**Mountain Maple–*Acer spicatum***

A small tree or shrub not over 30 feet in height, the mountain maple is the second of the striped maples. These are forest-understory trees more commonly found in cooler areas. A rare native tree usually confined to the lake area of the northeastern part of Ohio and the cool coves of eastern Ohio, the mountain maple is often associated with the hemlock. Mountain maple is also found in Clifton Gorge in Greene County.

Leaves are three-lobed, rarely five-lobed, 21/2—41/4 inches (6—12 cm) long, yellowish-green above, and hairy beneath. Leaf margins have coarse, irregular teeth, and usually have fine hairs beneath with smooth surface above. Foliage is light to yellowish-green in color.

Winter buds have two outer, valvate scales. Twigs, as well as the petioles and midribs of leaves, are pubescent. The color of young bark is green and does not have stripes.

Flowers are greenish-yellow and open in June. Fruit has wings that diverge at right angles and mature in September. Fall color ranges from yellow to scarlet and can be quite showy.