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MISSISSIPPI NATIVE  
PLANT SOCIETY  
NOVEMBER 1987

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OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA  
Hydrangea quercifolia

## HYDRANGEAS OF MISSISSIPPI.

Our two species of Hydrangea are among the most attractive shrubs in Mississippi. They are easily distinguished from all other woody plants of our area by the presence of sterile flowers which consist of a flat 3 or 4-lobed calyx much larger than the fertile flowers. Leaves are opposite and long-petiolate. The inflorescences are terminal and highly branched. The fruit is a capsule with many small seeds. The bark on older stems exfoliates in long, often curling, strips. Habitat for our two species is usually rich woods, ravines or bluffs.

Leaves unlobed, inflorescence flat, usually broader than long.....

..... Hydrangea arborescens.

Leaves deeply lobed, inflorescence elongate, usually much longer than broad..... Hydrangea quercifolia.

Hydrangea arborescens L. Common hydrangea (see back cover).

Shrub to 3 m, twigs glabrous, green. Leaves ovate, sharply serrate, petioles to 10 cm long, blades mostly 6-15 cm long, 2.5-10 cm wide, glabrous to sparsely pubescent above and below. Inflorescences to 6 cm long, 15 cm wide. Sterile flowers white to green, 1.5-2 cm broad, around the margin of the inflorescence. Bluff Region, Northcentral Plateau and Tennessee River Hills.

Hydrangea quercifolia Bartr. Oakleaf hydrangea (see front cover).

Shrub or rarely a small tree to 5 m, twigs pubescent, brown. Leaves ovate to more or less rectangular in outline, serrate to dentate, deeply lobed, petioles to 13 cm long, blades mostly 10-30 cm long, 10-30 cm wide, loosely pubescent above, conspicuously softly pubescent beneath. Inflorescences to 20 cm long, 12 cm wide. Sterile flowers white, pink, maroon or brown, 2-3 cm broad, scattered throughout inflorescence. In suitable habitat throughout most of Mississippi except Delta and prairie regions.



COMMON HYDRANGEA

Hydrangea arborescens

## MNPS HAS SUCCESSFUL JACKSON MEETING

The Mississippi Native Plant Society recently held a very successful meeting in Jackson, MS. Society member Felder Rushing hosted the meeting at the Hinds County Extension Office. This meeting was attended by over 100 native plant enthusiasts. The success was so great that it is felt we should make this an annual event.

The nominating committee has met and are making the following recommendations for officers for 1988. President-Felder Rushing; Vice-President-Joe McGee; Secretary-Treasurer-Victor Rudis; and Editor-Sidney McDaniel. I feel the nominating committee has made excellent recommendations. A ballot is inclosed in this newsletter. Please mail it according to instructions. Remember ballots must be received by December 10. A place is provided for write-ins. Also, only life, 1987, and later members will be eligible to vote. If you last paid your dues in 1986, you may vote if you send a check with your ballot. Thank you for your support of MNPS. Faye Swan - President.

## WILDFLOWERS OF MISSISSIPPI

The manuscript for the **Wildflowers of Mississippi** is complete and has been reviewed. Currently, revisions are being made and slides are being reviewed. It is hoped that the manuscript will be ready for the press by the middle of December.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who sent slides. The slides not being used for the book will be sent to you in the near future. I also would like to thank Dr. Sidney McDaniel for allowing me to consult with him concerning Mississippi's flora.

A number of individuals and organizations have contributed toward the success of the field guide. Contributions will continue to be accepted. If you would like to contribute to the wildflower project, please send your contributions to

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Florence, Alabama 35632-0001

or

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