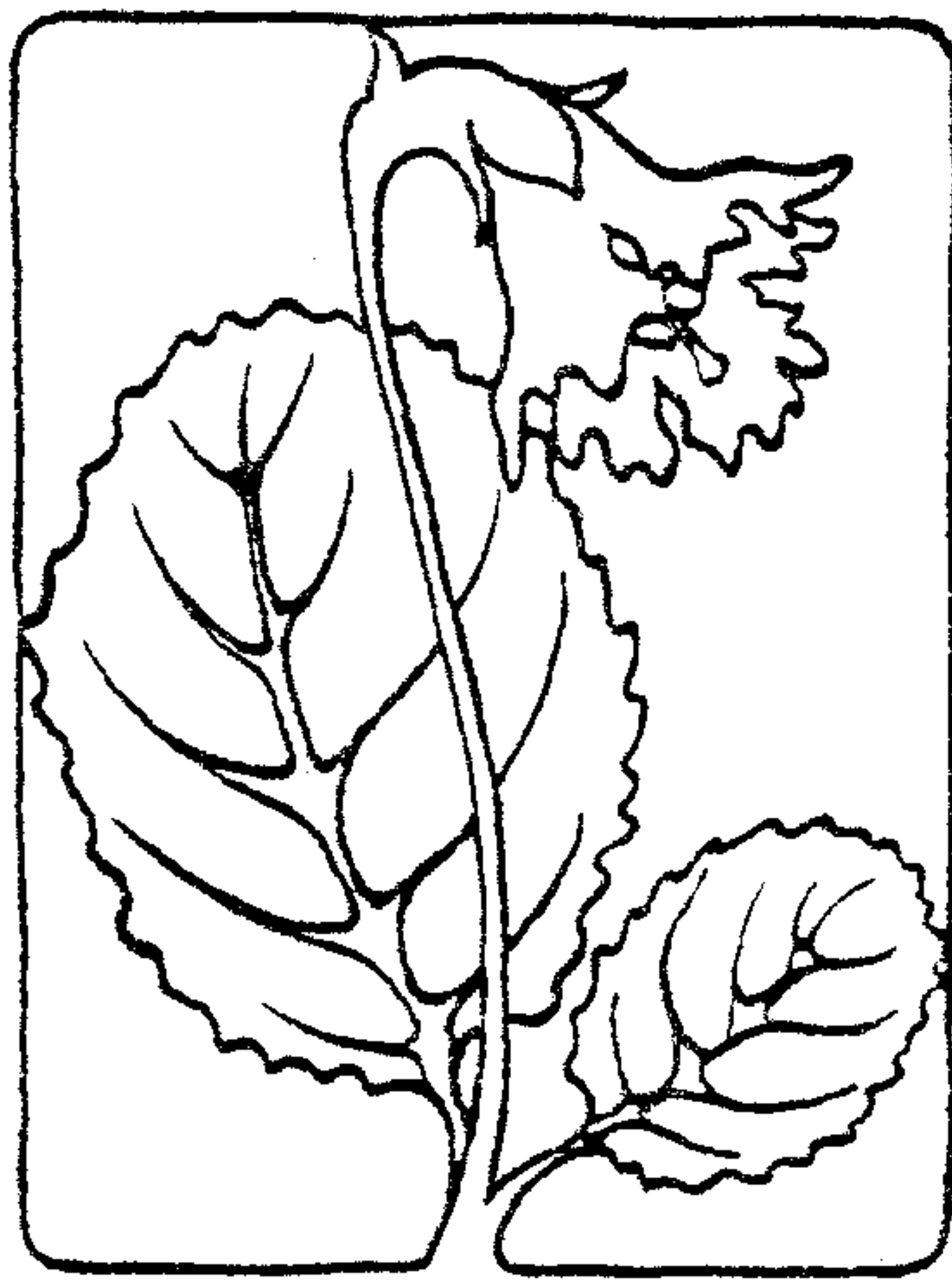


SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

AUTUMN 1984



HELEN TURNER, Editor

OFFICERS

President: Dick Smith Treasurer: Margaret Kuhn
Vice President: Elton Hansens Historian: Louise Foresman
Secretary: Margaret Canfield

DID YOU KNOW?

Four members of WCBC will be teaching classes at Blue Ridge Technical College during the fall term:

Landscaping for the Homeowner -- Harry Logan, instructor
10 classes on Thursdays, 1:30-4:30 PM, starting Sept. 27. Two sessions at Blue Ridge Tech and then trips to observe gardens.

Knowing the Insects -- Elton Hansens, instructor
"Knowing the Insects" involves recognition of some of the major groups of insects and discussion of modifications in structure and habits to fit the environment. Methods of rearing and collecting insects are included.

11 classes on Tuesdays, 1:00-4:00 PM, Sept. 25 - Dec. 5.
Main campus.

About Birds -- Tom Hallowell, instructor
"About Birds" covers characteristics, habits, adaptation, migration, and the relationship of birds to man, with emphasis on identification of birds in WNC, especially Hendersonville area.

8 classes on Tuesdays, 9:00 AM - noon, starting Sept. 25, and 2 field trips at times determined by class. Main campus.

Trees of Western North Carolina -- Barbara Hallowell, instructor

"Trees of WNC" includes identification of native trees and information about trees as individuals and as forests.

8 classes on Tuesdays, 9:00 AM - noon, starting Sept. 25, and 2 field trips at times determined by class.

Do it up right! Take a morning class with Tom or Barbara, have a leisurely lunch, then top it off with Elton's afternoon class.

WELCOME -- NEW MEMBERS

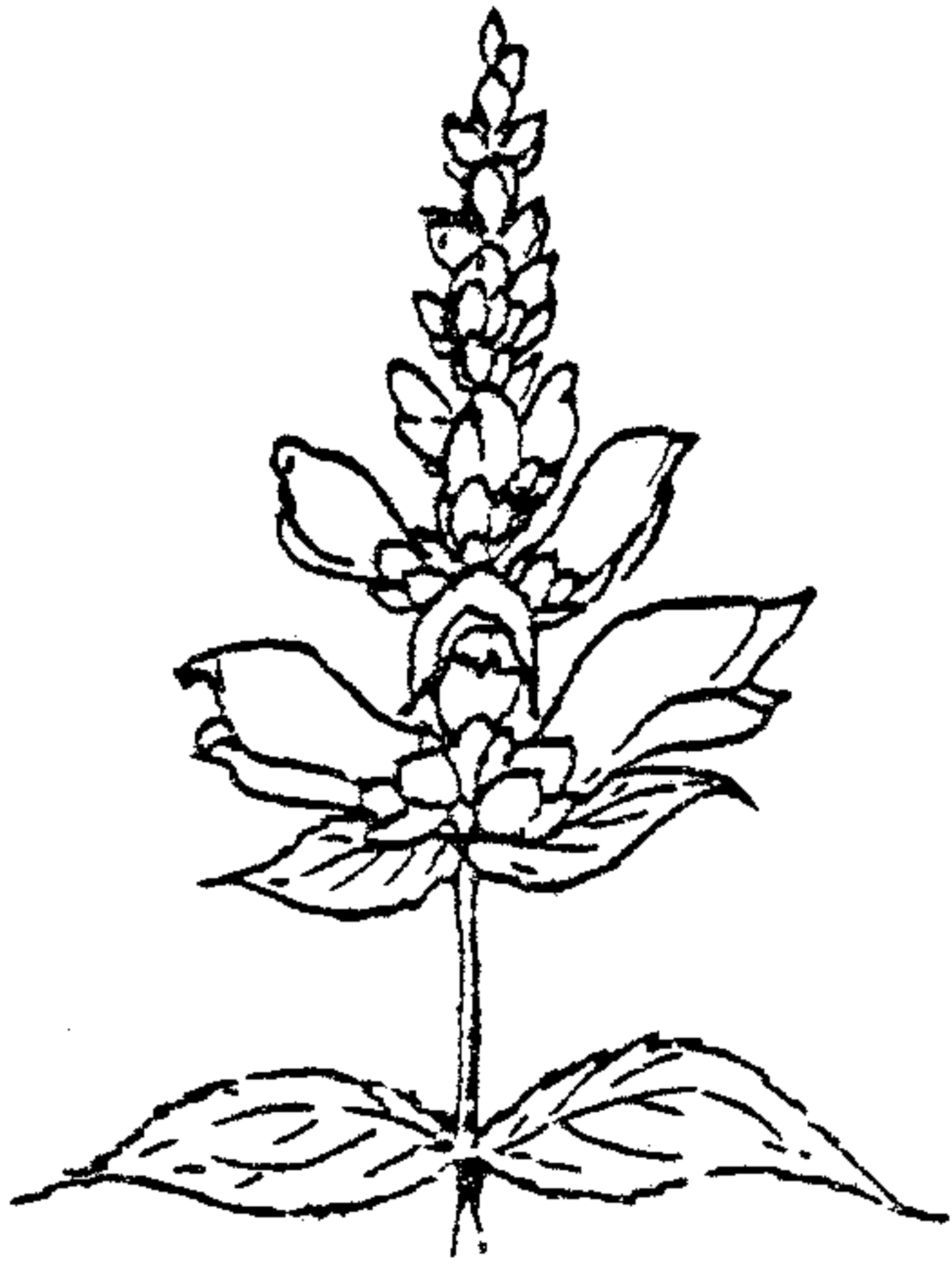
Barber, A. F. & Iva D., Box 115, Flat Rock 28731.....693-6217

And a change of address:

Roblin, Richard & Jane, Carolina Village Box 88
Hendersonville 28739.....697-9724

LOOK AGAIN !

In the northeast, where there is only a single species, Turtlehead is thought of as a white flower, but actually there are three others in the genus -- each pink or rose-purple in color and southern in distribution -- and all four occur naturally in our area.

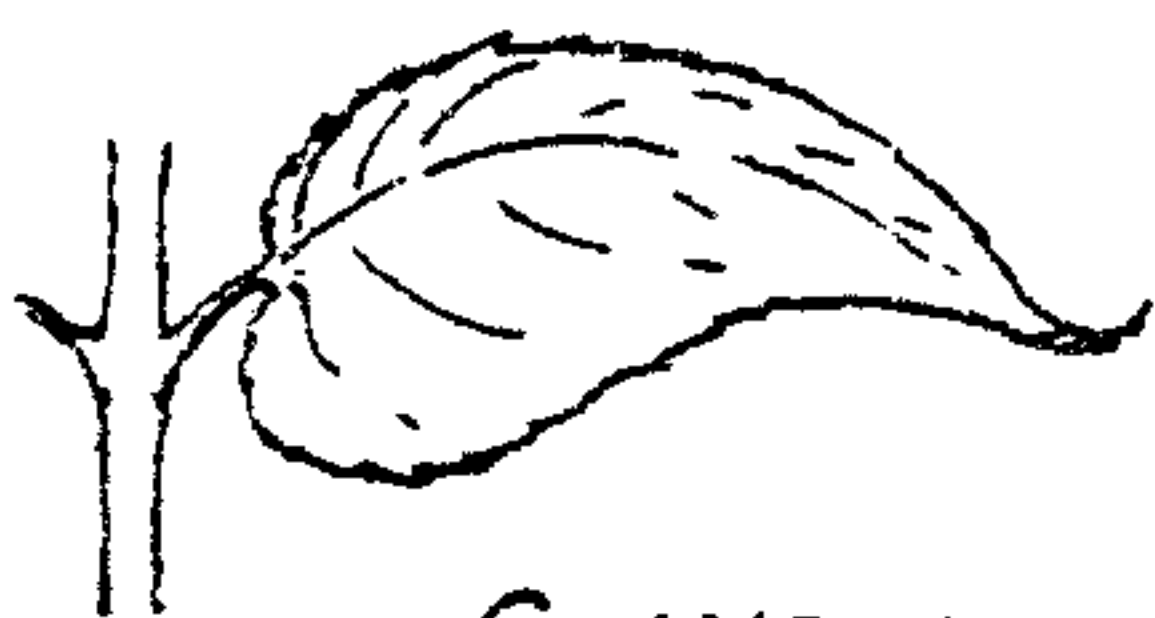


CHELONE CUTHBERTII

The one with the most restricted range is probably our most abundant. It is Chelone lyonii, and is limited to the western Carolinas and eastern Tennessee where it is often found in spruce-fir forests. Its leaves are its best distinguishing mark: ovate, rounded at the base, and tapering to a long point, with a slender petiole from $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $1\frac{1}{2}$ " long. The short sterile stamen, which in all Turtleheads arises from behind the four anther-bearing ones, is white, sometimes pink-tinged at the apex.

Less common is C. cuthbertii, a plant of wet meadows and bogs whose distribution is divided between a few mountainous sections of North Carolina and the coastal plain in Virginia. It is the only species with leaves that are both rounded at the base and sessile; other distinctive clues are the purple color of the sterile stamen and the arrangement of the flowers in four definite vertical ranks.

The third pink species, infrequent in our region, is C. obliqua. Here the leaves are broadly lanceolate, tapering to a short petiole, and the sterile filament is white.



C. LYONII



C. OBLIQUA



C. GLABRA

Then we come to C. glabra, which ranges over a wide area all the way from Newfoundland to Alabama, and is scattered across the two Carolinas. Typically its flowers are white, but they may be suffused with green, yellow or purple; the sterile stamen is green. Its leaves are virtually sessile, but the blades are more narrowly lanceolate than in C. obliqua. It is highly variable, and several of its forms are considered by some to be separate species, notably C. montana and C. chlorantha.

Dick Smith

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Verbal bouquets of appreciation are due the 21 members of WCBC who served June 7-11 as guides for the all-day tours scheduled by the American Rock Garden Society's 50th anniversary committee. Organized by Sam Childs, they comprised the majority of the guides used by ARGS that week. They contributed considerable time and effort to show and explain the botanical scene of WNC to nearly 300 "outsiders," and enthusiasm ran high as ARGS participants expressed delight with what they saw and learned. The guides in turn were pleased by the association with many excellent botanists. Rewards worked both ways!

From cove hardwoods to Canadian zone peaks, from natural gardens with native plants to formal ones with imports and exotics, from ferns to firs and Asarums to alpiners, WNC put on its best botanical display through a week of perfect weather.

A list of the WCBC guides was printed in the summer SHORTIA, but the names of John Peavey and Ivan Kuster were inadvertently omitted. Apologies! The Club expresses thanks to you, and Sam, and ALL the guides for fine service, and special thanks go to Dick Smith for his excellent evening program on the pioneer botanists of NC and to Elizabeth Greiner, who was in charge of decorations for the Deer Park banquet.

The week was memorable, informative, and fun. Wish you all could have been there!

F. H. Cabot, treasurer of the American Rock Garden Society wrote on June 29, 1984 to those involved with the 50th Anniversary meeting: "As a result in part of your help and involvement, the 50th Anniversary meeting of the American Rock Garden Society generated contributions as follows:

| | |
|--|----------|
| North Carolina Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill | \$3,000 |
| Bluff Mountain Preserve of NC Nature Conservancy | 4,100 |
| University Botanical Garden, Asheville | ± 5,000 |
| American Rock Garden Society | ± 5,000" |

Sam Childs expressed pleasure with this distribution, noting that at past annual meetings of ARGS the Society had kept half or more of the funds for their own treasury.

* * * * *

A BOTANICAL TIDBIT from Miles Peelle:

The oily sheen of buttercups is produced by a combination of oil filled outer cells plus an inner layer of white starch cells, which act as a mirror to increase the brightness of the petal. (From: Proctor "Color in Plant and Flowers" 1978).

LOST, FOUND, AND SAVED

Kate Furbish, born in Exeter, New Hampshire in 1834, developed a singular ambition -- to draw and paint all the native plants growing in the state of Maine. From her later home in Brunswick, Maine, she spent years traveling alone in the Maine wilderness collecting and painting plants. Over 4,000 sheets of her dried plants are in the Gray Herbarium at Harvard University.

In the summer of 1880 she journeyed through the remote valley of the St. John River in Aroostook County where she discovered an unknown member of the Scrophulariaceae (Figwort) family. A specimen sent to Harvard was determined to be a new plant and it was named for her - Pedicularis furbishiae, the furbish lousewort. Although Kate included a painting of it in her collection, after her death her paintings were scarcely noticed.

Interest in Kate's work was sparked when this lousewort was rediscovered in 1976. Professor Charles Richards of the University of Maine, searching for rare plants along the proposed impoundment area of the Dickey-Lincoln dam of the St. John River, saw to his amazement plants of the furbish lousewort. Further investigation showed that this rare plant could be destroyed if the dam was built since it only grows along the high water line of the river. Here was a case where under the law the furbish lousewort could block a \$700 million project.

The story broke in November 1976 with headlines blaring "Flower Power Stops Electric Power.: There were repercussions with pressure to write "Common Sense" into the Endangered Species list.

A group of concerned environmentalists became involved in the problem, including Dick Dyer, botanist for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; John Jensen, director of the Maine chapter of the Nature Conservancy; Professor Richards; and others. Subsequent searching by this group revealed that additional colonies of Pedicularis prevailed downstream from the proposed dam site, but only along the banks of the St. John River and nowhere else in the state. Although the decision to construct the dam had not at that time been determined, the Nature Conservancy gave consideration to acquiring some of the downstream habitat land to assure preservation of this rare plant.

To learn of the current status of the project, I recently had a phone conversation with John Jensen of the Conservancy. He happily stated that plans for the dam construction have been indefinitely delayed. The Conservancy found that it would be most difficult to acquire suitable habitat land due to native ownership resistance.

The furbish lousewort is thriving and under Endangered Species protection.

(Most of the material in this article was condensed from one by Mel Allen, published in the November 1980 issue of Yankee.)

Harvey Krouse

RAMBLINGS -- PEOPLE, PLANTS AND PLACES

Since I last wrote, the summer "snuck-up" on us, and now it's almost over. Return for a moment to May when Ivan Kuster led a hike up PILOT MOUNTAIN for special view of the profusion of pink-shell azalea (Rhododendron vaseyi). The SHUT-IN TRAIL off the Blue Ridge Parkway West is a favorite, pleasant forest trail on which 20 persons enjoyed seeing many wildflowers. Thirteen of us hiked up the beautiful fairly rugged trail to spend the night at MT. LECONTE LODGE -- a cloudy, then rainy, day clearing briefly in the evening. Again, fog and rain on the return hike in the morning, but by noon clearing to a sunny afternoon. The alternate hike on the same Friday was to LAKE POWHATAN on which trail 12 persons enjoyed seeing nearly 50 wildflowers blooming. The HORSE COVE trail from the Fish Hatchery displayed a variety of spring wildflowers, especially the pink lady's slipper -- we found some adder's tongue well hidden off the trail. Without leader Dick Smith (detained by car trouble) we, 9 of us, couldn't find the trailhead for BIG BUTT TRAIL so we went on to CRABTREE MEADOWS TRAIL & FALLS -- an interesting, lovely forest trail, very steep in part, but we made it, and saw many wildflowers along the way.

DUPONT FALLS, the hike which always brings out a large group (40 this year) was enjoyed on a lovely sunny day -- the large Falls heavy with water and the wildflowers all as beautiful as ever. The BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY EAST provides an easy walk on a section of the parkway where many flowers bloom and 13 of us found them as lovely as ever. CHARLEY BALD, an interesting hike, new to some, but listed as strenuous and long thus attracted only 5 people -- nevertheless, it was a worthwhile trip for those there. The cloudy, rainy-looking day discouraged many of those who usually hike one of our favorite trails, the EAST FORK OF THE PIGEON RIVER -- 5 persons were present. PLEASANT RIDGE & BALD ROCK, SC, another well-liked area, turned out to be a prolific wildflower area which all enjoyed. Thirteen were present on the CRAGGY GARDENS hike -- an unexpectedly cold and very windy day at the mountain top, though warming up a bit later in the day. Catawba Rhododendron not at their peak.

A rainy day again, so the COVERED DISH at HOLMES STATE FOREST was cancelled only to be re-instated by the generous hospitality of the Hansens -- 44 of us descended upon Elton and Arline -- somehow every nook and cranny provided pleasant eating space for us all. Later, Elton and Millie Blaha presented a new slide show of summer wildflowers to be given to Holmes State Forest as was the one on spring flowers -- again, a beautiful choice of slides and Millie's smooth, interesting and informative commentary.

Some had not been to the HIGHLANDS BOTANICAL GARDEN & SUNSET ROCK and found it all most interesting -- 9 present. Everything in the Garden was labeled, which provided a good review and a chance to compare plants in close proximity. We were all delighted with the

many water lilies and the beautiful varied species of pitcher plants at the edge of the lake. BUCK SPRINGS GAP TRAIL hike was cancelled because of heavy rain.

BEARWALLOW MOUNTAIN as prolific as ever in blooming wildflowers -- the spotted knotweed, night-flowering catchfly, leadplant, Scotch lovage and horse nettle among the nearly 70 wildflowers seen -- 13 present. Twelve of us hiked the beautiful trail through a lush-looking forest along COVE CREEK - CANEY BOTTOM, a new area to some where there were many wildflowers blooming. Elton Hansens took 11 of us on the morning INSECT WALK at Holmes State Forest -- a most enjoyable and informative hike. One of our favorite hikes takes us up ROAN MOUNTAIN from Carver's Gap -- a grey, unpredictable day, but 11 of us went anyway. All was well 'til after a morning hike, lunch, and another hour up a few more ridges, we began to return down the mountain in an absolute cloudburst deluge -- in moments, the narrow rocky trail became a flash-flood torrent -- we bedraggled humans plodded and "squished" along in utter silence, but mid-way down it stopped, the sun appeared and by the time we reached the cars, we were dry once more. As always, well worth the trip -- the mountain sandwort, sand myrtle, wild chervil, tassel rue, cinquefoil (tridentata) were prolific -- the Gray's lilies not as profuse as in other years. MOUNT PISGAH for 14 of us proved to be a lovely hike with many flowers blooming along the way -- smooth false foxglove, fly poison, columbine and bush-honeysuckle among many others. Fifteen hiked up WHITESIDE MOUNTAIN on a beautiful sunny day -- the views spectacular, the wildflowers lovely, among them pale corydalis, sand myrtle, and pink-shell azalea. The FERN WALK so many had been looking forward to was, of necessity, cancelled due to heavy rains -- Barbara Hallowell was disappointed, too.

FLAT CREEK - GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS, the trail off Heintooga Spur from the Blue Ridge Parkway, is a beautiful area new to many of us and prolific in wildflowers. A cloudy, foggy day which became sunny and warm as we hiked the lovely forest trail -- we saw fen orchid (Liparis loeseli) which was new to most of us and rough cinquefoil which we don't often see. A return trip to the SHUT-IN TRAIL and its nearly 70 blooming flowers -- in the first section, the bunchflower which few of us had seen before, forked chickweed, hairy angelica, agrimony and starry campion among many others. The second section of the trail where turk's cap lilies, yellow oxeye sunflowers, pink joe-pye weed and white black cohosh blend in spectacular profusion -- breathtaking! A most enjoyable trip with 26 present.

If you have kept up even partially, the 24 hikes (2 of which were cancelled) in the seemingly short, past nearly 3 months, have kept one very busy indeed, happily so, and the schedule goes on....

Louise Foresman, Historian

S H O R T I A

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Please submit contributions for next issue by November 15, 1984
