# Almanac



Note the winged sumac's rachis between the leaflets.

## FLORA FROM PAGE I

The specimen along that farmyard fence is the only winged sumac l've ever seen that could be described as a tree. Since the length of that fence is always neatly trimmed of vegetation, I have a hunch that the property owners are largely responsible for helping this particular sumac attain its tree stature. I have a thicket of winged sumac, and I'm inclined to see whether I can encourage a tree from it – that is, if I don't have to spend much time pruning the rest of the thicket.

This time of year, I find myself appreciating the

shining brilliant-red of winged sumac as unsurpassed of all the fall colors, and then I spy the brilliant reds of its cousin, the smooth sumac, *Rhus glabra* (see *Flora*, Aug. 30, 2007), a larger similar rhizomatous roadside shrub. I guess my favorite fall color is whatever I'm viewing at any given moment.

Smooth sumac is easily distinguished from winged sumac by its vertical, conical seed heads that are displayed well into the winter. Winged sumac seed clusters are curled, round shapes that tend to present a messy effect. Looking closely at the center line (the rachis) of the compound leaves of winged sumac reveals a narrow flattened leafy surface along the edges, hence the description, winged sumac. Staghorn sumac, *Rhus typhina*, seen only in our mountain regions, is a similar but even taller species. There are great photos and descriptions of all the sumacs in *Fall Color and Woodland Harvests*, described in last week's *Flora*.

We learned long ago from Native Americans that a refreshing drink, not unlike lemonade, can be made from the fresh berries of all three of these native sumacs; medicinal teas and other decoctions were made from the stem and root



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Memories of the Intimate...



hat with all the talk about retooling Franklin Street, here's a plug for a bookstore on the main drag – like Wally Kuralt's old Intimate Bookshop beside the Varsity back in the day, creaky wooden floors, books piled willy-nilly and a required destination for any walker on old Franklin Street. I had my own 15 minutes of fame there once: the fall 1980 re-

lease of my first book of Southern Appalachian oral history, "Wouldn't Take Nothin' for My Journey Now," attended by four UNC Press associates, at left, and UNC Press editor-inchief David Perry (still at the helm 29 years later). Then there's bearded Wally Kuralt, ironically holding a lighted cigarette in his left hand. I am dressed like the small-town newspaper editor that I was at the time, (in spite of those awful '70s aviator's glasses), and have my arm around my 90-year-old grandmother, Lionne Rush of Chapel Hill, who lived to be 106. And raise a toast to Flyleaf Books opening beside Foster's on MLK Boulevard next month. If only they were on Franklin!

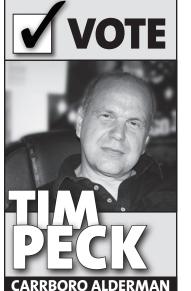


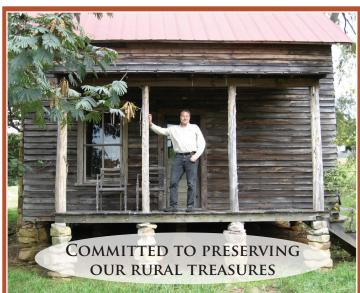
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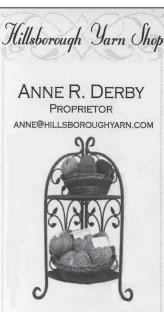
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Local Common Sense Progressive Paid for by Tim Peck for Alderman



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# **CRYPTOQUOTE ANSWER:**

I'm vertical, I'm back at Apple and I'm loving every day of it. - Steve Jobs, making his first public appearance at an Apple event, since his liver transplant five months ago.

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