

## Brief History — N.C.W.F.P.S., Inc.

In the spring of 1951 the North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society came into being. Mrs. C. A. Graham, Sr., of Ramseur was Director of District VI of the Garden Club of North Carolina. As director, naturally it was her desire to see their district win a state award. By word of mouth, news went round that anyone interested in joining an organization for the preservation of the native flora of North Carolina meet at "Smithwin Farm" on Sunday, April 29, 1951, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert P. Smith. Mrs. Herbert P. Smith was made the first president and served 1951–1952.

The fall meeting was September 30, 1951, at "Hobby Acres," wild flower preserve of the W. B. Carrolls of Siler City, N.C. The organization had 63 charter members. The board meeting of the N.C.W.F.P.S. was in Greensboro, March 4, 1952, with the regular meeting being held in Tryon, N.C., at the Oak Hall Hotel, May 3–4, 1952. "Windy Rill," home of the J. A. Warrens, was the scene of the fall meeting of the N.C.W.F.P.S. It was at this meeting that the club voted to have the recording secretary prepare a newsletter to keep one in touch with the work of the Society.

Membership had grown to 110. The spring meeting of 1953 was in Wilmington, N.C., on Saturday night and the first Sunday of May. Mr. J. A. Warren was made president for 1952–54. The fall meeting was held October 11, 1953, at Morrow Mountain Park near Albemarle.

The spring meeting of 1954 was held at Hanging Rock Park. Mrs. Paul Spencer was president 1954–56.

Mrs. Spencer made Mrs. Herbert P. Smith and Miss Rebecca Causey editors of the newsletter. The fall meeting of the N.C.W.F.P.S. was held October 17, 1954, at Cumberland Knob Park, twenty-one miles west of Mt. Airy.

The spring meeting, April 17, 1955, was at Chapel Hill. Gardens toured were: Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Warren, 301 Hillsboro Street; Dr. and Mrs. H. R. Totten, Laurel Hill Road; Miss Josephine Pritchard, 400 Ransom Street; and the Charles C. Lindley garden.

The fall meeting was at Umstead Park between Durham and Raleigh. Dr. B. W. Wells was speaker. The 1956 spring meeting was at Guilford Wildlife Club in Greensboro. Gardens toured were the Anniversary Garden; Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Daniels, 2411 Laurel Drive; Mr. and Mrs. Phil Wicker, Route #1, Jamestown; Dr. and Mrs. Charles E. Prall, 1404 Garland Drive; and Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Braxton, where refreshments were served. Mr. Lionel Melvin, president 1956–58.

"Hobby Acres" was again the scene of the October 7, 1956 meeting. Dr. M. L. Blomquist of Duke University lectured on ferns. Mr. Lionel Melvin reported N.C.W.F.P.S. had been incorporated.

Mrs. George Doak was made editor of the newsletter. The spring meeting at Tryon, N.C., May 18 and 19, 1957, was again held at Oak Hall Hotel. The 1957 fall meeting was at Chapel Hill at the H. R. Tottens on October 27. In the afternoon we all went to Davie Hall to hear Dr. Albert E. Radford talk on "The Flora of the Carolinas."

The Cliffs of the Neuse in Wayne County was the scene of the May 18, 1958 meeting. 1958–1960, Mrs. Carl Pegg, president. The fall meeting was October 5, 1958, at Tanglewood Park near Winston-Salem, N.C.

Dr. C. Ritchie Bell, assistant professor of botany at U.N.C., talked on "Pitcher Plants." Spring 1959 our meeting was scheduled for May 17 at "The Gardens of the Blue Ridge," located in Macon County, near Linville. Fall 1959, on October 18, the N.C.W.F.P.S. met with Dr. and Mrs. Carl Pegg on Laurel Hill Road.

At Davie Hall in the afternoon, Mrs. H. R. Totten told of her trip to Europe and showed slides of the places she visited.

The May 22, 1960 meeting was at Lake Waccamaw, N.C. Dr. Francis Harper talked on "William Bartram's Life in North Carolina and His Contributions to the Flora of the State." Walter B. Braxton, president 1960-62.

The Daniel Boone Hotel was headquarters for the October 23, 1960 meeting. At this meeting the N.C.W.F.P.S. gave Mrs. B. W. Stallings a \$100.00 check as a donation to the Daniel Boone Botanical Gardens site.

May 7, 1961, Hanging Rock State Park near Danbury, N.C., was the site for the meeting. Mrs. Warren G. Ferguson from Cameron, N.C., gave a program which she illustrated with pressed specimens. At this meeting Mrs. George Doak resigned as editor of the N.C.W.F.P.S., Inc. newsletter. Mrs. Walter B. Braxton was drafted as editor.

October 15, 1961, at "Lakewood," seven miles west of Fayetteville, N.C., in the "land of the long leaf pine," was the annual fall meeting of the N.C.W.F.P.S., Inc. May 20, 1962, at Morrow Mountain State Park, the N.C.W.F.P.S., Inc. met for their regular spring session.

There was business, a delightful picnic lunch and a field trip. Mr. W. Gordon Butler, president 1962-64. The State Wildlife Lodge at Singletary Lake was the scene of the October 1962 meeting.

Spring 1963, on May 19, Dr. and Mrs. B. W. Wells were kind enough, and most generous, in allowing us to hold our meeting at their home near Wake Forest, N.C. Dr. Wells was bubbling with information about the plants on their 150 acres. The trails were fascinating and rewarding as we skimmed along, stopping for a brief run-down of the most rare plants. It was a rewarding day for each and every person present.

Butler Nurseries near Fayetteville, N.C., was the meeting place for the October 27, 1963 meeting. The use of poisonous chemicals was discussed.

Sunday, May 17, 1964, at High Point Municipal Park, the High Point Wild Flower Garden Club reserved shelterhouses number 3 and 4 for the N.C.W.F.P.S., Inc. meeting. Mr. W. Gordon Butler was re-elected as president for 1964-66; Dr. H. R. Totten was re-elected as vice-president.

This brief résumé came about because Mrs. Susan Zarr at the University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill, N.C., wrote to me asking that the University be put on our permanent mailing list for the N.C.W.F.P.S., Inc. newsletter, listing the issues in the library and asking if the Society could supply the missing issues. I have kept my newsletters and am donating the missing issues to the University of North Carolina Library. Since the newsletters will be on permanent record at the University of North Carolina Library, I am hoping this fact will be an incentive to many of you to get busy and get that article on paper, mail it to me for the newsletter and posterity.

*Mrs. Walter B. Braxton, Editor  
July 7, 1964*