

NORTH CAROLINA *wild flower* PRESERVATION SOCIETY, INC.



calycanthus florida

FALL 1979

NORTH CAROLINA WILD FLOWER PRESERVATION SOCIETY, INCORPORATED

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Cover Drawing by Vicki Mercer, Raleigh, N. C.
Crane-Fly Orchid by Jo Brown, Wilson, N. C.
Chestnut, Poison Ivy, Poison Oak by Georgia Chapple,
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has been an unusually busy summer for your president. Attending to the various business matters of the Society has given me a new appreciation of the extent of the work of this organization.

One of the most urgent business matters this summer was to obtain a bulk mailing permit as a non-profit organization. It was necessary to get a determination from the Internal Revenue Service that the NCWFPS is, in fact, a non-profit organization. In answering questions on the IRS forms, I came to a new realization of the scope of the NCWFPS, both as a collective Society and as hundreds of individual people spread across our state.

The list is not intended to be complete, but the following are just a few of our activities: We conduct educational field trips; engage in seed and plant exchange; publish a most professional newsletter twice a year; rescue endangered species from areas scheduled for development; publish a copyrighted plant propagation handbook; initiate and support legislation of an environmental nature, and support a growing scholarship fund.

Our individual members across the state make tremendous contributions to their communities by presenting slide programs with commentary, and by opening their private gardens for tours to garden clubs, civic clubs, children's groups, college botany classes, and other civic or garden council sponsored groups. Members provide both plants and guidance in setting up nature trails in city parks, schools, and nature science museums.

This year the N. C. legislature enacted the N. C. Endangered Plant Act. Your Society was honored by being requested to present a

nominee for the N. C. Plant Conservation Scientific Committee. We were pleased to submit the name of Lionel Melvin, well known botanist and nurseryman from Pleasant Garden. At last we have taken a big step toward protecting our endangered plants by law.

The NCWFPS was organized in 1951, and chartered in 1956. The Society has grown and changed in the past twenty-eight years, but the By-laws have had few changes to date. For instance, the By-laws state that the Spring meeting shall be the first Sunday in May. We have not been in strict compliance with the By-laws in other matters due to changing times and conditions which the founders could not foresee. A By-laws Committee has been hard at work revising and bringing up to date those portions needing such attention. When completed, their work will be presented to the Trustees for their approval and ratification.

It's been a year of interest and challenge, and I am proud to be associated with such a dedicated group who wish to conserve and promote that unique heritage which is ours.

Best wishes to all for a joyful remainder of this year !

Emily Allen, President

O, it sets my heart a clickin'
like the tickin' of a clock,
When the frost is on the punkin'
and the fodder's in the shock.

--James Whitcomb Riley

The Strawberry Shrub

*Strawberry Shrub, old-fashioned, quaint as quinces,
Hard to find in a world where neon and noise
Have flattened the ends of the three more subtle
senses;
And blare and magenta are all that a child enjoys.*

*More brown than red the bloom--it is a dense colour;
Colour of dried blood; colour of the key of F.
Tie it in your handkerchief, Dorcas, take it to
school
To smell. But no, as I said, it is browner than red;
it is duller
Than history, tinnier than algebra; and you are
colour-deaf.*

*Purple, a little, the bloom, like musty chocolate;
Purpler than the purple avens of the wet fields;
But brown and red and hard and hiding its fragrance;
More like an herb it is: it is not exuberant.
You must bruise it a bit: it does not exude; it
yields.*

*From Collected Poems, Harper & Row
Copyright 1954 by Edna St. Vincent
Millay and Norma Millay Ellis*

SWEET-SHRUB
Calycanthus floridus

by
Julie Moore

A fascinating shrub grew in the side yard of the turn-of-the-century Victorian home in Tidewater Virginia where I spent part of my childhood. It was a sweet-shrub and it formed an impenetrable thicket about six feet in diameter and eight feet high that I laboriously moved around for many seasons. The deep garnet flowers had a spicy fragrance when you crushed them and the individual petals were fun to pull off one by one. My mother says we put it in the hall closet for the fragrance, but I don't remember if we did. My interests were more limited then.

A decade later in North Carolina I saw the same distinctive multi-petaled blossoms on straggly, arching shoots growing in the woods. I did not believe it was the same sweet-shrub I remembered so vividly. But it was, for when cultivated the growth habit is very different. The sweet-shrub can be readily trained into a bushy shrub if grown in full sun.

Many North Carolinians know Calycanthus floridus as sweet-Betsy or strawberry shrub as Edna St. Vincent Millay called it in her poem. Another name it is known by is sweet-bubbie. It was only after finding an old hedge full of the peculiar, sort of elongated, fig-shaped fruit that I grasped the origin of this common name.

A brief search for historical information revealed several interesting facts about this distinc-

tive shrub. Mark Catesby described and illustrated the plants in 1732 in his Natural History of the Carolinas but gave it no name. In 1763 the genus was given the name of Basteria in honor of a Dr. Job Baster of Zurich Zee, Holland. Fortunately, Linnaeus had already, in 1759, named the genus Calycanthus, meaning calyx (caly-) flower (-canthus) because of the indistinguishable sepals and petals so the older name took precedent. By 1760, the shrub had been introduced into English gardens from Charleston, South Carolina, where it was popularly cultivated for its uniquely colored flowers and, more significantly, for its culinary uses. The bark of the sweet-shrub was used as a substitute for cinnamon by Colonial cooks. Thus the origin of the once widely used common name, Carolina allspice.

On several occasions this summer while walking through the Highlands Biological Station Botanical Garden, I broke off flowers to crush for the invigorating scent but never got more than a minimal fragrance. Now I know why. The mountain variety (Calycanthus floridus var. laevigatus or C. fertilis as it was known when recognized as a separate species) does not have the intense fragrance of the lowland variety (C. floridus var. floridus).

Though the sweet-shrub has been cultivated for over 200 years, there are no garden varieties. However, a peculiar chartreuse green flowered plant, probably an albino of a sort, brought to the North Carolina Botanical Garden some years ago might merit introduction.

The sweet-shrub or Carolina allspice, as

I now prefer to call it, can be readily grown in well-drained, somewhat rich soil in partial shade to full sun. It can be pruned and trained into a dense shrub or left to form individual arching stems along a woodland edge. See the North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society's Native Plant Propagation Handbook for propagation details. Be sure to crush a leaf or a flower or to scrape the stem to be sure you have the more odoriferous variety.

+ + + + +

Julie Moore is a scientist and works with the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program in Raleigh.

He that observeth the wind shall not sow;
and he that regardeth the clouds shall not
reap.

Ecclesiastes XI, 4

CRANE-FLY ORCHID
(Tipularia discolor)

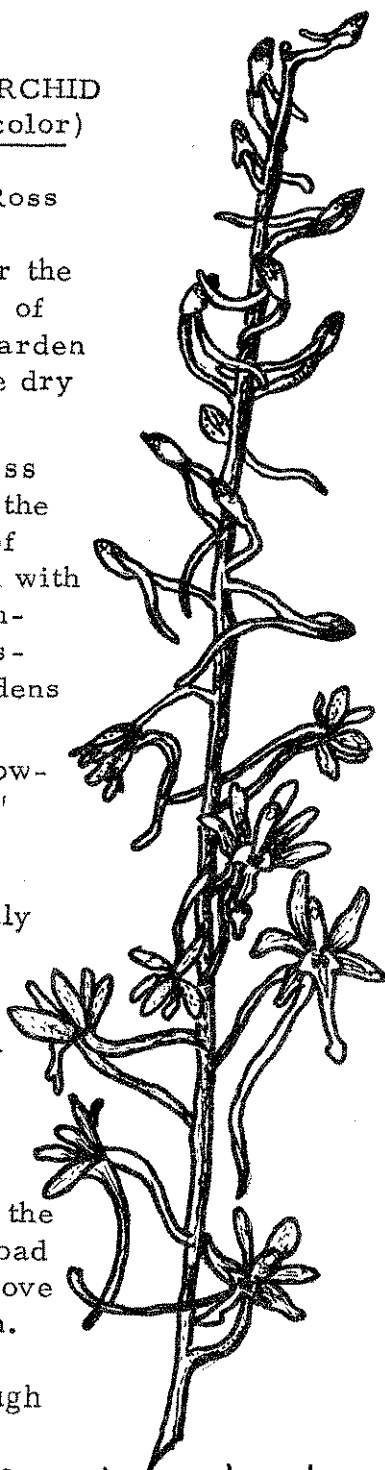
by
Patricia F. Ross

What a delight to discover the Crane-fly Orchid in the middle of August when most of the wild garden looks sad and dejected from the dry hot summer.

Rising on a smooth leafless stalk and blending so well with the leaf mulch, the slender spike of small greenish flowers mottled with bronze and purple often goes unnoticed. Linda Lamm and I discovered it blooming in our gardens on the same day this year.

"Have you looked at the flowers under a magnifying glass?" Linda asked. "Each one is the most exquisite miniature of a larger orchid." I was especially grateful to Linda for her suggestion of using the magnifying glass, for its magnified beauty added much to the enjoyment of the Crane-fly, as it does for other flowers as well.

In the fall, when it has finished blooming, the corm of the Crane-fly produces a single broad egg-shaped leaf, dark green above and usually purplish underneath. Even the deep green leaf gives pleasure on a winter walk through



Tipularia discolor
(enlarged)

the garden or woods, for there it stays until summer, when it withers and disappears.

The Latin name Tipularia is derived from Tipula, the generic name for the crane-flies, because of the similarity of the long spurred flowers to the crane-fly in mid-air. The name discolor is a Latin adjective meaning mottled, perhaps referring to the coloration of the flowers and also the sometimes mottled appearance of the leaf.

The Crane-fly grows in deciduous woods or occasionally in pine forests primarily in the southeastern region, but it has been found as far north

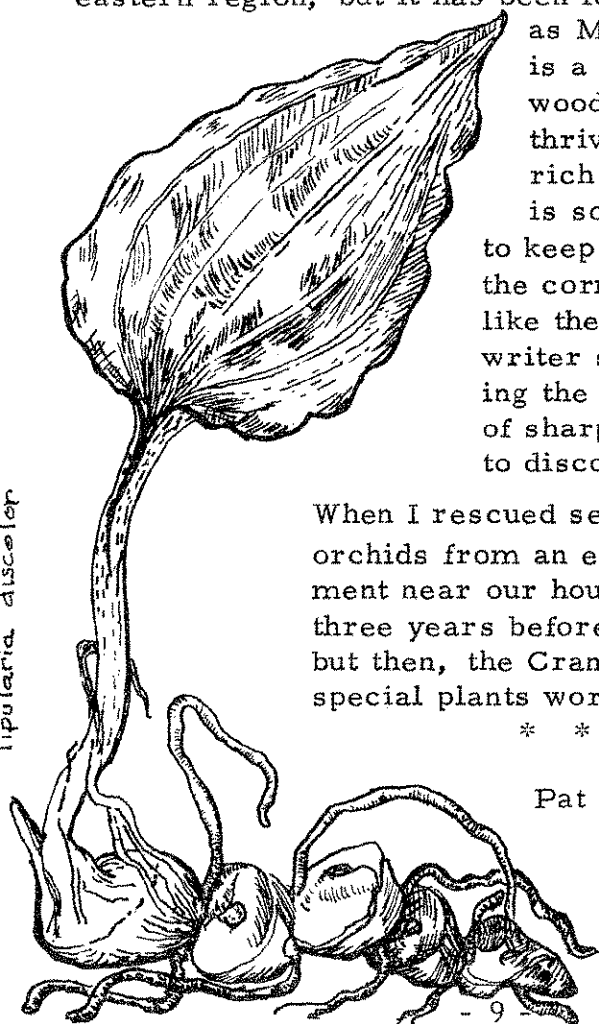
as Massachusetts. It is a good plant for the woodland gardens, thriving best in humus rich soil; however, it is sometimes difficult

to keep as the mice like the corms and the slugs like the leaves. One writer suggests surrounding the corms with a mass of sharp-edged stone chips to discourage the rodents.

When I rescued several Crane-fly orchids from an encroaching development near our house, it was at least three years before I had a bloom, but then, the Crane-fly is one of those special plants worth waiting for.

* * * *

Pat Ross is a freelance writer. She has established a wide collection of wild flowers in her garden.



WHAT WE DON'T KNOW MAY HURT EVERYONE

by
Charles Roe

Years ago it was common practice to place valuables in a tin can and bury them for safekeeping. The logic behind this practice was that since the only person who knew of the valuables or where they were hidden was that one individual, they were safe. While there may have been some validity to this logic, difficulties occurred when the person died. Unless someone else had been told the location, the valuables were lost.

Today, through wills, banks, insurance, and so on, we have given up to some degree the secrecy we once had, but we have greatly reduced the chances of our valuables being lost or destroyed.

Often we hear of natural areas and certain species referred to as being priceless. Yet we are willing to bury them, not in a tin can, but in our mind, contented with the idea that they will forever remain safe.

The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program has developed the Heritage Data Base, the purpose being to provide a place where information regarding the location of natural areas, features and rare species can be deposited to help ensure their protection. During the past three years, Heritage staff members have been contacting both amateur and professional botanists, ornithologists, ichthyologists, and other naturalists to "pick their

brains", obtaining their valuable knowledge about these ecologically important areas. The cooperation and acceptance have been excellent, for these people realize the importance of passing on this information and that the threats to these areas are constantly increasing. Knowledge of an impending threat may not be known until the bulldozers are approaching a woods or drainage ditches are being dug through a wetland. At this time, the Natural Heritage Program is often contacted in hopes that the project can be stopped and the area saved. Unfortunately, it is often too late to make changes at this stage of a project.

With information provided by individuals and organizations, the Natural Heritage Program can, as doctors do, attempt to practice preventive medicine--curbing the problem before it arises. This can be done several ways: through environmental review of public projects, natural areas registration, land owner notification or acquisition. Granted, even with today's laws and programs dealing with natural areas and endangered species protection, some areas will be lost; but it is everyone's responsibility to help minimize these losses.

By keeping information about a natural area or a rare species to ourselves, we are, in a sense, assuming the responsibility of ensuring its continued protection. Unfortunately, it is often too late when we realize that a one-person effort to ensure an area's protection is often futile.

If the decision is made to bury your valuables in a tin can for safekeeping, it should be of

no concern to anyone else since only you and possibly your family will be affected if the valuables are lost or destroyed. But if a natural area or a population of rare plants or animals is destroyed, its value to society may never be realized.

The history of natural areas preservation is full of horror stories of important areas being destroyed before their value is fully realized. North Carolina now has a mechanism to mitigate environmental impact of man-made alterations to the natural landscape when the value of the areas is known. Without the proper knowledge, however, destruction of valuable natural areas or endangered species habitat may well be unknowingly accepted by the very agencies and individuals in a position to protect the areas before the bulldozer arrives. To prevent this, we need the help and cooperation of all knowledgeable citizens.

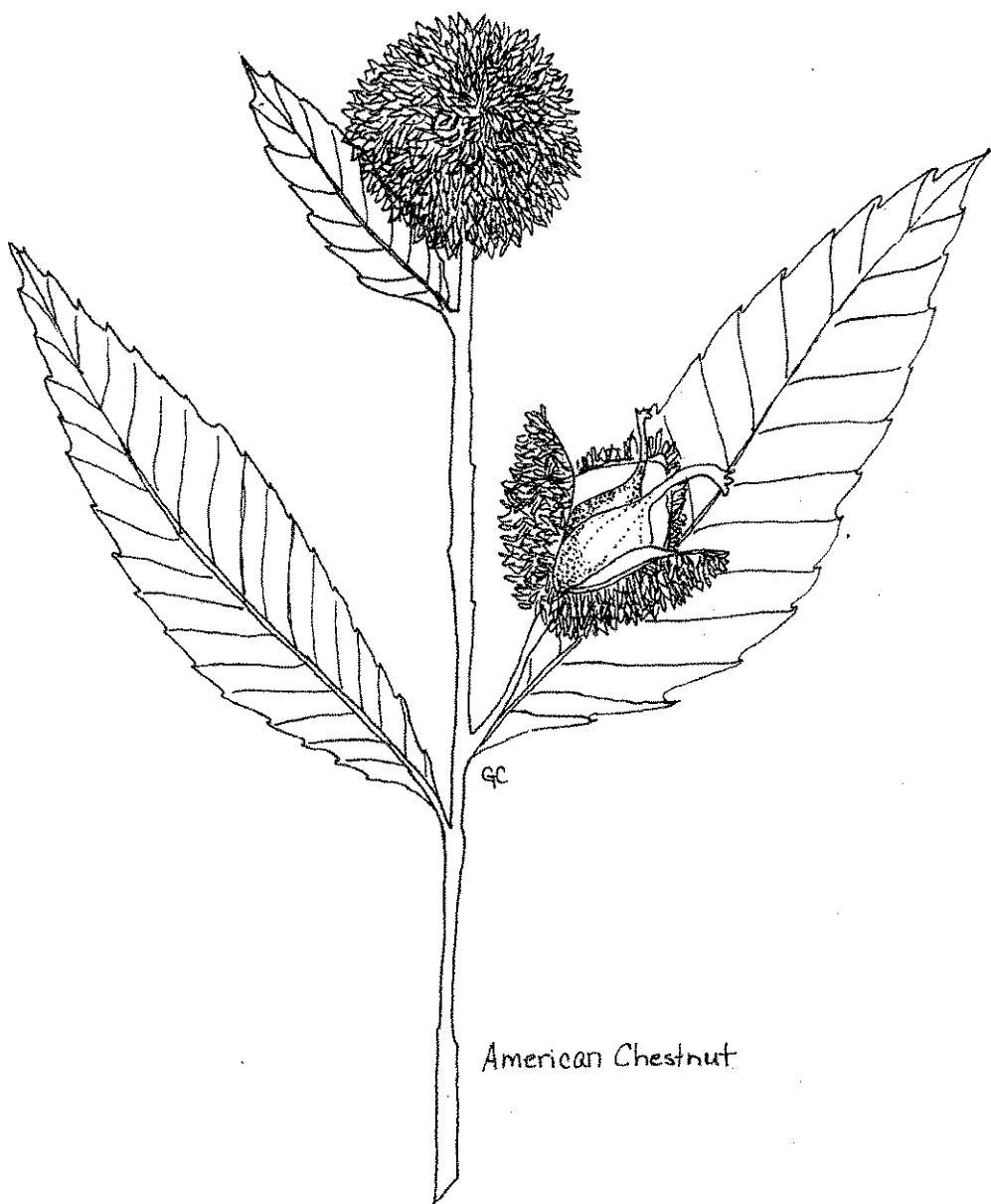
To provide information, write to: N. C. Natural Heritage Program, NC DNRCD, Box 27687, Raleigh, N. C. 27611.

* * * * *

Charles Roe, Coordinator of the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, is fervent in his efforts to protect our natural heritage.

This rule in gardening never forget,

To sow dry and set wet.



American Chestnut

SEARCH FOR A BLIGHT RESISTANT AMERICAN CHESTNUT

Part II*

by

C. C. Grassia

At the Board Meeting, I was asked to write about my latest activity regarding chestnuts. In a nutshell (pun intended!) I am still searching!

The Northern Nut Growers Association (NNGA) has provided much information about progress and activity concerning blight resistance in chestnuts. The 1979 edition of Nut Tree Culture in North America and the annual reports of NNGA are particularly good references.

Recently there has been an exciting discovery in Italy of a hypovirulent form of the chestnut blight fungus, endothia parasitica, which counteracts the deadly form and this appears to offer promise. However, there are unanswered questions and the fungus is not yet available for general distribution. It is reported that, once introduced, the hypovirulent fungus spreads naturally in Europe but not in the United States where it must be applied to each canker.

It is gratifying to note that there is increased interest in developing blight-resistant chestnuts on the part of several state Agricultural experiment stations. The U. S. Department of Agriculture has not yet resumed large scale research in this area. All in all, I feel that efforts are not commensurate

*Part I appeared in the Fall 1975 Newsletter

with the importance and value of restoring chestnut tree forests. There are pitifully few individuals working full time on programs, and of course, funding is relatively insignificant as compared with that of other agricultural programs.

My own efforts have yielded mixed results, thus far, but have taught many lessons. I have introduced American (Castanea dentata), Oriental (Castanea mollissima), and hybrid chestnuts in our forest land located at 2,600 feet elevation in the Blue Ridge Mountains. However, I learned the hard way that young chestnut trees are not strong competitors in the forest. They seem to need considerable sunlight. Grafted trees have shown incompatibility at the union of rootstock and scion after several years. This may be due to severe climatic conditions which prevailed before the trunks grew beyond one-half inch diameter.

As usual, anything which tastes good to man is often relished by wildlife. Seed nuts must be protected until they are completely absorbed by the growing plant or squirrels will wipe them out. Rabbits seem to enjoy seedlings with a passion. Woodchucks take their share, too, and insects are always ready to chew what is left.

At this stage, I have several dozen young trees set out in nursery rows and a dozen planted in the forest. None are bearing nuts. Of all the chestnut trees I've planted, the largest is a Chinese chestnut of four inch diameter trunk, growing in our own backyard in Winston-Salem. It has not flowered. I am anxious to reach the point where I can hybrid-

ize my own trees, with emphasis on helping to develop a blight-resistant American chestnut tree. However, time is my worst adversary.

Meanwhile, I shall introduce selected strains of other edible nuts and fruits into the forest. Persimmon, mulberry, paw-paw, walnut and butter-nut are already growing. Next, I must try again to grow superior strains of hickory and honey locust.

Thus, the search for chestnuts has expanded to a search for other edible nut treasures of the forest or field. It is great fun to hike the woods while my wife Lucille looks for wild flowers and to continue my search for nuggets, edible nuts.

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* * * * *

C. C. (Mel) Grassia is a field engineer for Western Electric. He owns land near Orchard Gap at the Virginia border, where he grows fruit trees and experiments with growing chestnuts and other nut trees.

BUTLER NURSERY
RFD No. 7 Box 318A
Fayetteville, N. C. 28306

September 3, 1979

Dear Members:

I'd like to tell our members about a few plants that are not rare, but they are a little unusual and there is occasionally some confusion about the identity, because both are commonly called Prickly Ash.

First, I'll describe the tree most commonly called Prickly Ash. This small tree belongs to the family Rutaceae and there are about 200 species found in principal countries throughout the world. The one we are concerned about here is the species Xanthoxylum clave-herculis, or hereabouts known as the Toothache Tree, or Hercules-club. The inner bark is yellow and it has strong, coarse spines on the stems. The pinnate leaves are about one foot long; the petiole and rachis prickly. Flowers are in terminal panicles. The bark is said to have medicinal uses.

I found a very good stand of these small trees growing among the sand dunes on the Outer banks; also they were found near Pawley's Island, S. C., and the beaches above Wrightsville.

Second, we consider the Aralia spinosa, commonly called the Devil's Walking Stick, Hercules'-Club, Prickly Ash. This large shrub with straight, round, very spiny stems, is mostly found growing in swampy

low-lying areas. The flowers are terminal with large, many umbled panicles. The fruit is small, round and purplish.

An interesting note about these plants is that they are close enough kin to our common English ivy that they can be grafted together. This shrub belongs to the family Araliaceae.

I should like to add to this a note about some plants that I have been growing for several years. As you may know, this plant is not a native and it comes from the tropical regions of South America. It is the Night-blooming Cereus, or Selinecerus. It belongs to the family Cactaceae. The one we have here has white flowers about five to seven inches across, but I do not know the particular species since there are about 30 species known. The flowers form on little nodes at the edges of the leaves, hanging down first, then just before opening, they will curve up in a horizontal position, looking straight out. The flower opens one time only, at midnight. I asked one of my garden center friends if he wanted to have some to sell. He replied, "No! My customers are doing something else at midnight!"

Sincerely,

Gordon Butler

ON THE COMPARATIVE PALATABILITY OF POISON OAK AND POISON IVY

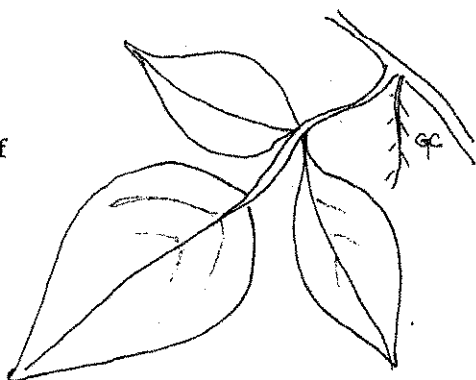
by
W. Elliott Horner

Growing up in the coastal woods of North Carolina with a susceptibility to the poisonous members of the genus Rhus was trying at best and maddening on occasion.

The advice of not scratching an outbreak to prevent its spreading is an exercise in self-control that must equal that of Zen masters of the East. The most torturing aspect of a case of poison ivy, however, was the impossibility of swimming so that the poison would

"dry up." This in itself was enough to induce despair on an August afternoon with both humidity and temperature in the nineties.

Having somehow managed to survive those times, it was with no small joy to have had a prevention for further cases proposed. It was on a field trip while learning what seemed to be an endless supply of plant names and uses that I was warned away from a bed of poison ivy, and then surprised to see the leader stoop, pick a leaf and eat it as he continued his discourse on dock, poke-weed, lambsquarters and sheep's sorrel. The explanation given was that he didn't like to get



Rhus radicans

poison ivy so he would eat the newly emerged poison ivy leaves in spring. This simple type of immunization then allowed him to roam the woods freely through the summer. I learned a great deal from Euell Gibbons that weekend but remembered mostly the sorrell and this bit of homeopathy.

Springtime five years later, I found myself employed at a state nature preserve in the North Carolina sandhills which boasted (among other things) a veritable bounty of poison oak. The manual* for the Carolinas notes of poison oak: "this may be only varietally different from poison ivy possibly an ecotype; equally as poisonous." From this, the assumption was made that one should be able to substitute poison oak for poison ivy and get the same effect. This proved to be the ideal test situation. An abundant supply was by the gate, both handy for picking and where one would notice the newly emerged leaves which are the key to this method of protection.

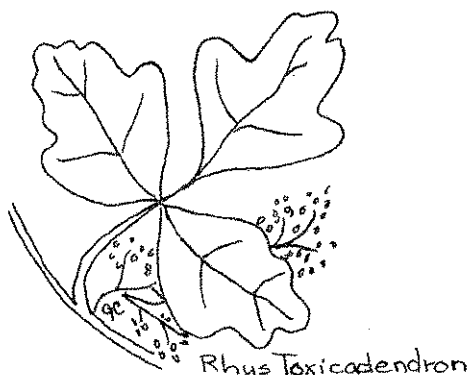
The only missing element at this point, as I had the tendency to contract poison ivy, a source of the weed and the knowledge that would help, was the actual courage to pick that first tiny pinkish leaf. However, upon viewing the masses of pinkish tinge scattered through the piney woods, I realized it was either goodbye park job or hello poison oak leaf, and as an aspiring botanist I saw only one choice--gulp!

The first year of treatment went merrily along until the leaves began to develop a bitter taste in the third week. As I was in constant contact though with poison oak each day, and had no dermatitis, it was a welcome bitterness.

*Radford, Ahles & Bell, Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1968).

The following spring, the same populations of poison oak at Weymouth Woods were used to develop the necessary protection for woods-roving in the Carolinas. The third spring of eating Rhus leaves was in Raleigh, where the xeric fields and woods that are habitat for poison oak are scarce, but poison ivy abounds. This provided the opportunity to test the originally suggested species as well as to make comparisons between the two. The species testing went well, poison ivy working the same as poison oak as near as could be told, with both seeming to provide protection against the other. The comparison proved to be quite a pleasant surprise, though, as the poison ivy didn't have the heavy, cottony pubescence like poison oak, that tends to stick in the throat, nor did it develop anything near the degree of bitterness of poison oak, if it was bitter at all. In fact, a few of the plants tasted possibly have some potential for salad greens, if a particularly flavorful line were to be developed (although that would be taking the process a bit far). Additional tastings in several areas of North

Carolina and, of late, in the vicinities of Syracuse, New York, and Manchester, New Hampshire, indicate a low degree of bitterness and an altogether not unpleasant taste of poison ivy leaves even as late as early August. The comparisons were handy, but an occasional "booster" effect was the objective of these mid-summer snacks.



Should any other woods-loving souls, tormented by contact with either the trifoliolate shrub or liana of the genus Rhus, be enticed by the prospect of this preventive technique, a few words of caution are probably in order.

First, and most importantly, is that neither am I a medical doctor nor is this a medical journal. I have known this procedure to work for two individuals, which will by no means satisfy even the most rudimentary statistical test. What works for one person may not do at all for someone else. Keeping this in mind, the desired effect should be obtained by eating one leaf (= 3 leaflets) per day for three weeks. Note that it is very important to start on the day, or the day after, the leaves break bud; as soon as they look like a leaf and are big enough to be picked. This is to insure a minimal dosage at the beginning and allow the body time to acclimate to the poison before being dosed heavily as with a larger leaf.

Another word of caution is that poison sumac (Rhus vernix) has not been tried, to my knowledge, and is reputed to be more highly toxic than either poison ivy or poison oak. The best approach to R. vernix or "Thunderwood"* may well be to learn the plant and avoid it. As its habitat is more restricted, this is more feasible than with poison ivy, although those brave enough to venture into sandhills branch-heads, coastal pocosins, or open marshy valleys of the mountains should beware.

*Coker & Totten, Trees of the Southeastern States (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1934), an excellent account of our most dangerous tree.

In conclusion, I can state two things with certainty as regards Rhus leaves. One is that this procedure has given me protection for three summers of botanizing and general swamp-stomping. The other is that a noticeable difference exists between the palatability of poison ivy and the fuzzy bitterness of poison oak. So, should you decide to "become one with your antagonist" to overcome it, remember, the smoother the leaf, the sweeter the medicine.

* * * * *

W. Elliott Horner, NCWFPS member and avid field botanist, is currently a student in the Department of Botany at Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York.

Editor's Note - At a glance, poison ivy leaves resemble Virginia creeper; but look closely and you'll see that poison ivy has three leaves and Virginia creeper has five.

Remember:

Leaflets five, let it thrive.

Leaflets three, quickly flee!

MINUTES
SPRING EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
March 25, 1979

The Board of the North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society, Inc. met for its annual spring meeting at the Totten Center, North Carolina Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill, on March 25, 1979.

President Emily Allen called the meeting to order. The treasurer reported a balance of \$1,194.60 in the General Fund, \$750.52 in the Scholarship Fund, and \$1,089.41 in the Publication Fund.

Dr. Ritchie Bell reported regarding the Revision of the Plant Protection Laws of North Carolina and asked members to contact state senators and representatives to seek their active support of this bill.

Harry Phillips asked for responses from the recipients of seeds in the society-sponsored seed exchange. Board members commended Harry Phillips for his work and requested that he continue his efforts. It was reported that the North Carolina Botanical Garden is actively investigating the use of seeds for propagating wild flowers in nurseries.

Harry Phillips reported on the Plant Rescue project which is designed to relocate plants threatened with destruction by bulldozers, flooding, etc. One such rescue will take place on Dr. Wells' property which will be flooded. Lionel Melvin asked that we attempt to work more closely with local Planning Boards.

The editors of the Newsletter were commended for the outstanding editions they have published.

Use of the Dr. Wells' memorial funds was discussed. It was moved by Viola Braxton that the Society buy a film, "The Natural Gardens of North Carolina," edited and produced by Hollis Rogers. The motion was amended by Harry Phillips and Lionel Melvin to the effect that the cost of the film be shared by the Society and the Botanical Garden, the Garden to be custodian. The motion was passed as amended.

The Scholarship Fund was discussed. It was moved by Caroline Donnan and seconded that the Scholarship Committee use its discretion in dispensing the fund. The motion passed.

Pattie Warren moved that the by-laws be updated; the motion passed and the President appointed Lionel Melvin and Flora Ann Bynum to the by-laws committee.

President Emily Allen described the Walker farmland area for a possible spring field trip. Marjorie Newell moved the acceptance of the Walker's invitation. The motion passed; the date for the trip was set for May 6 at 11:00 a. m., the business meeting to come first.

A motion by Harry Phillips that we proceed with our field trip program was passed. The Committee on additional field trips consists of Tom Howard, Chairman; Tom Jones, Larry Mellichamp, and Jean Stewart.

Julie Moore referred to the state agency, Natural Heritage, which provides basic information regarding endangered species. This agency solicits support of citizens for governing construction of local apartment complexes, etc. She recommended that the efforts of those developers who preserve the natural environment be recognized.

After recognizing Lionel Melvin's birthday, the meeting adjourned.

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
August 19, 1979

The Executive Board of the NCWFPS, Inc. met at Dr. Marjorie Newell's home in Winston-Salem, N. C. on Sunday, August 19, 1979 at noon. After a delicious lunch, the President, Emily Allen, called the meeting to order. In the absence of Clara Murray, Secretary, Marjorie Newell read the minutes of the Spring Board meeting. They were approved as read. Gretchen Cozart, Treasurer, reported a current balance of \$1,395.86. There is \$845.10 in the scholarship fund.

Emily Allen will confer with Ken Moore about buying the film of Dr. B. W. Wells' book, The Natural Gardens of North Carolina with the UNC Botanical Garden. The Board desires that the film be available statewide, and that information about this be put in the Newsletter.

The Botanical Garden staff has done a great deal of work on the seed exchange which has benefitted our Society. The members were encouraged to continue their participation in this project.

After discussion, it was decided that our Society not become a member of the Conservation Council of North Carolina.

It was directed that a letter be written to the North Carolina State Museum of Natural History in Raleigh, asking the amount of the annual dues for guidance in its decision whether or not to join.

Senate Bill 717 passed. At the Spring meeting, Dr. Ritchie Bell had urged members to write in support of this plant protection and conservation bill. Our Society was mentioned in the bill. We are delighted that it passed. Marjorie Newell

volunteered to Xerox copies of the entire bill for those interested, and will have them at the Fall meeting.

Our President was asked by James A. Graham, Commissioner of Agriculture, to submit a nominee to be on the North Carolina Plant Conservation Scientific Committee. Lionel Melvin was appointed.

When President Emily Allen was assembling information to apply for a non-profit bulk mailing permit, she wrote the Secretary of State for a copy of our Charter. This was required by the IRS for determination as a non-profit organization. The Department of State replied that the Charter had been suspended in 1963 for failure to comply with the Revenue Law. It appeared that the Society had not received and returned forms inquiring as to active, financial, and tax status. Forms are sent out periodically, and in the absence of a reply the Charter is automatically suspended. The Charter can be reinstated if it was "suspended in error," which was our situation. After proper forms were filed, and a \$25 reinstatement fee paid, the Secretary of State issued a "Certificate of Good Standing" on July 20, 1979. It may take as long as six months to get a non-profit determination from the IRS for a bulk mailing permit. Bulk mailings would save the Society considerable mailing expense.

The By-Laws Committee, consisting of Emily Allen, Lucille Grassia, Marjorie Newell, Flora Ann Bynum, and Lionel Melvin, Chairman, has been hard at work. The new By-Laws will be ready to submit at the Spring meeting of the Board of Trustees for approval and ratification.

The President appointed Nell Lewis chairman

of the Nominating Committee. Jean Stewart and Larry Mellichamp will serve with her.

Tom Howard has been appointed chairman of field trips. Tom Jones, Jean Stewart, and Larry Mellichamp will work with him.

The Society voted to accept Tom Howard's motion for the Fall field trip to Weymouth Woods Nature Preserve October 13-14. Gordon Butler requested that the Society consider the Lake Wac-camaw area for one of its meeting. Tom Howard thought it would be a good area to visit in 1980.

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Donnan, for
Clara Murray, Secretary

The peculiar response of plants to the change in the light and dark cycle of a 24-hour period is called photoperiodism. It is quite widespread in the plant kingdom and botanists who study it continually find new plants that respond. One curious example, Maine has no ragweed. The reason--ragweed needs a $14\frac{1}{2}$ -hour day to set flowers and mature seed. During August, when this normally happens, the Maine days are too long and ragweed cannot reseed itself.

From The New York Times
Sunday, September 16, 1979

MINUTES
SPRING GENERAL MEETING
N. C. WILD FLOWER PRESERVATION SOCIETY
May 6, 1979

The Spring General Meeting was held at the Robert Hill Log House on the Walker farm just outside of Statesville. The president, Emily Allen, presided.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance in the general fund of \$1,146.66; the Scholarship fund \$834.22.

Harry Phillips pronounced the first spring wildflower sale at the Botanical Garden a great success; he stated that the seed exchange was also doing well. It was decided that this seed exchange program be continued.

The president announced plans for a joint meeting with the Tennessee Wildflower group on Bluff Mountain sometime in June; more details to follow.

Reference was made to pending legislation--bills (S-714 and H.R. 1244) designed for plant protection and conservation. The secretary was directed to send telegrams to Senate and House members urging them to support this legislation.

Lib Connor invited the Society to join the Conservation Council of North Carolina. The matter was left open for further discussion at the Fall board meeting.

The hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Walker, welcomed the group and told us about plants we would find on the field trip on the farm. Mrs. Walker introduced Mrs. C. D. Linney, a member of the sixth generation of the Hill family, who related some interesting history of the Hill House.

A gift consisting of wildflower books was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Walker in appreciation of their hospitality.

Ray Derrick of Boone suggested compiling a directory of wildflower gardens of various members throughout the state. Those interested in having their gardens listed were asked to contact Harry Phillips or Emily Allen.

After a picnic lunch, field trips around the Walker farm were greatly enjoyed.

Respectfully submitted,

Clara Murray

For additional information on wild flower cultivation, refer to the North Carolina Native Plant Propagation Handbook, compiled by the members of the North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society, available through the Botanical Garden. Price: \$3.50 postpaid. Make checks payable to:

North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society, Inc.

Totten Garden Center, 457-A, UNC
North Carolina Botanical Garden
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514

OLD SALEM GARDEN GUIDE

Flora Ann Bynum, vice-president of the North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society and chairman of the Landscape Restoration Committee of Old Salem, Inc., has written a 64 page paperback booklet tracing the origin and explaining the significance of gardening in the growth of the early Moravian settlement. This booklet includes original maps and drawings as well as early and recent photographs. The fact-filled text is interspersed with interesting glimpses into the early settlers living habits. Although the book points out the settlement was founded for artisans and craftsmen, gardens were a necessity to provide nourishment. As time passed and outside sources of food became more abundant, more and more space for ornamental horticulture was found. The garden guide may be ordered from:

Old Salem Garden Guide

Old Salem, Inc.

Salem Station

Winston-Salem, N. C. 27108

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ONWARD AND UPWARD IN THE GARDEN

by Katharine S. White. Edited and with an introduction by E. G. White. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux. 362 pages. \$12.95.

Between 1958 and 1970, The New Yorker, in its book section, published a series of 14 essays entitled "Onward and Upward In The Garden" which appeared in varying months from March through December.

Written by Katharine S. White, a New Yorker editor from 1925 to 1958, and wife of E. B. White, one of the magazine's best authors, the series began with a survey of nursery and seed catalogs.

Some years before her death in 1977, Mrs. White planned a garden book based on the New Yorker essays, but declining health prevented her from completing it. Her husband has edited the essays and written a loving tribute to her in the introduction to the book.

Among the many gardening and wild flower books described and discussed in the later essays, North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society members will be pleased to find high praise bestowed upon Elizabeth Lawrence's A Southern Garden and Justice and Bell's Wild Flowers of North Carolina (UNC Press), which Mrs. White describes as "a model for any state field guide."

OCTOBER'S PARTY

"October gave a party;

The leaves by hundreds came—

The chestnut, oaks, and maples,

The leaves of every name.

The sunshine spread a carpet,

And everything was grand,

Miss weather led the dancing,

Professor Wind the Band."

--George Cooper
(1838-1927)

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NOTES



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Many members who have enjoyed Viola Braxton's Coconut Cake at our picnics have asked for her recipe. She obliges us with the following instructions:

COCONUT CAKE Viola Braxton Style

Prepare one (1) box white cake mix according to directions, except use the 2 yolks in the batter and save the 2 egg whites for the frosting. Bake in an oblong 9 x 12" pan. Let cool and slice in half the long way of the cake.

Fluffy White Frosting

Beat 2 egg whites, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water, 3 tablespoons light corn syrup in top of double boiler 1 minute. Then beat over boiling water at high speed for 7 minutes or until frosting will stand stiff.

Put $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of water and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of sugar in a pan and bring to a boil. Remove from heat and add 2 teaspoons of vanilla.

Put one slice of the cake on a tray and spoon $\frac{1}{2}$ the water sugar vanilla syrup over it. Then $\frac{1}{2}$ the fluffy white frosting, and sprinkle with a 7 oz. package of Southern Cross fresh frozen coconut thawed. Place the other half of the cake on top of the first layer and repeat the same process.

Put in plastic bag in refrigerator for two days so it will mellow. Transfer to deep freeze until ready to use. Slice as soon as you take it from the deep freeze. Let thaw - and it is ready to eat.



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