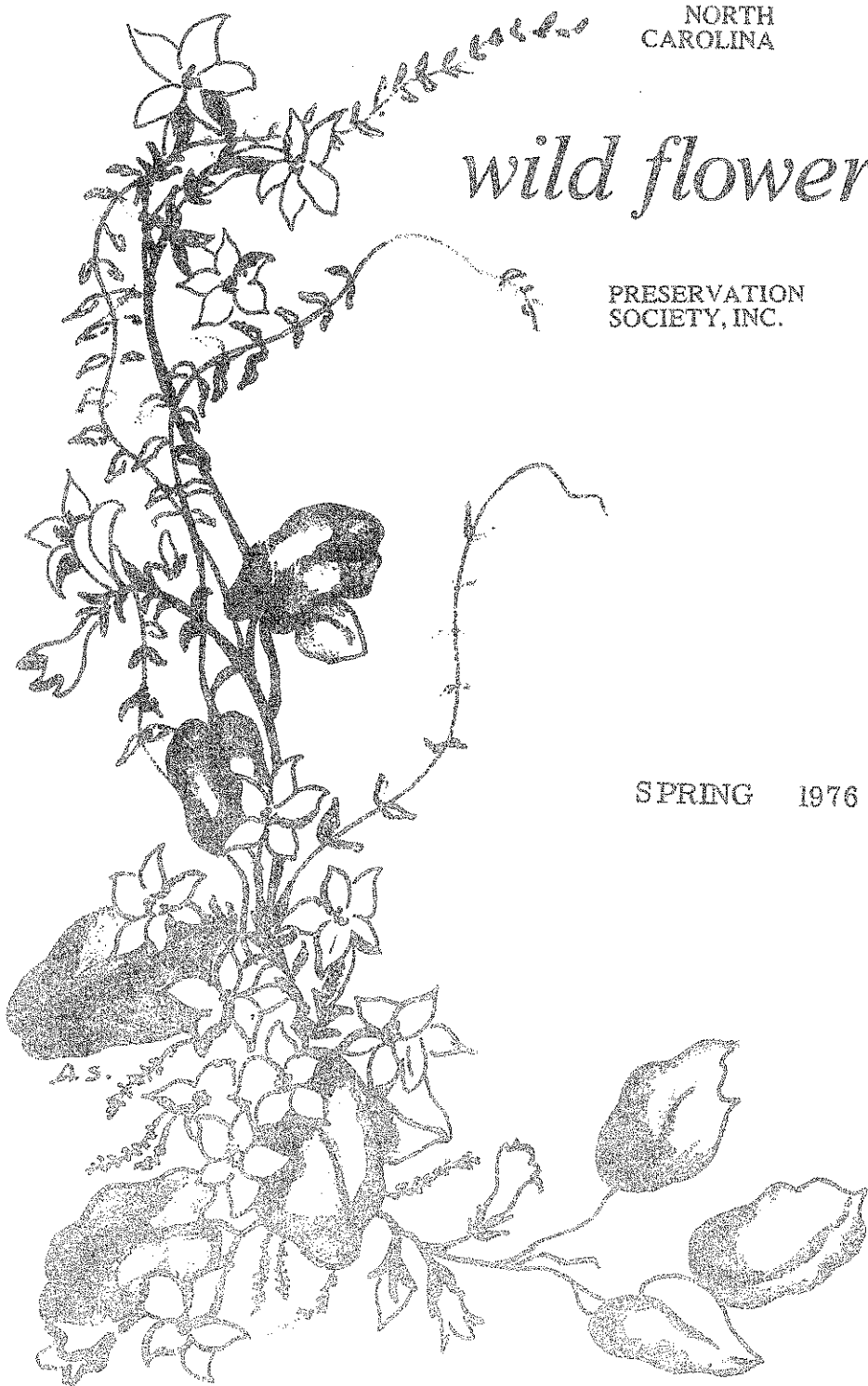


NORTH  
CAROLINA

# *wild flower*

PRESERVATION  
SOCIETY, INC.

SPRING 1976



## DEDICATION

As we approach the 25th anniversary of the founding of the North Carolina Wildflower Preservation Society, we must take time to honor the Smiths of Smithwin Farm near Liberty, N. C. Mrs. Smith and her husband, with Mrs. Graham, had decided that it was time for North Carolina to have such an organization; they asked botanists and wildflower enthusiasts to meet at their home in 1951 for the founding meeting. Not only has this beginning produced a large membership, but the Smiths themselves have, during all these years, developed their own wildflower garden with many rare and beautiful native plants.

When he was more active, Herbert Smith made a very useful digging tool for collecting wildflowers which he would present to a newly installed president. Conner Smith is well known to many of our members as a gracious hostess and the provider, at our gatherings, of a delicious persimmon pudding. We all owe much to this kindly couple.

Herbert Hechenbleikner

## NCWFPS, INC. OFFICERS

President, Jean Stewart; Vice-President, Ken Moore; Treasurer, Gretchen Cozart; Recording Secretary, Clara Murray; Corresponding Secretary, Nancy Julian.

## NEWSLETTER STAFF

Mercer Hubbard, Linda Lamm, Teeny Stronach, Joe Rees, and the Society President and Vice-President.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We plan to hold our Spring meeting at Liberty on Sunday, May 2nd. This is where, on April 29, 1951, "Wild Flower Lovers of North Carolina" met to organize the North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society. In 1951, there were 63 Charter Members; in 1976, there are more than 400 members.

In 1954 our Society advocated the use of native plants for highways; presently we are supporting the Garden Clubs' "Operation Wildflower" in gathering wild flower seeds for roadside planting by the Highway Department.

Members have started and continue to help maintain statewide wild flower gardens and herb gardens and have used their own gardens as outdoor classrooms to promote interest in preserving wild flowers.

Our 25th anniversary and Bicentennial effort will concentrate on publishing a booklet on the propagation of wild flowers in North Carolina. Through the years, members have found ways to propagate successfully many varieties. Their experiments have been noted in articles in our newsletters. We hope to reprint some of these articles as well as include information received from current successes. We need your input. Mrs. Nell Lewis will be guest editor for this venture. Please help. Her address is: Mrs. E. Gregory Lewis, 907 Greenwood Drive, Greensboro 27410

It has been a rewarding task to be President of your Society. As I give the gavel to the new President with a bit of pleasure and relief, I know that our members will continue their efforts for the

preservation of the many flowers that we cherish - by helping in efforts of plant rescue, by not "liberating" plants from habitats that will not be disturbed, by supporting all appropriate efforts of habitat preservation, by continuing to support the state's Botanical Gardens, and by helping young people appreciate our natural environment.

I look forward to continuing to be a participating member in our work.

Jean Stewart.

### SPRING MEETING

The Spring meeting for NCWFPS will take place on Sunday, May 4, in Liberty, with Mr. and Mrs. Smith as hosts.

The business meeting, which will be kept brief, will begin promptly at 11 a. m., at the Ruritan Hut - pot luck lunch will be spread at 12, so that members may proceed to the Smithwin Farm at 1 p. m.

For the 25th year anniversary meeting, the Smiths have offered various wild flowers to members of the Society, so they may know that plants from their property will be maintained in private gardens throughout the State. The afternoon dig will be coordinated by various guides who are familiar with the area and who will assist each collecting team composed of Society members present.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For this anniversary issue, several members of the Society have taken time to reminisce about the past years. These anecdotes will be found interspersed throughout this issue of the Newsletter.



## THE NORTH CAROLINA WILD FLOWER PRESERVATION SOCIETY: THE FIRST 25 YEARS

On April 29, 1951, our organizational meeting was held at Liberty at Smithwin Farm, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Smith. Fifty persons were present. Mrs. A. C. Graham of Ramseur, who was the Director of District Six of the Garden Club of North Carolina, was organizing chairman of the N. C. Wild Flower Preservation Society, as the new Society was to be called. Mrs. Herbert Smith was its first president (1951-52). Mr. J. A. Warren, Mrs. H. R. Totten, and Mrs. Carl Pegg were named to draw up a constitution for the new organization. And so the NCWFPS was launched, to become a vital influence in preserving the native plants of North Carolina.

The principal effort during the first year was a campaign against the widespread use of native evergreens as Christmas garlands on our town and city streets. Dr. Alfred Mordecai spearheaded this effort. It was the beginning of a slow-up of evergreens in this manner.

The organization decided, at the outset, on two picnic meetings a year, each preceded by a board meeting, one in the spring and one in the fall. Speakers were secured for these meetings, and sometimes slide programs, but always a field trip was planned. Thereby members gathered invaluable information at first hand about the wild flowers over the state. The meeting places were carefully selected for variety in flora. During the 25 years of its existence, the Society has met along the river banks, in the mountains, on the seashore, in the foothills,

and in the central part of the state. State parks have provided tour guides when meetings were held in state parks.

Mr. J. A. Warren of Chapel Hill served as second president (1952-54). During this time the first newsletter (Nov. 1952) was sent out by Miss Rebecca Causey, who was secretary-treasurer. She was followed by Mrs. George Doak, when a separate office of editor was created. Mrs. Paul Spencer of High Point was third president (1954-56), succeeded by Mr. Lionel Melvin of Pleasant Garden (1956-58). He carried on extensive correspondence with the State Parks Commission and the Department of Conservation and Development, and found them cooperative in preserving wild flowers of the state. It was during his presidency and through his efforts that the Society was incorporated.

Mrs. Carl Pegg of Chapel Hill (1958-60) was followed by Mr. Walter Braxton of Greensboro (1960-62) as president. Mrs. Braxton became editor of the Newsletter, a post she held for ten years. The Newsletter has now become quite an epistle, with news of the coming meeting, a review of the last meeting, and informative articles contributed by well known botanists and members of the Society. Seventh president was Mr. Gordon Butler (1962-66), an experienced nurseryman from Fayetteville, who served two terms. One of his prime efforts was to interest and encourage young people to join the organization and to get them concerned over the tearing down of our natural forests. Membership rose to 193.

Dr. H. R. Totten of Chapel Hill (1966-68), a distinguished professor of botany at the University of North Carolina, succeeded Mr. Butler. It was dur-

ing his presidency that our historian, Miss Josephine Pritchard died (1967). She had held this office for 16 years from the charter meeting. Now of concern was a destructive highway to cut through the wilderness of the Great Smoky Mountains. Dr. Herbert Hechenbleikner of Charlotte, as president (1968-70), campaigned against this diligently and made a trip to Washington to protest to Mr. Hickel, Secretary of the Interior. He wrote more than 100 communications to persons, urging them to work for state acquisition of Bald Head Island. Dr. Marjorie Newell of Winston-Salem (1970-72) took over the protest of the commercialization of Bald Head and the fight against the road through the Smokies.

The Newsletter, since October 1971 under the editorship of Mrs. Charles Hubbard, is now in booklet form, with attractive colored covers and is exquisitely illustrated. Membership has climbed to 264.

Mrs. Hubbard, Dr. Newell, Dr. Hechenbleikner, Miss Elizabeth Lawrence, Mrs. W. T. Lamm, Jr. and others worked together to build a medicinal herb garden at the Country Doctor Museum at Bailey. It was called the Doctors' Garden. Other gardens supported by the Society have been the Elizabethan Garden at Manteo, the Boone Native Garden at Boone, and the North Carolina Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill.

Mr. Thomas Shinn from Leicester was the 11th president of the Society (1972-74). Since progress in so many directions has threatened to diminish our native plants and since the Society is not in a position financially to preserve their habitats, Mr. Shinn urged members to learn to propagate these plants. In his President's Message in the fall of 1973, Mr.



Shinn asked for help on a summation of knowledge on propagation to be printed in book form, the core of which he had already in his own files.

Mrs. Pearson Stewart of Chapel Hill served as 12th president (1974-76). During her presidency, the Society met at Jockey's Ridge (fall 1974) and at the New River in Ashe County (spring 1975), as these two areas were in need of preservation. The membership was able to see and hear about these areas at first hand. Mrs. Stewart inaugurated supplementary field trips to be scheduled aside from the meeting field trips, with time and place carefully chosen for maximum interest in flora. Mrs. Stewart's presidency closes the Society's 25 years' span. Membership is now 450.

Eleanor Pegg

Spring 1976

Historian, NCWFPS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Members are invited to contribute additional items of significance in order that we may declare this an official history

A good many years ago I had the pleasure of tramping the woods with Dr. and Mrs. Totten. We were visiting a semi-bog area down on nearby Rockfish Creek. I remember Mrs. Totten suddenly found herself standing on a bed of Sundew (Drosera). She carefully backed away and made a fuss over stepping on the little plants that she did not see. Dr. Totten made the remark: "Well, honey, don't worry, there are millions more here."

Gordon Butler

## SMITHWIN FARM

Members of the NCWFPS are going back home, back to Smithwin Farm for the 25th anniversary of this organization that has meant so much to so many people. It was there, on April 29, 1951, that Herbert and Conner Smith were host to a small group of people who, like themselves, wanted to "preserve our native wildflowers, learn more about them, and just simply enjoy their beauty."

"It was such a struggle, those first two or three years, to keep the Society going, but what it was in the beginning is not important; what it is now is what is glorious," Conner Smith says with the pride of a mother who has watched her child grow from infancy to enriched adulthood. And during the intervening years the treasures from Smithwin Farm have reached out to thrive and bloom in gardens from the towering peaks of our lovely state on down to its restless shores.

It would be unusual, if not impossible, to visit the Smiths and go away empty-handed. They graciously share the native plants that grow in abundance across the woodlands and along the creeks of their estate, as well as the nursery stock they purchase and carefully propagate which often includes rare species in limited quantity. The only price they ask is that the gift be properly cared for and, as it multiplies, shared with someone else.

Smithwin flowers, trees and shrubs are also flourishing in our state's botanical gardens and close by nature trails in many of its parks.



Dedicated conservationists, the Smiths propagate plants by the usual, as well as experimental methods and their enviable expertise is passed on to both amateur and professional gardeners along with seeds, cuttings, grafts, bulbs and plants.

Looking back over 25 years, Conner says "the older we grow the more Herbert and I realize that the NCWFPS has been the highlight of our lives." And when we, as members of this organization that was born at Smithwin, look out across our gardens it is with deep appreciation for the Smiths who have given so generously of their time, talents and flowers.

Gardens are not really made of just plants; as each flower blooms it is a reminder of another time, another place -- the echo of a warm hello from friends who make a garden a place of beauty.

Nell Lewis.



## A WILD FLOWER GARDEN IN AUGUST 1967

On the third Sunday in August, the Board of the NCWFPS met at Smithwin Farm, near Liberty, where the first members gathered in 1951 to form the Society, Mrs. Herbert Smith, our first president, having been instrumental in getting them together. It was really the Society's sixteenth birthday.

The Smith's farm was a wildflower preserve to begin with. When they started their garden, many years ago, wild foxglove, pyrola, pipsissewa, the butterfly pea, spotted wintergreen, and the foxtail clubmoss were already growing in the woods. "I can show you fields of the yellow violet (Viola eriocarpa)," Mr. Smith said, "and calamus grows down by the bridge." To these have been added, year after year, rare natives from the mountains, the sandhills and the coast. Mr. Smith likes to grow them from seed, and has even had success with trailing arbutus.

I wouldn't choose August as a time to see a wild garden, but every season has its lesson in flower, fruit, and leaf. Butterfly weed was in bloom along the roadside, and in the garden there was a single large violet blossom on the butterfly pea (Clitoria mariana). There were still a few golden flowers of the wild foxglove, Aureolaria virginica, which is called oak-leech because it is parasitic on the roots of oak trees. Climbing aconite, button snake-root and pink turtle-head were all in bloom, and the cardinal flower was at its spectacular best. Mr. Robbins says (in his catalogue of the Garden of the Blue Ridge) that it will thrive in sun or shade in any garden soil. At the Smiths' it was blooming well under the trees, but in the bog it was three feet tall with 12-inch spikes of spectrum red flowers.

The bog is knee-deep in swamp soil, with a plastic sheet at the bottom. Pitcher plants, skunk cabbage, golden club, sea holly, horse-tail, and Venus' flytraps grow there with Japanese irises. Golden club is Orontium aquaticum; the common name calls to mind the curious flowers that come up out of the mud in spring, like yellow fingers, not at all like flowers.

Mr. Smith gave me twayblade (Liparis lilifolia). When I planted it under a pine tree I noticed that his soil matches mine, so I hope it will stay, if the chipmunks don't get it. I remember finding the pretty little brown flowers in the woods near Raleigh the last day of May.

I tried turkey-beard (Xerophyllum asphodeloides) in my Raleigh garden, but it died without blooming, though it was in just such a shady place as it seems to like in the Smiths' garden. He says his bloomed twice. The tall white flowers are called mountain asphodel. The grassy leaves are evergreen and the plant looks like a clump of fescue.

I had been looking for the climbing milkweed, and there it was in fruit. Lionel Melvin, Consultant to the Society, says it is probably Gonolobus suberosus, though the species seems to be confused. Anyway, it is an anglepod with large decorative fruits, and bunches of maroon flowers. Mrs. Smith calls it carrion vine, and Mr. Melvin says that is a good name. He says once when he was collecting where there were many vines in full bloom, the scent was so strong he had to leave. Mr. Smith says the silk of the common milkweed, Aesclepias syriaca, is used for insulation in space suits. He has endless bits of odd information, and knows the charming country names of native plants. He says Clematis



viorna is called curlyheaded Johnny. Spray is Leucothoe catesbaei, which is shipped to northern florists for funeral sprays and wreaths. Mrs. Smith calls perfoliate bellwort Merrybells, a pretty name that I have heard only in the mountains. Solomon's plume is a prettier name than false Solomon's seal. It is in fruit in August, a little spray of wine-mottled berries drip from the tip of the slender stalk.

Elizabeth Lawrence.

### A Misunderstanding

One summer I was photographing the beautiful herbaceous wild flowers on the Big Savanna in Pender County. I had an interesting experience.

It was a warm, sunny day and being well away from the road I wore only my abbreviated underwear covering my hips.

About the middle of the morning, I saw a car stop on the road and two men were approaching me. When near I saw each of the men had a revolver hanging from the belt on his right side.

One spoke rather gruffly: "Who are you and what are you doing?" I quickly and easily explained.

Then they told me about the one man who used the road going to town and excitedly he told them at the Court House that there was a crazy man well out on the Savanna. He said, "The man was naked. He would stand up and look around. Then sit down and look at a flower. He had a black box which he held when on his knees. He would walk a short distance and do it again. The man was crazy."

We all had a good laugh and the Sheriff and his deputy went back to town and told the story on themselves.

B. W. Wells

Many years ago, I went to a meeting of the Southeastern Botanical Society at Highlands, N. C. The highlight of the trip was an excursion to visit the type locality where Michaux, the French botanist, discovered and named Shortia galacifolia. Since the journey was to cover some narrow unpaved roads the group was assembled in a few cars. Among the botanists were Dr. Totten, Dr. W. C. Coker, Dr. Blomquist, and numerous lesser lights. We were led by a mountaineer of the Highlands area who said he knew how to get to our desired destination. After traveling for many miles on unimproved roads, we finally arrived at Jocasee, S. C., and knew we were lost as far as getting to the type locality. Inquiry sent us back into a mountain cove where we saw a log cabin. The owner appeared at the door with a sawed-off shotgun and decided we were harmless. While Dr. Totten was asking for more directions, Dr. Coker discovered a new species of morning glory for S. C. flora and Mrs. Coker saw through the window of the cabin an antique milk glass lamp which she purchased. We were told to continue on the road until we should reach a one-room school house. There we climbed out of the cars and tramped over hill and dale arriving at the most beautiful glen covered with at least an acre of Shortia. Dr. Totten exclaimed, "It's a long way to Shortia!"

We journeyed back to Highlands the long way around by a paved road through Walhalla. I was glad to see Shortia, which I have seen many times since, but never in such delightful company or in such a lovely spot.

Sarah M. Nooe

Watch Channel 4 the last of April for announcement of showing of Dr. Hollis Rogers' film re Dr. B. W. Wells' The Natural Gardens of North Carolina. Cost of film: single \$210 - if as many as four ordered, \$140 each.

## TOTTEN CENTER DEDICATION AT THE NORTH CAROLINA BOTANICAL GARDEN

The dedication of the Totten Center, the first permanent building in the North Carolina Botanical Garden, will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 11, 1976, at the Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill. All members of the NCWFPS have a special invitation to attend the brief ceremony, walk the Garden Trails and visit the special displays that will be set up in connection with the dedication.



### HERB WEEK

A series of special lectures, workshops and demonstrations by some of the outstanding herbalists of America. Registration is \$2 for each event or \$14 for the entire series. Tickets may be obtained after March 1 by writing the N. C. Botanical Garden, UNC, Laurel Hill Rd., Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514.

April 12 (Mon.), 8 p.m. "The Excitement of Herbs and Their Meaning for North Carolina," by Mrs. Audrey O'Connor.

April 13, 10 a.m. Workshop, by Mrs. O'Connor.

April 13, 8 p.m. "Herbal Plant Usage of the Cherokee Indians," by Mrs. Mary Chiltoskey.

April 14, 2 p.m. Workshop by Mrs. Chiltoskey.

April 14, 8 p.m. "Living with Herbs for Fun, Food and Fragrance," by Mrs. Joy Logee Martin.

April 15, 10 a.m. Workshop by Mrs. Martin.

April 15, 8 p.m. "Decorative and Culinary Herbs," guest lecture and workshop by Mrs. Adelma Simmons.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Regional Wildflower Hike in Ashe County

A wildflower hike to Bluff Mountain in Ashe County is scheduled for Saturday, June 5, 1976. Participants will assemble at the parking lot of the Methodist Church in West Jefferson, N. C., at 10 a. m. Bring a light portable lunch and a water canteen and be prepared for a vigorous hike. Transportation to top of the mountain will not be provided. For additional information, write Edith Jones, P. O. Box 29, West Jefferson, N. C. 28694.

### Day in Van Landingham Glen

A wildflower tour of the Van Landingham Glen at UNC-Charlotte is scheduled for Sunday, April 25th at 2 p. m. Meet at the large parking lot by the classroom complex.

### Mountain Wildflower Weekend

A weekend trip to visit the University Botanical Garden at Asheville and the private wildflower development of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Shinn of Leicester (near Asheville) is set for April 24-25. A number of very reasonably-priced rooms have been reserved near the University Botanical Garden at Asheville. The group will visit the Botanical Garden on Saturday afternoon, the Shinn garden Sunday morning, and have a box lunch at the Shinns' Sunday noon. A \$15 registration fee per couple for the weekend trip must be received at the N. C. Botanical Garden office Totten Center, on or before April 1. An organizational meeting will be held at the Totten Center at 7:30 p. m. on Tuesday, April 20. Travel will be by car-pool as scheduled at the organizational meeting. Registration required by phone (967-2246) or mail (NCBG Laurel Hill Rd., Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514).

## CORRESPONDENCE FROM DR. WHERRY

In the Fall 1975 Newsletter, the account of the Herbert Bluethenthal Wildflower Preserve on p. 5, it is stated that the collection of native insectivorous plant species includes the "four" North Carolina species of *Sarracenia*. A fifth, the most beautiful N. C. species, *Sarracenia jonesii*, is omitted.

I discovered this species many years ago along the Southern Railroad southeast of Flat Rock Station, Henderson County. The colony was small, and when I returned a few years later it had been exterminated and replaced by a potato field.

A much larger colony was subsequently found in the same region near Etowah Station and its location was in such a wild area that it seemed safe; but alas, when I returned it had been destroyed and converted into a golf course. A few small colonies were found along cataracts high on the southeast slope of the Blue Ridge, but they are subject to natural destruction by the rush of water following heavy rainfalls. Recently I received for identification a specimen collected near Hendersonville, but the safety of this colony is unknown. This species was ignored in the Flora of the Carolinas, dots representing its stations being placed on the map for *Sarracenia rubra*, a much less showy plant.

This magnificent species manifestly needs protection by planting in a preserve. The lowland Herbert Bluethenthal one seems climatically unfavorable for it, but it should thrive in those near Boone and Asheville.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The form of *Sarracenia rubra* which Dr. Wherry has named *S. jonesii* is currently under successful cultivation at the N. C. Botanical Garden at Chapel Hill, the UNC-Asheville Botanical Garden and the Thomas Shinn Wildflower Development near Leicester. Other reports of successful cultivation will be of interest to Dr. Wherry and members of the Society.

## PROPAGATION OF NATIVE PLANTS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Present plans are to devote the entire autumn Newsletter to PROPAGATION OF NATIVE PLANTS OF NORTH CAROLINA. In order to make this publication worthwhile, we need specific information from those of you who have first-hand, original, TESTED methods of propagation. Please include "back yard ways": how you make cold frames, what potting or rooting medium used, seed gathering, time to take cuttings, etc.

There will be a section for short hints, including both do's and don'ts of success. These, as well as longer articles will be carefully edited and compiled by the committee working with the editors of the Newsletter. Since this project is intended as a down-to-earth, practical guide to propagation, our articles can be written with simplicity, but do list the scientific names, as well as the common ones of the plant species.

For your information to be included in this Bicentennial Edition of the Newsletter, please mail it to the undersigned no later than June 30.

Nell Lewis  
907 Greenwood Drive  
Greensboro, N. C. 27410



## Mountain Logic

In one of our hunts for wildflowers in the mountains we could not understand the extremely painful embarrassment of our guide when he failed to find trails which he had traversed some 20 years before

The importance of remembering landmarks was pointed out in a story told us later by a 90 year old mountain man.

In his young days, he and two other men were on a week-long camping hike through the Smokies. One foggy morning it became evident that their guide did not know where they were. He was lost "But we weren't lost," he explained, "You see, we had never been there before. "

The Shinns

Whether it be on mountainside  
Or marge of lovely lake  
Or by some winding river  
Those exciting walks we take  
Will never be forgotten -- when we go trottin'  
Behind Dr. Totten -

The highlights of the year come twice,  
Once in spring, again in fall.  
Every lowly weed is significant  
On walks that we'll always recall  
When we went trottin' behind Dr. Totten  
They'll never be forgotten!

Kate Ferguson  
(from the NCWFPS Newsletter, October 1954).

## BEN WARREN'S HILLSIDE GARDEN AN APPRECIATION

A botany student visiting Ben's garden once asked me "How do you have a garden like this?" I said, "Well, first you need a hillside, a stream, and a spring -- then you have to have a plan, a kind of a dream -- and a bench under a big oak tree where you sit and dream and plan.

Then you need what it takes to carry out that plan. You begin by rolling rock up out of the stream, and on the lower slopes start making rock pockets and work up the slope filling these rock pockets with good rich dirt. Put a bridge across the stream and leave room on the hill for winding paths to mark off your terraces. At the same time, you need friends who trust you to dig in their woods and by their streams. After about 30 years or more of rooting, propagating and moving rock and dirt, you have a hillside garden filled with small and large wild flowers, azaleas and rhodendron."

After the garden is established, friends play the biggest part in its upkeep. They come from the east and the west, near and far, to share their treasures. When I start naming the plants on the hill, I begin to name the friends they represent, and what an array they make! Each year since my association with the NC Wild Flower Preservation Society, new and old friends have brought new and old flowers, showing their love of beauty and friendship.

After being banned from the garden in its early years, because of being too assiduous in cleaning and cutting, I've had the blessing of trying to carry on -- and with the help of wonderful friends, the hillside continues to be a place of joy and rest to those who take the trouble to walk down.

Patty Warren

Once upon a time, there was a North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society spring field trip to Columbia, S. C. The local leader of the trip was the well known botanist from the University of South Carolina, Dr. Wade Batson.

As Dr. Batson led the group over the hills and hollows he would call to the stragglers with what sounded like a turkey call -- but made without any artificial device!

As we were getting into the writer's car for the trip back to Charlotte, a fine five-foot black snake caught my eye. Upon catching the critter, it was discovered that there was no suitable container in the car. Viola Braxton said she wasn't afraid of black snakes, Walter Mayer was somewhat noncommittal, but Elizabeth Lawrence voiced some trepidation about riding back to Charlotte with a five-foot snake in the car loose.

As we drove back, the snake began exploring his new and strange surroundings. At times it slithered over the back of the front seat, then it would crawl up the steering column and explore the area above the dash. Now and then the slowly waving forked tongue would test the air over the driver's shoulder! Elizabeth bravely endured the trip home, which was made without further incident.

Herbert Hechenbleikner



It has not been all flowers at Smithwin, but their presence over the past 25 years has brought fun, chaos and friendship. Things to remember:

On one Board Meeting day, two babes were lost in the vast woodland. After much perplexed roaming, our then little son sat on a fence post and laughed. Lost in the woods he knew so well and refused to show them the way back to the house. The two babes were Eleanor Pegg and Lionel Melvin. They found their way back, finally.

Always it has been Conner to show off, especially up and down the old Liquor Branch (called that because of the moonshine reputation), where some of the most beautiful wildings grow, one foot just moved closer and closer to branch until it was quite obvious that she would land in the middle; catching the arm of Mary Gilliam Clark both went in together. Two muddy creatures came out.

When Mrs. James Plaster brought her two dachshunds to the Smiths' she led them to the creek; being so low on the ground, they both became poisoned on their tummies with poison ivy -- not funny. Lesson: don't get too low to the ground when collecting wild flowers.

A fall in the lily pond. Conner said while falling "I will not tell him (Herbert)!" A scar on the forehead told the secret.

The mail. To the Wild Flower Smiths, Liberty, N. C.

When we often spoke of our Dr. botanist friends, our small son (25 years ago) would ask, "What is he a doctor of?" since he was skeptical of MD's.



When Mary Henry, the noted botanist, visited here and roamed our woods, there were fences to cross. How would she do it? we wondered. She spread her full length under the lowest wire, rolled under, stood up and went on. Lesson: if you can't crawl over, roll under.

Billie Green, the author of *Flowers of the South*, on one of her many visits to Smithwin, found us gone on one occasion. Not being willing to go without her usual walk in the woods, she changed her clothes in the outdoor john and went on.

### The Wild Flower Smiths

### REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

The current dues are as follows:

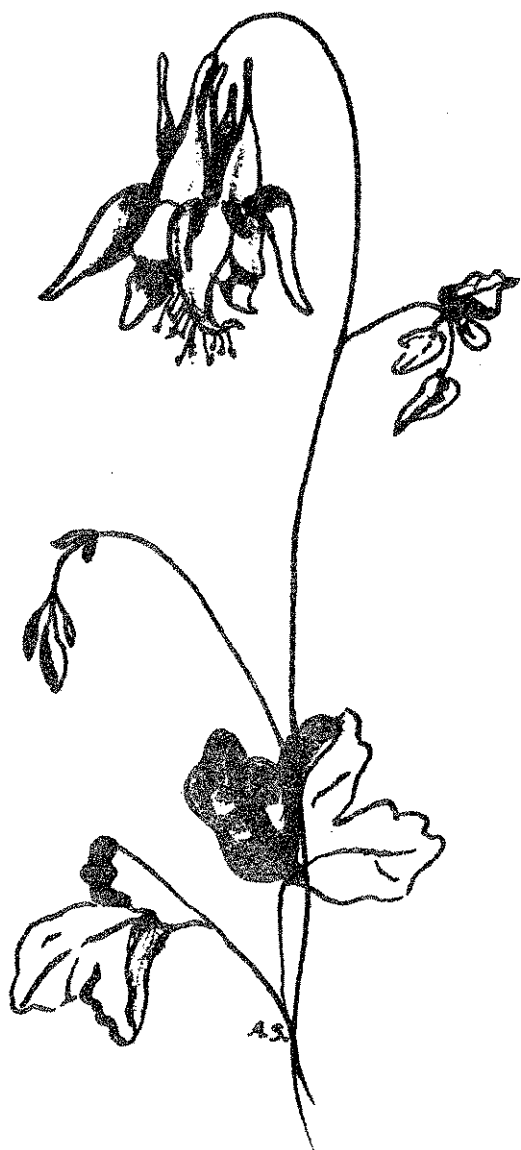
Regular, \$2; Contributing, \$5; Sustaining, \$10; and Life, \$100

Dues are payable in May, and they should be sent to:

Mrs. S. M. Cozart  
900 West Nash Street  
Wilson, N. C. 27893.







## LOST IN THE SMITH'S WOODS

by

Lionel Melvin

It was the spring of 1952 and my first executive meeting with the Wild Flower Society, as well as my first visit to Smithwin. In connection with the meeting was a field trip led by the Smiths. Many fascinating plants grew in their woods including Pyrola rotundifolia, the shin leaf, and Chimaphila umbellata, the Prince's Pine, of which we were permitted to take a clump of each. I was delayed in digging the Pyrola and was busy acquiring the Chimaphila when I observed a lady who was also collecting this plant. When we finished getting our plants, we looked around for our guides and the other members of our group, but they were out of sight and out of hearing. Together, we searched in vain for our group and realized that we were lost. After wandering around for awhile we came to a fence and followed it to a barn and subsequently to the Smith's dwelling. After much teasing for straggling in late, we joined the business of the day, but little Bobby Smith never forgot this incident and he took delight in embarrassing us at every meeting thereafter.

I never learned how Dr. Pegg felt about this little episode of mine and Eleanor's, but I hope he took the attitude of Dr. Wells when I told him about getting lost with Mrs. Wells

and Mrs. Butler among the breastworks of Confederate Fort Anderson at Old Brunswick Town. His only response was, "That is the way parks should be: large enough to get lost in them."

The Newsletter editors' first attendance at a Society meeting was at Brunswick Town. Mercer had met Dr. Totten on Franklin Street in Chapel Hill the week before and he told her about the NC WFPS and it was just the kind of organization we had longed for. Since it was our first meeting we did not know the custom of spreading a bountiful picnic together, so we opened our baskets apart from the group and Miss Pattie stepped over and invited us to join the crowd. We demurred because we didn't want to seem forward as newcomers, but overcoming our shyness we joined the crowd and were overwhelmed at the wonderful food and people. There for dessert was the persimmon pudding for all to have and we had the great pleasure of meeting the members. Since that day, we remain indebted to the organization for bringing us together with knowledgeable people who are enthusiastic about plants and flowers.

Linda Lamm

This is the time we met the Smiths, around the Aralia spinosa, also a new acquaintance. Their cordial invitation to visit and dig, which we found later was issued to everybody, took us to Smithwin Farm the very next week, with an enjoyable ride through the woods in Herbert's tractor trailer

A remarkable thing about this group is that none of the experts ever talked down to us, which shows that the love of nature is a great equalizer.

Teeny Stronach & Mercer Hubbard

## IN MEMORY OF MRS. KATE FERGUSON

When Grandma came to visit us she wasn't much like other grandmothers I had seen. We called her Susie and it was like having another playmate, only she knew so much about everything -- birds, trees, wildflowers, stars, music and art -- and the best rhymes and games. When we walked along the road past our mountain home, she was always tasting something or scraping a twig for its fragrance. Our favorite was sassafras, and we found one tree with five lobes on some of its leaves. She loved words too, and knew all the Latin names for plants. When it came time for me to learn them, we quizzed each other on the meanings. Her house in the Sandhills was full of all kinds of wildlife books and an old herbarium. That was how Susie knew so much, than and her woods she spent so much time in. The children there loved her too. They hunted arrowheads and paint rocks together, went on bird walks, and studied piano and art. There were always carefully made cookies and candies for them. The last time I saw her before she died, she told me she just wanted one thing -- to sit under her live oak tree again. Could she have, it would have been fun to see her just sit.

Susie wanted only long leaf pine for her pall, so we substituted this for flowers. Her friends are sending contributions to the NCWFPS instead. Those funds will be used for the special Newsletter coming out in the Fall.

Nancy Hillmer.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Contributions as a memorial to Mrs. Ferguson will be used to underwrite publication of the special Fall Bicentennial Propagation issue of the Newsletter.

# NEW MEMBERS MARCH 1976

Bates, Mrs. David E.  
3503 Brown Bark Dr.  
Greensboro, N. C. 27410

Helvin, Mr. Dane  
P. O. Box 313  
Pleasant Garden, N. C. 27313

Boyd, Miss Mary Guy  
2619 Springwood Dr.  
Greensboro, N. C. 27403

McPherrin, Ms. Jeanette  
309 Country Club Rd.  
Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514

Canada, Mr. James R. Jr.  
1715 Brookhaven Mill Rd.  
Greensboro, N. C. 27406

Oglukian, Miss Mercedes  
4201 Sandhurst Court  
Annandale, Va. 22003

Donohue, Ms. Maureen A.  
106 North Estes Dr.  
Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514

Painter, Miss Irma  
1315 Burlingame Place  
Burlington, N. C. 27215

Doubrava, Ms. Nancy  
109 Hanna St.  
Carrboro, N. C. 27510

Phillips, Mr. Harry R.  
Rt. 3 Box 278  
Apex, N. C. 27502

Evans, Mr. Harold G.  
P. O. Box 26115  
Raleigh, N. C. 27611

Revelle, Mrs. Riddick  
Skye Dr.  
Fayetteville, N. C. 28303

Fink, Mrs. R. W.  
53 Oakwood Dr.  
Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514

Ross, Mrs. Guy M., Jr.  
1804 Chelsea Dr.  
Wilson, N. C. 27893

Gray, Mr. & Mrs. George A. III  
P. O. Box 313  
Pleasant Garden, N. C. 27313

Sessoms, Mrs. Alexander  
P. O. Box 126  
Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514

Grose, Ms. Mary Jean  
642 E. Broad St.  
Statesville, N. C. 28677

Slagle, Mrs. Porter D.  
4909 Richland Dr.  
Raleigh, N. C. 27612

Horton, Mrs. Brewer Tate  
517 Wildwood Lane  
Burlington, N. C. 27215

Stratton, Mrs. Janice D.  
Rt. 2 Box 435 A  
Durham, N. C. 27705

Johnson, Mr. Alan R.  
Rt. 5 Box 21  
Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514

Thompson, Mrs. W. E.  
405 Estes Dr.  
Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514

Jones, Miss Charlotte A.  
Box 516  
Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514

Thornburg, Mr. Robert L.  
Route 1 Box 245  
Dallas, N. C. 28034

Jones, Mrs. Polly S.  
Rt. 1 Box 541  
Crumpler, N. C. 28617

Tooley, Mrs. Gordon K.  
Rt. 4 Rich Mt. Rd.  
Brevard, N. C. 28712

Law, Mrs. W. S.  
P. O. 7 8  
Fayetteville, N. C. 28302

Turner, Mrs. Jane  
903 Westridge Rd.  
Greensboro, N. C. 27410

Longland, Mr. David R.  
Box 278 Rt. 3  
Apex, N. C. 27502

Western Carolina Botanical Club  
& The Henderson County Public Library  
Hendersonville, N. C. 28739

Kirkman, William Benson; 1510 Gorman Street; Raleigh, N C 27606

Wyatt, Dr. Raymond L.; Dept. of Biology; Box 7325; Reynolda Station;  
Winston-Salem, N. C 27109

## MINUTES OF THE FALL MEETING

The Fall general meeting of the NCWFPS was held at Pilot Mountain State Park on Sunday, October 5, 1975. Jean Stewart, President, called the meeting to order. Ken Moore introduced Park Rangers John Sharpe and Kim Hinsley. The minutes of the Spring meeting, May 25, 1975, were read and approved.

Mrs. Gretchen Cozart gave a treasurer's report. The Society has a balance of \$946.51 on hand. The scholarship fund has \$237.55.

A letter from the Committee for the New River thanking us for the donation and the support was read.

Mercer Hubbard was pleased with the articles submitted for the Newsletter and encouraged those who have never written for the Newsletter to do so.

Mrs. Teeny Stronach suggested a field trip through the Dismal Swamp.

Mrs. Edith Jones invited us on a field trip to Bluff Mountain near West Jefferson.

Mr. Butler has obtained the deed for the seven acres of land at Hope Mills. He will have it recorded and sent to Mr. Bill Hunt in Chapel Hill. Ken Moore suggested a hike of the area in November. Mr. Butler will lead the tour on November 8, 1975. Interested persons will meet at the parking lot across from the Municipal Building in Hope Mills at 10 a. m. Bring a poke lunch and water.

Mr. Lionel Melvin brought us a report on the Okefinokee Swamp Folk publication. Dr. Delma Presley has applied for a grant. Individual checks may be sent directly to Mrs. Francis Harper. Mr. Melvin moved that the Society donate \$100 as financial aid toward the publication. Mrs. Braxton seconded. After discussion the motion did not carry.

Mrs. Lewis reminded us to send in seeds for Operation Wildflower. The Address is: Mrs. Clayton Beane, 315 South Third Avenue, Siler City 27344.

Mrs. Edith Jones reported that Representatives Neal and Taylor are working on legislation to designate the New River as a Wild and Scenic River on the national level. The outlook seems good.

NEW BUSINESS: Ken Moore brought to our attention a problem of the Highlands of Roan. Developers are eyeing this beautiful tract of land for homes, lodges, and ski slopes. The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy is seeking support in raising \$2,000,000 to purchase 12,000 acres and to establish Highlands of the Roan Natural Area. Individual members may give gifts in the name of the NCWFPS which would collectively toward purchasing one acre of land for \$500, or members may contribute \$25 to save a rhododendron on Roan Mountain. We were encouraged to contribute individual gifts.

A request from the Citizens Wilderness Proposal for the Great Smoky Mountains to support their endeavor to save the Great Smokies Wilderness was also read. Marjorie Newell moved that the Society support this effort by sending a letter to our congressman, senator, and Secretary of Interior. Mrs. Braxton seconded and the motion carried.

Jean Stewart informed us of a drive to save the Congaree Swamp in South Carolina. Mr. Melvin moved that we offer our support by letter. Mrs. Knox seconded and the motion carried.

Dr. Hechenbleikner moved at this time to appoint a committee to investigate the various and sundry groups that are asking for support. A report is to be made at the Spring meeting. Nell Lewis seconded. The motion carried. Jean Stewart appointed the following members to this committee:

Dr. Hechenbleikner, Chairman; Mr. Ken Moore; Mr. Lionel Melvin; Mrs. Nell Lewis; Dr. Noggle; Miss Beulah Osborne; and Mrs. Edith Jones.

Patty Warren had received a letter stating that no State Park monies are to be transferred to the North Carolina Zoo.

The meeting was adjourned.

Clara Murray

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The Society has received checks in the amount of \$185 as memorials to Mrs. Warren G. (Kate McPherson) Ferguson. Following is a list of donors: Dr. & Mrs. Henry Krystal, Mrs. James Bal-lou, Mrs. C. P. Barker, Mr. K. M. Ferguson, Mrs. Ralph G. Hillmer, Mr. & Mrs. Roy C. Swink, Mr. & Mrs. Pete Phillips, Mrs. Charles Barker, Mrs. J. M. Guthrie, and Mary Elizabeth Erskine and Crane's Creek Extension Homemakers Club.

N. C. WILD FLOWER PRESERVATION  
SOCIETY, INCORPORATED  
P. O. BOX 58  
PITTSBORO, N. C. 27312

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