globosa) which except in the shape of the fruit is like the species. This is one of the handsomest of the small trees which have been introduced by the Arboretum in cultivation. The third of the Bretschneider Pears has been named for him, *Pyrus Bretschneideri*. This tree does not appear to grow to so large a size as the last, but it is perfectly hardy and the flowers and foliage are nearly as handsome. The fruit is globose or subglobose, about one inch in diameter, pale yellow, juicy and of good flavor. This is probably the tree from which at least some of the excellent and very juicy pears which are largely cultivated in the neighborhood of Peking have been derived. It is possible that this tree will prove useful to cross with some of the garden Pears in the hope of obtaining varieties which may prove hardier than any now in cultivation. Another Chinese Pear is one of the most distinct and interesting species of the whole genus. The leaves of most Pear trees fall in the autumn without change of color or turn to a dull bronze color, but the leaves of this tree late in the autumn turn as bright a scarlet as those of any American Red Maple or Gum tree. The fruit of a few Pear trees is globose, but its usual form is obovoid, that is the broad end is at the apex and the narrow end at the insertion of the stalk, but the fruit of this tree, unlike that of any other Pear tree, is ovoid, that is, it is broad at the insertion of the stalk and tapers to the apex. The fruit is about an inch and a half long, yellow, and of fairly good flavor. This tree was introduced into Europe nearly fifty years ago probably from northern China and has been known there as *Pyrus Simonii*. That name, however, had been given to a different species and this tree has now been named *Pyrus ovoidea*. It is possible that this species has also played some part in the development of the Chinese garden Pears. *Pyrus ovoidea* is one of the first of the Pear trees to open its flowers which are now fully expanded. The flowers of the other Chinese species and those from Europe will open during the next week. A supplementary collection of these trees has recently been planted at the base of Peter's Hill, and the new species discovered by Wilson in western China have also been planted in a special Chinese collection on Bussey Hill.

The Shad Bushes. The Arboretum is now gay with these plants which have been largely used here in the plantations along many of the drives. The general collection is in the border between the Meadow Road and the parallel walk on the left-hand side entering from the Jamaica Plain gateway. The distribution of these plants is peculiar. One species, a small shrub, occurs in the mountain regions of central Europe; another shrubby species is rather a rare plant in Japan, with a variety in western China where it is common and sometimes grows to the size of a small tree. In North America the genus is distributed from Labrador to Florida, and from the Atlantic to the northwest coast region, with several species in the dry interior region of the continent as far south as Arizona. The common name for these plants and their fruit among several of the northern tribes of Indians, Saskatoon, has been adopted for what is now an important city in Saskatchewan on the river of that name. Several species are common in the northeastern states and these in early spring add greatly to the beauty of

woods and swamps in this part of the country. Two of these species are native plants in the Arboretum, *Amelanchier laevis* and *A. oblongifolia*. The first is a tree of considerable size and an inhabitant of rich upland woods and dry banks. From the other species it may be distinguished by the red color of the young leaves. Until recently considered the *A. canadensis* of Linnaeus it has appeared under that name in nearly all American publications, but the true *A. canadensis* is now known to be a tree of the western and southern states where it is the only species and easily distinguished by the covering of soft pale hairs on the under surface of the leaves. Large wild plants of *A. laevis* are growing on the wooded bank in the rear of the Crabapple Collection on the Forest Hills Road. *A. oblongifolia* is a large shrub rather than a tree, although tree-like specimens sometimes occur, and is easily distinguished from *A. laevis* by the silvery color of the young leaves which at this season of the year are thickly covered with silky hairs. There is a large native specimen on the border of the meadow across the path from the Amelanchier Collection, and it is this species which has been most generally planted in the Arboretum and which may be seen along the borders of many New England swamps. There has always been much confusion about the American species of this genus, and it is only in late years that botanists are beginning to understand them. Reliance on the herbarium rather than on the living plants in their study, the inadequate descriptions of the authors who first described them, and the probable tendency of these plants to produce natural hybrids has until recently left them in what once appeared a hopeless state of confusion. The Arboretum has for many years been bringing together these plants in order to afford an opportunity for the critical study of the growing plants, and now in addition to the Asiatic and European species the following American species and some supposed hybrids are in flower in the collection, or will be in flower in a few days: *Amelanchier alnifolia* from the northwest coast, *A. canadensis* now nearly out of flower, *A. laevis*, *A. oblongifolia*, *A. sanguinea*, *A. humilis*, *A. stolonifera*, *A. spicata*, *A. pumila*, *A. florida* and *A. Bartramiana* (better known as *A. oligocarpa*). The last is the most northern of the eastern species and is a small shrub of cold swamps and bogs. Unlike the other species, the flowers are usually solitary or in few-flowered clusters. In cultivation it has been found to succeed better when it has been grafted on one of the strongly growing species than it does on its own roots. Practically unknown in cultivation, all these species are delightful garden plants, and the study of the collection in the Arboretum at this time will be found valuable to any one interested in dwarf, hardy, early flowering shrubs.

Early-flowering Viburnums. The two *Viburnums* which flower here first are among the most beautiful of all the plants in this genus which can be grown in New England. One is American and the other is a native of Korea. The American species, *V. alnifolium*, the Moosewood of northern woods, is one of the species on which the flower-clusters are surrounded by a ring of large pure white sterile flowers. It has broad, thick, heart-shaped leaves and showy fruit, and in the woods the straggling branches often take root and thus form thickets which

1915. "The Shad Bushes." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 1(2), 6–7. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320325>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/226132>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320325>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/320325>

Holding Institution

New York Botanical Garden, LuEsther T. Mertz Library

Sponsored by

IMLS LG-70-15-0138-15

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.