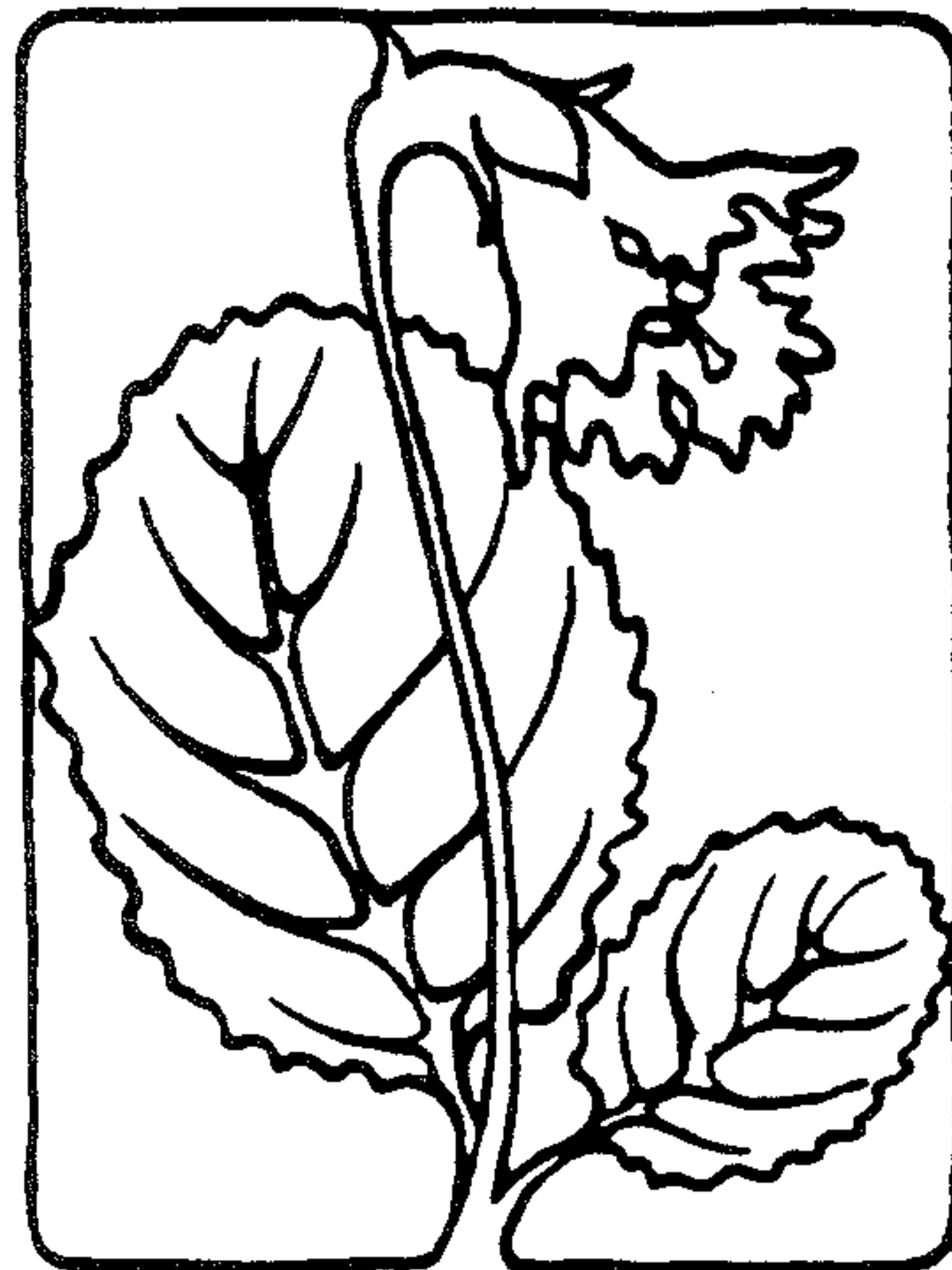


SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

SPRING 1995



ELTON and ALINE HANSENS
Editors

WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

President:	Don Herrman	Treasurer:	Elaine Montgomery
Vice President:	Dean Crawford	Recorder:	Erika Parmi
Secretary:	Laverne Pearson	Historian:	Louise Foresman

FROM THE PRESIDENT.....DON HERRMAN

We learned at the 1995 Annual Meeting that the state of the Western Carolina Botanical Club is good. A lot of credit for this is due to the efforts of our past president, Dorothy Rathmann and to all of you members who have contributed so much to our club. With all of us working together this will be another outstanding year.

You are now reading the Spring issue of Shortia but winter is still with us. We are very fortunate to have a variety of interesting indoor programs. Soon after our "Hearty Souls" hike we will be out on the trails again with the opening buds and the beauties of spring flowers.

Although there are snow flurries as I write this, no snow is accumulating on the meadow at our gate. As the year progresses we will discover together which flowers bloom and where they flourish and even why.

At our annual meeting we introduced the matter of safety on the trails. Please, every member consider this matter and if you have ideas pass them along to your club officers and leaders. By looking out for one another we will all be safer and have more fun.

In March the Program Committee will meet to plan the July 1995 to January 1996 schedule. If you would like to serve on the committee or have suggestions for trips or programs please contact your club officers.

As this spring Shortia is distributed the dues DEADLINE is approaching. Yearly dues are \$8.00 per member or family. If you have not already paid, please send your check to Elaine Montgomery, 1636 O'Hara Circle, Hendersonville, NC 28739.

The recent deaths of Jane Blackstone and Lois Hoogstra were noted with a moment of silence in their remembrance.

In 1995 Erika Parmi will continue as Recorder, Louise Foresman as Historian, and Elton and Aline Hansens as Co-Editors of SHORTIA.

1994 WCBC TREASURER'S REPORT

Elaine Montgomery

Cash on hand Jan. 1, 1994 was \$594.17. During 1994 we had receipts of \$987.71 from dues, donations, and bank interest and paid out \$1,099.03 (for postage \$302.08; schedules, SHORTIA, and other printing \$398.56; for a gift to UNCA Botanical Gardens \$50.00; plus miscellaneous WCBC expenses of \$398.39). This left a balance of \$482.85 on Jan. 1, 1995.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....ALINE HANSENS

BOEKE, DANIEL and ELIZABETH: PO Box 155, Cedar Mtn. NC 28718, (704) 885-8339.

DAVIS, CHARLTON and PATRICIA: 106 E. College St., PO Box 1449, Valdosta, GA, 31603-1449.

GUNN, CHARLES R. (Bob) and Betty: 120 White Squirrel Lane, Brevard, NC 28712, (704) 883-9719. Attracted by the climate and smaller town, they moved from Annapolis, MD in August 1994. They learned of the WCBC through members Dick and Jeanne Smith. Bob has a PhD in Systematic Plant Taxonomy and was Director and Curator of the US National Seed Herbarium for the USDA Agricultural Research Service. He also has written two floras.



HOLMES, SARAH (Sally): 214 Aldersgate Circle, Asheville, NC 28803, (704) 274-9255. Drawn to this area by the mountains, 4 seasons and the people, Sally moved here from NJ. She has a long standing interest in nature and looks forward to Club trips. She learned of the WCBC through Mary Ellen Lindley and Rachel Conway.

KURINSKY, ALLAN and NAOMI: 136 S. Cherrywood Lane, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768. (704) 966-9675. Retired here from NJ about 2½ years ago. They have great interest in rock gardening and wild flowers and are active members of the Southern Appalachian Chapter of the Rock Garden Society. Erika Parmi was the source of their knowledge of the WCBC.

SCHMIDT, CHRISTINE: Inman Branch, Rt #3, Box 433, Waynesville, NC 28786, (704) 648-2000. Christine and husband retired here 1½ years ago from Cincinnati where she was a volunteer teacher at the large Cincinnati Nature Center, handling groups ranging in age from one year through high school. She learned of the club through friend Peggy Ellis.

UHLE, WILLIAM and DOTTY. PO Box 354, Cedar Mtn. NC, 28718.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee of Elton Hansens, Anne Ulinski and Millie Pearson submitted the following slate: President, Don Herrman; Vice Pres. Dean Crawford; Secretary, Laverne Pearson; Treasurer, Elaine Montgomery. The slate were elected by unanimous ballot.

From " THE NORTH CAROLINA ARBORETUM, December 1994"

"Harry Logan bequeathed to the Arboretum his entire remaining collection of over 1000 horticultural, botanical, and garden books, as well as a \$25,000 endowment for purchase of additional books in future years. -- Additionally, our plant collections now contain several of Harry's most highly prized and valuable landscape specimens from his home, also specified in his will."

RECORDER'S REPORT - THE YEAR 1994.....ERIKA S. PARMI

A total of 40 day field trips and two overnights were scheduled for the year 1994. The South Carolina overnight on April 14/16 was cancelled as well as field trips to Jones Gap on April 15, Heintooga on June 10, Whiteside Mt. on Oct. 14 and McCall Cemetery loop on Oct. 28. The first three were cancelled because of rain and the McCall Cemetery trip was cancelled due to lack of access (FSR 475 was closed because of flood damage sustained in August).

This was a more normal flowering year than last year. The trees were especially spectacular - silverbell, dogwood, black locust and princess tree. These were notable on the trips to the Smokies--- the Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail, the Cosby/Greenbrier overnight and the Fines Creek trip.

As to species identified, half the trips provided us with more than 30 species each. On 10 trips 50 or more species were identified, most of these in bloom. The uncontested champion for this year was the Smokies National Park combination of the Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail and the Cove Hardwood Nature Trail at the Chimneys picnic area with a total of 75 species recorded. The closest competitors were the Coleman Boundary trip with 67 species and the Issaqueena trip with 65 species. Only 10 people enjoyed the Roaring Fork trip, the entire drive was spectacular---many trees in bloom along I 40 and then a great variety of species along the Motor Trail. The Issaqueena trip always is interesting because we see so many unfamiliar plants---plants that are at home in the piedmont rather than the mountains.

The two Fines Creek trips - the first on April 27 as part of the Smokies overnight and the second on May 2 revealed an amazing change in the brief span of 5 days. On April 27 we were treated to a dazzling display of trout lily and wake robin but on May 2 these were mostly gone to be replaced by large-flowered trillium and dwarf larkspur. The Grassy Ridge Overlook trip took us farther south on the Parkway than we usually go. The extra miles were definitely worth it since we saw 59 species in bloom. The Tanbark Tunnel trip also produced 59 species. On a cold, sunny day on May 20 at an altitude of 5560 ft. we observed 55 species of spring flowers. The phlox meadow at Bee Tree Gap on June 3 was its usual spectacular self with 52 species.

This year total attendance on trips was 689 with an average of 18 hikers per trip. Five trips--Craggy Gardens June 17, the picnic at Herrmans June 24, Shut-in trail June 29, Sky Valley road Aug. 12 and Kanuga Nov. 4 attracted more than 30 members each. A total of 17 trips were attended by 20 or more members and guests. Only 3 trips (Station Cove, UNCA Botanical Gardens and Frying Pen Gap attracted less than 10 and were on days with rain in the forecast. The two trips with highest attendance were the Sky Valley trip with 38 and at Kanuga with 33. Here we enjoyed Bill Verduin's "last hurrah" as a leader. We had cake and cider with Bill and Evelyn and Bill was given a gavel inscribed with his initials to commemorate his many years of service to the WCBC as President, leader and recorder.

Will the warm winter bring us an early spring? Or will winter arrive late and deal us a killing frost resulting in a meager or late blooming season? Whatever happens we know that the spring schedule will please us.

NOTES FROM WHITE SQUIRREL.....CHARLES R. GUNN

Notes and random thoughts follow about the flora of the Brevard NC area and about our wooded hill-top acre in Deerlake Village.

When we moved on August 1, 1994 and settled in the house, I started to plant trees, shrubs, and perennials with the idea of having at least 100 families growing on our acre of the 399 seed-bearing plant families that exist. Thus far I have about 50 families and with the addition of a front-yard waterfall, I should reach my goal in 1995. Because of my interest in families, I transplanted a buckhorn plantain (Plantago lanceolata) from the roadside to the summer wildflower bed. I keep records of my plantings on my computer using a WORDPERFECT file called PCF-5 to store my data. Thus I can sort on any field and keep my want list on the computer. I will be databanking seed and fruit data at the family level using the taxonomic program called DELTA which is designed to write keys, descriptions and make identifications. I have extensive files about seeds and fruits of families.

And this leads me to introduce you to my interest in seeds and fruits which drift in tropical ocean currents. I am working with the world's largest collection of tropical drift seeds and fruits, using both PCF-5 and DELTA. Along with Cathie Katz of Florida, we will issue a twice yearly Newsletter named "The Drifting Seeds." We expect Vol. 1, No. 1 to be dated May 1, 2005.

But enough about indoor efforts - I want to finish these notes on the outside with some of my interesting plant friends such as the red witchhazel, heather, and Cardamine which are in bloom in January. Also last fall I discovered Melampyrum lineare, Spiranthes gracilis, and Campanula divaricata and more importantly the realization that Shortia galacifolia is a native of Transylvania County. This brought back 40-year-old memories of Percy Albert Davies.

DID YOU KNOW ???

When a new issue of SHORTIA arrives many of our members look first at Dick Smith's LOOK AGAIN! to see what challenge he has given this time. How long has he been challenging us with these articles? The answer is that the current issue contains article number 55. Each quarter the editor is blessed when Dick provides the next LOOK AGAIN! and also sends the cover ready for printing. Tell him you appreciate his contributions next time you see him!

Dear Editors:

I know you want us members to contribute articles for SHORTIA, but hope you don't mind receiving a letter instead. (A friend let me write this on his new word processor, and one good feature is that it automatically corrects any errors in spelling, so you won't have to edit it.)

It seems to me that our new members might like to read about some of the things the Club did and saw in the past: Like hiking through a Fraser fir forest from Clingman's Dome to Andrews Bald with its masses of wine-leaved sinkfoil. I also remember the creeping flocks and phlox in the Joyce Kilmer woods, but we must not forget the common roadside plants like golden ragwort, self-heal, yellow impatiens and blue-toed flax.

On many trips along the Blue Ridge Parkway in summer we got to see bee balm, ladies'-slippers, southern hairbell, and the colorful fruits of Hearts-a-bustin' (Anonymus).

Then there were the unusual ones: quaking aspen, wild ginger and basal, and skunk celeriac. But for these we needed some of our more expert field trip leaders to show us the way--like Miles Peel, and Barber Halliwell (who has since moved to Pennsylvania). Perhaps the most noteworthy discovery of all was of sweet picture-plants in the vicinity of Seizure's Head by Ivan Custard.

(name withheld)



A tree rather commonly found in the low altitudes of the southern Appalachian Mountains of NC and TN is black gum, Nyssa sylvatica, a member of the tupelo-gum family Nyssaceae. A Greek water nymph inspired the name Nyssa for this moisture-loving tree while sylvatica refers to woodland. Considered a medium sized tree, it is known to attain a height of 60 to 100 feet. Its conical topped crown, dense foliage and many up-reaching small branches carried on an erect trunk gave rise to the mountain name "wild pear tree". Other local names include sourgum, pepperidge (an old English corruption of barberry) and black tupelo, an Indian name.

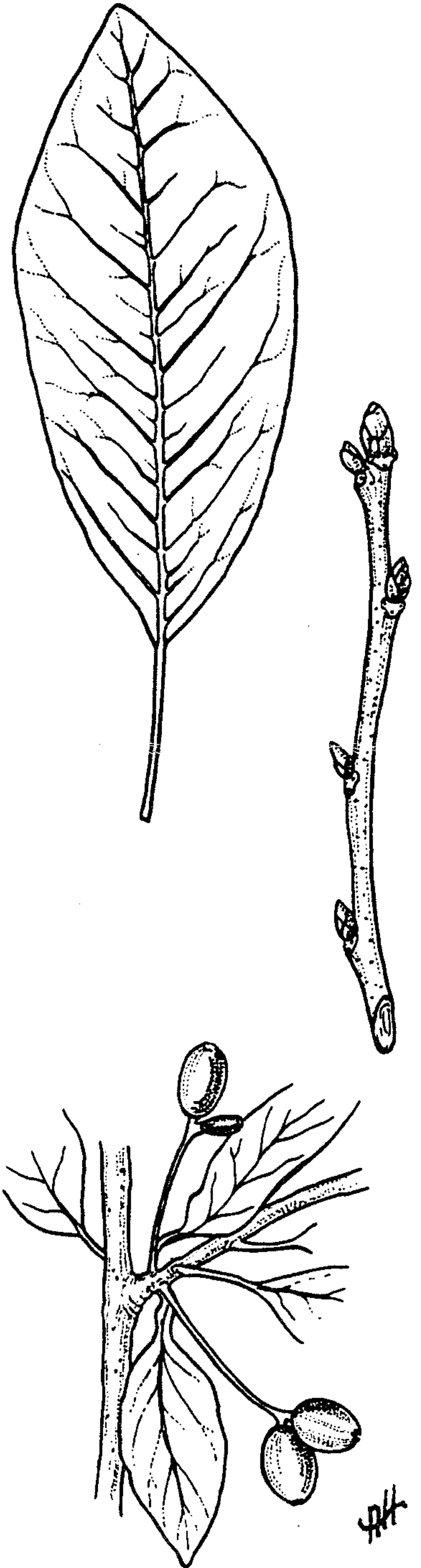
The peak time of flowering is usually early May when the small inconspicuous greenish-white flowers appear among the unfurling new leaves. These flowers may be perfect or male and female flowers may be borne on separate trees.

The leathery textured, glossy leaves, 2 to 5 inches long, are alternate, simple, narrowly obovate and densely clustered. By autumn the leaves turn blood red and small, dark blue fleshy drupes appear. Seed dispersal is promoted by bears, squirrels and many birds attracted to the oily, sour pulp of these "gum berries".

The bark of mature trees is grayish-black, thick, rough and deeply furrowed into oblong blocks rather like an alligator's hide. A moist location and thick bark protect this tree from fire but a shallow root system gives little resistance to high winds.

Commercially wood of the black gum is tough and hard to split and of little value. It is used largely for rough lumber or small specialized products where tough wood is needed. However, this shapely tree with its gorgeous scarlet autumn foliage is a desirable ornamental suited especially to moist areas.

BLACKGUM



PURPLE FRINGELESS ORCHID, PLATANThERA PERAMOENA.....IVAN KUSTER

The species name, peramoena, is a Latin adjective meaning "very lovely", and it really is. The purple fringeless orchid has a geographic range from western NY, PA to parts of NC and SC, to AL, TN, and MO, MD, VA and WV - a southern midland species.

Its habitat is moist woods, stream banks and wet meadows. Blooms may be seen from mid-June to late Sept. It is typically a meadow plant and like some other orchids may be more abundant in some years than others.

Purple fringeless orchid is a beautiful plant with rose-purple or phlox-purple flowers growing from 2 to 3½ feet tall. The petals are usually ¾ inch in diameter. The lip is deeply divided into 3 lobes which have small teeth on the edges. The center lobe, which is wider, has a notch. The spur with an enlarged tip curves downward about an inch from the base of the lip. The leaves are lanceolate, tuberous and tapering from a thickened base.

I first found this orchid in the swamp meadow at FENCE eleven years ago. There were only five plants then. Now they number about 30. They range from 1 to over 3 feet tall. The area has increased considerably since they were first seen. Many grow in grassy weedy areas full of brambles, willows, elderberries and tag alders. This orchid blooms at FENCE around July 10-20.

Donovan Correll in his excellent book "Native Orchids of North America" states that he had found a small meadow at Linville Falls so abundant with the purple fringeless orchid that the flowers gave the whole area a rich red-purple color. He also found many plants in undisturbed meadows and swamps in the vicinity of Caesar's Head. The unique color of the flowers and their comparative rarity makes them more attractive than many of our other native species.

WILDFLOWER EVENTS, SPRING 1995.

Asheville Day in the Gardens and 23rd Annual Spring Wildflower and Bird Pilgrimage sponsored by UNCA and University Botanical Gardens. May 5-7, 1995. For information write Dr. Jim Perry, Dept. of Biology, UNCA, 1 University Heights, Asheville, NC 28804-3289.

45th Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage. April 27, 28, 29, 1995. Write Great Smoky National Park, Gatlinburg, TN 37738 or call (615) 436-1262.

SC Spring Wildflower Walks in April and May on various dates in 8 parks. Write: Wildflower Walks, SC State Parks, 1205 Pendleton St. Columbia, SC 29201

Similar Events are often offered in Georgia, Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee. We do not have details on these for 1995.

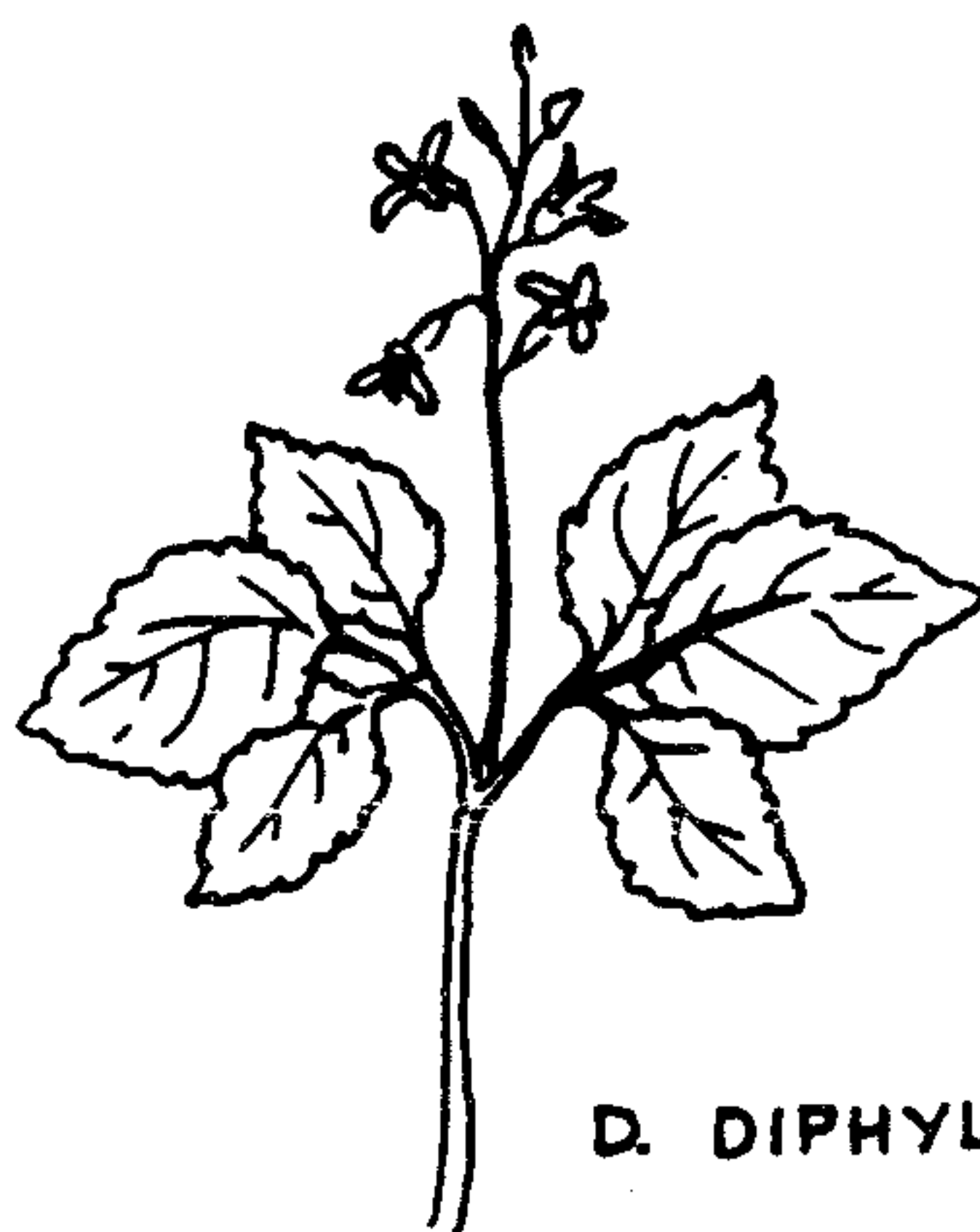
LOOK AGAIN !

The Toothworts (Dentaria spp.) are attractive spring wildflowers with clusters of white, or sometimes pale pink, four-petaled blossoms. Only three kinds are common in our area, but keying these out sometimes becomes bothersome when they are combined with the so-called Bitter Cresses in the genus Cardamine. (In Dentaria the leaves are palmately or ternately dissected, while in Cardamine they are pinnate.)

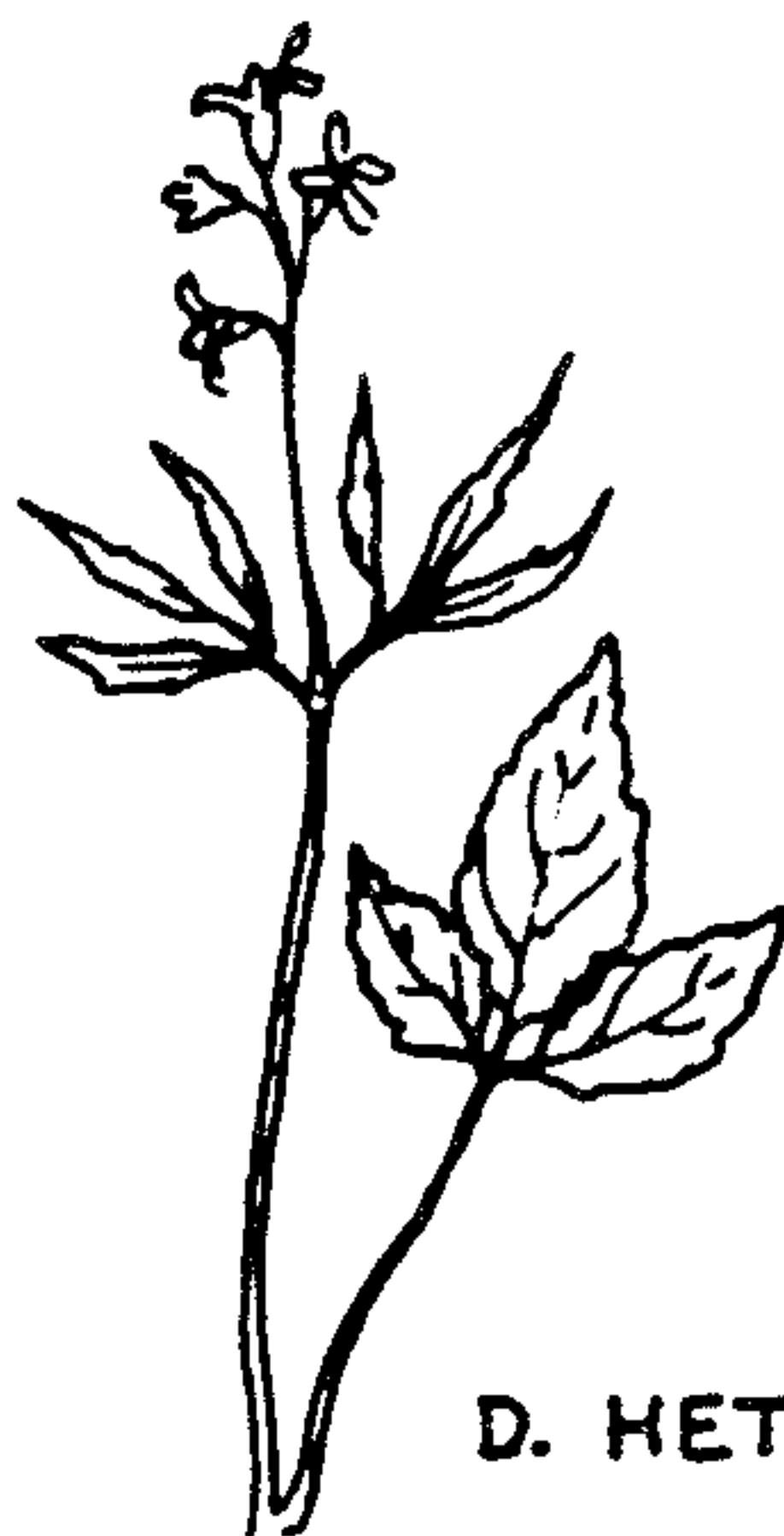
D. diphylla, which is also known as Crinkleroot because of its crisp, pungent rhizome, has a subopposite pair of leaves about midway up the stem each with three broad, coarsely toothed leaflets. Cut-leaved Toothwort, D. laciniata (Cardamine concatenata), has a whorl of three cauline leaves and they are deeply divided into three narrow, toothed segments.



D. LACINIATA



D. DIPHYLLA



D. HETEROPHYLLA

In both of these species the basal leaves are similar to those on the stem, although they usually are absent at time of flowering. On the other hand, Slender Toothwort, or D. heterophylla (C. angustata), has leaves of two different forms: The basal ones resemble those of D. diphylla, while those on the stem (usually a pair) have three narrow segments as in D. laciniata but are much smaller.

Dick Smith

S H I A

Vol. XVII, No. 1.

Spring 1995

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB.

Editors: Elton J and Aline Hansens Distribution; Ruth Hoerich

Please submit contributions (articles, Letters to the Editors, notes, etc.) for the next issue by May 10, 1995 to Elton J. Hansens, 125 Far Horizons Lane, Asheville, NC 28803. (Telephone: (704) 277-7486.

REMINDER: 1995 CLUB DUES OF \$8.00 are to be paid to the treasurer, Elaine Montgomery, 1636 O'Hara Circle, Hendersonville, 29739

SHORTIA
c/o Ruth Hoerich
215 Newport Road
Hendersonville, NC 28739



FIRST CLASS

*Bud & Laverne Pearson
2514 Kanuga Road
Hendersonville, NC 28739*

