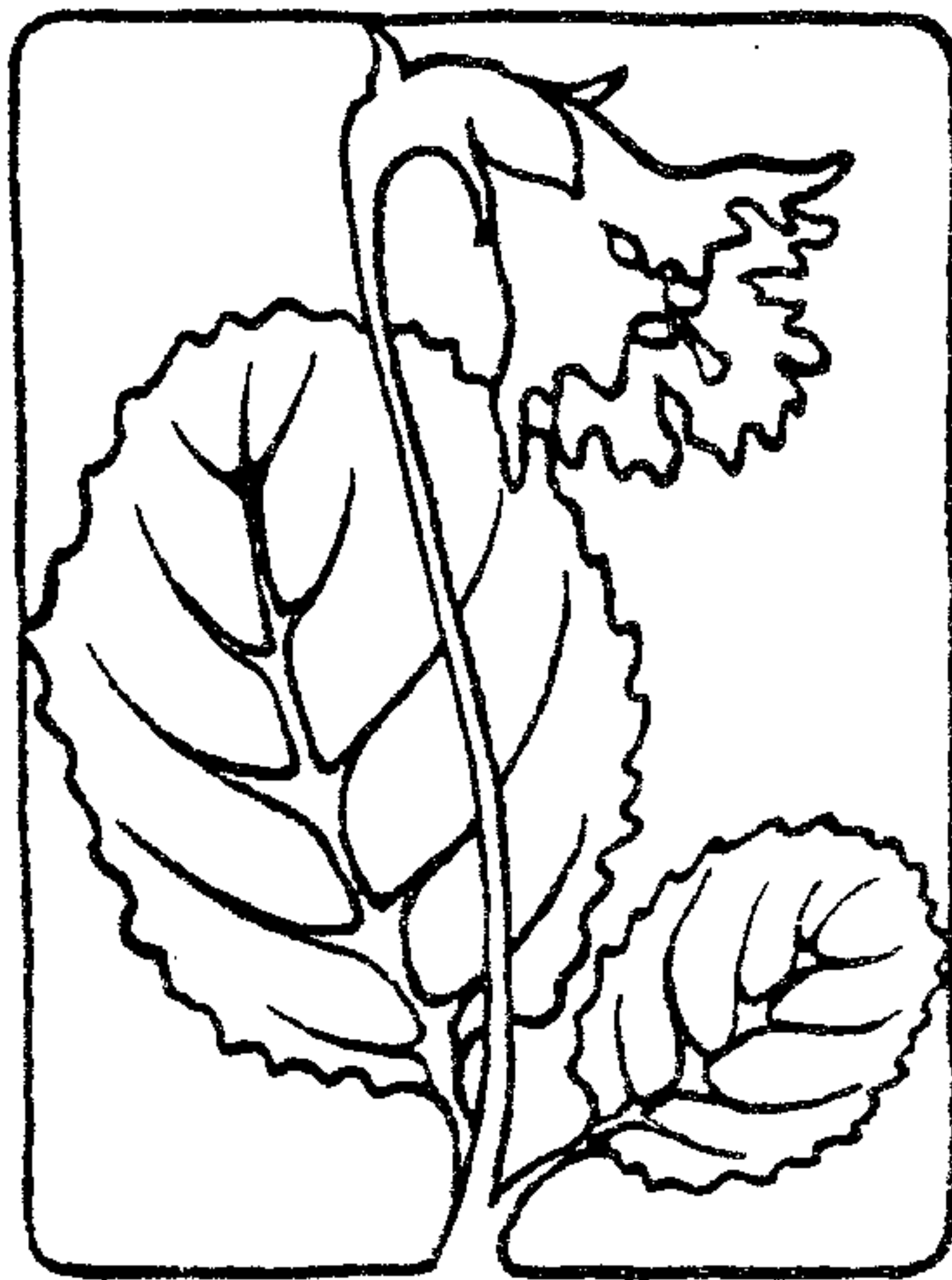


# SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

SUMMER 1983



HELEN TURNER, Editor

## DID YOU KNOW?

Dick Smith reports that at a meeting on February 16, 1983, the WCBC Board of Officers unanimously elected Harvey and Verna Krouse as Honorary Members, in recognition of their dedication and significant contributions to the Club.

Again this year some of our members (perhaps 8-10) acted as tour guides at the Shinn's private gardens on the weekend of the Spring Wildflower and Bird Pilgrimage. We all enjoy this garden and the Shinns appreciate our service as they are no longer able to cope with the crowds.

Elton Hansens coordinated the preparation of a narrated slide program on THE WILDFLOWERS OF HOLMES STATE FOREST which was presented by WCBC to James A. Hurt, Environmental Education Ranger at Holmes State Forest on May 2, 1983. This program was the work of several WCBC members: the writer and narrator, Millie Blaha; the photographers, John Kuhn, Tom Keith, Dick Smith, and Elton and Aline Hansens; the art work is by Aline Hansens and the photocopies by Ray R. Kriner. It was offered to the Forest Service on an indefinite loan basis for showing to groups of visitors to Holmes State Forest and for use in the educational program both inside and outside of the forest by the Holmes staff. In the presentation, Dick Smith, on behalf of WCBC, expressed appreciation for having this State Forest nearby and for the many courtesies extended to us by the staff.

The WCBC may have a low profile but there's no denying its existence! For example, when the owners of Snowbird Mountain Lodge set about finding guides to conduct their guests on Spring nature walks it turned out that, without realizing it, they chose members of our Club as three of the four leaders. Harry Logan inaugurated the program on April 30; followed by Miles Peelle for the week commencing May 7; and by Dick Smith for the week beginning May 14. During the fourth and final week the leader was Dr. Albert Southern of Furman University. Snowbird Lodge is located in the Nantahala National Forest just two miles from the Joyce Kilmer/Slick Rock Wilderness, and the four consecutive weeks of guided hikes coincide with the spectacular displays of Spring wildflowers for which the area is noted.

As we went to press, we heard of the death of a valued member, Blanche Leech. We extend our sympathy to Bruce.

### WELCOME -- NEW MEMBERS

Hendersonville unless otherwise stated

Badger, Fred & Gertrude, 217 Turtle Lane .....	692-5445
Craig, Elizabeth (Mrs. S.P.), 166 Surray Lane .....	891-8792
Heller, Louis & Toby, 19 Lake Drive E-4 .....	693-5058
Holmes, (Miss) Sidney and Bivins, (Mrs.) Caroline, 300 Rainey Knob Road, Sapphire.	966-4590
Janowski, A. R. & Sally, Route 2, Box 44D, Pisgah Forest 28768 .....	
Johnson, Arnold & Joy, 945 Greenwood Drive, Apt. 2 .....	692-9049
Kramer, Bob & Helen, P.O. Box 1626, Hendersonville 28793 ...	
LaBorde, Oscar (M.D.), P.O. Box 7471, Columbia, SC 29202 ...	
Laughrey, Robert & Marjorie, 145 Azalea Way .....	697-2659
Prentice, Donald, 155 Haywood Knolls Drive .....	

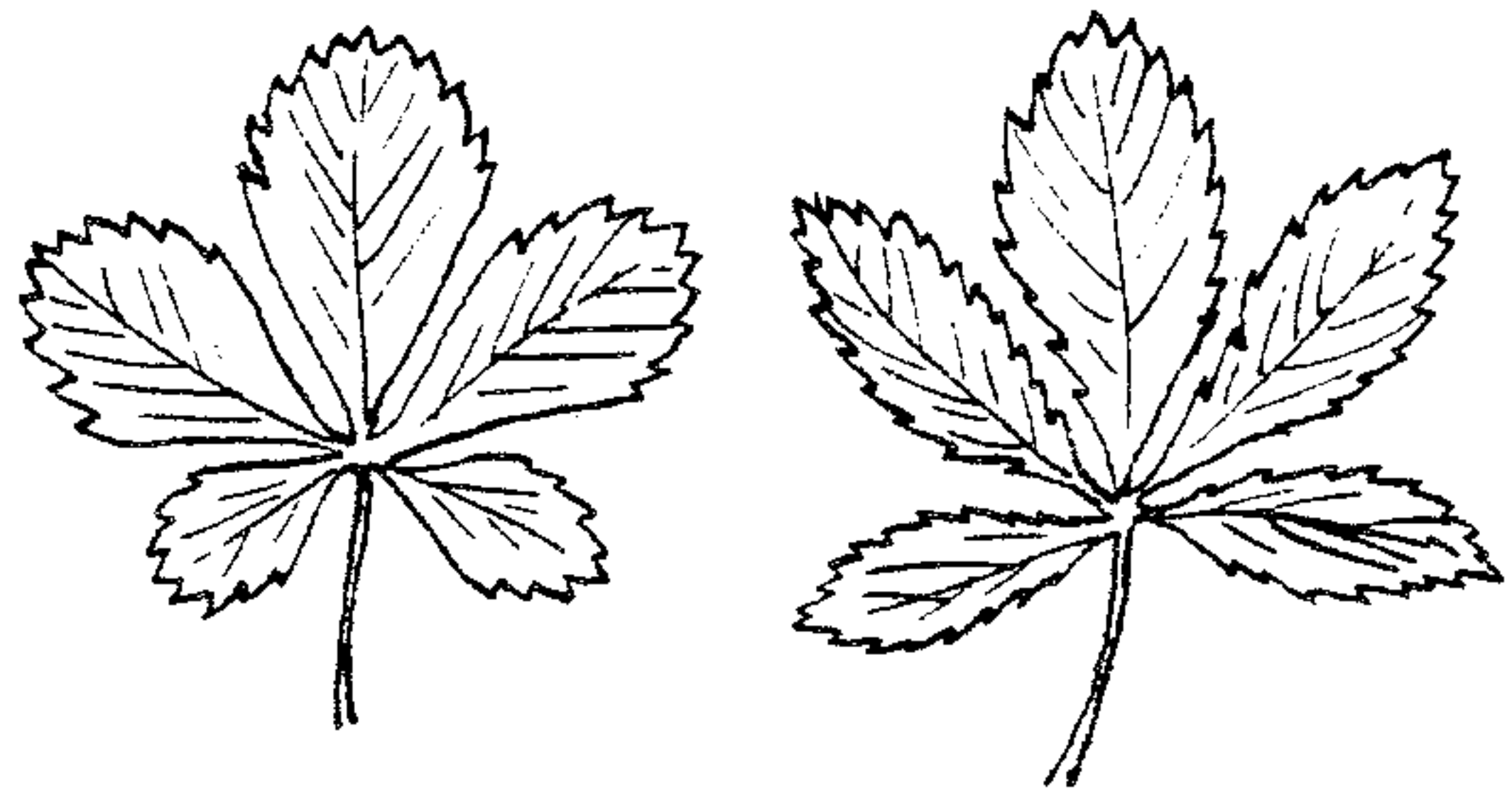


# LOOK AGAIN !

The Rose family is a difficult one for taxonomists, and includes several genera in which the "splitters" have established hundreds of (in their judgment, at least) species; the hawthorns and the brambles are notorious examples.

The genus Potentilla - the Cinquefoils - is another, but it is nevertheless a good choice for practicing wildflower identification in the Southern Appalachians, where there are only a handful of species, most of them clearly different from one another.

The only exceptions happen to be the two that are the most numerous and are encountered repeatedly in old fields, on dry banks, and along the edges of sunny woodland trails. These are often confused, and sometimes even mislabeled in field guides. They are Potentilla canadensis, or dwarf cinquefoil, and P. simplex, usually referred to as common cinquefoil. Both have long trailing stems and five-parted palmate leaves, with small yellow flowers arising from the axils. They can most easily be separated on the basis of their leaflets, which in P. canadensis are more broadly rounded than in P. simplex, where they taper gradually toward the apex. Most significant, however, is the fact that the teeth of P. canadensis are confined to the upper half of each leaflet and seldom number more than five on each side, while P. simplex has more and they extend along virtually the whole margin.



The name "cinquefoil" denotes five leaflets, but there is only one other distinct species in our area that follows this rule. It is Potentilla argentea, or "silvery" cinquefoil, so-called because the undersides of its narrow, revolute leaflets are covered with silky white hairs.



*P. tridentata*

Potentilla recta, or rough-fruited cinquefoil, an erect plant with large, handsome sulfur-yellow flowers, has leaves which usually are seven- or nine-parted. Going in the other direction we find P. norvegica and P. tridentata with only three leaflets. The latter is the white-flowered "wine-leaved" cinquefoil, a boreal species restricted in the southern United States to high balds and ridges.

*Dick Smith*

## ROAN MOUNTAIN

Our Club plans an annual trip to Roan Mountain where we see many beautiful flowers and shrubs. We usually start at Carvers Gap and some of our group get as far as Grassy Ridge, while others stop at Jane Bald. This is only a small segment of the Highlands of Roan. Some of us have been over the entire length of the Highlands and we can assure you it is a beautiful area from one end to the other. The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy is an organization dedicated to the preservation of this area. In a recent issue of their publication, THE HIGHLANDS BULLETIN, was an article entitled "A Summer on Roan" by Ron Vance who teaches biology at Cloudland High School in Roan Mt., TN. As caretaker in the summer of 1982 he patrolled the Appalachian Trail, kept an eye on SAHC property, worked on trail rehabilitation, talked with hikers and led nature walks. We think you will enjoy his comments:

"Throughout June and into mid-July, I counted close to six hundred Gray's lilies, an indication that they are doing well -- much better than in 1977 when the last count was taken. The most blooms counted on an individual plant was fourteen on Big Hump Mountain on June 22. The point of lowest elevation where Gray's lilies were found was Low Gap. Other plants of interest, location and count were:

- Purple fringed orchid - Hump Mountain, Carvers Gap (22)
- Orange hawkweed - Roan High Bluff (1)
- Ragged fringed orchid - Round Bald, Carvers Gap (6)
- Small green wood orchid - Round Bald, Roan High Knob (100+)
- Mountain avens - Low Gap, Grassy Ridge (21)

The black bear seem to be increasing in population. My dog and I encountered one on Eagle Cliffs, and plenty of fresh signs were observed on top of and below Grassy Ridge. Deer signs were often observed in Engine Gap, Low Gap, and most abundantly in Yellow Mountain Gap. I saw one red fox and signs of others. Bobcat tracks and signs were seen from Round Bald over to Jane Bald. Squirrel and rabbit signs were plentiful. However, no Snowshoe Hare was seen.

I was able to record numerous sightings and sounds of birds. Among the most unusual were the Barred Owl (one at Low Gap), Sharp-shinned Hawk (3 at Carvers Gap), and Saw Whet Owl (heard three times in June, twice by me and once by Jennifer Garland, state park naturalist).

I had many adventurous experiences, ranging from rescuing a lady and four small children from a downpour of rain to walking on top of a whiskey still. The summer of 1982 was about the most memorable of my life. I invite your inquiries regarding my summer or about other information that I might provide."

Anyone wishing to make a contribution to help preserve this area, please send it to Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, P.O. Box 3356, Kingsport, TN 37664.

Bruce Leech



## NORTHERN BIRDS IN SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Flowers such as yellow clintonia (Clintonia borealis) and wood sorrel (Oxalis montana) arouse excitement in a botanist wandering the Canadian life zones of the southern Appalachians. These plants are typically northern, but here in our mountains they extend their range far south of their normal habitats at lower elevations. The botanists may not be aware, however, that close by several species of northern birds may be nesting, they, too, finding the southern extension of the Canadian zone hospitable.

A rapid and prolonged succession of high, tinkling warbles and trills reveals the presence of the winter wren, a dark, diminutive bird more often heard than seen. A series of three or four rolling, descending notes is a message from a veery, a ground nesting thrush. Much less musical is the croak of a raven, frequently heard as the bird flies by or soars along a ridge.

Those familiar chickadees at our feeders are Carolina chickadees, whose range extends up into mid-Atlantic states. At high elevations we find the black-capped chickadee, far south of its usual range (north of mid-Ohio or Pennsylvania). Other small birds of the Canadian zone's spruce-fir forests are red-breasted nuthatch, golden-crowned kinglet, and brown creeper. Especially active and colorful are several species of warblers which frequent our high mountains as well as some wooded areas just below the Canadian zone. The bright orange breast of the Blackburnian warbler and the black necklace on a yellow breast of the Canada warbler compete for distinction with the "name-described" markings of the black-throated blue, black-throated green, and chestnut-sided warblers.

If you are alert in noting the spot along the trail where a junco flies up, you may find a ground nest concealed amid plants and decaying leaves. This northern species summers in the high elevations, migrating down the mountains to share your feeder fare in winter.

So -- stop, look, and listen, and you will find that the north reaches south not only with its plants, but also with its birds.

P.S. -- While on the Botanical Club field trip to the Smokies in early May we enjoyed hearing several of these "northern birds", especially the winter wren and black-throated blue warbler.

Tom Hallowell

NOTICE: Many WCBC members remember our first president, Lincoln Highton. Along with many other interesting projects, Linc kept a file of small plant specimens on index cards, most collected in the 1930's. After his death, the family gave these to Barbara Hallowell. She has stored them for years, but feels they should go to someone who will make more use of them. About 50 lichens are represented, 50 mosses and a small assortment of Lycopodiums and small flowers. If you are interested call Barbara at 692-4316.



## RAMBLINGS -- PEOPLE, PLANTS AND PLACES

Five indoor meetings and 15 hikes in the past three months have kept WCBC members happily "on-the-go." Seventy-five persons were present for the informative slide presentation of the Hallowell's trip down the COPPERMINE RIVER, NWT, CANADA. The Peaveys and Larry Kenyon told of their trips to SWITZERLAND, THE NETHERLANDS AND ENGLAND -- 53 persons present. Dick Smith took us across OUR COUNTRY AND THE MOUNTAINS OF CANADA with beautiful slides of wildflowers and a most informative commentary -- 66 persons present. Elton Hansens had us all fascinated with informative comments on his slides of INSECTS AFFECTING MAN. A slide show of GRECIAN RUINS presented again by Harry Logan gave the 23 persons present a good picture of the countryside.

The HARDY SOULS hike at the end of February went up Black Mt. again -- no snow this year but chilly! Notably, the lichens, mosses and fungi were prolific along the road. The RAVEN CLIFF FALLS hike was cancelled at the meeting place due to heavy rains during the night having made the trail dangerously muddy. Instead Dick Smith led 21 persons to PLEASANT RIDGE STATE PARK, SC, a lovely area on what turned out to be a sunny day. We noted Houstonia pusilla, prolific bitter cress, long-spurred violet among others. Rains again made the river impassable at Augerhole so Peggy Camenzind and Nan Morrow took 35 of us to LAKE JOCASSE instead -- whole fields of field pansy (Viola rafinesquii) on the way; Shortia covering a ravine and hillside, an absolutely beautiful display of large flowers and lush, bright leaves. Harry Logan led 11 persons to LAUREL RIVER GORGE where Service berry, at peak, were thick and beautiful. Many wildflowers in bloom and some in bud, all recorded by Millie Blaha as substitute historian. (Thanks again, Millie.) The COWPENS trip led by Ben Tullar had 12 persons wandering on side roads and in fields to identify 15 wildflowers.

The hike scheduled for MILLIE PEARSON'S was cancelled by rain. But the next Monday, a report that there were few flowers at Kanuga Conference sent us, after all, to Pearson's. Millie graciously accepted 25 of us on short notice -- for a profusion of violet species, bloodroot, hepatica and many other wildflowers and, of course, lunch by Millie's rushing, beautiful stream. Rain cancelled the trip to GREEN COVE but in the afternoon 3 WCBC members did go and were guided around the trails by Frank Bell. MAIDENHAIR FALLS, a new trip for many, was also cancelled by rain. Ivan Kuster took 48 of us into the GREEN RIVER COVE area where we hiked along Laurel Creek, a lovely forest area with hillsides of trillium, large patches of purple phacelia, showy orchis in profusion as well as dwarf Canada violets, wood anemone and walking fern on a big boulder. The green violets (Hybanthus concolor) were numerous. Another change: the Blue Ridge Parkway road was closed on the way to Paul's Gap area, Cataloochee Valley, so out came maps and finally a decision made to visit the DEEP CREEK CAMPGROUND area -- a lovely choice -- a forest loop trail along the creek and even a bench in the sun just long enough to accomodate all 11 of us. Birdfoot violet, rue anemone, brook lettuce, bluets in profusion, as well as 13 species of ferns. On the same day, the alternate hike on DAVIDSON RIVER was enjoyed by 20 persons led by the Tabers. Thirty-three persons hiked along a stream and through the woods near the NORTH SLOPE OF MT. PISGAH with lunch at a waterfall, and saw stonecrop, henbit, corn speedwell,



nodding mandarin as well as many others. Although Harvey Krouse now lives some 100 miles away, he returned to take 27 of us to CEDAR CLIFF MT. We looked especially to find the golden club, shooting stars, wild geranium, emarginata and birdfoot violets, vetch and ginseng. The SMOKY MT. weekend was great with 19 of us enjoying hikes on the Smoky Mt. Trails - NE Section with Bill Verduin as leader. This is an incredible forest area with its lively stream and unusual rock formations. We found sicklepod, snakeroot, ginseng, Fraserii sedge, marsh violet among other flowers. The camaraderie, the "happy hour" at picnic tables on the lawn at the motel, the orange and green trolleys we took into downtown Gatlinburg -- all made two days of real fun! BARNARDSVILLE is always an enjoyable trip -- this time 17 found dwarf spring larkspur in profusion, Indian paintbrush, golden seal leaves, white spotted mandarin, the American fly honeysuckle, red-berried elder and very large Trillium grandiflorum.

As you have gathered, the weather this Spring has been a bit uncooperative -- cold early mornings and heavy rains enough to cancel a number of trips. Then too, many wildflowers seem to be from 10 days to two weeks behind schedule so that we have not been seeing all the wildflowers we had hoped.

Louise Foresman, Hostorian

#### IMPORTANT BOTANICAL CLUB NOTICE

NEW! NEW! On Monday, August 15, the Botanical Club will try something really new for us--a Learn and Share session. Have you had some nature-oriented subject you wish you knew more about and have just never gotten around to investigating it? Maybe something like: Who introduced Japanese honeysuckle to the USA and why and where and when? or how do mud daubers make their strange nests and what's in them? or what educational programs does Holmes Park have for local school children? or what makes plants grow toward the light?

Procrastinate no longer! Here's your chance! Look for, dig for, ask about, find out the answer to your question and then share it with other members of the Botanical Club. We'll be interested, too! Maybe you already have some bit of information that really intrigues you and you'd like to share that with us. Fine!

We'll sit around comfortably in Nan Morrow's yard (or in the house if weather is bum) and chat informally about the various subjects introduced. Each person with something to tell will have 1-10 minutes, and if you have props or materials or references or pictures to show, great! Remember, we're not looking for polished presentations, just the fun of hearing what interests you and learning about it ourselves. You are welcome to come, of course, whether or not you present a topic.

We estimate a couple hours of learning and sharing in the morning, then lunch (you bring it, as usual). If interest burns brightly, we may carry over a wee bit into the afternoon.

IMPORTANT! Those who have a subject to tell about should call Barbara Hallowell (692-4316) to sign up. Please call before July 28 or after August 10.

S H O R T I A

Vol. V

No. 2

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A quarterly publication of the Western Carolina Botanical Club

Editor: Helen Turner

Carolina Village Box 126, Hendersonville, NC 28739

Production Committee: Dorothy Rathmann, John & Margaret Kuhn

Please submit contribution for next issue by August 15.

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A REMINDER if you have not yet paid your annual dues: Single membership is \$3.00 and Family membership is \$4.00 payable to Margaret Kuhn, Treasurer, 1912 Arlington Place, Hendersonville