

NORTH
CAROLINA

WILD FLOWER

PRESERVATION
SOCIETY, INC.



Newsletter

Fall

1973

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Cover and all drawings by Ann Stronach
unless otherwise noted.

NORTH CAROLINA
WILD FLOWER PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Thomas Shinn, President

Mrs. Pearson Stewart, Vice-President

Newsletter Editors: Mrs. Charles Hubbard

Mrs. W. T. Lamm, Jr.

Mrs. George Stronach

We are pleased to dedicate this issue of the
Newsletter to

Dr. and Mrs. H. R. Totten

Dr. and Mrs. Totten are Charter Members of
the North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation
Society, Inc., which was organized in 1951.
They have been the backbone of our organization
through the years -- Mrs. Totten as By-Laws
Chairman and Dr. Totten as Consultant, Vice-
President and President.

Viola A. Braxton
(Mrs. W. B.)
for the Society.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

August 12, 1973

The Executive Board of the North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society, Inc. met at the home of Mrs. J. A. Warren in Chapel Hill on Sunday, August 12, 1973.

After a picnic lunch at the spring, the board went to Mrs. Warren's house, where President Tom Shinn called the meeting to order. He expressed appreciation to the hostesses, Mrs. Warren and Mrs. Donnan. The board thanked Mr. and Mrs. Shinn for the fine spring meeting.

Miss Bessie Pope, Treasurer, reported a balance of \$624.00. Mr. Shinn spoke of the propagation sheet he has compiled. Mrs. Hubbard said she would be delighted to use it in the Newsletter.

Miss Eliason's \$25.00 gift in memory of her sister was discussed. The board gave special consideration to a suggestion that the money might be used as a work scholarship for a person to work in any of the special gardens displaying wildflowers. Mrs. Nell Lewis will write the article for the Newsletter.

There are currently 363 paid-up members of this Society. Mr. Lionel Melvin had spoken to our treasurer, who thought that a membership chairman would be a great help to her. He moved that one be elected or appointed; the motion carried. The board agreed that a membership renewal form should be put at the end of the Newsletter.

Mr. Shinn said he received a number of requests from people interested in becoming members of this group, and he wondered if a brochure could be printed describing the Society. A membership application would be included on it. This suggestion was accepted, and Mr. Melvin agreed to work on a brochure for the fall meeting.

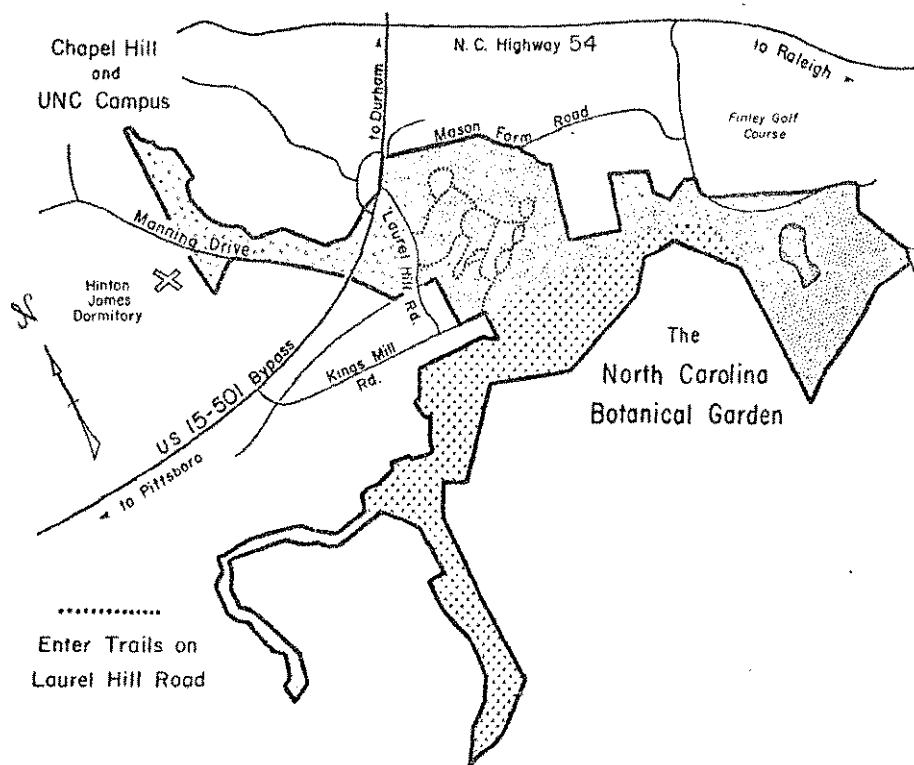
The fall meeting will be held in Chapel Hill on Sunday, October 7, 1973.

The meeting closed with a quote by Mr. Gordon Butler from Tennyson's "Idylls of the King."

Caroline Donnan
Secretary

FALL MEETING

NORTH CAROLINA WILD FLOWER PRESERVATION SOCIETY



The Society will meet on Sunday, October 7, at the North Carolina Botanical Garden at Chapel Hill. Gates will be open at 10:00 a.m. for early arrivals; tours will be conducted at 11:00 a.m. and again after lunch and the business meeting. Members may join short strolls through the habitat demonstration areas or longer hikes to the rhododendron bluffs.

Bring a picnic lunch; we will eat at Aldersgate Methodist Church across the highway (15-501) at 1:00 p.m.. Please gather at the Garden as the church will not be ready for occupancy before one o'clock. The semi-annual business meeting will follow lunch.

Dr. Ritchie Bell is Director of the Garden.

Mr. Kenneth Moore is Garden Superintendent.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The growing season for this year is coming to a close, and it is now time for seed to have been gathered for next year's planting. This year has not been one of the best from the standpoint of seed production; at least that has been the case in the western part of the state. After a rather warm month of March, there were sudden drops in temperature in both April and May. These sudden changes may have had some bearing on the unusually small amount of seed formed.

Data on propagation of native plants is being accumulated, but it is moving at a rather slow rate. One person cannot do all of it in the space of a few years. Your President is in need of help. There is a great wealth of knowledge of plants and their propagation within our membership. If some of this know-how could be collected and combined in a pamphlet for distribution to all of our members, we would really have something worth while. Many of us have, at some time, had a feeling of pride in having grown some plant which had been tried by others without success. It may be just one, but let me have the benefit of your knowledge and experience. Was it from seed or a cutting? Did you give it some special treatment? What did you do that enabled you to succeed where others had failed? This is the kind of information I would like to have.

By making a summation of our knowledge available to all, we will all benefit, and our native plants will stand a much better chance of being preserved. Some are becoming rather scarce, some have almost disappeared, and the best way to hold on to what remains is to learn how to propagate them in our own gardens.

Be sure to bring what seed you can spare for distribution at our fall meeting.

Tom Shinn

Don't forget your nameplate

PROPAGATION OF NATIVE PLANTS

Here is the possible format of a Handbook of Propagation of Native Plants, to be compiled by and for the members of the North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society:

Plant: *Adlumia fungosa* (Aiton) Greene. Fumitory Family.

Common Name: Climbing Fumitory.

Type: Biennial

Culture: Seed should be planted in summer, and the seedlings transplanted to their permanent locations before cold weather. They prefer a moist, sunny spot. Plants will stay small until spring; then, as the weather becomes warmer, they will begin to scramble over any nearby shrubs. By mid-summer, the light, airy growth may reach a height of ten feet or more.

Plant: *Baptisia australis* (L.) R. Brown. Pulse Family.

Common Name: Blue Wild Indigo.

Type: Perennial.

Culture: Seed may be sown in the fall of the year in their permanent locations or started in flats in early spring. Due to the long tap root which is characteristic of most plants of this family, seedlings started in flats must be moved to permanent locations while small. Other *Baptistas* will respond to the same treatment. They all like plenty of humus and full sun.

Plant: *Dicentra eximia* (Ker) Torrey. Fumitory Family.

Common Name: Bleeding Heart.

Type: Perennial.

Culture: See *Adlumia fungosa*.

Plant: *Juniperus communis* var. *depressa* Pursh. Cypress Family.

Common Name: Ground Juniper.

Type: Evergreen shrub.

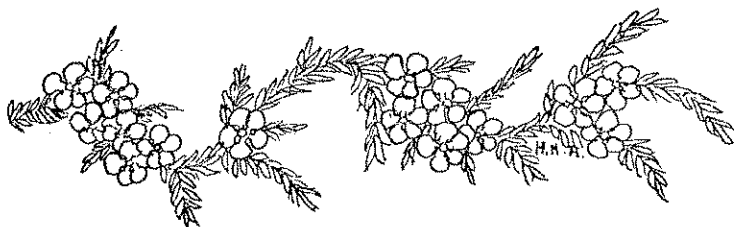
Culture: Stem cuttings with a small heel should be taken in December, treated with Hormodine No. 2 or equivalent, and placed in a protected cutting bed. They should be ready for transplanting to pots by the middle of April.

Tom Shinn

THE PYXIE MOSS

by Helen Murphy Allen

"The Vascular Flora of the Carolinas" lists two varieties of Pyxidanthera barbulata. P. barbulata, the type species, and P. barbulata variety brevifolia.



Pyxidanthera barbulata, the type species, grows in the New Jersey pine barrens, the pocosins and pine barrens of North Carolina, as well as a few areas of adjacent South Carolina and Virginia.

Pyxidanthera barbulata var. brevifolia has only been found in three very restricted locations, two in North Carolina and one in South Carolina. It was discovered and reported as a separate species by Dr. Bertram Wells (1928) and is included in his book, "The Natural Gardens of North Carolina" (1967). However, it has now been given variety rank by H. E. Ahles (1964).

The differences of the two pyxi mosses are:

1. Leaves

P. barbulata 4 - 8 mm long, pubescent towards base

P. barbulata var. brevifolia 3 - 4 mm long, pubescent for entire length

2. Corolla lobes

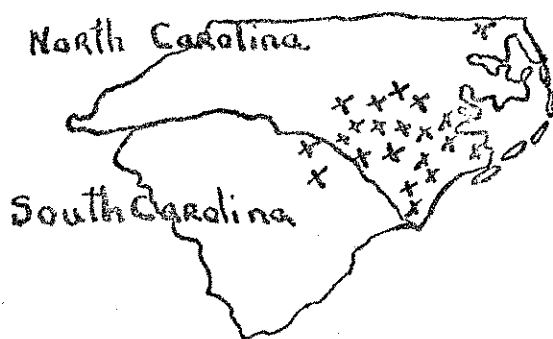
P. barbulata 4 - 5 mm long. n = 6

P. barbulata var. brevifolia 3 - 4 mm long. n = 6

3. Habitat

P. barbulata Damp pine barrens and pocosins

P. barbulata var. brevifolia Xeric. Dry sand of the thinly wooded Sand-hills pine forest.



Locations of *Pyxidanthera barbulate*



Locations of
Pyxidanthera barbulate var. *brevifolia*
H.M.A.

Flowers of both of the *Pyxidantheras* are solitary and terminal, on short, leafy branches. The buds are pink and, because of the plant's tight, congested growth, it becomes a solid mat of white flowers upon opening in the spring. Later in the year, the branch ends become bronzy-red from the ripening seed capsules.

The *Pyxi* moss (var. *brevifolia*) grown in the dry, coarse white sand of the inland sand-hills, unlike the type species (*P. barbulata* which usually grows in the darker soil of the damper areas of the coastal pocosins, *Pyxi* moss (var. *brevifolia*) is smaller and more compact in every way than the type species.

Because of *P. barbulata brevifolia*'s dryer habitat, it had been hoped that it might prove to be easier to grow in cultivation than the type species. So far, I have only been able to keep it for as long as three years before losing it, although Mr. Lionel Melvin has had several mats of this delightful creeping shrub growing under his pine trees for a number of years, in sandy soil that appears to be similar to the *Pyxie* moss' native habitat, where we hope it will continue to flourish.

The area near Spouts Spring where Dr. Wells found the original plant of *P. barbulata brevifolia* has been reduced to approximately three or four acres. There is an ever-expanding sand pit on one side of the area and a trailer park on the other, so that this particular location of the *Pyxie* moss will probably be eliminated before too long. Hopefully, some of the plants can be made happy in cultivation before this happens, with the possibility that they can eventually be introduced to areas similar to its native habitat for future generations to enjoy.

The type species is also very lovely when in flower or fruit, and is well worth looking for in March or April. Possibly it might even be persuaded to grow in a damp spot in one's garden.

I am especially interested in both of the *Pyxie* mosses and would appreciate hearing about any of the members' experiences with either of the varieties.

CARDINAL FLOWER -- ALSO KNOWN AS HOG-PHYSIC

by Julie Moore

One of late summer's most brilliant colors is displayed by the flowers of Hog-physic. More commonly known as Cardinal Flower (Lobelia cardinalis), this plant is also known by such other common names as Red Cardinal, Indian-pink, Hound's Tongue, and Righbelia.

Exactly who discovered the Red Lobelia and sent plants or seeds to Europe, no one seems to know. John Tradescant the Elder, for whom the genus Tradescantia is named, and his son John compiled a list of species introduced from America between the years 1617-1629. Cardinal Flower, then known by the Latin name Trachelium americanum was included in these early listings of American introductions. Evidently someone, probably in Virginia, was struck by the vermilion flowers and sent plants to England for the Tradescants to examine. Possibly, seeds were also sent, for Parkinson is known to have been growing them in England before 1639 from seed obtained in France. Parkinson mentioned Cardinal Flower as having been found "neere the river of Canada where the French plantation in America is seated."

John Tradescant came to the Americas in 1637 and 1642 and 1654 to discover and collect "floral wonders" and other curios for his father's Museum and Physic Garden at Lambeth. (This incredible collection of art and nature from all over the then-known world eventually came to be known as Tradescant's Ark. Today what remains of the collection constitutes the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford University.) Tradescant hoped to discover new plants and to see those plants described and grown in Europe, such as Cardinal Flower, in their native setting. While traveling through the eastern part of the Americas, Tradescant probably encountered Cardinal Flower many times, for it grows in a variety of habitats and its range extends from Canada south to the Gulf of Mexico. People tend to think of it as being restricted to moist, shady areas, but this is not necessarily the case. Open, moist pastures and fields appear to be just as satisfactory habitats as densely shaded stream banks.

Some people feel that the brilliance of color is lost if the plant grows in full sun, but I have never noticed a diminishment of beauty or color, though this species can take on a whole new character, depending on its surroundings. Theoretically, the term "cardinalis" refers to the vestments of the Roman Catholic cardinals. I had assumed that the explanation was much simpler. Occasionally, white, rose, and salmon-pink flowered individuals are found. Unfortunately,

these do not grow true from seed. Hummingbirds are attracted by the scarlet flowers and are important pollinators. The stamens and pistils are long and exerted from the mouth of the corolla which locates them in a position to come in contact with the hummingbird's head when the bird thrusts its beak down the corolla tube looking for nectar. It is of interest to note that the stamens and pistils of the blue lobelias are well within the corolla tube so they depend on bees for pollination.

The genus *Lobelia* is so called for a noted Flemish herbalist, Matthias de l'Obel (1538-1616), who went to England to be physician to James I. L'obel, as he was known in England, was the earliest botanist to begin to divide the plant kingdom as to whether the leaves are parallel veined (monocots) or net veined (dicots).

Though Cardinal Flower is not known for its medicinal properties, it has been used to a limited extent as an anthelmintic (worm killing), antispasmodic, and nerve tonics. Harden and Arena state in Human Poisoning from Native and Cultivated Plants that all lobelias contain alkaloids, lobelamine, lobeline, and various other toxic substances in all their parts. Symptoms from consumption vary from nausea and convulsions to death. Lobeline sulfate is currently being studied as a possible tobacco substitute in anti-tobacco therapy.

Cardinal Flower was an immediate success in Europe, not only because of its distinctive beauty but also because it is easy to grow from seeds and cuttings. Cardinal Flower can be grown in massive clumps or in perennial borders if kept well watered and mulched, but it is seldom used in home gardens in this way. If a single plant is impressive, why not try a mass of them?

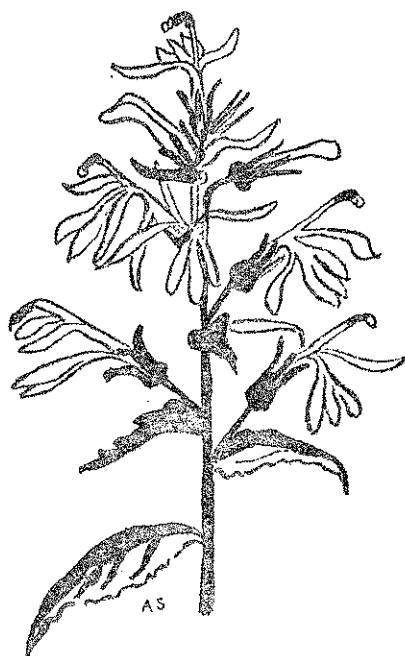
One successful method of growing plants from seed is to collect ripe pods in the late summer and early fall. Scatter seed immediately on the surface of fine soil and cover with a very thin layer of milled sphagnum. If kept in a cold frame in winter, these plants are certain to flower the following fall. The seed flats can be kept outside if mulched well in late fall, but plants treated in this way may not flower the first year. Seeds may also be stored in dry, airtight containers and planted in the same way in the spring. In cooler climates, this method is recommended. Seeds are apparently viable for long periods, and they need no particular treatment to trigger germination. Seedlings should be separated or repotted or planted directly into the garden when they have reached sufficient size.

Another method of propagation is to take stem cuttings while the plants are flowering. Cuttings may be dipped in rootone or a similar weak rooting aid, but this is not necessary, and placed in moist sand under glass. Rooting should occur in a few weeks. Steffek, in Wild-flowers and How to Grow Them, suggests propagation by laying stems on sand and covering them with one fourth inch of sand. Small plants should form at every leaf axil. Propagation by root division is possible, but this takes quite a long time.

When plants are well on their way, they may be planted anywhere in the garden where the soil is rich and can be kept from drying out. Though Cardinal Flower grows well in moist situations, this is not necessary. Plant in full sun or shade; just remember to keep the soil from drying out.

At the end of the October meeting at Chapel Hill, both seeds and seedlings will be available for those members who have not received them at previous meetings.

I concur with John Tradescant, who felt that Cardinal Flower should be more widely cultivated for "its handsome appearance which should not be wanting in curious gardens as it excels all others in the richness of its scarlet flowers."



FIRST ANNUAL SPRING PILGRIMAGE
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA BOTANICAL GARDEN AT ASHEVILLE

The first Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage sponsored by UNC-Asheville and the UNC Botanical Garden at Asheville on May 4 - 6 was reported as very successful.

Beginning with an illustrated lecture, "Wildflowers of the Appalachians," the program included the following tours, each led by an expert in the field:

Birding Motorcade
Bird Walk and Wildflower Motorcade
Ecology
Botanist's Walk
Trees and Shrubs of the Blue Ridge
Tour of the University Botanical
Garden at Asheville

Beginner's Wildflower Walk
Mosses and Lichens
Mt. Pisgah Wildflower Motorcade
Nature Tour for Hikers
Bog Garden and Trillium Walk
(at the Tom Shinn's' in
Leicester)

One of the caravans of visitors was sponsored by the Botanical Garden at Chapel Hill and it carried about twenty interested persons from Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill.

A CHAPEL HILL GARDEN

by Nell Lewis

It takes a dreamer to turn a steep hillside into a garden that is a masterpiece in design, and Mrs. J. A. Warren of Chapel Hill, who owns such a garden is quick to give her late husband credit for its development. And she is always happy to share its beauty with friends and acquaintances.

Years ago when Mr. Warren first started his gardens, he gathered huge rocks from the creek that runs at the foot of the hill and used them as stepping stones and retaining walls and to build a shallow well around a natural spring. Guarding the spring is a white oak tree, probably a century and a half old, with great spreading branches.

A narrow bridge spans the creek and leads to winding paths that soften the steepness of the hill. It is this part of the garden that Pattie Warren says is the easiest to care for; it's the "edges and the hedges and the upper garden" that prove difficult.

Banks of azaleas splash the hillside with color in springtime, and foam-flower drifts like tiny white clouds at their feet. Ferns and a host of wild flowers mingle with the shrubs and creep along the paths. From any level, the view is spectacular.

The gardens were a restful green in early August, with only an occasional flower in bloom to break the color scheme. Standing under the ancient oak tree, one has the feeling that Pattie's garden would be a pleasant place, regardless of the season.

NORTH CAROLINA WILD FLOWER PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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Members whose address is incorrectly listed in the preceding pages are requested to send their correct address to the Newsletter editor.

The editors wish to thank Mr. Joe C. Rees of the Duke University Library's Reference Department for his able assistance in getting out this issue of the Newsletter.

MINUTES OF THE SPRING MEETING

May 19 - 20, 1973

The spring meeting of the North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society, Inc. was held in Brevard, N. C., on May 19 - 20, 1973.

Mr. Charles Moore led a tour of his 300- plus acres near Brevard. Many additions to the native plants have been made along the trails. Welcome refreshments were served at the end of the hike by Mrs. Moore and friends.

A dinner was held at Berry's Restaurant, after which Mr. Tom Shinn, President, called the meeting to order. Miss Bessie Pope, Treasurer, reported a balance of \$471.54 as of May 1, 1973. Dues for this year should be sent to Miss Pope now.

A copy of A Southern Garden will be sent by Mrs. Braxton to the library in Elizabethtown instead of The Natural Gardens of North Carolina, which they had. This book is a memorial to Dr. Francis Harper.

Three directors are going off the board. They are Mrs. Walter Braxton, Mrs. Linda Lamm, and Dr. Herbert Hechenbleikner. Mrs. Braxton recommended for the nominating committee: Mrs. Paul Spencer, Mrs. J. A. Warren, and Mr. Walter Braxton. This motion was seconded and carried.

The trip to the Shortia country was cancelled because of high water. The morning field trip was to the Cradle of Forestry. Mr. Shinn expressed pleasure at the number attending the dinner meeting - 96.

Dr. Wade Batson's book is available at \$1.75 a copy. Mr. Shinn has leaflets on propagation that he wants used. He is compiling a booklet on propagation which he would like to make available to the Society.

Dr. Ritchie Bell is working on a plan to set up state support for any organized garden or nature group interested in preserving areas over the state. At the fall meeting, he will want to know if our group would support such a plan. After discussion, Mr. Hughes from Hickory moved such support. The motion was seconded and carried.

The National Wildflower Preservation Society is functioning again. For information, write to Dr. Pardue, New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York.

After reminiscences by Mr. Butler, a slide presentation was given by Mr. Charles Moore. This brought a fine meeting to a close.

Caroline Donnan
Secretary

THE TRIP TO MR. MOORE'S FARM

by Elizabeth Lawrence

On the 19th of May, Rose Wharton and I went to the spring meeting at Brevard with Dr. Hechenbleikner, Martha Nelson, and Edna Brown. As soon as we started to climb, we saw a wide variety of plants in various stages of bud and blossom. I think it was near Chimney Rock that Rose first pointed out mountain laurel in full bloom, and the next day when we had gone as high as we had time for in Pisgah Forest, we saw the laurel still in bud along with the last flowers of the dogwood. All along the most striking and floriferous plant was the black-berry in full bloom; I thought (or imagined) that some petals had a faint pink blush. The weekend before had been "black-berry winter." *Leucothoe catesbaei* (to Mrs. Lounsberry, Dr. Wells and me, but *L. axillaris* var. *editorum* to Dr. Ahles) was our constant companion, and was also in full bloom from the Piedmont on up, though long past in my own garden. It is called dog hobble because hounds in pursuit of bears get caught in the thickets, and the pursued, being heavier, turn on them, crash through and crush them. The mountain people also call it poison hemlock, as it makes cattle and sheep sick if they get hungry enough to eat the leaves.

One of the first things Dr. Hechenbleikner showed us on our roadside stops to look at things more closely, was the buffalo nut, *Pyrularia pubera*, also called oil nut. Although it is a shrub that sometimes grows to fifteen feet, it is a parasite, usually growing on Carolina Allspice. It was not in bloom, but the flowers seem to be insignificant. The nuts are poisonous, but Mrs. Lounsberry says the rabbits eat the bark, sometimes stripping the whole shrub. She says the mountain people call it rabbit-wood.

Saturday afternoon we went in cavalcade to the Farm of Mr. Charlie Moore, where we followed his narrow trail single file through one of the most beautiful pieces of woodland I have ever seen, crossing and recrossing a clear brown creek, and going up and down one ravine after another. I asked Dr. Hechenbleikner whether it was two or three miles long, and he said not more than half a mile at most!

I have never seen such enormous banks of ferns in one place, nor so many kinds of ferns and wild flowers (many of the flowers in bloom). Mr. Moore has added to the great variety already there, but he has kept the woodland as he found it, only cutting the trail so that the flowers can be seen. As the terrain is so diverse, there are places for a number of types of plant communities. There was even a bog garden where some saw (I wasn't quick enough) a grouse and chicks retreating through a group of jack-in-the-pulpits.

To me the most interesting wild flower was a form of *Viola hastata* that has beautifully veined and colored leaves. The flowers had passed, I think, but Dr. Justice has done a picture of this species in our wild flower book, showing the colored leaves (but not so distinctly and brightly colored) and one yellow flower. There were only two or three leaves to a plant, but the rhizomes spread, and I thought, until enlightened, that it was some sort of creeping vine. Later on the trip we saw green leaves of much the same shape, and these are what I had considered the type. There was a white violet with fine purple veins on the lower petals. The leaves are round, and not very tall at the time of flowering, but later they are enormous. I thought it was *Viola incognita*, which I once had in my Raleigh garden, but I couldn't get any of the experts to commit themselves. Later I showed the painting and description of that species in *Viola Bairds'* violet book, to Dr. Hechenbleikner and he said he felt sure that that is what it was. In the field where we parked the cars there were drifts of field pansies, *Viola Rafinequii*, the only American member of the "pansy group." There were lots of blue violets, but no effort was made to identify them, and they are probably hybrids.

Six or more trilliums were in bloom, *vaseyi*, *discolor*, *cernum*, *catesbaei*, and the ill-scented wake-robin, *Trillium erectum*. Some of the party went higher on the slope to see the great white *Trillium grandiflorum*, but when they got there they found the deer had grazed all the flowers.

Somewhere along the way we saw the last flowers of *Rhododendron minor*, and at the entrance to the farm, a large specimen of the rosebay, *R. maximum*.

Nearly all of the common mid-season spring flowers were in bloom at the farm, and everywhere we saw the flame azalea in tones of yellow, orange, and vermilion, and many of the pink-flowering species. It was a thing to be remembered.

PISGAH FOREST

by Elizabeth Lawrence

The Sunday of the Brevard trip was spent in Pisgah National Forest. We went especially to visit the Pink Beds, a community in George Vanderbilt's "Pisgah Forest," where Dr. Carl Schenck and his students passed the spring and summer seasons of America's first School of Forestry, started in 1898. Various explanations are given of the origin of the name Pink Beds, the best being that it refers to the abundance of *Rhododendron catawbiense* growing there.

At the Visitor Center there is a wild flower trail, but I waited in the lounge while the others followed it, and enjoyed the view of distant mountains, and took notes on a little indoor garden, filled with natives that had been brought in and labelled, and planted in fresh green moss. There was Shrub yellow-root, which we saw everywhere and *Delphinium tricornis*, which I had looked for and not found. I had forgotten that the delphinium blooms early in April where I have seen it in southern Ohio (at Lob's Wood), and in Northampton County, North Carolina (at Long View) on a bluff above the Roanoke River. Also I had forgotten that the foliage disappears as soon as the flowers fade. Also that it is poisonous. One of its common names is stagger-weed.

Although abundant where it grows, this little delphinium is somewhat rare in North Carolina, growing mostly in the high mountains, but in scattered stations across the state. I asked Dr. Hechenbleikner how I happened to find it so far east. He said it was on one of those outcrops of ancient worn-down mountains where some of the mountain species still survive.

Shrub yellow-root, *Xanthorhiza simplicissima*, occurs all the way from New York to Florida, and is not confined to mountain areas. It is a useful ground cover because its height is fairly even (about two feet), and for the color of its compound leaves, cool green in summer, and golden in the fall. We were too late for bloom, and, as often as I have seen the plant in woods and gardens, I have seen the flowers only once. A sprig was brought to me to identify, and I thought the spray of tiny, dark red stars enchanting. The yellow roots are astringent, and were formerly (perhaps still) used medicinally. In the mountains, Mrs. Lounsbury says, they were gathered in September to cure the sore mouths of children. As a bitter tonic they are on the secondary list of a nineteenth century dispensatory.

Another plant in the little garden at the Visitor Center was the green-leaved form of *Viola hastata*. One yellow flower had just faded. We found more plants as we went on, but none were in bloom.

There was also in the garden a specimen of Indian paint brush, *Castilleja coccinea*, and later we saw another interesting parasite, a magnificent clump of cancer root, *Conophilis americana*, which grows on the roots of oak trees. It was even handsomer than Dr. Justice's photograph in our wild flower book and taller than the six inches Dr. Bell allows it. The generic name is apt. It comes from the Greek, and means "scaly cone," and that is what it is. Bronze scales all along the thickened stems take the place of leaves. Small pale flowers appear from the bottom to the top of the cones. In spite of its name, and it is sometimes called squaw root, I can't find any mention of cancer root as a medicine.

We saw a silverball tree (*Halesia Carolina*) at the Pink Beds, and I think it was near Looking Glass Falls (where the water drops 85 feet) that *Magnolia fraseri* was in bloom. Mr. Melvin reported pink lady slippers, and somewhere along the way a specimen of *Trillium grandiflorum* was in perfection. Around a nearby tree Dutchman's pipe, *Aristolochia macrophylla* was twining. We had seen the small flowers and large, round leaves at the Farm the day before. The roots of all *aristolochias* are tonic and stimulant, and this species must have been used medicinally at some time, as one of its names is birthwort.

We saw Looking Glass Mountain from several angles, and once, when we were closest to its perpendicular side, the sun suddenly came out, and shone upon its mirror surface. It was somewhere along here that Dr. Hechenbleikner showed us the bear huckleberry, *Gaylussacia ursina*, which grows at high elevations in the extreme western tip of the state. The fruit begins to ripen in July, and Mrs. Lounsberry liked the berries as well as the bears do. "About Highlands," she said, "I found it no hardship to stand in the broiling sun to pick and eat them and, moreover, just as fast as I could. The little shrubs were then particularly attractive, as the unripe berries were a brilliant red and mingled pleasingly with those of dead black ripeness." The mountain people use them to make jellies and jams.

While I was making notes at the Pink Beds, I looked up and found Gordon Butler, a fellow student of mine in the first years of the landscape department of State College, had joined me while his daughter went with the others on the trail. When I asked why he didn't go with them, he said, "I have learned my limitations."

CORRESPONDENCE SHARED BY MISS PATTIE LAMBERT,
AUTHOR OF "GOOD NEWS FROM THE SWAMP:"

I have just read my first copy of the N. C. Wild Flower Society's Newsletter and enjoyed your article "Good News from the Swamp."

I saw reference elsewhere to efforts to save the swamp some time ago and remembered my mother's singing "Lake of the Dismal Swamp" by Thomas Moore when I was a child.

She gave me last year a little book published by Alfred Williams & Co. entitled "First Steps in North Carolina History" by Cornelia Spencer, which contains the poem.

We purchased five acres last summer on Eagle's Nest Mountain near Waynesville and the *Parnassia grandifolia* grows there at the stream beside the road. Should you or friends have a suitable habitat, I would love to have you get some, for it grows in the drainage that is periodically cleaned out by the road crew.

"Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas" lists it as growing in three counties in N. C.

Sincerely,

Maxilla Everett Evans
(Mrs. J. Claude Evans)

SEEDS

by Mrs. J. Robert Chrismon

(taken from the May 1968 Newsletter)

Seed in itself is one of Nature's great achievements, and the study of seeds holds more than a passing interest for the casual gardener.

It's means of distribution is a miracle of transportation far greater than any we employ today. The seed that the plant works so hard to produce and protect must be sent into the world to perpetuate its kind.

If the plant just dropped its seed in a pile at the foot of its own stem, there would be no room for proper growth and the urge to spread would be lost, so the plants have devised methods for scattering seed that are as ingenious as their methods of securing pollination.

Seed pods are cleverly constructed to explode like little bombs, to squirt like water pistols and to sprinkle like salt shakers.

They hitch-hike in the fur of animals and on the clothing of humans. They also get eaten by the birds -- they fly like airplanes and float like boats.

The most familiar method of distribution is the wind. Who hasn't seen the fluffy "balls" of the dandelion made up of tiny parachutes, each with seed attached that fly at each breath of wind?

The milk-weed pod will split open, revealing a bundle of folded wings which dry into fluffy down that fly away at a touch. Clematis, thistles and fire-weed travel by similar means. The flower bombs are intriguing little things. The wild Balsam of the swampy fields has a seed pod that just a touch will cause it to explode, flinging seed in all directions. The wild geranium seems to have deloped little springs which contract quickly, shooting the seeds out as effectively as a pop gun. Those plants and I played games all summer, they trying to conceal the seeds, while I was trying to coax them into a container. I won! Pansies, sorrel and violas are other members of the bomb squad. Fabre tells us of the fruit of an Euphorbia, the sand-box tree, whose shells burst with great violence to catapult its seed great distances. One writer likened them to "zippered walnuts," as the seed pods resembled the English walnut. There are plants which shake their seed out of their containers much as salt is shaken from a salt shaker -- poppies are good examples.

There are many seeds which are not airborne, but are blown along the ground, strewing seeds as they go. Other seeds go "coasting." For example, seed pods of the Locust remain on the tree until cold weather, then they drop off, sometimes falling on the ice or crusty snow, and away they go, "coasting" down the hill to find a new home. Some seed, like those of the orchid, do not need transportation because they are so tiny and lightweight that they are blown about like dust.

The "squirting cucumber" is likely to surprise the nosey fellow. The small cucumber-like fruit contains a liquid in which the seeds are immersed. When mature, the slightest touch will bring a spurt of seed and liquid. Only the fool-hardy would dare to smell a ripe "squirting cucumber."

Have you observed how certain perennial wild flowers will disappear from a locality and after a few years become plentiful again? This is usually traceable to a season of better growing conditions when the seed lying dormant in the soil retain their vitality and come up after a winter rest period. Dormancy after the time of ripening is a characteristic of the seed of some perennial plants. If kept dry over winter and sowed in the spring, they may not germinate, and we are likely to think that they have lost their vitality, when actually their dormancy continues. They have missed the contact with cold, moist soil, either from planting out-of-doors or proper stratification. It has been proven that seeds requiring drying after ripening respond best to stratification lasting 50-75 days, at temperature 35-40°, just too cold for germination. Once removed, they should be planted immediately.

I find that Fall planting is usually as advantageous as stratification and much less trouble. I've had seed to lie dormant for as long as 18 months and then quite nonchalantly appear.

The dates for seed sowing fall into three groups:

The first includes few kinds which must be planted immediately upon ripening to avoid dormancy which delay germination for one season.

The second group of seeds may be designated for fall planting. Seed to be included here are alliums, anemone, clematis, penstemon, *Thalictrum* *Liatris*, etc.

The third group includes a large number of plants which germinate like annuals at all seasons. These are recommended for spring sowing after frost danger is past. The germination period averages about 10 or 20 days, sometimes less.

How do I know? By keeping a strict account in my yearly garden log.

Since the greater part of plants in our garden were raised from seed, we naturally observe the size, shape and coloring of the seed. Have you ever noticed the similarity of some seed to other objects?

For instance, nothing resembles a worn-out shaving brush as do the seed of "Bachelor Buttons." One pod of marigold seed reminds one of a bunch of shoe strings.

The anemones produced cobwebby hair-like wisps. We are all familiar with the size and shape of the Blackberry Lily, and how their seed pods resemble the blackberry.

Watch your Lupine seed and see if they don't look exactly like stippled, peeled Brazil nuts.

"If there is any living thing that might explain to us the mystery beyond this life, it should be seed." Anon.

MRS. W. T. LAMM, JR., SHARES CORRESPONDENCE:

LBJ Ranch, Stonewall Texas

Dear Mrs. Lamm:

Mrs. Johnson has asked me to thank you for your nice letter and to tell you how very much she appreciated your kind thoughts.

The Highway Department harvests the wildflower seeds by allowing a good stand of wildflowers to go to seed and then mowing them --- stalk, stem, seed pods, few remaining blossoms, the whole thing --- just like a mulch. This is done on the premise that nature is prodigal and has already dropped a few million seeds in that location. Then they put this mulch in a truck and scatter it in new locations where a stand is desired. Mrs. Johnson has tried this method in a small way at the LBJ Ranch with quite a bit of success. However, a lot depends on the nature of the soil and whether or not the Lord brings rain.

As you may already know, bluebonnet seed can be obtained at Nicholson's-Hardie's Seed Stores, 1924 Skillman, Dallas, Texas.

Mrs. Johnson sends her good wishes to the North Carolina Wildflower Preservation Society. She is always pleased to know that others are doing to preserve the natural beauty of their surroundings.

Sincerely,
(Mrs) Carole Bryant
Secretary to Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson

MY FAVORITE FALL WILD FLOWER

Years ago when I was just a small child, I remember some beautiful blue flowers growing on our ditchbanks, that bloomed in the fall of the year. My mother told me they were called snakeroot. To this day I associate the Bottle Gentian with a snake's head. I learned from my reading that snakeroot means a plant effective against the dreaded results of a snake bite. Some person, Sampson, seems to prescribe several species of Gentians for cure of a snake bite.

Later in my life we were visiting my sister in Cumberland County in October. My son, Clinton, went for a walk in the woods and returned with plants he found in the swampy, wooded area near her home. They had the same bright blue flowers on them that I remembered from my childhood. By this time I had learned about the Bottle Gentian and had seen it growing in other wildflower gardens, but I did not have any in mine. We brought the plants home with us and planted them here at "Woodlin." Now we must have 50 to 75 plants. Every fall from September through October we have masses of Bottle and Saponaria Gentians, as well as Villosa, blooming in our garden. They are easy to grow in a damp place near a stream. Ours have multiplied from the seeds.

Villosa, or Sampson's Snakeroot, has a greenish-white or purplish flower. We found it growing in our open woods near the house.

The Bottle and Saponaria are very much alike, with this exception -- the Bottle petals are closed and the petals of the Saponaria are very slightly open. The bumblebee has learned how to get into the Bottle Gentian for the nectar, and thus it is cross-fertilized.

We have tried to transplant the Autumnalis or Pine-barren Gentian, which is found in the pineland of our sandhills. It will grow for a year or so, but has never bloomed in our garden.

The Gentians are among our most admired wild flowers. If I could have just one fall-blooming wild flower, I would choose the Gentian. This family is noted for its handsome, brightly colored flowers. The most beautiful is the blue-fringed Gentian. Our species mostly have a corolla of four or five joined petals. Most of them have leaves in pairs or circles. The leaves lack stalks and teeth. The seeds are found in a capsule.

For a guide to the Gentian family (Gentianaceae), I used Wild Flowers of the United States, The Southeastern States, Vol. 2, part 2, by William C. Steers.

Mrs. C. C. Lindley
Chapel Hill

THE STATE OF THE ENO

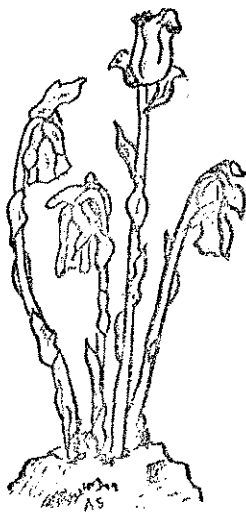
The Eno River meanders in its scenic way in an easterly direction past Hillsborough and around Durham. As yet, the river is remarkably unspoiled, even though its urban location makes it particularly vulnerable to the blights of urban expansion. Over the past eight years, the river has been threatened by a monstrous succession of urban developments: a major municipal reservoir, a belt-thorofare, a triad of mammoth subdivisions, a city landfill, two sewer systems and a series of fish-kills.

For eight attritional years, the Eno River Association has battled these monsters, sometimes sharply, always persistently, never negatively. The creative purpose of the Association is to establish a state park along 20 miles of the Eno River as a natural parkway through this rapidly urbanizing area.

There are signs now of success. The belt-thorofare has been tabled, the latest subdivisions have been pushed off the river, the historic acreage at West Point has been saved from a shopping center, the landfill has been refused, the sewer lines are to run back of the ridges, a million dollar grant to Hillsborough will keep the water clean, and the state is taking a dominant role with the reservoir.

Best of all, through a combination of the Nature Conservancy and the state and the generosity of landowners on the river, more than 600 acres have been acquired for the park and more than two miles of shoreline secured within the reaches of the proposed reservoir. The Eno River State Park, as Governor Holshouser pointed out on June 15, 1973, in his formal notice of its inception, "will serve as a green buffer against continued urban sprawl."

Margaret Nygard



THE NORTH CAROLINA BOTANICAL GARDEN

After more than 20 years, the development of native shrubs and wildflower plantings and related activities of the North Carolina Botanical Garden located at Chapel Hill are still unknown to most citizens of the state and the Garden currently faces possible curtailment of programs and activities because of lack of substantial financial support.

The first 72 acres of woodlands were set aside by university trustees in 1952. By 1962, a total of 329 acres had been set aside for utilization and development of a botanical garden. The first woodland trails constructed by a few part-time university work-study students were officially opened to the public in 1966. Repeated requests for financial support were not answered until 1971, when the Garden received its first legislative budget allocation of \$33,000 for a two-year period. A one-year allocation of \$19,000 was designated by the 1973 State Legislature. The development of the Garden prior to 1971 was supported primarily by memberships and special gifts to the N. C. Botanical Garden Foundation, which continues to supplement the Garden's inadequate budget as donations allow. During the past summer, the town of Chapel Hill designated \$6,000, and the school system designated \$2,500 of their budgets to help the Garden continue its school and public programs.

In addition to long trails through the variety of natural habitats in the Garden's extensive woodlands, a demonstration area of small, specialized habitats has been partially completed. This mini-habitat development already includes coastal plain bogs and a mountain cranberry bog containing groups of plants naturally associated with such habitats. The habitat development has already been extensively utilized by school groups studying plant ecology and wildflower photographers who appreciate the value of an array of coastal plain and mountain plants established in the Piedmont within an area less than an acre in size. The various natives grown in containers are utilized for garden and flower shows and classroom and plant society demonstrations. Some success has been made in cultivating natives from seed and cuttings, and efforts are being made to make the seeds available to the general public. In addition to display of native plants, the Garden conducts plant courses for the general public and public school teachers. Courses range from seasonal wildflower studies to plant propagation and local plant ecology, offered in communities from Wilmington to Brevard, in addition to the local area. Monthly guided walks, habitat trips, and various workshops are also offered to members of the Botanical Garden Foundation.

There are only two permanent staff members, and the university work-study students have been reduced by cuts in federal funding. Volunteers, who conducted most of the tours for children and adults during the past year, will be depended upon even more during the present activity period, not only for tours but for specific maintenance within habitat development.

Without additional financial support and volunteer help, some of the activities of the Garden will have to be reduced or perhaps abandoned entirely. The Garden's most urgent need is for a trailer or modular unit large enough to house office and storage space, restroom facilities for staff and visitors, and meeting room space for conducting programs and workshops which now must be cancelled during inclement weather. Wild Flower Society members able to assist through memberships, gifts, or volunteer help may contact the Garden Director, Dr. C. Ritchie Bell, at the UNC Department of Botany at Chapel Hill.

Ken Moore
Garden Superintendent

MEMORIAL GIFTS

A cash donation of \$25 received by the NCWFPS in memory of one of its members has become the nucleus of a plan which will enable a deserving young person to gain first-hand knowledge of our native flora by working a month or two in one of our state's botanical gardens.

Board members, in discussing how to use the gift, agreed that as cash memorials accumulate they can be used toward a work-scholarship, paying the salary of a young man or woman who has chosen botany as a career.

The directors of the NCWFPS and the Superintendent of the N. C. Botanical Garden at Chapel Hill will select the recipient of the work-scholarship, who will be under the direction of the superintendent.

Perhaps there is no better way to keep alive the memory of one who loved flowers than to train a youth to walk in that person's footsteps. Cash memorials may be sent to the president of our organization.

Reported by Nell Lewis

NORTH CAROLINA WILD FLOWER PRESERVATION SO-
CIETY

WORK DAY AT THE BOTANICAL GARDEN! ! !

There is a need for volunteers to help at the Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill before our October 7th meeting.

Those of you within driving distance please come on Tuesday, September 25th, and/or Thursday, September 27th, all or part of the day, any time after 10 o'clock. Bring a sandwich and a will to weed.

NCWFPS Inc.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete and send to:

Miss Bessie Pope
P. O. Box 1264
New High Point, N. C.
27261

Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

Cost for membership is \$2.00 per year. Make checks payable to: North Carolina Society for Preservation of Wildflowers.

North Carolina Wild Flower
Preservation Society, Inc.
2000 Cedar Street
Durham, N. C. 27707