

NORTH CAROLINA *wild flower* PRESERVATION SOCIETY, INC.



SPRING 1983

NORTH CAROLINA WILD FLOWER PRESERVATION SOCIETY, INCORPORATED

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CONTENTS

President's Message	2 - 4
Tissue Culture	5 - 8
Pycnanthemums	9 - 10
Wild Flowers Of the Year Project	11
Your House Plants Could Be Part of the Plant Trade	12 - 14
The Fern Finder	15
A Look At Books By Our Members	16
Minutes - Spring Board Meeting	17 - 18
Minutes - Fall Board Meeting	19 - 21
Fall Meeting News	22 - 24
Georgia Botanical Society, Inc.	25
Memorial To Bessie Luetta Pope	26
We Welcome the Following New Members	27

Cover Drawing - by Dorothy Wilbur, artist and botanist from
Chapel Hill

AMSONIA - BLUE STAR

by

Ollie Adams

March is here at last and watching-the-ground time has begun in my garden. A spot I am particularly watching as I make my rounds is the place where Amsonia tabernaemontana will soon make its appearance.

I know just where that place is, for only last week I got around to my early spring clean-up and broke off the white dead stems that persisted there all winter.

But watch though I may, amsonia will probably catch me by surprise and I'll wonder anew what strange growths are appearing in that flower bed. It comes out of the ground curled up somewhat like fern fiddle-heads. But there is nothing soft and fawnlike about it at birth. It betrays enormous energy from the start as it pushes up through its mulch of leaves. And once it has stood up straight and shaken itself out, it begins to bloom. It attains its full height ($2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 feet in my garden) after the flowering is over.

The blue star-like blossoms in panicles are quite showy and a much deeper blue in the garden than they appear in photographs in wild flower books. I suspect it is one of those native plants that improves in cultivation. The flowers are responsible for its common name "blue star" or "blue star of Texas" in that part of the country. Amsonia occurs from Pennsylvania down to Florida and west to Texas.

Flowers last almost three weeks here and make a real contribution to the red, white and blue color scheme in a border that includes native red columbine, Aquilegia canadensis, red honeysuckle, Lonicera sempervirens climbing in a white dogwood, red and white striped tulips, Tulipa clusiana, white bloodroot, sanguinera canadensis, candytuft and an almost white pinxter azalea, Rhodendron nudiflorum.

Russian blue forget-me-nots, Anchusa myostodififlora, and the white flowering climbing hydrangea, Hydrangea petiolaris, trained to climb against the bricks of my back stoop all continue the theme.

The genus amsonia was named for Charles Amson, an 18th century physician from Gloucester, Virginia. He was a friend of John Clayton, one of America's first botanists, and collected plant and animal specimens for him. Clayton is remembered by "spring-beauty", Claytonia caroliniana.

The species name, tabernaemontana, is the Latinization of the name of Jakob T. von Bergzabern, 16th century physician to the Count of Palatine at Heidelberg. His book Neuw Kreuterbuch (1588) contained many of the drawings later used later used to illustrate Gerard's Herball.

Thomas Walter of South Carolina described Amsonia tabernaemontana in his Flora Caroliniana published mid 18th century.

It is a member of the Apocynum family, commonly called dogbane. Plants of this family are poisonous to livestock and some were used medicinally as an emetic or cathartic. The family is closely related to the milkweeds and plants exude a similar milky sap.

In North Carolina it grows on wooded slopes and bottom land in, primarily, the piedmont counties. I have never seen it growing in the wilds and was given my start from the garden of my neighbor, Miss Elizabeth Dortch, now 86, with the recommendation that it was a "choice plant".

I have found it to be so. I increased my original one plant to a group by division some years ago. Last fall, I divided each of my three groups into three clumps and started amsonia in another part of my yard where it will act as a fill-in between taller shrubs and low growing azaleas. It is most useful in gardens because it tolerates dry shade, that most difficult of garden conditions. My original plant flourished under three dogwoods.

It seems to have no pests and the glaucous foliage is quite showy all summer. The seed pods that follow flowering provide another period of interest. They remind me of tiny French green beans. When they are ripe they split on both sides revealing seeds that are like tiny brown cinnamon sticks. I have never had a seedling in my garden though I should dearly love to, and have even planted a row of the seeds in my vegetable garden without success. A gardening friend pulls up amsonia seedlings like weeds.

Our Society's Propagation Handbook says seeds are easily germinated in spring, so I shall try again. It also suggests rooting cuttings in July. Division is easiest and will supply the average gardener with all the plants he needs.

I have read that the N. C. Botanical Garden has a white flowering amsonia and I look forward to seeing it. Another variety of amsonia grows in the sandhills of North Carolina near the Carolina bays. A. ciliata is adapted to dry conditions and has very narrow leaves, is smaller than tabernaemontana but with similar flowers. Michaux described an Amsonia angustifolia which was probably the same plant. Still another variety is found in Georgia and Florida, A. rigida, and it is considered a rare plant. In all there are about a dozen species in the eastern United States and Eastern Asia.

The beauty of amsonia does not end with summer. Its foliage and long slender seed pods turn a brilliant yellow and are quite showy in autumn. This splendid perennial has so much to contribute to the ornamental garden that I find it amazing that it is relatively unknown to most gardeners and garden writers.

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Ollie Adams is known to our members not only as an avid gardener and collector of plants, but a traveler always seeking out new and rare plants.

TISSUE CULTURE

by

Rebecca J. Finch

Tissue culture, or micropropagation, is a relatively new development on the commercial level, although experiments were actually attempted as early as 1902. In the 1920's, Gottlieb Haberlandt developed the technique to demonstrate the theory of totipotency: that each cell of a plant has the genetic capacity to regenerate into a complete new plant identical to the original. This idea is the basis for cloning. Because of recent publicity, we tend to view cloning as a mysterious procedure performed by mad scientists. Although it is true that "super" hybrids are being developed in the laboratory, each time you take a cutting from a plant, root it, and grow it to maturity, you produce a clone.

Tissue culture is the propagation of plants in an artificial nutrient medium in a controlled aseptic environment from parts of existing plants. These parts may vary in size from a single cell to a shoot tip several centimeters long. Tissue culture has been used successfully in plants such as orchids, ferns, chrysanthemums, African violets, and many others. The specific medium and details of procedure differ somewhat depending on the type of plant. My experience has been solely with blueberries (Vaccinium). Rhododendron, mountain laurel, and azaleas would require similar treatment.

The initial step in tissue culture is to take approximately two-inch long shoot tips from the first flush of growth of field or greenhouse plants. The lateral leaves are removed and the shoots are sterilized with a solution of thirty percent sodium hypochlorite (household chlorine bleach), autoclaved distilled water, and a minute amount of surfactant (Tween 20) for thirty to sixty minutes. The shoots are drained and rinsed three times in sterile dis-

tilled water. Working under a laminar flow hood which has a high degree filtering system to create a clean environment, and using instruments that have been dipped in ethyl alcohol and flamed, the sterile shoot tips are placed in screw cap vials each containing ten ml of liquid medium that have been autoclaved at 141° C for at least fifteen minutes. The planted vials are placed on shelves in a growing area illuminated sixteen hours per day with Cool-White fluorescent lamps. This beginning stage is perhaps the most difficult because the sterilizing process often damages or kills the delicate shoots and is not entirely efficient in ridding the shoots of contaminants. Also, pathogens within the plant may not appear immediately because it takes a period of time for them to acclimate to the medium. For example, last spring I cultured two hundred field shoots of a newly released variety from Georgia. Ten months later, after three replantings, I have only four vials that are growing well with no apparent contamination. However, when these vials become full, I can take at least thirty two-node cuttings from each vial to supply 120 new vials. Each of these will produce as many as thirty cuttings in four to five months. By some estimates, these figures are conservative.

After new shoots are produced in vitro on the original field shoots, subsequent plantings are placed in the nutrient medium gelled with agar, using the same sterile procedure. I use Anderson's medium which was developed for rhododendron, although there are other media that support growth in blueberry plants. All the media have similar basic constituents of minerals, salts, vitamins, sugar, organic complexes, and growth regulators. The cytokinin 2iP is crucial for proliferation because it produces multiple shoots. In a matter of months, the vials will be full of miniature plants that appear tender, but have tough, wiry stems. The tissue may then be divided into two-node cuttings and replanted into new sterile

vials or cut into $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch lengths, planted in peat, and placed under mist where they root in about two weeks.

Tissue culture has several advantages. When new varieties are released, years are required to produce enough plants to market because of the limited number of stock plants available. For our nursery business, tissue culture is an experiment to determine if it is an economically feasible method of rapid propagation and a means to maintain disease-free plants. Aside from its commercial potential, it can be a useful tool in plant breeding; cultures can be exposed to radiation or chemicals to produce mutations or treated with colchicine which in effect doubles the chromosome number, permitting a wider range of productive crosses. Valuable germplasm can be preserved and increased through tissue culture.

This advantage may have some application to wildflowers. Some wildflowers such as mountain laurel and Venus fly trap are presently in culture. Tissue culture could be a solution when clonal propagation is preferred to the less reliable seed propagation to insure an identical plant in a plant that does not root well from cuttings. Perhaps tissue culture will prove to be an asset to our knowledge and appreciation of wildflowers.

February, 1983.

SOURCES

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Murashige, Toshio. "Plant Propagation Through Tissue Cultures," Annual Review of Plant Physiology, Vol. 25, 1974, pp. 135-166.

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Becky Finch is a graduate of UNC-G and lives in Bailey, N. C. Her home is near the Finch peach orchards and blueberry farms and there are plenty of bluebird boxes around, designed by her father-in-law, Jack Finch. Becky has published A Collection of Favorite Blueberry Recipes and her poetry has appeared in various publications.

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PYCNANTHEMUMS

by

Dorcas Brigham

As one walks or rides along our western North Carolina roads in midsummer, one may glimpse a patch of gray-frosted foliage growing on sturdy 2-2½-inch square stems. On closer examination, one finds lanceolate leaves growing opposite each other on the stems, very slightly toothed, one inch wide and 2½ to 3 inches long, with a strong, harsh scent of mint.

The tiny white two-lipped flowers, spotted purple, grow in a tight whorl in the axils of the leaves. The petals are united, and irregular. The calyx is less than half the length of the ¼ to ½-inch flowers with unequal teeth and bristly awns packed in between flowers. There are four stamens extended beyond the petals and the pistil exceeds all in length.

There are eight varieties of Pycnanthemums listed in eastern United States in the Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas by Albert E. Radford, Harry E. Ahles and C. Ritchie Bell. This book has good distribution, maps, and keys for running down the varieties. One of the varieties I enjoy is P. tenuifolium, smaller in stature, 1½ feet tall, with leaves 1/8 inch wide and 1½-inches long, flowers in smaller whorls--the whole much more delicate but sturdy. These hardy perennials like a light shade, easily transplant to the garden, and may stand rather dry conditions. They may be propagated by division and spread easily, so they need to be kept under control.

Pycnanthemums are a new discovery for many Northern gardeners, but they add interest to the garden. I was introduced to it as a spearmint but would find its scent too harsh for cooking.

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Dorcas Brigham has always been interested in growing plants since living next to Forest Park in Springfield, Mass. as a child. She attended Smith College and taught horticulture there. In 1929, she started Village Hill Nursery in the Berkshires with Dorothea Ward Hayden. She now spends the winters in Central Florida and summers in Cashiers, North Carolina.

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Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas states that Pycnanthemum is a genus in much need of careful study.

Editor

Dear Members,

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to the dedication of the Botanical Garden Foundation's natural area located in Hope Mills, N.C., to be named the Gordon Butler Nature Preserve. In this way we will honor the memory of Gordon Butler and his efforts to preserve North Carolina's rich natural heritage. On April 23, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, there will be an opportunity to take a guided walk through the Preserve. Dedication ceremonies will begin around noon, followed by a picnic. Bring a sack lunch, we'll provide the beverage.

For those of you in the Chapel Hill area we will be carpooling from the Totten Center at 8 a.m. Others interested in attending should meet us at the parking lot across from the Hope Mills Town Hall at 10 a.m.

Sincerely,

Jim Ward
Curator, NCBG

WILD FLOWER OF THE YEAR PROJECT

During the past several months, state garden club officials and staff members of the North Carolina Botanical Garden have been busily involved in drawing up plans for the first Wild Flower of the Year Project. The Project's aim is to select and actively promote throughout the state an attractive native North Carolina wild flower.

The selection for the years 1982-1983, one of our best known and most admired natives, is cardinal flower (Lobelia cardinalis). There is good reason to be excited about this hardy perennial. Attaining a height of from three to six feet, cardinal flower features a stalk of beautiful scarlet flowers, considered by many to be the most vivid red of all flowers. It is effectively displayed singly or in mass. The hummingbird, attracted by the red flowers, is a frequent visitor to the plant when in flower, from late July to mid-September. The plant has proven to be easily cultivated, preferring an exposure of one-half day's full sun or filtered sunlight situation and a good garden soil with plenty of humus. Care should be taken to water plants during periods of dry weather. Propagation is easy and reliable from seed and division of the basal offshoots. Specific instructions concerning the propagation and culture of cardinal flower are available upon request by contacting the Botanical Garden.

The Garden Club of North Carolina has assisted in getting a list of nurseries who are willing to grow the plants for sale (in some cases nurserymen have given the plants) and in obtaining a list of garden writers who have written or will write articles on the cardinal flower. The nurseries and garden writers were obtained from all 11 districts of the state.

The Garden Club of North Carolina plans to hold the "kick off" at their fall board meeting in Chapel Hill and will publicize the Wild Flower of the Year Project through all four of their publications.

YOUR HOUSE PLANTS COULD BE PART OF THE PLANT TRADE

Many people around the world collect plants for display in their homes and greenhouses. The variety and types sought for the horticultural trade are amazing--orchids, cacti, other succulents, ferns, bromeliads; cycads, and carnivorous plants are some.

The volume of trade in wild plants stimulated by this market is larger than most people realize. Analysis of U.S. trade data by TRAFFIC (USA) shows that in recent years we have imported between 137,000 and 415,000 orchids and up to 7 million cacti and succulents each year. U. S. exports are estimated at 280,000 live plants annually, about two-thirds of them cacti, plus thousands of orchid seedlings. There is little data on the domestic trade, but it is certainly larger. Membership in specialist plant groups dedicated to orchids, cacti, etc., exceeds 30,000; at least 40 nurseries specialize in carnivorous plants.

While a large proportion of plants of some types have been propagated, many plants of wild origin are still traded. Included here are the up to 1 million cacti imported from Mexico annually and the native terrestrial orchids which, in addition to domestic sales, made up 20% of U.S. exports of mature orchid plants in 1980.

To prevent overexploitation from depleting these and other vulnerable plant species, the U.S. has adopted three programs: an international treaty, the Endangered Species Act, and the Lacey Act.

The Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, called CITES, was negotiated in 1973. The treaty has been signed by nearly 80 countries. CITES

regulates the export and import of wild species believed to be threatened by over exploitation to supply the international market.

Two federal laws regulate collecting and sale of native American plants for the domestic or foreign markets.

Since 1973, the Endangered Species Act has prohibited the interstate sale or export of plant species listed as Endangered or Threatened under the Act. Seeds and cuttings of Endangered plants are included under the ban; trade in seeds of Threatened plants is allowed. Nursery owners must obtain a permit to sell propagated stocks of listed species. In 1982, the Endangered Species Act was amended to prohibit collecting of Endangered and Threatened plant species from federal lands. This ban applies to hobbyists collecting for their own use as well as to commercial dealers.

Since 1981, the Lacey Act has prohibited interstate trade or export of naive wild plants collected or possessed in violation of the law of the state of origin. The Lacey Act protects mainly cacti since Arizona, California, Texas, Nevada and New Mexico have laws regulating cactus collecting. Other states, including Florida and North Carolina, protect a variety of plant species, including orchids, bromeliads, woodland herbs, and carnivorous plants. Hawaii, Michigan, and other states forbid collecting of plant species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Lacey Act's heaviest penalties apply to commercial dealers who intentionally violate the state law. However, individuals who collect for their own use or to trade with friends must also comply or face penalties. Propagators approved by the appropriate state would not be affected.

Trade in protected plant species is controlled by permits. Permits for both CITES and the Endangered Species Act are issued by the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service (FWS) of the Department of the Interior.

The international and domestic plant trades flourish because of the large market for wild plants and the public's general lack of knowledge about the problem and legal measures adopted to control it. In order to correct these deficiencies, you should:

- . refrain from collecting plants from the wild.
- . buy only from dealers who sell propagated plants.
- . persuade your plant society to discourage collection and display of plants of wild origin by adopting a code of ethics and show judging criteria that reward propagation.
- . keep informed about plant collecting problems at the local, national, and international levels.
- . learn about and support programs that regulate plant collecting and the trade.

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For further information on all aspects of plant conservation, including the plant trade, contact:

PLANT CONSERVATION PROJECT

Natural Resources

Defense Council

1725 I Street, N. W.

Suite 600

Washington, D. C. 20006

or

TRAFFIC (U.S.A.)

World Wide Fund - US

1601 Connecticut Avenue N. W.

Washington, D. C. 20009



THE FERN FINDER

Keys for identifying ferns are notoriously hard to use. Often it is easier to thumb through the illustrations rather than to figure out if the indusium is kidney-shaped or just curved or whether the rachis is woolly or just hairy.

The Fern Finder by Anne C. Hallowell and Barbara C. Hallowell of Hendersonville, N.C., published by the Nature Study Guild in 1981 is a delightful key to ferns and fern allies of northeastern and central North America. The format is that developed by May T. Watts in Flower Finder and Master Tree Finder. The thin, 3 by 6 inch paperback, which fits readily in pocket or pack, has a well illustrated glossary that is particularly helpful. All 86 species included are illustrated by line drawings with diagnostic features clearly indicated. For each, a range map and a schematic habitat diagram is given.

Fern Finder is a bargain at \$1.50. It is available from Nature Study Guild, Box 972, Berkeley, California 94701.

Julie Moore

If separate fertile stalk turns cinnamon color and collapses in early summer, and a small, woolly tuft lies at base of each sterile pinna, it is **Cinnamon Fern**

Osmunda cinnamomea



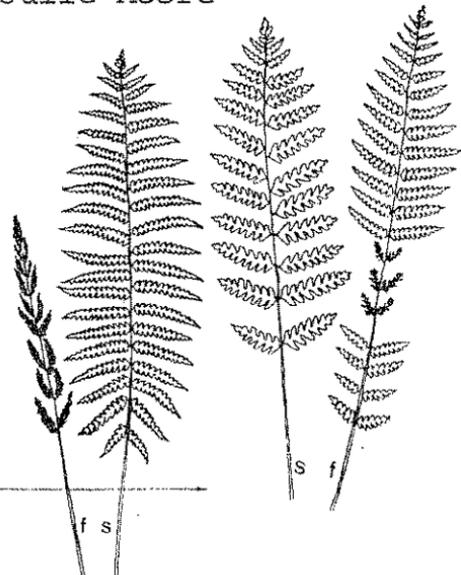
tuft →



2-5 ft
60-150cm

If fertile pinnae are in middle of green frond, and sterile pinnae bases lack woolly tufts, it is **Interrupted Fern**

O. claytoniana



A LOOK AT BOOKS BY OUR MEMBERS

Landscaping with Native Plants

John F. Blair in Winston Salem has published Landscaping with Native Plants written by Cordelia Penn Cannon of Greensboro and illustrated with drawings by another member, Dorothy Wilbur of Chapel Hill. Mrs. Cannon, who writes under her maiden name, Cordelia Penn, describes her book as a "highly selective guide to landscaping with native flora. It cuts down on time looking at a lot of things you don't want. If you have a choice, why not pick out the best? Landscaping with Native Plants is available in most area bookstores at \$14.95.

North Carolina Hiking Trails

Allen de Hart of Louisburg, N. C., who has hiked in 48 states and 18 foreign countries, is the author of a wonderful resource book we will all want to own. North Carolina Hiking Trails, published by Appalachian Mountain Club, 5 Joy Street, Boston, Mass. 02108 at \$9.95, gives clear directions to guide both the casual walker and the intrepid backpacker. The trails range from short strolls around a historic district to week-long journeys through remote mountain wildlands. It covers over 600 trails ranging from the 293-mile stretch of the Appalachian Trail and the 70-mile Cape Hatteras Seashore trail to little known, privately maintained trails.

Florida Wild Flowers and Roadside Plants

Dr. C. Ritchie Bell, a North Carolina Wild Flower Society member and director of the North Carolina Botanical Garden, is the author of a recently published book entitled Florida Wild Flowers and Roadside Plants. The book includes over 500 color photographs by Bryan J. Taylor of Florida's most beautiful and interesting native and naturalized plants. Copies of the book, which sell for \$19.76 each, are available at the N. C. Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill.

MINUTES
SPRING BOARD MEETING
N. C. WILDFLOWER PRESERVATION SOCIETY, Inc.
March 19, 1983

The spring Executive Board Meeting of the North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society was held at noon on Saturday, March 19, 1983, at Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship Church. After a pot luck lunch, President Tom Howard thanked Dr. Ray Noggle for arranging the use of the church.

Dr. Noggle reported that the B. W. Wells Association is now incorporated, and that several volunteer work days have been held there cleaning trails and maintaining the property. He added that it is the Association's desire to stress to the State Park Service and to the Corps of Engineers the value of volunteer assistance.

After discussing a suitable tribute from the Society to Gordon Butler, Teeny Stronach moved that the NCWFPS give \$200 to the Botanical Gardens Foundation for specific use at the Gordon Butler Nature Preserve in Hope Mills. Ray Noggle seconded, and the Board approved and passed the motion.

Treasurer Gretchen Cozart reported current balance on hand \$3,638.56, with \$2,885.57 as balance in the Scholarship Fund. Jane Welshmer reported \$1,529.95 in the Propagation Handbook Sales Fund. The Board considered the merits of merging the various bank accounts to achieve a larger sum on which to draw interest, and voted to do so, after retaining sufficient operating funds in the regular checking account.

Various methods of promoting further sales of the Propagation Handbook were considered. Jane Welshmer offered to contact various publish-

ers and Dr. Noggle offered to contact book stores. Ken Moore moved, Eleanor Pegg seconded, and the Board approved, a motion authorizing Jane Welshmer and Gertrude Howell, who have been handling the Propagation Handbook sales, to contact appropriate publishers regarding marketing the book on a larger scale; also to place advertisements in magazines, such as Southern Living, to achieve the same purpose.

President Tom Howard expressed a need for additional copies of the NCWFPS leaflets. Ray Noggle moved, Ken Moore seconded, and the group approved, authorizing Emily Allen to order 2000 more brochures from the printing firm in Fayetteville that produced the first order.

Harry Phillips of NCBG staff sent word of the need to circulate seed lists again. The Board stated its willingness to help with the mailing lists by addressing seed circulars.

Tom Howard displayed a proposed application form drawn up by Larry Mellichamp for Scholarship Fund grants of \$100 minimum to be given by the Society for research projects, and stated his intentions to appoint a committee which would draw up a cover letter to accompany applications, judge applicants, and award the grants.

Julie Moore told of plans for the annual spring meeting of the Society to be held the weekend of April 23-24 in the Charlotte area with outings of various lengths planned for both days by Larry Mellichamp. Ken Moore reminded members that the Gordon Butler Nature Preserve dedication on April 23 at Hope Mills, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. should be considered part of the weekend program.

The meeting was adjourned by the president.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah West Campbell
Recording Secretary

MINUTES

FALL BOARD MEETING

N. C. WILDFLOWER PRESERVATION SOCIETY, Inc.
October 24, 1982

On a rainy, chilly Sunday, dauntless members of the NCWFPS donned storm gear and gathered at two sites for the Annual Fall Meeting.

The early morning outing was a tour of Greencroft Gardens near Louisburg. The small but intrepid group ignored the weather and arrived around 9:00 a.m. to enjoy the private garden of Allen de Hart. Friends of Greencroft Botanical Gardens maintain a variety of plantings and habitats which display over 500 labeled native plants. The area also includes rock outcrops, a waterfall, and a lake.

Around noon the early risers moved back toward the Durham-Creedmore area to rendezvous at the B. W. Wells Rock Cliff farm with a large group of members who did not make the Louisburg hike.

President Tom Howard greeted members who assembled in the main house for a business session, and introduced Mrs. Maude Wells in whose home we were meeting.

Gretchen Cozart, Treasurer, reported \$3,353.22 as cash on hand with \$2,349.79 in the scholarship fund.

A letter of appreciation from Ken Moore was read for a \$100 donation to the North Carolina Botanical Garden in memory of his mother. Announcement was made that two books had been given to the Lumberton library by the Society in memory of Gordon Butler. Ken suggested that the Society contribute to the new arboretum at N. C. State as a living memorial to Gordon Butler.

Since attendance at meetings has been poor, due largely to the short notice received, Tom

announced that an Outings Committee has been created to schedule regular meetings, and suggested that certain weekends be set aside so members can put them on their calendars early. A spring trip is planned to Chimney Rock Research Area which is operated by UNC-Charlotte.

Tom reported that the Society is trying to get the scholarship fund large enough to create an endowment which will guarantee at least \$100 to be used by a graduate student to study native plants.

The question was raised as to why Handbook funds (approximately \$3,400) were not invested and earning interest. The group agreed that this money should be invested immediately.

Tom showed a brochure about the Wild Flower Society that is being mailed to promote membership and noted that similar postal cards would be useful.

Harry Phillips of the NCBG staff reported on the meeting of the Virginia Wild Flower Preservation Society. Harry chose "Plant Rescue" as his main theme in his presentation, and he also proposed a joint meeting halfway between North Carolina and Virginia next year. Harry told of the Wild Flower of the Year project at the Garden, which this year is featuring the Cardinal Flower. He hopes that this project will arouse interest in the use of native plants by individuals and nurseries. He mentioned that the state Garden Clubs have given great response to this program, which urges propagation and preservation of wild plants. Since the demand for seeds by the Garden has been "unbelievable," he said he needs seeds. He urged members to send any available seeds to him.

Dr. Ray Noggle recommended to the membership, the book Great Public Gardens of Eastern

United States, a paperback by Doris Stone, published by Pantheon Books.

After announcing that the NCWFPS now has around 470 members, President Tom Howard adjourned the meeting.

A "pot luck" lunch was enjoyed in the Wells house. Afterwards members divided into groups to visit the Wells studio where an open fire offered a bright spot in the dreary day, or to hike to some of the surrounding areas.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah West Campbell,
Secretary

A BOOK OF SPECIAL INTEREST

by
Ray Noggle

The Great Public Gardens of the Eastern United States, Doris M. Stone (1982), Pantheon Books, a Division of Random House, Inc., New York, \$12.50.

This book describes 34 gardens from the Fairchild Tropical Garden, Miami, Florida, to the Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. Four Gardens in North Carolina are described: Orton Plantation, Tryon Palace Restoration, North Carolina Botanical Garden, and the Sarah P. Duke Gardens. The plantings are outlined and special features are thoroughly described. Directions for reaching the gardens, as well as special items of interest, are described--hours, meals, etc.

FALL MEETING NEWS

by

Ray Noggle

The weather was miserable for the fall meeting of the North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society at Rock Cliff Farm, the B. W. Wells home. Notwithstanding that, approximately forty people were on hand for the business meeting and lunch. Hosts for the meeting were members of the B. W. Wells Association, a group formed in 1981 to promote preservation of Rock Cliff Farm and its development as a nature interpretive center.

During the business meeting, Julie Moore and Tom Howard, members of the Board of Directors of the B. W. Wells Association, outlined the objectives of the Association and displayed several maps of the general area as well as a map of the proposed trail system as developed by John C. Lawrence. Rock Cliff Farm is on land owned by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Falls of the Neuse water project. A dam has been constructed and the lake forming behind the dam will inundate land surrounding the B. W. Wells home. However, the property immediately adjacent to the home will be preserved and has been leased to the State of North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation for development as a nature interpretive center. It is the purpose of the B. W. Wells Association to assist the N. C. Division of Parks and Recreation in establishing and maintaining the nature center. Work to date by members (about 65) has included clean-up around the home, the studio, and surrounding buildings, construction of a new fence around the cemetery, plant rescue operations on land to be inundated by the lake, clean-up of several trails, and preliminary work on laying out several new trails. The map shows

the general layout of Rock Cliff Farm and the trail system.

After lunch, several field trips had been planned but rainy weather curtailed the program. Julie Moore and John Lawrence led two groups to Ziegles Rock. The trail runs through mesic hardwood forest. The connecting trail to the spring was not followed because of the inclement weather. It is on this part of the trail that many of the plants moved from land to be flooded have been transplanted.

With the deteriorating weather, most of those present stayed in the home or visited the studio. Harry Phillips of the North Carolina Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill, had on display collections of wildflower seeds. Harry discussed the wildflower seed project of the Garden and described procedures for collecting, cleaning, and preserving seed. Many North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society members participate in the seed program and benefit from the annual wildflower seed distribution program.

Those visiting the studio were privileged to see a number of the paintings of Dr. Wells made available by Maude Wells. It is hoped that the studio will be preserved as a memorial to Dr. Wells with a collection of his published writings as well as other books relating to the natural history of the area and some of his paintings.

Despite the weather, we enjoyed seeing old friends and learning more about Rock Cliff Farm and the projected development of a nature interpretive center. We look forward to future visits to the area.

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Dr. Ray Noggle, former head of the Botany Department at North Carolina State University, is back there teaching a course in - Botany. He is also devoting much time to the B. W. Wells Association and has been instrumental in securing tax exempt status for that organization.

ON ROCKCLIFF FARM . . .

"You come to the end of a dead-end road, and crossing the line at a dip, your load of city worries, cares, and thought drops as you cross into Rockcliff Farm where peace, freedom, and joy were bought with the acres-- . . ."

B. W. Wells

Your 1983 membership fee is due May 1.

Please help us save postage by sending

your check to: Mrs. S. M. Cozart
900 West Nash Street
Wilson, N. C. 27893

GEORGIA BOTANICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Spring Events:

- April 16-17 - Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage
to Moultrie
- May 14 - Field Trip to Eugene Cline's
famous garden near Canton
- June -? - - (Tentative) Field trip to Vic-
toria Bryant State Park



For more information, write

Marie Mellinger, President
Route 1
Tiger, Georgia 30576

ALABAMA WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

Jane Welshmer, having lived in Alabama, wants our members to know what a fine job of planning and organizing that group does and what choice natural habitats and impressive gardens they have.

The Birmingham Botanical Garden, in addition to its extensive Wildflower Garden and Fern Glade, has well developed gardens featuring each of the following: Rose, Rhododendron, Iris, Day Lily, Camellia, Ericaceous Species, all sponsored and subsidized by their own plant societies---and a magnificent (generously endowed) Japanese Garden.

For more information on the Alabama Society and their trips, write Jane Welshmer, 15 Lanier Drive, Route 7, Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514, or call (919) 933-1400.

MEMORIAL TO
BESSIE LUETTA POPE
1890-1982

by
Elizabeth Conner

Bessie Luetta Pope was born July 22, 1890, in Davidson County, N. C., daughter of Robert Lindsey and Elizabeth Fritts Pope. She attended business school in Thomasville and in 1907 moved to High Point, where she resided until her death.

"Miss Bessie" was employed by the Southern Railway, retiring in 1955. She was a member of Eastern Star Chapter Number 106, and served as its secretary for 51 years. She was a member of Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church and was treasurer of the Susannah Wesley Class for more years than anyone has determined. She was also a member of the United Methodist Women and the Friendly Club at the church and did a great deal of volunteer work for the Media Center and other phases of church work.

Her real love was flowers. She belonged to the Wildflower Garden Club in High Point and put in endless hours of work for the Garden Council, among other things maintaining a Garden Center at Sears for many years. She also did typing to help the Council and various Clubs, and even asked for her typewriter when in the hospital! She was a member of the North Carolina Wildflower Preservation Society and served as its treasurer from 1957 to 1975, faithfully attending meetings and keeping records until her health made it impractical. She will be greatly missed.

"Nature gives to every time and season
some beauties of its own."

Charles Dickens

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

April 1983

Behr, Mrs. Gustave E.
3118 Carol Woods
Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514

Bowkley, Raymond E.
104 Edora Street
Boone, N. C. 28607

Carson, Mr. Don E.
RFD 2, Box 190
Leicester, N. C. 28748

de Hart, Mr. Allen
Louisburg College
Louisburg, N. C. 27549

Fitch, Mrs. R. B.
825 Kenmore Road
Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514

Glaspy, Ms. Denise
Apt. B-22, King Village
NCSU
Raleigh, N. C. 27607

Harris, Mrs. Pamela
3504 Greenhill Drive
High Point, N. C. 27260

Howell, Ms. Martha A.
2510 Piedmont Drive
Sanford, N. C. 27330

Jernigan, Mrs. Bettie G.
Rt. 6, Box 593
Dunn, N. C. 28334

Koontz, Mrs. Rose
Box 37
Laurel Springs, N. C. 28644

McConnell, Mr. Owen L.
2808 Butner Street
Durham, N. C. 27704

Mohlenbrock, Robt. H.
Dept. of Botany
Southern Illinois Univ.
Carbondale, Ill. 62901

Olive, Mr/Mrs Hubert E Jr
708 Hilltop Drive
Lexington, N. C. 27292

Peacock, M/Mrs. J. T.
8109 Netherland Drive
Raleigh, N. C. 27606

Prichard, Ms. Mary E.
51 Alpine Way
Asheville, N. C. 28805

Sigmon, Mr. Tony Alton
Rt. 6, Box 400
Statesville, N. C. 28677

Srail, Mrs. Joseph M.
1818 Kenmore Circle
Statesville, N. C. 28677

Tanner, Ms. Suzanne D.
Tryon Rd., P. O. Box 1139
Rutherfordton, N. C. 28139

NORTH CAROLINA WILD FLOWER PRESERVATION SOCIETY, INC.



900 WEST NASH STREET

WILSON, NORTH CAROLINA 27893

NORTH CAROLINA WILD FLOWER PRESERVATION SOCIETY, INC.

Mrs. S.M. Cozart, Treasurer

900 West Nash Street

Wilson, North Carolina 27893

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Regular: \$5.00

Sustaining: \$25.00

Life: \$100.00

New

Renewal

NAME _____

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North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society, Inc.
Totten Garden Center, 457-A, UNC
North Carolina Botanical Garden
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514

SPRING MEETING
APRIL 23 & 24, 1983

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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