N E W S L E T T E R

NORTH CAROLINA WILD FLOWER PRESERVATION SOCIETY

APRIL 1958

VOL. III NO. 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Was there ever a spring so welcome as this? After the severest winter in many years, we walk out among our garden flowers and marvel at the endurance of those floral gems that survived the extreme cold. Not all, however, survived. The native wild flowers did best of all. Very few, if any, of mine failed to pull through--another argument for more extensive cultivation of native plants.

My term as president expires this coming May. With apologies for my short comings, I wish to state that I have enjoyed every minute spent in the work of our organization. I have enjoyed it even though I failed in accomplishing certain things. Your friendship has added much to my life, and I shall always cherish our too seldom contacts. Let us cooperate to the fullest the efforts of the new officers that we install in office at our next general meeting.

Lionel Melvin

SPRING MEETING

We will have our meeting on May 18th at the Cliffs of the Neuse in Wayne County, 14 miles SE of Goldsboro on highway 111. We will meet promptly at 11 o'clock for a brief business meeting. Following this we will have our usual picnic lunch.

At one o'clock Dr. H. R. Totten, co-author with the late Dr. W. C. Coker of "Trees of the Southeastern States", will conduct a tour of the park trails and instruct the group on trees pointing out the special characteristics of the different species and ways in which each may be identified. The tour will last about one hour which will enable us to get an early start for the trip home.

This state park comprises 321 acres and lies on both sides of the Neuse River. A most striking feature is the cliffs rising ninety feet above the river. They are a unique geological feature in this section of the state. This park is also of botanical interest because of the unusual mixture of plants, trees, and shrubs. Mountain galax and mountain laurel, most unusual in the eastern part of the state, contrast with Spanish moss. Two streams flow through the park and a lake has been made on one of these to provide swimming, boating, and fishing.

Eleanor Pegg
Program Chairman

NOTES ON THE FALL MEETING AT CHAPEL HILL

The 1957 fall meeting of the Society was held at the home of Mrs. Carl Pegg in Chapel Hill on October 27, 1957 with thirty-three people attending.

Mrs. Ray Nance, treasurer, reported a balance on hand of $46.38. She also brought to the attention of the group the fact that there is a misconception in the minds of many members regarding the payment of dues. People paying at the fall meeting often feel that they are paying for the ensuing year, whereas approximately half of the Society's year has already passed. A motion was made and carried that in each newsletter there be inserted a notice reminding members that the year runs from May to May and that the dues are due on the first of May.

Mr. Melvin reported that the Society has already been put on the list of approved organizations, dues to which can be deducted by individuals on their income tax returns.

The revision of Article V of the present Constitution and By-Laws was accepted as printed in the Newsletter, Fall 1957. It was agreed that a copy of the Constitution and By-laws be included in the next newslatter.

Miss Bessie Pope of High Point was elected treasurer. The usual delicious picnic lunch was enjoyed by the membership.

Program

The group retired to Davie Hall in the early afternoon to hear Dr. A. E. Radford discuss "Flora of the Carolinas", a momentous project being carried out at the University of North Carolina. Cooperating with the group are other North Carolinians (both in and out of colleges) and a few people from South Carolina.

Dr. Radford explained that the objective of the project was twofold: 1) the preparation of a manual of vascular plants of the Carolinas (with illustrations, descriptions, and distribution data) and 2) the increase of our basic knowledge of the plant geography of the southeastern United States. He prefaced his talk by giving the background for the need of a study of this type. The last complete work on the flora of this region was published in 1788 by Thomas Walter, and while several lists have been made of some of the southeastern states (mostly before 1900), plant migrations, changes in names, and introductions warrant a new study. Within the Carolinas falls the northern limit of many southern plants and the southern limit of many northern ones.

Work was started in the fall of 1955. The two states were divided into 29 provinces and all types of habitat in each province were visited two to four times during 1956 and 1957, except for northeastern N. C. which will be worked over next year. Last year 52,000 specimens were collected and this year 49,000 plus those sent in by other contributors. Three people in the group alone traveled 25,000 miles last year and 40,000 this year. Much of this work required an icebox to keep specimens fresh. Already they have found over 100 species new to North or South Carolina (many of these came from Dr. Freeman) and there are many rare province records. One species new to science was described by Dr. Blomquist.

The next year will be spent primarily in identifying and describing the specimens. In order to gain the maximum amount of information with the least effort, all data are being assembled on punch cards. It is hoped that by 1960 publication of the manual will be possible.

A series of slides of different plant communities in various sections of N.C. were presented to show habitats found in the counties of the Carolinas in which collections and field studies have been made during the four seasons of the year. These ranged from the sand dunes and salt marshes in the east, through the bay area with acres of Gordonia and extensive peat bogs to the Piedmont, and on to the mountains in the west with arctic species and the peculiar plants of the balds.

Some exceptionally fine slides from the collection of Dr. W. S. Justice of Asheville were also shown. It is his hope that a Kodachrome slide of each flowering plant of the two states can be assembled; the collection is to be in the custody of the botany department.

At the conclusion of the talk a tour was made of the cold room, the work room, and the drying room.

WILDFLOWERS FROM SEED

The seed of most of our woodland plants do quite well scattered around the mother plants as nature would handle them. If the soil is rich in leafmold and sufficiently moist, some will germinate in a short time; others need to go through

the winter and a hard freeze to bring about germination. The following varieties will self-sow and can be lifted to plant in other sections of the garden: blue phlox, bloodroot, foam flower, Solomon's seal, Solomon's plume, asters of all kinds, liatris or gayfeather, toad trillium, columbine, yellow star grass, rose gentian or upland pink star, Virginia bluebells, Amsonia, violets of all kinds.

If you prefer, seeds may be collected or purchased and handled much as seeds of cultivated plants. Sow seeds in flats filled with a mixture of two thirds of fine leafmold and one-third sand; press lightly and have barely moist. Put flats in a protected spot and cover with a pane of glass to conserve moisture. Time of germination will vary, but when the seeds have sprouted, remove glass. When seedlings are large enough to handle, thin out and transplant to a permanent location.

Some of the "finicky" wild flowers will germinate but are hard to transplant. These may be easier to handle by placing thin wood plant bands in the flats--"not the kind treated with plant food". Fill flats and bands with the same fine leafmold, sand mixture. Place a few seeds in each band and press lightly into soil that is barely damp. Cover with glass until seeds sprout. When germination is completed and plants are large enough, thin out, saving three of the strongest in each band. When plants are ready for permanent location, set bands, plants and all without disturbing roots. Then thin again later when plants become crowded. Bands will soon disintegrate and the plants do not suffer shock of root disturbance. Seeds of rhododendron and azaleas may be gathered when ripe and sown on patches of moss under the parent plant. These will often produce seedlings but may take two or more years to germinate. It is better to take cuttings in late July.

Mrs. R. N. Musgrave

As noted above, dues to the organization of one dollar a year become due on May 1 for the year 1958-1959. Please send them to the treasurer: Miss Bessie Pope, Box 1264, High Point, N. C. Please print your name and correct address as you wish it to appear on the mailing list. It is desirable that dues be paid promptly so that all names will be included in the membership list which will be mailed in summer or early fall.

The editors would appreciate your comments on and suggestions for a newsletter to help improve future issues. Would a seed exchange column be desirable? Members could inform the editors as to what wild flower seed they might have for distribution and also what seeds they would like. A "have and want" column could then be published in the newsletter, and from this point members would conduct the exchanges among themselves.

Mrs. G. O. Doak
Editor

Mrs. Phil Wicker
Associate Editor

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

1. The name of this organization shall be "The North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society".

2. The object of this organization shall be the study, cultivation and preservation of the Wild Flowers of North Carolina.

3. The qualifications for membership shall be a protective interest in wild flowers.

4. A complete list of the names of members shall be sent to each member once a year.

5. The officers shall consist of president, first vice-president, second vice-president, corresponding secretary, recording secretary, and treasurer. The president and corresponding secretary shall be elected alternate years to the other. They shall be elected at the spring meeting and take office at the close of said meeting. A member shall not hold the same office for more than two consecutive years with the exception of the treasurer.

6. The board of directors shall consist of:
   a. The elected officers
   b. The chairmen of standing committees (which are appointed by the president)
   c. The surviving past presidents
   d. The second vice-president (who is the immediate outgoing president with duties of membership chairman).

   The meeting of the board shall be held at least fifteen days before each regular meeting of the society, or when called by the president. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

7. A nominating committee consisting of two members appointed by the president at the fall meeting shall present at the spring meeting the names of officers to be elected for the ensuing year. At least one member of this committee shall be from the board of directors and at least one from the members at large. These two shall choose a third member.

8. The regular meetings shall be held in the fall and spring, at places and times designated by the board of directors or in regular meeting.

9. The annual dues shall be one dollar per person, payable in May for the ensuing year. All dues should be sent to the treasurer.

10. The standing committees shall consist of program committee (chairman the vice-president), Finance committee (chairman the treasurer), Publicity, Plant Exchange, and Hospitality Committees.

11. The order of business shall be: minutes of last meeting, Treasurer's report, Report of committees, announcements, unfinished business, new business, lecture or program, adjournment.

12. The executive committee shall consist of the president, the vice-president, secretary, and the treasurer who will pass on and authorize all payments of the society and prepare leaflets and other literature for distribution. They may hold meetings at any time upon the call of the president.

13. Following mailed notices, at least ten days prior to the meeting, these articles may be altered, amended and revised by a majority vote at any regular meeting.