**MEDIUM SIZE NATIVE SHRUBS FOR GARDENS**

(5 to 8’ tall, roughly organized by succession of bloom)

Beate Popkin

Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin),* early small yellow flowers, somewhat moist and somewhat shady site

Clove currant (*Ribes odoratum*), flowers bright yellow in early, suckers

Fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatic)*, early yellow flowers, pretty in leaf but suckers

Red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia)*, small white flowers in spring and persistent red berries in winter. This shrub is essentially leaveless at the bottom producing its leaves and flowers in the top third of its height. A great plant for narrow spaces and in flower beds.

Black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*), black berries, bushier than red chokeberry

Sweetshrub (*Calycanthus floridus),* unusual, long-lasting, maroon-colored flowers in mid-spring, sun or shade

Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius)*, a fast-growing course but beautiful shrub; needs regular pruning; a number of cultivars are available at garden centers, esp. dark-leaf ones; not all are pretty

Mapleleaf viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*), yellowish-white flowers in spring, thrives in dry shade, suckers and creates colonies, great for naturalizing

Witherod viburnum (*Viburnum cassionoides,* similar: *Virburnum nudum)*, yellowish-white flowers in spring, glossy leaves, won’t tolerate a dry site

American cranberrybush viburnum (*Viburnum trilobum)*, a fast-growing course but pretty shrub, good for a natural effect, good fall color

Arrowleaf viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*), the most commonly planted native viburnum, dense branches, smallish, dark green, glossy leaves, beautiful blue berries that the birds love

Oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolium)*, coarse but very pretty in all seasons, readily available at garden centers, the cultivar ‘Snow Queen’ grows about 6’ tall

Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), this deciduous holly is a valued for its red berries in fall and winter which are also eaten by the birds. It needs a male companion to make berries

Summersweet clethra (*Clethra alnifolia)*, fragrant, blooms white in July-August though a pink-flowering variety is available, needs some moisture and tolerates shade