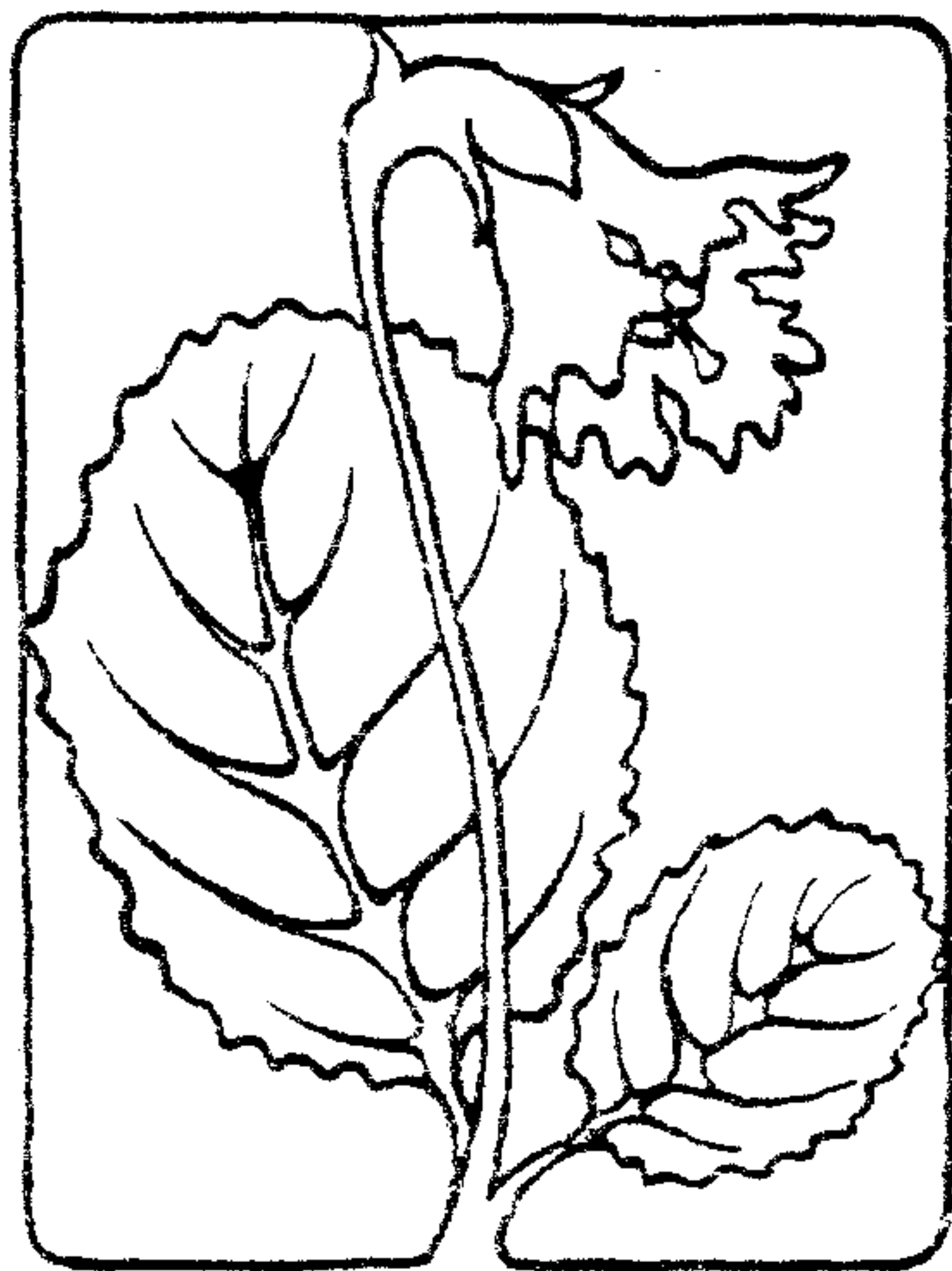


SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

SUMMER 1985



OFFICERS

President: Elton J. Hansens Treasurer: Margaret Kuhn
Vice President: Millie Blaha Historian: Louise Foresman
Secretary: Margaret Canfield

COMMITTEES

Program: Meets mid-April for July-December schedule and mid-October for January-June schedule.

Elton J. Hansens, Chr.	John Kuhn	Lowell Orbison
Millie Blaha	Ivan Kuster	Dick Smith
Sam Childs	Bruce Leech	Ben Tullar
Louise Foresman	Harry Logan	Anne Ulinski
Barbara Hallowell	Nan Morrow	

Community Relations

Larry Kenyon, Chr.	Charlotte Carman	Bruce Leech
Millie Blaha	Charles Gadd	Bill Verduin

Honors

Bessie Sinish, Chr.	Grace Rice	Robert Winter
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Nominating

Martha Taber, Chr.	Gladys Mulvey	Jeanne Smith
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Annual Meeting Arrangements

Aline Hansens, Chr.	Millie Blaha	Members to be named later
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HAVE YOUR 1985 DUES BEEN PAID?

At the annual meeting in 1984, dues were set at \$8.00 per year (including spouse). The same dues were voted for 1985. Honorary members -- Harvey Krause and Helen Turner -- pay no dues. Dues cover cost of schedules, membership lists, **SHORTIA**, club projects, postage (a large cost), modest gifts to the Asheville Botanical Gardens and to other groups espousing our interests, and a variety of miscellaneous expenses.

Treasurer Margaret Kuhn, 1912 Arlington Place, Hendersonville, NC 28739 (phone: 692-0720) will be happy to answer questions and/or receive your payment.

In Memorium: It is with sorrow that we tell of the death of Richard Roblin -- a long-time member of the Club. We give our deep sympathy to Jane.

LOOK AGAIN!

The average garden contains so many exotic species and artificial hybrids that it is easy to forget that some native North American wildflowers were long ago brought into cultivation unchanged. A few that come to mind are the hardy and beautiful New England Aster, the Blazing Stars (Liatris spp.), and the so-called Moss Pink or Thrift (Phlox subulata).

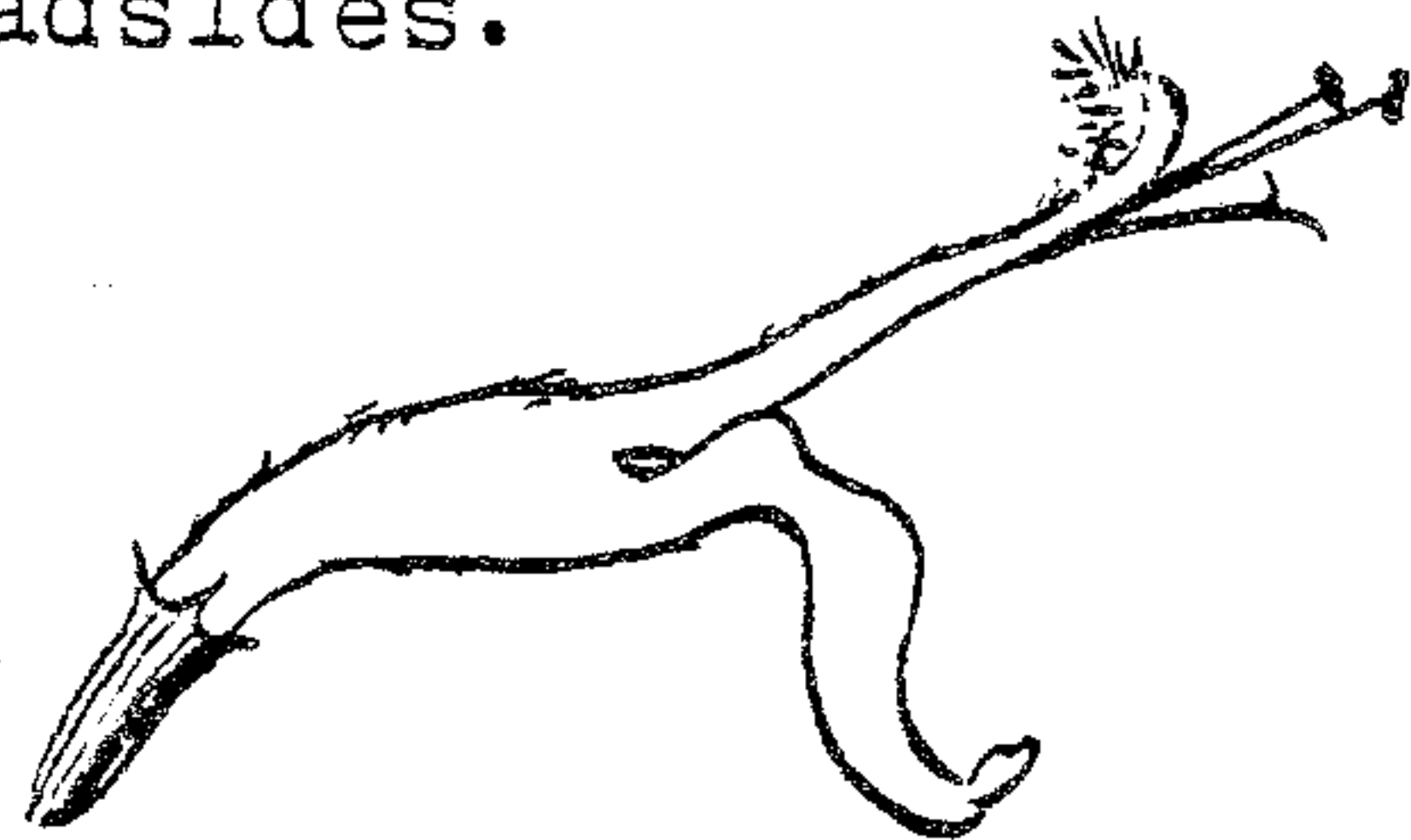
Another familiar example is Bee-balm, or Oswego Tea (Monarda didyma). This showy member of the Mint Family was used by Indian tribes in the northeast as a flavoring agent, and during the colonial period the residents of Oswego, New York, made a beverage from its leaves in protest against the tax levied by the English on imported Oriental teas. This particular species is the one with bright crimson flowers, and in the wild it favors wet situations.



MONARDA DIDYMA

There are several other Monardas in our area, and all of them have a dense terminal head of long, tubular, two-lipped flowers subtended by leafy bracts which tend to be suffused with color corresponding to that of the corolla. All bloom in the summer and early fall.

The most abundant is Wild Bergamot (M. fistulosa), with pink or lavender flowers each having a distinctive tuft of hairs near the outer end of the upper lip. This very fragrant species is more likely to be found in dry open woods or fields or along roadsides.



M. FISTULOSA

Basil Balm (M. clinopodia) is widely distributed in the southern mountains. It has white or pinkish flowers which are spotted with purple and lack the tuft of hairs.

Occasionally one will find what appears to be a color variant of Oswego Tea, with flowers of rich purple instead of red. This is thought to be a natural hybrid of M. didyma and M. fistulosa, and has been named M. media.

Dick Smith

GREETINGS FROM THE BOTANICAL GARDENS AT ASHEVILLE

Our annual "DAYS IN THE GARDENS" have just concluded, with the greatest success in their 25-year history. Plant sales, our biggest money-making event, were high mainly because Manager Jim Crownover worked for weeks digging surplus specimens from the Gardens and because Dr. Warren Cole and wife Clara spent many back-breaking hours gathering beautiful and rare wildflowers from the mountains as far east as Old Fort. A few others contributed plants also, but we feel that this type of effort cannot be duplicated. Consequently, it is probable that we will concentrate on a continual offering of plants for sale in the Botany Center, with the supply coming principally from the Gardens. We always welcome gifts of good quality plants to sell, and we particularly thank Holbrook Farms for their great contribution of 90 beautiful wildflowers, including such desirables as Shooting Star.

Food was served this year in the Botany Center for the first time, and for the first time it was a sell-out. This year also marked the greatest interest in tours, and our tour guides were kept busy. Tours create new and continued interest in the Gardens and ensure future increase in participation.

Two tour leaders, Lowell Orbison and Linwood Murray, take a private tour every Tuesday, compiling a list of wildflowers in bloom. This list is posted on the bulletin board weekly, and reveals that over 70 flowers are blooming now. Although we think of Spring as prime blossom time, the number holds quite steady. Last Fall there were still about 80 on the list. One beautiful display which doesn't make the list is *Hamamelis virginiana* ...Witch-Hazel... which is either last of the year or first of the next. Be sure to see them next November, December, or January. The nearest one is at the northeast corner of the Blind Garden.

While many residential plantings were lost during last winter's record deep-freeze, we are happy to report that not one locally-native plant or tree was lost in the Gardens. A Japanese-native anise tree is dead, as well as a maritime fetter-bush, probably *Lyonia mariana* (Stagger-bush). So WNC natives prove again that they are pretty tough.

As frequent participants in Elderhostel programs, my wife Mary and I would like to point out the excellent opportunities offered to botany enthusiasts. This summer we will spend a week at the New York Botanical Gardens, taking courses conducted by their personnel and by Fordham University, where we will be housed and fed. As an extra, I hope to study their computerization of botanical garden records, to supplement a computer course which Lowell and I have been struggling with this past semester at UNC-A. Mary and I will spend another week on a Georgia sea island, with courses on maritime flora and fauna conducted at the University of Georgia Marine Laboratory. Many other schools, from Australia to Europe, have one-week courses in botany. Some of the best are at Mars Hill and UNC-Chapel Hill. All include field and classroom study.

Once more I'll have to postpone relating my joys and sorrows of growing wildflowers from seed, but here's a new book on the subject: "Growing and Propagating Wildflowers", by Harry R. Phillips. Harry is a friend of the Gardens, and has been most cooperative in supplying us with needed specimens, and other aids. His ten years at NCBG make him an expert, and the book is edited by Ritchie Bell. It is available in paperback and cloth cover from UNC Press, P.O.Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. With tax and shipping, the paperback comes to \$16.87.


Hal Schaille

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

Holmes State Forest: On March 5, 1985 a committee consisting of:

Millie Blaha, Chr.	Louise Foresman	John Kuhn
Cindy Carpenter	Aline & Elton Hansens	Anne Ulinski

embarked on a year-long community service project for Holmes State Forest, one of NC's small forests, located in Henderson County. The purpose of this project is to record weekly the scientific and common names of the species of herbaceous plants, trees, and shrubs which may be seen blooming along the Talking Trees Trail, along a part of the brook, and in a small portion of the meadow.

Members of the committee spend 3-4 hours one day each week at Holmes State Forest on this project. The chairman spends many more hours at home in preparation for each week's work and in making out reports. Not only do the members of this committee find that performing this service is rewarding but, also, this project is an exciting learning experience. Added dividends are the words of praise and appreciation from the three-member staff at Holmes State Forest.

In a different project at Holmes State Forest, WCBC members assisted in preparing trails for the spring influx of visitors by removing brush, trimming brambles and greenbriers and installing directional signs. On four dates in March a total of 9 different people worked a total of 41 hours. Carolina Mountain Club, including some members of WCBC, gave far more time than we did and accomplished the heavy work. Our two clubs thus made an important contribution to the Holmes State Forest Program. Involved from WCBC were:

Millie Blaha	Elton & Aline Hansens	Chuck Snow
Louise Foresman	John Kuhn	Anne Ulinski
Barbara Hallowell	George Oldham	

More trail work: Bruce Leech, John & Margaret Kuhn went on March 28 to Millie Pearson's woods and walked over her trail to determine what needed to be done. They cleaned some fallen trees and decided that some of the stone steps should be replaced. On April 1, Chuck Snow and Bruce Leech did that necessary work.

Shinn Gardens: Again this year, WCBC furnished the guides for tours of the Shinn Gardens. On Saturday, May 4, the guides were coordinated by Bruce Leech and included Gordon & Pat Tooley, Nan Morrow, Peggy Camenzind and Martha Taber. Guides the next day were John Kuhn, coordinator, Dick Smith, Ben Tullar, Harry Logan, Elton Hansens, Bessie Sinish and Louise Foresman.

Again this year, three WCBC members were the naturalists at Snowbird Lodge: Elton Hansens, Dick Smith and Miles Peelle.

RAMBLINGS--PEOPLE, PLANTS AND PLACES

Still a number of indoor meetings before we begin our "Spring Trek" in the outdoors. "THE WILD BUNCH" was a most interesting presentation by Dick Smith of garden flowers and house plants compared to their wild relatives. I'm sure the intriguing title brought folks in, as they say-- 59 of us in all enjoyed the program. WINTER EVERGREENS was a hike with Millie Blaha which opened our eyes to the many (51 species) plants remaining green during the winter; 38 of us found this most interesting and informative. The 27 HARDY SOULS on the March 1st hike said they felt less so because it was a lovely day--nothing blooming yet, but many plants emerging were identified. MOVIES ON BOTANICAL SUBJECTS were beautiful films acquainting us all (29) with the life of the 16th century naturalist Mark Catesby. The second film was entitled "Secrets of the Plant World". "WHAT IS IT?", a new departure from the usual slide program--slides viewed were brought in by members for help in identification. "JOURNEY IN DOOR PENINSULA" gave 52 of us a chance "to travel" some 1,000 botanical miles on the small peninsula in Wisconsin during all four seasons.

LAKE JOCASSEE, our first spring hike of the season, is always a favorite. Trillium discolor, bird's foot violets and field pansies were lovely, but shortia was only sparsely in bloom; 25 of us enjoyed lunch at the edge of the lake. BOB'S CREEK POCKET WILDERNESS--a lovely, sunny day but the driving distance and the possibly strenuous hike seemed to limit the size of the group. Nevertheless, 9 persons found it to be a beautiful area in which 24 wildflowers were seen. PEARSON'S WOODS always draws a crowd (45) since Millie Pearson's hospitality is super, and the wildflowers are so abundant and beautiful. LAKE ISSAQUEENA, near Clemson University, drew 16 of us on a warm, sunny day; 65 species of wildflowers made the hike an informative one. On our way home, some of us stopped at BOGGS ROCK. We were rewarded with spectacular sedum smallii growing on the rocks (red stems and leaves with tiny white blooms), false garlic (Nothoscordum bivalve) and sandwort (Arenaria groenlandica), the latter two, many of us had not seen before. Spatter-dock (yellow pond lily) and Arrow Arum (Peltandra virginica) nearly covered a pond nearby.

THE SNOWBIRD MOUNTAIN LODGE overnight drew 47 persons to make the trek to Robbinsville, N. C. and up the mountain beyond. On arrival, after settling in our rooms, a hike in the Joyce Kilmer Forest was beautiful--the blue phlox and Canada violets blooming together making a spectacular showing. On return to the lodge, some of us took a short hike from the lodge out to the Point, where the view was beautiful, encompassing most of the surrounding mountains. Anyone for a bountiful steak dinner? We had it amidst much comment about the overly generous portions, and yet most seemed to eat every bite. Afterwards, a fun botanical game which Dorothy Lucas won in the allotted time. Then Elton Hansens presented slides taken last year of the wildflowers on the trails surrounding the Lodge, and we all attempted to identify them.

At 9:30 in the morning, after a hearty breakfast, three groups started out--16 persons on the Haze Ridge Trail with Ivan Kuster; 13 on the Stratton Bald Trail with Millie Blaha, and 8 on the stop-and-go ride and walk with Elton. All back for lunch at the Lodge and then for the drive home--concensus: a most enjoyable two days, requested to be scheduled again next year. LAUREL CREEK GORGE is a lovely trail along the creek. However, with many other commitments and the prediction of uncertain weather, only 5 persons went on the trip. They enjoyed a good

hike on a lovely, sunny, though cool day; many wildflowers were blooming.

We were all so glad that Bill Verduin was well enough again to lead us to his favorite place, the Smokies, on a hike along Baxter Creek Trail--10 hikers enjoyed a lovely day and saw an abundance of wildflowers (57). The hikes scheduled for Holmes State Forest were cancelled because of heavy rains. Eight persons, remembering the lovely profusion of pink shell azaleas on PILOT MOUNTAIN, struggled on the sometimes strenuous hike. They were well rewarded with numerous (60) wildflowers blooming--the number quoted mainly to note the profusion of plants seen. WOLF LAUREL, to most, was a minor disaster since it rained off and on so all were muddy and wet. Most were not prepared for the cold and wind on the mountain trail. We hiked a ways, but then returned to our cars to eat our lunches. Since it rained again rather steadily, we all headed for home. A highlight of the trip was to see the mountainside completely covered with large false solomon's seal as far as one could see - beautiful!

Spring has been lovely again, especially noticeable in the profusion of wildflowers in April and May. We enjoyed some beautiful hikes. We now look forward to a prolific June. Come out on the trails. See you then!

Louise Foresman, Historian

John Kuhn gave me a list of 64 plants with animal names (in part). Here are 18 of them for you to match. Have fun!
H. Turner

Fox _____	<i>bane</i>
Bee _____	<i>bell</i>
Cow _____	<i>cabbage</i>
Goats _____	<i>weed</i>
Hare _____	<i>balm</i>
Lambs _____	<i>sorrel</i>
Pussy _____	<i>wort</i>
Skunk _____	<i>lily</i>
Toad _____	<i>corn</i>
Sheep _____	<i>tongue</i>
Chick _____	<i>head</i>
Cardinal _____	<i>glove</i>
Tiger _____	<i>wood</i>
Hounds _____	<i>toes</i>
Squirrel _____	<i>beard</i>
Turtle _____	<i>quarters</i>
Dog _____	<i>flax</i>
Louse _____	<i>flower</i>

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Please submit contributions for next issue by August 15, 1985
