

Old Friends, New Tricks: Classic Shrubs Reimagined for Today's Landscapes.

Michael A. Dirr, Mass NLA, 7-23-26

1-10. Dirr garden at 17 years. Bonnie and I developed gardens in MA, IL, NC, and GA. From Belchertown to Bogart and still gardening.

11-12. Unique approach to gardening. Our neighbor's concept.

13-15. Criteria for successful new plants. *Ligustrum* Sunshine.

16-23. The *Deutzia* story. Bringing the genus into 21st century gardens.

24-30. Let's talk natives. Taming a native *Viburnum*. The *V. nudum* case study. The introduction of Little Cherub.

31-39. *Fothergilla*. Why so few cultivars? Can't find seed.

40-43. *Calycanthus floridus*. Foliage color has opened new markets for this time-honored shrub.

44-46. *Clethra alnifolia*. Improvements through the years.

47-51. *Diervilla* species. Color sells and this is the poster child.

52-54. *Hypericum* species. ~370 species to improve upon.

55-58. *Itea virginica*. Henry's Garnet opened our eyes to the beauty of this native.

59-65. *Ilex glabra* and improvements. Native from Nova Scotia to Florida and Texas. Gem Box, Strong Box, Squeeze Box, and Gem Box

2.0 from Spring Meadow. Forever Emerald is the most compact to date.

66-72. Introduced species. *Abelia* × *grandiflora* Introduced ~1886. Remarkable array of variegated cultivars.

73-78. *Buddleia*. Too many but emphasis on small has given them renewed garden acceptance.

79-86. I love viburnums but the retail market is ambivalent. Pearlific and Spring Lace were bred using the great Don Egolf's Nantucket. ~52 viburnums in the Dirr garden.

87-91. *Vitex agnus-castus*. Excellent summer flowering shrub. New compact introductions. Deer don't eat.

92. Plant America! Thank you for supporting the Massachusetts Nursery Landscape Association.