N E W S L E T T E R

NORTH CAROLINA WILD FLOWER PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have come through another winter and it is a refreshing sight to see everything putting on new life and growth. The life and growth of our society depends on each of its members as they contribute of their time and talents, which have been most graciously given by numerous members of our association. It is my hope and prayer that I may be able, in some small way, to contribute something of lasting value as your president during these two years.

Walter B. Braxton

SPRING MEETING, MAY 7

The annual spring meeting of the NCWFPS will be held at Hanging Rock State Park, near Danbury in Stokes County. This is one of the many beautiful park sites near the range of the Blue Ridge Mountains of western North Carolina.

We will meet at 11:30 o'clock on Sunday, May 7, for the business session which will be followed by a picnic lunch on the grounds. After lunch we will have a rather informal discussion of several subjects of interest to the botanist and wildflower lover.

We shall be fortunate to have with us Mrs. Warren G. Ferguson from Cameron, North Carolina. She has had a wide and varied experience as an ardent student of botany and she is considered a militant conservationist. We shall also have our good friend and consultant, Dr. H. R. Totten from Chapel Hill, to conduct and advise on the tour of the gardens.

The superintendent of the park said that accommodations nearby may be had for those who may want to go up the night before or stay for Sunday night. Rental of cabins in the park proper could not be arranged at this time of year. Picnic grounds are available.

W. G. Butler
Program Chairman

NOTES ON THE '60 FALL MEETING

Approximately fifty members and guests attended the fall meeting of the Society at Boone on October 23--more than the management of the hotel had planned on for dinner, but it and the vistors were both patient and cooperative.

At the business meeting a committee was appointed to study a suggestion by Mrs. J. W. Plaster to encourage the garden clubs in N. C. to enroll their conservation chairmen as members of our Society and to encourage local wild flower clubs to become chapters. It is hoped that this will give more help to the local groups and to the conservation chairmen at the same time that it gives our group more publicity.

A nominating committee was appointed to consist of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Carroll and Mrs. J. A. Warren.

A motion was made and passed that our Society make an earnest request of the Garden Club of N.C., Inc. to have Dr. Wells revise and republish his book, "The Natural Gardens of North Carolina", or otherwise to just reprint it.

Mr. Gordon Butler encouraged the members to learn to recognize and to grow the following list of native shrubs and trees which are hardy in the Piedmont (and perhaps in other sections of the state as well): Ilex verticillata, thunderberry--red berry, deciduous; Ilex laevigata, swell heads--red berry, coastal species but grows in the Piedmont; Ilex vomitoria, yaupon--native to the eastern section; Ilex cassine--5 or 6 different forms and also different forms of berries; Ilex decidua--rather tall, fast grower, light bark; Comptonia asplenifolia, sweet fern--1-1½ feet high, spreads all over place; Leucothoë Catesbaei, fetter-bush--from the mountains; Leucothoë axillaris--from the coast; Chionanthus virginica, fringetree--shrub or small tree, somewhat difficult to transplant; Kalmia glauca--from the coast but grows in the Piedmont, low growing, flower like but half the size of that of K. latifolia; Leiophyllum buxifolium, sand myrtle -- from the coast; Clethra alnifolia, sweet pepper bush and C. acuminata--the former from the coastal plain, the latter from the mountains, have to hold back; Yucca - - several varieties; Styrax americana and S. grandifolia; Oxydendrum arboreum, sourwood; Sassafras; Symplocos tinctoria, horse sugar; Cyrilla racemiflora, Titi - - contrast in barks; Baccharis halimifolia, salt-bush.

Mrs. B. W. Stallings of Boone, as our main speaker, told us how the idea of the Daniel Boone Botanical Gardens originated and outlined the plans for it. Six acres, of which some are woodland, have been leased for 99 years from the town of Boone. Six different types of gardens will be included, with particular attention being given to Rhododendrons and Azaleas. The Appalachian State Teachers College plans to do the labeling and to furnish labels, and the area will be accessible for study by the students. Mrs. Stallings particularly stressed the need for an educational program on conservation in North Carolina; other states are well ahead of us, with Pennsylvania doing particularly good work in this respect. She condemned the practice of biology teachers requiring their students to make plant collections, and encouraged our members to watch for places in our communities where desirable plants might be rescued before the bulldozer destroys them. After this inspiring and challenging talk, Mrs. Herbert Smith presented Mrs. Stallings with a check for $100 from our Society for the Daniel Boone Botanical Gardens. The meeting concluded with a conducted tour of the garden site.

THE FLORA OF ONE-HUNDRED AND FIFTY ACRES
by 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 knew 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 floodplain 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 floodplain, 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 river bank a rare bittercress (Cardamine douglassii) was discovered, and beside a perenially 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 half-way 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-in-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".

WILD FLOWERS BLOOMING IN MY GARDEN 1960
by Josephine Pritchard

MARCH Anemone, wind flower--dwarf form; Bloodroot, Sanguinaria canadensis; Bluets, Houstonia caerulea; Carolina Jessamine; Chokeberry, Aronia arbutifolia; Cottonwood tree; Dandelion, Taraxacum officinale; Dogtooth violet, trout lily; Hepatica, liverleaf--purple and white; Judas tree; redbud; Cercis; Phlox subulata; Saxifraga, rockfoil; Spring Beauty, Claytonia; Strawberry; Violet, the red and the white.

APRIL Amsonia, dogbane; Azalea, pink, white, and yellow; Bellwort, Uvularia; Calycanthus floridus; Carolina Allspice; Chickweed, Stellaria; Chrysogonum virginianum; Columbine, Aquilegia; Coral bells, Alum-root; Cross-vine, Bignonia capreolata; Dewberry; Dogwood, pink and white; Dutchman's breeches, Dicentra; Eleagnus, deciduous; Foamflower, Tiarella cordifolia; Geranium, cranesbill, pink and purple; Ginger, heart leaves; Holly, deciduous; Iris cristata; white and lavender; Lady slipper, yellow; Mandrake, May-apple, Podophyllum peltatum; Yellow star grass, Hypoxis hirsuta; Styrax or Storax; Strawberry bush, Euonymus americanus; Trillium; Violets, purple, blue variegated, and Bird's-foot; Woodbine, Lonicera.

MAY Ash, fringe tree; Atamasco lily; Bittersweet, Celastrus scandens; Blackberry; Blue-eyed grass, Sisyrinchium; Buttercup, Ranunculus; Bouncing-Bet, Saponaria officinalis; Cherry; Cinnamon vine, Dioscorea batatus; Elder, Sambucus; Fire pink, Silene virginica; Honeysuckle, Japanese; Indian physic, Gillenia trifoliata; Solomon's seal, both true & false; Turks Cap, twayblade.

JUNE Adam's needle, Yucca; Anemone, wind flower--tall form; Clover, white; Coreopsis, tickseed; Dock, Rumex; Hydrangea; Indian currant, coral berry, Symphoricarpos; Jack-in-the-pulpit, Arisaema triphyllum; Laurel, Kalmia latifolia; Pentstemon, white; Pipsissewa, Chimaphila; Potato vine; Primrose, both evening and morning blooming; Queen Ann's lace; Rhododendron, purple and pink; Vetch; Yarrow, Achillea;

JULY Daisy, ox-eyed; Morning glories, Ipomoea; White orchid, cranesbill.

AUGUST Black-eyed Susan, dwarf, Rudbeckia; Butterfly flower, Asclepias; Cactus, prickly pear; Clematis, white and blue; Cranesbill, orchid; Rattlesnake plantain, Epipactis pubescens.

SEPTEMBER Asters, white, lavender, purple and yellow; Black-eyed Susan, tall; Cardinal flower, Lobelia cardinalis; Gentian, bottle, Gentiana andrewsii alba ; Goldenrod, Solidago.

FERNS in my garden--spleenwort, maiden hair, Christmas, lady, royal.

If you are not planning on paying your dues at the spring meeting, please send them (in the amount of one dollar) to Miss Bessie Pope, P. O. Box 1264, High Point, N. C. It would be a help if you would print your name and correct mailing address.