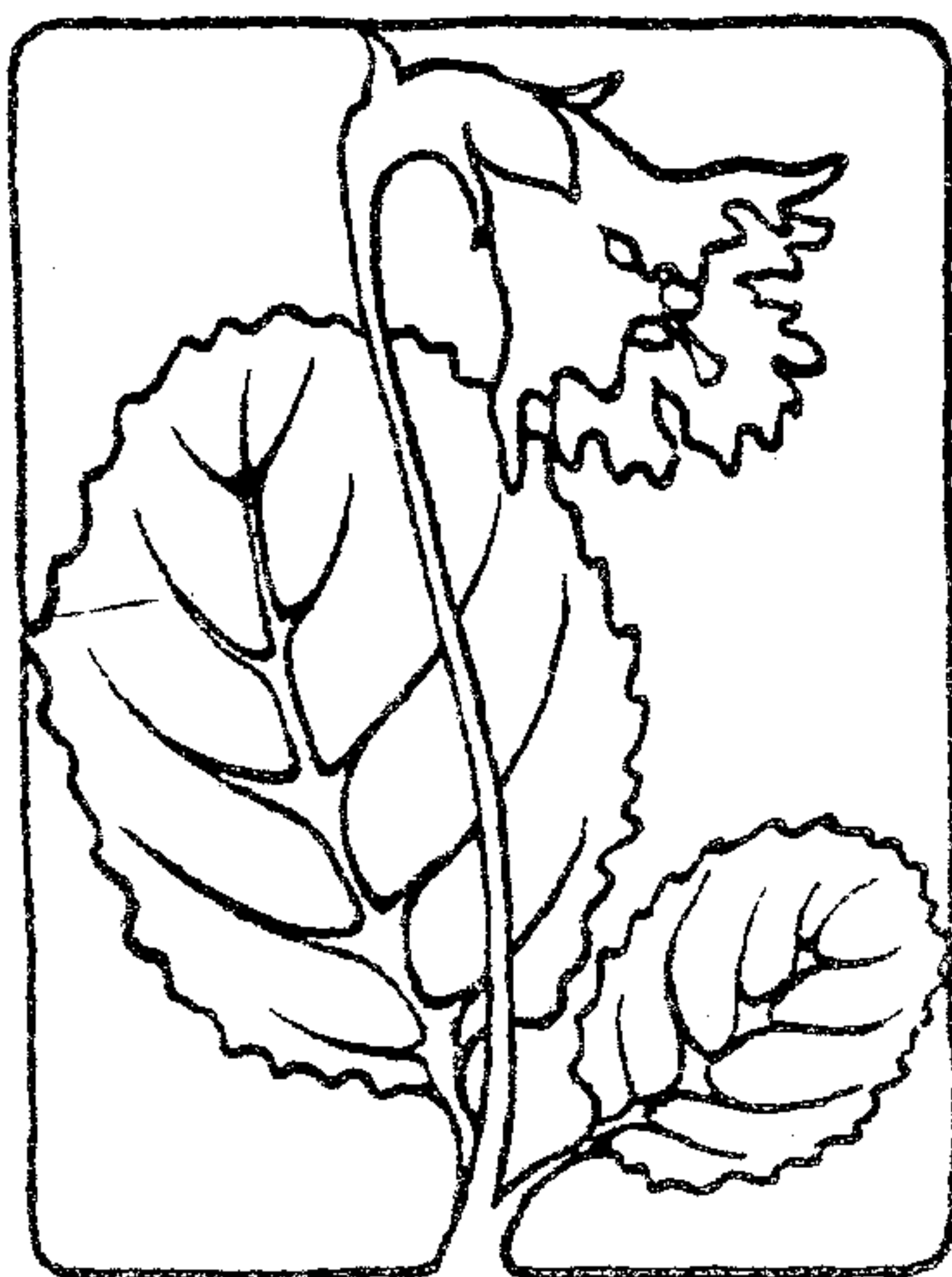


# SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

SUMMER 1984



HELEN TURNER, Editor



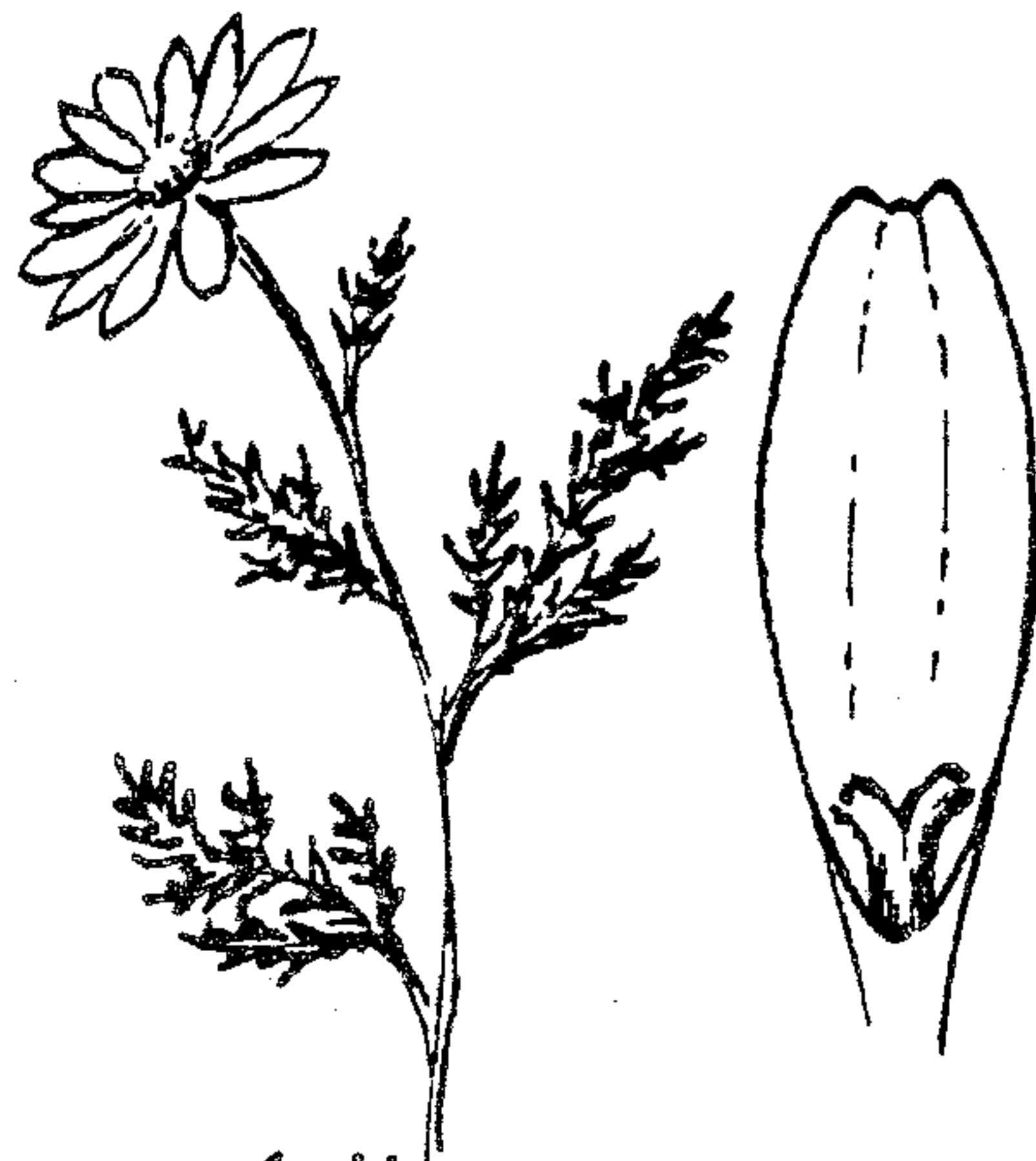


# LOOK AGAIN!

To most of us the word "daisy" means that lovely immigrant, the Ox-eye Daisy, which has made itself so much at home all over temperate North America.

It can, in fact, be very invasive, and while farmers may call it "Whiteweed" in their more charitable moments they are known to have applied some less flattering epithets to it. Generally, though, it has come to be looked upon as pretty much the quintessential flower; ask a child to draw a picture of a flower, and you are almost certain to get a daisy. Scientifically, it is Chrysanthemum leucanthemum, meaning "golden flower, white flower" -- a name that's hard to beat for a composite made up of yellow disc and white ray florets.

Although we have few showy species answering to that description, there are two other naturalized Europeans with which it might be confused. Both are in the genus Anthemis, bear slightly smaller flower-heads with dome-shaped centers, and have leaves that are finely dissected into threadlike segments (unlike those of Chrysanthemum leucanthemum, which are irregularly lobed or toothed).



*Anthemis arvensis*

A. cotula is known as Stinking Mayweed and, as might be expected, has a disagreeable odor. Its rays, which tend to droop, are sterile. The other species, A. arvensis, is called Field or Corn Chamomile and is odorless. It can also be readily distinguished from A. cotula by its fertile ray flowers. (The herb from which chamomile tea is made is A. nobilis).

The other white-and-yellow composites in our area may have a few short rays (e.g. Parthenium) or very numerous narrow ones (Erigeron), or they may, in the case of some Asters, look like scaled-down "daisies", but invariably they will have compound inflorescences rather than solitary flower-heads.

*Dick Smith*

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The twelfth annual Spring Wildflower and Bird Pilgrimage was held May 4 - 6, 1984 at UNCA in Asheville, NC. In past years as well as this one, our Club has been requested to furnish guides for the tour of the Thomas S. Shinn Gardens. This year, thirteen people volunteered to help with this project. Saturday, May 5, was a beautiful day and the flowers were good; however, attendance was small. Sunday was pretty much of a "washout" due to the hard rain. However, our guides were right there with rain gear and umbrellas and did what had to be done.

At the annual WCBC meeting, the membership authorized the Club to build a trail on Millie Pearson's property for the purpose of viewing her beautiful wildflowers. Millie suggested we approach the project with the concept of an "Indian Trail." Due to the terrain we had to go farther than the Indian Trail concept in a few places. However, all of the workers felt it was very adequate for viewing the flowers on Millie's property. The project is now completed. Seventeen people participated for a total of 120 man-hours of labor.

Our President and twenty-one members of WCBC will participate at the fiftieth anniversary meeting of the American Rock Garden Society in Asheville from June 7 through June 11. Dick Smith will lecture Thursday, June 7, at 8:00 PM in the Lipinsky Auditorium of UNC Asheville; his subject will be "Pioneer Botanists of North Carolina." Elizabeth Greiner is in charge of table decorations for the Deer Park Banquet at Biltmore Estates. Twenty members of our Club will serve as guides for the five all-day tours: one day for special gardens of the area -- Shinn, Ogden and Biltmore; two all-day trips along the Blue Ridge Parkway -- one East and one West; one day at the Cradle of Forestry and Cove Creek; and another at Charlie Moore's wild garden in Brevard plus a stroll along Davidson River. The guides, in alphabetical order are:

Millie Blaha	August Kehr	Lowell Orbison
Peggy Camenzind	John Kuhn	Millie Pearson
Sam Childs	Charles Larus	Miles Peelle
Jim Collins	Bruce Leech	Fred Rees
Marjorie Collins	Harry Logan	Martha Taber
Barbara Hallowell	Nan Morrow	Sarah Taylor
Elton Hansens	Linwood Murray	

A few members of the Club braved inclement weather on April 24 to weed beds in the University Botanical Gardens in Asheville. We are hoping for better luck for another work day scheduled for May 29 to help other volunteers prepare the Gardens for the American Rock Garden Society meeting mentioned above.



## QUESTIONNAIRE HELPS PLANNING

The last issue of SHORTIA contained a questionnaire asking which activities members would lead or assist on within the Club and seeking ideas and workers for activities in the community. A limited number of answers were received and they have been tabulated. The Program Committee used the data in planning the July - December program. Those planning social activities have a list of persons who will help with picnics and covered dish affairs. Best of all, the Community Service Committee has lists of those who will help us educate the larger community with exhibits, programs, etc. One idea envisions a unique enrichment partnership between high school students and WCBC members. The students we seek would have ability and excitement for learning experiences in biology. A committee of Larry Kenyon and Bill Verduin is exploring the idea with high school guidance counselors and biology teachers. A number of other ideas will also be examined and reported later.

Elton Hansens

## RARE PLANTS

On March 19th, Rob Sutter, North Carolina's Endangered Species Botanist, outlined to our Club the State's proposed "Species Watch" project and asked us to consider participating in it.

The plan is to organize a statewide network of volunteer botanists to monitor known rare plant populations and search for new ones, inventory rare species, and act as liaison with the public concerning threatened and endangered plant species. These are functions which the State considers necessary but often are neglected because of staff and budget limitations. Ordinarily, each volunteer's activities would be limited to a radius of 50 miles and to a maximum of five field days per year. Funding is being sought to enable the State to pay mileage allowances and a modest daily fee to volunteers engaged in specific projects.

Your officers feel that WCBC would be an ideal entity for coordinating these activities in our part of the State, and believe that our membership would provide an adequate source of volunteers.

Assuming enough interest is indicated to support our participation, we will be furnished in January with a set of projects for the year (to start in March with Shortia galacifolia), and these will be assigned to individual volunteers or small groups. Raleigh will provide us with data base information, and in turn our reports will furnish the State with updated information. Although this is a volunteer program, the State will be relying upon us to perform this important work and, accordingly, we will be expected to assume responsibility for seeing that it is accomplished.

The first step will be for us to establish a pool of potential volunteers. If you would like to be counted in, or want more details, please see either Dick Smith or Elton Hansens.



## RAMBLINGS -- PEOPLE, PLANTS AND PLACES

From mid-February (how long ago that seems!) through May 11, this Club has been very busy indeed. A highlight indoor program was NATURE TRAILS OF THE NORTHWEST -- after some eight weeks out there Elton and Aline Hansens came home with spectacular slides which 63 persons really enjoyed. Twenty seven persons trekked the familiar trail up BLACK MOUNTAIN in Pisgah Forest -- "hardy souls" was not applicable this year as it was a beautiful, sunny day with the temperature in the mid-60's. Two indoor programs brought people out: ROCK GARDENING IN AMERICA at which meeting 29 persons found the slides and commentary by Harry Logan interesting. In presenting WILDFLOWERS AND THEIR WAYS, Millie Blaha kept 63 persons interested in her smooth, well thought-out commentary as George manned the projector -- some of the slides were his, too.

The Carrick Creek trail along the creek at TABLEROCK STATE PARK, SC and the nearby PACOLET area offered lovely hikes and many early flowers blooming (PACOLET replaced the scheduled STATION COVE FALLS area where prior scouting revealed nothing in bloom) -- 32 persons enjoyed being out on this beautiful day. Two special, early week meetings took advantage of the expertise of Robert D. Sutter, Plant Industry Division, NC Department of Agriculture (the State's endangered plant species program). As an Endangered Species Botanist, he discussed rare plants and their conservation for 39 most interested persons. The following field day was cancelled because of heavy rain although Dick Smith and Ivan Kuster arrived to go with Rob Sutter and they encountered no rain in SC. Again, there was a generous supply of doughnuts and coffee for us as we watched slides and heard Dick's commentary before taking the trail to SYCAMORE FLATS -- 36 persons enjoyed it all. Some 31 persons hiked on a beautiful warm day at LAKE JOCASSEE -- members who know her well were happy to see Helen Turner out with the group again. On each of the hikes in March a few more flowers were in bloom -- a sure sign of Spring's arrival.

A new trail from the Fish Hatchery parking lot provided a good hike for 11 persons interested in LICHENS -- again Dr. Herb Sierk was leader and the day was warm and sunny; all liked the new trail. The NC BOTANICAL GARDENS and the DUKE UNIVERSITY GARDENS were the destination of 23 of us who met at the Duke Motor Lodge in Durham. The day at the NC Botanical Gardens proved very interesting especially to those of us who had not been there before. At 5 PM, when all were looking forward to "happy hour" the call came from an enthusiastic staffer to "just walk in the woods to see a bit of their forest property" -- in clothes and shoes not really appropriate, we hiked for some 2 1/2 hours arriving back at 7:30, famished. Needless to say, "happy hour" was forgotten as we hastily put food on the table, buffet-style, and at 8 PM ate our supper. The Sarah P. Duke University Gardens' Native and Wildlife plant area was interesting to us all as Ed Steffick took us on an extended tour explaining what he had done and what



he envisions doing. He left us at the more formal gardens to enjoy the truly beautiful blooming flowers and trees. All seemed to feel that the trip had been a successful, worthwhile one.

BOB'S CREEK POCKET WILDERNESS trip was cancelled because of heavy rains. The trip to PEARSON'S WOODS and Millie's home on a beautiful day was, for 43 persons, one of the highlights of the season. We hiked a new trail some members had been working on and saw many wildflowers in bloom. Millie Blaha took us along the JONES GAP TRAIL along the Middle Saluda River, SC -- a trail new to some of us; Catesby trillium and long-spurred violets (Viola rostrata) were blooming profusely. CHARLIE MOORE'S PRESERVE is always a spot for an enjoyable hike but in late morning the rains came down and by noon were so heavy only some of us ate under the shelter; the rest ate in their cars -- the terminus of this hike. GWYNN VALLEY was a new area to some of us; 11 persons enjoyed the lovely valley meadows and the sight of lambs only a few days old cavorting around near to their "mamas"; the forest trails were lovely with many flowers; and we ate our lunch at the edge of the lake.

It was much too wet for the work day in the UNIVERSITY BOTANICAL GARDENS, ASHEVILLE -- only 3 persons showed up. The trip to PEACHTREE ROCK AND STEVENS CREEK, SC, planned as an "overnight" was cancelled because of the forecast of heavy rains and weather too "iffy" for such a long drive. The DAVIDSON RIVER trip was cancelled: the five persons who met deciding not to go in the rain. BIG CREEK IN THE SMOKIES was also rained-out but the three persons who met wanted to go anyway so Bill Verduin led the way and they found no rain on the other side of the Mountains and masses of flowers. MOORE COVE FALLS turned out to be a lovely hike for 17 of us -- a sunny day, heavy flow of water over the falls and many flowers along the trail. Another rainy Monday cancelled the YELLOW GAP AND HUMP MOUNTAIN TRIP; Bruce Leech decided the drive was too long to make with such uncertain weather. One of the Club's favorite trips, COXCOMB MOUNTAIN near Barnardsville was enjoyed by 20 persons; the larkspur (delphinium), Indian paintbrush, showy orchis, trillium and umbrella leaf are still there, most in profusion.

Although five out of 18 hikes were cancelled because of heavy rains, we nevertheless have managed a rather breathtaking schedule in the past three months that has taken us to new and lovely areas -- happy hiking!

Louise Foresman, Historian

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In 1982 Lady Bird Johnson took a "giant step" for the preservation of wildflowers by helping establish the National Wildflower Research Center to "help people recognize the importance of native and self-sufficient wildflowers and to learn why, where and how to grow them on public and private land." During lunch at LAKE JOCASSEE a visitor, Mr. Bransford, told us about this project and distributed packets of seeds. For further information write to the National Wildflower Research Center, 2600 FM 973 North, Austin, TX 78725.

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Editor: Helen Turner

Carolina Village Box 126, Hendersonville, NC 28739

Production Committee: Dorothy Rathmann, John & Margaret Kuhn

Please submit contributions for next issue by August 15, 1984

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