

NORTH CAROLINA *wild flower* PRESERVATION SOCIETY, INC.



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1973

NORTH CAROLINA WILD FLOWER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

O, Wind,
If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?
-- Shelley

Spring is almost with us again. Buds which have been asleep all winter are opening up. Early perennials are beginning to bloom, and others are giving promise of more blossoms during the coming weeks. Nature is beginning to reawaken. Flower beds should by now be about ready for planting, heavy mulch should all be removed from perennials, and preparations being made for starting soft-wood cuttings. All of those seed which were saved from last year's flowers should be either in the ground or ready to be planted.

A recent issue of one of the publications of The American Horticultural Society printed the following variation of 'Keep Off the Grass', taken from Cardigan Mountain School, Canaan, New Hampshire:

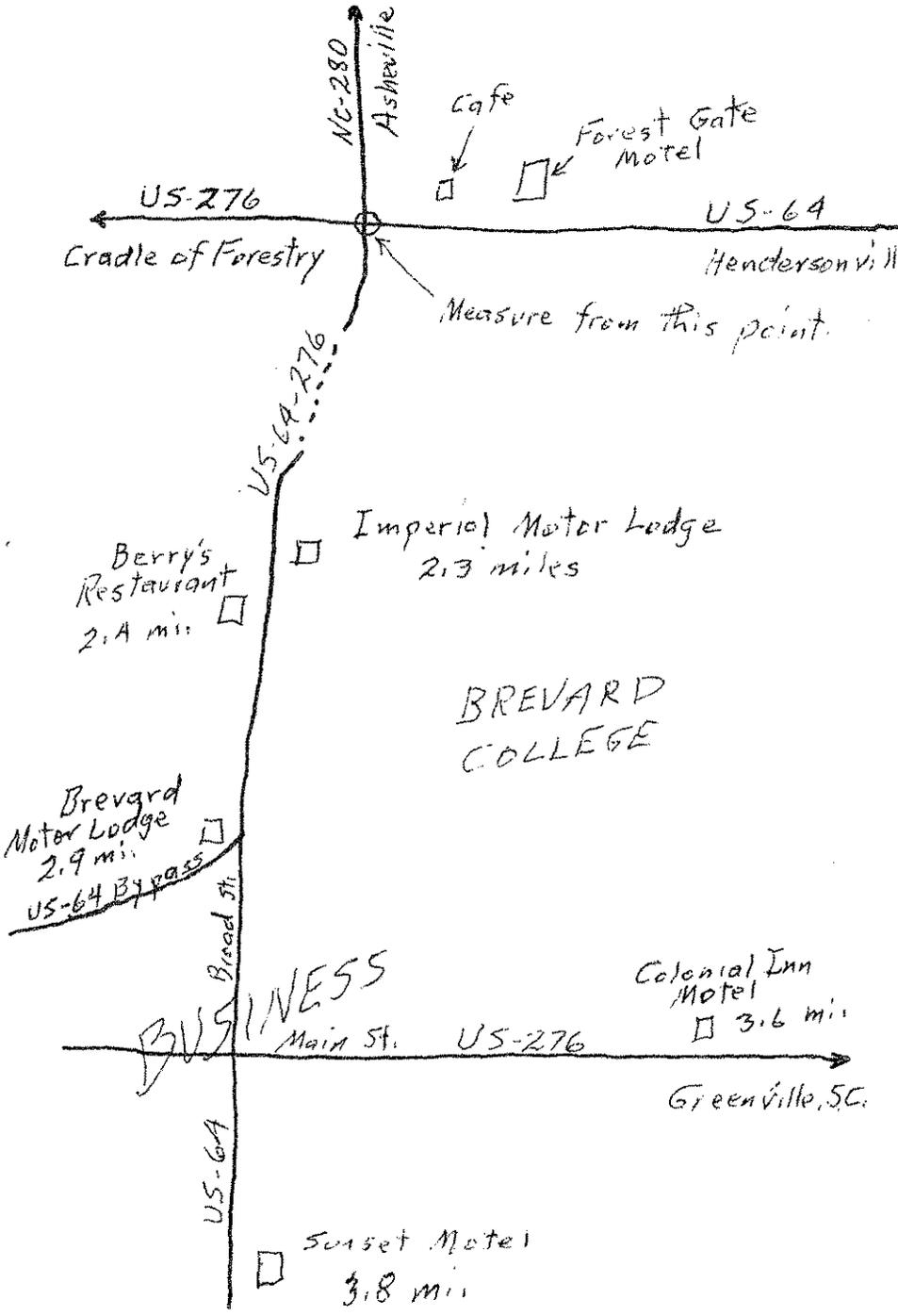
"If this grass is allowed to grow, it will provide oxygen for two boys for one semester".

Grass, flowers, and trees are essential elements in our ecology. Each leaf does its small share of controlling noise, modifying our climate, and helping to furnish the oxygen which is so necessary to our very existence.

Thomas Shinn

For, lo! The winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land.

The Song of Solomon 11



SPRING MEETING

The Spring Meeting will be held at Brevard, N. C. on May 19th and 20th.

The first gathering will be on Saturday afternoon at Berry's Restaurant (See map) at 2 PM for a trip to the farm of Mr. Moore - about two miles distant - where he has added to the natural growth of wildflowers.

At 6:30 PM Saturday there will be a dinner meeting - buffet style - at Berry's, followed by a short business session and a slide program for entertainment. The cost of the meal will be \$2.75 per person. This includes both tax and gratuities. It will be necessary to make your reservations for dinner through Mr. Charles F. Moore, P. O. Box 8, Brevard, N. C. 28712. No deposit necessary.

Sunday morning at 8:30 we meet at Berry's for a tour of 'The Cradle of Forestry in America'. This is located at the Pink Beds, on US-276, about nine miles from the reference point on the map (Jct. US-64;US-276;NC-280). This tour should be over about noon, but there are other parking areas along the route with hiking trails leading from each, there are waterfalls, a fish hatchery, and many other points of interest. For those who would like a picnic lunch on the mountain, orders will be taken at the Saturday night meeting. Berry's offers a chicken box lunch, with all trimmings, for \$1.75, or sandwiches may be ordered from the menu. Thermos bottles may be filled with coffee at the restaurant, and other drinks may be purchased there or on the way.

We are advised that, because of local traffic on week-ends that Sunday is not the day for a visit to the Shortia territory; however, those who are interested may stay over until Monday, and a trip to that area will be arranged - provided that water has not covered everything by that time.

This is important. Make your motel reservations as soon as you get this notice. This point has been stressed by each of the motels contacted. They are all rather small, and the demand for rooms increases as the weather begins to get warm enough for people to enjoy a week-end in the mountains.

BE SURE TO WEAR YOUR NAMEPLATES.

ACCOMMODATIONS IN BREVARD

	1 Double Bed 1 Person	2 Double Beds 2 Persons	2 Double Beds 2 Persons
Imperial Motor Lodge	10.00	12.00	14.00
Brevard Motor Lodge	10.00	10.00	15.00
Sunset Motel Cafe nearby	8.00	10.00	12.00
Colonial Inn Motel Dining Room	10.00	14.00	
Forest Gate Motel HWYS. 64 & 276 & 280 Cafe nearby	8.00	10.00	

For each additional person in a room the charge is 2.00.

The mailing address for Forest Gate Motel is Pisgah Forest, N. C. 28768. All others are Brevard, N. C. 28712.

Some of the rooms at Imperial, Colonial, and probably Brevard, are on second floor. Steps at Colonial are rather steep. Keep this in mind when making reservations. Also be sure to state that you are to attend the wild-flower meeting.

THE CRADLE OF FORESTRY IN AMERICA

The first school of forestry in this country was established on the Biltmore Estate in 1898 under the direction of George Vanderbilt and conducted by Dr. Carl A. Schenck, who had been brought from Germany to manage the estate. He was the successor to Gifford Pinchot, who later became Governor of Pennsylvania. Buildings and other relics of this school have been preserved and are now on display.

MINUTES OF THE FALL MEETING - October 8, 1972

The NCWPS met in the Civic Center in Hope Mills, North Carolina, on Sunday, October 8, 1972.

A picnic lunch was enjoyed from twelve to one p.m.

At one the business meeting was called to order by the president, Tom Shinn.

The treasurer, Miss Bessie Pope, reported \$349.07 on hand. She requested that members check their membership cards to see if they are paid through May 1973. If not, please pay \$2.00 dues.

Mr. Shinn urged our members to live up to our name as a Preservation Society and encourage and practice the propagation of native plants. He recommended two booklets which dealt with plant propagation.

Handbook #24 Propogation, published by Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. 02130. Cost \$1.25.

Arnoldia July 1972 published by Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, article "A Simple Frame for Softwood Propagation" by Alfred J. Fordham. Cost is thought to be \$1.00.

Mr. Shinn would like to have a handbook available for use in North Carolina.

The members voted to send a copy of Trees of South-eastern States by Coker and Totten to Camp Bonner in appreciation for our meeting there in April.

Mrs. Thomas Curry, Chairman of the Hope Mills Beautification Committee, related the story of the area belonging to Dixie Yarns. It has been used as a general dump for years. The young people of Hope Mills have undertaken to clean the area. Nine truckloads of trash have been taken away, but there is still much trash left there. Mrs. Curry's question is: "Can this area be made a preserve?" Dixie Yarns might be willing to divest itself of the property according to Mr. Brauer, their land agent. Another question was: Could responsibility for maintaining it be taken by the North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation?

Members of a UNC Botany class had made a list of plants found on the Dixie Yarn property.

After the business meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. a field trip was held at the Dixie Yarns Hope Mills property.

Mrs. Pearson Stewart
for the Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board of the NCWPS, Inc., met at the home of Miss Elizabeth Lawrence, 348 Ridgewood Rd., Charlotte, N. C. on Sunday, February 4, 1973.

Mr. Tom Shinn, president, called the meeting to order after lunch and thanked Miss Lawrence and her helpers for their gracious hospitality. Miss Lawrence thanked Mrs. Martha Nelson, co-hostess. Dr. Herbert Hechenbleikner and others for their assistance.

The minutes were read and amended to add that \$15.00 deposit on the meeting room at Hope Mills was in addition to the fee, and was left as a good will gesture.

Miss Bessie Pope, treasurer, sent a report of cash on hand, \$562.16.

Mr. Shinn received a summary of the constitution and by-laws. One copy will be added to the minutes for reference.

Mr. Gordon Butler is working with Mr. Wm. Hunt and people in the Hope Mills area on land acquisition for preservation.

Mr. Shinn thanked Mrs. Walter Braxton for a Newsletter copy, completing his files from 1961. Both Mrs. Spencer and Mrs. Pegg said they had complete files from the beginning.

Mr. Shinn offered "Handbook on Propagation" published by Brooklyn Botanical Garden, for sale for \$1.00.

Dr. Wade Batson has published "Genera of the Southeastern Plants". Copies will be available at the spring meeting for about \$1.77.

The Newsletter editors request 300-500 word articles typed on half a sheet of typing paper. Since costs have risen sharp Mrs. Mercer Hubbard asked for authority to spend the money. Dr. Hechenbleikner moved that the cost of publication be left to the discretion of the editor. Marjorie Newell seconded; the motion carried.

As the duties of the Newsletter are time-consuming, Mrs. Hubbard announced her resignation as vice-president.

Mrs. J. A. Warren, Mrs. Mercer Hubbard, Dr. Roland Totten met as a nominating committee and Jean Stewart (Mrs. Pearson) was their choice for vice-president. General acclaim followed this announcement and Jean accepted.

Mr. Shinn asked the board what monetary policy should be followed when people join late in the year. The board ruled informally that the dues should apply to the up-coming year.

Dr. Francis Harper has died. Mrs. Shinn proposed that The Natural Gardens of North Carolina be sent to the Bladen County Library, Elizabethtown, N. C. in his honor. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Lawrence and passed unanimously. Nancy Julian will write a note to Mrs. Harper.

Mrs. Teeny Stronach will call Mr. O. B. Roberts, Boy Scout Executive, to ask if Trees of Southeastern States has been received by Camp Bonner.

Mr. Butler moved, Nancy Julian seconded, and the board voted to hold the Spring Meeting in Brevard, N. C. on May 19-20. Mr. and Mrs. Shinn are working on program plans.

After the business meeting the board was invited to tour Elizabeth's garden with "cutting privileges". Planned for continuous bloom, the secretary was especially impressed with Daphne Odora (blooming) and Leucothoe Populifolia (evergreen).

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Donnan
Secretary

* * * * *

Inspired by the atmosphere in the author's workroom, the following 'poem' was written during luncheon at the Board Meeting in Charlotte at the home of Elizabeth Lawrence.

To Elizabeth

We yearned for Spring.

Then dining at the windowsill
We gazed outside and saw it there!

Snowdrops, cherry, Lenten rose,
Hazel, crocus, daphne sweet,
Enclosed within an ived wall -
A pleasant, sunlit private spot.

With friends we shared the garden's charm.

by Nell Lewis, Nancy Tyson,
Caroline Donnan, Jean Stewart,
Mercer Hubbard

GIFT FROM MRS. WALTER BRAXTON:

Gift to the COUNTRY DOCTOR MUSEUM at Bailey,
North Carolina: The American Family Physician,
Domestic Guide to Health, by John King, M.D.,
pub. 1878

"My grandfather, James Newlin Zachary of Snow
Camp, North Carolina, used this book. It was
handed down to me by my mother, Nannie Zachary
Andrew.

It is my pleasure to give it to the COUNTRY
DOCTOR MUSEUM, Bailey, North Carolina, for pre-
servation"

Viola Andrews Braxton
Mrs. Walter P. Braxton
2111 Braxton Lane
Greensboro, N. C. 27408

NOTICE:

A wild flower pilgrimage will be held in
Asheville on May 4th, 5th and 6th sponsored by
the U.N.C. and University Gardens at Asheville
in collaboration with the Blue Ridge Parkway
and U. S. Forest Service. For details, contact
Dr. James Perry, Dept. of Biology, U.N.C. at
Asheville, Asheville, N. C. 28804.

The annual "Day for the Gardens" will be
held on April 28th at University Gardens at
Asheville. Free guided tours of the Gardens
will be provided, with plants and lunch for sale.

The work of the editors will be lightened
if all contributors to the pages of the NEWSLETTER
will type their material on sheets the size of
the ones in this booklet - ½ regular size typing
paper.

TRIBUTE TO DR. FRANCIS HARPER
Lionel Melvin

Too often the truly great people of this world take their departure quietly while much is made over the passing of lesser souls, not because of the quality of their characters or their achievements in life, but for the notoriety they received, good or bad. Such was the departure of the late Dr. Francis Harper when he died last November 17 at his home in Chapel Hill on his 86th birthday. After a long and distinguished career as a zoologist, conservationist, naturalist and science editor-writer, no major newspaper in the state made more than passing mention of his decease, so far as I know. Only Orville Campbell's Chapel Hill Weekly bothered to take proper notice, for Dr. Harper never burned a flag, stole a government classified secret or led a march against his country in behalf of its enemies; but he did live and work close to nature in the dark Georgia swamps of the Okefenokee studying the animals peculiar to that area in order that present and future man might know more about the creatures that lived there in our time. He tramped the wilds of northern Canada gathering material on the birds of Athabaska. He slept on the barren grounds of Alaska studying the carabou of Keewatin, and he retraced the five year journey through the southern states made by the famous 18th century Philadelphia naturalist, William Bartram, and had published the first annotated edition of Bartram's "Travels" in the English language. This is just one of many works of a scientific nature which he left behind. His home of retirement in Chapel Hill was given over almost entirely to his collection of notes, documents and photographs which cover a period of more than sixty years. He was always generous toward others with the use of his material and too often writers took advantage of his kindness. In a few instances, he was even plagerized..

The slender figure of the scholarly man with the little black notebook will be missed on the nature trail when the North Carolina Wildflower Preservation Society meets again next May. After retirement he and Mrs. Harper became two of its most devoted members.

He was always the scientist. Mrs Harper told me of an incident that happened while travelling through the low country of Georgia or Florida. The din of croaking frogs was almost deafening. Suddenly Dr. Harper stopped the car, grabbed his flashlight and disappeared into the moccasin infested swamp. For almost two hours he was gone and Mrs. Harper, left alone there in the darkness, became alarmed for both of them. Finally, on the road far to the rear a flashing light appeared and eventually her long absent husband approached happily clutching something in his hand. Among the croaks of thousands of other frogs and above the roar of the motor in his car, his sensitive ear had detected the notes of the bird-song frog which never before had been found in that part of the United States, a specimen of which he captured and brought back with him.

Not long before this good friend died, I learned how he happened to choose Chapel Hill in his retirement and here I quote him as well as I remember: "In my active years when my work took me from one place to another, my visits to Chapel Hill left me impressed with the high standards of the university and the friendly atmosphere of the campus and the little town. I always looked forward to living there in my last days and I had intended leaving all my papers to the University Library". Alas! his retirement in 1960 came at a most inopportune time for the library. The racial and social upheavals on campus and in the town so tormented his remaining years that he left his library to the more stable University of Kansas in friendship to Dr. Raymond Hall on the faculty there. This was a great loss to our state, for much of the data in this collection is no longer available. It is true of the birds, their nesting and feeding grounds, of northern Long Island whose habitats man has destroyed. His unpublished notes and photographs taken there more than fifty years ago are probably the only existing nature records of that once remote area.

Although I have for some time discussed with Dr. Harper his works by letter and in person, little was known to me about his background until shortly before and just after his death. Mrs. Harper, the former Mary Jean Sherwood of Cornwall, N. Y., upon request, came to my assistance. His birthplace was Southbridge, Mass., and he received his A.B. and PH.D. at Cornell. A great grandfather fought with Wellington at Waterloo. A grandfather was portrait painter to the King of Bavaria, Maximillian II, and a great grandmother was Lady-in-waiting to Queen Karoline of Bavaria, wife of Maximillian Joseph I. Mrs. Harper was a graduate of Vassar and one of her first jobs was tutoring at Hyde Park Anna and Elliot, the two youngest children of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In a way, I think it would be fair to describe Dr. Harper as a product of the "Old School". He loved the classics and deplored their neglect in present day schools and colleges. He was an authority on early American naturalists and he had deep interest in Southern dialect, folklore and music. As a scientist he was painstaking in his research with complete disregard for fanfare. He had no patience with the ill conceived conclusions of some of those educators of today who pose as authority on one subject and another simply because their views conform to the politics of the moment.

Scientist to the end, he left his body to medical research with the stipulation that his ashes later would be interred in the family plot in Cornwall-on-the-Hudson.

DR. MARY ELIASON

Dr. Mary Howell Eliason, head of the Department of English at Campbell College from 1959 - 1970 died suddenly of a heart attach on Jan. 3, 1973. Since her retirement, she had been engaged in writing and teaching projects for children, children's literature having been one of her professional interests at Campbell College.

A native of Statesville, Dr. Eliason had her training at Mitchell Junior College, UNC Greensboro and UNC Chapel Hill, where she received the Ph.D. degree in literature.

At the time of her death, Dr. Eliason was preparing an article, "Nature Book Trail", for this Newsletter, choosing three herbs, fennel, mandrake and willow, treating her subject from the literary point of view. Also having taught biology for several years she was well versed to make this study.

"English and American literature are always influenced by science, so I hope I am saying something that will be interesting to others as well as myself", wrote Dr. Eliason.

The Newsletter hopes to publish this article in the near future.

WILD PLANTS AND THE MORAVIANS

Selection from Records of the Moravians in North Carolina, Vol. 1, 1752-1771, ed. by Adelaide Fries. Published in 1922 by the North Carolina Historical Commission. 511p.

p. 38. "All this section of North Carolina lies low, and there is much water, fresh and stagnant, which breeds fever every year, and many die from it. Dr. Henry Antes, Johann Merck, Hermann Liesch and Timothy Horsefield are now in bed sweating under the influence of a root which is here used as a remedy for the fever. I hope the Savior will lay His blessing upon the treatment."

SEEDING - RANDOM NOTES

The procedures to be followed in growing plants from seed vary, depending on quite a number of factors. One of the first to be considered is the amount of available space which can be used in caring for the seedlings. It is much better to plant seed sparingly and give the seedlings the proper care than to plant them so thickly that they may suffer from overcrowding, or may have to be discarded due to lack of space for transplanting.

If there is any question as to the viability of the seed, they may be sown rather thickly, but preparations should be made to care for the seedlings in case the percentage of germination exceeds expectations. In any case of overcrowding transplanting should be done before the first true leaves appear. At this stage this may be done with almost no damage to the tiny root systems. It is a very tedious work, but the results will more than repay for the tiresome job of moving the small plants.

The question of sterilization of the soil used in seed flats is open to argument on both sides. For a small operation this process is most easily done by heating the soil sufficiently to destroy all weed seeds which may be present, and also to destroy any harmful fungi. At the same time, however, it may destroy minute organisms which may be helpful, or even essential, to the proper growth of the plants.

The uncertainties of this procedure may be eliminated entirely by the use of Milled Sphagnum Moss as a medium for germination. This product may be obtained at most garden stores. Its most outstanding virtues are that it is sterile and that it will hold an almost unbelievable quantity of water. When used for this purpose it should always be completely saturated with water. This is a very slow process, sometimes taking twelve hours or more, unless something is added to the water to break down the natural surface tension. When the sphagnum seems to be full of water it should be drained or squeezed lightly by hand to remove excess water. Place the damp sphagnum in a tray or flat, pack it down so as to leave a smooth even surface, and sow the seed on top. Some seed are so very small that they look more like dust than seed. These do not usually need any covering. Others, larger, may be benefitted by a light covering of milled sphagnum.

Cover the container with glass or plastic, or place in a plastic bag, and wait for germination to begin. It must be kept in mind, however, that there is not any nourishment in milled sphagnum, so seedlings must be transplanted as soon as they can be handled safely.

With some seed, scarlet sage is one of these, germination seems to be inhibited by light. When these seeds absorb moisture the outer covering takes on the appearance of gelatin and there is no further sign of activity. A light covering of milled sphagnum at this stage will allow germination to proceed normally. Any seed showing similar habits may be handled successfully in this manner.

Another commercial product which is well worth its cost is sold under the trade name of "Pano-Drench". This liquid is to be diluted in accordance with the directions given and is used to prevent or to correct conditions which cause "damping-off", as well as the elimination of harmful fungi which may appear in flats or plant pots. It may be used freely on plants, no matter how small, without damage to the foliage.

One practice which cannot be too strongly urged is that of keeping accurate records of what is done, how it is done, and when it is done. All pertinent facts should be recorded. The dates, the sources of the seed, nature of the seed bed, soil treatment, and, especially, the results of each planting. This information will be invaluable in the elimination of mistakes in future plantings and will be most helpful in diagnosing causes of failure and the elimination of such faults. It will also be a reliable guide to repetition of successful efforts.

When transplanting seedlings from the germinating tray to larger flats, set them in a mixture made up of equal parts of garden soil, coarse sand, and peat moss. Some garden books recommend the addition of fertilizer to the mixture. This, however, is a rather risky practice, because the roots of the seedlings are very tender and it does not take much fertilizer to burn the roots and thereby destroy the plants. It is probably better to allow a few months growth to take place before any feeding is done.

If plants are to be left in the flat in which the seed are germinated until they are ready to be planted in the open, the flat should be filled with about two or more inches of potting soil, and the seed planted on this surface. Small seed do not need a soil covering, but larger ones should have a thin layer of potting soil over them. In either case the top covering should be a thin layer of milled sphagnum moss about a quarter to half an inch thick. This sterile covering will do much toward the prevention of damping-off after the plants emerge. If this covering is allowed to become dry it will form a rather hard crust on top. This can be prevented by a sheet of glass or plastic over the tray, whereby moisture is retained and the crust does not form.

The seed of some plants which grow at high altitudes where temperatures drop to very low levels during the winter may be benefitted by being placed in the freezer for a short time. Ten days or two weeks of exposure to low temperature is usually sufficient. This treatment seems to break the dormancy brought about as a part of the after-ripening process which some seeds must undergo before germination can take place.

Tom Shinn

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Selection from Records of the Moravians in North Carolina, Vol. 1

pp. 236-237. (May 1761) "A man came all the way from Savannah River to get medicine; others came from Virginia to see the doctor. During the month careful survey was made of the native herbs, with an eye to their medicinal value, and several useful ones were found, for instance, "Squashweed" for rheumatism, "Milk-weed" for pleurisy, "Indian Physic" for preventing fevers, "Robert Plantain" a valuable antidote, as is also "Snake Root" and much "Holly"."

Botanical Garden Foundation Staging Membership Drive

Membership in the N.C. Botanical Garden Foundation is open to anyone who is interested in supporting the Garden's efforts to conserve and protect North Carolina plants.

Foundation memberships cost \$5 for singles, \$10 for families, and \$25 for organizations. A tax deductible \$100 sustaining membership is also available.

The Foundation supports the conservation and education programs of the 300-acre N.C. Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill, according to Julie Moore, educational consultant to the Garden.

"There is a pressing need for us to save plants from areas that are being destroyed," Mrs. Moore said. "We are trying to relocate as many of the endangered species as possible, but we need money for labor, transportation and planting." She noted that the famous Venus Fly Trap, an exclusive N.C. plant, is one of those in danger.

"Because we are located in the middle of the state, we can grow things from both the mountains and the coast," Mrs. Moore said.

Foundation members receive a copy of "Garden Trails," the Garden's semi-annual magazine, and are invited to participate in field trips, lectures and monthly walks at the Garden.

The Foundation also sponsors several extension courses in local plant life and ecology. Extension courses have been taught in Wilmington, Morehead City, and Brevard and other cities.

The Garden gets very little money from the state legislature, and must rely on Foundation membership and contributions for support. Additional information may be obtained by writing N.C. Botanical Garden Foundation, Coker Hall, UNC, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

HOW TO SAVE WILDERNESS.

The Wilderness Society, 729 15th St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20005, has put out a booklet on how to organize an effort to preserve wilderness areas, "New Challenges for Wilderness Conservationists."

A good introduction to environmental problems in North Carolina has been attractively produced by the Dept. of Natural and Economic Resources. For a copy of QUEST, write Steve Meehan, Public Affairs, Dept. of Natural and Economic Resources, P. O. Box 27687, Raleigh, N. C. 27611. This is a good publication to stir interest among citizens who are not yet alert to the problems around us.

HIDDEN TREASURE
Allein Stanley

For the disciples of mycophagy, each year begins here in the South when the dogwood transforms wintered woods into a mystic fairyland. It is only then that the famed morel springs forth for its annual fruiting. One of the tastiest, safest and most highly prized of all the fungi, the morel is also one of the easiest to identify in that confusing world of edible and toxic look-alikes. Yet it is one of the most difficult to discover amid the debris of the woodland floor. Mysterious and temperamental, it has baffled man in his continued efforts at commercial production.

In the United States, the morel is associated with the northern and Great Lakes regions. Its southern fruiting is not well known. However, if weather conditions prove favorable, it may be found abundantly in our mountains and piedmont for a brief span of several weeks each spring.

Although about a half-dozen species are recognized, botanists are still arguing over the exact number and whether certain growth forms should constitute a distinct grouping or merely a sub-species. All of the true morels have a more or less cylindrical or egg-shaped cap, which is covered with depressions separated by blunt, thickish ridges. It is within these pits that the spores form in microscopic pods, termed asci. According to variety, these pockets and ridges may be neatly and longitudinally arranged or they may be scattered in an irregular and disordered manner. With one exception, the hollow, minutely granulated stem grows as continuous tissue into the margin of the cap. The half-free morel, Morchella semilibra, is so named because the unity of head and stem forms halfway up inside the cap, leaving a skirt-like margin.

The diminutive size and the dull, pocked surface of the morels provide them with a near-perfect camouflage. Their shape and texture break up light and shadow in duplication of their surroundings. Their colors aid invisibility. The caps range in color from whitish, cream or light gray (M. esculenta, M. deliciosa) to tan, chestnut brown and black (M. semilibra, M. angusticeps).

Each species appears to select an environment where the coloration of decaying leaves matches that of its head.

If seasonal limitation, size, growth form and color tones should not present sufficient challenge, these little plants compound their trickery by their extremely selective habitats. Morels are known to fruit in burnt-over grounds, old orchards and under hardwoods, along creek banks, at woods edge and, occasionally, among the grasses. This does not mean that any antiquated orchard or forest acreage will insure one a mess of morels. Often, they are restricted to one particular area. A hillside may possess a wealth of morels in a "patch" but none be found outside this small circumference. They may grow singly - eight to ten separated by hundreds of feet. Seemingly identical locations may be bountiful or barren.

When questioned, successful morel hunters often become as elusive as their prey. They understand that each person must test his knowledge, his sensitivity and his powers of observation to win this prize. The pleasures of the search generate a unity with nature; discovery engenders an honest pride. The supreme and tangible reward is a magnificent table delicacy. Surely, the morels were not intended for lowly man but only as food for the gods!

* * * * *

"There are old mushroom hunters

There are bold mushroom hunters

But there are no old, bold mushroom hunters".

ROSEMARY

Evelyn S. Apple

Rosemary, Rosmarinus officinalis, a labiate shrub grows as a perennial in warm climates and as far north as Burlington, N. C.

Our four rather large plants, over two feet tall, had been doing well until the severe freeze in January, 1972. Our plants grew in rather poor soil on a slope with morning sun.

We started with six plants but only four survived. Our young colie pup seemed to enjoy the fragrance and kept digging up the plants. Plants can be started readily from seed. This woody evergreen shrub has been known to grow as tall as six feet and is used in the deep south as a hedge.

All of the plant is very fragrant, especially the leaves. They are long, narrow, obtuse and covered with short hairs. These leaves are fragrant even without touching because of the tiny glands under each leaf. The delightful aroma given off is a combination of nutmeg, pine

needles and heliotrope.

Rosemary is the emblem of remembrance and fidelity. Maybe this is the reason for this plant being used at both funerals and weddings.

I've not seen rosemary in bloom but the legend goes that the MARY in the name stands for Mary, the mother of Jesus, and when the Virgin Mary washed her sky-blue cloak she spread it over a rosemary bush to dry and the flowers were thenceforth blue.



Rosemary oil is in all pharmacopoeias. The flowers are a stimulant and antispasmodic. The leaves are rubefacient and carminative. The oil of rosemary is used in making perfume and soaps. I've dried the leaves to be used in potpourris.

The ancients of the Mediteranean area thought that its leaves, if smoked, would relieve asthma, that as a tea would help colic, colds and nervous diseases, and, if placed under the bed, would ward off all evil dreams. They also were sure the rubbing of oil on the scalp would promote hair growth!

Rosemary is a delightful addition to any garden.

* * * * *

SOUTHERN ENDEMICS

by Elizabeth Lawrence

My correspondent, Weezie Smith, sends me all sorts of interesting plants and notes from Birmingham. She sent me *Croton alabamensis*, as endemic evergreen (six to nine feet tall) belonging to the spurge family, and growing on limestone hills in mid-Alabama. I didn't even know there is such a genus as croton, never having heard of any but the florist's plant, which is *Codiaeum variegatum*, a tropical shrub. But when I looked in Dr. Small's Flora I found twenty-one species of the genus *Croton* in the Southeast, and five of these are native to North Carolina.

The Alabama croton looks very like an *elaegnus*. It has the oval leaves (to six inches long) that are rough on top with a silver sheen at first, and then a smooth dark green. The underside is covered with silvery scales. So far my shrub hasn't bloomed, but from the drawing in Bailey's cyclopedia the flowers must be small and inconspicuous. The species are said to be of no horticultural value, but I think this one is worth keeping for the sake of its foliage - especially as it looked better than most evergreens after the severe spells last winter.

The generic name comes from the Greek ('kronos'), a name given to ricinus, which belongs to the same family.

Weezie sent me what Dr. Wherry calls *Phlox pulchra*, an endemic of northern Alabama. It is not in our manual, or the Flora, or Dr. Wherry's wild flower book, but it is in Standardized Plant Names as a variety of *Phlox ovata*, though Dr. Wherry refers to it as a species in Gardener's Chronicle, March 1942, in an article entitled The Pick of the Phloxes. He calls it the Pastel Mountain Phlox "for its large flowers tend to have unique and altogether charming pastel pink coloring." It was worth pulling down the steps, and facing the heat of the attic, to look up Dr. Wherry's choice of ten phloxes for the wild garden, and to find his quotation from Reginald Farrer's English Rock Garden: "the day that saw the introduction, more than a century since, of *Phlox subulata*, ought to be kept as a horticultural festival".

I often wonder where writers get the things they quote, In my (two volume) edition of The English Rock Garden, Farrer says no such thing. He says, "That we should sit contented with even Vivid and G. F. Wilson among the Phloxes makes one ashamed, as one goes through the long list of exquisite and longed-for alpinists that are still vainly offering themselves to us on the desert (sic!) mountains of America now for the complete perennial roll-call of this race, incomparably the most important that America has yet evolved for the benefit of the rock-garden, and one of which it has an almost undisputed monopoly". As this was written in 1919 the roll-call is no longer complete; Dr. Wherry says Farrer would have sung the praises of the newer species as well, if he could have known of them.

Phlox pulchra is one that he did not know, and he says of *P. ovata* that it is not among the most attractive of its race. He didn't know about the Ozark Phlox either. This is in Standardized Plant Names as *P. pilosa* var. *ozarkiana*. Caroline Dormon

Sent it to me years ago as Peach Blossom, and not long before she died she sent it again. "I call it the Caddo phlox", she wrote, "because it grows in the old Caddo Indian country. Eula Whitehead agrees with me that it is a new species." I will leave the Latin name to the taxonomists, and call it the loveliest of the wild phloxes. The pink flowers are very fragrant. They come into bloom in April (once as early as the seventh) and bloom on until the end of May.

There is an Ozark trillium too, *T. ozarkianum*. I got it some years ago from Mrs. Mooney, High Mountain Farm, Seligman, Missouri. It has not increased, but it blooms faithfully in early April, a delicate pink flower with a delicious fragrance. Weezie sent me *Trillium decumbens*, an endemic of rocky woods in Northeastern Alabama. She sent it in February (the fourth) with its beautifully mottled leaves already up, and the buds of its dark red sessile flowers already sitting on them. It bloomed on Saint Valentines Day. I have been getting other trilliums from the market bulletin ladies, and between them and the taxonomists I am getting more and more mixed up.

Since the South Carolina Market Bulletin is no longer sent outside the State I must mention two advertisers that I get interesting wild flowers from: Mrs. Ethel Harmon, Route 5, Saluda; and Mrs. James Anthony, Box 631 R. 2, Easley. Both are delightful correspondents.

* * * * *

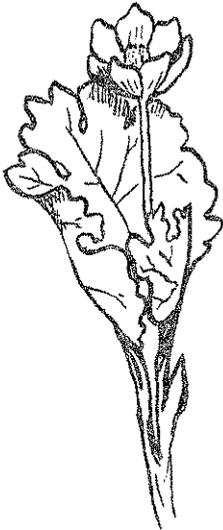
BLOODROOT IN MY GARDEN

Pattie S. Warren

One of the wild flowers that gives me a thrill in the early spring (late March) is the bloodroot. It is the most spectacular of all the early bloomers as it fringes the rocks around the circular edge of a large bed under the big white

oak tree above the spring.

The earlier harbingers of spring, the liverworts, anemones and saxifrage have their special beauty, but when the sanguinaria with its white petals and gold stamens blossom, it brings greater thrill and we know that spring is here.

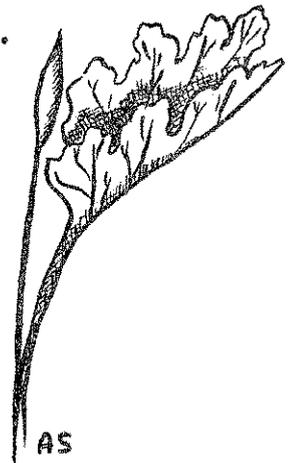


The small daisy-like white blooms pop in clusters before the foliage comes - borne on a single stem with 8 - 12 petals about six inches in height. They open wide on sunny days but go to sleep at night. The large leaves, deeply divided in the margins, soon follow, and make a green border throughout the early summer. After the border flowers are gone, patches of white appear on the hillside under the azaleas. These are all the single variety, *sanguinaria canadensis*; but we were thrilled to find in a clump of anemone in the woods, the double variety named *multiplex*.

With permission from the owners we brought the clump in and the two are beautiful blooming together.

The name *sanguinaria* is derived from the blood red sap that comes from the roots when cut. Folk lore has it that the Indians used the juice both medicinally and as a coloring.

The bloodroot seeds pro-



lifically and rewards you by its continued multiplication. The seeds are borne in a slender okra like pod about $\frac{1}{2}$ to one inch long. I usually harvest mine in middle or late May for my friends, with the request that they plant them immediately; for they do best if planted before the little seed dry out.

The plants also do best when firmly established, and should not be disturbed for many years.

Authorities consulted

Flowers of the South Green and Bloomquist

Wild Flowers of N. C. Justice and Bell

Encyclopedia of Gardens Greystone

Medical Dictionary, American Wild Flowers Matthews

WILD FLOWER HIKE ALONG THE ENO

George C. Pyne, Jr.

Durham, N. C.

Drawings by George Pyne



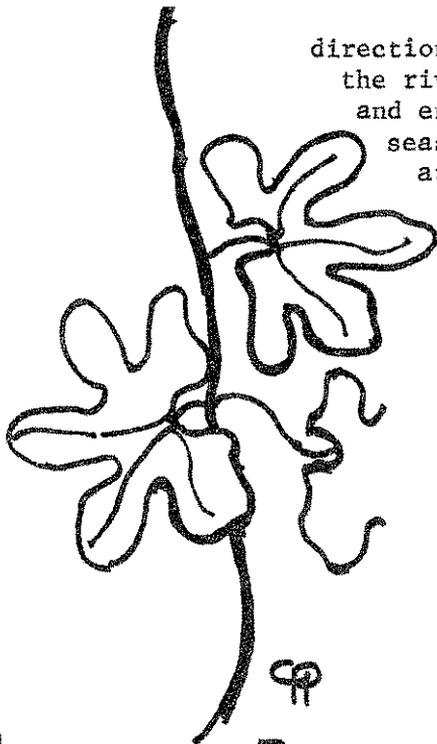
Durham has a treasure and Durham has a dream. The treasure is the Eno River that flows around the northern limits of the city. The dream is a State Park that will include a twenty-mile free run of river to be preserved in its undeveloped condition. The Association for the Preservation of the Eno River Valley, a dedicated group, is intent on making the dream a reality.

In order to acquaint the people of North Carolina with the intrinsic values of the river, the Eno Association has many projects oriented in this

OPHIOGLOSSUM VULGATUM

direction. The annual hikes along the river are given for enjoyment and enlightenment of all. In one season over 3000 hikers have attended hikes that include the entire twenty-mile length of river that will comprise the proposed State Park.

Of particular interest are the Spring wild flower hikes which are planned to see specific groups of flowers. The first hike is scheduled to visit the Cabe Mill site, one of the Eno's earliest mills. Along the mill race the trout lilies (*Erythronium americanum*) bloom in profusion among the



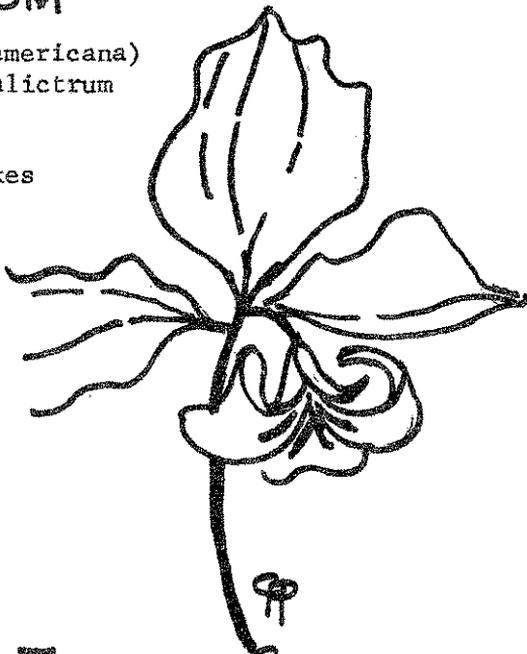
LYGODIUM PALMATUM

hepatica (*Hepatica americana*) and rue anemone (*Thalictrum thalictroides*).

A later hike takes one to see the isopyrum (*Isopyrum biternatum*), one of our rarest wild flowers. The isopyrum is found in only three North Carolina counties. Durham is proud to be counted with Harnett and Lee as guardians of this rare plant.

As Spring advances one can visit the Pump Station

that was Durham's first municipal water supply, and



TRILLIUM CATESBAEI

see the yellow lady's slipper (*Cypripedium calceolus*) blooming along with the Catesby trillium (*Trillium Catesbaei*), wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*) and foam flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*). This hike also acquaints the botony enthusiast with the members of the *Ophioglossum* family and those who have never seen the adder's tongue fern (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*) find it an exceedingly thrilling experience.

A later trip to the Panther's Den takes the hiker to the mountainous-like area near Hillsborough where over twenty varieties of fern have been recorded in a single hiking experience, including the rare mountain spleenwort (*Asplenium montanum*), the climbing fern (*Lygodium palmatum*) and New York fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*). In this area the mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) and rhododendron (*Rhododendron catawbiense*) are found with galax (*Galax aphylla*) growing in profusion in their shade. In mid-summer one can also see the yellow fringed-orchid (*Habenaria ciliaris*) on open slopes with the Carolina lily (*Lilium Michauxii*) close at hand. Of special interest to the young hikers are the dams built by the beavers that have returned to colonize along the streams that feed into the Eno.

The attendance on wild flower hikes is limited in number, in order to protect the flowers and to give the hike leaders an opportunity to maintain a close relationship with those present.

Names of persons wishing to attend these hikes are placed on a list and they are notified when openings are available. Those interested should contact James M. Faucette, 306 Ruffin Avenue, Hillsborough, N. C. 27278.

The Association welcomes membership of all concerned with saving the Eno River in order that eventually there will be a State Park in Piedmont North Carolina where many variations of North Carolina wild flowers can be protected for the enjoyment of future generations - thus making the dream of the Eno Association a lasting reality.

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Cover and all drawings by Ann Stronach
unless otherwise noted

on how it originated. (The Indians said the lake was created centuries ago by the "fire bird"-- perhaps a meteor?)

One of the first men to describe the swamp was William Byrd, who made it a feature of his Secret History of the Dividing Line. George Washington "developed" it; his canal may still be seen.

In 1803 the Irish poet Thomas Moore visited the swamp and wrote "The Lake of the Dismal Swamp." Set to music, it was popular for the next hundred years.

The Dismal Swamp Canal was completed in 1829. It provided regular and dependable access to outside markets for the previously isolated regions around Albemarle Sound. Barges and steamboats became numerous. A notorious hotel, Half-Way House, was established in 1830 on the canal at the state line. It was a mecca for elopers, duelists, gamblers and other seekers after privacy.

In 1856 the artist "Porte Crayon" (David Hunter Strother) visited the swamp and made eerie sketches to illustrate Moore's song, "that old wailing melody."

Runaway slaves hid in the Dismal Swamp; their situation was immortalized in abolitionist literature and art. During the Civil War the swamp was a base for Confederate guerillas and a refuge for deserters from both armies.

If the other owners will "cough up the rest of it" (the words of Union Camp president Samuel M. Kinney, Jr.), the finest days of the Great Dismal are yet to come. A ride to the lake via the Feeder Canal will convince the doubter, gliding along tall banks of muscadine and honeysuckle which dip to touch their mirror image--

"Annihilating all that's made
To a green thought in a green shade."

paradise. As for wild flowers, visitors may see yellow jasmine, the atamasco lily, whorled loosestrife, wand loosestrife, bloodroot, bluebell, black snake-root, boneset, white snakeroot, yarrow, swamp buttercup, hepatica, spiderwort, bee balm, and many more.

The Dismal Swamp differs from other swamps in that it lies higher than the land around it -- it drains out and not in. This vulnerability to drainage accounts for a reverter clause in the Union Camp deeds -- the clause voids the transfer if the federal government fails to protect and preserve the swamp. Conservationists have resented the fact that the federal government, in the form of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has controlled the water rights of Lake Drummond and yet done nothing to stop the ditching which drains away much of the ground water that feeds the lake,

One of the greatest drains on the lake is the Dismal Swamp Canal, part of the Intercoastal Waterway. Every time a boat--even a canoe--goes through the canal, the opening of the locks drains away 4 million gallons of water from Lake Drummond.

The Corps of Engineers and the Interior Department are now drawing up new rules for water management in the swamp. The Corps of Engineers favors closing out traffic from the canal, which has been superseded by the wider, deeper, and shorter Chesapeake & Albemarle Canal.

The Union Camp tract will be administered as a national wildlife refuge, but the whole territory of the Great Dismal Swamp should be recognized as a historic park as well as an important phenomenon in the natural geography of the continent.

The swamp is on the north-south iso-thermal line--it contains many southern plants and animals not found farther north, and vice versa. The swamp is a geological mystery--no consensus has been reached

GOOD NEWS FROM THE SWAMP

Pattie Lambert

The wild heart of The Great Dismal Swamp has been saved. A 49,000 acre tract, including the area of Lake Drummond, named for an early and ill-fated North Carolina governor, is being given to the nation by the Union Camp Corporation.

Last March, in the NEWSLETTER, this writer drew a doleful picture of drainage ditches, burning stumps and limbs, and dried-put peat bogs prone to fire. The point was also made that most of the Dismal

Swamp was owned by various farmers and lumber companies. The gift of Union Camp represents about one-fourth of what remains of the swamp. The tract lies entirely in Virginia, though it touches the North Carolina line. One-third of the swamp lies in North Carolina and is still in private hands.

Federal law allows Union Camp tax deductions over the next three years of 50 cents per dollar of appraised value, or \$6.3 million, in return for the gift.

Although the 77-square mile Union Camp tract was appraised at \$12.6 million, the value of the swamp cannot be told in dollars. It is a nature lover's

