

NORTH
CAROLINA

wild flower

PRESERVATION
SOCIETY, INC.



FALL 1985

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Fall 1985 Newsletter
President's Message

In the last three or four years there has been a nation-wide explosion of interest among home gardeners in wild and native plants. Practically every state has a wildflower or native plant society. New commercial sources of wild flower seeds and plants are sending out catalogs. Also established seedsmen and nurseries now are listing wild and native plants in addition to their familiar garden plants. The magnitude of this interest in native plants was illustrated by the turn-out at a recent conference held July 25-27, 1985, at Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, N. C. About 350 people from 21 states registered. More details of this conference are found elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Members of the NCWFPS have a long history of involvement in conserving native plants. Through plant exchanges at spring and fall meetings we have had an opportunity to learn first-hand about the successes and failures encountered in growing native plants. Recognizing the devastating consequences of indiscriminate collecting of native plants, Society members have been active in getting the State legislature to establish guidelines to conserve threatened wild plants.

The Society has supported efforts of the North Carolina Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill, through their "conservation through propagation" activities. In 1977 the Society published "North Carolina Native Plant Propagation Handbook," a summary of the experiences of many Society members in growing and propagating native plants. The first printing was exhausted in 1978 and a new printing, with some editorial corrections, was published in the fall of 1984.

There remains much work to understand about the growth and propagation of many native plants. The NCWFPS scholarship program will provide useful information. Continued input from members of the Society also will broaden the base of information. Your support is needed--let us hear from you.

G. Ray Noggle

Scholarship Fund

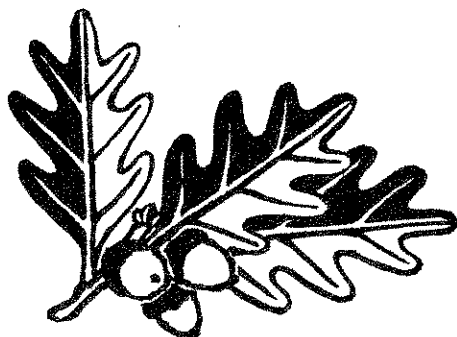
One of the major objectives of the NCWFPS has been the establishment of a Scholarship Fund to support student research, both undergraduate and graduate, on native plants. Over the years money in excess of our annual needs has been set aside for the fund. Also members have made individual gifts to the Scholarship Fund. In 1984 the society awarded the first two scholarships.

We call attention to the Scholarship Fund and ask that you consider making a special gift to enhance research by the Society on native plants. Any amount is welcome, and it will be used exclusively to support student research. Send your contribution, marked Scholarship Fund, to the Treasurer, Mrs. Sydnor M. Cozart, 900 West Nash Street, Wilson, NC 27893.

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I love all that thou lovest,
Spirit of Delight
Autumn evening, and the morn
When the golden mists are born.

Percy Bysshe Shelley
1792 - 1822



THE MISSING BATEAU
or
THE DISCOVERY OF A DENDROCHRONOLOGIST
by
Steven W. Leonard

Leon Horrell, rugged individualist and raconteur of Haws Bluff community near Kelly, spends a month each year in the swamp. From Thanksgiving until Christmas Eve he pulls, poles, and paddles two tiny wooden boats into the labyrinth of sloughs and coves along the Black River, which in this area, divides Bladen County from Pender. Quickly and deftly he snips berry-laden branches of mistletoe from pop-ash and blackgum; then gently, he places the holiday boughs of greenery into the empty boat that he tows for that purpose.

Seventeen years ago, he tied the tow-boat to a sapling and ventured into a part of the swamp that he had never before explored. Quietly, with a scarcely audible splash, he dipped the short paddle into the dark water, memorizing his trail by the shape of the giant gnarled and buttressed cypress trees. After a quick assessment of mistletoe within reach, Horrell paddled his little bateau in a swift 180° turn to retrace his trail to the almost-filled tow-boat. The prospects looked good, he thought to himself. Enough mistletoe here for years to come.

A warmth surged within over his just-discovered good fortune. He remembered that sometimes when seeds are scarce, the birds eat all the sticky white fruits of the mistletoe. During other years hurricane winds strip leaves from the branches, and nothing more is left of the fine clumps than the dull army-green stems. Many clumps themselves are blown from the trees, or the branches upon which they grow--having been weakened by years of parasitism--snap readily and fall into the swirling waters.

On and on he paddled, this man of the swamp, and suddenly the slough opened into a hidden pond that was completely unfamiliar to him. Horrell stopped paddling momentarily. Deathly silence. He checked his directions. The sun was edging down, and he figured it must be about 4 o'clock. The little boat continued to glide with ease, and barely perceptible ripples lapped against the swollen bald cypresses.

"Dang! I made a wrong turn," Horrell muttered to himself.

With a few deep strokes he cut a tight semicircle and returned to the bushy constriction from which he had just emerged. He was annoyed with himself. Slackness in his normally acute powers of observation had cost him time. He reluctantly admitted to error, for he was proud of his sense of direction and ability to navigate into the swamp where no one had ever ventured. Wasn't it well known at the country store where the coon hunters sat around and spat Red Man and Levi Garrett that "Leon Horrell knows the swamp like an ol' pappy coon"?

In a few minutes he recognized a leaning monarch of a tree--one that he had passed a short time before. It was a snag, like to many of the old cypresses in the swamp, with the top snapped out long ago by a wind storm or shattered by a bolt of lightning. He paddled methodically, carefully, searching for an elusive water path where everything would fit together as he pictured it in his mind. But nothing matched. He looked again to the late autumn sky, mentally plotted his route to high ground, and firmly decided to search the following day for the little boat, loaded with mistletoe.

To this day, Leon Horrell wonders about that little lost boat, for after countless trips into the Black River swamp, he has failed to find it. He respects the swamp and speaks of it almost reverently, and well that

he should, for it is a natural sanctuary of singular, primeval beauty. Veiled in Spanish moss, dark and deep, the swamp is a secretive, mysterious, inaccessible place where the muck is too fluid to walk upon and too solid to boat through at low water, and when the river floods, the forest becomes a myriad of inter-connecting passage-ways.

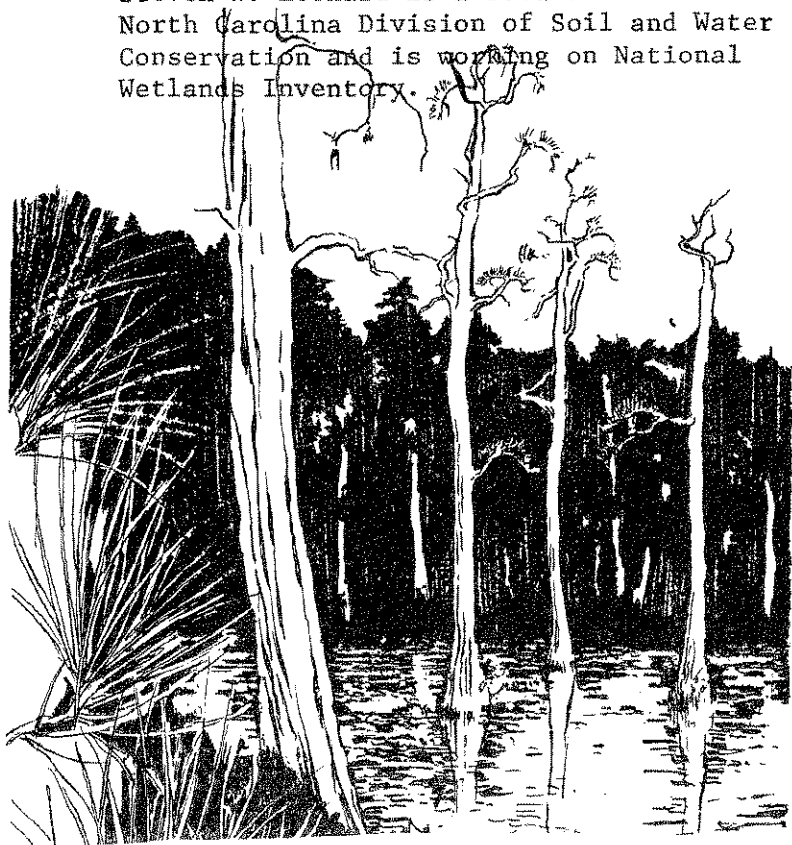
And what of interest to a botanist grows there? No one knows for sure. From the air, one can see huge cypress trees and a thick understory. From Haws Bluff Church, the understory can be identified as mostly pop-ash and blackgum. From the river's edge, one can see titi and winterberry and resurrection fern. Along a slough, upstream from Larkin's Cove, sarvis-leaved holly is abundant. And downstream from the NC 53 bridge grows **Sagittaria stagnorum**--a delicate little plant with an indelicate name!

However, it is neither delicate herbs nor rare holly that has stirred interest in Leon Horrell's beloved Black River swamp. Last July, information was received that adds an amazing chapter to the story of the Black River forest. The news came from the University of Arkansas' Dr. David Stahle, a dendrochronologist who uses bald cypress growth rings in his research. From increment borings obtained from 26 trees in the swamp, Dr. Stahle and his staff have "derived a high quality tree-ring chronology for the Black River baldcypress that dates from A.D. 860 to 1984." Stahle continues: "Two trees date earlier than A.D. 860 (i.e., with innermost rings dating to +799 and +808), but due to uncertainty concerning a possible missing ring at 859, we have had to terminate the absolute dating at A.D. 860 until additional old specimens can be obtained to resolve this possible problem." **THUS THE BLACK RIVER TREES, STILL ALIVE, STILL GROWING, ARE THE OLDEST KNOWN TREES IN EASTERN UNITED STATES AND CANADA, AND OLDER THAN ANY TREES IN THIS COUNTRY EAST OF THE BRISTLECONE PINES!**

The University of Arkansas researchers also report that the size of trees does not necessarily correlate with age; other bald cypress trees in North Carolina are equally as large as some of those in the Black River swamp, but few are more than half as old. According to Dr. Stahle, another superlative feature of the Black River trees is that they have not rotted internally in spite of their antiquity.

We think there may be older trees deep in the swamp at places only Leon Horrell knows. If he will take us there in February, when Dr. Stahle returns to North Carolina, we may join the privileged few who have visited this truly national treasure. Perhaps, if we are patient, observant, and lucky, we'll find a long-lost tow-boat in a mistletoe thicket!

Steven W. Leonard is a botanist with the North Carolina Division of Soil and Water Conservation and is working on National Wetlands Inventory.



GROWING FERNS FROM SPORES

by

Sandra Ladendorf

Most gardeners have raised plants from seed, but few of us have attempted to produce ferns from spores. The available information on fern propagation is intimidating. We read about prothallia, sporophytes and the need to keep the medium moist enough so that the spermatozoids can swim to the archegonia, then throw up our hands in abandon and go back to planting zinnia seeds.

Raising ferns is almost as easy as raising zinnias, according to Jane Welshmer, member of the North Carolina Wildflower Preservation Society, fern enthusiast, collector and propagator. "The books make fern propagation sound so difficult. Years ago, I had some maidenhair spleenworts in a terrarium, and spontaneous germination took place. When it happened, it was so easy," says Mrs. Welshmer.

Her interest in ferns began about 15 years ago when the Welshmers were living in Birmingham, Alabama. She was gardening with wild flowers and realized that she had ten or more ferns in the garden and could identify only three of them. Since it's hard for a novice to identify ferns from pictures, she sought out local fern hobbyists, learned how to identify those ferns she was growing and began trading and collecting other ferns.

After the spores of that spleenwort germinated with no effort on her part, she became interested in producing other ferns from spores. She started with rare varieties she felt should be increased. Now, propagating containers decorate her kitchen, winter greenhouse, living room and study, and occasionally some even wind up behind her bedroom couch--anywhere the plants can receive light but no direct sunlight.

To propagate a fern, Mrs. Welshmer begins with a transparent plastic shoe or sweater box. Any similar

airtight container will do. Terrariums work well but take up a lot of space, she noted.

In her box she first places a one-inch layer of perlite or vermiculite to provide drainage. She then sprinkles a thin layer of charcoal, topped with an inch-thick layer of commercial potting soil. She has used several kinds successfully. At present she is using Pro-Mix.

It is important to moisten the container thoroughly before introducing the spores. This is a matter of judgment. I know I can lift a pot or propagating case and tell by heft if it is too dry, too wet or just right. To describe the ideal wetness verbally, Mrs. Welshmer said, "The mix should be thoroughly moist, but the top of the soil should not be squashy. If it is too wet, you can remove some water by temporarily sticking a paper towel in the corner of the box."

With the box prepared, she then sprinkles spores over the surface, dates and labels that box and then puts the lid on. Germination rate varies considerably. Some ferns begin in two or three weeks; others take eight to 10 months. The first thing she sees is a greenish bloom on the soil. The cells are dividing until they reach the prothallia stage. A prothallia is a tiny, kidney-shaped plate. When Jane sees these little plates scattered over the soil's surface, she gives the box an additional spray of water. Soon she sees the first leaves coming out of that little plate.

When the baby ferns are large enough for separating and transplanting, they are moved into a nursery case, prepared the same way but with a slightly thicker layer of soil. She has found that using a dental probe is the easiest way to lift the tiny plants. As she moves the plants, she dips the roots in a bowl of Up-Start, a root stimulator produced by Ortho, formula 5-15-5. She also waters them with Up-Start and mists them with a diluted solution.

When these ferns are ready to go into the garden, Mrs. Welshmer leaves the lid off the box for about a week so that the plants harden off. She mists carefully. In the garden, she again uses Up-Start when transplanting and then waters very conscientiously for weeks. She notes that all ferns need to be in the shade almost all the time.

Her woodland collection now numbers more than 50 different species, including a couple of tropical ones that have surprised her by surviving outdoors in Chapel Hill.

As garden hobbyists tend to do, Mrs. Welshmer also collects books on her field of gardening. The basic reference book has been F. Gordon Foster's "Ferns to Know and Grow." This classic had been out of print for some time, so I was delighted when in 1984 Timber Press produced a new, enlarged edition.

Foster carefully edited and updated the entire book. For example, if you compare copies, you learn that years ago he propagated his spores in clay pots. Today he prefers glass jars or plastic boxes.

The big change comes in the addition of many more species from the Western and Southern states. The old book illustrated and described 89 different ferns, primarily those grown successfully in the Northeast. The new book presents 132 species of hardy and tender ferns.

I like the attractive and informative attention to minute details in all the botanical illustrations. Profesisionally, Foster was a microscopist, now retired from Bell Laboratories, and that training shows in his drawings. I must admit a slight preference for the illustrations in the old edition, for each set had its own page facing the information page. In the new edition, wth its larger pages, both drawings and plant information are on the same page, so the drawings are slightly reduced in size.

The new, hardbound edition of "Ferns to Know and Grow" should be on every gardener's bookshelf. If you cannot find a copy in your local bookstore, order it directly from Timber Press, Box 1631, Beaverton, Oregon 07075.

Sandra Ladendorf gardens in Chapel Hill. She is the Sunday garden columnist for the News and Observer. This article is reprinted with permission.

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There's a special section on growing and propagating ferns contributed by Charlotte A. Jones-Roe, Curator, North Carolina Botanical Garden, in Harry Phillips' book, Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers, with illustrations by Dorothy S. Wilbur, published by the UNC Press this year. This book may be ordered from:

N. C. Botanical Garden, UNC-CH
Totten Center 457-A
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Price is \$14.95 paper, \$24.95 cloth. Add \$1.25 for first book, 75 cents for each additional book. Prepayment or credit card information required. Telephone: 967-2246.

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How well I know what I mean to do
When the long dark Autumn-evenings come.

Robert Browning
1812 - 1889

LET'S GO NATIVE

by

Ray G. Noggle

In recent years there has been a surge of activity in the use of wildflowers and native plants in home gardens, roadsides, public areas, commercial sites, and parks. Suddenly it is fashionable to go back to nature. In addition, TV, radio, and print media are exhorting us to buy "natural" products---food, spices, beverages, lotions, potions, emollients, soaps, dentifrices, deodorants, etc. Natural fibers--cotton, wool, flax--are being pushed on us. Natural (biological) methods of managing weeds, insects, fungi, and other pests are coming into use. What does it all mean? Ultimately all of us depend on green plants for our very existence. Why all the emphasis on "natural"?

Certainly some of the increased awareness of natural products is pure advertising ballyhoo. In a recent advertisement Jack Daniels is stated to be made from natural corn, natural wheat, natural barley, and natural spring water. Consider what the old-time moonshiner missed by not advertising Old Stump Puller made out in nature from natural corn and branch water.

A recent gathering at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, illustrates another aspect of the interest in native plants. A Conference on Landscaping with Native Plants was held July 25-27, 1985, sponsored by Tennessee Valley Authority, Western Carolina University, and the North Carolina Museum of Natural History. Leo Collins of TVA and Jim Horton of Western Carolina University were the moving forces behind the Conference. About 350 persons from 21 states registered for the event. The program featured several speakers--Fred Galle, Callaway Gardens, Georgia; Darrell Morrison, School of Landscape Design, University of Georgia, Athens; David Northington, Executive Director, National Wildflower Research Center, Austin, Texas; and Kathryn Kennedy, National Conservation Council. Most of the

time, however, was devoted to panel and group sessions and poster sessions on such topics as: Starting a Native Plant Nursery, Propagating Wild Flowers (Ken Moore and Harry Phillips, N. C. Botanical Garden), Meadow Gardening, the Role of Native Plant Societies in the National Landscaping Movement, Taming our Native Ornamentals.

Many commercial growers were on hand to pass out brochures, pamphlets, and samples. Free-wheeling discussions during meals and breaks were enjoyed by all. It was a useful gathering and it is expected that another conference will be arranged for next year. The first Conference was in 1984. An attempt is being made to organize an Association for Landscaping with Native Plants. More will be heard of this effort during the coming year.

Several members of the North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society and staff from the N. C. Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill, were in attendance. About 50 NCWFPS membership brochures were distributed and 40 copies of the Propagation Handbook were sold. The long-standing commitment of the N. C. Botanical Garden to its program of conservation through propagation was recognized as having a major influence on the native plant movement. We are fortunate to have such a group here in North Carolina; other state native plant societies are envious of our good fortune. Watch for an announcement of the 1986 Conference and plan to attend.



NATIVE PLANT SOCIETIES

There are about 50 Botanical Clubs and Native Plant Societies in the United States. A complete listing may be obtained from the compiler, Mary M. Walker, by sending one dollar plus SASE (#10, 2 stamps) to the New England Wild Flower Society, Inc., Garden in the Woods, Hemenway Road, Framingham, MA 01701.

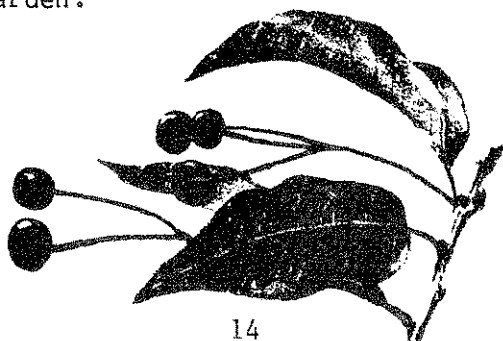
Some of you may have received information from the National Wildflower Research Center, Austin, Texas. The Center was established in 1982 with a major contribution from Lady Bird Johnson. To date their major activity has been fund raising but they expect to undertake a variety of studies on wild flowers. Their address is National Wildflower Research Center, 2600 FM 973 North, Austin, TX 78725.

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WILD FLOWER SEEDS

Wild flower seeds are for sale from the New England Wild Flower Society, Inc. The 1986 Seed-Sale List may be obtained (before March 1, 1986) by sending SASE (\$0.39 #10) to Seeds, New England Wild Flower Society, Garden in the Woods, Hemenway Road, Framingham, MA 01701.

Don't forget the seeds available from the N. C. Botanical Garden.



A SAVANNAH'S SECRET

by

Margaret S. Howell

O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright!

It seems she hangs upon the cheek of night

As a rich jewel in an Ethiop's ear--

Beauty too rich for use, for earth too dear!

--William Shakespeare

In the upper reaches of Pender County and adjacent Onslow, there is a site which offers a microcosm of the lower Cape Fear area's wildflowers, many of which are blooming this month. Protected as a relatively new part of the state's Natural Heritage Program, the site is a haven for many savannah and bog-growing plants. Included among the botanical wonders at the site is the rare Cooley's Meadowrue, the only place in the world where the plant's existence is documented.

Discovered as a new species in the late 1950s by Harry E. Ahles of the University of North Carolina, the rare meadowrue was named by Ahles for George R. Cooley, a wealthy New York financier and botanist. News of the new meadowrue was first published by Ahles in 1959, originally establishing its location as being within one-half mile of the site now protected by the Natural Heritage Program.

According to Steve Leonard, a botanist with the state's Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, many people had searched for the plant after Ahles died but were unsuccessful. In the late 1970s Leonard worked with Dr. Douglas Rayner of South Carolina's heritage program to continue to search for the meadowrue.

"It was like looking for a needle in a haystack," Leonard said. "When we finally found one plant, you can imagine how overjoyed we were." Within a mile or two of their first find, Leonard and Rayner found the

plant in six other places in a small area between Maple Hill and Holly Ridge. The major habitat for Cooley's Meadowrue, a 1.5-acre site, was dedicated a North Carolina Natural Heritage Area on March 30, 1984.

Known formally as *Thalictrum cooleyi*, Cooley's Meadowrue differs from other members of the meadowrue family by having pale lavender, rather than white, filaments, much narrower leaflets and fewer leaf divisions. Its fragile appearance is indicative of its need for protection. Presently, the plant appears only on the state's endangered species list and is not federally protected.

Also near the Maple Hill community a larger site is presently being investigated for similar protection under the program because of its contingent of other rare flora, according to Julie Moore Carter, botanist and protection planner with the Natural Heritage Program.

Both Leonard and Ms. Carter cited the soil type of both areas as responsible for creating the habitat which supports Cooley's Meadowrue and other rare plants. The soil, according to Leonard, is called the Grifton series.

"The soils found in the savannah bogs of areas in southeastern North Carolina are very unusual," Ms. Carter said. "There is a layer of marl or limestone not very deep under the surface and this creates a nearly neutral or high pH level." Such soils, she noted, also provide havens for insectivorous plants, such as pitcher plants.

At the same small site, Cooley's Meadowrue is joined by a host of other savannah and bog-loving plants indigenous to the North Carolina coastal plain. From the delicate lavender of the rare meadowrue to the starry white bracted sedge abundant there, the bog boasts blooms of deep purple, gold, red and green.

Here indeed, among our beaches, our marshes, our swamps and our forest land, are rich jewels of nature. Their beauty in the midst of the bogs and briers of southeastern North Carolina is an unsurpassed gift of springtime.

--From Tidewater, June 1985.

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1986 AUSTRALIAN WILDFLOWER TOUR

The American Horticultural Society, in cooperation with the Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society, is sponsoring a wildflower tour of Western Australia September 24 to October 12, 1986. The tour leader will be Dr. Stanwyn Shetler, Curator of Botany, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

Tour brochures setting out the itinerary can be obtained from Charles A. Huckins, Executive Director, American Horticultural Society, Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121, or Mary Painter, President, Virginia Wildflower Preservation Society, Box 844, Annandale, VA 22003.

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We lack but open eye and ear
To find the Orient's marvels here;
The still small voice in Autumn's hush,
Yon maple wood, the burning bush.

John Greenleaf Whittier
1807 - 1892

ELIZABETH LAWRENCE
1904 - 1985

Author and landscape architect Elizabeth Lawrence had what friends called a rare combination of gifts, the brilliant scientific mind and the artistic talent to write classic gardening books.

For more than 35 years at her Myers Park home on Ridgewood Road she nurtured one of Charlotte's most striking little gardens with all the care she gave to writing such classics as A Southern Garden, The Little Bulbs, and Gardens in Winter.

Even before her move to Charlotte in the late forties, she had carefully designed and developed a garden in Raleigh where plants bloomed every season of the year, and it was here that she wrote her first book, A Southern Garden, which was published in 1942 by UNC Press, reissued in 1967, then published in paperback in 1984.

Elizabeth Lawrence was the first woman to graduate from the landscape design school at N. C. State University. She also had a degree in English from Barnard College in New York. She wrote journal articles, book introductions, and gardening columns. Dr. W. B. Mayer said, "She was sort of the Jane Austen of the gardening literary world."

Another book which Elizabeth Lawrence called The Market Bulletin Ladies is believed to be in the hands of a publisher. Even while she was convalescing from serious surgery, she worked on the manuscript which is about country women who sell plants by mail order through notices in state market bulletins.

Elizabeth Lawrence was an active member of the North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society, contributing many articles to its Newsletter, sharing plants from her garden, and carrying on an active correspondence with many of its members.

We remember--and pay tribute.

Herbert Hechenbleikner

Minutes of the October 8, 1985, Board Meeting

The president, Dr. Ray Noggle, opened the Board Meeting at the Totten Center at 1:00 p.m. after a potluck lunch. The minutes of the last meeting and the report of the spring general meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter. The President thanked Floyd Rich and Bob Tuggle and all of the people who worked to provide an excellent joint spring meeting with the Rockingham County Naturalists Club April 13-14.

The Treasurer reported a balance in the Scholarship Fund of \$6497.15 and a balance in the treasury of \$2980.11. A little over \$1000.00 is credited to the Handbook in a separate account.

Plans for the fall meeting at Beaufort were discussed. Jeanie Wilson Kraus, who is on the staff at the North Carolina Maritime Museum, and Julie Moore Carter have proposed plans for the October 4-6 meeting. Arrangements have been made for participants to have condominium accommodations at A Place at the Beach for reasonable rates. Information about the week-end is being sent to the members.

In a discussion of plans for the Spring 1986 meeting, it was agreed that a place in Western North Carolina would be appropriate. Emily Allen suggested Chimney Rock. Harry Phillips suggested the Asheville area, including a visit to Tom Shinn and time to work in his garden. Harry's suggestion was accepted.

The President reported on the Scholarship Program. One recipient has changed his major, leaving the research he was doing in the Horticulture Department at NCSU. Applications are being received for his replacement in that project.

The Treasurer suggested that contributions to the Scholarship Fund be requested when notices are sent out for the annual payment of dues. Floyd Rich suggested a space be provided on the dues form. The Treasurer asked

that the forms be corrected to state that a Sustaining Membership is \$25.00, not \$10.00. The Society now has about 500 members.

The President spoke of the gardens of several Board members which were visited at Eden last spring and suggested they be described in the publication that Julie Moore Carter is compiling. Members were reminded to provide Julie with information on their favorite or noteworthy wildflower sites whether in their own backyards, national parks or forests, state parks or privately owned gardens or nature preserves. Send to Julie Moore Carter, 518 Elm Street, Raleigh, NC 27604.

The President described the Landscaping with Native Plants Conference at Cullowhee, July 24-27. This second annual conference was attended by 350 people from 21 states, attesting to the national interest in the use of native plants. Many new nurseries and some long established ones now propagate native plants rather than collect from the wild and many individuals grow and study them. Harry Phillips of the N. C. Botanical Garden, who attended the conference, said the Garden is recognized as the prime source of knowledge and holds a prominent place in the world of native plants. The sponsorship by the Garden of the Wildflower of the Year program sparked much interest in the movement, and the sale by the garden of material for propagation helped it grow. At the Cullowhee meeting, Dr. Noggle sold Propagation Handbooks and distributed many membership brochures.

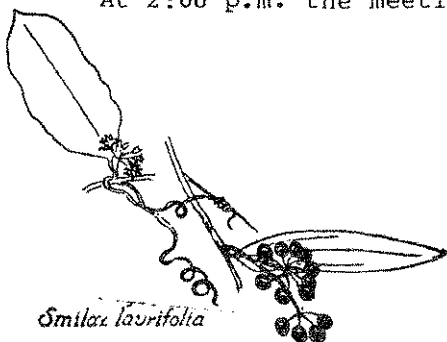
It was announced that the 1986 Wildflower of the Year may be the Foam Flower.

At 2:00 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Noggle

Acting Secretary



Smilax laurifolia

One week and one day after Hurricane Gloria, Beaufort, NC, became host to another important event, the North Carolina Wildflower Preservation Society Fall Weekend. Beaufort is a small waterfront town where modern yachts dock with replicas of 17th century vessels and sleek racing schooners. Harborside downtown is also the home of the N. C. Maritime Museum. Patterned after a 100-year-old Coast Guard Station, the museum houses exhibits which include sea shells, boats, aquariums, and area cultural history. Julie Moore Carter opened the meeting and introduced Jeannie Wilson Kraus, the speaker for the evening. Jeannie and Julie served as field trip leaders for the weekend.

In her slide presentation Jeannie showed some of the different habitats found in Carteret County. Beautiful photos of White and Yellow Fringed Orchids, Grass Pinks, Rose Pogonias, Venus Fly Traps and Pitcher Plants, along with aerial shots of the Croatan Forest quietly appeared and faded thanks to the museum's double projector system.

Saturday morning was wet but about 30 people gathered for a trip to Nine Foot Road in Croatan National Forest. Pink, purple, yellow and white were the main colors for this autumn adventure. Trilisa, Carphophorous and Liatris--at least two species of each--and three species of Sarracenia along with Burmannia accompanied Sundews, Butterworts and Fly Traps. This was one of the areas ravaged by spring wildfires. Being a habitat that requires periodic burning to eliminate competition, the bog vegetation was well recovered--a short-lived recovery if the Forest Service decides to sell this plot for a proposed school project. This is a unique area! Anyone wishing to protest the use of this land for a school may write: District Ranger, U. S. Forest Service, 435 Thurman Road, New Bern, N. C. 28560.

Next we stopped along the roadside where Prickly Pear and False Asphodel dotted the ditches. Entering the forest by a logging road and through a patch of red Indian Pipes we walked to Patsy Pond and another fresh-

water lake. On the way Bill Noonan enlightened us on the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker's defenses when we encountered a resin covered pine tree with a nest in it. At the ponds, Julie and Jeannie pointed out Cassina Holly and Litsea, two of the waterside residents, both of which are rare and in the extreme northern limit of their ranges.

Henry and Augusta Haberyan invited us to have our picnic at their home on the White Oak River at Swansboro. This river supplies clams and oysters for many of the local seafood restaurants. Pattie Warren, who is now in her nineties and a charter and a life member of the Society, greeted everyone and introduced herself to those of us who had not previously had the pleasure. Coral Beads, Beauty Bush and Yellow Passion-flower were all showing their fruits. Ken Moore gathered cuttings and the bright red drupes from the Coral Beads for the Botanical Garden. (See Fall 1984 issue of our Newsletter for Mrs. Haberyan's article on Coral Beads.)

After lunch we walked further inland to Island Creek Forest Trail. The Brothers Grimm could not have enchanted a forest more thoroughly. The trail wound through dense hardwoods. A slowly swirling creek the color of strong tea cut into irregular outcrops of marl, where a freshly hatched Snapping Turtle watched from a damp depression. **Asplenium heteroresiliens** and **Cystopteris tennesseensis** were welcome sights and several people were on their knees paying homage. On the way back to the cars Ken had us collecting berries from the carpet of **Mitchella repens**. The question 'Why does one Partridge Berry require two blooms?' was asked. No one knew--Perhaps someone can write the editor with an answer.

Pocosin is the Algonquian word for marsh or swamp. Also, pocosin describes the area in the middle of the Croatan surrounding Catfish Lake. Here a tangled wilderness of low shrubs grows on a bed of peat. This peat gives Island Creek its tea color. Catfish Lake although large in surface area is very shallow and occupies a depression possibly formed by an ancient peat burn. Atlantic White Cedar occurs in the open

areas along the shore but the prevalent conifers are the Long Leaf and the Pond pines. We were fortunate enough to see a Spotted Mud Turtle.

After a rest and seafood dinners we met again at the museum for an incredible array of desserts, a short business meeting, and a slide share. Jane Welshmer began the slide share with photos from Havana Glen, Alabama, where Scott's Spleenworts grow among the conglomerate rock formations. **Asplenium pinnatifidum**, another rare fern which she has propagated and distributed was among her other subjects. A new member and a botany student from Raleigh, Craig Moretz, presented slides on the Pine Barrens Gentian, Catesby's Lily, and the Nature Conservancy's Lanier Quarry in Pender County. Several species of **Sarracenia** were highlighted when he explained his very successful backyard bogs.

Lindera subcoriaceae, the Bog Spicebush, a shrub rare in North Carolina, was Julie M. Carter's first slide. She also discussed research in tree coring along the Black River which dated some of the Cypress trees at 1200 years.

Floyd Rich closed the show with slides from past meetings, as well as bogs and fens of Bluff Mountain and some of the Piedmont's flora, including Indian Paint Brush.

As I was unable to attend Sunday's field trip to Carrot Island, a barrier island in the Rachel Carson National Seashore located directly across from the Beaufort waterfront, Floyd Rich reports:

"About twenty of us met at the museum and took a boat over for the two hour island trek. We observed several bird species, including pelicans and migrating warblers. A large number of ponies range the area and we at times came close to several of these. Migrating Monarch butterflies were feeding on the Cotton Bush, no doubt headed for winter grounds in Mexico. We collected some shells on this picturesque island, and enjoyed such plants as Seaside Goldenrod, Sea Ox-eye, Glaswort, and Indian Blanket."

Bob Tuggle

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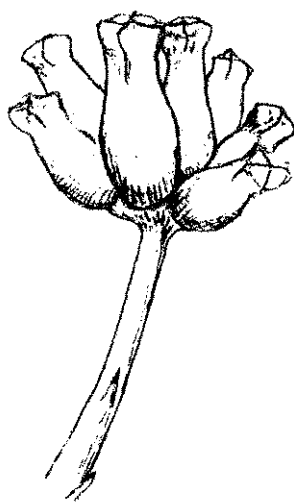
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