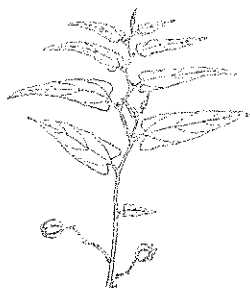
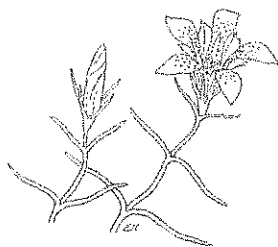
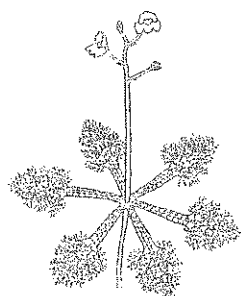
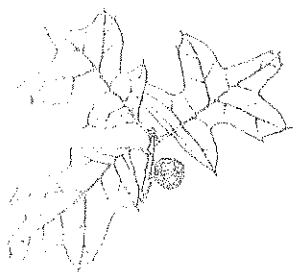


NORTH
CAROLINA

wild flower

PRESERVATION
SOCIETY, INC.

50th Anniversary Issue



SUMMER/WINTER 2001
Volume XIII, Number I

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2000-2002

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**Newsletter
of
North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society**

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President's Message

Kenneth A. Bridle, Ph.D.

NCWFPS Celebrates Natural Gardens and Gardeners!

I love being a gardener, having a little plot of earth to tend. I was born a gardener, from gardening parents and grandparents. I grew up thinking that every one gardened, or at least wanted to. Gardens are used to gain the practical benefits of fresh fruit and flowers, and the spiritual benefits of stewardship and interaction with nature.

As early as I can remember I have wanted to learn what makes plants tick and how they do what they do. In high school I studied science, botany in college and plant physiology in graduate school. Over a 25 year career I have worked on projects as diverse as growing plants in space (remember SkyLab?), biotechnology and tissue culture, plant breeding, natural product chemistry, science literacy education, biological inventory, restoration and conservation. From the molecular level to the landscape scale, they Plant systems have a lot to provide and teach us.

During all this time of training and experience I have become convinced of the importance of natural systems to human well being. The reduction and damage done to natural systems in the name of "progress" have also disturbed me. Our human cultures have many great garden metaphors that deal with the ideal gardens of origin and knowledge. Yet we don't seem to be learning the lesson of stewardship very well as is documented by the stress and threats documented in most of the worlds natural systems.

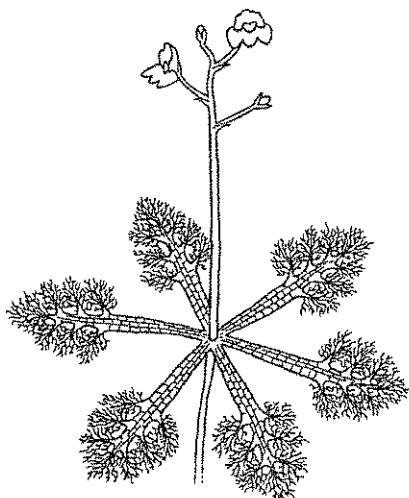
Great thinkers and philosophers have always looked to nature for unbiased answers to life's great questions. George Washington Carver learned much from nature and improved the lives of those that followed. He said "The earth is not just a treasure house to be ransacked and plundered and profited from...it is our home, and a place of beauty and God's handiwork." He also suggested that we increase public awareness of the natural world to help preserve our world. "Look about you." he said, "Take hold of the things that are here. Let them talk to you." He was known as a member of the community of gardeners, in his day, with a special talent to learn from nature. In North Carolina we had the great botanist and teacher B.W. Wells, who wrote of nature's bounty in our state in a 1932 book called "Natures Gardens". I am sure he would be proud to be called a "natural gardener" for his advocacy of preservation of natural

spaces in North Carolina. To be a gardener is much more socially acceptable than being known as a "tree-hugger"

Members of the North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society could be called "natural gardeners". Be proud of your knowledge and passion about native plants. By our knowledge and passion we can educate the public, transform public policy and protect and conserve the natural plant resources upon which we all depend.

Share your interest with your neighbors and your community. Let your elected officials on all levels know that the preservation of natural resources is vital to all of us. Just because they may not understand nature doesn't mean the issues of natural resource conservation are not important. The Nature Conservancy has analyzed development trends in the southeast and found that natural resources that are not protected in the next 20 years may be lost forever. Now is the time to help raise awareness of our native plants so that we can ensure public respect and protection of our natural gardens for the future.

This 50th year of the NCWFPS! We celebrate our founding and honor the "natural gardeners" that saw the need to promote native plant conservation half a century ago.



Tin Memory of Edwin F. Steffek, Jr.

February 23, 1947 - October 27, 2001

Alice Zawadzki

With great sadness and utter disbelief, I share with you the tragic news that our dear, sweet, gentle Ed Steffek died of a massive heart attack in the arms of his wife, Nancy Oliver. No words can express the tremendous loss we all are experiencing.

In Ed Steffek was the quintessential gentle man. His quietness and tranquillity were the velvet backdrop to his delightful sparkle and infectious smile. His love for the beauty of creation radiated in the beautiful H. L. Blomquist Garden at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens that he developed. Ed joined the garden staff in 1977 when he was 30 years old. In the last 24 years he has created a peaceful, blessed masterpiece that so many of us have come to savor. In April of this year, Ed hosted the NC Wild Flower Preservation Society at the Blomquist Garden as part of our 50th anniversary celebration. We are so fortunate to have enjoyed that morning with him in this grand place.

Ed doubled the Garden to its current 61/2 acres with more than 1000 plant species. He created so many very special meditative places. With my being a tour guide at Duke Gardens since 1995, I have had the delight to watch Ed's special masterpieces unfold like a butterfly out of its chrysalis: glens with shooting stars, nodding lady tresses, green dragons, lady slippers, trilliums, shortia, green and gold, pitcher plants; retreats with antique millstones and carefully placed stones from Duke quarry.

He masterfully crafted the granite grotto over one summer in his early years at Duke without the aid of mechanization. He hid some concrete inside so that the dripping water would be sweet for the Southern maidenhair fern to grow on it. Every time I visit I seek the solace of the fern grotto; it is my favorite place in the Gardens. On my last visit there on November 7, just before Ed's memorial service, the droplets of water were hushed like my tears still locked inside; the huge leaves of the big-leaf Magnolia blanketed the whole grotto quietly closing the curtain of Ed Steffek's creative hand on the Blomquist Garden.

The spirit of Ed Steffek will grace the Blomquist Garden for many generations and will touch our hearts with every radiant, delicate bloom.

If you wish, you may honor Ed Steffek with a gift to the Blomquist Garden of the Sarah P. Duke Gardens, Duke University, Box 90626, Durham, NC 27708-0626.

Minutes of NC Wild Flower Preservation Society Board Meeting June 10, 2000 NCWFPS Board Meeting Held at the Home of Ken Bridle Submitted by Charlotte Patterson

Members present: Ken Bridle, Luann Bridle, Ann Kelly, Marlene Kinney, Zack Murrell, Charlotte Patterson, and Alice Zawadzki

Ken called the meeting to order and asked for volunteers to take the place of Marlene Alder, who has resigned as recording secretary. Marlene has taken a job in her home town of Cincinnati, Ohio. No one volunteered. It was decided that Ken would put a request on the web site and see if volunteers could be solicited.

The next topic of discussion was the need for new stationary. The society is running out of its current supply. Ken suggested changing the font and adding a newly drawn logo. Eric Hawkins was suggested as a possible candidate to draw a new logo for us. Ken also suggested that the society address should be added to the stationary and a slogan applied, since a slogan has been applied to the banner and has been suggested for the new brochure. Ken supplied information about printing costs that he obtained from a printer in Walnut Cove. It would cost \$90.10 to print 1000 copies in two colors and \$65 to print 1000 copies in one color of ink. An additional \$103.88 would be needed to print 1000 matching envelopes. The question of one versus two ink colors on the stationary was discussed, and it was decided that the stationary should be done in one color. The printer would be contracted to do the stationary layout. . It was also suggested that the stationary letterhead should have the same font as the brochure.

The discussion turned to printing costs for the brochure. Jean Woods obtained information about printing costs in Charlotte. Those figures were unavailable at the meeting. Alice supplied information about costs in the Raleigh area. Prices from the Walnut Cove printer appeared to be the least expensive, and it was decided that the printer in Walnut Cove should be contracted. It was also suggested that they might be the most economical printer to use for the revision of the propagation handbook.

Additional changes to the new brochure were suggested. Alice mentioned the need for email information on new members. The addition of an interest survey for new members was also discussed. Ken

stated that the interest survey on the Butterfly Society brochure had been very useful in directing the activities of that society. Ken asked for members to submit suggested items for the interest survey. Alice suggested that a foldout panel might be useful for the addition of an interest survey. Since people can contact us through email on the website, discussion turned to whether or not both our email and our website addresses should be listed on the brochure. It was decided that it would be more user friendly to prospective members to include both on the brochure. Charlotte recommended that the slogan that was added to the brochure should be consistent with slogans added to the stationary and to the banner. Alice said that she would check on the wording of the slogan printed on the banner. Luann suggested that we should add credit for the photos that Jean Woods donated to the printing of the brochure. Luann also questioned whether we needed photos that were representative of all areas of the state. White glossy paper in heavy bond was suggested as the best option to offset the photographs. Dark ink color was recommended, possibly black or green.

Ken said that only one reader of the propagation handbook text had edited and returned their copy. The acknowledgment page will give credit to those who wrote the first edition of the handbook as well as those who participated in the revision. Ken stated that the new edition would be dedicated to the founding members of the society. Ken said that the text and the dedication are essentially done. The dedication will be made to the founders and to the native plant growers whose efforts have been so vital to the preservation of native plants.

Alice said that we are new members of NCConNet (NC Conservation Network), CCNC (Conservation Council of NC), and the NC Action Network. The NC Action Network is a new endeavor funded for one year by the League of Conservation Voters. As new members, we need to decide how we want to give them our email address - just one address or email addresses for individual members? A decision was made to send out an alert to all members and ask if they want to subscribe to the Action Network. Individuals can make their own decision. Individuals can respond regarding political issues, and responses will go directly to the individual's representative and to Marc Basnight

Zack, who is legislative chair, provided an update on progress of the Rare Plant Initiative. Zack's advisors informed him that raising the visibility of the budget expansion of the Plant Conservation Program at this time in the legislative session could make the issue a "political football". For this reason, the RPI core group had decided not to solicit letters of support from other groups and agencies. The advisors felt that the NC Department of Agriculture would be the most appropriate and

successful source of support, since the issue is an expansion of the budget of a program under their own department.

Ann said that two more sponsors of the budget expansion had signed on after the initial sponsors had come forward. She reported that this was an unusual occurrence. All of the sponsors were supposed to get a flier from Gene Cross, Director of the program, about the Plant Conservation Program and its work. A four-page summary was supposed to have been given to all sponsors. Zack stated that the bill will not go to the floor as separate bill, but will be a line item added to the budget of the Plant Conservation Program within the Department of Agriculture budget. This was another reason to focus on the support from the Department of Agriculture rather than seeking too much outside support. The bill will not be voted on separately. The question becomes whether or not the item will be included in the appropriations package. It was stated that Fountain Odom is on the Appropriations Committee and he is supportive of the budget expansion. Alice said that she had heard from various sources that the best strategy was to have a champion for the bill, and Jim Graham, Commissioner of Agriculture, who is supportive of the bill, appeared to fill that role.

Due to no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Further discussion and strategic planning will be continued on Sunday, June 11 starting at 10:00. The Rare Plant Initiative core group will continue the discussion regarding strategy for the passage of the bill. Long range planning for the Society will also be addressed. Alice suggested that additional outing plans and sites could be discussed at that time.

Minutes of Rare Plant Initiative Meeting and Long Range Planning Retreat

Members present: Ken Bridle, Luann Bridle, Vonda Frantz, Cecil Frost, Ann Kelly, Zack Murrell, Charlotte Patterson, Wendy Weiher, Charlie Williams, Alice Zawadzki

The core group of the Rare Plant Initiative met to discuss recent developments and accomplishments in gaining support for the expansion budget. Members who were not present during the Saturday meeting were provided with a review of the current strategy. Zack reiterated that the legislation will not be brought before the legislature as a separate bill, but will be a line item in the budget that will be sent to the Appropriations Committee. Zack reviewed the strategy of seeking support within the Department of Agriculture rather than seeking outside support. Drawing attention to the issue could create political dealing, the attachment of

additional items to the legislation, or the shifting of funds within the Department of Agriculture to cover the costs of the budget expansion.

Ann, RPI Coordinator, reported that letters had been sent to all co-sponsors. Cecil expressed his concern that personal contact with the legislators might be more beneficial than letters alone. Alice mentioned that Kim Hawks of Niche Gardens, Peter White (Director of the Botanical Garden), and Johnny Randall (Curator at the Botanical Garden) had volunteered to talk to legislators about the issue. Cecil reported that his advisors recommended face-to-face contact with legislators; however, another member of the group said that legislators who had planned to introduce the bill (Hill and Albertson) were so busy that they would not welcome personal contact.

Ken questioned whether there was a way for us to track the bill and to make sure that the line item stayed a part of the bill. Ann said that she could check the legislative website, but that she did not know how much detail the website would report. She reported the addition of two more sponsors of the bill despite the fact that Albertson had reported that no more sponsors could be added.

In terms of strategy, Alice felt that we should contact Fountain Odom to find out the best strategy to use in getting the budget passed. Zack volunteered to put his name on his list to call. Alice also recommended that he consult with Albertson.

Cecil questioned how we should be involved in Governor Hunt's Million Acres project. Fountain Odom was mentioned as a good contact to advise us on this issue, since he is involved with that project. Ken stated that much of the land to be protected was likely to be farmland and that this fact would provide a direct link with our Department of Agriculture connection. Luann expressed her concern that developers would be against the Million Acres project, but Ken felt there would not be significant opposition from developers. It may not be worth the effort for them to oppose the preservation of one million acres, since the initiative would probably be preserving land that would not be easy to develop. There are 30 to 40 million acres of land across the state and one million would not seriously interfere with their business.

Ken reported that the NC Farmland Preservation Trust was created by the legislature, but was not provided with financial support. As support builds for the program, it is likely to be funded. Only areas that have a farmland preservation plan and that have the support of an organization have been funded.

Discussion turned to strategies the Society could use to promote our

mission of conservation and stewardship of native plants in the future. Alice mentioned that there were open slots on the Scientific Committee for the Plant Protection Program and that it might be beneficial for one of the members of the core RPI committee to be on that committee. Cecil expressed his concern that there is often rivalry among preservation organizations. Zack suggested that we look into ways to encourage these groups to work together collaboratively. Ken suggested that land conservancies would be useful in this effort. Land conservancies have administrative powers over conservation easement requirements and can enforce these requirements. Zack mentioned that Appalachian University also has similar powers over the lands they monitor and use for educational purposes. Ken mentioned garden clubs as possible partners in conservation, but cautioned that garden clubs frequently change their focus and may not be consistently available as partners.

Zack questioned what the focus of the Society and the Education Committee should be after the current legislative issues were settled. All agreed that the need to educate the public about conservation and stewardship of native plants and plant habitats was of the utmost importance. The need to work with landowners was considered an essential, but difficult, part of the approach. Alice mentioned that Peter White and John Stucky had both expressed interest in developing a program to train naturalists. Several members of the group discussed similar programs offered by other organizations. Zack mentioned the Kentucky Native Plant Society and Wendy mentioned the Duke Forest training program. Alice suggested that the Society could offer this type of training to the public, or could coordinate a volunteer program in cooperation with other organizations or agencies to develop a naturalist training program. Ken mentioned that the Master Gardener program could be quite useful in helping to accomplish such a program, since they are already trained in plant identification and soil science. Master Gardeners could also be partners in rare plant education, maintenance of sites, etc. Alice recommended that we should have a stronger connection with the Butterfly Society, as well.

Discussion turned to the future of the Society in relation to current projects and goals. Concerns about new projects and activities that were voiced by senior members were discussed. Charlotte related that her contacts with senior members had indicated that there was support for the issue of conservation of rare plants, but there were concerns about methods of accomplishment. Senior members have a strong desire for the Society to preserve its personality and character as well as its mission. Some senior members have expressed concerns about political activities. All agreed that it would be in our best interest to reach out to a broad

range of interests that would appeal to older and younger members. The Society should be able to appeal to members who want to be active regarding issues as well as to those who are more interested in social activities. Ken mentioned the importance of preserving the participation of older members who have so much knowledge to offer the Society. Many of our older members are great sources of information regarding the history of various habitats and sites across the state as well as the history of conservation efforts in the state.

The next topic of discussion was the calendar of events. Alice read the calendar as it is currently scheduled. The Society's 50th anniversary is April of 2001. Alice suggested the Botanical Garden as an appropriate place to hold our celebration. It would be an appropriate location to show our appreciation for the years of service given by many of our veteran members. She also thought we should check into Mason Farm as a possible site for the activities.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Minutes of NC Wild Flower Preservation Society Board Meeting April 21, 2001 Totten Center, NC Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill

Submitted by Charlie Williams

Present: Alice Zawadzki, Jean Woods, Cecil Frost, Charlie Williams, Carla Oldham, Marlene Kinney, NCWFPS member.

Treasurer's report: There is \$5,000.00 cash on hand in the BB & T account earmarked for the propagation manual.

A detailed report showing the popularity of the NCWPS website was circulated.

After discussion a motion to spend \$207.00 for 3,000 envelopes to mail the newsletter was seconded and approved.

A discussion of issues related to the propagation manual followed. Ken Bridle was authorized to spend up to a maximum of \$5,000.00 (the total amount in the account) on the propagation manual. This amount would include all costs associated with design, illustration, printing and envelopes for mailing the manual.

A discussion of sending newsletters by e-mail followed. Jean Woods will investigate this and report at a future meeting.

Report of the activities and plans of the Charlotte chapter:

- Two plant rescues are planned. Jean Woods outlined procedures for these.
- Cecil Frost reported that Shuffletown Prairie, a Natural Heritage site in Mecklenburg County, was funded. A proposal had been made to Fish & Wildlife.
- Jean announced a weekend course of wide interest Sept. 29-30. The program will feature Larry Mellichamp and include both a fern and Asteraceae identification workshop and an outing to Schweinitz's sunflower sites.

A discussion of memberships and procedures for receiving NCWPS surface mail followed. It currently comes to NCBG. Marlene Kinney will work on the mail issue with NCBG.

Cecil Frost led a discussion of the issue of nurseries and the sale of wild-collected plants. He pointed out that we have no authority to stop wild collection. This discussion segued into a specific discussion regarding Lowe's Stores practice of selling rare natives in tiny pieces in peat in plastic bags. Jean Woods will head a committee to look into both issues since we have a list of nurseries on the website.

The meeting adjourned.



NCWFPS Spring Meeting, April 2001

Charlotte Patterson

We had beautiful weather for the weekend of our 50th anniversary. Temperatures were not excessive and we had clear, sunny skies throughout the events. Society members gathered on Friday night for a social hour, which has become a custom to welcome members as they arrive for the weekend. Members shared refreshments and caught up on "old times" in the lobby of the Best Western University Inn. Alice Zawadzki, Vice President of the Society, shared updates on the Society's project to help conserve rare plants (Rare Plant Initiative) as well as suggestions from the Conservation Council of North Carolina on how to be proactive in conservation issues. The idea of developing a volunteer Conservation Corps was also discussed. This Corps would be made up of volunteers, coordinated by NC Conservation Network partners, to help manage and maintain properties that are protected for native and rare plant habitat.

Our Saturday began with a visit to the Blomquist Wildflower Garden of the Sarah P. Duke Gardens in Durham. Dr. Hugo L. Blomquist founded Duke University's Department of Botany and was a founding member of the Society. Ed Steffek, Jr., Horticulturalist for Duke Gardens, acted as guide. We marveled at how the Garden had grown and developed over the years. We then proceeded to the Margaret Reid Garden in Raleigh. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mackintosh, former owners of Woodlanders Nursery, purchased the property and help to maintain the property along with their daughter, Amy, and the Triangle Land Conservancy. We ate sack lunches in the circle garden, which included enjoying homemade dessert passed around by Teeny Stronach, and made a group photograph to commemorate the occasion. We then visited the Mary and Bill Joslin Garden nearby before traveling back to Chapel Hill for the dinner and 50th celebration.

Approximately 60 members of the NCWFPS attended the celebration dinner held at the NC Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill. The Botanical Garden provided a wonderful cold supper. Members of the Society provided desserts for the meal. The Society has a history of sharing wonderful dessert recipes, and this meeting was no exception. Attendees had refreshments, mingled, and had dinner on the patio before going inside for the presentations.

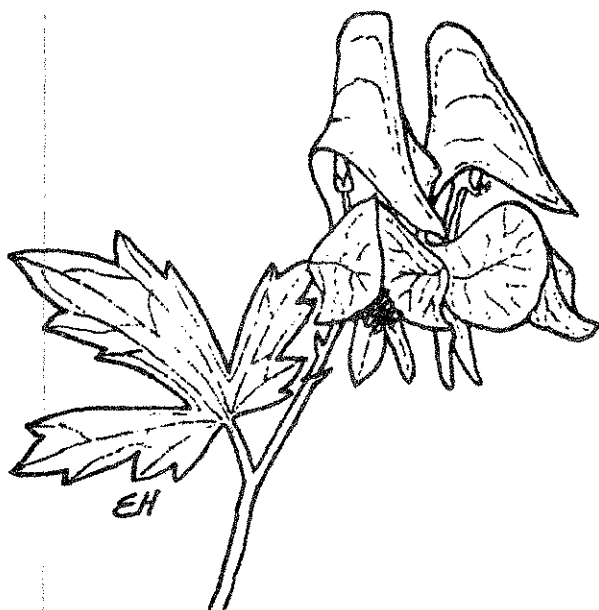
C. Ritchie Bell presented a very interesting program about how far we have come in our understanding and protection of our native plants

over the past 50 years, starting with the inception of the NCWFPS in 1951. His timeline included: the development of the NC Botanical Garden, the publication of the Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas and Wild Flowers of North Carolina, and the revision of the Plant Conservation law which established the Plant Protection Program for rare and endangered plants in North Carolina. He continued with the initiation of the NC Wild Flower of the Year Program, the publication of Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers, the start of the Cullowhee Conference (which is attended by people from all over the country), and the hybridization and propagation of native species by Rob Gardner and Larry Mellichamp. The development of other publications and videos by C. Ritchie Bell and Peter White, Director of the Botanical Garden, were included. He ended his presentation with a television spot that was beautifully photographed by his wife, Ann Lindsay. He used the spot to highlight the importance of education and public awareness in our efforts to conserve native plants. He presented the ABC's of conservation as: Awareness of other organisms on Earth, Belief in their biological and aesthetic value, and Concern for the survival of all organisms in the face of exploitation and over-population. There is still much work to do.

Charlotte Patterson presented brief highlights from the Society's history and presented garden river stones inscribed with the "Celebrate" sentiment to 13 members who had provided service to the Society. During this celebration, the Society honored some members who provided service during the early years of the Society and who lived in the Chapel Hill vicinity. Following the presentations to the honorees, stories from the "early days" were shared. The evening was concluded with an auction of plants to raise money for the Shinn Grant Fund. A total of \$430 was raised.

Our Sunday morning was spent touring the woodland trail and the "Morgan Creek Gorge" of the William L. Hunt Arboretum. Ken Moore led the hike, while providing historical background and anecdotal information about Mr. Hunt and the early days of the arboretum. We viewed the rhododendron bluffs and an area where exotics had run amok. The group discussed the difficulties of eradicating aggressive exotics without also destroying the remaining natives. We then visited the garden of Caroline and Dick Donnan. Former president Patty Warren, the mother of Caroline Donnan, originally planted their garden. We were treated to a beautiful display of blooms flowing down one hillside and up another. The two hillsides were connected with a bridge over a stream. This garden was beautifully designed in a way that took advantage of the natural landscape. Some of us had our lunch in this

lovely spot. After our visit to the Warren-Donnan garden, many of us went to Niche Gardens, a fine native plant nursery, to shop for native plants to add to our gardens.



Land Trust Kicks Off Campaign to Buy B.W. Wells Savanna

Lawrence S. Earley

The article originally appeared in the August 2001 issue of *Wildlife in North Carolina*.

In 1920, B.W. Wells saw a 1,500 acre treeless savanna near Burgaw bursting with wildflowers virtually all year. Convinced there was no other place in North Carolina like it, the pioneer ecologist from N.C. State University and author of *The Natural Gardens of North Carolina* spent years studying the site and unsuccessfully campaigned for the state to acquire it as a preserve. Decades later, he was disheartened when the spot, called Big Savanna, was put into cultivation.

Big Savanna-or at least part of it-may well rise again. This fall, the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust, working with the Conservation Trust for North Carolina, is launching a fund-raising drive to purchase a 117-acre remnant near Wallace, which it will name the B.W. Wells Savanna.

Richard LeBlond, a Natural Heritage Program botanist who discovered the site beneath a CP&L power line, said that it shares the same rare soil type as the Big Savanna and that the whole area was probably a lake bed during glacial times. The savanna has never been farmed and LeBlond said that CP&L mowing has maintained major ecological components of the original area that included the Big Savanna. "The savanna remnant contains one of only four East Coast populations of the broad-winged sedge grasshopper, a globally rare grasshopper found historically at Big Savanna," LeBlond said. "In addition, the site has 170 native plant species, including six rare plants and 10 plants on the Natural Heritage Program's watch list. And my plant list is growing by the day." It's likely to get even longer, ecologists say, when prescribed fire is reintroduced to the area as part of a management program. Grassy savannas are natural fire regimes and most savanna plants have an array of fire adaptations that enable them not just to tolerate fires but to prosper with them. Fire will open up some of the thick underbrush, and the sunlight is expected to cause long-dormant seeds to germinate, revealing even more flowering species, such as the Venus's-flytrap.

The campaign goal for the project is \$120,000, according to Camilla Herlevich, director of the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust. "About 60

percent will go toward land acquisition, with most of the rest dedicated to the initial restoration work and an endowment for monitoring and management," she said.

The land trust believes the restoration of the savanna offers unique educational opportunities to the public to watch the savanna's transformation over time. And best of all, perhaps, it makes good on B.W. Well's dream of a preserve for Big Savanna.

Reference: "1961 THE FLORA OF ONE-HUNDRED AND FIFTH ACRES". This issue of NCWFPS Newsletter, Volume XIII, Number 1.



My Native Hero, Viola Braxton

Carole Madan
Master Gardener

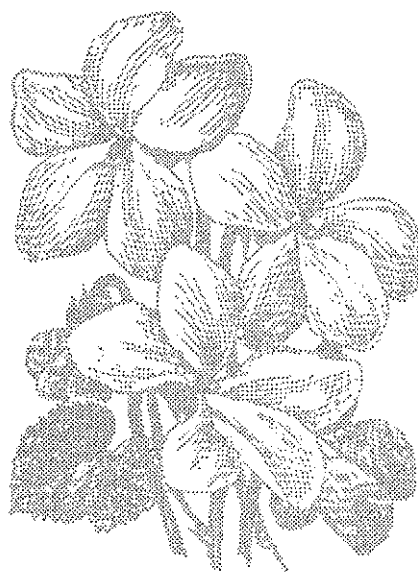
When I was six years old I met Mrs. Viola Braxton, a fabulous lady named after one of the most delicate and lovely of native flowers. This wonderful woman owned thirteen Siamese cats who roamed at will throughout her home and two acre preserve. My father found her name in the newspaper, and from the Braxtons he purchased for Mom her first full blooded Siamese. Mrs. Braxton never had children of her own, and her many cats were the love of her life. My mother and I continue an insane love of the species, and cat will forever be allied in my mind with wildflowers, antiques and Mrs. Braxton, because Mrs. B turned out to be more than just the "Cat Lady". She proved to be an avid gardener who helped Mother start her own garden in North Carolina - we'd moved from Iowa and Illinois when I was young - in addition to being a conservationist and environmentalist long before those words were in wide usage. She helped found the North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society (NCWFPS), which continues to be dedicated to making the public aware of native plants and their enormous value to our lives.

My first native plant saves were done with Mrs. B leading the way, having received information that a new highway or school or other project was about to level part of the natural world. The wretched bulldozers were often only hours behind us, but we saved thousands of plants that then found homes in our own gardens or on the property of public institutions. She taught me to recognize native ginger (and the cute little brown jugs or "pigs" that are the blooms in early Spring), hepatica and bloodroot. Soon I could find jack-in-the-pulpits (still my favorite) and creeping cedar with the best of them. After a few years, my own native plant garden boasted almost every small native plant I knew, including foam flowers, ferns, mayapples and all the other plants already mentioned. This wondrous garden lined a little stream at the end of our property and was deep in a little forest that guarded Joyner Elementary School. It served as the location of my children's book, *Puff and the Fairy Queen*, which was inspired by my love for cats that Mrs. B fostered.

Mrs. B was instrumental in establishing the Daniel Boone Gardens in Boone, NC, when she was an officer of the NCWFPS. When I was sixteen she hired me to type the NCWFPS newsletter while she was the

editor, and I loved executing the documents because I learned as I typed. There was a font of wisdom contained in those issues, so I was exposed to a great deal of knowledge regarding the natural world. This year I rejoined the group, which I consider to be a sister organization to our Georgia Native Plant Society, to bridge my past with my present. Last April, I Was thrilled to be able to present both Walter and Viola Braxton with framed certificates thanking them for fifty years of dedication to the NCWFPS. There were tears in Mr. B's eyes as I handed the certificate to his wife of over seventy years. She had remained an unsung hero until that moment, with little recognition for her years of work. She has been such an inspiration to me - even self publishing two books about her life's work in North Carolina - a shy Quaker girl who spent her life preserving our world. She will never die once she departs this earthly veil - her legacy will live on in my heart and the hearts of those other children she taught to love native plants. The seeds she has sown will produce bounty beyond her wildest dreams, and I dream of someday dedicating a wilderness area in the North Carolina mountains to be named after her.

This article is published at the request of Carole Madan and originally appeared in the Georgia Native Plant Society Newsletter, January 2000, Volume VII, Number 1.



NCWFPS Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Compiled by Charlotte Patterson

It has been 50 years since that first meeting that was held at Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Smith's farm in Wilson. The idea began with Mrs. C. A. Graham, Sr., Director of the Sixth District of the NC Garden Club, who suggested that a wildflower club be started. Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Graham made phone calls and wrote those individuals that they felt would be interested in starting a society. Since that meeting, the NCWFPS has been a resource for people who are interested in preserving our natural heritage and for those who are just interested in the beauty of our native plants. That meeting long ago started one of the oldest Wild Flower Societies in the country. Well-known and influential botanists, plant ecologists, and nurserymen helped to start the Society, including Dr. Roland Totten, Dr. B. W. Wells, Dr. Ritchie Bell, and Mr. Gordon Butler.

To celebrate our 50th year, we wanted to do something special to recognize members of the Society who had contributed so much, especially some of our early officers and trustees. We felt the best way to do this might be through a series of small celebrations. Small tokens of appreciation were presented. We presented garden river stones inscribed with the word "Celebrate" to show our appreciation to a number of people who had served the Society in various ways over the years.

Some members of the Society were honored in April 2000, upon the occasion of our 2000 Spring meeting. We were having our meeting in the area of their homes. Prior to the Spring 2000 meeting, the writer represented the Society at a gathering of the Braxton's friends and relatives to celebrate Viola Braxton's birthday. At that birthday celebration, Mr. and Mrs. Braxton were presented with a garden river stone and a certificate of recognition. The Society then honored them at their home with a floating tea as the concluding event of our weekend activities. Walter Braxton was president from 1960 to 1962, 1st Vice President from 1958-60, and was one of the founding members. Viola Braxton wrote books and educated others about ecological matters in addition to serving as Editor of the Society newsletter (1960 through 1972). She was Corresponding Secretary from 1956-58. She also contributed to the production of the first edition of our propagation handbook (published in 1977). Unfortunately, Walter Braxton passed away in February of 2001.

We also honored Emily Allen during the Spring 2000 meeting by recognizing her contributions to the Society at the Saturday night dinner. Emily was president of the Society between 1978 and 1982. She also served as corresponding secretary from 1966-1968, Trustee from 1982-1986, and has been an ongoing consultant to the board through her faithful attendance and helpful advice. We visited Emily's garden for our Sunday activity during the Spring 2000 meeting, where she proudly displayed her garden rock for us to see as we entered her garden.

Thirteen additional members were honored during the April 2001 meeting. Although information was often hard to verify and it is certain that some information is missing, the Committee attempted to list as many of the honorees' contributions as possible. The Society presented the following members with "Celebration" river stones:

C. Ritchie Bell - First director of the NC Botanical Garden, co-authored the Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas (published 1964 & 1968), specialist in natural hybridization of pitcher plants, helped to get legislation passed that created the Plant Protection Program under the NC Department of Agriculture, mentored many native plant enthusiasts, developed wildflower videos with wife Anne Lindsay.

Ken Moore, Asst. Director at NC Botanical Garden, has been at the Botanical Garden since its inception. As Pres. of NCWFPS from 1976-1978, he helped to write the North Carolina Native Plant Propagation Handbook, organized trips, led trips, contributed articles, set up programs, organized rescues, helped with zoning fights, started the Wildflower of the Year and seed collection programs, involved with Niche Gardens and Woodlanders and their development of new plants, and has been an ongoing supporter of the NCWFPS even through his busy schedule; always providing suggestions, encouragement, and ideas to help the society grow.

Gretchen Cozart - Treasurer of NCWFPS for 17 years (1975-1992), member of the Botanical Garden Board, Has been involved with the Botanical Garden since its inception and has given many hours of volunteer time to the Garden and the Society.

Herbert Hechenbleikner - President of the Society from 1968-1970, worked on the editorial committee for the Propagation Handbook, organized field trips, started the Van Landingham Glen at UNC-C (a garden of hybrid and native rhododendrons, and native wildflowers, ferns, and trees of the Carolinas), retired professor of UNC-C where he taught for 30 years, specialist in hybrid rhododendrons, photographed plants and sought out plants by corresponding with many nurserymen.

Nancy Hillmer - Vice President of the Society between 1988 and 1992 and Programs chair, Trustee between 1994 and 1998, has played many support roles behind the scenes.

Mercer Hubbard - Editorial committee of the Propagation Handbook, Editor of the newsletter (1972-1976), Corresponding Secretary (1968-1972), developed the herb garden at the Botanical Garden..

Nell Lewis - Publicity Chair for the Society between 1968 and 2000, editorial committee for the Propagation Handbook, has written a gardening column since 1965 in the Greensboro News and Record (which she used as a vehicle to promote wildflowers and mentioned the Society upon occasion), holds many honors in Greensboro including Greensboro Beautiful Woman of the Year for 1998-99. She designed and planted the Wildflower Trail in the Greensboro's Bicentennial Garden and co-designed and co-planted the Bog Garden. She received several outstanding service awards from Greensboro Beautiful, NC Agricultural Extension Service, and Greensboro City Council.

Julie Moore - Vice President of the Society between 1982 and 1988. led and planned many field trips, was a great connection for the Society when she worked for Natural Heritage, was guest editor of the Society's Propagation Handbook and was a driving force for getting the original edition completed, has been a consultant to the NCWFPS for many years and has provided consultation services even when living in another state.

Ray Noggle - President from 1984-1988, Chair of the Propagation Handbook committee for many years, has chaired the Scholarship Committee and continues to provide review services for that committee, board member of the B. W. Wells Society, retired professor from NC State

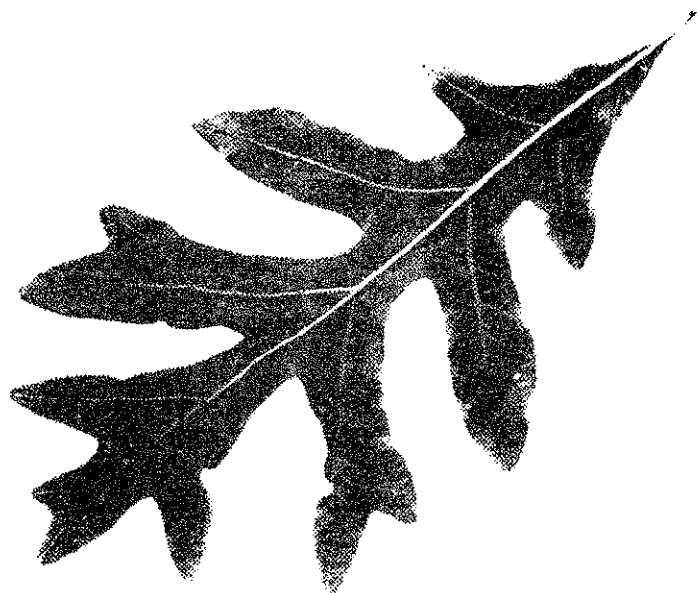
Eleanor Pegg - Founding member of the Society, 1st Vice President 1956 through 1958, President of the Society from 1958 to 1960, 2nd Vice President/ Membership Chair 1960 through 1962, worked on the newsletter, Historian for approximately 30 years (from 1963).

Jean Stewart - President of the Society from 1974-1976, Vice President (1972-1974), Historian (1992-1994), newsletter editorial staff (1982-1994), Recording Secretary (1966-1970), kept a photo album of Society events, spent lots of volunteer hours at the Botanical Garden and helped with the seed propagation project at the Garden, conducted field trips and rescues, Comments: along with Emily Allen, pioneered wearing pants at Wild Flower Society meetings; kept seed pods in slide pockets, and used a mop handle for a walking stick (She said her walking stick was

by " Fuller Brush"). Unfortunately Mrs. Stewart passed away in the summer of 2000. Her husband, Pearson, who has also been a tremendous support, accepted the river stone.

Nancy (Teeny) Stronach - Art Editor, Assistant Editor or staff member of the newsletter between 1972 and 1978, Trustee between 1982 and 1986, Membership Committee chair (1990-1992), Editorial Committee for the Propagation Handbook, board member of the Botanical Garden, contributed many hours of volunteer work at the Botanical Garden.

Jane Welshmer - Newsletter editor for 6 years (1988-1994), wrote many articles related to fern cultivation and propagation for the newsletter, and served on the Propagation Handbook committee for many years.



Highlights in NCWFPS History

Charlotte Patterson

The search for information regarding our honorees provided an opportunity to review the activities of the Society over the first 25 years. It was gratifying to learn the integral part that the Society played in the preservation of many of our state's parks. The Society worked with other preservation organizations to help bring about the establishment of several state parks and the establishment of several native gardens. The Society was the brainchild of Mrs. C. A. Graham, Sr., Director of the Sixth District of the Garden Clubs of North Carolina, and Mrs. Conner Smith. Together, they contacted everyone they could think of whom they thought would be interested in forming a society, including many of our illustrious charter members. The Society and the Garden Clubs collaborated on several gardens around the state. The Asheville-Biltmore Botanical Gardens, the Daniel Boone Native Gardens, the Country Doctor's Museum gardens at Bailey, NC, and the Elizabethan Gardens at Manteo all benefited from the Society's influence.

The following notes were taken from a review of the minutes recorded in the newsletters. The writer made an effort to record events that were reported as having occurred, but some events were recorded as planned. The writer believes that these events are an accurate representation of the Society's actions. The dates that are recorded pertain to the dates of the events as reported in the newsletters or the date of the newsletter itself. If there are errors or if others have other clarifying information to add, the committee would appreciate clarification so that the history can be recorded accurately.

We feel that you will find the following points interesting:

Nov. 1952 - The program of the meeting was a discussion of the lilies of the state and conservation of the dwindling supply.

April 1955 - F. H. Brandt of the NCDOT discussed erosion control and preservation of existing plants for the Spring program.

May 1956 - Dr. B. W. Wells, Dr. O. M. Freeman, Dr. H. R. Totten, and Dr. Hollis Rogers were appointed to a committee to prepare a conservation list for North Carolina

May 1956 - Dr. Hollis Rogers of WCUNC (later UNCG) discussed the destructive practice of having school children and college botany classes to collect wildflowers. Instead, he recommended group camping to foster a sense of appreciation for the natural surroundings.

Sept. 1956 - The committee for action on preservation of the Sand-Hill Pyxie moss discussed the necessity to incorporate in order to hold a title to the land. The Babcock Lumber Company of Sanford had promised a gift of 4-5 acres to be deeded to the Society in order to preserve the site.

Oct. 1956 - Lionel Melvin reported the incorporation to be complete. The plan to acquire the land eventually failed, but the Society became a 501(c)(3) organization.

Oct. 1960 - A committee was appointed to study Mae Reed Plaster's suggestion to encourage garden clubs in NC to enroll their conservation chairs in the Society and to encourage local wild flower clubs to become chapters. Also a motion was passed to request that the Garden Clubs of NC revise and republish B. W. Wells' "Natural Gardens of NC"

October 1960 - The NCWFPS helped to support the Daniel Boone Botanical Garden that originated with 6 acres being leased for 49 years from the town of Boone. The project originated with the Garden Clubs of North Carolina and was supported by other organizations. The NCWFPS supported the Garden both financially through cash donations and through contributing native plants. Lionel Melvin contributed several rare plants. Other Society members also contributed plants.

March 1963 - Dr. Roland Totten presented a resolution in opposition to the use of poisonous chemicals along the right of ways of roads and utility lines. The resolution was sent to the Governor of North Carolina, to members of the Board of Conservation and Development, to NC Garden Clubs, and to State Legislators, utility companies, newspapers, radio and television stations. Copies were also sent to the Highway Commission.

Oct. 1965 - Mrs. Charles Prall made a motion that a letter be written to Pres. Lyndon Johnson recommending passage of the Wilderness Bill, for the beginning of highway beautification, and for the beginning of the clearing of pollution from rivers, and to encourage home builders, developers, and home owners to leave native plants on their land.

Aug. 1965 - Mrs. Herbert Smith suggested that the NCWFPS contribute to the wildflower section being developed in the Elizabethan Gardens in Manteo.

May 1966 - Viola Braxton requested action on a letter from a member of the Wild Acres and Conservation Committee of the Carolina Mountain Club in Asheville, asking for support against the trans-mountain highway from Bryson City to Townsend, TN. The Society resolved to support the fight and wrote a letter expressing concern that the Great Smoky Mountain Park remain intact. Letters were sent to

Secretary of the Interior, Stewart Udall, and Senators Sam Ervin and B. Everett Jordan. Individual letters from members were recommended.

April 1967 - Dr. Roland Totten received a request from the Wilderness Society for the Society's support in obtaining Wilderness Preservation Category for the Okefenokee Swamp. Dr. Totten wrote letters to Senators and Representatives, and it was recommended that individuals write to their Congressmen.

June 1969 - President Herbert Hechenbleikner went, along with two busloads of conservationists, to Washington, D. C. to urge the Secretary of the Interior to build a road around the Great Smokies instead of the Trans-mountain Road, which was proposed.

August 1969 - The NCWFPS, along with other organizations, successfully obtained money to purchase 2200 acres of Stone Mountain for a State Park

October 1969 - Dr. Herbert Hechenbleikner reported that he had sent out 100 postcards to urge people to support the idea of the state acquiring Bald Head Island by writing letters to public officials.

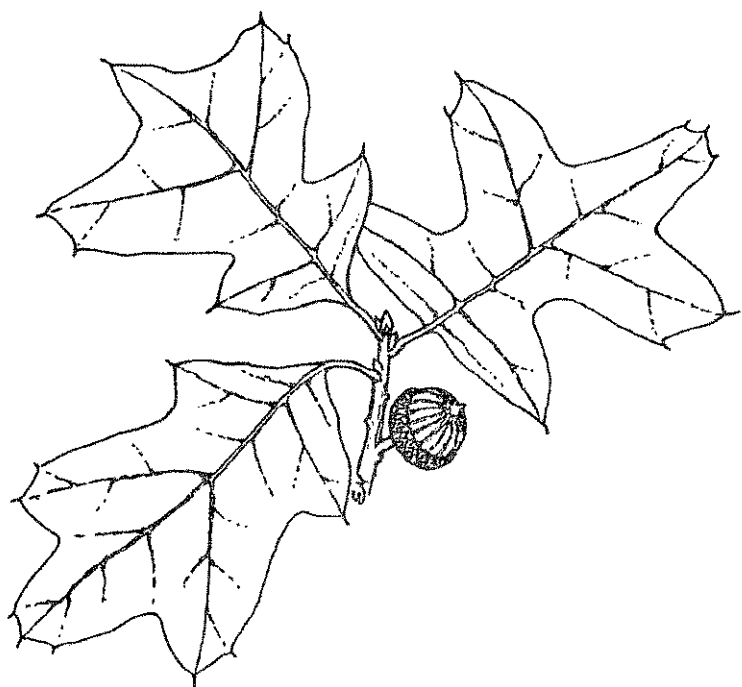
October 1969 - Mrs. Robert Conner urged members to attend the meeting of the Conservation Council of North Carolina to be held in December for the purpose of coordinating local, state, and regional programs of conservation and conservation education.

April 1970 - Robert Conner, Society member and President of Conservation Council of NC, urged members to write to Gov. Bob Scott, Legislators, and the Chairman of the Board of Conservation and Development requesting immediate action on part of the state of NC to acquire Bald Head Island as a state preserve for use as a state park and scientific research center. A petition was circulated for signatures to be sent to Governor Bob Scott. They also voted to donate money to the Association to Preserve the Eno River Valley.

Fall 1970 - Mrs. Holger Nygard presented an overview of the need to save the Eno River and to create a state park of the area in the fall newsletter. She encouraged members to write to state and city officials encouraging the preservation of the area

March 1, 1970 - Mrs. Charles Hubbard and Elizabeth Lawrence were appointed to a committee to work with museum staff to help develop the medicinal herb garden at the Country Doctor Museum in Bailey, NC. Advice and a donation of plants were requested of the Society by the Museum. Elizabeth Lawrence drew the plan for the garden.

Spring 1975 - Concerns over the need to preserve Jockey's Ridge,
Nags Head Woods, and the New River noted in the newsletter.



Two Past President's Messages

Compiled by Charlotte Patterson

President's Message - Spring 1980

Emily Allen

It was a landmark for our state to pass, at long last, a Plant Protection and Conservation Act during the 1979 legislative session. We are indeed grateful to Dr. Ritchie Bell for his dedication and efforts in getting it passed.

A Board was created by the Act, along with a Scientific Committee, and the legal means to conserve and protect specified plants within the state. I was appointed to serve on this Board as a representative of the North Carolina conservation organization. Ken Moore is serving on the Scientific Committee as a representative from the North Carolina Botanical Gardens.

Previously there existed no agency specifically responsible for the protection of endangered and threatened plant species. In 1975, a symposium sponsored by the State Museum of Natural History compiled a list of endangered and threatened plants and animals in the state. A list was made of 91 plant species of primary concern, along with 313 peripheral species which are rare in North Carolina. In 1976, the North Carolina Natural Heritage began an inventory of these symposium listed rare plant species. The inventory includes a record of locations, occurrences, ownership, and biology. Their program has amassed information on more than 400 plant species in a computerized data bank. This data will be invaluable to the Scientific Committee who must compile a list to be submitted to the Board.

While we are concerned about the endangered and threatened species, we must also consider the many showy wildflowers exploited, such as the Orchids, Lilies, and Trilliums. Ginseng and Venus Flytrap will be offered some protection, but it may be sometime before there can be effective means of control for this special category.

An example of this is the highly advertised and coveted Pink Ladyslipper. This orchid may be found growing by the hundreds, but it is almost impossible to successfully transplant it, due to its special requirements which we do not completely understand. Even a reputable wildflower nurseryman states that the transplanted Ladyslipper does well the first year in his beds, fairly well the second year, poorly the third year, and disappears the fourth year. Those

thousands dug from the wild are a complete loss.

It behooves us all to educate ourselves and others to conserve and protect the exploited species. I urge our members to become more involved in propagation by seeds, cuttings, and division. Harry Phillips reports that 25% of our members sent in requests for seeds-a big increase over last year.

Nature has endowed North Carolina with blessings beyond measure. This is our heritage to enjoy and share. I encourage all of you to continue to pursue the educational process in order to conserve this heritage and propagate those endangered, threatened, and exploited species.

President's Message submitted by Emily Allen, President (Spring 1980). Emily was a former president and secretary of the Society.

President's Message - Spring 1975

Jean Stewart

As our Society approaches its 25th year, what is the state of Wild Flower Preservation in North Carolina today?

In 1957, Lionel Melvin said "Our landscape is changing so rapidly now that entire species may be exterminated overnight." In 1969, Dr. Herbert Hechenbleikner pointed out that "to save acreage is to save wild flowers."

Among the areas which need to be preserved are Jockey's Ridge, with adjacent Nags Head Woods, and the New River in the northwestern part of the state. Our Fall Meeting was at Nags Head. Our Spring Meeting will be held on the New River in Ashe County. In different parts of the state, land has been recently acquired for state parks, by purchase or donation. Some examples are:

14,000 acres in the Dismal Swamp area have been bought.

Merchant's Mill Pond in Gates County - 30 miles from the Dismal Swamp area - has been donated to the State. Acreage has been bought around Crowder's Mountain near Charlotte.

In some aspects of preservation, however, there are pessimistic trends:

With Duke University's plan for phasing out its School of Forestry, what will happen to Duke Forest?

Have the attitudes and practices of teachers and professors of Botany and Biology changed about the requirement of

"collections"? Are students being informed of the State laws requiring a written permit from the landowner when plants are removed? Are our own Society members setting good examples?

Let's remember Dr. Alfred Mordecai's words in his 1951 memorandum to members of our Society:

"The purpose of our society is, or should be:
The defense and preservation of wildflowers.
To learn more about Wild Plant Life.
To stimulate interest in this subject and promote public education.
To conduct or study surveys with a view to determining what plants need our attention most, and what we can do to protect them."

Portion of President's Message submitted by Jean Stewart, President (Spring 1975 issue). Jean was a former president and historian of the Society.



NCWFPS Newsletter Articles of Interest 1979 through 1961

Compiled by Charlotte Patterson

1979

STARVATION

Viola Braxton

Is it just around the corner for mankind?

The United States with its diversity of foods is the best-fed nation in human history. Garrison Wilkes says, "We are far more vulnerable than many realize because few of these foods are native to this country." Many of our most important crops originated in regions beyond our borders. Wheat, soybeans, tomatoes and most citrus fruits were brought here from other countries.

Personally, Walter and I knew the late Charlie Eways of 1813 Walker Avenue who many years ago brought this unusual fig tree from

Palestine and grew it here in Greensboro. Mr. Eways took great pride in this fig with an exceptional large fruit and palatable flavor. The first crop of figs were as large as pears and then the second crop would have smaller fruit. As it grew Mr. Eways divided it with many of his friends and neighbors who are enjoying this contribution from across the briny deep.

Our native plants, if we tried to exist on them, would be mostly blueberries, cranberries, sunflower seed and Jerusalem artichokes. Our agricultural wealth consists of good crop land and plants that have been specifically selected and bred for high yield. These yields would never have been possible without diverse genetic resources to draw on; these resources are now in danger of disappearing.

The number of plants that actually feed us humans is amazingly small. Some fifteen plants account for three-quarters of all plant calories consumed. These include five grasses: barley, corn, rice, sorghum and wheat; three legumes: the common beans, peanuts and soybeans; two sources of sugar: sugar beets and sugar cane; two tropical tree crops: bananas and coconuts; and three starchy roots: cassava, potatoes and sweet potatoes. This list does not account for many vegetables, but the above list of food plants stands between health and starvation for the human race. Not only is the number of plants that feed the world becoming smaller, but so is the genetic variation which is the basis of breeding new varieties.

The geographic regions where many of our basic plants originated have remained the areas of greatest genetic diversity, according to geneticist N. I. Vavilov, a Russian plant breeder, in 1920. Vavilov was the first geneticist to study and identify the nine major centers of origin. Almost all of our food plants have come from a land area of less than 1/40 of the continents of the world. They are located in mountainous regions long populated by agricultural people, steep terrains and arid regions that provide natural barriers. These areas are in Mexico-Guatemala, Andean South America, the Mediterranean, Ethiopia, the Near East, Afghanistan, India, Malaysia-Indonesia, and China.

For some fifty years the plant breeders have used these genetic banks to improve our food plants. These useful genes have been used to provide resistance to fungus diseases, insect attacks, and to improve nutritional qualities of the harvest.

The rapid population, coupled with the change in agricultural technology throughout the world, threatens the existence of these genetic reservoirs. "The genetic diversity we are now destroying is an irreplaceable heritage, the only hope of freedom from want and hunger

for every civilization."

The alarm for the loss of native strains lies in the irreplaceable genetic wealth stored only in the living native varieties that can become extinct once they are dropped for introduced seed. Quite literally, the genetic heritage of a thousand years can disappear in a single year should all of the seed be cooked and eaten instead of saved as seed stock.

On-site preservation of strips of land carefully chosen in existing regions where they were first domesticated should be a priority with international agricultural and environmental management. Keeping intact small areas to provide genetic diversity for modern agriculture is important. "The agriculturalist would be, in essence, curators of living collections where genetically diverse plantings and hybridization with the wild relatives would continue."

Our influence over our environment to increase food production for the teeming thousands gives us less margin for error. We must maintain a strong research program in agriculture as insurance that massive losses arising from the genetic vulnerability of our major crops do not happen.

Varied racial and ethnic immigrants brought to the United States from their homelands and acclimated in gardens and fields across the country the genetic diversity that has created a general national wealth.

Early settlers from England and Germany brought barley. Ship captains brought back tea and spice, but with these a bonus of wheat from Calcutta and rice from China. Spanish Missions introduced grapes, figs, and oats across the West, ideally suited to arid lands. All these crops had been grown in far-flung places for thousands of years; at one time they were growing wild with meager yields. Wheat was once wild in the Near East, soybeans in China, corn in Mexico, the cole vegetables in the area surrounding the Mediterranean.

Today's world is fed by domesticated plants that did not exist except as wild progenitors four hundred human generations ago. The long selection process that most of our present food plants have gone through over the years has made them completely dependent on our care for their survival. This domestication has put their survival in our hands because we must prepare the soil and plant the seed at the right season, keep out other vegetation, protect their growth and then harvest. Domestication has thus made these plants our captives, but the ever-increasing population demands food, food and more food that could never be supplied with wild plants. The irony of this situation is that we in turn are held captive by the very food plants that we have

domesticated.

"To fail to anticipate change is to be ill-prepared for the future. The kind of agriculture we are now practicing requires the preservation of germplasm diversity if future breeding is to meet the ever changing threats to pathogens, insects and environments and a dwindling genetic heritage."

Compiled January 18, 1979

For the February meeting of the Greensboro Wildflower Club

Reference:

Horticulture Magazine, June 1978, Breeding Crisis For Our Crops By Garrison Wilkes Associate Prof. of Biology, University of Massachusetts, Boston

Viola Braxton is a writer, educator, and was editor of the NCWFPS newsletter for 10 years.

This article appeared in the Spring 1979 newsletter.



1978

A NEED FOR A CONSERVATION ETHIC REGARDING OUR NATIVE PLANTS

Ken Moore

Increasing awareness of critical environmental issues has assisted in the heightened appreciation of our native plants. Popularity of native plants has moved beyond the sphere of the conventional "wild flower garden" enthusiast; native plants have achieved a prominence on the drawing boards of landscape architects and in the large-scale plans of state highway divisions. At last our native species, long ago valued in Europe and the British Isles, have achieved deserved recognition here on their native soil. However, this recognition has created a native plant demand which is far too great to be met by our present capabilities.

Consequently, while biologists and governmental legislators alike are struggling with multiple situations of threatened and endangered plant species, indiscriminant wholesale collecting of thousands of popular species are being made in order to fill popular demand. This situation is

tragic because:

Some species which are commercially exploited by these mass collections are already recognized as having state or national status as threatened or endangered. Some species are for practical purposes, unsuccessful as transplants and therefore do not live once taken from their natural habitats. Many species are being recommended for large-scale use in unsuitable environments because adequate tests for adaptability have not been made.

Thus, while concerned biologists and conservationists work toward passing strict regulations to prohibit the commercial exploitation of threatened and endangered species, more and more native plants are pushed toward a threatened or endangered status through the commercial effort to supply the native plant demand.

Immediate voluntary conservation of our native plants lies within the realms of conscience and practice for both the buyer (landscapers, plant specialists and the home gardener) and the seller (nurseries and garden centers). Because much of the material collected from the wild cannot survive the multiple handlings of nurseries, garden centers and home gardeners, and because nursery-propagated material has a much greater chance of survival after the sale, the nurseryman should sell only what he has propagated. There are examples in nursery catalogues listing Pink Lady's Slipper, *Cypripedium acaule*, for sale by the thousands. This native species is virtually impossible to transplant successfully for long survival; it is candidly listed in another nursery catalogue as: "Will die out in one or two years." The buyer loses, and our natural heritage loses by such large-scale wild collecting.

Regional botanic gardens and the botany and horticulture departments of universities and community colleges should provide a resource list recommending species and forms of native plants suitable for landscaping, home gardening and nursery production. Nursery propagators will generally find botanic gardens and conservationists happy to assist in supplying material for nursery production of native plants. Nurseries are advised to begin slowly with the production of natives and gradually to work up a substantial stock of dependable (and well-displayed) species or forms. There is no justification for commercial or other large-scale collecting of plants which are rare or difficult to propagate because their, as yet unknown, potential for medical and other research is too valuable to be sacrificed to the selfish ends of unscrupulous gardeners and nurserymen.

Similarly, the home gardener or other purchaser of native plants can assist in the conservation by determining, before buying, that native

plants being purchased are in fact nursery propagated rather than collected from the wild and merely held or grown-on in the nursery while awaiting sale and shipment.

It is unfortunate that many species of wild flowers are becoming increasingly scarce in portions of North Carolina and Tennessee, as well as other states, due to large-scale collecting of popular species to fill orders from throughout the eastern United States. All too often, one hears accounts from mountain residents describing the beauty of certain roadsides filled with fringed -orchids, *Habenaria spp.*, and mountain-laurel, *Kalmia latifolia*, in former times and the absence of such sights in present days because of the activities of the collectors for native plant nurseries. Particularly sad is the account of a retired Botany professor and his wife who returned to a certain wooded slope in a national forest to observe the summer bloom that was to follow the magnificent display of spring wild flowers observed earlier, only to find the entire area trampled, a rough wooden table erected against a tree, and the debris of a systematic collection of species including Turk's-cap Lily, *Lilium superbum*, the bulbs having been pulled from the ground with stems and foliage left in shreds, and cartons of ferns still sitting where they had been shoved behind rhododendron.

The individual gardener should also accept the challenge to attempt to propagate species of rare or unusual natives and to pass on to others, including interested nurserymen, the results of his work. It should be remembered that our cultivated plants introduced from foreign lands are not continually collected from the natural habitats to supply the demand of the markets, but they are nursery-propagated, so why should our own natural areas be denuded because of laziness and the desire for quick profit?

Now is also the time for a shift in the philosophy regarding native plant gardening. It is time to move "gardening with natives" out and into the home landscape and backyard flowerbeds. This means: leave the precious ephemeral spring woodland flowers in their natural haunts and begin utilizing the numerous common and often maligned weedy species, many of which hold amazing potential for color, form, texture and winter interest as well as easy maintenance in cultivation.

Ken Moore is a past president, avid gardener, and Assistant Director of the NC Botanical Garden. This article was submitted for the Fall 1978 newsletter.



SMITHWIN FARM

Nell Lewis

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 is a columnist for the Greensboro News and Record and garden designer who served as the Society publicity chairman for many years. Reprinted from the Spring 1976 newsletter



1976

LOST IN THE SMITH'S WOODS

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 shinleaf, 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 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."



1973

A CHAPEL HILL GARDEN

Nell Lewis

It takes a dreamer to turn a steep hillside into a garden that is a masterpiece in design, and Mrs. J. A. Warren of Chapel Hill, who owns such a garden is quick to give her late husband credit for its development. And she is always happy to share its beauty with friends and acquaintances.

Years ago when Mr. Warren first started his gardens, he gathered huge rocks from the creek that runs at the foot of the hill and used them as stepping stones and retaining walls and to build a shallow well around a natural spring. Guarding the spring is a white oak tree, probably a century and a half old, with great spreading branches.

A narrow bridge spans the creek and leads to winding paths that soften the steepness of the hill. It is this part of the garden that Pattie Warren says is the easiest to care for; it's the "edges and the hedges and the upper garden" that prove difficult.

Banks of azaleas splash the hillside with color in springtime, and foamflower drifts like tiny white clouds at their feet. Ferns and a host of wild flowers mingle with the shrubs and creep along the paths. From any level, the view is spectacular.

The gardens were a restful green in early August, with only an occasional flower in bloom to break the color scheme. Standing under the ancient oak tree, one has the feeling that Pattie's garden would be a pleasant place, regardless of the season.

This garden is now in the care of Richard and Caroline Donnan. Caroline is Pattie's daughter. The garden is still as lovely. We visited the garden during our Spring 2001 celebration. Nell Lewis wrote this piece for the Fall 1973 issue of the newsletter.



PLANTS IN THE GARDEN AND THEIR USES

Compiled by Linda Mitchell Lamm

Laurus Nobilis Bay - Bay leaves are among the oldest of European herbs, now cultivated extensively in Central America and our Southern states. Like many of the aromatic herbs, the leaves of fragrant bay were woven into wreaths of honor for Greek and Roman heroes and kings. The essential oil of the bay or laurel leaf is an ingredient in some perfumes but the chief use of this exceedingly aromatic leaf is as a culinary herb seasoning. Used with many foods such as fish, game, pickles, soups, sauces, etc.

Lavendar; The flowering tips are used chiefly in perfumes, soaps and scented sachets. Also made into a tea for gas, headaches, sore joints and circulation.

Rosa Gallica (to be planted in the Fall; Lemon Balm planted here this summer) - *Melissa officinalia*. Name from the Greek word Melissa signifying bee. Balm is an abbreviation of the word balsam - chief of the sweet smelling oils. Use lemon balm tea for feverish colds; tea may be made of either dry or green leaves. Tea also used for nervous headaches and neuralgic symptoms. "An excellent restorative".

Pennyroyal - Our grandmothers made pennyroyal tea for measles and whooping cough or concocted a lotion of it and other herbs and creams, to be smeared over the face and arms to discourage insects when the family went a-berrying or fishing. Gerard mentions a sort of amulet. "A garland of pennyroyal made and worn about the head is of a great force against the swimming in the head, the pains and the giddiness thereof."

Thyme - Once supposed to have a variety of medical uses but now used as a culinary herb and in "HerbBouquet" bags. There are 37 varieties.

Horehound - Has been known chiefly as medicinal herb over the centuries and is one of the few herbs whose uses have changed little since the discovery of its healing qualities early in Greek and Roman history. Many ailments of the throat and lungs were treated with this bitter herb. It was not until the 19th century that horehound candy became a great wintertime favorite. Only recently the tender leaves and flowers have been used as culinary seasoning. The bitterness of the herb gives it a certain element of risk but because of its grayish-green beauty, horehound remains an important garden herb.

Tansy - The word "tansy" comes from the Greek word meaning "immortality". Tansy grew in the herb gardens of Charlemagne and was cultivated by the Benedictine monks. At one time during early English history, mention is made of tansy cakes, puddings and tea. All of these were served in the beginning of Spring because they were believed to be a good tonic. The leafy tips have medicinal and industrial value in the preparation of cosmetics, toilet water, ointments and in the liqueur Chartreuse. A "tansy tea", brewed from either dried or fresh crushed leaves, is said to have a valuable calming effect upon the nerves. Somewhat narcotic. Also used as an antidote for poison ivy.

Witch-hazel - Well-known as a soothing astringent lotion.

Rosemary - *Rosmarinus officinalis* is among the most romantic of all the herbs. For more than 3000 years this fragrant sentimental herb has been used in 100 ways for its lovely aroma and in many symbols of varied significance. Rosemary, like sweet basil and lavender, was always cultivated in medieval monastery gardens. It is the symbol of love and remembrance. Ophelia in Shakespeare's play Hamlet chants, "There's rosemary, that's for remembrance". English brides wore springs of rosemary in their hair and carried the sweet herb in their bridal bouquets as early as the 15th century. Also used in funeral sprays. The English still place a wreath of rosemary on the graves of their soldiers on Armistice Day. Fresh and dried leaves are unusually pungent and are used in eggs, fish, meats (especially lamb). Southerners used it - perhaps still do, in lard. Used in sachets and moth preventatives. The oil if used commercially in scenting perfumes and toilet preparations.

Fennel - Has one of the richest histories of any of the herbs known to mankind. Known centuries before the Christian era. Shakespeare gave credit to the superstition that anyone who ate fennel would have a clearer vision. Was symbol of Victory to the Greeks and Romans. The Italians today are still faithful to the fennel plant and seed. They plant it wherever they roam. Dwarf variety called Finocchio. Used in flavorings - sweet like anise, or licorice.

Colchicum - The dried corm or ripe seeds of *Colchicum autumnale* are medicinals. Used for the relief of gout and rheumatism and was the principle ingredient in the eau medicinale of the French. It has been found poisonous to some constitutions.

Chamomile - Familiar to all readers of Beatrix Potter. The tea prepared from the dried blossoms can reduce fever and inflammation in wounds and slight sprains. Most attractive to bees. In many European countries today, Chamomile adds fragrance to perfumes, cosmetics and blends of tobacco.

Periwinkle - *Vinca minor*; an ancient herb in medicine.

Calamus root or Sweet flag - The scraped and dried rhizome is slightly aromatic and pungent to one's taste. Widely used for the relief of colic. Useful in treatment of flatulence when chewed slowly and the saliva swallowed. Also used as a seasoning.

Pinckneya Pubens - Fever tree; an infusion of the bark used in reducing fever.

Bergamot - Our early colonists learned the use of the bergamots from the American Indian. They used the dried leaves in making herb tea. The fresh leaves make a colorful garnish for a cool drink as well as a subtle addition of flavor.

Teasel - The flower head of the fuller's teasel, covered with stiff hooked bracts was used when dried to raise a nap on woolen cloth.

Foxglove - Its leaves are one source of the important drug, digitalis, a powerful cardiac stimulant and diuretic.

Comfrey - A decoction of the mucilaginous root of the common Comfrey (*C. officinale*) is used in cough mixture.

Boxwood - Widely used and loved for its neat growth and unique aroma. Some claim it almost hypnotic in its effect. Box hedges were much esteemed in the countryside to dry linen on. Its leaves were used in a hair dye. Was of little use in the apothecary shop.

Basil - This sweetly fragrant herb is one of the symbols of love in Italy. In India the basil plant is still revered as sacred. Like so many of the ancient herbs of history, sweet basil found its way from the Near East, Greece and Italy into Spain, Portugal and England. As early as 1610, the herb was cultivated in North America. Later sweet basil became a great favorite among the culinary herbs of the first colonists.

Borage - *Borago officinalis* has been among those herbs most universally favored since the time of the ancient Greeks. Its leafy tips, placed in a cooling drink, are said to bring a pleasant forgetfulness of all troublesome thoughts. Pliny recorded that the delicious flavor of borage would drive away all sorrows and bring courage to those who crushed and blended it in a cup of ruby wine. Its cucumber-like flavor is enjoyed today in green salads and as a cooked vegetable.

Yarrow - *Achillea millefolium*; Yarrow tea is drunk for the liver and to relieve disorders of the kidneys.

Crocus sativus - 100 bulbs planted throughout the garden. It is mentioned in the "National Dispensary" and is official in most

pharmacopoeias but not in the U. S. It is occasionally used for flatulent dyspepsia. The Pennsylvania Germans made a tea of it to bring out the measles. Used elsewhere in the United States as a mouthwash for cases of thrush. Used in perfumes, for flavoring food and for its brilliant yellow color.

Benzoin - Used for croups and coughs. Also in dermatology. Leaves are chewed or steeped to make a tea to cure children of worms.

Balm of Gilead - Mr. Melvin brought this. Buds collected in February or March and used in the preparation of a stimulant or expectorant medicine. These buds are known by pharmacists as "poplar bud" and are used by them in compounding such cough preparations as Compound Syrup of White Pine.

Horse radish - Has been cultivated in Eastern Europe for over 100 years. During the Middle Ages it was grown for medicine and in 1542 Fuchsius mentioned it as a condiment. It is said to stimulate the appetite and can also be used as a poultice wherever mustard is appropriate. It is a favorite condiment either hot or cold with meat or seafood.

Presented in the October 1971 issue to reveal the plants that were being placed in the garden designed by Elizabeth Lawrence. Linda was editor of the newsletter for many years.



1971

NATIVE PLANTS FOR THE COUNTRY DOCTOR'S GARDEN

Elizabeth Lawrence

I hope everyone will go to Bailey to see the garden of medicinal herbs at the Country Doctor Museum. The herbs in it at present are mostly the ones that came from England in Colonial times, but we are working on a collection of the American plants that the colonists learned about from the Indians.

People speak of medicinal plants as if their use is a thing of the past, but barks and roots and leaves are advertised in every issue of the Georgia Farmer's and Consumer's Bulletin. The old names are on the

price lists of the wholesale drug dealers, and teas and tonics are still household remedies all over the South.

Since the herb gatherers, the dealers and the country people use English names, and seldom resort to Latin, I have had to match the common names by sending for the plants advertised in the Market Bulletins, and by consulting the Illustrated Flora of Britton and Brown. The Flora has the most complete listing of common names that I have come across. In Southern Wild Flowers and Trees, Alice Lounsberry tells about the folklore and uses of the flora of the North Carolina mountains at the turn of the century, and M. Grieve, in A Modern Herbal, gives the medicinal virtues of American as well as European herbs. Hannah Withers lent me a United States Dispensatory published in Philadelphia in 1881. It belonged to a country doctor in Monroe, North Carolina, and throws more light on the use of herbs in horse and buggy days.

I think I have identified most of the native herbs that I have found in the bulletins and on the dealers' lists, but I should like very much to hear from anyone who knows local names, or who uses home remedies.

As you see by Linda Lamm's list, we already have Calamus Root and it is flourishing although I have planted it in my garden a number of times and have never gotten it to grow.

Gordon Butler brought us pipsissewa (*Chimaphila maculata*) which is in the market bulletin as ratsbane, and is also called spotted wintergreen. The Indians used it for rheumatism and scrofula.

He brought us a Saint John's Wort too, *Hypericum stans*. *H. perforatum* is the species of the dispensary, but I think they are all medicinal.

Mr. Shinn has promised to give us rattle root (*Cimicifuga racemosa*), one of the most frequent offering of the Georgia Bulletin. The specific name was formerly serpentaria, and it is called rattlesnake root, or sometimes blacksnakeroot (and in the bulletins, blacksnake root!), being one of the many plants the Indians called rattlesnake master, guaranteed to cure snakebite. In the mountains it is taken in whiskey for rheumatism, Mrs. Lounsberry says, and helps the sufferer to bear it even if the cure is not complete.

We should, I think, have Hames-town weed (Jimson), *Datura stramonium* in the garden. In the History and Present State of Virginia (1705), Robert Beverley describes its effect upon some soldiers sent out to Jamestown to "pacifie the troubles of Bacon". They gathered young shoots for greens. A "very pleasant comedy followed", and lasted eleven days; one soldier blew feathers in the air, and another shot darts at them; one sat in a corner like a monkey grinning and making "Mows" at

the others, and one "would fondly kiss and paw his Companions". In retelling the tale Anne Pratt says, " The love of the marvellous, so prevalent in those days, doubtless led to an exaggerated statement of those effects; but the plant is now well known to be a powerful narcotic". She says it is called Thorn-apple because it belongs to " The Prince of Darkness, the origin of all evil".

Dr. Wood, in the Dispensatory, says that *Datura* was first introduced into regular practice by Baron Storck of Vienna who used it in treating mania and epilepsy. Other uses are for neuralgia and rheumatism, and in 1846 Dr. J. Y. Dortch of North Carolina reported its being very useful for ringworm.

At the dedication of the garden, Paul Green spoke of poke-root (*Phytolacca americana*) as a home remedy, but handsome as it is with its wine-colored stems and wine-dark berries, I don't think its virtues sufficient to warrant our having it in the garden. We would soon have nothing else. Poke is an Indian word for smoke, and was first given to some plant that they used for tobacco. I haven't been able to discover its connection with *phytolacca*.

Pokeberries are said to have poisoned children and perhaps adults, but birds, especially thrushes and mockingbirds, love them.

Robert Beverley said, "the Planters pretend to have a Swamp-Root which infallibly cures all Fevers and Agues". I asked Paul if this is what they dosed him with when he was little. He said, No the Swamp-Root he took was a patent medicine. I hope some one can tell me what the Planters pretended to have.

Elizabeth Lawrence was a writer, landscape architect, and member of the Society. Printed in the October 1971 issue.



1961

THE FLORA OF ONE-HUNDRED AND FIFTY ACRES

B. W. Wells

Good fortune may strike in the most unexpected ways. While reading a newspaper in a Durham restaurant, my wife and I noted an ad of a farm for sale "in a loop of the Neuse River". Having visited these

loops and their north-facing slopes in search of mountain relict species, I know the one described. Rushing to a phone and later meeting with a realtor, we were soon in possession of the 150 acres. This was ten years ago. Four years later I retired from State College at 70 and by now we have had three-fifths of the decade mentioned living in the heart of this heavily forested area in the wildest part of Wake Co. locally known as the "Harricane", some twenty miles north of Raleigh.

In addition to such projects as improving the old buildings, erecting a studio for a painting hobby, building a long stone wall, installing a new water system based on a fine spring down the hill, and clearing three miles of trails, I launched the project of a botanical survey involving a card index of the species of plants on my restricted acreage, from the ferns up to those commonly referred to as the "higher plants".

From our home the land slopes to the river in every direction except to the east from which direction the dead-end road enters. All the old cotton fields on the upper slopes are now in tall pines and the hardwoods on the north slope and river flood plain approach the size of virgin forest trees. Such topography presents great diversity in habitat with its correlated diversity of vegetation.

My list of plants on the 150 acres now numbers 521 species. Only self-maintaining types are included. Of these 51 are trees, 34 are shrubs and 21 are vines. Some 21 ferns and 50 grasses have been recorded.

Now to come to the major interest of the Society, wild flowers! No two plant-lovers could ever agree as to what is and what is not a "wild flower". A botanist will naturally choose the generous concept and include every species exhibiting a colorful corolla, large or small, for they are all beautiful and of great scientific interest. Thus guided, my list of wild flowers comes to 320, and all of these are herbs.

Of these a few deserve special mention. In a north side ravine, in addition to the familiar hepatica, bloodroot, spring beauty, and others, the white baneberry, showy orchis and a large patch of the gregarious sanicle are present. On the river front nearby on a rugged soapstone outcrop are to be found in quantity the rare walking fern and the showy columbine, both apparently to be correlated with the alkaline (magnesium) nature of the soapstone substrate. On the moist flood plain, the uncommon *Dicliptera brachiata* is to be found. It has no common name. The attractive twining herb, angle-pod (*Gonolobus*) is occasionally seen and a rare stickseed (*Hackelia*) has been collected. On the riverbank a rare bittercress (*Cardamine douglassii*) was discovered, and beside a perennially flowing creek a single plant of the large-flowered turtle head was seen. Two specimens have been found of the

nodding Carolina lily. On the north slope near the house, an oldtime garden stonecrop (*Sedum alboroseum*) has escaped long ago and spread vigorously over a large area. It is a native of Asia and is reported as an "escape" in southeastern Virginia. It grows 2-3 feet tall. Another persistent relict of a long gone day is a patch of leek (*Allium porrum*). Its large umbel on 4-5 foot stalks makes this plant a giant among the onions.

Of very especial interest is the colony (six feet across) of *Pyrola rotundifolia*. Mr. Lionel Melvin has reported on stations for this species in some of the eastern piedmont counties. This Wake Co. occurrence may now be added. This colony is located in a mixed hardwood-pine second growth forest on a low gradient ravine slope. This plant is a rarity anywhere in the piedmont and it has never been reported from the coastal plain.

Perhaps the most unique feature of our tree farm is formed by the rock cliffs which front on the river for an eighth of a mile. These are 50-70 feet high and at one point a projecting ledge extends halfway over the water. This 55-foot lookout is known as Zeagles rock, a name given from a century old suicide jump which occurred here. These are believed to be the only vertical hard rock cliffs on the entire river. On these rocks many interesting plants are to be seen. The rock-ledge lip fern (*Cheilanthes*) is represented in quantity along with a small, very attractive stonecrop (*Sedum nevii*). On ledges with adequate soil, the Virginia saxifrage is abundant and accompanied here and there by the brilliant fire-pink. In contrast on the talus at the base of the cliffs, an area covered with water at flood time, most unexpectedly one finds luxuriant jack-the- pulpits.

In these days of urbanization with its abandonment of the natural world, what a joy it has been to move in the opposite direction and live away from all traffic (dead-end road end) and have a back yard with a shoreline nearly two miles long surrounding three miles of private walks (trails) on which I have never met a single interloper. The reader may now understand why I began this article with the words "good fortune".

B. W. Wells was a noted ecologist, professor of botany at NC State College, and one of the founding members of the Society. This article appeared in the April 1961 issue of the newsletter.

B. W. Wells unsuccessfully campaigned for the state to acquire "Big Savannah" as a preserve. Unfortunately, much of it was put into cultivation. A remaining tract of 117 acres exists beneath a CP&L power line. The North Carolina Coastal Land Trust and the Conservation

Trust of North Carolina are currently launching a campaign to raise \$120,000 to purchase the land. The tract contains many native and rare plants.

END





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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

Membership Information

Membership Application

ANNUAL DUES

Individual or Family \$15.00

Sustaining \$25.00

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Local Chapter dues \$5.00

Scholarship Fund Donation \$ _____

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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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Mr. J.A. Warren	1952-54
Mrs. Paul Spencer	1954-56
Mr. Lionel Melvin	1956-58
Mrs. Carl Pegg	1958-60
Mr. Walter Braxton	1960-62
Mr. Gordon Butler	1962-66
Dr. H. Roland Totten	1966-68
Dr. Herbert Hechenbleikner	1968-70
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Dr. Ray Noggle	1984-88
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Mr. Bob Tuggle	1994-96
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The above are permanent advisors and members of the board of directors.

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