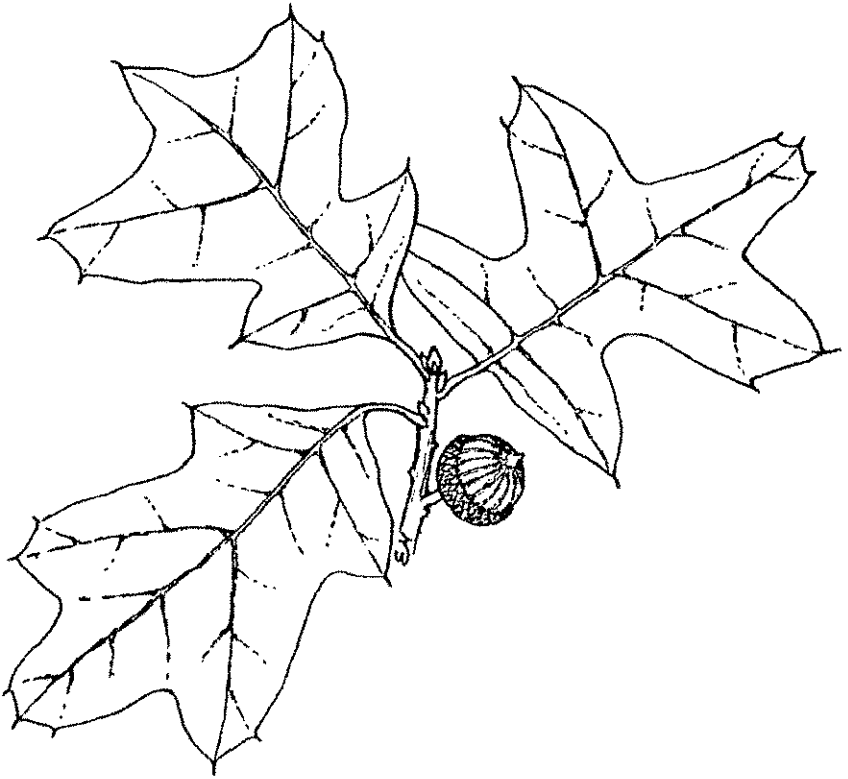


NORTH
CAROLINA

wild flower

PRESERVATION
SOCIETY, INC.



Bear Oak
Quercus ilicifolia

SUMMER/WINTER 2000
Volume XII, Number I

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2000-2002**

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Newsletter
of
North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society

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Cover Drawing: Bear Oak and all artwork by Eric Hawkins

President's Message

Kenneth A. Bridle, Ph.D.

It has been a busy spring and summer since I took office last April. At that time the NCWFPS had a significant agenda of activities ongoing and many more planned. As Charlotte Patterson noted in last issues President's Message, the Society had recognized a need and an opportunity to advance our mission of promoting the "enjoyment and conservation of native plants and their habitats through education, protection and propagation."

To this end we had developed an expanded plant rescue program and procedures which could eventually coordinate activity across the state. We had significantly increased our contacts and information sharing with other conservation organizations, which has helped us see where the native plant conservation needs are. We have increased NCWFPS activity in both the Charlotte and Asheville areas, and have consequently developed a policy for supporting local associated organizations and NCWFPS chapters in areas where they wish to develop. A group has also been meeting to update and print a new version of the propagation handbook that has been out of print for years, but is still requested and needed.

In the past year the society founded an education committee with the charge to coordinate the society's activities in the Rare Plant Initiative, which had been working to support the expansion of the Plant Protection Program of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

As a result of all this activity the level of involvement and credibility of the NCWFPS has risen in many areas of the state and among people at various levels of political power. Our initial attempt at promoting the introduction of legislation in the short session to expand the budget of the Plant Protection Program met with some success by having bipartisan support and the blessings of the Commissioner of Agriculture. However, the resistance of a tight budget year proved too much as the item was dropped from the budget at the last minute. Altogether not the result we wanted. It has proved to be a great learning experience and increased the society's contacts in Raleigh tremendously. We continue to push for this important program support and the players in Raleigh, both at the Department of Agriculture and the Legislature know that we are not giving up. The future of many rare plants in this state is at stake. Stay tuned.

This next year brings with it an important event in the life of the NCWFPS. We will be celebrating the NCWFPS 50th anniversary at our spring meeting in Chapel Hill at the North Carolina Botanical Garden. We hope this location will attract some of our older members who can help remind us of the early years of our society. I am sure that when we think of all the prospects and challenges that were faced in the formation of this conservation organization, we will find that many still resonate with us today. I hope you will spread the word to both old and new members that the North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society is alive with purpose and pleasure and working to meet the challenges of the new millennium.



NCWFPS Fall Field Trip Report

Shielah Lombardo

Society members attending the fall field trip (Sept. 15-17) to the Balsam Mountains area enjoyed the mild temperatures, intensely blue skies and unequalled views--all courtesy of a passing cold front that cleared the mountains of their characteristic haze. Who could quibble if the chilly mornings left a skim of frost on our windshields?

Our guide Saturday was Dan Pitillo, professor of botany at Western Carolina University at Cullowhee. Everywhere he led us, goldenrods, asters and white snakeroot dominated the roadside floral display.

Our first stop was the gneiss seepage cliff facing the Wolf Mountain Overlook, where it was easy to spot the wildflower enthusiasts. They were the ones who turned their backs on the spectacular view out over the mountains, instead concentrating on a wealth of flora, from tiny sundews (*Drosera rotundifolia*) snuggled in beds of sphagnum moss to a glorious "arrangement" of grass of Parnassus and gentians perched in the rock crevices.

Our caravan next moved on to Devil's Courthouse, where we followed a good but steep trail to 5700 feet and the rugged rock mountaintop that the Cherokee regarded as a place of judgment for those who lacked courage or strayed from a virtuous path. As one of the last of our party to make it up the mountain, I missed most of Dan's botanical commentary. Suffice to say the trail is rich and diverse (as Dan's plant list attests).

From there, we moved on to the Art Loeb Trail Bald, where we spread out to enjoy lunch and the view. Mingling with masses of bush honeysuckle coloring up for autumn was the tropical-looking wild celery (*Angelica triquinata*), or "bee marijuana," so-called because its nectar stupefies the bees, causing them to stumble all over and thus thoroughly pollinate the flowers.

Our final stop of the afternoon was Flat Laurel Gap, across the Parkway from the Pisgah Inn. Here, a bog-or "wetland dip," as Dan described it--contains remnant plants such as cotton grass, evidence that a very different type of vegetation once dominated this area. The bog is off-limits to protect the fragile ecosystem, but Dan knows the area well. He and his students analyzed core samples from the bog to determine what plants existed here as much as 12,000 years ago.

At dinner Saturday night, Dan's slide presentation and talk elaborated

on the geologic and climatic influences that gave the Southern Appalachians their botanical diversity.

Sunday began well with a plant auction, with most of the "stock" generously provided by Maxilla Evans. Then, we were off to the nearby Corneille Bryan Nature Center at Lake Junaluska Assembly.

A one-acre success story, the nature center was created a decade ago by insightful gardeners who saw the need for a place to display the native trees, shrubs and wildflowers of Southern Appalachians.

The early birds in our group missed the leisurely and thorough tour of the nature center provided by Maxilla Evans, who knows the collection intimately: She provided many of the plants in the garden and has been an active supporter from the start.

At the end of the tour, we said our goodbyes and went on our way, savoring our memories of another fine field trip.



Meeting of the Piedmont Chapter of the NCWFPS

Jean Woods

The Piedmont Chapter of the North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society meet on Saturday, October 7, 2000 at the Nature Center of Latta Plantation Park. In the morning Cecil Frost, Director of the Plant Conservation Program for North Carolina, gave a presentation about the "Rare Plant Initiative," which is program sponsored by NCWFPS and the Plant Conservation Program to protect the endangered plant species of North Carolina. Cecil's comments about the necessity of fire in the ecology of many species resulted in discussion that demonstrated the need for education about prescribed burns. Parks and Recreation for Mecklenburg has much experience in doing burns and added local knowledge of procedures for such management in the Mecklenburg area.

After Cecil's talk, Gary Marshall, Natural Resource Specialist for the park, lead the group on a field trip to see the near-by prairie restoration. Explorers, as early as 1540 reported open "savannas" in the Carolina Piedmont. These open expanses were probably created by fires set by Native Americans to clear land for planting and by fires caused by lightning. The many streams and rivers in the piedmont created natural firebreaks that caused these prairies to be much smaller than the ones occurring in our Midwest.

Native Americans have lived in the Piedmont for at least 12,000 years and over time, prairie plants and animals of the Midwest moved eastward to the Carolinas. Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Big Blue stem (*Andropogon gerardii*), Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*), Georgia aster (*Aster georgianus*), smooth coneflower (*Echinacea laevigata*), and Schweintz's sunflower (*Helianthus schweinitzii*) found in the Piedmont today are probably part of the original prairie ecosystem. The early settlers found these open areas ideal for agriculture and over time they have all but disappeared.

Today only a few small remnant Piedmont prairies exist. Schweintz's sunflower is so rare that is on the Federal Endangered Species List. Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department is restoring two Piedmont prairies at Latta Plantation Nature Preserve and the McDowell Nature Preserve. Prairie plants are also being discovered on power line right of ways which mimic the habitat of the early savannas. Duke Power

in cooperation with the Natural Heritage organization marks the known locations and uses special maintenance procedures to protect these species.

The prairie site at Latta is 34 acres and the Schweintz's sunflower is so abundant that it is hard to believe that they are endangered. The sunflowers were mixed with the blue of the George aster (state endangered list) and framed by Indian grass, bottle brush grass, and little bluestem grass. The day was cool and bright and standing in the waist to shoulder high vegetation, it was easy to imagine that one had been transported back in time to the days before all this had been almost lost. Gary Marshall has been part of the restoration team since the beginning and was able to give us an in depth tour of the species, the cultural artifacts, and how the restoration was accomplished.

In addition to *Helianthus schweintzii* and *Aster georgianus*, we saw dog fennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*), New jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), Beggar lice (*Desmodium viridiflorum*), passion flower (*Passiflora incarnata*), fireweed (*Erechtites hieracifolia*), and gentian (*Gentian villosa*). An old home site is on the edge of the prairie. Gary told us that efforts were under way to clear out some of the underbrush and understory trees to see if the prairie would spread. A deep, had dug well was near the home site. Parks and Recreation have erected a wall around the well to keep the unwary from falling into its 65 foot depths.

After lunch back at the Nature Center, we drove about 10 miles to the Shuffletown Prarire (located on a power line) which has recently been acquired by Parks and Recreation for preservation as a nature preserve. There we saw *Helianthus Schweintzii*, *Aster georgianus*, and *Echinacea laevigata*, all within a space of about 400 yards - two federal endangered species and one state endangered species! *Helianthus Schweintzii* was less prevalent at Shuffletown which is a natural prairie and was mixed with *Helianthus microcephalus* and *Helianthus laevigatus*. The *Aster georianus* was mixed with *Aster patens*. James Barnwell, of Ribbon Walk was a great resource in identifying the various species and pointing out ways to distinguish them. We also saw New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), wild quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*), black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), *Solidago spp.* and *Genian villosa*.

The beauty, however, was marred by two enormous mounds of dirt that had been removed from the adjacent development and placed on the power line. The development company originally owned the prairie and had agreed to donate the land in exchange for being allowed to dump their spoil dirt there. They agreed to dump the dirt only in areas

designed by Parks and Rec and have been faithful to that. It is still jarring to see and results in fragmenting the prairie. Plans are underway to purchase some adjacent lots and clear those lots to enable the prairie vegetation to spread.

About 4 P.M. we finally called it a day and reluctantly departed for home. The day had been filled with beautiful and interesting plants, good company, many opportunities to learn, and to share knowledge. I think we all came away wiser and more empowered to work for the preservation of our native plants.



The Pipevine and the Swallowtail

Plant it and they will come

Eric Hawkins

One of the many benefits of growing native wild flowers is the butterflies they attract. As an example I recently witnessed the relationship between the Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly and its host plant the Virginia Snakeroot. Since first establishing this plant several years ago it has become widely scattered throughout my garden. It amazes me how butterflies are able to locate their host plants when found at such scattered locations.

One spring I observed a Pipevine Swallowtail fluttering strangely about my Virginia Snakeroot plants. After her departure curiosity led me to discover several eggs attached to these plants. Later in the summer the eggs became voracious caterpillars rapidly stripping the snakeroot plants to leafless stems. After these brown tentacled beasts had done all the damage they could do, the plants put forth a fresh new growth of leaves looking even better than before. Presumably the caterpillars left in search of more fodder or to find a place to make the transformation into chrysalis.

In North Carolina the caterpillars feed on two species of pipevines of the genus *Aristolochia*. One being Virginia Snakeroot (*Aristolochia serpentaria*) and the other being Dutchman's Pipe (*Aristolochia macrophylla*). In the western United States additional species of *Aristolochia* are found which serve as food for the caterpillars.

The Virginia Snakeroot is a short herbaceous perennial of deciduous forest primarily in the Piedmont with scattered locations in the mountains and coastal plain. The unusual pipe-shaped flowers being nestled in the leaf litter often go unnoticed with their earthy maroon color. However they are worth the effort of getting on hands and knees to observe the unusual flower form.

The Dutchman's Pipe is a deciduous woody vine found along streams and in rich coves in the mountains. This vine bears large heart-shaped leaves and pipe-shaped flowers similar to but larger than the Virginia Snakeroot. It can be a little rambunctious, but it makes a nice trellis or arbor plant, providing a welcome shade in the summer. The other part of the equation is the Pipevine Swallowtail named for this genus of plants known collectively as pipevines. This species of swallowtail with mostly black fore wings has hind wings of an iridescent blue with red spots on

the undersides. They are said to be distasteful to birds, a characteristic obtained from the caterpillar feeding on pipevine plants. Other species of butterfly resemble or have dark forms that resemble the Pipevine Swallowtail, presumably tricking birds into believing they too would make a poor meal. Sometimes it's hard to watch your plants become "worm food", but when you stop to consider that these creatures transform into the colorful iridescent-winged butterflies we see fluttering about our gardens it's not a bad trade-off. While the butterflies inadvertently pollinate some of our flowers while feeding on nectar they also provide beauty and an added purpose to our native plant gardens.



Bear Oak

Help a Rare Plant and Have Fun Doing It

Ken Bridle

On the morning of our June NCWFPS picnic at Hanging Rock State Park a group of enthusiastic conservation minded people gathered to help the park staff with a conservation project. The project is to make habitat improvements for the Bear Oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*) population that lives at the top of the mountain. This is a small shrubby oak that grows to just 2-3 meters tall. The only known populations in North Carolina occur at the tops of Hanging Rock, Crowders and Kings Mountains. Since these are all State Parks one would think that the survival of this rare plant is assured, but this is not the case. This species requires open, sunny spots in the forest with bare and rocky soils. This is a situation that occurs naturally when fire burns through these rocky knob forests. The fire burns up the leaf litter and dry organic material on the forest floor and also removes tender fire-sensitive species that compete with the slower growing Bear Oak.

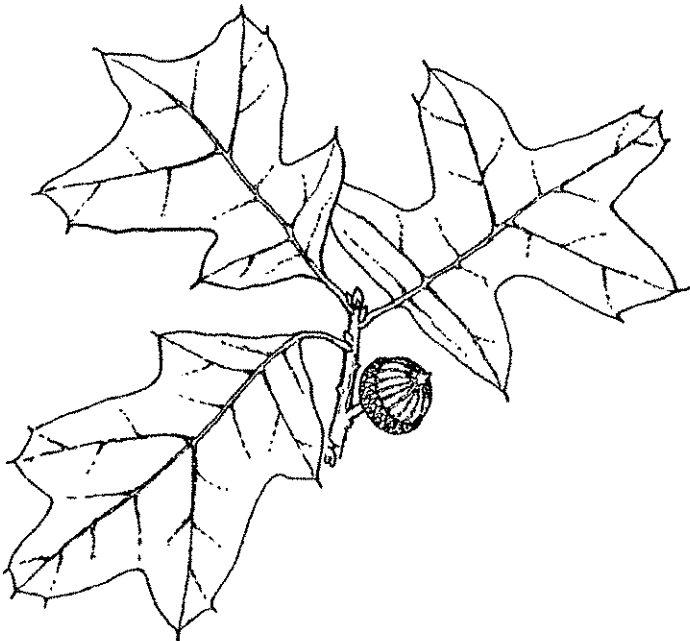
In recent history the park system has put out fires, to protect the park forests, buildings and other resources. This has caused the forest to become thick and tangled and the forest floor covered with a thick layer of dry litter. Not only is this bad for the Bear Oak, but this build-up of fuel makes the fires that do start harder to control. The way to make this species thrive is to reintroduce fire into the management toolbox. Called controlled or prescribed burns these fires are set a time of year and under weather conditions that make them useful and effective at removing excess fuel and fire sensitive weedy species. This returns that habitat to something more suitable to the needs of Bear Oak and other species that have adapted to periodic fires.

The logistics of prescribed burns are complex and involve a lot of preparation, planning and teamwork. In the case of the Bear Oak on Hanging Rock, we are lucky in that the plants are clustered in several small areas just below the top of the ridgeline. This makes it easier to isolate the areas with fire lines and only burn small patches of forest at a time. It was the job of the NCWFPS volunteers to help make these fire lines to isolate the parts that will be burned from the rest of the forest. Using rakes, shovels, clippers, saws and other hand tools the group cleared a three foot wide path around the main Bear Oak colony. This clearing is designed to contain the fire and prevent it from spreading. We also reconnoitered the area to identify the locations of the smaller colonies

and started the fire line around some of them and marked others with flagging. The plans are that the park staff and volunteers will work to complete these fire lines this fall and winter and the first burn should happen early next spring.

It was lots of hot and hard work, but also lots of fun. The site we worked on is just off one of the hiking trails and we had lots of people stop and inquire about what we were doing. People cutting and hacking vegetation in a State Park is a disturbing site. But we were well armed and what could they do? Anyway, most of these people were glad to know that we were supporting the Park in its efforts to help make better habitat for this rare plant. Some even expressed a willingness to help and Alice Zawadski had some extra tools and put these folks to work.

It was a hot and hazy morning filled with the hard work of the following NCWFPS members: Pat & Owen McDonnell, Ken & Margo Perkins, Vonda Frantz, Cecil Frost, Alice Zawadski, Judith West, Jerry & Amy Hill with Zack and Rachel and Ken Bridle. We also want to thank the Chambers Family who volunteered on the spot: Bob, Jean, John and Sara. And special thanks to Superintendent Tommy Wagner at HRSP and summer intern Andy Mathis for being our guide and leader for this work outing.



Management of Plant Invasions in the Southern Appalachians

Southern Appalachian Man and Biosphere Program

[Article originally appeared in the Chinquapin Newsletter and is reprinted here with permission of the author and the Chinquapin Newsletter Editor]

Dane Kuppinger

Invasions by non-native plant species are an increasing concern throughout the Southern Appalachian region. To address this, the Southern Appalachian Man and Biosphere Program is conducting an assessment of invasive plant species in the region as part of its Native Plants and Invasive Species Initiative. One part of the assessment, described in detail at www.samab.org, queried 35 state, federal, and non-governmental land management agencies about the problem. Results of the survey indicate that there is great variation in the depth and breadth of knowledge about plant invasions amongst agencies. The majority of agencies are just beginning to address the problem of pest plant species on their lands. Most organizations have compiled lists of invasive species, and some have prioritized these for control, but few have population data, and control efforts have generally been limited. Although a total of 218 plant species were reported as invasive within the region, most agencies reported a particular set of a "dirty dozen" species (listed in Table 1) which posed their greatest ongoing and potential management headaches. Although some species (like purple loosetrife) were reported at a low frequency, they are a serious problem in other regions and may pose a significant threat to the Southern Appalachians in the future.

Land managers cited the lack of money and personnel as the most serious immediate impediments to control of these species. Public and industry education and research into new control measures were believed to be essential to address the larger problems of continued importation and long-term control. Land managers overwhelmingly felt that the situation will not improve without increased public, industry, and governmental awareness and support. Further, eradication of invasives on managed lands is often complicated because of populations of the same species on neighboring lands. Many managers also noted that the lack of a centralized database on invasives slowed control efforts.

Table 1. The "dirty dozen" set of invasive plants reported by management agencies in the S. Appalachian region.

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u># of Times Reported</u>
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of heaven	14
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Oriental bittersweet	11
<i>Eleagnus umbellata</i>	Autumn olive	11
<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	Chinese Privet	18
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese honeysuckle	9
<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Japanese grass, Nepal grass	20
<i>Miscanthus sinense</i>	Miscanthus, plume grass	11
<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>	Princess tree	11
<i>Pueraria montana</i>	Kudzu	23
<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Multiflora rose	21

(author's note: list reflects updates since the publication of this in the Chinquapin Newsletter, the newsletter of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society)



Blue Ridge Parkway

Flowering and Fruiting Plants

September, 2000

by Dan Pittillo, Department of Biology,
Western Carolina University

WOLF MT. OVERLOOK SEEPAGE CLIFF

<u>Binomial</u>	<u>Common name</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<i>Aster divaricatus</i>	Aster (fl)	Tends toward dryer sites
<i>Aster lateriflorus</i>	Starved aster (fl)	Not common here, small white rays
<i>Aster puniceus</i>	Aster (fl)	Rooted in water
<i>Carex crinata</i>	Sedge (fr)	Rooted in water
<i>Chelone cuthbertii</i>	Cuthberts turtlehead (fl)	See more near streams
<i>Diervilla sessilifolia</i>	Bush honeysuckle (fr)	Drier sites
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	Sundew (fr)	Often in Sphagnum moss; splash areas
<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	Purple thoroughwort (fl)	Drier sites
<i>Eupatorium rugosum</i> (<i>Agertina appalachiana</i>)	Milksick weed (fl)	Some with purple stems
<i>Gentiana decora</i>	Gentian (fl)	Good clumps near stream, woods edge
<i>Houstonia serpyllifolia</i>	Quaker ladies (fr)	Small, hairpin-sized opposite leaves
<i>Hypericum buckleyi</i>	Buckleys St. Johns wort (fr)	Cushion shrub
<i>Hypericum densiflorum</i>	St. Johns wort (fr)	Waste-high shrub
<i>Hypericum graveolens</i>	St. Johns wort (fr)	Knee high, broader leaved
<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	Jewelweed (fl)	Depauperate plant
<i>Juncus cf. acuminatus</i>	Rush (fr)	Leaves w/cross-walls, rooted in water
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Bulrush (fr)	Rooted in water
<i>Krigia montana</i>	Blue Ridge dandelion (fl)	Wet to dryer crevices

<u>Binomial</u>	<u>Common name</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<i>Parnassia asarifolia</i>	Grass-of-Parnassus (fl)	Delicately veined, white petals
<i>Platanthera (Habenaria) clavellata</i>	Small green wood orchid (fr)	Small, about 6 in. tall, green capsuled
<i>Saxifraga michauxii</i>	Michaux saxifrage (fl)	Some fruits shed already
<i>Solidago roanensis</i>	Roan goldenrod (fl)	Strict, like a yellow candle
<i>Solidago rugosa</i>	Goldenrod (fl)	Veins indented
<i>Solidago uliginosa</i>	Bog goldenrod (fl)	Big basal leaves, waste high
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Tallbush blueberry (fr)	Head high, drier sites
<i>Viburnum cassinoides</i>	Black haw (fr)	Fruits white-->red-->black
<i>Viola blanda</i>	Sweet white violet (fr)	Small, round leaves, see page zone

ART LOEB TRAIL BALD

<i>Angelica triquinata</i>	Wild celery	Bee "marijauna"
<i>Dierovilla sessilifolia</i>	Bush honeysuckle (fr)	Drier sites
<i>Eupatorium rugosum</i> (<i>Agertina appalachiana</i>)	Milksick weed (fl)	Some with purple stems
<i>Lycopodium clavatum</i>	---	---
<i>Lycopodium dendroideum</i>	---	---
<i>Lycopodium obscurum</i>	Ground pine	---
<i>Pieris floribunda</i>	Fetterbush (fr, budded)	Dull, rugose leaves
<i>Rubus canadensis</i>	Canada blackberry	Sweet, smaller fruits
<i>Solidago roanensis</i>	Roan goldenrod (fl)	Strict, like a yellow candle
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Tallbush blueberry (fr)	Head high, drier sites
<i>Vaccinium erythrocarpum</i>	Mountain cranberry	Fruits edible, bland, deep red

Fl = Flowering

Fr = Fruiting

B = Budding

(Dan Pittillo, Department of Biology, Western Carolina University)

North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society, Inc.

Aims & Objectives

The North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society was formed in 1951 by a group of individuals appreciative of native plants throughout the state and region. The purpose of the Society is to promote the conservation and enjoyment of native plants and their habitats through education, protection and propagation.

Quarterly meetings are held at "natural gardens" across the state. members exchange seeds and propagated plants at these meetings. Other excursions are organized on a local basis throughout the year.

The Society Newsletter is usually issued twice a year with articles and illustrations by professional and amateur contributors.

The Shinn Scholarship/Grant Fund sponsors research on native plants by undergraduate and graduate students. The fund is supported by member contributions and by gifts and memorials. Applications are made to the Scholarship/Grant Fund Committee for awards in May of each year.

The Society is a nonprofit organization under North Carolina and Internal Revenue Services regulations. Donations are tax deductible.

Correspondence concerning the Society and its programs should be addressed to:

North Carolina Wildflower Preservation Society, Inc
c/o North Carolina Botanical Garden
Totten Center 3375, UNC-CH
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3375

NOTES



Membership Information

Membership Application

ANNUAL DUES

Individual or Family	\$15.00
Sustaining	\$25.00
Lifetime membership	\$300.00
Local Chapter dues	\$5.00
Scholarship Fund Donation	\$ _____
Total \$	\$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

(Please include your four digit zip code)

E-Mail address: _____

Send this, address corrections, and all correspondence to:

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Contact the NCWFPS by calling 919-834-4172 or visit our web site at
www.ncwildflower.org

NOTES



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