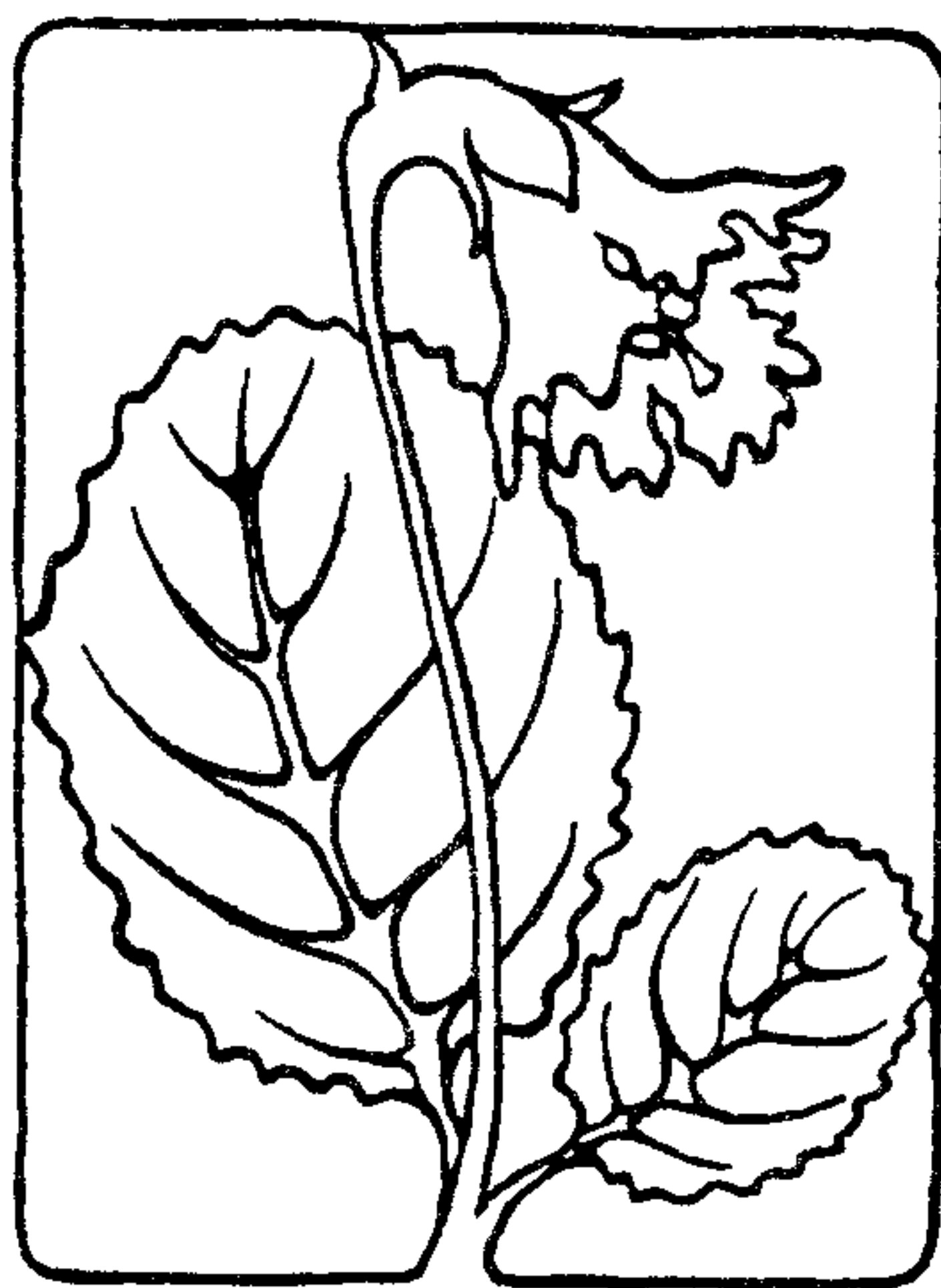


SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

WINTER 1987-88



MILLIE BLAHA, Editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As you will see from the Nominating Committee's report, I will not be continuing as President in 1988. This is because I had asked the Nominating Committee to replace me. And they found an excellent candidate!

It has been an honor for me to serve as your President. However, since last August, I have been doing two jobs. When Dorothy Rathmann resigned as Editor of SHORTIA so that she could take advantage of travel opportunities, a replacement was sought. Two persons responded, but one was experiencing health problems, and the other already was carrying a heavy schedule.

Since I have had experience in editing newsletters - the most recent being the newsletter of the Nature Study and Camera Club of the Morton Arboretum - I decided to take on this responsibility. This issue, I believe, is better than my first issue. Hopefully each issue will be better than the issue before.

So, instead of continuing as President, I will be the Editor of SHORTIA.

A complete report of what has been accomplished during my year as President will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

ACTING TREASURER APPOINTED

It might not be obvious, but Margaret Kuhn is wearing two hats - one, as Membership Chairman; the other, as Acting Treasurer.

In mid November, Louis Wagner found it necessary to submit his resignation as Treasurer. It was accepted with regret. The time and effort that Louis devoted to carrying out his responsibilities are greatly appreciated, especially since our membership roster now lists 139 families with 234 individual members.

For six years Margaret Kuhn served as Treasurer during the period of the Club's greatest growth. Because of her prior experience with the Club's records, it seemed logical that she be appointed as Acting Treasurer until the Annual Meeting in Jan. 1988. Margaret is to be commended for so graciously accepting this added responsibility.

DUES ARE DUE IN JANUARY

Because it is so easy to overlook paying dues, a reminder form is enclosed with this issue of SHORTIA. This procedure is being initiated for several reasons:

1. By paying dues by the time of the indicated deadline, all of the dues will be received at the beginning of the year, making it easier for the President and Executive Committee to prepare a budget for the year.
2. The information on the dues notice form supplied by you will provide the Membership Chairman with the correct information for the Membership Roster which will be mailed with the Spring issue of SHORTIA. It also will provide the Treasurer with the correct information for his records.
3. The person who mails SHORTIA will have the correct mailing information so that SHORTIA will be certain to reach you.
4. The Treasurer can enjoy the Annual Meeting instead of spending time collecting dues.

The year 1987 is coming to an end. I look forward to the Botany Club having another good year.



May the
gentle beauty
of Nature
not only
brighten
your holidays
but also
all the days
of the
coming year!

*Millie Blaha,
President*

The NOMINATING COMMITTEE presents . . .

★
★
★
The Nominating Committee, consisting of Dr. Kenneth Sinish, Chairman and members Sam Childs and Laverne Pearson, present the following candidates for offices in 1988:

BILL VERDUIN, President. For the past 38 years, Bill and Evelyn Verduin have called Western North Carolina "home". From 1950 to 1964 Bill was manager of the Kanuga Conference Center. Following several years of temporary affiliation with Camp Sequoyah, Bill became Director of Asheville Boys School where he remained until his retirement in 1982.

Over the years Bill has camped out with "his" boys and has hiked and explored many of the back roads of Western North Carolina. That Springtime in the Smokies is one of his favorite places is evidenced by the outings he volunteers to lead in this wonderful botanical area. Bill brings to the club administrative experience and a wealth of knowledge about the natural world.

Bill and Evelyn's retirement home is perfectly located for a nature lover - adjacent to Kanuga.

LOUISE FORESMAN, Vice President. In 1987 Louise served as Vice President. She has led outings and has served on many of the Club's committees. The notebooks that she kept during the four years that she was plant Recorder are evidences of her devotion to detail and dedication to carrying out assigned responsibilities. For the past three years she has been a faithful member of the Holmes Educational State Forest plant project. Whenever you hear someone say "Let me help you", you can be sure it is Louise who has said it.

CHARLOTTE CARMAN, Secretary. Charlotte joined the Botany Club as soon as she moved to Hendersonville in 1982. She is an active hiker with the Carolina Mountain Club, Welcome Wagon and Haywood Knolls group. As a girl, Charlotte hiked on her father's land in Massachusetts. It was her lawyer father who stimulated Charlotte's interest in nature and wildflowers. Charlotte's entire career was as a first grade teacher in Springfield, Mass. In addition to serving on the Holmes Educational State Forest plant project, Charlotte also volunteers with the remedial reading program and the High School Writing project. Her sister is Botany Club member Ann Peavey.

JOHN SABY, Treasurer. John's training is as a physicist. At the time of his retirement, he was manager of a Research Laboratory for General Electric. Among the various projects of his lab was the challenge to create more efficient light bulbs. John attributes his early interest in wildflowers to the influence of his sister who loved flowers and to his mother's wonderful garden. John is a keen observer not only of wild flowers but also of other aspects of the natural world as anyone who has walked beside him on an outing soon observes. When John and his wife Mary moved to North Carolina, John decided to take a more serious interest in wild flowers and nature.

ANNE ULINSKI, Recorder. As a Foreign Service wife, Anne lived in many countries while raising five children. Somehow she also found time for a career and had many interesting work experiences. Since the inception of the plant study program at Holmes Educational State Forest, Anne has been one of its members. For the past two years she has served as plant Recorder. Her computer has served as an invaluable tool in recording plants seen on outings as she lists them according to Family, Genus and species, and Common name. She also is keeping a separate list of unusual, rare and uncommon plants seen in bloom on our outings. She also is maintaining a list of the plants found on the Buck Springs Lodge Trail. In addition to all her work for the Botany Club, Anne also is a volunteer for the Head Start program.

L O O K I N G A H E A D

Included in this issue of SHORTIA is the Outings and Program Schedule for January through June 1988. Please read it in order to learn what the Committee has planned for your enjoyment. The Committee consisted of Louise Foresman, Anne Ulinski, Charlotte Carman, Barbara Hallowell, Elton Hansens, Don Prentice, Dick Smith, Bill Verduin, with Millie Blaha, chairman.

All of the indoor programs planned for Jan., Feb., to mid-March are outstanding. Special attention is called to the Jan. 15 program when Anne Hallowell Reich, Tom and Barbara Hallowell's daughter, will be the speaker. Elisabeth Feil's program on Feb. 19 will serve as preparation for the outing she will lead on May 13. On March 4, the Director or Assistant Director of the Western North Carolina Arboretum will give us an up-to-date progress report on activities there.

There will be an overnight in the Smokies in April, led by Bill Verduin. Reservations are needed. The number is limited.

You will notice some different names among the leaders and co-leaders. We are delighted that these members have volunteered to serve in these capacities.

Please note that two outings are scheduled for SATURDAYS - one on Saturday, April 23, and the other on Saturday, May 21. Dick Smith suggested that area College students who are members of their school's Science clubs be invited to attend some of our outings. The Program Committee concurred. The Botany Club as well as the students should benefit from this exchange of knowledge and experience.

Please take note of the Work Days at Holmes Educational State Forest and at Millie Pearson's, and the Orientation for the days at Shinn's Gardens. Your help is needed on these days and will be greatly appreciated by the coordinators for these Community Service Projects.

At least 10 volunteers are needed (men and women) to serve as guides for young school children from the Venable School who will be visiting the Bent Creek Forest area on June 1. Millie Blaha (885-2424) would like to know in advance of this date if you can help.

June 24 is the date that has been set for our picnic at Holmes Educational State Forest. Those who would like to do so will have an opportunity to hike either the long or short trail in the morning. At noon we shall enjoy fantastic food brought by you.

I hope that, when you read the schedule, you will be as excited about it as I am.

T H E A N N U A L M E E T I N G

The Botany Club holds only one formal meeting each year. It is the ANNUAL MEETING. This year's meeting will be held on Jan. 22 in the Parish Hall of St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church in Flat Rock.

The business meeting will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m. It will include reports by the Officers and Committee chairmen. The Honors Committee will present its report. There will be an election of officers.

Following the business meeting, there will be a covered dish luncheon. We will enjoy the covered dishes, vegetables, meat, salads, desserts, bread and rolls that everyone has brought to share. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Following lunch, there will be a program marking the 15th anniversary of the Club. Please plan to stay for this.

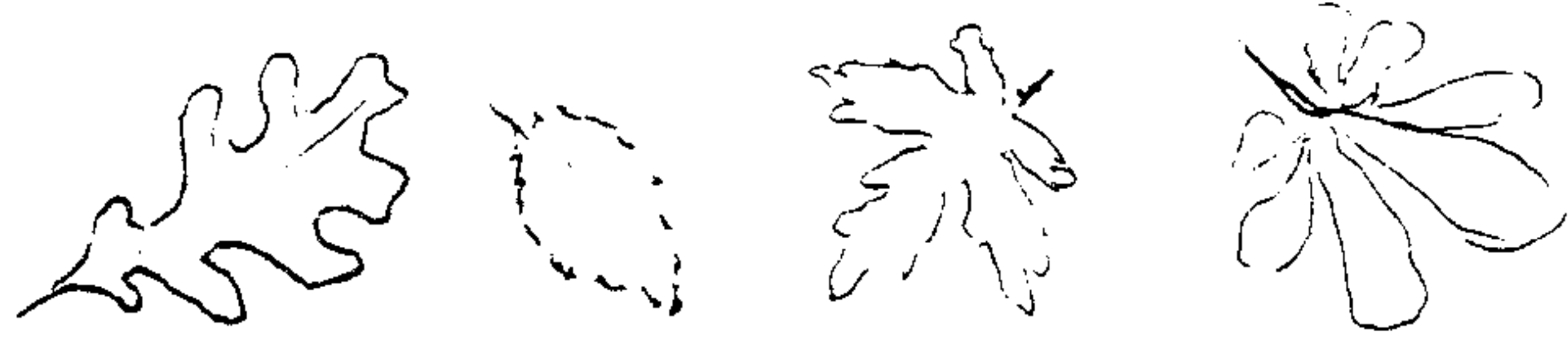
Your presence at this meeting will contribute to its success!



Surely there is something in the unruffled calm of nature that overawes our little anxieties and doubts: the sight of the deep-blue sky, and the clustering stars above, seems to impart a quiet to the mind.

- Edwards





- ANNE ULINSKI
RECORDER

As the leaves fall from the trees I find it difficult to go back to my notes and realize that my last report covered our activities up through May 4! But there it is. So if you can ignore the chill in the air for a few minutes, we can remember the outings the scheduling committee planned for us for the spring and summer of 1987.

In May, sixteen members drove to Cullowhee to stay overnight at the Forest Hills Motor Lodge. We had time to explore the campus at Western Carolina University. We visited the Mountain Heritage Center and Dan Pittillo took us through the University rhododendron garden to see the fine hybrid display there. On our first evening Dr. Pittillo gave us a slide presentation on the Balsam Mountains. The next day we all drove to the Nantahala area to walk the Wasilik Trail. We saw the 500 year old "Champion Poplar", Goldie's fern (*Dryopteris goldiana*), yellowwood trees (*Cladrastis kentukea*), and many spring plants. Lunch was at Standing Indian camp ground and we walked the Kimsey Trail before returning home.

The other overnight, led by the Hansens, was to the Franklin, N.C. area. The eight members who made this trip visited Perry's Water Garden the first day. The second day they walked the Albert Rufus Morgan Trail, and hiked to the tower on Wayah Bald.

Here are some of the highlights of our late spring and summer activities:

- the yellow fringed orchids (*Habenaria ciliatis*) on our Soco Gap-Heintooga trip
- the umbrella leaf (*Diphylla cymosa*) in bloom on the Bear Pen Gap trail
- Barbara's Buttons (*Marshallia obovata*) and Indian pink (*Spigelia marilandica*) at Clemson Experimental Forest
- The fruit of the Mountain ash on the road to Shining Rock Wilderness
- Picking blueberries and having lunch on the rocks at Tennent Mt.
- Sundews (*Drosera ^troundifolia*) on the Blue Ridge Parkway (south)
- The view from Ogle Meadow
- Meadow flowers and cows at Sugarloaf Mountain
- Bearsfoot (*Polymnia uvedalia*) near Craven Gap on the Blue Ridge Parkway
- And finally, ice cream, a friendly cat, a beautiful fall day and Frank and Calla's hospitality at Green Cove Camp.



AN OPPORTUNITY TO "LOOK AGAIN" FROM THE BEGINNING



It was in the June 1981 issue of SHORTIA that Dick Smith's "LOOK AGAIN" page first appeared. Dick is not only a talented artist and writer but also an expert botanist.

"LOOK AGAIN" is the one page that probably not only is read by EVERYONE but also undoubtedly is the FIRST page to be read. Usually, the differences between two or more species of plants (trees, fungi, lycopodiums, etc.) are described and illustrated in order to encourage the reader to look again. These truly are pages to be treasured.

Realizing that these pages are a wonderful reference source, someone suggested that perhaps these should be put into a booklet. Dick has graciously agreed to loan the Botany Club the originals so that they may be duplicated and assembled into a packet. The pages then can be arranged in the order that they appeared, or alphabetically by common name, by family, genus and species or in any other way that makes these pages useful.

The only charge will be the cost of duplicating each page. The greater the number of copies produced, the lower the cost.

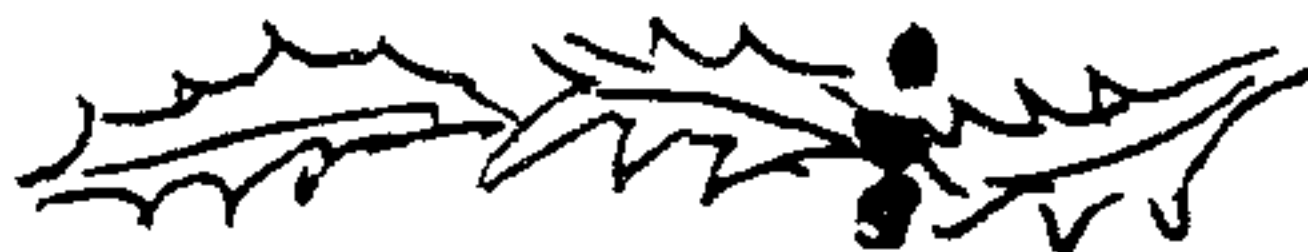
If you would like a set of these "Look Again" pages, please send a note to this effect to Millie Blaha, Drawer F, Cedar Mountain, NC 28718 by feb. 15, 1988.

Those who have already indicated their interest in these pages are Mary Hahn, Elton Hansens, Milton Lucas, Donald Prentice, Dorothy Rathmann, Elizabeth Redecker, Anne Ulinski, Lou Wagner, and Millie Blaha.

"Look Again" appears on the last page of SHORTIA so that it may be easily detached for keeping.

We are deeply grateful to Dick Smith not only for the many hours he spends in creating this page four times each year but also for sharing his knowledge and talents.

The cover which presently appears on SHORTIA also was created by Dick Smith and first appeared with the Spring 1982 issue.



WILD FLOWER OF THE YEAR FOR 1988

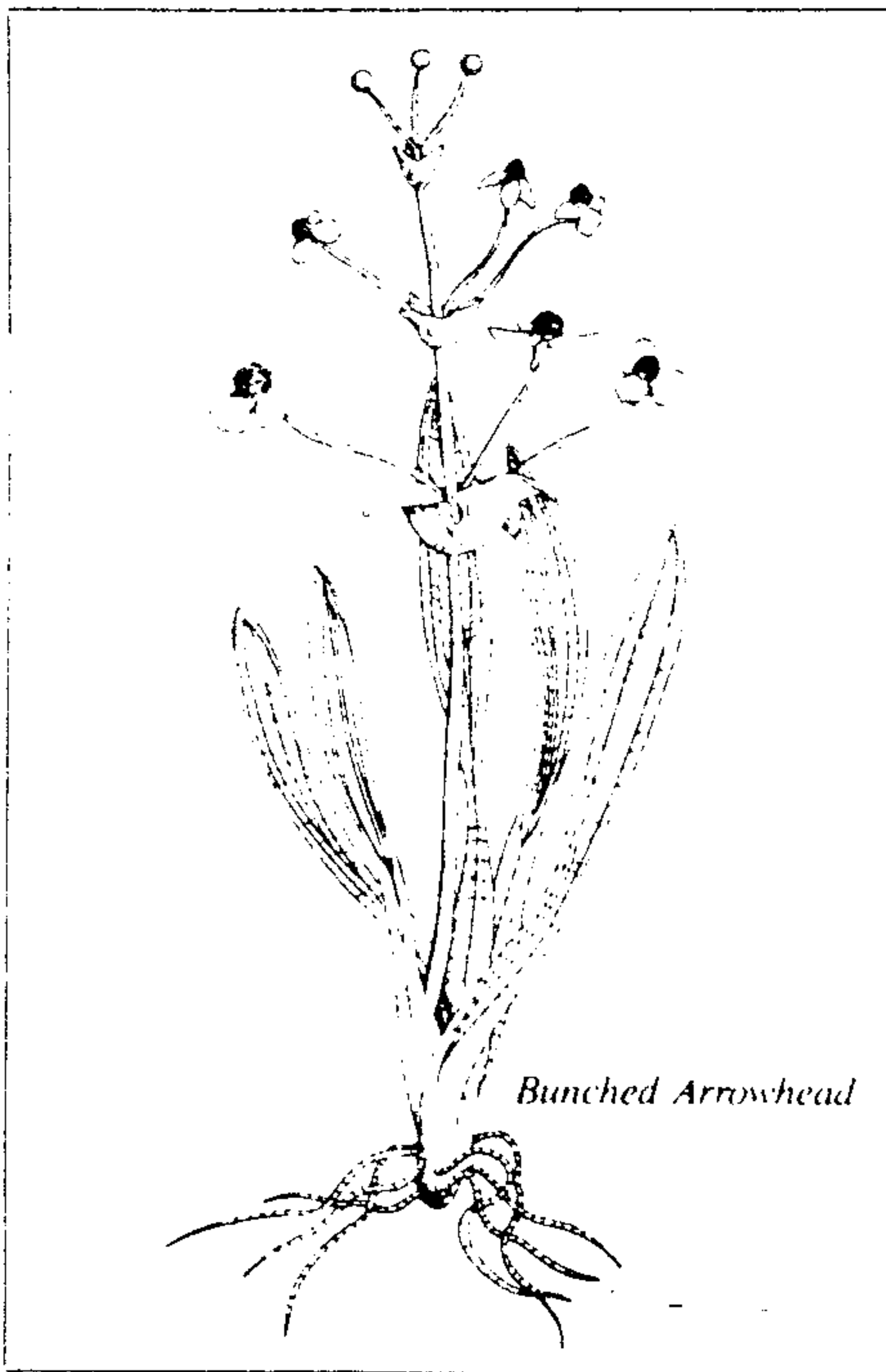
For the seventh consecutive year, the North Carolina Botanical Garden and the Garden Club of North Carolina are co-sponsoring the Wild Flower of the Year Project. The 1988 selection is Rudbeckia fulgida var. sullivantii. It is one of several Rudbeckia species commonly called "Black-eyed Susan".

Rudbeckia fulgida var. sullivantii is primarily a plant of moist places of the Piedmont areas. It is a sturdy, compact plant. The ray flowers are a bright yellow and may be partly or all orange. They usually are shorter than those of the Black-eyed Susan common in our area, Rudbeckia hirta. The disk flowers of R. fulgida var. sullivantii are shorter and flatter and not as ovoid in shape as those of R. hirta.

For seeds and information on this Black-eyed Susan, write to 1988 Wild Flower of the Year, North Carolina Botanical Garden, University of North Carolina, Totten Center 457A, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

Please submit contributions for the next issue of SHORTIA by Feb. 15, 1988
to Millie Blaha, Editor
Drawer F
Cedar Mountain, NC 28718

G O O D N E W S about the
endangered BUNCHED ARROWHEAD



Sketch. by Derek Collins

Since 1977 when North Carolina Nature Conservancy was first established, it has worked diligently to save the federally endangered Bunched Arrowhead, Sagittaria fasciculata. This plant is of special interest because it grows in two known boggy areas of Henderson County. The first population found growing in a ditch near the G.E. plant and Southern Railroad tracks has been under the protection of Nature Conservancy since 1982 through a management agreement with G.E. and Southern Railroad.

At the Botany Club's annual meeting on January 25, 1982, it was reported that the Club would take responsibility of monitoring this plant population to make certain that G.E. and Southern R.R. lived up to their agreement with Nature Conservancy. Harvey Krouse was designated to monitor this situation.

Because of the precariousness of this habitat, an Endangered Species Biologist from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service searched for additional stands of Bunched Arrowhead.

Fortunately, a second group of these plants was found only a few miles away, growing in a bog on private property, the only known natural habitat of the Bunched Arrowhead. This was an area that was easier to protect but was not any easier for Nature Conservancy to obtain control of in order to save these plants from extinction.

Diligent work and negotiations with the out-of-state landowner convinced her to sell a 2.81 acre tract of land which was needed to protect the 200 plants growing there. In Dec. 1986, the transaction was consummated and North Carolina Nature Conservancy assumed the responsibility for managing this endangered species habitat in cooperation with the N.C. Plant Conservation Program and the Endangered Species Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

From the illustration above, one can see that the leaves are not sagittate or arrow-shaped on this plant as its genus name implies but are distinctly lance-shaped. Apparently the name Sagittaria was given to this genus because some of the plants in it have arrow-shaped or hastate leaves. For example, the leaves of S. latifolia, Wapato or Duck potato are sagittate.

Our Club, as well as some individual members, support North Carolina Nature Conservancy with contributions each year. It appears as though our money is well spent!

JANUARY IS A MONTH OF CHANGING MOODS



January . . .br-r-r! Its cold temperatures freeze open fields and still waters and nip toes and noses. Dark green rhododendron leaves, rolled into cigar-like shapes tipped by pale, pointed buds, hang limply like upside down exclamation marks, emphasizing that this really is winter!

January . . . is the month when snow, that miracle of six-sided miniature glistening stars, transforms the bleakness of the landscape into a winter wonderland. The forest floor is blanketed with whiteness. Snow cascades off the evergreens, and every hardwood branch and twig is decorated with flowerlike fluffiness. Hollow stumps wear ermine-like crowns. Purple shadows lace the distant Blue Ridge mountains, crisply outlined against a cloudless blue sky.

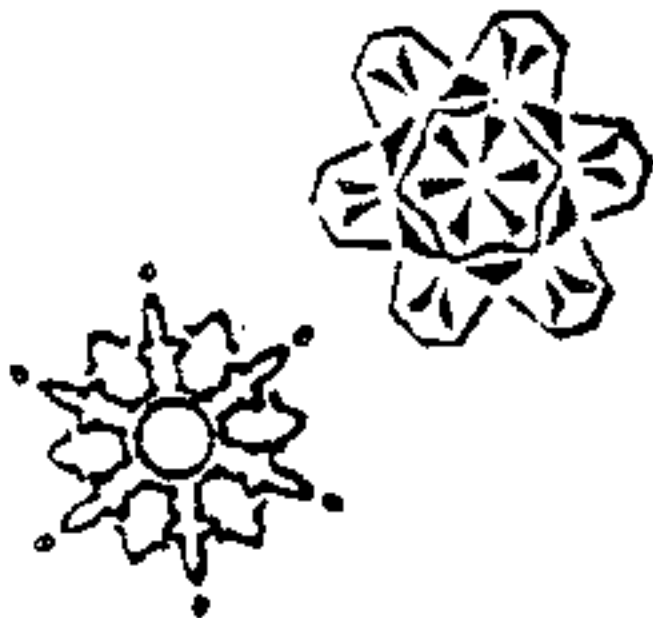
January . . . is the time of the year when birds, managing a somewhat bare existence on natural foods, flock to the feeders. Purple finches, winter visitors to our area, overwhelm and outnumber the year-round chickadees, titmice and nuthatches and eat heartily of the free handouts provided for them. Juncos and doves scratch the snowy ground for seeds or any kind of morsel. Woodpeckers accept suet as a substitute or supplement to their diet of insects. The peanut butter feeder is a favorite dining area of the bluebirds. The brilliant red male cardinal brings an especially cheery accent to the winter scene. On a thawing day, the Carolina wren will sing again and the titmouse will pipe a cheerful note.

January . . . finds bare trees and shrubs decorated with tightly closed buds which contain the promise of flowers and leaves of Spring as well as the fruit and nut crops of summer. But it is too early for them to spill out their contents. In the meantime, hemlocks, pines, rhododendron and laurel, sprinkled among the naked gray hardwood trees, must satisfy our green-hungry eyes.

January . . . can produce spectacular sunsets of frothy tangerine and turquoise flung fancifully behind fringes of bare trees rimming the ridges. The broad layers of colors deepen, gradually darkening into the infinite space of night.

January . . . can bless us with stars sparkling like diamonds in a cloudless night sky. A full moon can floodlight the snow-covered ground and snow-etched trees in an unearthly silvery light. Night animals searching for food write their signatures in the snow. The five-toed pad print of the striped skunk and star-shaped tracks of a 'possum reveal that their meeting was friendly and not one of confrontation. Elsewhere, in an almost straight line the four-toed, imperfect pattern made by the fox's small, dog-like feet indicate that these tracks were made with a purpose.

January . . . can be felicitously fickle, dispensing weather at her will. Perhaps the day will bring balmy temperatures, bright pleasant days, or growling gray skies with whistling winds and an icy breath. But, whatever the weather, longer days mean that the southward sun has begun its journey to the north, with a promise of Spring yet to come!

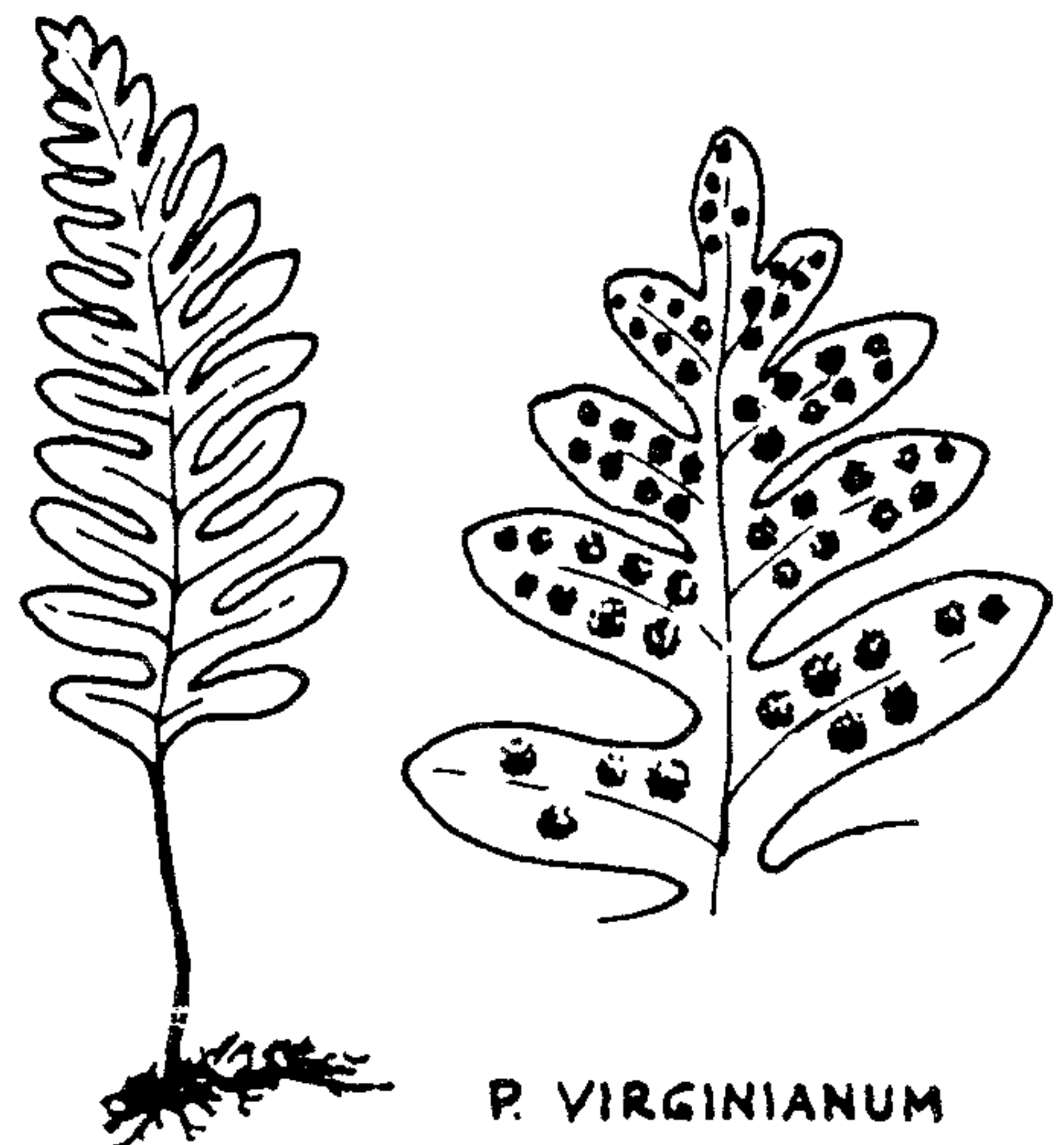


LOOK AGAIN !

The western Carolina mountains are well known as a meeting ground for northern and southern flora, and the overlapping of ranges affords many interesting comparisons. A good example of this is represented by two small evergreen ferns: Common Polypody (Polypodium virginianum) and Resurrection Fern (P. polypodioides).

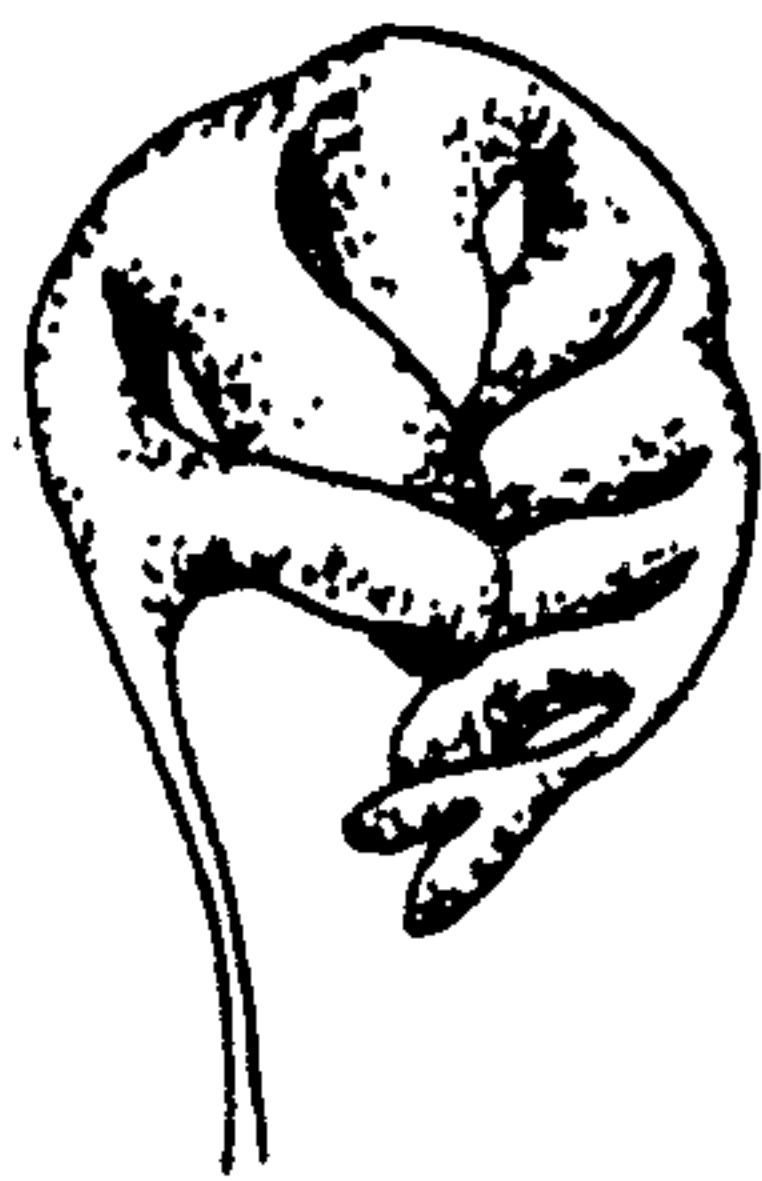
Common Polypody has earned the name Rock Cap Fern by its habit of growing on the tops of boulders. It is essentially a northern species and because of its predilection for rocky habitats is found mostly inland.

Resurrection Fern, on the other hand, is widespread throughout the southern states and extends into the tropics. In warm regions it is a conspicuous epiphyte where it spreads along the horizontal limbs of massive live oaks. In our area it occurs in various situations--at the foot of trees, on logs, in crevices on rocky banks, etc.



P. VIRGINIANUM

Both have fronds that are once-divided into rather blunt segments. These are widened at their bases, and the sinuses between them often stop short of the midrib. The sori, which are limited to the upper leaflets, are round and disposed in two rows.



P. POLYPODIOIDES

Besides being the smaller of the two, Resurrection Fern has a copious covering of minute scales on the underside (these are absent from Common Polypody). It also curls and turns brown when dry, which makes it appear dead, but it has the ability to quickly revive and regain its green color when moisture returns, hence the common name.

Dick Smith

S H O R T I A

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Editor: Millie Blaha

Distribution: Frances Gadd

President: Millie Blaha, Drawer F, Cedar Mountain, NC 28718

Vice President: Louise Foresman, 67 Gosling Circle, Hendersonville, NC 28739

Secretary: Ruth Mack, Rt. 9, 110 Rockwood Drive, Hendersonville, NC 28739

Acting Treasurer: Margaret Kuhn, #281 Carolina Village, Hendersonville NC 28739

Recorder: Anne Ulinski, 1212 Chanteloupe Drive, Hendersonville, NC 28739

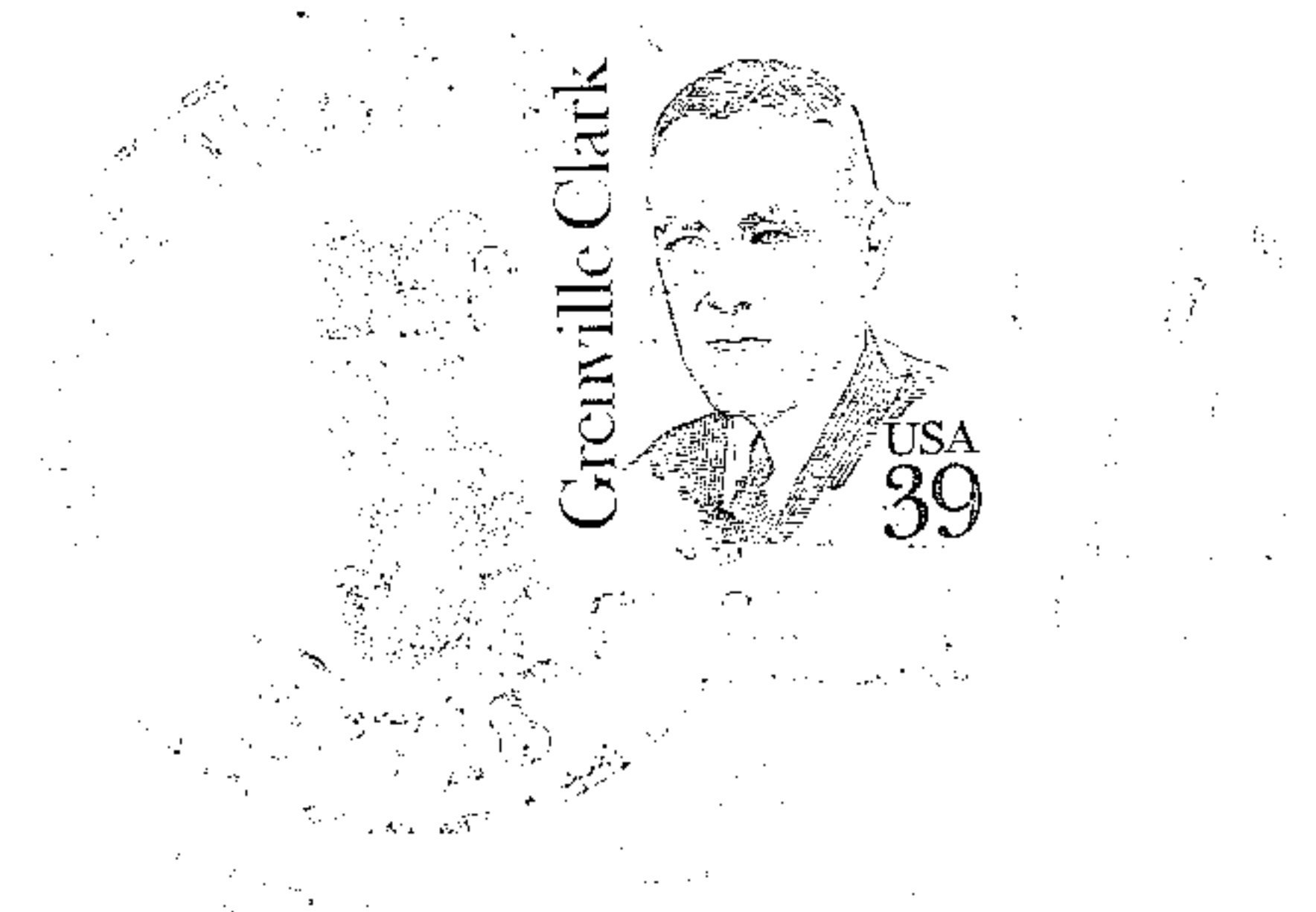
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% Frances Gadd

219 Pheasant Run

Hendersonville, NC 28739

FIRST CLASS



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