended seemed to be truly inspired by the facility we now have to house our educational programming, volunteer programs, and aid our ability to grow plants and enhance our collections and displays.

With this note, I'd like to give thanks to those who also responded with financial gifts to our annual appeal. As of January 5, we've received contributions from 132 providing a total of \$38,150 in response to the appeal mailing. I'm delighted to think, for those who couldn't join us for the dedication, the photos in the last issue of the *Hybrid* helped to prompt this generosity and provided a good sense of the new facility. Your response to our continued need for raising funds to cover the Wister Center construction costs is greatly appreciated and in 2010 we look forward to seeing the Wister Center come to life with programming.

According to *Charity Navigator*, "the drop in giving last year [2008] was the biggest in the 54 years that Giving USA has tracked the data—leaving no doubt that the recession is having a negative impact on contributions." The data collected by *Giving USA 2008* revealed that while giving by individuals remained the largest source of contributions to charitable organizations (75%), from 2007 to 2008 giving declined about 6%. Not surprisingly we have seen a drop in year end appeal giving as well (in 2008 we received year end donations totaling \$105,232 from 198 donors), so a special thanks for this year's success in these times.

Since the Scott Arboretum is one of the rare public gardens in the region to be free and open to the public at all times, earning support from our donors is particularly important and particularly gratifying. Like public radio or television, the Arboretum and many of our programs can be enjoyed by all, and for all who give to support our efforts, you validate our efforts and confirm the Arboretum serves the community well and educates and enriches lives in meaningful, valued ways.



R. ROBERT

The first workshops to take place in the new Wister Center Gillespie Room were the Green Wreath Workshops in December.

Garden writer Allen Lacy, who has been helping establish a municipal arboretum in Linwood, New Jersey, wrote in a year-end card, "In reference to the little municipal arboretum I was helping plan this time a year ago you suggested that there should be a compost heap. I'm pleased to tell you that there are two on the middle school outdoor fenced classroom that's part of the design. Establishing the Linwood Arboretum has been a cooperative enterprise with much volunteer dedication of time, effort and material things....The dedication won't be until April, ...the site has

established itself as a stroll garden that also invites people to stop, sit, read or talk with other people....We are small, but Linwood has a lot of public land into which we can insinuate plants. In this regard, Scott is a great inspiration—an arboretum that is married to another institutional entity..."

I look forward to working to create that kind of inspiration for both individuals and other organizations (just like this new arboretum we have a kinship with) through 2010, and thanks to all who have assisted us in our successes and abilities to further our reach to serve and inspire others.

Claire Sawyers

As a member of the Scott Associates, don't miss these spring excursions!

Private Gardens of the Baltimore Area Wednesday, May 26

Join Betsy Gullan and Julie Jenney to see four private gardens near Baltimore, Maryland, and meet their extraordinary owners. The first garden offers an amazing assemblage of trees and shrubs – including conifers for structure and color, and Japanese maples punctuated with interesting boulders, walls, and pathways. The second showcases lovely garden rooms. The third has a woodland garden along a ravine, where interesting trees, flowering shrubs, and perennials provide a wonderful vista. The terrace gardens can be seen easily, and a viewing platform provides a vantage point to look into the ravine garden. Lastly, we will visit a 45-year-old garden on four acres, primarily woodland with mossy paths bordered by mature *Rhododendron*, azaleas, ferns and shade-loving perennials. The owners' long-term interest in sculpture is evident throughout. **Limited to 35. Membership to the Scott Arboretum is required.**

Gardens of Milford, Pennsylvania Wednesday, June 23

Join Betsy Gullan and Julie Jenney for a journey to historic Milford. Perched on the bank of the Delaware River, Milford is fascinating – sporting lovely houses, appealing shops and restaurants, museums, and other attractions. First we will visit Grey Towers, home and gardens of Gifford Pinchot – eminent conservationist, twice governor of Pennsylvania, and first chief of the US Forest Service. After a guided tour of his home and gardens, we'll lunch at the newly restored Hotel Frauchère before visiting the farm of Richard Snyder on Llama Lane. Mr. Snyder, co-owner of Hotel Frauchère and an important figure in the restoration of Milford, has a herd of 69 llamas plus a large organic vegetable garden, a source of fresh vegetables served at the hotel. Before leaving the area, we will visit a small private garden in town and also Remembrance Place, a small garden that is a greening project of the Milford Garden Club. **Limited to 35. Membership to the Scott Arboretum is required.**

Visit www.scottarboretum.org to register online or call 610-328-8025. Don't delay, space is limited!



R. MAURER

Hamamelis x intermedia 'Jelena'

The warm, coppery effect of the flowers is from the red base, ochre-yellow tips, and claret-red calyx that melt together from a distance. The fall foliage is also attractive, turning yellow to orange-red. After the mid-winter blooms and before the fall color, 'Jelena' has handsome, large, textured leaves that when young are yellow-green with a light bronze flush then mature to a glabrous, dark green. It grows to roughly 13 feet high, and is vase-shaped.

***Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Primavera'**

Also named by Robert de Belder, 'Primavera' is a classic, clear yellow-flowering witch hazel – truly in its prime as a more mature specimen as its flowers tend to droop downwards and can be appreciated even more when the plant becomes taller. The clear yellow blooms are crimped with a purple-red tint at the base and a claret-red calyx. The flowers appear in mid to late winter and emit a faint scent. The foliage is medium green with a light bronze flush while young, maturing to a glabrous, sage-green. The fall foliage is yellow. Growing to roughly 10 feet high and wide it is upright when young, becoming vase-shaped with age.

***Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Feuerzauber'**

Witch hazel flowers do in a sense resemble minute firecrackers – their thin crinkled petals often brightly lit by a varying degree of fiery colors. Described by Chris Lane as a good, reliable cultivar, 'Feuerzauber' is synonymous with 'Fire Charm', 'Firecracker', and 'Magic Fire'. The mid to late winter petals of 'Feuerzauber' are orange melted with red, slightly twisted and crimped, with a purple-red calyx and a light, sweet scent. A strong grower changing from upright to vase-shaped with maturity, it grows approximately 12 feet high and wide. The foliage is similar to 'Primavera' until autumn, when it turns to shades of orange and red.

***Hamamelis mollis* 'Wisley Supreme'**

Flowering in late January, *Hamamelis mollis* is one of the first Asian witch hazels to bloom. It is described by Dirr as "a robust, rounded, densely branched shrub, with dull dark green, roundish leaves that are covered with grayish, woolly pubescence on their undersides." While this description may not catch your fancy, the scent will. The flowers of *Hamamelis mollis* are extremely fragrant and 'Wisley Supreme' is no exception. Pale yellow with a red calyx, the flowers bloom through midwinter. What sets 'Wisley Supreme' apart are the larger flowers and vigorous growth habit. Growing to about 12 feet tall and not quite as wide, it begins as an upright shrub and spreads with age. The young foliage is a light yellow-green turning yellow in the fall.

Most witch hazels are happiest in full sun and moist, well-drained soil high in organic matter. They can grow in some shade, but you won't see as many flowers. Even in harsh winter weather flowers can often remain for as long as a month. Witch hazels are happiest in a protected site – those planted in a hot and dry exposed site will not be as healthy or as vigorous. Those listed above are hardy in zones 5 to 8.

While the Scott Arboretum promotes many of its collections as single or a few specimens growing with other plants in garden settings throughout campus, the witch hazel collection is largely grouped together down by what we refer to as the "frats." Located at the southern end of campus, below the dining hall and Faulkner tennis courts, you will find many *Hamamelis x intermedia* and *Hamamelis mollis* happily growing in the beds around the small stone buildings. Several new witch hazel cultivars have also been planted around the Science Center.

These two types of witch hazels can be grown in a group or as single specimens – and they are showiest when set off by a dark background, such as an evergreen or dark building, to contrast with their vibrant flowers. Another excellent spot for a fragrant witch hazel is near an entrance so you can take in the sweet fragrance and a close-up view of their unique blooms.

Hamamelis vernalis

While the flowers of *Hamamelis vernalis* may not be as showy as the other *Hamamelis* (though I think they are quite pretty) it has many desirable attributes: it is a tough plant; native to the United States (ranging from Missouri to Louisiana and Oklahoma); rich, buttery-yellow fall foliage; and a fantastic fragrance when the small flowers open in mid winter. A mature stand of *Hamamelis vernalis* directly behind Sharples Dining Hall emits one of the best fragrances on campus. To maximize the fragrance, plant *Hamamelis vernalis* as a group, but give them some room as they can sucker and colonize. They do well in moist or dry soils and can reach 6 to 10 feet high, growing wider in maturity with a somewhat mounded habit. Flower colors vary from yellow to orange to red but since the old foliage often hangs on in the winter they are not seen as easily as the other witch hazels. *Hamamelis vernalis* is hardy in zones 4 to 8.



R. MAURER

Hamamelis x intermedia 'Primavera'

Come visit us soon! It may not be too late for a walk on campus to take in the bright blooms and sweet fragrance of these excellent large shrubs.

Curator's Choice

Andrew Bunting

Taxodium distichum

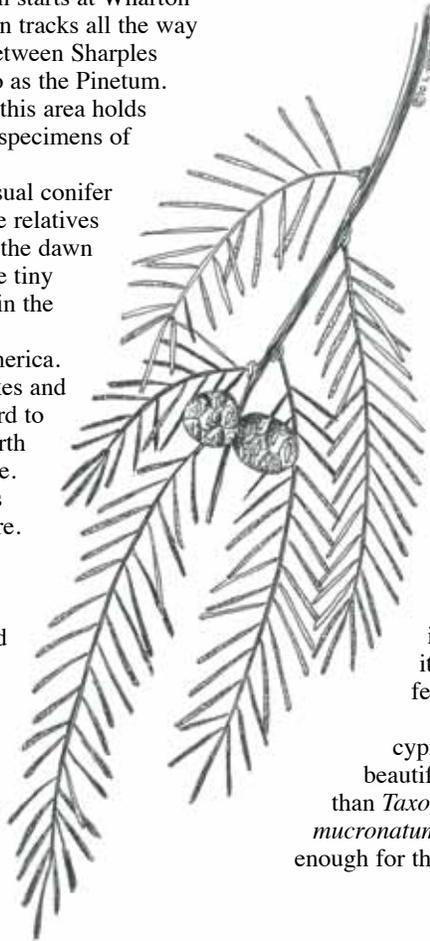
The Scott Arboretum has one of the very best conifer collections on the East Coast. Our collection starts at Wharton Residence Hall and continues along the train tracks all the way to the Swarthmore train station. The area between Sharples Dining Hall and the train station we refer to as the Pinetum. While a true Pinetum would be only pines, this area holds a collection of several towering and robust specimens of the bald cypress, *Taxodium distichum*.

Taxodium distichum represents an unusual conifer in that the genus is deciduous. Like its close relatives the pond cypress, *Taxodium ascendens* and the dawn redwood, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, the tiny needles lose their green color and are shed in the autumn.

The bald cypress is native to North America. It can be found growing on the edges of lakes and swamps as far south as Florida and westward to Arkansas and Missouri and grows as far north as Trap Pond State Park in Laurel, Delaware.

In the landscape the bald cypress looks best planted in masses of three, five, or more. While it can reach over 100 feet tall, this tree generally has an upright, narrow habit. At maturity the shape is very slender and columnar. Sometimes a particularly old bald cypress will begin to broaden beyond the normally columnar shape.

The fine green needles are only about ½ inch long. In the fall they turn a stunning coppery bronze to orange and beautifully cover the garden floor beneath when they fall. The fall and winter architecture of these trees is impressive. The bark, too, has an orange-



brown cast. Over time the tips of the branches can have a somewhat weeping aspect and at maturity the trees can become flat-topped which adds to their winter character.

Taxodium is an adaptable plant in the landscape. It can be grown in normal garden soils, but it will also thrive in growing conditions more akin to its natural habitats and therefore thrive in standing water. If grown near standing water, bald cypress will produce very interesting “knees” or pneumatophores which protrude out of the water. It is thought the pneumatophores provide oxygen exchange to the roots.

In the Borough of Swarthmore, *Taxodium distichum* has been successfully planted as a street tree. Because its ultimate spread is much less than many shade trees it is perfect for planting between the sidewalk and the road where it rarely encroaches on either.

There are some fine selections of the bald cypress available. ‘Monarch of Illinois’ which is planted below McCabe Library is a beautiful wide spreading cultivar. ‘Shawnee Brave’ which grows in the Pinetum at the Arboretum, was selected for its narrow and pyramidal habit. The parent tree is 80 feet tall with a 20-foot spread.

Closely related to the bald cypress is the pond cypress, *Taxodium ascendens*, which is another beautiful landscape tree, but is more pyramidal in its habit than *Taxodium distichum*. We have tried to grow *Taxodium mucronatum*, the Mexican bald cypress, but it is not hardy enough for the Delaware Valley.

A carpet of *Trillium grandiflorum* in the Crum Woods in late April.



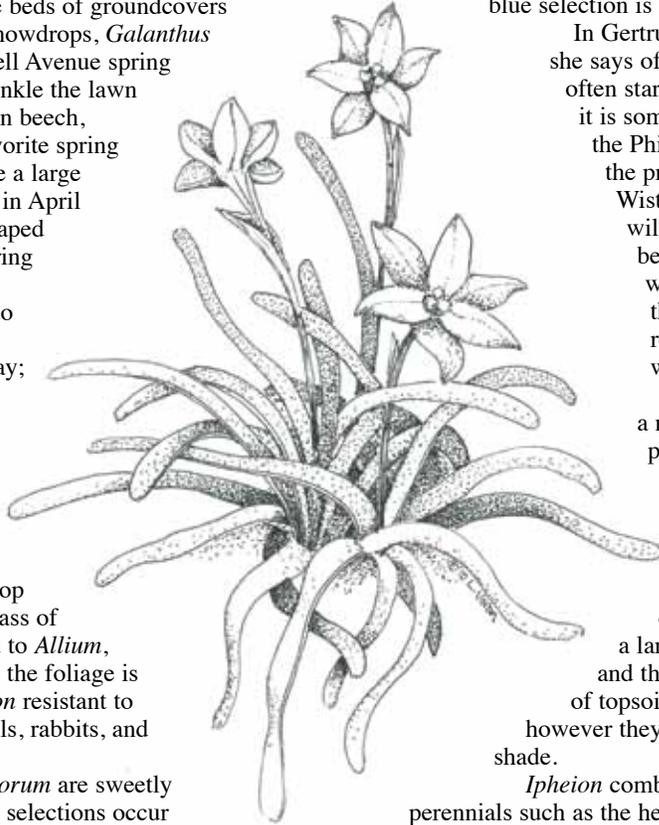
Ipheion uniflorum

Every spring the Borough of Swarthmore comes alive with wonderful plantings of naturalized bulbs in a variety of yards. At an old house on Yale Avenue there is no lawn at all, but throughout the beds of groundcovers are large masses of naturalized snowdrops, *Galanthus nivalis*. At a little house on Cornell Avenue spring beauties, *Claytonia virginica* sprinkle the lawn at the base of a majestic American beech, *Fagus grandifolia*; one of my favorite spring displays is on Walnut Lane where a large house sits back off the street and in April the lawn is filled with the star-shaped flowers of *Ipheion uniflorum*, spring starflower.

Ipheion uniflorum is native to South America where it is found growing in Argentina and Uruguay; however, it is perfectly hardy in the Delaware Valley. This small bulb grows to about 6 inches tall and has skyward facing flowers which appear at the tops of graceful arching stems. Over time small offsets will be produced which eventually develop into bulbs gradually creating a mass of bulbs. *Ipheion* is distantly related to *Allium*, and one of their common traits is the foliage is garlic scented. This makes *Ipheion* resistant to grazing and disruption by squirrels, rabbits, and deer.

The flowers of *Ipheion uniflorum* are sweetly fragrant. Several color forms and selections occur including the straight species which is a pale, sky-blue. 'Wisley Blue' is a deep violet-blue as is 'Violacea'. 'Charlotte Bishop' is a striking pink cultivar. 'Froyle Mill' has vivid purple-violet

flowers with white centers. Both 'Album' and 'White Star' are white flowered selections. 'Rolf Fiedler' has broader than normal petals that are a beautiful purplish blue. The darkest blue selection is 'Jessie'.



In Gertrude Wister's *Hardy Garden Bulbs* she says of *Ipheion uniflorum*, "In March it often stars lawns in the middle South, where it is sometimes called star-of-Bethlehem. In the Philadelphia area it blooms in April in the protection of a wall or slope." Mrs. Wister goes on to explain that *Ipheion* will grow into thick clumps which will benefit from occasional division. It is worth noting that star-of-Bethlehem in the Philadelphia area is often used in reference to *Ornithogalum umbellatum*, which can be very invasive.

Ipheion is readily available from a number of retail and wholesale bulb purveyors. For an investment of roughly \$125.00 you can purchase about 500 bulbs. They should be planted in late October through November.

They can be planted individually at a depth of two to three inches or to create a more naturalistic effect, create a large planting bed, broadcast the bulbs, and then top dress with two to three inches of topsoil. For best results plant in full sun, however they will also grow in a light, deciduous shade.

Ipheion combines nicely with early spring perennials such as the hellebores, *Helleborus* × *hybridus*; lungworts, *Pulmonaria*; barrenwort, *Epimedium*; and the fern-leaf corydalis, *Corydalis cheilanthifolia*. If you are planting into an existing perennial bed, small holes can be dug among the perennials after the foliage has been cut back in the fall.

Perennial Plant Association Plant of the Year

Amsonia hubrichtii (thread-leaf blue star) has been named the 2011 Plant of the Year by the Perennial Plant Association. A fantastic perennial used in many gardens throughout the Scott Arboretum, *Amsonia hubrichtii* lends texture and multi-seasonal interest to the garden. Listed as a Curator's Choice in the summer 2009 issue of the *Hybrid*, it thrives in average to dry garden soil and performs best in full sun. Eventually reaching 4 feet tall and at least as wide, the thread-leaf blue star looks best when planted in masses, as shown here in the Nason Garden.



Amsonia hubrichtii

Wildflowers of the Appalachian Mountains... in Your Backyard

Elizabeth Haegele

Claytonia caroliniana



E. HAEGELE

The Appalachian Mountains are one of the most unique areas on earth in terms of biodiversity. While the exact number of plant species throughout the Appalachians is unknown, botanists agree it is high. For instance, more tree species grow in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (a small but important portion of the entire mountain range) than in all of northern Europe. This past year, I had the opportunity to hike the entire Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. I began my hike in the south in early March, and watched the progression of blooming plants as I headed north along with the onset of spring. As a gardener, I took note of the most interesting and attractive blooms and realized almost all of them can easily be grown here in the Piedmont region of the Delaware Valley. If you're anything like me and long for the delicate spring blooming wildflowers of the Appalachian Mountains, you can add these beauties to your own garden to remind you of the unique and stunning setting of your local mountains, the Appalachians.

When the first day of spring arrived I was hiking at higher elevations and it continued to feel and look like winter, even in the south. However, when I was ascending Snowbird Mountain out of Davenport Gap in Tennessee on the first day of April, I began to see the first signs of spring. One of the plants I noticed flowering was the delicate *Claytonia caroliniana*, or Carolina spring-beauty,

which was growing along the trail during this steep ascent. The Carolina spring-beauty is one of the earliest spring flowers to bloom and has white, star-shaped flowers lined with pink or lilac. When I came upon them, they had carpeted a large area of the forest. In the garden, this plant can naturalize easily if the conditions are humus-rich, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. More commonly grown in our area, *Claytonia virginica*, spring beauty, is very similar to *Claytonia caroliniana*. The main difference is the linear, almost grass-like foliage of *Claytonia virginica*. *Claytonia caroliniana* is more common in the southern Appalachian Mountains and its foliage is wider and tapers at both ends. But either plant will give the same result in your garden as a delicate, early bloomer, naturalizing to carpet barren ground with white and pink as spring slowly comes into its own. These small bulbs also make excellent additions to the rock garden.

As spring came to the mountains in all its glory – it seemed like nearly every day I saw a new blooming wildflower. Descending Bluff Mountain in North Carolina a few days later, I came across a common Appalachian wildflower, *Dicentra canadensis*, commonly known as squirrel corn. Squirrel corn is hard to miss because of the striking form of its blooms. The flowers are white and heart-shaped and form along a small spike that hangs downward. The leaves are heavily divided but have a fine-textured appearance and are indistinguishable from the leaves of *Dicentra cucullaria*, which I would see a few days later. The plant grows to about 1-foot tall and gets its common name from its yellow tubers that look like grains of corn. This plant will do well in the shady corner of your garden but make sure you plant it along with summer interest plants as squirrel corn disappears when warm weather sets in.

A few days after the squirrel corn sighting, I was hiking along an exposed rock area known as White Rock Cliffs in North Carolina. It was a beautiful, sunny day offering incredible views of the southern Appalachians. But I also had my eyes on the ground, where I spotted the first *Erythronium americanum*, commonly known as yellow trout-lily, of the season. These miniature lilies are between 5 and 10 inches tall with nodding, yellow, 1 to 2 inch flowers. This plant grows deeper into the soil with each passing year and can also spread outwards to create a thick carpet of yellow in early spring. The yellow flowers droop towards the ground and have upward curling petals. Yellow trout-lily grows in a moist woodland setting under the shade of large deciduous trees. These delicate lilies look wonderful interplanted with other spring ephemerals.



E. HAEGELE

Erythronium americanum

Within the next week I spotted the other two species of *Dicentra* native to the Appalachians, *Dicentra cucullaria* and *Dicentra eximia*. *Dicentra cucullaria*, Dutchman's breeches, was in full bloom in early April in a North Carolina valley. The flowers of this plant are white with yellow at the base, and form on a leafless stem arching above the leaves. They resemble a pair of pants, thus the common name. Dutchman's breeches grow to about 1-foot tall in rich, moist woodlands and will be a lovely addition to your woodland garden with partial to full shade. These are also ephemeral, so expect their showiness to be brief before they go dormant. On my way to Watauga Lake, Tennessee, the trail was surrounded by *Dicentra eximia*, wild bleeding-heart. An endangered plant in the state of Pennsylvania, wild bleeding-heart seemed to be everywhere on the trail that day in mid-April. The deeply cut leaves are reminiscent of the other species of *Dicentra* but the flowers are a striking pink color lighting up the early spring forest floor. Flowers

Dicentra cucullaria



E. HAEGELE

Dicentra canadensis



E. HAEGELE



Aquilegia canadensis

E. HARGELE

are heart-shaped with an inner petal that gives the appearance of a bleeding heart, and occur on branching flower stems. This plant also does well in moist, well-drained soil in full to part shade.

On the final day of April in southwest Virginia, I stumbled upon my favorite wildflower, *Aquilegia canadensis*. Wild columbine is easily grown in well-drained soil in full to part shade. Its drooping bell-like flowers with red sepals, yellow petals, and five red spurs offer a striking contrast to the whites and pinks of most early blooming wildflowers in the Appalachians as well as in your garden. This plant remains attractive throughout the spring season and can be used in your woodland garden or even in your perennial border.

I continued to find wildflowers and blooming shrubs and trees throughout the summer and fall all the way to Maine. But it was these early flowering plants that inspired me to keep hiking and gave me hope that soon the woods would be green with life. Adding some of these plants to your garden can give you the same hope of a glorious growing season just around the corner.

In an effort to appreciate and encourage these wildflowers it is very important to make sure they are not being depleted from the wild. If you decide to add these beauties to your garden, be sure you purchase them from a reputable source where they have been nursery propagated.

Good resources:

The American Woodland Garden:

Capturing the Spirit of the Deciduous Forest by Rick Darke

The Natural Shade Garden by Ken Druse

Growing Woodland Plants by Clarence Birdseye

The Wild Gardener:

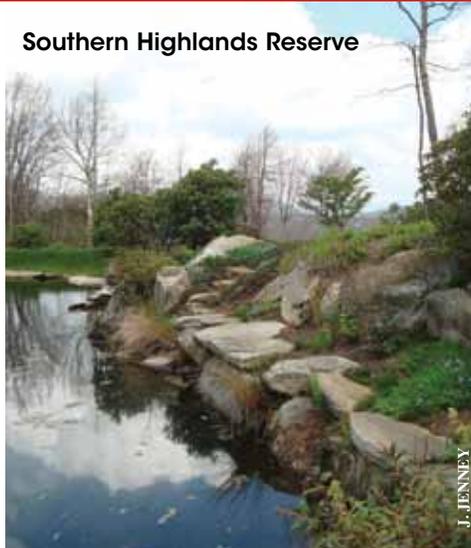
On Flowers and Foliage for the Natural Border by Peter Loewer

Join Scott Associates for a Southern Excursion! June 7 – 10, Gardens of Charlotte and Asheville, North Carolina

Inspiring gardens, delicious food, great company, and breathtaking views will fill this trip to the brim. Travel with Julie Jenney to experience Daniel Stowe Botanic Garden, Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory and Arboretum, Southern Highlands Reserve, the Biltmore Estate, and dinner on the Sunset Terrace of the Grove Park Inn. For a sneak peek at a very special site I encourage you to visit the website of Southern Highlands Reserve (www.southernhighlandsreserve.org) to get a sense of how amazing this property is!

This four-day excursion is sure to be a memorable, educational, and beautiful experience. For an itinerary contact Julie at 610-328-8024.

Southern Highlands Reserve



J. JENNEY



J. JENNEY

Sunset Terrace at the Grove Park Inn



J. JENNEY

A tasty meal in Asheville



J. JENNEY

Daniel Stowe Botanic Garden



Rudbeckia submentosa 'Henry Eilers'

Stephanie Cohen Highlights Native Perennials

Julie Jenney



Geranium maculatum 'Espresso'

On Sunday, January 17, the Scott Arboretum co-sponsored a lecture with the Hardy Plant Society/Mid-Atlantic Chapter and we were pleased to welcome local "Perennial Diva," Stephanie Cohen as our speaker. Over 70 plants were highlighted in her lecture, *Native Perennials: From Field, Forest, and Wetlands to Test Tubes*, so to narrow it down I chose a few to plant now for summer blooms.

Though the combination of dark foliage and lavender flowers is fantastic, the dark red-brown foliage on its own makes *Geranium maculatum* 'Espresso' a great addition to the garden. A selection from the woods near North Creek Nurseries in Landenberg, Pennsylvania, this

cranesbill can be used as a groundcover or a feature plant, in a wildflower garden or a container. In the wild this cranesbill is found in open woods, clearings, and roadsides but prefers average to moist soil with good drainage. 'Espresso' tolerates shade, but don't plant it in too dark of a corner, as the dark foliage will get lost. The mound of foliage can reach 8 to 12 inches with the pale lavender blooms rising above it in late spring to early summer. 'Espresso' is hardy in zones 3 to 9 and deer resistant.

The tubular or quilled ray flowers of new *Echinacea* and *Coreopsis* cultivars are a look that I am liking more and more with their fine-textured quality. Discovered in a Midwestern prairie, *Rudbeckia submentosa* 'Henry Eilers' is a drought-tolerant perennial perfect for the back of a sunny border, reaching 3 to 5 feet on sturdy, upright stems. The narrow ray flowers are a bright yellow, blooming mid-summer to early fall and the centers are the classic *Rudbeckia* dark velvety brown. The foliage is rumored to be vanilla scented. 'Henry Eilers' is hardy in zones 4 through 8.

Native to woodland glades from Alabama to Pennsylvania, *Delphinium exaltatum*, tall larkspur, is happy in bright to average shade. Though some may say the gentian blue flowers are not as showy as other delphiniums, I find these larkspur-like blooms quite beautiful. For the best effect, plant this perennial in a mass or small groupings instead of as a single specimen. Flowers appear July to September atop 3 to 6 foot stems. The foliage is also handsome, often appearing grayish green, each leaf divided into three to five lobes. Since the blooms appear later in the season, the foliage remains attractive longer. It is described as a large and vigorous plant that may seed in, so be sure to give it plenty of room in rich, high-organic soil. *Delphinium exaltatum* will not tolerate clay soils. It is hardy in zones 5 through 8. Please note that all parts of this plant are poisonous.

Coreopsis pubescens 'Sunshine Superman' is another original from North Creek Nurseries and is prized for its cheerful non-stop blooms that appear in mid-summer and last through September. The golden yellow flowers of this *Coreopsis* are 2 inches in diameter and shine atop low spreading, slightly fuzzy bright green foliage. Reaching 10 to 12 inches and spreading 2 to 3 feet, 'Sunshine Superman' is more compact than *Coreopsis pubescens*. Tolerant of a variety of conditions it prefers full sun to part shade and average to dry soil. To extend bloom time, cut back spent flowers. 'Sunshine Superman' is hardy in zones 5 through 9.



Coreopsis pubescens 'Sunshine Superman'

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HYBRID
THE SCOTT ARBORETUM OF SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

Spring Plant Sales

The Providence Garden Club of Pennsylvania
62nd Annual Plant Sale
Saturday, May 1 • 9 am to 2 pm
Williamson Free School of
Mechanical Trades
106 Middletown Road, Media

Swarthmore Garden Club's Herb Sale
Saturday, May 8 • 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
Swarthmore Borough Hall

Scott Associates Members' Plant Exchange
Saturday, May 15 • 10 am
Wister Center Parking Lot



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This will be the 15th annual Exchange where members of the Scott Arboretum come together to donate and exchange plants from their own gardens. See enclosed brochure for more details.

www.scottarboretum.org

Thank you to North Creek Nurseries, Inc. who supplied the images for this article.