West Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association, Inc.
1517 Kingwood Pike Morgantown, WV 26508-3938

Official Bulletin of the West Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association, Inc. March 15, 2008
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WVNLA WINTER MEETING BIGGEST YET!

The nationally renowned speakers were outstanding, covering new plant introductions (Don Shadow and Rick Crowder) as well as those still being evaluated. The presenters pictured and described such plants as dogwoods (Paul Cappiello), Japanese maples (Fred Hooks), perennials (Tony Avent) and annuals (Maria Bolinger). Don Shadow topped his presentation off with pictures of his exotic animals! Alex Niemiera gave a presentation on invasive plants. And then there were the inspiring and showy presentations on gardens and garden design by Joe Eck, Wayne Winterrowd, Marcia Donahue and Chip Callaway. Linda Talley, Bob Negan and Jerry Teplitz talked about retailing, branding, coaching, increasing sales and interaction with employees and customers. The Embassy Suites Hotel in Charleston put on a very special and tasty lunch for us in their lavish Atrium Area with its jungle-like ambience created with an assortment of large tropical plants, ascending and descending elevators resembling rocket ships, and glass roof soaring several stories above.

Above: WVNLA Treasurer Mark Springer receives the Nurseryman of the Year Award from President Cary Levenson at the WVNLA Winter Meeting, January 29, 2008. Mark has served WVNLA as Treasurer since 1997.

Your 2007-2008 stickers for your membership plaques are attached in the centerfold of this newsletter.

Above left: Holding plaques presented him by President Cary Levenson, Jim Monroe, Sr., expresses his appreciation for the Awards to his fellow members at the WVNLA Winter meeting January 29, 2008. His first Award was Life Membership in WVNLA. He had been Secretary from 1977-1996 and President in 1967. Jim's second Award recognized his long service to the Mid Atlantic Nursery Trade Show. He had been President of the MANTS Board of Directors in 2005 and 1999, Vice-President in 2004 and 1998, Secretary in 2003 and 1997 and Director from 2000 to 2002 and 1995 to 1996.

Above right: Norman Cole, Jr., receives a plaque declaring him a WVNLA Life Member from President Levenson. Norman had been WVNLA President from 1965 to 1966, Vice-President in 1957 and 1964, and Treasurer from 1967 to 1996.

After the Awards were presented to Jim and Norman, Aaron Helmick said that Norman Cole, Jr., and James Monroe, Sr., were "the elder statesmen of WVNLA", and, "all we do is built on the efforts of these". "These were my mentors when I joined".

MINUTES

West Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association, Inc.

Business Meeting
Embassy Suites Hotel

Charleston, WV

January 30, 2008

The West Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association Business Meeting was called to order by President Cary Levenson on Wednesday, January 30, 2008, at 11:45 am. Present were Active Members Cary Levenson, Brett Merritt, Mark Springer, Pat Biafore, Norman Cole, III, Becky Morris, Bill Mills, Tracy Cutlip, Aaron Helmick, Everett Hendrixon, Danny Davis, John Jett, Bob Gritt, and Life Members Norman Cole, Jr., and Carson Turner.

Minutes Brett Merritt moved to accept the August 2, 2007, Minutes as read. Danny Davis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report Treasurer Mark Springer gave the following report as of January 28, 2008.

Cash management account	$135,596.00
Investments – Equities	$439,874.00
Investments – Mutual Funds	$107,870.00
Total assets	$683,340.00

Note: Year to date interest and dividends $12,930.00

Total assets this time last year $567,844.00

Funds spent year to date $145,608.00

President Levenson announced that the following awards had been presented during the afternoon of January 29 due to inability of some of the awardees to attend today's Business Meeting. Life Membership to Norman Cole, Jr. and James Monroe, Sr., MANTS service award to James Monroe, Sr., and Nurseryman of the Year 2008 to Mark Springer. Aaron Helmick said that Norman Cole, Jr., and James Monroe, Sr., were "the elder statesmen of WVNLA", and, "all we do is built on the efforts of these". "These were my mentors when I joined".

Old Business

Blue Star Memorials Brad Bearce reported that the WV Garden Club will erect 2 Byway Markers, 2 Highway Markers and 2 Memorial Markers in 2008, using $5,240 of the $15,000 dedicated by WVNLA for this project.

New Business

Long Range Planning Committee President Levenson said that the purpose of the Long Range Planning Committee is to look into the future of the organization's activities. Accomplishments to date are: 1) Upgrading of the WVNLA website. 2) Review and revision of the

(Continued on page 4)

(Minutes continued from page 3)

Bylaws to make sure they are up to date and legal, now that WVNLA is registered as a non-profit organization. 3) Planning to fund a single scholar instead of several, as has been done in the past. 4) Planning and carrying out projects. The Board of Directors has selected YWCA Sojourners Shelter for homeless, families and children in Charleston for its first project. WVNLA will develop a plan and install a landscape for the shelter. Those wishing to participate were asked to sign up on a provided sheet or contact a Board member. Norman Cole, Jr., said that former long time Secretary Waldo Craig left money to WVNLA which has never been used. Could this project bear his name? Carson Turner said that Waldo Craig held the organization together for 25 years. It would be good to memorialize him with this project. President Levenson said that this is an option which we'll consider as we progress.

MANTS Report Mark Springer reported that MANTS 2008 attendance and hotel occupancy were increased over 2007. MANTS is doing well. There is a good waiting list of exhibitors. MANTS is a strong show.

Other There was no Other Business.

Next Business Meeting The next Business Meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 21-22, 2009, at The Embassy Suites Hotel, Charleston, WV, unless the Green Growing Show conflicts. In that case, the meeting will be moved to February.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Brad Bearce, Executive Director

We regret to announce the death of Anne Springer, Mother of Mark Springer, on Sunday, March 23, 2008, after a short fight with cancer. She got an infection after her last chemo that was just too much for her to fight.

WVNLA FUNDS RESEARCH PROGRAM AT VIRGINIA TECH

At its January 30, 2008, meeting, the WVNLA Board of Directors voted to donate $14,704.00 to fund the research of Dr. Alex Niemiera of Virginia Tech, Blacksburg. Dr. Niemiera's research is on development of online woody landscape courses. These courses will be available to WV Green Industry members as well as those in other states.

WVNLA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

The following firms have applied for membership in the West Virginia Nursery & Landscape Associations, Inc. Members are requested to forward to WVNLA any comments they may have on the qualifications of these applicants.

GRITT'S MIDWAY GREENHOUSES
Penny Goff
Route 2, Box 2B
Red House, WV 25168
Tel: 304-586-2449
ACTIVE

SAUNDERS BROTHERS, iNC.
Beth Scott
2717 Tye Brook Highway
Piny River, VA 22964
Tel: 434-277-5455
ASSOCIATE

NEW WVNLA MEMBERS

The following firms have been admitted to membership in the West Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association. Let's give them a call and welcome them to our Association!

GREENBRIER VALLEY DREAMSCAPES, LLC
Curtis Dowdy
RR 2, Box 164
Lewisburg, WV 24901
Tel: 304-661-6224
ACTIVE

YARDESCAPES
Dee (Denise) Fournier
250 Wild Turkey Lane
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411
Tel: 304-258-5899
ACTIVE

WVNLA SUPPORTS WVU HORTICULTURE PROGRAM WITH DONATIONS

At its January 30, 2008, meeting, the WVNLA Board voted to make its annual donation of $5,000 to the WVU Horticulture Program. An additional $15,000 in funds to be matched by WVU was allocated for development of a proposed new nursery management program in the WVU Horticulture Section.

BLUE STAR MEMORIALS FINANCED BY WVNLA

The WVNLA Board of Directors, at its November 15, 2007, voted to donate $15,000 for erection of Blue Star Memorials by the West Virginia Garden Club, Inc. These memorials, found throughout this and other States, at road side rests, veterans' hospitals and other prominent sites, are erected in remembrance of the sacrifices of veterans of all branches of the Armed Forces in past and present conflicts involving the United States of America. Since the donation was made, four Memorials have been erected at a total cost of $4,520, one at the World War Memorial Building, in Kimball, McDowell County; one at the Interstate 81 southbound Welcome Center in Berkeley County; one at the WV Route 33/Morton Avenue exit at Buckhannon, and one at the Veterans' Administration Medical Center in Huntington. The Huntington memorial completes the placing of memorials at all VA Medical Centers in West Virginia.

WVNLA'S WEBSITE HAS BEEN UPGRADED

The Long Range Planning Committee has hired a Webmaster, Charlie Bowen, to upgrade the growit.com website for WVNLA. Take a look! We think you'll agree that some great improvements have been made. Let us know what you think of them. And, if you lose your hard copy of your newsletter, look on growit.com, and you'll find it there. Charlie has posted all the 2007 newsletters and has the January and March 2008 newsletters on there as well. The Special Edition covering the Sojourner's Shelter Project is there with the other newsletters Log on and enjoy!

Connecticut Nursery & Landscape Association (CNLA) Update Jan. 18, 2008

Connecticut's Green Industry will get a year to self-regulate in banning a plant under a ground-breaking new decision unanimously approved by the state's invasive plant council last week. Rather than ask the state legislature to pass a legal ban on Porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*), the Council is testing the green industry's ability to stop sales and production on its own. This signals a departure from previous policies that marked Connecticut as the state banning the most invasive plants (81 plants) by law. At CNLA's annual meeting in Waterbury Tuesday, the Association's members unanimously passed a new policy urging green industry companies to stop sales and growing of Ampelopsis. This is not the first time--Connecticut nurseryman in the late 1980s voluntarily stopped producing Autumn Olive long before the word "invasive" became so fashionable.

Connecticut florists will be spared the filing of sales tax returns with 50 states after the decision last week in Hartford of a study commission ***not*** to recommend the state sign on to the national Strealined Sales Tax (SST) project. The panel cited the objections of Connecticut's florists along with our state's intricate use of sales tax exemptions that would make adoption of the SST here "premature". The CN Florists' Association told the study group almost half of the state's flower shops are not computerized, and it would become a huge burden every month for the florists to fill out as many as 50 separate state sales tax returns. Currently, the state abides by "Regulation F" of its own sales tax regulations that requires florists simply to file one sales tax return incorporating both the local sales and wires-out-of-state. 22 states have signed on to the SST, which endeavors to collect sales tax on out-of-state orders, including internet business. But the CT study commission discovered the state would actually lose sales tax revenue if it passed the SST.

March 14 Fines for knowingly employing illegal aliens will rise March 27 , announced U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey. The fines will also apply to employers who fail to comply with requirements of verification forms such as I-9, or condone immigration-related document fraud. Fines for a first violation rise to $3,200. Maximum civil penalties for multiple violations go up to $16,000, assessed on a per-alien basis. CT's green industry is currently working to schedule a comprehensive briefing for employers on complying with the laws on alien labor. Watch for a future notice.

Journal of Environmental Horticulture: Selected December 2007 Abstract

Impact of Mulches on Landscape Plants and the Environment - A Review Linda Chalker-Scott. Washington State University, Puyallup Research and Extension Center, 7612 Pioneer Way E., Puyallup, WA 98371. *Journal of Environmental Horticulture 25(4):239-249. December 2007.* (The Journal is published quarterly by the Horticultural Research Institute, to which WVNLA regularly contributes.) Mulches provide aesthetic, economic and environmental benefits to urban landscapes. Mulching is especially useful in the establishment of trees in landscapes that receive minimal care, such as restoration sites. In general, mulches improve soil health, creating healthy populations of plants and associated animals. These biodiverse, stable landscapes are more resistant to stress, are more aesthetically pleasing, require fewer applications of pesticides and fertilizers, and are ultimately more sustainable than those without mulch cover. All mulches are not created equally, however, and this review compares the costs and benefits of landscape mulches as reported in the scientific literature. It also presents real and perceived problems associated with various landscape mulches.

Acidification. Organic mulches such as wood chips and bark are thought by some to be soil acidifiers. No scientific research supports this, and in fact studies refute this perception. Neither pine bark nor needles was found to have any effect on soil pH and, in another study, bare soil was found to be more acidic than mulched soil. Another

(Continued on page 6)

(Mulch problems continued from page 5)

study found that soils under organic mulches were either more alkaline or not affected by mulch treatment.

Allelopathy. Allelopathy is the inhibition of seed germination and growth of plants through the release of chemicals and apparently plays a large part in the weed-controlling behavior of many organic and living mulches. Juglone from all parts of black walnut is the classic example, where seedlings and shallowly rooted plants can be injured or killed where juglone is present in mulches. Mulches made of pine, eucalyptus, and acacia were able to suppress germination of several common weed species as were water extracts of these materials, supporting an allelopathic function. Grasses may be less affected. It is unlikely that any properly applied landscape mulch will have allelopathic effects on established landscape plants, but is most likely to injure newly planted or shallowly rooted plants in the landscape. For such plants, a short period of composting and correct application of woody mulch will prevent damage.

Competition. Living mulches can be competitive with landscape plants for water, nutrients, and space. Turf and other grasses are very competitive, especially during plant establishment, and so should be kept away from newly installed shrubs and trees and can easily be replaced with an organic mulch, which allow rapid root establishment without competition from turf roots.

Chemical contamination. As with composts, woody mulch quality is influenced by the source of materials. Mulches created from branches and tree trimmings often contain a diversity of leaves, wood and bark, which contributes to a highly functional mulch. In contrast, woody mulch made from wood recovered from construction and demolition debris can contain pressure-treated lumber. In one Florida study, 18 or 22 samples collected from debris processing facilities contained arsenic (from chromated copper arsenate-treated wood) at concentrations greater then the state's allowable levels. Similarly, mill wastes that contained formaldehyde and other wood processing residues reduced survival of tree seedlings when used as a mulch.

Disease. Mulches made from diseased plant materials can contain those pathogens. For this reason, many mulches are composted or otherwise treated at temperatures that kill the pathogens along with other harmless or beneficial organisms. Therefore, many commercially available orgnic mulches are relatively sterile.

While mulches made from diseased wood can contain viable populations of pathogens, such as honey locust canker, few examples of disease transference exist in the literature. Organisms such as *Verticillium* (wilt-causing fungus), *Armillaria* (root rot causing), and *Botrosphaeria ribis* (canker causing) failed to transmit to susceptible landscape plants in experiments involving diseased mulch materials. The only evidence of disease transmission occurred when foliage from Austrian pines infected with tip blight fungus was used as a mulch around healthy saplings of the same species. No trees of other species were infected. Austrian pine is especially susceptible to this pathogen.

While disease transmission from mulch to tree is unlikely, infection from backfill soil mixed with wood chips is possible. Rhododendron plants were killed by *Phytophthora* after they were planted in soil mixed with 13% wood chips. Wood chips mixed into a potting mix also caused death of plants from *Verticillium dahliae* (wilt fungus).

Many landscape pathogens are widespread in soils and may act as decomposers as long as soils are healthy with competing miroorganisms. When soils become compacted and anaerobic, plants decline and become susceptible to opportunistic pathogenic microbes - alway present but inactive in healthy soils.

Flammability. Though there are documented incidences of spontaneous combustion of yard wastes, in general wood based mulches are not flammable. A recent comparison of 13 landscape mulches found rubber mulch to be the most flammable, followed by fine textured organic mulches (dried pine needles, straw, shredded bark), coarse textured organic mulches (chipped wood, bark nuggets, cocoa shells), mulches with higher water content (composted yard waste and sod), and finally brick chips (which never ignited). These comparisons should be carefully considered when mulching in regions where there is significant fire danger.

Other problems such as nitrogen deficiency, pests, including termites, cockroaches, carpet beetles, ants, ticks, weeds and undesirable organisms such as artillery fungus and the bright yellow mass of 'dog vomit fungus' are also covered in this article..

More details are given in the complete articles in the December 2007 J. Environ. Hort. If anyone would like a reprint of the articles, please contact Brad Bearce.

Trees & Utilities
National Conference
April 7-9, 2008
Wyndham Orlando Resort
Orlando, Florida

This conference is loaded with timely and important information on:
Utility/community partnerships,
tree care and vegetation management,
public education and communication
New pruning research
Innovative solutions
Regulatory developments
Tree Line USA recognition program
Find out more and register at arborday.org/TUConference or call 888-448-7337. The conference is presented by the Arbor Day Foundation, P.O. Box 81415, Lincoln, NE 68501-1415.

New (2nd Edition) Best Management Practices: Guide for Producing Nursery Crops
Available at WVNLA Office

This 2007 Guide , published by the Southern Nursery Association, in addition to the updated sections on irrigation, container management and water and nutrition management, contains a brand-new section on Field Production of Nursery Stock.

The SNA has sent several copies to this office. Those members wishing to receive a copy should contact Brad Bearce at 800-239-0796 or email him at wvnla@prodigy.net. First come, first served!

Linda Talley's SUCCESS Newsletter

What you think and feel is what you get.

Have you ever creaked out of bed and said, “Oh God, it’s morning”? Happens to many people. And, guess what? That sets the tone for the next minute, the next hour, the rest of the day. In this situation, your physiology was a doggy-downer and so your attitude became a doggy downer. It could also have happened the opposite way around where your attitude infected your physiology. Either way, you have to know when this happens and what to do about it. No offense to the doctors and psychologists, but I believe that some depression is simply an addiction to a monster attitude. It’s much easier to say “I am so sad, so depressed, in such a bad mood” than to take action to change it. And, if you are addicted to that attitude and it gets you what you want, ie, attention, visibility, lack of goal achievement, excuses, getting to argue and keep your limitations, etc, why change?

Some people tell me they can’t do it without drugs. Maybe that’s true and maybe it’s not. However, it’s your body and your mind and you can change it if you want. This puts you in control rather than being at the effect of other people, your job, your family. And when you are in control, things work much better for you. In other words, if you are in sales, you will make more sales because you are not at the effect of a customer, your boss, the manufacturer. If you are a teacher, you will connect with your students better because it’s not about them, their parents, the other teachers, it’s about you. If you are in administration, you’ll get a lot more done because it’s not about the boss, the co-worker, it’s about you.

So how do you change yourself? Well, I suggest you begin with your physiology. Sit quietly and smile. You don’t have to be smiling at anyone or anything. Just sit there and smile. Do it for at least 1 minute. Notice a change? You bet! You can’t help but feel better because you have changed your physiology with a smile. Next, put a great big grin on your face—show those pearly whites and begin saying to yourself: “I love myself, I love myself, I love myself!” Say it over and over again to yourself for at least one minute. Notice a difference? You bet! Now try to be sad or depressed. Doesn’t work, does it? Your physiology has just changed your attitude.

Next, change your physiology with your attitude. Stand in front of a mirror and repeat: “I love myself, I love myself, I love myself!” Repeat it over and over while you look at yourself in the mirror. Keep watching because you will begin to see a smile. Don’t inhibit yourself! Let the smile come through! You have just changed your physiology with your attitude.
Try these life changing techniques at your next sales meeting, staff meeting and most particularly, on yourself! It’s about creating emotion within you and when you know how to do this for yourself, you can share it with others because you know how to create and manage your experiences to create the emotions you want and the results will follow! Don’t believe me? Try it!

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NEW Article: Are You Tolerant of Risks? Click on ARTICLES on the left side after entering the web site. www.lindatalley.com

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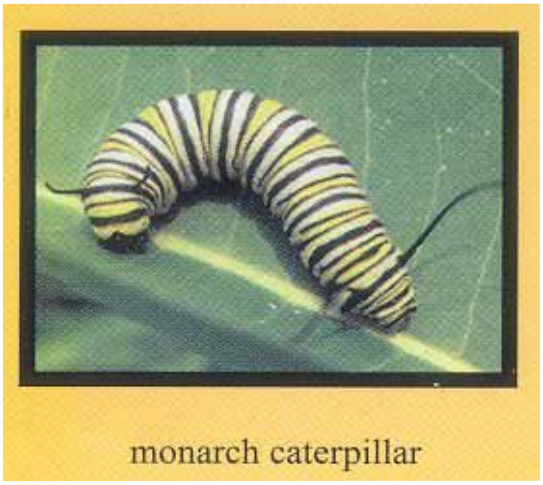
Elm Yellows (EY) is a systemic disease which occurs in the eastern half of the U.S. and southern Ontario. It is caused by a MLO (mycoplasma-like organism) which is classified between a virus and a bacterium. The disease is vectored by leafhoppers.

Highly susceptible plants die rapidly, tolerant ones become stunted and may develop clorosis and witches' brooms. Symptoms usually develop mid-late summer, which include the death of root hairs and tips followed by foliar wilt.

Leaves turn yellow, then brown and curl up. Usually there is premature casting of leaves. There may be a winter-green odor emanating from the bark as well as a yellowing of sapwood. Generally, the tree dies a few weeks after the foliar symptoms manifest themselves.

There is no known effective treatment for EY, so disposal of trees is the only option. The most preventative measure is controlling the leafhoppers.

(Pictures and text are reproduced by permission of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture from the 2008 Cooperative Forest Health Protection Programs Calendar.)



monarch caterpillar

Monarch Butterflies

West Virginia's state butterfly, the monarch, is well known for its striking beauty and lengthy annual migrations. Unfortunately, monarch populations are being threatened by deforestation and habitat destruction.

In the eastern U.S., monarchs fly south in the fall and spend the winter congregated at several sites in the mountain forests of Mexico.

In the late winter, the butterflies begin flying north. They lay eggs on milkweed plants and their larvae feed and mature. Each successive generation pushes farther northward. The last generation completes the cycle by flying back to Mexico.

In North America, monarch habitat is quickly being destroyed by development.

Deforestation in Mexico has dramatically reduced the number and quality of overwintering sites.

(Pictures and text are reproduced by permission of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture from the 2008 Cooperative Forest Health Protection Programs Calendar.)

Big Tree of the Month
Allegheny Serviceberry

West Virginia Division of Forestry
Charleston, WV
http://www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/a/amelae/amelae1.html

One of the first trees to flower in spring, *Amelanchier laevis*, Allegheny Serviceberry produces fleecy, showy but short lived white 0.5-0.8 inch long blooms with glabrous pedicels on 4 inch long panicles in late April, when the leaves are about half-grown. The name is traced to early American history. Funeral services were held in the spring for people that had died the previous winter. These services usually coincided with the blossoming of this tree.

It's not a timber species because of its small size, however, the hard, heavy, strong, close-grained, dark brown often tinged with red, wood (with thick paler sapwood) has been used for tool handles and in the manufacture of fishing rods.

The white, linear to oblong, ½ to 1 inch long petals of this member of the rose family (*Rosaceae*) are inserted on the bell-shaped calyx tube, which in turn is inserted on top of the inferior ovary. The persistent calyx causes the fruit to resemble blueberry fruit.

The glabrous leaves are bronzy as they unfold (a good way to distinguish *A. laevis* from other Serviceberry species), turning dark-green as they mature. Leaves are alternate, elliptical to ovate, and 1 1/4 to 3 inches long, with finely toothed margins. In winter, the pointed 0.5" long green buds with red edges and silky white hairs help in the identification of this species.

The small (1/4-1/3 inch long) purple/black sweet pome fruits mature from June to July and are used to make pies and jams. The Allegheny Serviceberry makes an excellent food source for animals and birds as well as a great habitat for birds. The American Indians enjoyed the fruits. This tree is a lovely ornamental, with leaves turning shades of yellow-orange to red and falling early during the autumn.

It is native to Canada down through Georgia and across to Kansas and is hardy to zone 4. This deciduous tree is 15' to 25' tall and 5' to 10' wide, multi-stemmed with medium texture and medium growth rate. The stems are slender and glabrous, the younger stems coloured reddish brown with dull gray smooth striped older bark. Allegheny Serviceberry prefers full sun and wet sites. It can be pruned up to form a small tree. It transplants easily.

In the landscape, the smooth stripe-patterned bark of Allegheny Serviceberry creates a pleasant effect. It can be used as a specimen or in small groups. Its early flowers and fall color are additional attractions.

Liabilities are itssusceptibility to rusts, scales, aphids and mildews.

Propagation is by seed (scarification followed by 2 months of cold stratification); cuttings, taken in midsummer, treated with 1% IBA and placed under mist; and tissue culture.

Cultivars/Varieties of *A. laevis* listed are:

'Cumulus' - Usually grown as a single-stem tree or grafted, this selection can be used where a small tree is called for. The habit is upright-oval with reduced horizontal branch spread (to 30' tall, 20' wide). Both flower set and fall color are very good, but some observers claim that this selection may be prone to fire blight damage..

'Prince Charles' - An upright form (to 25' tall) with early flowers before the leaves and fruit that supposedly is quite pleasant to the taste. New leaves are bronzy-red and the fall foliage is orange-red.

'R.J. Hilton' - A Canadian selection said to exhibit overall fine characteristics. The form is tree-like.

'Snowcloud' - A fastigiate form with a narrow outline (25' tall, 15' wide) and fine quality purple-black fruits. The summer foliage is blue-green and these leaves turn orange in fall.

The West Virginia Allegheny Serviceberry Big Tree is located at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Campground in Mineral County and was nominated by L. Lamb in 1987 and updated by L. Tabor in 1998. It is 54 inches in trunk circumference (17 inches DBH), 85 feet tall and has an average crown spread of 34 feet. According to Dirr (1998 Manual of Woody Landscape Plants), co-national champions are 78 feet tall by 47 feet wide and 73 by 38 in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Plant of the Month
Yellow Buckeye

West Virginia Division of Forestry
Charleston, WV
http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/treeselector/detail_plant.cfm?PlantID=173

Yellow (or Sweet) Buckeye, *Aesculus flava*, grows rapidly in most parts of West Virginia, especially along streams. It is believed to have been spread from central West Virginia eastward by Baltimore & Ohio train crewmen who often carried the shiny brown seeds as pocket pieces. Michael Dirr deems this, "the most beautiful of the large growing North American *Aesculus*".

Yellow Buckeye has an upright, oval to slightly spreading crown and typically reaches a height of 60-75 feet. It is hardy from Zones 4 to 8. Our West Virginia Big Yellow Buckeye is located in Clendenin, Kanawha County and was nominated by M. Metz and G. Miller in 1988 and updated by Lance Tabor in 1998. It is 196 feet tall and has an average crown spread of 81 feet. Trunk circumference is 165 inches (52.5 inches DBH). National Champion is 136 by 53 feet at Gabor Mountain Trail, Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Yellow Buckeye flowers are yellow tinged green, 4-petaled, hairy below and borne on erect 6 to 7 inches long by 2 to 3 inch wide loose panicles in May-June. Fruit is a leathery smooth brown capsule, about 2 inches in diameter, usually containing 2 polished, dark brown seeds about 1 to 1 1/2 inches in diameter and with a conspicuous lighter scar (hilum). The seeds contain aesculin, a poisonous substance.

The leaves are opposite and palmately compound with usually 5 leaflets. They are dark green, turning a pumpkin, orange or beautiful golden in fall.

The wood of Yellow Buckeye

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Seventy nine (73) attendees signed in on January 29 and 27 (41) on January 30. Pre-registration count was 92 (84), and about 81 were hand counted in the beginning joint session, so probably some didn't sign in. Pesticide recertification credits were received by 13 (29) attendees. (Numbers in parentheses are 2007 figures.) The low number of pesticide recertification recipients was no doubt due to the fact that only one session was judged eligible for credits by the WV Department of Agriculture. We'll make up for that in 2009. Also, we apologize to those who missed out on the credits by missing the eligible session due to lack of an announcement about that session. We'll do better next year!

The two joint sessions seemed to work well, however, this resulted in low attendance for the business management seminars. Thanks once again for Steve Cavender and Judy Becky of Farm Credit of the Virginias for hosting a raffle. Raffles really enhance a meeting experience.

Twenty six (27) people completed and handed in the evaluation sheets. All of the speakers were judged useful by a majority of the respondents Some glowing remarks were received for some speakers (see Comments below.). A majority also considered the Embassy Suites Hotel to be good to excellent in terms of room, food, service and meeting room accommodations.

EVALUATION OF WVNLA WINTER 2007 MEETING

(Numbers are number of attendees giving a response corresponding to the column heading)

Speaker	Title	Very Useful	Useful	Not Useful	Totals
Tony Avent	Keynote Speech	18	5	2	25
Tony Avent	Herbaceous is Bodacious	19	7	0	26
Don Shadow	New and Elite Plants	12	6	0	18
Maria Bolinger	New Color Varieties	10	10	0	20
Fred Hooks	Japanese Maples	7	14	0	21
Paul Cappiello	Dogwoods and Beyond	13	7	0	20
Don Shadow	untitled	7	10	0	17
Linda Talley	Retailing for Generation X and Y!	3	0	0	3
Linda Talley	Branding, the Ultimate	3	0	0	3
Bob Negan	Coach 'Em to Keep 'Em	3	2	0	5
Bob Negan	Explode Your Sales	3	1	0	4
Joe Eck and Wayne	A Walk Around North Hill	12	6	0	18
Marcia Donahue	Planting Sculpture, Sculpting Plants	8	10	0	18
Chip Callaway	Crises and Triumphs – Adventures in Garden—	16	2	0	18
Rick Crowder	New Plant Introductions – Evaluation & Market	2	3	2	7
Jerry Teplitz"	Increasing Your Professional Power	2	1	1	4
Alex Niemiera'	Invasive Plants	0	6	0	6

Embassy Suites Hotel	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Totals
Room	5	4	0	0	9
Food	12	6	0	0	18
Service	9	5	0	0	14
Meeting Room	10	6	0	0	16

(Continued on page 12)

(Our Winter Meeting 2008 continued from page 11)

Comments on Meeting (Writer wording)**:** Slides and/or Power Point presentations that work!! Room cold, food excellent for once. Beautiful slides of gardens. Joe Eck and Wayne Winterrowd - "beautiful". Marcia Donahue - "different". Chip Callaway - "beautiful gardens". Don Shadow - "Loved the animals!" Alex Niemiera - "Loved the Jay Leno act!!!" Meeting room a little cool. Chip Callaway - "Just an excellent presentation and interesting." Meeting room good except for audio/visual malfunction. This should not be so hard.

What topics would you like in January 2009? Garden maintenance. Composting and soil building for commercial landscapes. To show more live specimens of plants (if possible). Live plants or garden books for door prizes. Computer softward training, i. e., Excel, Word, Powerpoint, CAD. Estimating damage to landscape plants. Big draw celebrity keynote speaker. Parliamentary procedure. Business management, Horticultural processes, more certification credits. George Bohach on Interior Plants. Maybe a little bit of turf information incorporated into some of the lectures. Implementing turf in and around landscapes of homes and commercial sites. More organic ideas for the industry. Crop insurance. Show more live plants. Plants or books for door prizes. More handouts, especially Japanese maples. More on landscape design, hardscaping, turf grasses, lighting in the garden. What's new! More "hands on" sessions such as Peerless, Irrigation, etc.

Why are you a member of WVNLA? For the workshops at the winter meeting. It's my professional association! Networking. Business relationships, information. I work for a landscape co. in WV. Yes. Learn more, new ideas, network. For information, contacts and people with common interests. For contacts & conversation w/peers. Yes. Continued education. Because I love what I do and working to better make the customer aware of what is out there to learn to be a better gardener. To learn, education.

Aster tataricus, Tatarian Aster, in bloom October 2007 at 1517 Kingwood Pike, Morgantown. I first saw this 8 feet tall perennial in full bloom in a pot at Groundworks near Hinton on October 12, 2001. I tried to buy it, but Chris and Torula insisted on giving it to me. It has been a welcome sight in my garden ever since. According to Strausbaugh and Core's Flora of West Virginia, p. 952, it was brought from northeastern Asia and has escaped from cultivation in America.

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/Programs/wq/plants/weeds/aqua011.html

Technical Information About *Phalaris arundinacea* (Reed Canarygrass)

Field of Reed Canarygrass

Seedhead of Reed Canarygrass

At the March 11, 2008, meeting of the West Virginia Invasive Species Working Group Meeting, it was announced that Reed Canarygrass has been added to Garlic Mustard, Japanese Stiltgrass and Ailanthus to form a list of the 4 exotic plant species most disruptive of natural ecosystems, especially as invadors of timber harvest areas in West Virginia.

Description and Variation A highly variable species, reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea* L.) is a rhizomatous perennial grass that can reach three to six feet in height. The sturdy, often hollow stems can be up to 1/2 inch in diameter, with some reddish coloration near the top. The leaf blades are flat and hairless, 1/4 to 3/4 of an inch wide. The flowers are borne in panicles on culms high above the leaves. The panicles are generally three to six inches in length. The species flowers in June and July (Weinmann et al. 1984; Hitchcock et al. 1969).

Economic Importance *Detrimental* - Reed canarygrass forms dense, highly productive single species stands that pose a major threat to many wetland ecosystems. The species grows so vigorously that it is able to inhibit and eliminate competing species (Apfelbaum and Sams 1987). In addition, areas that have existed as reed canarygrass monocultures for extended periods may have seed banks that are devoid of native species (Apfelbaum and Sams 1987). Unlike native wetland vegetation, dense stands of reed canarygrass have little value for wildlife. Few species eat the grass, and the stems grow too densely to provide adequate cover for small mammals and waterfowl (Maia 1994). The species is considered a serious weed along irrigation banks and ditches because infestations can increase siltation (Marten and Heath 1973). When in flower, the species produces abundant pollen and chaff, which aggravate hay fever and allergies (Weinmann et al. 1984).Although reed canarygrass is planted as a forage crop in some areas, the species poses a significant threat to the state's wetlands. Reed canarygrass is extremely aggressive and often forms persistent, monocultures in wetlands and riparian areas. Infestations threaten the diversity of these areas, since the plant chokes out native plants and grows too densely to provide adequate cover for small mammals and waterfowl. The grass can also lead to increased siltation along drainage ditches and streams. Once established, reed canarygrass is difficult to control because it spreads rapidly by rhizomes.*Beneficial* - Frequently cultivated as a forage species, reed canarygrass is an important component of lowland hay from Montana to Wisconsin (Hitchcock 1950). In some areas, the grass has been used for erosion control. The variegated-leaved variety *picta* L. is sometimes grown as an ornamental under the common name "ribbon grass" or "gardener's garters" (Hitchcock 1950; Hitchcock et al. 1969).

Geographic Distribution Reed canarygrass is a circumboreal species (Larson 1993). While possibly native to North America, European cultivars have been widely introduced for use as hay and forage on the continent; there are no easy traits known for differentiating between the native plants and European cultivars (White et al. 1993). The species is rather common throughout most of southern Alaska and Canada, as well as all but the southeastern portion of the U.S. (Hitchcock et al. 1969).

Habitat A wetland plant, this species typically occurs in soils that are saturated or nearly saturated for most of the growing season, but where standing water does not persist for extended periods. However, established stands can tolerate extended periods of inundation. Ideal conditions typically occur in roadside ditches, rights-of-way, river dikes, and levees,shallow marshes, and meadows (Weinmann et al. 1984).

Growth, Development, and Reproduction Reed canarygrass is a perennial species. It spreads by seeds or by creeping rhizomes. The species will also produce roots and shoots from the nodes of freshly cut, well-jointed culms (Marten and Heath 1973). It flowers from June through August in Washington.

Response to Herbicides Glyphosate, Amitrol, Dalapon, and Paraquat have all been tried with some success. Maximum control depends on the timing of application (Apfelbaum and Sams 1987). These herbicides provide control for up to two years at the most. After this period, reed canarygrass recolonizes a treated area from adjacent stands or from seed bank recruitment (White et al. 1993). However, only glyphosate (Rodeo®) is licensed for use in aquatic systems in Washington. Rodeo® application, followed in two to three weeks by prescribed burning has also been effective. The use of fire helps to ensure mortality by killing resprouts and germinants (Apfelbaum 1993).

Response to Cultural Methods Studies in the Midwest indicate that prescribed burning is effective in areas with an existing component of native plants, either above ground or in the soil seed bank. To be effective, burns should be conducted in the late spring, early to mid-summer, or early to mid-fall. Early spring burning stimulates the production of shoots (Apfelbaum 1993).

Response to Mechanical Methods Heavy equipment has been used unsuccessfully in reed canarygrass removal. Rapid regrowth occurs from rhizomes and seeds that remain in the soil even after mechanical removal . Clipping back plants at ground level and covering them with opaque black plastic tarps can reduce but not eliminate populations (Apfelbaum and Sams 1987). However, this method is not always effective because reed canarygrass shoots can grow up through most materials, and seasonal inundation may displace covering materials (Gillespie and Murn 1992). Mowing may be a valuable control method, since it removes seed heads before seed maturation and exposes the ground to light, which promotes the growth of native species. Studies in Wisconsin indicated that twice-yearly mowings (in early to mid-June and early October) led to increased numbers of native species in comparison to reed canarygrass-infested plots that were not mowed (Gillespie and Murn 1992).

Phalaris arundinacea L. Reed Canarygrass. A, Habit-X 0.5; B, ligule-X 1.5; C, spikelet-X 5;D, florets-X5; E, caryopsis-X5.

Ohio Florists's Association Short Course to be held July 12-15, 2008, in Columbus, OH.

Get answers to your most challenging business issues. More than 130 sessions and a 1,400 booth trade show are designed to give you an edge on the competition. Registration and hotel reservations accepted online at www.ofa.org or http://reg.itsmeetings.com/ofa, FAX: 800-521-6017, or phone: 800-424-5249. Pre-registration deadline is June 27, 2008. The complete seminar program and registration/reservation information will be online and mailed in April.

Houses and Their Gardens

The 13th North Hill Garden Symposium will be held June 27, 2008, at Mount Snow Conference, West Dover, Vermont. The Symposium explores the vital relationship between the construction and decoration of houses and the gardens that surround them. Presenters and titles of presentations: Joe Eck, "Hardy's House: The Genesis of North Hill"; Page Dickey, "Houses And Their Gardens: An Intimate Relationship"; Craig Bergmann, "A View From The Window: Garden Personality And Exterior Design"; Wayne Winterrowd, "Confessions Of A Domestic Animal"; Bunny Williams, "The Decoration Of Houses And Garden Style: Two Views Of One Concern"; Jim Buttress VMH, "The Royal Parks And Their Houses". To register, send names, addresses and phone numbers with a check for $150 per person to: North Hill Symposium, North Hill/P.O. Box 178, Readsboro, Vermont 05350.

(Yellow Buckeye continued from page 10)
is light, soft, not strong, close-grained, pale yellowish white. It has been used for carving, turnery and as blind-wood in veneering, as well as for pulpwood and lumber. It is not commercially important to West Virginia.

Yellow Buckeye prefers moist, well drained, slightly acid soils. This tree should not be used along sidewalks as it produces nuts enclosed in large husks, making a litter problem. The fruit may cause mowing problems on lawns as well.

Amelanchier laevis, Allegheny Serviceberry, from top left: flowering understory tree; trunk of tree; flowering branch; fruit showing red color prior to ripening to the purple/black stage and persistent calyx on the end of the fruit; close up of flowers with half grown bronzy leaves. Flower, fruit and trunk pictures from http://www.uconn.edu/plants/a/amelae/amelae1.html.

Above: simple, fine toothed leaves of Allegheny Serviceberry with calyx lobes and style of flower as seen just after petal fall . This photo and the flowering tree photo are courtesy of Ellen Hrabovsky, Morgantown, WV. The fine textured appearance of the white flowers distinguish the *Amelanchier species* from the medium texture of white native dogwood flowers when seen flowering together in spring in the forests along highways.

Aesculus flava, Yellow Buckeye, clockwise from upper left: tree in full leaf in summer; pumpkin, orange, golden (?) fall color; flower clusters (panicles) in May, fruit capsules with the palmately compound leaves. Pictures of tree, flowers, and leaves with fruit from http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/treeselector/detail/.._plant.cfm?PlantID=173. Trunk and seeds pictures from http://www.discoverlife.org/nh/tx/Plantae/Dicotyledoneae/Hippocastanae/Aesculus/flava/. Twig picture was taken by Steven J. Baskauf and is from http://www.cas.vanderbilt.edu/bioimages/species/aefl.htm. Fall color picture is from http://www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/images/low/B985-0628057cs.jpg.