

This Week in the Garden #12: “Happy Thanksgiving” - November 26, 2020
by Don Hyatt - Potomac Valley Chapter ARS

Appreciating Fall Color!

Autumn is waning and winter will be arriving soon. We won't be sending out a regular newsletter until January but I thought I would send out a supplement in late fall to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and best wishes for the coming year. With the promise of covid vaccines becoming widely available in 2021, we hope everyone will remain safe so we can all get back together again. This issue will focus on fall color, not just pretty plants but favorite places on both coasts.

Dues are Due

This is a reminder to renew before December 1 or you will not receive the winter Journal. You may want to contact our treasurer. Note that her email has changed.

Phyllis Rittman, Chapter Treasurer
prittwoman@gmail.com

Membership categories:

Individual/Family.....	\$40.00
Student (proof of age required).....	10.00
Commercial/Corporate.....	90.00
Sustaining	75.00
Sponsoring.....	150.00
Life, single	1,000.00
Life, family.....	1,500.00
Associate (provide name of base chapter).....	10.00

Online Dues Renewals

The ARS now accepts online renewals by credit card or personal Pay Pal account. Check out the ARS Office and click on Membership Services. You will need your membership number which is on the label of your last journal or you can give Phyllis a call.

<https://www.arsoffice.org/>



Japanese Maples in autumn color at the Bonsai Pavilion
 U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, DC



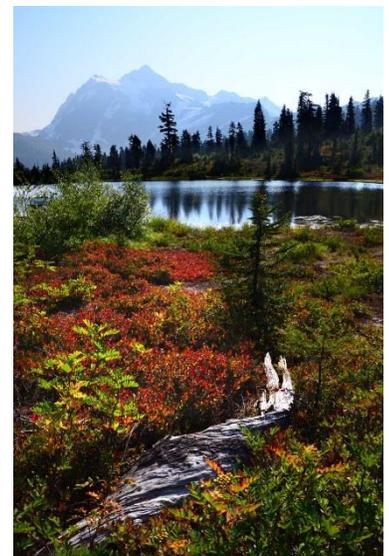
Century-old Japanese Maple (Dissectum) at Winterthur, DE



Japanese Maple (Dissectum form) and *R. yakushimanum*



Vaccinium: Roan Mountain



Vaccinium: Mt. Shuksan, WA

Japanese Maples!

Japanese Maples, *Acer palmatum*, have many plant habits and leaf forms. They make great companion plants in a rhododendron garden and can provide brilliant fall color when little else is in bloom. To the right is a vista in the Beaudry's garden in autumn.

Many varieties sport colorful new growth as it expands in the spring. Leaves can be shades of pink, red, yellow, or green as seen in the picture to the lower right of Frank Fujioka's garden on Whidbey Island, WA. He is a noted rhododendron hybridizer but his Japanese Maples will often steal the show!

Members of our chapter did take a field trip to a wholesale Japanese Maple Nursery outside of Richmond, VA. It is nice to see the wide range of varieties so maybe we can do that again in the future.



Maples brighten Norm & Jean Beaudry's fall garden.



Touring a wholesale Japanese Maple Nursery



Colorful maples in Frank Fujioka's spring garden



The Ginkgo tree is not a maple but it really has the best yellow fall color!



Some Japanese Maples

Top Row: 'Fireglow', 'Flavescens' and 'Shingishijo'
 Middle Row: 'Atrolineare', 'Red Feathers', and 'Bijou'
 Bottom Row: 'Orangeola', 'Fukinagashi', and 'Garnet'



Blueberries (*vaccinium* sp.) turn bright red on Roan in autumn.



R. catawbiense turns Roan Mountain purple in June

The fall color along the Cherohala Skyway, a road south of the Smokies that runs from North Carolina into Tennessee, can be incredible at times. In June, we travel that road to go to Hooper Bald to see the large flowered flame azaleas. In autumn, the fall foliage can be so intense we have actually stopped the car in the middle of the road just to take pictures. It is awesome!

I hope in 2021 that we can travel in June to see the native azaleas and rhododendrons in bloom and then return in October to admire the fall foliage. I usually plan my entire schedule around those displays.



Brilliant fall foliage on the Cherohala Skyway

The Southern Appalachians

Sadly, this year we missed our chapter trip to Roan Mountain, Hooper Bald, and other favorite spots in the Southern Appalachians. The *R. catawbiense* plants that turn Roan mountaintops purple and the brilliant flame azaleas, *R. calendulaceum*, along the Appalachian Trail are amazing. I always look forward to the fall trips in October to collect seed, too. The wild blueberry plants (*vaccinium* species) turn brilliant red and the native azaleas will turn deep burgundy. It is so gorgeous!



R. calendulaceum fall foliage on Roan Mountain



R. calendulaceum along the Appalachian Trail at Roan in June



Large patch of *vaccinium* in peak fall color on Roan Mountain

The North Cascades

I have attended several fall ARS meetings on the West Coast, and when I do, I add some extra days so I can see some of the snow-capped mountains in the North Cascades. Many of the roads are still blocked by snow in the spring when I am attending the western conventions in May. In late September, those majestic peaks get brushed with fresh snow as the fall foliage turns color. Their vaccinium turns deep red, too.

One of my favorite spots is in the North Cascades Winderness area near near Mount Baker and Mount Shuksan. It has some of the most spectacular vistas I have ever seen. Scenic Picture Lake perfectly reflects Mt. Shuksan, and Artist Ridge Trail meanders along a high crest providing breathtaking views of Mt. Baker and Mt. Shuksan. In early summer, those meadows are apparently filled with wildflowers. I must go back!



Vaccinium brightens a fall meadow near Mount Rainier.



On a still day, Mount Shuksan is perfectly reflected in Picture Lake.



Sorbus and Vaccinium at Picture Lake



Mount Baker as viewed from the Artist Ridge Trail

Remember the ARS Store! www.arsstore.org

When you buy online, please go the ARS Store first.
We get a commission from many online businesses.

Garden Share - ARS District 9

www.arspvc.org/newsletter.html

Donald W. Hyatt, Newsletter Editor
donaldhyatt@verizon.net