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PRESERVATION SOCIETY, INCORPORATED

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NEWSLETTER

VOL. IX No. 1 October 1968

The President's Message

Last week I returned from Europe where, during the months of June and July, I visited many public parks and gardens. If the densely populated large cities of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland can afford space for not one but several parks and gardens, why cannot we, here in North Carolina?

The preceding is by way of a preamble to a discussion of an article that appeared in the Greensboro Daily News on Sunday, July 14, concerning Umstead Park. The unique character of the magnificant native flora there would be utterly destroyed if the plan outlined in the paper is followed. I am all in favor of the activities indicated in the diagram but not on this site!

Let me urge every member to bring whatever pressure and influence possible on members of your local garden clubs, civic development groups and state legislators to preserve William B. Umstead State Park in its natural condition

Herbert Hechenbleikner

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The Fall meeting is Sunday, October 6, 1968 at Umstead State Park. Bring your picnic basket and drinks, wear comfortable shoes, and hiking clothes. 10:30 A.M.

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Wehaupenning Pines Lodge

PAST PRESIDENTS OF N.C.W.F.P.S.

1951 - 1952	Mrs. Herbert P. Smith
1952 - 1954	Mr. J. A. Warren
1954 - 1956	Mrs. Paul Spencer
1956 - 1958	Mr. Lionel Melvin
1958 - 1960	Mrs. Carl Pegg
1960 - 1962	Mr. Walter Braxton
1962 - 1966	Mr. W. Gordon Butler
1966 - 1968	Dr. H.R. Totten

Minutes of Spring Meeting:

The Spring meeting of the North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society was held in the Asheville area May 18, 19th and 20th, 1968.

At 2 o'clock on Saturday a caravan of 7 or more carloads took a trip through Barnardsville to Cane River Gap in Pisgah National Forest. Mr. William NOthstein of the U.S. Forest Service was our guide. Among the wild flowers seen were: Showy Orchis (Orchis spectabilis); Larkspur (Delphinium tricorne); Speckled Wood Lily (Clintonia umbellulata); Squawroot (Conopholis americana); one-flowered cancer-root(Orobanche uniflora); Dutchman's Pipe (Aristolochia durior); Wild Ginger (Asarum canadense); Umbrella-leaf (Diphylleia cymosa) and Blue Cohosh (Caulophyllum thalictroides).

Those not going on the Pisgah Forest trip visited Doan Ogden's garden.

At 8:15, Saturday evening the business meeting was held in the Lecture Hall of the Humanities Building, Asheville-Biltmore College. Out outgoing vice-president, Mr. Thomas Shinn opened the meeting with the introduction of Dr. Perry of the Biology Department of Asheville-Biltmore College. Dr. Perry was pinch-hitting for Dr. Highsmith who could not attend the evening meeting. After Dr. Perry's welcome, Mr. Shinn turned the meeting over to the President, Dr. Totten. Mrs. Pearson Steward, Recording Secretary gave a resume of the Fall meeting and of the Executive Board meeting.(Full reports are printed in the Newsletters).

In a report about the "Flower H"ll" area near Wilson, Dr. J.P. Tyndall explained what had been done by the Wilson people. They had found out that the property belonged to Mr. John Lewis Vass who was interested in preserving it. He would welcome the help of the Society possibly in using its name on signs and in helping to police the area. In the Flower H"ll area is the most eastern stand of Rhododendron catawbiense var. insularis. During its blooming season (around the first week in May), people break off the blooms and decorate their cars with them. A motion was made by Mr. Gordon Butler that we join in helping preserve the area. Mr. George Stephens proposed an amendment that our co-operation might apply to other areas that might need immediate protection and that the Board of Directors be given the authority to act in these cases. The Motion and the amendment carried.

Miss Bessie Pope, the Treasurer, reported a balance on hand May 18, 1968 of $205.73.

The following slate of officers was presented by the Nominating committee and elected:

President: Dr. Herbert Hechenbleikner

Vice Pres: Dr. Marjorie Newell

Corres. Sec:Mrs. Charles Hubbard

As unfinished business the question of raising the dues was brought up. Mrs. Francis Harper made a motion that the dues remain at a dollar. The motion passed. During the discussion Mrs. Hugh Brinton suggested that we might have sustaining members as well as regular members. Dr. Hechenbleikner felt that if a special need for the money should arise, a memorandum could be sent to the members asking them to chip in.

A letter from a group in Philadelphia asking for a testimonial for the benefit of Dr. Edgar Tl Wherry, retired Professor of Botany, University of Pennsylvania, a longtime dedicated wild flower conservationist. Upon a motion by Dr. William Justice, it was voted to send $50.00 from the Club treasury to the Wherry fund. Those wishing to send personal contributions are to send them to Dr. Totten who would forward the donations to the Treasurer, Mrs. Edmund D. Thomas. Because of an inadequate pension and recent medical bills due to his wife's illness. Dr. Wherry is in financial straits.

Mr. George Stephens recommended that the Society have standing committees in each portion of the state - field forces.

Dr. E.L. Demmon, president of the Asheville-Biltmore Botanical Garden gave a brief history of the garden and gave much credit to the lady members of the organization.

Dr. William Justice showed some of his excellent slides of our North Carolina wild flowers. The book of Wild Flowers of North Carolina in which 400 of his slides are reproduced has just been published. Copies of the book were on sale at the social gathering following the business meeting. Cookies and punch were served by members of the Asheville-Biltmore Botanical Garden.

Dr. Herbert Hechenbleikner conducted the last part of the meeting.

The business meeting adjourned at 10:10 P.M.

On Sunday from 10 o'clock until lunchtime , members visited the Gardens.

After luncheon in the cafeteria some 92 members went to visit the Thomas Shinns' home and wild flower area in Leicester. At the Shinns', Dr. Justice, Mr. Nothstein, and Mr. Charles Moore (of the Duke Power office in Brevard) were on hand to identify the numerous plants from all over N!rth Carolina -- plants of the savannahs as well as mountain plants.

On Monday a sizable group was escorted to the Jocasee, South Carolina area. Mr. Charles Moore arranged to guide us through the construction vehicles to the Shortia area where plants were obtained. The area will be completely flooded by the Duke Power Company's Keowee-Toxaway Dam project. Without Mr. Moore's help we couldn't have been able to go through the construction area.

The long weekend meeting was the most interesting one the secretary had attended. Mr. & Mrs. Shinn deserve a great deal of praise for it.

Mrs. Pearson H. stewart
Recording Secretary

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Minutes of the Board Meeting: August 25, 1968

Twenty three board members of NCWFPS, Inc. met at Smithwin home of the H.P. Smiths, Liberty, N.C. for an abundant lunch after which Dr. Herbert Hechenbleikner of Charlotte, N.C., our President, presided over the business session.

The minutes of the spring meeting were read by Dr. Hechenbleikner in the absence of the Recording Secretary,Mrs. Pearson Stewart.

Mr. Gordon Butler expressed appreciation for the work Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Shinn did to make the spring meeting in Asheville such a success.

Dr. H.R. Totten announced that over $10,000.00 had been raised for the Dr. Edgar T. Wherry Testimonial Fund.

Mrs. Herbert Smith spoke of the wild flower section in the Elizabethan Garden and ask that the NCWFPS,Inc. donate a suitable seat to be place in this section. Ihe also expressed concern for expenses of the officers of our organization and brought up the subject of screeing our membership .

The question of raising dues came up again, as it always does, even though it was voted at the spring meeting not to make any change. Dr. Hechenbleikner appointed the following committee to study: donation of the Elizabethan seat; expenses of the officers: screening of membership and raising of dues: Dr. H.R. Totten, Mrs. WAlter Braxton and Mr. Lionel Melvin.

Fall Board meeting continued:

Urban growth Vs The Wilderness was discussed concerning the 5,200 acre Unstead State Park near Raleigh, N.C. Opposition was expressed by the group. Mrs. J.A. Warren ask that opposition be made to the responsible parties. Dr. Hechenbleikner offered to draft the opposition, and send it to the proper authorities.

Dr. Hechenbleikner suggested that our fall meeting be in Umstead Park October 6, 1968. It was the consensus of the Board that Dr. Hossis Rogers would make the ideal speaker.

Mrs. E. Gregory Lewis was appointed Ptblicity Chairman.

Mrs. J.A. W.rren voiced her appreciation for the Herbert P. Smith's hospitality, also she liked the idea of the NCWFPS, Inc. donating a bench for the wild flower section of the Elizabethan Garden.

Mrs. Walter B. Braxton brought up the subject of donations of the book, "The Natural Gardens of North Carolina" by Dr; B.W. Wells as memorials. After some discussion the board was unanimous in placing memorials in the proper libraries in the names of : Miss Josephine Pritchard and Mr. J.A. Warren of Chapel Hill, N.C. Mr. and Mrs. James N. Plaster of Winston-Salem, N.C., also Dr. H.L. Blomquist of Durham, N.C.

"Ferns of North Carolina" by Dr. H.L. Blomquist is now out of print. Dr. H.R. Totten was asked to look into the possibility of a reprint. Dr. Totten reported that "trees of the Southeastern States" by Coker and Totten will not be reprinted.

All business being taken care of , Dr. Francis Harper regaled us with an interesting story on Shortia. Dr. Harper gave us the true type locality which is not the one usually given in textbooks.

Walter B. Braxton
Secretary pro tem

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This article on Shortia was given to the Greensboro Wildflower Club in November 1959 as a pinch hit for the regular program, and is being used in our Newsletter at the request of Mr. Lionel Melvin. (Ed.)

Shortia
by
Mrs. Walter B. Braxton

Shortia, Oconee-Bells (Shortia galacifolia) the mystery plant of the mountains of western North Carolina was first discovered by a French Botanist, Andre' Michaux, December 8, 1788. He had been sent to America by the French Government to seek new plants that possibly might be of value to France. Our rhododendron was given its scintific name by Michaux. In his serch through western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee, Andre' Michaux found and described many new species and carried back to France pressed specimens and placed them in the Jarden des Plants in Paris. Some were labeled unknown" and among these was a leaf and root of this plant growing in the mountains of western Carolina.

(Shortia, con't.)

Perhaps many botanists studied the specimens with no idenity over a period of the next fifty years. Then Asa Gray, a youn. American botanist, became intrigued with the specimen and recognized it as a new genus, and wrote a scientific description of the genus from the single specimen in France.

This unknown specimen resembled galax, which grows profusely in the mountains. To honor Dr. Charles W. Short, an able botanist of Kentucky, Gray devised the scientific name of the genus, Shortia. And, since it did resemble galax, the species name became Shortia galacifolia.

Gray soon returned to America and began his search, high in the mountains of his native state for Shortia. In 1842 Dr. Gray was appointed professor of natural history at Harvard University. For forty years on every field trip high in the mountains of North Carolina,Gray hunted for the elusive Shortia. He found many plants and published manuels on botany, but always the little specimen in Paris continued to haunt.

Then on an April day, George Hyams went fishing in the Catawba River in McDowell County. His father was a botanist employed Wallace Brothers of Statesville, their firm collected plants for pharmaceutical purposes. It was only natural that George as he idly tended his fishing pole would check the flora for something interesting to carry home to his father. Nodding and swaying in the breeze were some charming bell-shaped, waxy white flowers, on slender stems, with irregularly toothed petals, growing from a rosette of wavy-margined, roundish-shiny evergreen leaves, similar to the famillar mountain galax. George decided on this plant to take home to his father. Mr. Hyams,himself did not know the plant. But it looked so interesting, a and was so breath-takingly lovely that he sent a specimen to Dr. Gray at Harvard University to be identified. Imagine George's as well as his fathers excitement when by return mail Dr. Gray replied, "You have stumbled on what for many years I have tried so hard to find." Shortia has been rediscovered.

Dr. Gray soon arrived in Statesville bringing sevrral eminent botanists and they were taken to the McDowell County Shortia. Dr. Gray felt sure that he had been misled by Michaux's description of the habitat of Shortia. Instead of the mountain tops where he had always looked, it had been found along a stream in the foothills. Michaux's directions had been fairly specific, but his continual references to the 'high mountains' misled Gray the botany-detective. Michaux had written, "The head of hte Keowee is the junction of two torrents of considerable size which flows in cascades from the high mountian..."

Shortia, the mystery flower of the mountains soon became so famous, that pressed specimens of a single plant were selling for fifty dollars. Some years after young Hyams had rediscovered Shortia, Professor C. E. Sargent and Frank Boynton after studying Michaux's diary retraced his route through western North Carolina. They arrived at Bear Camp Creek, in Sapphire County in the vacinity of Lake Toxaway and Highlands on December 9. 1886. There they found the origional bed of Shortia, found by Michaux, covering several acres. When Prof. C. E. Sargent and Frank Boynton returned the following spring, the entire hillside was covered with the waxy-white flowers.

Shortia makes a good ground-cover under rhododendrons. It needs a shady site with an acid soil, rich in humus, plenty of water, and to be mulched regularly with oak leaves. It spreads mostly by runners, and grows in luxurant, dense colonies where conditions are to its liking. It's delicate white flowers last for several days. It is one of the most coveted plants of any wild flower garden.

Why Shortia is so restricted in its habitat does not seem to be known. But Dr. B. W. Wells, retired North Carolina State College botanist, says, "Shortia is a lingering survival of another botanical age, on the way to extinction."

(Shortia, cont'd.)

A collector has written, "No idea of the beauty of this plant can be formed until it has been seen in its native home. The mass of glossy green and white, once seen, can never be forgotten." It was never Gray's privilege to see Shortia at the height of its blooming period which is the latter part of March into early April.

Of the 25,000 botanical specimens that Gray classified, before he died, Gray asked that, Shortia cover his grave at Cambridge, Massachusetts. In Gray's life many honors had come to him but they were as naught compared to the discovery of the little mountain plant that Dr. Asa Gray named Shortia.

Shortia uniflora (Nippon Bells), is a native to Japan. It is different in that it has more heart-shaped leaves.

Shortia californica sometimes listed is the Composite, Baeria coronaris, popularly known as Goldfields.

Our mystery plant, Shortia lost for a hundred years with its rare delicate beauty is probably to be found growing more in cultivation now than it its wild state. North Carolina is rich in rare, and semi-rare, and not so rare plants. It behooves us as dedicated lovers of nature to do all within our power to keep her clean and green.

Ref. Wildlife in North Carolina, May, 1958 page 9.
Ref. State, October 3, 1959, Vo. 27 No. 9. page 7.

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THE MOUNTAINS OF NORTH CAROLINA

by

Nell Lewis

How wonderful are our mountains! Great towering peaks, cuddling hills securely in their laps and with swiftly running creeks at their feet, constantly beckon to work-weary, city-tired people to come unto them, where yesterday slips away and tomorrow becomes as distant as the far vistas.

Standing like a stern, yet kind parent over the rest of the state, the mountains are magnificent in their four seasons of beauty. Modern day transportation and smooth, serpentine highways allow us to choose our favorite time to enjoy the quietness there.

Perhaps only the rugged individuals can hear the call of winter from the mountains, stilled by ice and snow with only the winds from the far north to crackle and break the silence.

Few, indeed, are the people who can resist the melody of spring as she yawns and stretches far and wide over the hills, leaving behind a trail of merging greens and splashes of soft, rainbow hues.

Summer, so sultry that even day arrives clad only in a filmy negligee of gray fog, nonetheless teases with cool nights and city dwellers flock to the mountins, seeking relief from the unbearable heat of the lowlands.

But is is autumn, riotous with color, that compels more of us to wind our way over and around this vast area of North Carolina that was little known to the outside world at the turn of the century. Here, now, is splendor beyond compare. Trees in bold shades of red, yellow and purple blend with the evergreen ones to create the great palette of the Master Artist.

(The Mountains of North Carolina cont'd.)

Wildflowers of early fall add their sparkle to the scene: asters and goldenrods dominate; sweet Joe Pye weed, ironweed and thistles begin the first purple haze of autumn; the blue of the gentians is almost lost in the deepening shadows; and the lobelias amble across meadows and drift on down to the streams.

Bitter-sweet, like blames of fire, race unchecked along fence rows, over shrubs and up through stately trees, while seedpods of staghorn sumac, "hearts a-bustin with love". false solomon seal and teaberry glow like remaining red embers.

There is so much to see, to enjoy, there among the hills. Each day puts on a new face, a new dress, a subtle perfume. Color everywhere!- - - - - wild, clamoring, busy, restless, yet subdued by the lovely loneliness of autumn.

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CONSERVATION OF PLANT SPECIES
Hollis J. Rogers, University of North Carolina
at Greensboro

The rapid increase in the human population with the resulting pressure on the natural resources is endangering the survival of numerous species of native plants. Urban expansion, atmospheric pollution, highway construction, water storage, strip mining, airport extension, modern farming and herbicide application is resulting in a serious reduction of the native habitat of many plant species. The college students of the present generation who were required to turn in 50 to 100 plant specimens for high school biology may now be expected to submit one, two or three collections of similar size in order to complete their program in the biological sciences. They may then be certified to teach biology and may thereby require their students to search through the ruins for an equal number of specimens. Records of the distribution of the former range of the species may soon replace the observation of the living plant. ##

(Presented to the Botany Section, Association of Southeastern Biologists, meeting in Athens, Georgia, April 19, 1968.)

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Notes from the Editor:

The pebble taht was tossed into the lake by Mrs. C.A.Graham, Sr. in 1951 when she was the Director of District Six of the Garden Clubs of North Carolina has continued in an ever widening circle. Mrs. Graham had a dream and set about making her dream come true. Each Director of a garden club district wants their District to win a state award for outstanding work during their term of office. Mrs. Graham's dream was to organize a State Wild Flower Preservation Society in the same manner as the National Wild Flower Preservation Society. The Organizational meeting was at SMithwin, the home of Mr. & Mrs. Herbert P. Smith, with Mrs. Smith as the first president, April 29, 1951. Mrs. Graham won her award. During the tenure of office of each successional president the organization has grown. Dr. H.R. Totten of Chapel Hill, N.C. has just completed two years as President of the North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society, INc., in which time the organization has grown from some two hundred members to a three hundred and fifty membership. Dr. Totten has that rare ability of being able to calm the most turbulent waters and

Editor's notes cont'd...

keep things running on an even keel. Dr. and Mrs. Totten were at the organizational meeting and Dr. Totten has attended every meeting since. His quiet, unassuming, force has been a powerful factor in the effectiveness of this organization since its inception. We appreciate all that Dr. Totten has done in the past and all that he will continue to do over the years ahead.

Miss Bessie Pope, our Treasurer for low, these many years, has a new Ledger with the membership names and addresses listed in it. She needs help with Mrs. Margaret Lee who has paid dues but but omitted her address. Who can furnish Miss POpe with this information?

Miss Bessie Pope also asks that members who have not paid their 1968-69 dues, please send check to Miss Bessie Pope. P.O. Box 1264, High Point, N.C. 27261. For $1.00 before the October 6, 1968 meeting. It is a tremenduous job to keep up with our membership and their dues, so if you have information vital to her records, please put it on paper and send it to her. Biss Pope has a thankless job, a vital one and a time consuming one. She would appreciate each member's co-operation in making her work as easy as possible.

The good news comes to your editor about our organization's first librarian. C. Clinton Lindley, Jr. of the Nosegay Flower Shops in New York City was granted the coveted Sylvia Award for outstanding display of flowers and plants at the Society of American Florist's 84th Annual Convention held at the Americana Hotel in New York in July. Mr. Lindley is the son of Mr. & Mrs. C.C. Lindley of Chapel Hill, is a member of the Academy of AMerican Florists, a professional group of the top 144 outstanding designers of North America; Among the twenty-seven competitors, Mr. Lindley was chosen because of his elegant simplicity in design, correct ecology and taxonomy.

C.Clinton Lindley, Jr. while studying at UNC-CH from which he received a B.A. Degree in botany, worked in a Chapel Hill flower shop. When he finished service with the U.S. Marine Corps in 1957, Mr. Lindley joined the Nosegay Flower Shop, Bronxville, New York.

As a member of the North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society, Inc., Mr. LIndley started the organization's library the year he graduated from college. And during the course of his career in New York, he has been a Floral Judge for the New York Florists Club, of which he is a member; designer and commentator for Florists Transworld Delivery Association; and speaker at numerous major florist's gatherings throughout the country.

Mrs. J. Robert Chrismon, who has written many articles for our Newsletter, writes that Mr. Paul Leslie of Leslies' Wild Flower Nursery, Methusen, Mass. received one of our May Newsletters and was profuse in his praise of our bulletin, saying,"it was the best of any he had seen and that he would place it in his files for future reference."

Dr. H.R. Totten reports that the Testimonial Fund for Dr. Edgar T. Wherry tops $10,000.00. The NCWFPS, Inc., can feel pride in being a contributor to such a worthwhile project.

It will be a pleasure to see our members in Unstead State Park, Sunday, October 6, 1968. Bring your picnic basket and drinks, wear confortable shoes and hiking clothes.

Grow your plants from Seed
Herbert P. Smith

At a meeting of the N.C. Wildflower Preservation Society in Chapel Hill several years ago, much discussion was held regarding growing plants. One very wise and esteemed member, now deceased, Dr. H.L. Blomquist, said, "Grow your plants from seed".

We took this advice, we admit to being guilty of trying to bring in plants both from our place and others, but our most successful achievements have been with having the patience to see it grow from seed.

We could not name all of them, but the following have been most successful:

If you follow the soil preparation method of the Trailing Arbutus, (Epigaea Repens), it will be sufficient for all we are listing.

GROWING TRAILING ARBUTUS(EPIGAEA REPENS) FROM SEED:

In the spring of 1950, we brought a plant of Trailing Arbutus (Epigaea Repens) from Tryon, N.C. , Polk County, and planted it in our Wild Flower Garden, on Smithwin Farm, Liberty, N.C. This plant bloomed each year after planting it and it is still blooming and doing well. We gathered seed from this plant in 1953 and planted them about June 1st.

In about 30 days from the time we sowed these seed, small plants began to show. Being so small they had the appearance of moss. They were so small that they could only be identified with a magnifying glass. By using the magnifying glass we could identify them as really being Trailing Arbutus, having two small leaves and even at this small size they showed the little hairy like surface which is characteristic of the Arbutus.

These plants grew about one third the size of a full grown plant by the Fall of that year. The next year they grew full size adult leaves. Thses seedling plants continued to grow and were in full bloom in the Spring of 1957.

At this date, February, 1968, this plant is now about two feet across and has not missed a year being in full bloom. In 1966 we planted seed from this plant,(the original one we have grown from seed) and now we are growing the second generation plants in our Azalea beds.

Among the things we have learned about growing Trailing Arbutus from seed is, the small plants are very hard to transplant, so we would recommend planting seed in the area you expect to leave them permanently.

To collect the seed, one has to be well on the job to get the seed before the ants carry them off for food. The ants are really carrying off the little white moist pad and the little fine seed are fastened to the top of this pad. We have had Botanist to tell us that our plants were the only seedlings they had ever seen and stated that many had never seen the seed.

In making a planting place for these small seed, it is important to get very fine woods soil and leaf mold mixed with sharp sand. We always sift the mixture through screen wire. Put this mixture in a place about three inches deep and pack it by pressing with your hand, then plant seed on top of the surface and water down lightly. This prevents drying out and less attention while plants are small. Cover the planted area with a plastic cover or place a plastic container over them. The bottom of the container should be removed.

Growing plants from seed: cont'd.

The beautiful fragrant blossom of these plants which we enjoy each Spring, pays us well for the long tedious effort we have made to accomplish what we hope will be a lasting help to others to do this same type of research on our fast disappearing rare plants.

VIRGINIA BLUEBELL GROWN FROM SEED (Mertensia Virginica)

Several years ago, Mrs. H.R. Totten of Chapel Hill and a former President of the North Carolina Garden Club, found a plant of the Virginia Bluebell in white. She found this plant growing in a wooded area between Chapel Hill and Durham, N.C.

As soon as her plant grew to large enough size to separate, she very generously gave us a plant from this unusual Albino and very rare Mertensia Virginica.

Within two or three years our plant increased in size and was so unusual and beautiful when in bloom, we decided to plant some seed from this white form of Virginia Bluebell.

The result was very satisfying. We could tell by the color of the small plants that we would have both white and blue flowers. The plants that are white are of a bright green color and the blue ones are of a bluish color.

We now have a large clump of Blue and White in a border, well shaded in front of the house. We have a quantity of these seed planted that we hope will give us more plants this Spring.

This has been a rewarding experience for us in many ways, we have been able to share the White blooming plants with a number of our Wild Flower Preservation Society Members. We are especially glad that we were able to give back to Mrs. Totten a replacement of the plant she shared with us. Since giving us a plant, she had lost hers. We feel that to replace one with a plant grown from the seed of her original is a real accomplishment.

In passing these plants around, we have included both blue and white. We have furnished both to the Wild Flower Area of The Elizabethian Garden on Roanok Island.

GROWING HEMLOCK FROM SEED (tsuga Canadensis)

We have been growing Hemlock plants and trees in our yard for the past 15 years which were brought in from the mountains of the western part of North Carolina. Our trees have been producing small cones for the past two or three years that have seed in them.

We gathered some seed from the cones in the Fall of 1966 and planted them as soon as they were gathered, in beds of woods soil and well rotted saw dust.

From this planting we now have 49 seedling plants of Hemlock which we now have planted in plastic containers (made from Plastic Milk Cartons) with the bottom cut at the corners for drainage. These were placed in a bed of rich soil and filled in between so that the tops of the containers are just in sight. This is done so as to identify the place where the small plant is planted. All of this bed was mulched with pine straw from White Pines. The White Pine Straw is much finer and does not pack the small plants down.

Our plants are from two to three inches tall and are doing well. We have repeated the sowing this Fall and expect to have a greater number of plants again this Spring.

GROWING PLANTS FROM SEED cont'd.

We have accomplished this work with the Hemlock here on our farm and garden in Piedmont North Carolina and not being its native habitat, we feel that our work with these seed will help others to grow more plants.

THERMOPSIS CAROLINIANA (these seed were given to us by Dr. Freeman at our meeting at Cumberland Knob.

THREE VARIETIES OF PHLOX (all do well here, one white.)

LUPINUS PERENNIS Eastern Lupine: We have fine blooming size plants

SENNA (Cassia Mariladica) perrenial grows tall

SABATIA ANGULARIS Bi-annual Drop seed now for next year. Bloom here good.

Live Oak - Acorns from Isle of Palms, S.C. (Tree now about 10 feet tall)

Magnolia - Tripetala

Several Varieties of Oak

Baptisia Bracteata (white) easy to germinate.

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HEMEROCALLIS

by

Mrs. Phil Wicker

Hemerocallis or daylily is truly a gardeners delight. It is not a newcomer to the world of gardening. The Greeks wrote about it in 70 A.D. It is accepted that they are natives of the Orient - China, Japan, Korea and from there were taken to England and thence to Americas.

To Linnaeus, Father of Botany, we give credit for the botannical name - which means beauty for a day - its worst habit but then it gives you a fresh flower every day - for so many days. In 1753, there were only two varieties, Hem. Flàca or lemon lily and Hem. Fulva or the tawny daylily on roadsides and train tracks.

The first hybrid was introduced in 1890 in England (140 years later) and not until 1899 was a hybrid introduced in America and only in late 1930s did the am. hybridists recognize the vast possibilities and begin to do something about it. Since World War II the rate of new varieties has been about one for each working day. They really came into their own thru the beautiful creations of people like David Hall. The hybridizer's names often appear in parenthesis after the name of their hybrid.

Over the years we have seen the yellows and golds grow in size and quality. The greatest breakthrough has been in developing almost a true pink about the same time as the pink iris was developed, about 1950. Reds have progressed to vibrant, clear scarlet on to rose reds. There are orchid tones, clear lilacs and the nearest to whites. The yellows range from the palest Delicate Splendor and dependable Hyperion to deep golds and those yellows that are brushed with pink and reds - unthinkable but beautiful combinations. Then to blend all the colors together, there are the bi-colors diamond dusted with nearly all the spectrum of the rainbow except blue.

Hemerocallis cont'd.

Texture is being improved so that flowers do not fade at the end of day and already varieties are on the market that stay open long after dark. Plants are available for continuous bloom from early summer or late spring, until fall so that you can have daylilies for almost four months.

Maybe I like daylilies because they are a lazy woman's plant. Planted in early fall or spring or even in summer, they will not let you down. They need at least four hours of sun, good soil with bone meal, peat, and I use fertilizer or superphosphate. Plant at level at which they were growing - not too deep - and water till they get started. They are practically insect and disease free and only need to be divided about every 5 years if planted 18" or more apart.

The wide color range available makes the color combinations just fantastic and beautiful in your garden. There is a daylily to fit your wildest dreams. The yellows and golds show up better if viewed from a distance and blend the others into a pleasing color scheme.

They combine with late spring bulbs, biennials, perennials on with late and fall annuals. I am using Tritomas, red hot pokers, purple phlox, gorgeous with the golds and oranges, native butterfly week - asclepsis Vites, buddleia, crepe myrtle, and semi dwarf cannas.

Propigation is easy by division or proliferation, planting the extra plant that grows on the stem, which will grow and bloom next year. Seeds should not be allowed to form but if you do, they can be planted but you cannot always be sure they will come back true since the parent plant is a hybrid.

With several nurseries specializing in them and over 5 thousand introductions, one does have to be choosy and with a limited pocket book, learn to be patient until the price comes down. With prices like $35.00 and $70.00 for one root, I have learned to admire the old ones for a dollar and wait. ##

Ed.

(This program was given to the Greensboro Wild Flower Club-August 1,1968)

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TIEDWATER WILD FLOWERS

by

Elizabeth Lawrence

When I was staying with Mittie Wellford, in July, I was amazed to see Lilium superbum growing by the thousands on the edges of a tidewater creek that flows into the Rappahannock River just above Tappahannock, Va. In North Carolina the Turks cap grows only in the mountains, but Schuyler Mathews says, "It is oftenest found in wet meadows not very far from the coast." I have read that is is difficult in cultivation, and it certainly won't grow for me; however Mrs. W.M. Brawley grows it with ease, and it blooms early in July.

At the waters edge Mittie found a stalk of white three-petalled flowers in whorles of three. I thought it was the common arrowhead, but Mittie noticed that the leaves were lanceolate. I looked it up in Wild Flowers of North Carolina, and found it to be Sagittaria falcata, a species of the Southern coast. I am finding this book very useful. From one of the photographs I was able to identify the beautiful swamp milk-weed, Asclepias incarnata, with its round heads of rosy buds that slowly open into paler flowers. We found only one stalk in bloom in mid-July, but in mid-August Mittie wrote: "The marshes are beautiful now. The

mallows are at their peak, and the pickerel weed is still blooming, and that lovely pink milkweed is everywhere."

I told Mittie to watch for Kosteletskya, which grows in brackish waters all along the southern coastal plain. She said she thought it might be the beautiful pink flower she found in the marshes late last summer, and has promised to send me a specimen when it blooms later on. Ruth Dormon sent it, to me years ago, from Shreveport, Louisiana, and it bloomed in my Raleigh garden in late August or early September. The plant is tall, to five feet in my garden. It is called wild hollyhock. This and the swamp milkweed are handsome enough for the flower border. I have never found a source for the wild hollyhock but plants of the milkweed are available from the Gardens of the Blue Ridge and The Three Laurels.

Mrs. Brawley told me that she brought white spider lilies(hymenocallis) from Shallotte, North Carolina, and that they do as well in the dry soil of her garden as they d'd in the marshes. In Raleigh some from Wilmington grew in the overflow from the pool. These were the spring blooming kind. I shan't try to name them as the botanists do not agree, but they are pretty. Dr. Wherry once brought me what I take to be the same thing, from the Catawba river near Rock Hill. They bloomed in May, but did not stay with me.

In the tidewater marshes wild rice was growing, lovely slender, golden plumes, and in wet places we found rhexias and bright pink sabbatias that faded before we got them home, but Mittie revived them with hot water. At Sabine Hall blue sheets of wild petunia were blooming on the lawn. Ruellia ciliosa, which grows to a height of about eight inches is considered the best one for the rock and wild garden.

On the wooded bluffs above the marshes, oaks and beeches and hollies come right down to the water. Button bush was still in bloom along the edge of the water, and under the trees there were masses of summersweet. I did not know that the delicate white spires could be so beautiful. We found a viburnum that wasn't in the books at hand, so we sent a twig with a bunch of pointed green berries to Lionel Melvin, who says it is an unusual form of the Possum Haw, Viburnum nudum, which is a shrub that sometimes gets to be a small tree. It blooms in May, and the fruits begin to color in August, turning pink and then blue, so that there are three colors at one time. When they ripen in September, they are eaten by the birds.

In the August issue of Joe's Bulletin I saw a letter to the editor, which I thought might be of interest to members of the Society. It is from Mrs. Gordon Harvey, 3205 Saxon Drive, Lexington, Kentucky, 40503. She says she and her husband collect wildflowers, and would like to hear from anyone who is interested in exchange.

The yellow passion vine:

In mid-August Dr. Mayer brought me a spray of Passiflora lutea. I am sure I have seen those odd leaves before, and wondered what they were, but I had never seen the flowers -- or at least I had never noticed them. They are in pairs in the axils of the leaves, a pair to every leaf, standing straight out on thin, stiff pedicels. Along with each pair there is a very fine, coiled tendril. The flowers are less than an inch across. Five sepals of the palest tint of green stand out like star points, with five paler narrower petsls between,and over all the pale thread-like filaments of the fringe that is called a corona. Above this delicate filigree stands a miniature of the remarkable structure of the three styles and four stamens. The thin, pale green leaves vary in size, the largest, at the bottom of the spray, three inches or more across, very shallowly lobed and and broader than long.

N.C. Wildflower Preservation Society, Inc.

Urban Growth vs. The Wilderness

This is the title of a feature article in the Greensboro Daily News of Sunday, July 14, 1968. The map in the article (enclosed)shows the proposed development plan for Umstead State Park.

The officers and board of directors of the N.C. Wildflower Preservation Society, Inc. at a meeting on Sunday, August 25 voted unanimously to ask persons in authority to resist the development of the Park along the lines indicated.

The development of Umstead State Park as a multiple use area as shown on the map would be the ruination of what is probably the finest natural area in the east-central section of North Carolina. It is urged that the facilities indicated be put on other land. The traffic generated by these facilities and the parking areas required would turn this beautiful natural area into an "asphalt and concrete jungle".

To those who say we cannot afford to have so much land remain as an "undeveloped area" let us take thought of the future millions of our state residents who under the pressure of urbanization and increased population will have no place to go to see any natural woods and fields except Umstead State Park.

The undersigned president of this organization has just returned from an extensive European trip. If the large cities of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland can afford parks and gardens of 25-150 acres and more in the city limits and New York City can afford Central Park--about one billion dollars worth of real estate--in the heart of the city, can we not afford to keep Umstead State Park as a Park for present and future generations?

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