

LAKE WILDERNESS ARBORETUM

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Color and scent in the winter with viburnums!
- Save a tree!
Get your newsletter via email!
- What to do in the garden now!
- Calendar of events and classes!
- Jeff Lowenfels and Ed Hume!

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Branching Out

Variety in Viburnums

John Neorr

Here's a scary thought - in the same sentence *Viburnum opulus* is described as "used for making jelly" and "slightly toxic." Hmm ... I'll take the grape jelly, thank you. "Viburnum" is the common name (as well as the genus) applied to a jelly-making, tummy-aching shrub or tree-like plant that, within its 150 different species and countless cultivars has a wide range of characteristics. Apparently, from the referenced quote, even the same species can have significantly different characteristics.

First, to clear up the contradiction regarding the palatability of *Viburnum opulus*, we need to look at its (sometimes) common name,

highbush cranberry. As it turns out, like a lot of common names, this common name is applied at various times, by various people, to more than one species. In this case, *Viburnum opulus*, or European highbush cranberry (the bad tastin' stuff); *V. trilobum*, American highbush cranberry (the good tastin'



Above *V. Trilobum*, American Highbush Cranberry, tasty Right *V. Edule*, Squashberry, even tast-

stuff); and *V. edule* (the even better tastin' stuff). *V. edule* is more often called squashberry or mooseberry. Squashberry is a Washington native, and even though you might consider its bright red berries tart, the birds love them. If you decide to make a jam or jelly from any of these berries, it is advisable to freeze them first in order to remove some of their tartness. As noted above, viburnums provide a wide variety of characteristics depending on the species selected. They are not too choosy about planting site -

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A Paperless Society

Patty Davis LWA President

Several months ago I elected to receive my newspapers via email. It has made a significant change in my life. I read all the articles from all four of my newspapers before 9am and then I delete them. I can even keep the editions that I want in my email inbox, without messing up my desk.

What a racket! I pay for this privilege and consider it a privilege, not to have a printed copy to recycle or throw away. I believe we need to move further down the recycle path, by using less paper. Getting your subscriptions via the internet takes a little getting used to, but in

the end you will appreciate the lack of paper trash you are recycling or throwing into the landfill.

Order your Newsletter via email and see our pictures in color too! For more info

Contact us at:

Info@LakewildernessArboretum.org

Jeff Lowenfels and Ed Hume



Jeff Lowenfels leading proponent of gardening using the soil food web.

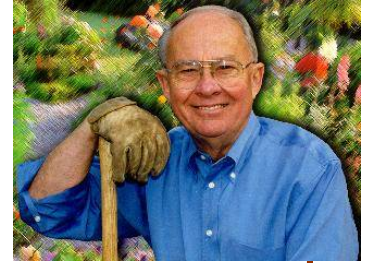
Teaming With Microbes: A Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web, by Anchorage's Jeff Lowenfels and Wayne Lewis, is a 180-page tour of life in the underground, the world of bacteria, fungi, nematodes, protozoa and others, all the good stuff you need in your soil. Join us and welcome Jeff Lowenfels, February 6th - Tuesday from 7-830pm at the Maple Valley Community Center.

After you've learned all about

your soil, let's plant with Ed Hume for Waterwise Annuals for Abundent Summer Color!

Ed Hume will show some of the really colorful annuals we can use for summer color, that thrive on a bit of neglect and will help you conserve on water usage. Plus, Ed will discuss color combinations and some easy ways to properly seed or plant annuals. Covington Creek Nursery of Auburn will be putting on a water wise plant display at the seminar, plus they will be providing

wonderful door prizes. Seminar to be held March 15, 7-830 pm, Please check our website for more information.



Ed Hume TV and radio personality. Author of numerous books.

“Make plans for this year. Write down what you'd like to do differently, and don't lose that list!”

Maggie Says...

Winter is a great time to take a good look around the yard and garden. Are some plants in the wrong place? Too big or small? Most plants are dormant now and can be safely moved if it's not freezing.

While most shrubs and trees are without leaves, it's a good time to prune where needed. Remove dead, diseased, crossed or out of shape limbs.

Wait to prune roses or hardy fuchsias.

Now is also a great time to weed, they don't pop back up so fast again. Shot weed is blooming and seeding most of the year, so mulch well by spring.

Make plans for this year. Write down what you'd like to do differently and don't lose that list!

One of my favorite winter "jobs" is to curl up by the warm fire, hot drink in hand, and read through the dozen or so seed catalogues I receive each year. Every year I try some new vegetables and flowers, just to see what they will do!

Maggie is a Master Gardener . Send your questions to Maggie at- Info@LakeWildernessArboretum.org



A Wilderness Winter Wonderland!

Holiday Fun at the Arboretum

Holiday fun was in full swing at the Arboretum!

Dec. 5th was the volunteer and member recognition party. Desserts, coffee and punch by candlelight, with some holiday music thrown in, made for a festive and fun evening. Patty Davis thanked all our volunteers who have made such

wonderful contributions to the success of the Arboretum this year!

The following evening, we celebrated with the City of Maple Valley by lighting up the Arboretum grounds with twinkling white lights for our first *Wilderness Winter Wonderland*. Pony and train rides; Father

Christmas and his elves; and the Tahoma Middle School choir added to the fun evening held at the arboretum and Lake Wilderness Lodge.



Cakes, cookies and pies. Oh my!

Upcoming Calendar



February

- 1- TWIGS 9am-12
- 3- Rhododendron University 9am-12
- 6- Jeff Lowenfels 7pm-8:30pm
- 7- Branches 9am-12
- 8- TWIGS 9am-12
- 14- Branches 9am-12
- 15-TWIGS 9am-12
- 21- Branches 9am-12
- 22- TWIGS 9am-12
- 25- Hellebore Tea 2pm-4:30pm
- 28- Branches- 9am-12

March

- 1- TWIGS 9am-12
- 3- Rhododendron University with Dr B. Hall 9am-12
- 7- Branches 9am-12
- 8- TWIGS 9am-12
- 14- Branches 9am-12
- 15- TWIGS 9am-12
- 15- Ed Hume 7pm-8:30pm
- 21- Branches 9am-12
- 22- TWIGS 9am-12
- 28- Branches 9am-12
- 29- TWIGS 9am-12

Viburnum cont.

growing well in full sun through partial shade and tolerating alkaline as well as acidic soils. With the possible exception of squashberry, viburnums prefer well-drained soil. Some viburnums are deciduous and others are evergreen. Leatherleaf Viburnum (*Viburnum rhytidophyllum*) is one of the most hardy of the evergreen viburnums. Although a slow grower, this species can grow to 10' tall. All viburnums can be pruned to control their growth and shape. It is best to prune viburnums in the spring or summer after they have flowered or if you want to insure maximum berries for the birds, prune right after the berries have dropped or the birds have eaten them. Another evergreen favorite (I see a lot of it) is *V. davidii*. This plant is hardy and low-growing, making it a useful border plant for year-round color. Viburnums generally do not require a lot of care. I suspect most are drought tolerant or at least have low water

needs after the first year or two. I reviewed several drought tolerant lists, and found a wide variety (and somewhat inconsistent) set of viburnums listed. Only the highbush cranberry is consistently listed as needing "moist" soil. Several viburnums are quite fragrant – the most commonly noted being *V. carlesii* or Korean Spice Viburnum. This shrub has beautiful pink-tinted flowers and provides year-round interest with its flowers in the spring followed by deep purple berries leading up to brilliant red leaves in the fall. Another fragrant species is *V. farreri*, a deciduous shrub that is best pruned to tame its legginess. *V. x burkwoodii*, a cross between *V. carlesii* and *V. utile* is also a fragrant variety.

I checked the Arboretum nursery to see what we had available and found most of the species noted in this article. I did not find *V. carlesii*, but I did find two other very interesting

plants. Both evergreens, *V. x bodnantense* (Dawn Viburnum), which has pink blossoms, and *V. tinus* 'Spring Bouquet,' which has white flowers that actually bloom in the winter!

As you can see, viburnums provide a wide variety of characteristics. If you select a viburnum for your yard, be sure to pick one that meets your requirements. Large or small, evergreen or deciduous, tasty or yucky, there is one out there for you.

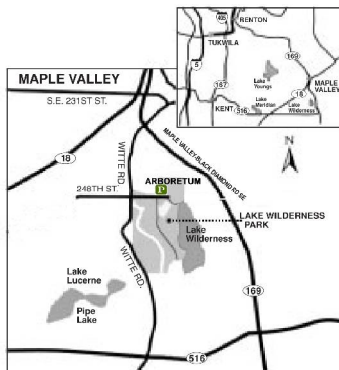


Above, *V. x bodnantense*
Dawn Viburnum blooms in the winter

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E-mail: Info@LakeWildernessArboretum.org
Website: www.LakeWildernessArboretum.org



Located adjacent to the Lake Wilderness Park at **22520 SE 248th St.** in Maple Valley WA.

Phone:
425-413-2572

Lake Wilderness Arboretum

A forty-acre arboretum which has groomed trails for walking, jogging and bicycling through a beautiful natural forest. The Arboretum also contains formal gardens featuring the Smith-Mossman Garden, the largest public collection of wild-collected Western Azaleas in the world, blooming April thru June. We offer many workshops and seminars throughout the year. The Arboretum is open, free to the public, from dawn until dusk.

Lake Wilderness Arboretum Board 07

The foundation welcomes several new board members for the year 2007.

- Mike Sibley (Starbucks)
Board member at large
Budget and Finance chair.
 - Noel Patterson (Microsoft)
Board member at large.
Budget and finance committee.
 - Katie Swickard Master Gardener (Covington Water)
Board member at large.
 - Cindy Osterman Second vice president. (Past president of the Lake Wilderness Arboretum).
 - Marie Lindblom, Publicity and Membership chair.
- Board Membership is as follows:
- Patty Davis President, Education and Conservation Chair.
 - Eric Larson 1st Vice President.
 - Cindy Ostermann 2nd Vice President.
 - Criss Barrett Treasurer.
 - Chris Neorr Recording Secretary.
 - Leona Candler Corresponding Secretary.
- Board Members at Large:
- Mary Kay Bailey
 - Marie Lindblom, Publicity and Membership chair.
 - John Neorr, Forest Steward and Membership committee.
 - Noel Patterson, Budget and Finance.
 - Mike Sibley, Budget and Finance chair.
 - Katie Swickard
 - Maggie Westerlund (Master Gardener).
 - Maria Van Zanen, Property Management and Development chair.