

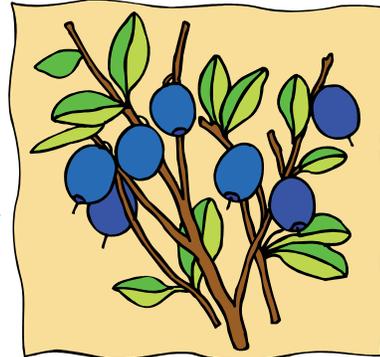


OUTDOOR CLASSROOM CASE STUDY # 8

Eagleswood Elementary School (K-6)
511 Route 9, P.O. Box 355
West Creek, NJ 08092
609-597-3663

OUTDOOR SCIENCE CLASSROOM

The main purpose of this project was to form a wildlife habitat through the planting of Blueberry bushes in the Outdoor-Science Classroom. This project was a community effort and brought in the support and assistance from the local Environmental Commission. Eagleswood Elementary School is a small (150 pupil) school, which is approximately 150 years old. The Blueberry patch will integrate local history into the school's curriculum.



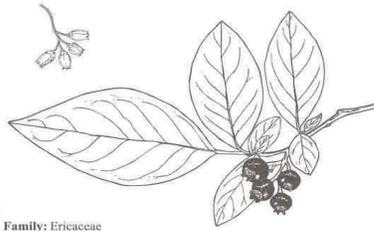
Newsletter Spotlight

- **The \$ Thing**
This project was a part of OCSCD's NonPoint Source Partnership Grant. The application was submitted by the Eagleswood Township Environmental Commission for the amount of \$1000.

The school's small size made it possible to involve the entire student body & the community. Blueberry farming history was integrated into this project and "local" experts helped out.



Highbush blueberry
Vaccinium corymbosum L.



Family: Ericaceae
Name translation: *corymbosum* = "corymbed."
Wetland Indicator Status: FACW-
Habitat and range: Swamps and bogs, less frequently in upland woods or fields; Maine and Nova Scotia to Florida, west to Wisconsin, Illinois, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.
Leaves: Alternate, deciduous, simple, ovate to narrowly elliptic, 1-3 in. (3-8 cm), smooth or hairy, margins toothed or entire,
Stems: Twigs round, reddish or orangish, warty, generally smooth; buds 4-scaled, imbricate, generally reddish; stems eventually yellowish or orangish.
Flowers: Perfect (pistillate sometimes separate), petals fused to form a "bell", 0.2-0.4 in. (5-10 mm), white or greenish-white to pink, stamens 10, stigmas 1; pendulous on short stems, in clusters of 5-17, from axils of leaves; early May to June.
Fruit: Berry, blue and glaucous to black, 0.2-0.5 in. (5-12 mm), globose, smooth, without glands; early July to August.
Highbush blueberry is a widespread species throughout our region on wet lowlands and, less frequently, in upland woods. In New Jersey, the species is frequent statewide on moist, well-drained ground. Highbush blueberry, as per its name, can often be a tall shrub, reaching a height of up to 15 feet (5 m). It is commonly smaller, but still dwarfs the lowbush blueberries it often associates with. This species is rather variable in its appearance, leading some taxonomists to recognize separate varieties and/or species (like *V. caesariense* and *V. atrococcum*). Pollination is achieved through bees; and both bumblebees and honey bees are a common site amongst the small, fragrant, bell-shaped flowers.
Similar species: *V. stamineum* (deerberry) is found statewide in dry open woods and shaded edges, most commonly occurring in the northern half of the state in association with maples and oaks. The species generally grows to 4-5 feet (1.5m) tall and does not form colonies. Whereas the other local blueberries have bell-shaped flowers that constrict at the mouth (like an urn), the white flowers of this species are open-mouthed. The stamens (10) and stigma extend in a cluster well past the mouth and are a conspicuous ID characteristic. The anthers are also different, having a pair of spurs on each (these are absent in the other blueberries). Twigs, flower stems, and petioles are hairy; leaf undersides are also sparsely to densely hairy. Young stems are orange-yellow or greenish yellow, and wart free. The pith is white. Flowers (mid-May to June) and blue fruits (June to July) are borne singly on long stems from the leaf axils. Illustration on p. 100. FACU-

Although now the official New Jersey State fruit, the Blueberry has not always held such an esteemed title. However, the cultivation of Blueberries began in neighboring Burlington County by Elizabeth Coleman White, the first Blueberry Queen. She began the experiment of cross cultivating swamp huckleberries in 1911.

The page to the left is taken from "Shrubs and Vines of New Jersey and the Mid-Atlantic States" written by Christopher T. Martine and illustrated by Rachel A. Figley. The booklet (along with the companion "Trees of New Jersey" can be purchased for \$10 each from the NJ Forest Resource Education center at 370, East Veterans Highway, Rte. 527, Jackson. 732-928-0987 or visit the web at