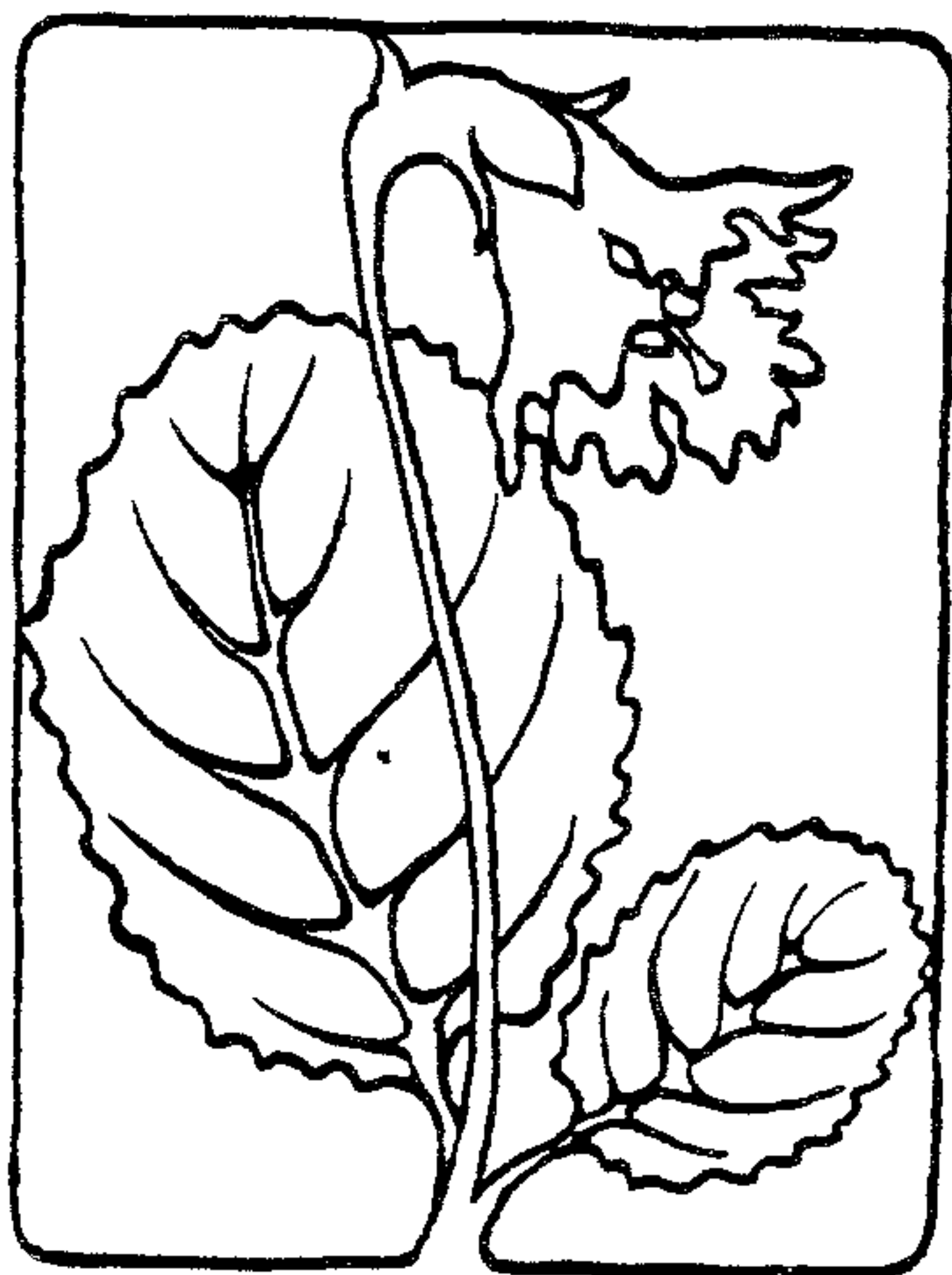


SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

SPRING 1987



DOROTHY RATHMANN, Editor

OFFICERS

President: Millie Blaha Treasurer: Louis Wagner
Vice President: Louise Foresman Historian: Anne Ulinski
Secretary: Ruth Mack

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENTMillie Blaha

It is a privilege and honor to serve as the first woman president of WCBC. This is **your** organization. We, the officers, want to provide the activities and services **you** want. So, please let us know your wishes.

The Program Committee, under Elton Hansens' guidance, has provided an exciting program for February through July 1987 which includes some "learning" sessions, workshops, overnight outings, picnics and local botanical hikes. As you participate in these activities, may the associations and discoveries bring you a full measure of **joy** and satisfaction.

FINANCIAL NOTES FROM ANNUAL MEETING

Treasurer Margaret Kuhn reported a year-end balance of \$290 after expenses of almost \$1045, including contributions to University Botanical Gardens at Asheville, North Carolina Nature Conservancy, and Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy.

Annual dues continue to be \$8.00 per family, now payable to the new treasurer, Lou Wagner.

NEW HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS, JOHN AND MARGARET KUHN

In a letter dated 30 January 1987 President Elton Hansens' wrote to the Kuhns:

On behalf of all your fellow members, we are delighted to elect you Honorary Life Members of the Western Carolina Botanical Club, in recognition of your dedication to the Club and the significant contributions which both of you have made to the Club since you joined in 1975.

Heartiest congratulations and best wishes from all of us.

WELCOME -- NEW MEMBERS

Hendersonville unless otherwise stated

Armstrong, Mary A., 50 Heywood Crossing, Arden, NC 28704.....
Darken, Marjorie A., 8 Friar Tuck Lane, Brevard, NC 28712.....
Dickinson, Clifford L. & Betty Ann, Rt. 13, Box 286..... 692-2861
Krecker, Frederic M. & Maxine M., Laurelwood #24
1300 Brevard Rd..... 693-8553

SCHEDULE CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS.....Elton Hansens

Feb. 6: Correct spelling is Pitillo. **April 6:** Correct spelling is Kline.

June 6: Add **BUCK SPRING TRAIL*** (Pete Sawyer 697-1282)

(Fri.) Another trip to the Nature Trail but at a different date to see more of the extensive flora. Short walks will be made at other suitable Parkway stops. An easy 2 mi. walk. Drive about 75 mi. Meet at Ingles North at 9:00 a.m. Join others at Pisgah Ranger Station at 9:30.

June 25-26: Add **FRANKLIN, NC OVERNIGHT** (Elton Hansens 692-7245)

Visit Perry's Water Garden leaving from the Franklin Motel at 10:30 a.m. Thurs. In the afternoon a "mystery hike" led by the Stickles from Franklin. Friday drive to Wayah Bald and hike on the bald and visit other points in the vicinity. Plan to carry your lunch both days.

In driving to Franklin we prefer to take I 26 to I 40 West, to US 23 to US 441 (near Sylva). At Franklin continue on the US 441 By-pass to NC 28 on the west side of Franklin. Take NC 28 north 1.1 mi. to reach the Franklin Motel (on left).

Make your own reservations, preferably by June 1 for: Franklin Motel, 223 Palmer St. (704) 524-4431. Large, well furnished rooms, near restaurants, 2 beds/2 persons \$34-36, deposit. OR Kountry Kampground, US 441 South 2.3 mi. from NC 28 North, (655 Georgia Highway). A fine campground with full hook-ups. (704) 524-4339.

Also, inform Elton Hansens as soon as you decide to make the trip.

INVITATIONS

Frank and Calla Bell extend a cordial invitation to WCBC members to visit and enjoy the Green Cove Camp area, not just on scheduled Club outings, but at any time of the year. As a courtesy to the Bells, please phone them in advance (692-3241).

The **North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society** will be holding its Spring meeting in Hendersonville **May 8-10**. WCBC members are invited to attend all or part of the week-end activities. For more information call Millie Blaha 885-2424.

April 16, Friends of the Library: Rev. Walter Roberts, formerly associated with St. John in the Wilderness Church, will combine a review of **LEGACY OF BEAUTY** with local material on St. John in the Wilderness. The book deals with the story of Magnolia Gardens and Drayton Hall in Charleston. The developer of Magnolia Gardens was associated with St. John in the Wilderness, and Rev. Roberts was married to a member of the Drayton family. Meeting at 2:00 PM in Hendersonville Library. Admission is free.

CORRECTIONS IN WCBC HISTORYBarbara Hallowell

In the WCBC History as recorded in SHORTIA, Winter 1986-87, page 4, an error slipped through in the list of Club presidents. Joe Schatz was **not** a president. Please delete his name and also change the number 7 above it to 6. I apologize for the error! Please **correct all archival copies**. (Ed. note: How many readers spotted the error in the title/name of Club? Of course it's WCBC not WNCBC.)

INTRODUCING OUR OFFICERS.....Jeanne Smith

Millie Blaha, President: Millie and George moved to North Carolina in 1973 from Western Springs, Illinois, where they had both been active in the fields of conservation and nature photography. Before retirement, Millie was a statistician. She has written the **Nature Notebook** column for the TRANSYLVANIA TIMES in Brevard since 1975. Millie is a relative newcomer to WCBC but from the very first she has waded right in and assumed much responsibility, bringing ability and experience. For the past two years Millie has chaired our committee which is compiling a list of all the plants in Holmes State Forest. She also wrote the script and did the narration for the two color slide programs contributed to the Forest as a community service project. Millie has been vice president for the past two years.

Louise Foresman, Vice President: Louise and her late husband, Ken, were early members of WCBC and came to Hendersonville from St. Louis, Missouri. She served 18 years as a Child Welfare Supervisor for that State. Louise was an enthusiastic and able Club Historian for four years. She has been a faithful member of the Holmes State Forest Committee since its inception.

Ruth Mack, Secretary: Ruth and her husband, Franklin, moved to Hendersonville in 1980 from Southbury, Connecticut and joined WCBC almost immediately. Ruth has served on the Honors Committee for two years. She has been Chairman and/or served on the covered dish suppers at Holmes State Forest as well as the Annual Meeting luncheon. This is her second year as secretary.

Louis C. F. Wagner, Treasurer: "Lou" and his wife, Louise (also "Lou"), have just settled permanently in Hendersonville. Heretofore they have been "snowbird" members of WCBC. Lou majored in engineering at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York, and was employed by the Chase Manhattan Bank, building bank premises in New York City and branches in the Bahamas and the Caribbean. This will be Lou's first tour of duty for the Club.

Anne Ulinski, Historian: Anne came to Hendersonville from McLean, Virginia, in 1981. She has a degree in chemistry from Bennington College, Vermont, but has had many and varied occupations, not necessarily in that field, such as, treasurer of a college, co-owner of a telephone answering company in Florida, working with Ralph Nader, and being a Foreign Service wife living in various countries. She also is a member of the Holmes State Forest Committee and has actively participated in the Buck Spring Trail project. Anne has been innovative in the use of her computer in connection with WCBC activities. This is her second year as Club Historian.

WORDS OF TRIBUTE.....Barbara Hallowell

The late 1986 loss of two members who played important roles in WCBC has been felt deeply by those who knew, admired and loved them.

Helen Turner died in mid-November. A fine naturalist and teacher, and editor of SHORTIA for nearly five years, she enlivened many a field trip and class with her wonderful bits about nature. Gifts in her memory may be made to: The Illinois Prairie Path, c/o Paul Mooring, 295 Abbotsford Court, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137.

Harvey Krouse died in late December. A Club president and editor of SHORTIA, both for three years, he was active in helping develop WCBC and providing knowledgeable leadership and botanical information. Memorial gifts may be made to: Abernathy Memorial United Methodist Church, PO Box 403, Newton, NC 28658.

MEMBERSHIP AND IDENTIFICATION CARD.....Millie Blaha

That little green card you received recently -- what is it for? Not only is it your **membership card** in WCBC but it also is your **identification card** in case of an emergency, especially when you are on a Club outing or hike.

Please fill in the necessary information and carry the card in your backpack. Fasten it in the small outside pocket or, if there is no pocket, fasten the card to the inside at the top of the backpack so that it can be found easily. If you have no backpack, put the card in your shirt pocket. If you have several backpacks and want a card for each one, additional cards may be obtained from Millie Blaha at a cost of 10 cents each.

EXCERPTS FROM 1986 HISTORIAN'S REPORT.....Anne Ulinski

Statistics: 42 hikes were scheduled; 2 were cancelled; average of 20 persons/hike. Nine indoor meetings drew an average of 44 persons/meeting. We had two study sessions: a Pisgah Forest Study with 30 persons and a plant fruit workshop with 20 attendees. An average of 10 members volunteered for workdays.

Weather: But statistics don't tell everything. We struggled with weather conditions. If it was cold and rainy at Callaway, it was hot and dry at Green Swamp and the Carolina Bays. It was hot and humid as we climbed a mountain in the Smokies to Albright Grove and we had to reach for our ponchos at Daniel Creek and Roan Mountain. But each struggle had its rewards. Who could help but admire Fred Galley, our guide at Callaway, who seemed indifferent to the cold falling rain and who shared with us his knowledge and affection for each and every plant. We dried out at Roan Mountain and went on to see an unusual display of Appalachian avens (Geum radiatum). Despite unfavorable weather condition at Green Swamp and Carolina Bays the group reported many interesting and unusual plants. And at Albright Grove we were rewarded with the sight of dwarf ginseng, Fraser's sedge and giant silverbell trees.

Plants: Over 3000 plants were recorded during the hikes -- many of course duplicates but more than a few uncommon and very special. Although we continued to favor the recording of plants in bloom, there seemed to be a developing interest in identifying everything -- ferns, trees, birds, insects, and non-blooming plants.

People: There was always the companionship of being together with others who had our same somewhat crazy enthusiasms. There was the sharing of information, the lunches as we sat on rocks by streams or by waterfalls. We shared scenic views, the satisfaction of having made a hard climb despited misgivings all along the way. And together we enjoyed the rock faces, the sunlight in the woods, the clear mountain air, and the patient waiting while some "keyed out" to help us learn the identity of an unusual plant species.

At one of our last meetings, 63 people came to the library to hear Dr. Creech talk about the new arboretum. At the same meeting Margaret Kuhn gave us copies of the program schedule for the next 6 months. Although historians record the past, I have to say the future looks wonderful -- not only the programs planned by the scheduling committee but the opportunity to watch an arboretum be born, grow and develop.

WILDFLOWERS -- PROPAGATE RATHER THAN COLLECT

If you have, or are planning to have, wildflowers in your garden, this is a good time to consider sources of seeds and plants. The importance of securing propagated plants rather than collecting from the wild (except when necessary to save specimens from road building and land development) was the theme of a June 1986 news release from the New England Wild Flower Society, Inc., written by David Longland, Director of Garden in the Woods. Some excerpts:

The great surge in popularity of wildflowers over the past decade has resulted not only in a greater public awareness of our country's native plant heritage, but also in an intense demand for these garden-worthy specimens. Most native plant organizations promote appreciation of wildflowers in order to conserve them and their habitats. However, it may be that their popularity endangers these plants in the wild as gardeners and nurserymen dig them to satisfy increased public demand

Some professionals and amateur horticulturists practice "ethical collection"--thinning colonies and using this stock to propagate progeny for distribution. However, ethical collecting should be practiced only by individuals with an extensive knowledge of native plant biology, only on colonies which can quickly replenish their numbers, and only for purposes of propagation

Many nurseries still buy and sell wild-collected wildflowers. Customers should always ask their nurserymen how they acquire the wildflowers they sell, and buy only propagated material. This practice will shift the demand toward propagation Some plants, like Pink Lady's slippers and other wild orchids, never should be purchased from nurseries for two reasons: first, there is no known method for propagating these plants; therefore, they are bound to be wild-collected. Second, these plants seldom survive the trauma of digging, storage, shipping, and transplanting beyond one or two years

[The Society's] Native Plant Nursery Source List (to be published for spring of 1987) indicates which North American nurseries propagate the native plants they sell

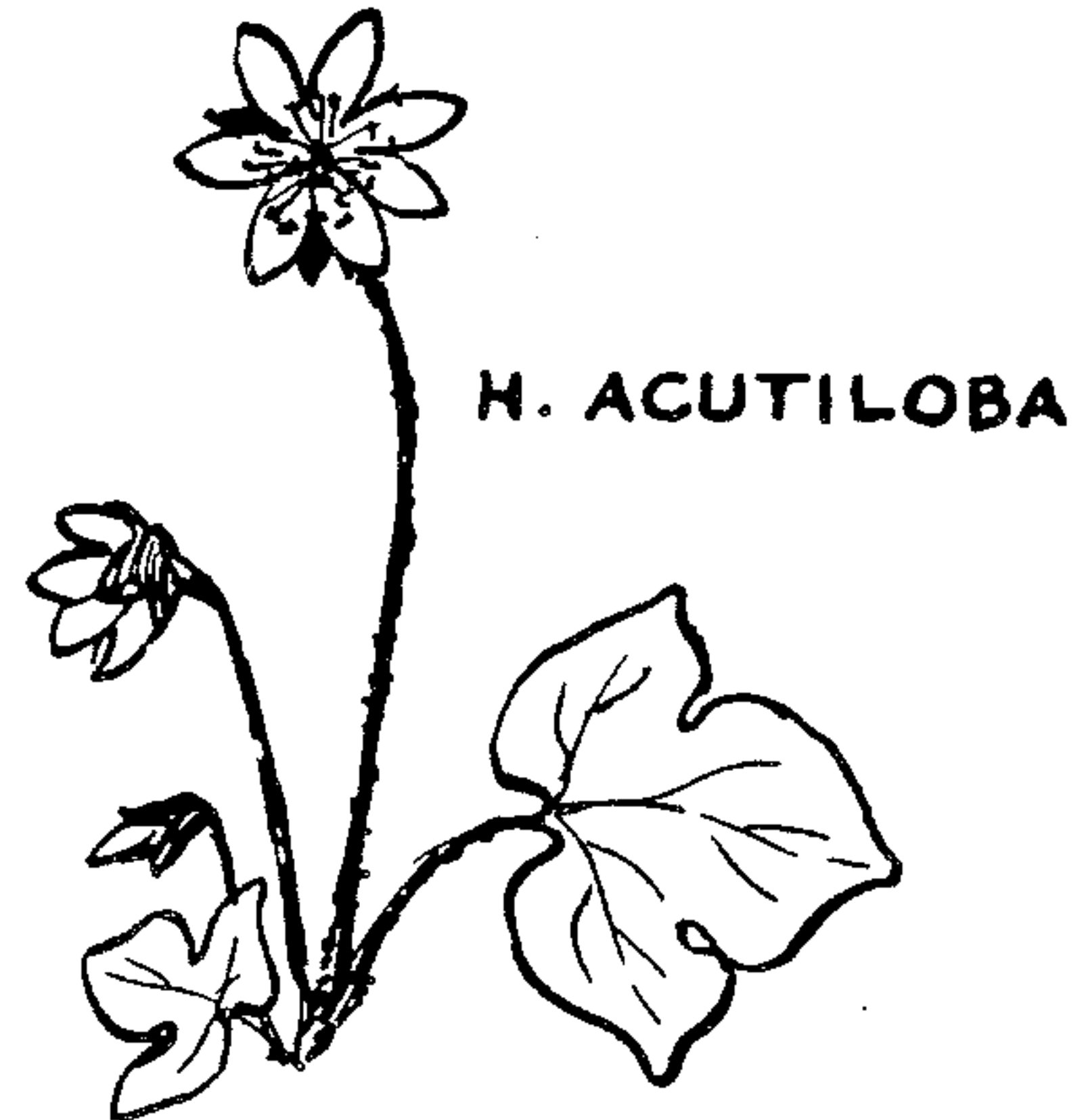
For our area, the Society lists: Sunlight Gardens, Inc., Rt. 3, Box 286-B, Loudon, TN 37774; and Woodlanders, 1128 Colleton Ave., Aiken, SC 29801.

In addition, a recommended book is Harry R. Phillips, GROWING AND PROPAGATING WILD FLOWERS (Chapel Hill, NC; U. N. Car. Press; 1985). With a Foreword by C. Ritchie Bell, this book includes chapters on Cultivating native plants; Propagating native plants; Wild flowers; Carnivorous plants; Ferns. For specific plants, there is a Botanical description; Suggestions for seed collection, cleaning and storage; Propagation; Cultivation; Uses in the garden and landscape. The Appendix includes a Calendar of blooming dates; Production timetable; Guide to recommended literature.

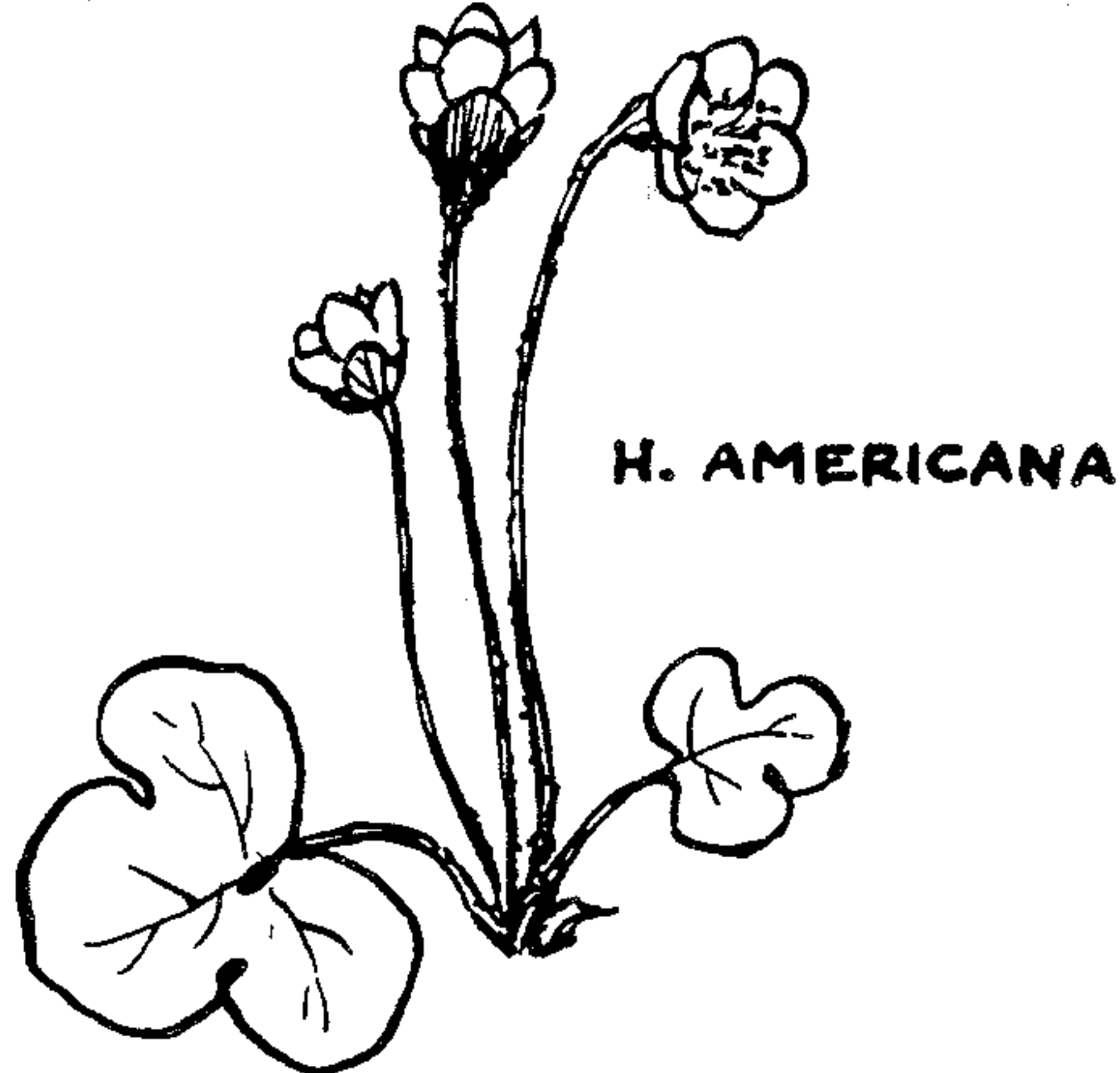
LOOK AGAIN !

One of the very earliest of the spring arrivals that we seek out in rich mountain woods is Hepatica, or Liverleaf.

Whether the flowers are white or some delicate shade of blue, lavender or rose, they are undeniably pretty--and would be considered so even if it were not for the fact that they often are the first blooms we see after the drabness of winter. It comes as a surprise, then, to learn that they have no petals (the colorful parts are petaloid sepals, and what look like three green sepals are actually bracts). There are a number of other genera in the Buttercup Family that lack petals, and some of them, like Black Cohosh (Cimicifuga) and the Meadow Rues (Thalictrum) even lose their small sepals as soon as the flowers open.



Our most common species is Sharp-lobed Hepatica (H. acutiloba) in which, as the names indicate, the leaf segments are pointed. White flowers seem to be the rule rather than the exception.



Round-lobed Hepatica (H. americana) is less common in our mountain province. It is a slightly smaller plant, and the sepals tend to be broader and slightly spatulate. Flowers of this species are more likely to be colored, especially favoring the blues.

Although hybrids occur, it is quite easy to distinguish the two species. The new foliage does not develop until later, but bronzed leaves from the previous year are almost always present. If all else fails, remember that the lobes of the bracts correspond to those of the leaves--rounded or blunt-pointed depending upon the species.

Dick Smith

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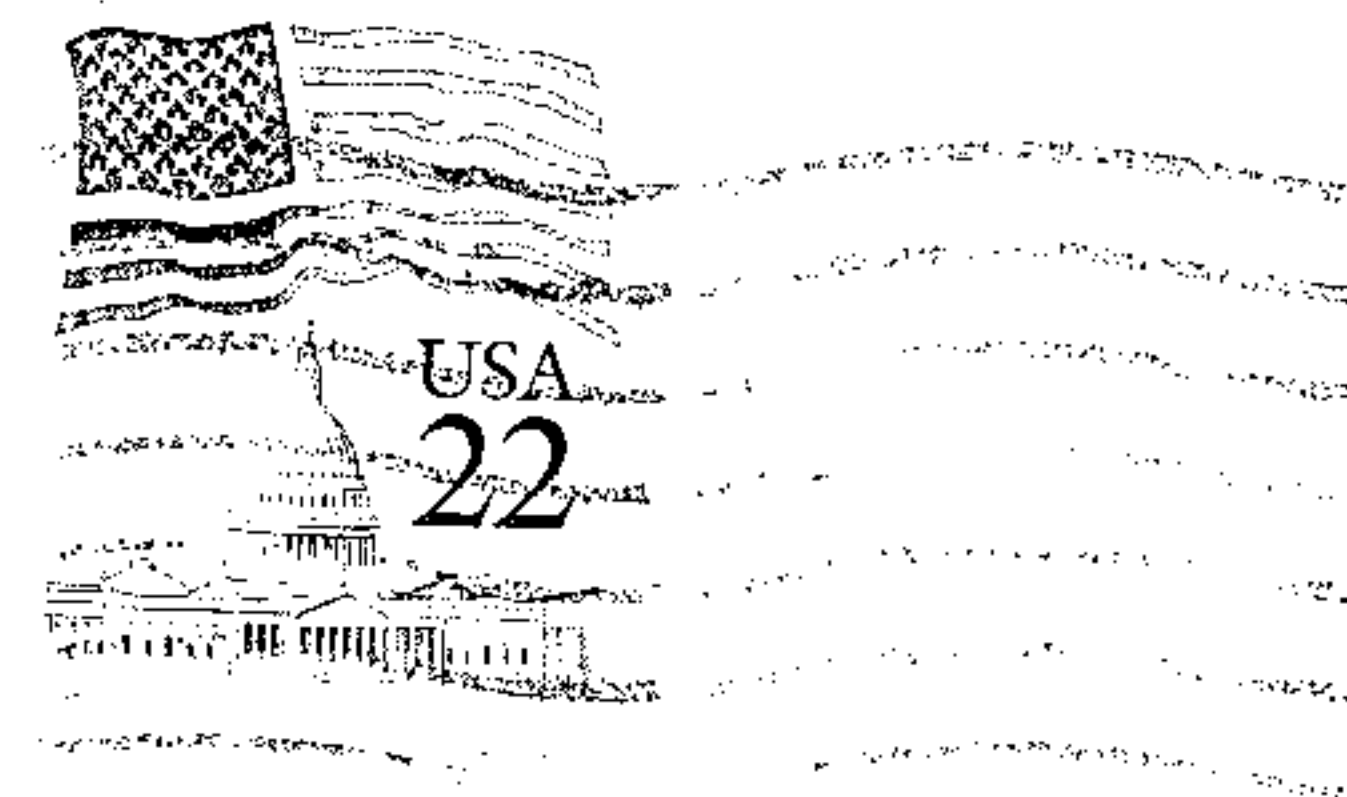
Editor: Dorothy Rathmann

Distribution: Frances Gadd

Please submit contributions for next issue by May 15 to:

Dorothy Rathmann, Editor
Carolina Village Box 23
Hendersonville, NC 28739

SHORTIA
c/o Frances Gadd
218 Pheasant Run
Hendersonville, NC 28739



L. & H. Pearson
2514 Kanuga Road
Hendersonville, NC 28739