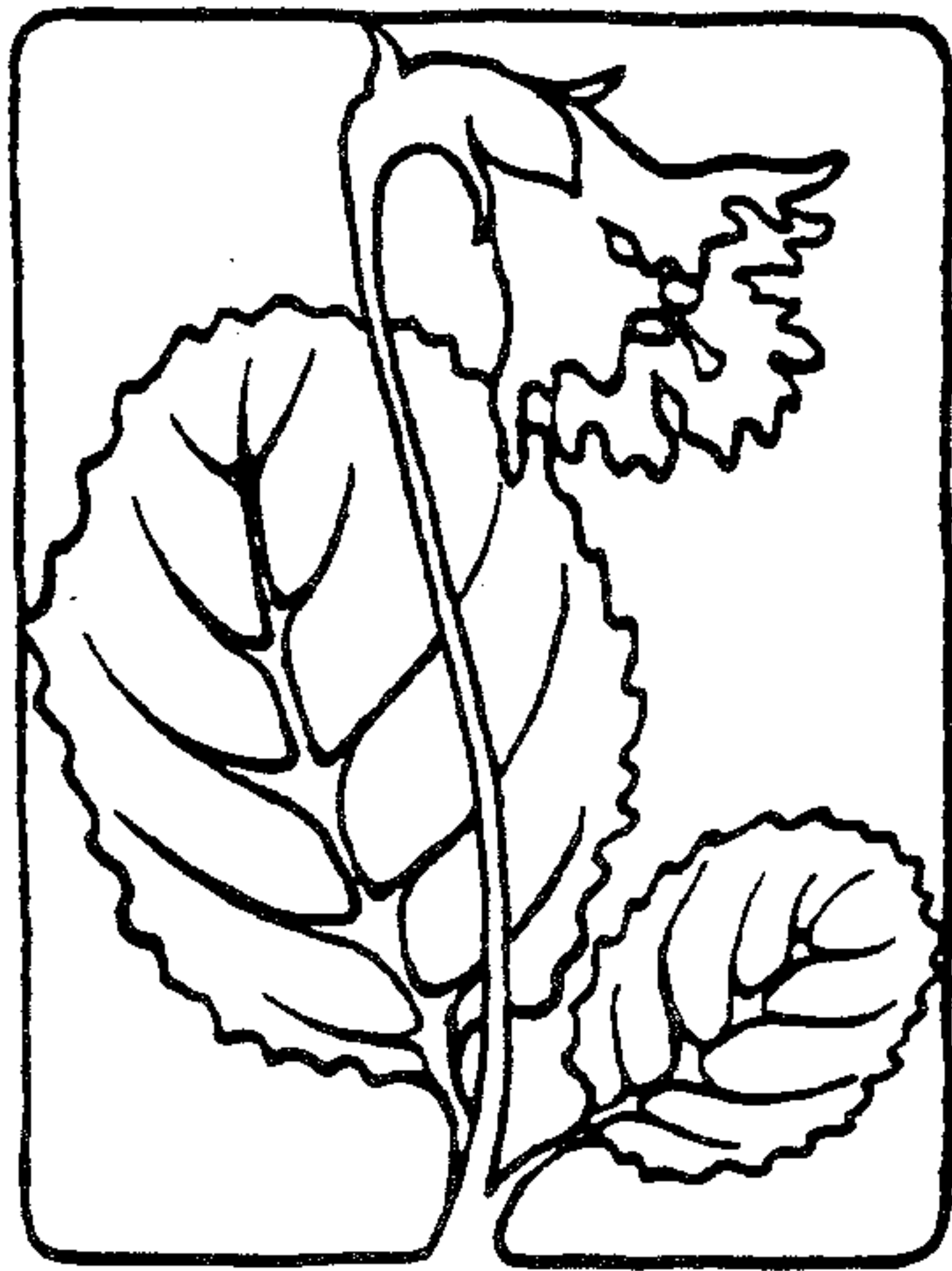


SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

WINTER 1995 - 96



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

Hello Opal - your visit made us cancel the fall picnic--but not before Millie Blaha and Anne Ulinski scouted our trails. They have provided us with an excellent plant list. We will hold onto this list and look forward to your (not Opal's) next visit.

The weather did not cooperate the next week. The Whiteside Mountain trip had to be cancelled---2 in a row. I know it is discouraging to our leaders and recorders who scout ahead, draw up plant lists, and do the work to make these outings successful. The Club does appreciate your efforts. Although we cannot control the weather and we will get our fair share, whatever that may be.

The Program Committee has again come up with a promising schedule for the next six months (so we are optimistic about the weather.

No, this is not a closed secret group. If you (any member in good standing) would like to participate in this activity, please let me know. We will be meeting again this coming spring.

Another item we are all going to have to cooperate on is our membership list. The Post Office is changing the zip codes. We will need to double check our zips--addresses, as well as phone numbers. This is especially true for members who list dual residency. Such local numbers are important too.

Time for a compliment---can you believe it? There was a really good group on the Blue Ridge Parkway south. Not only was the botanizing good, but everyone also paid attention to the traffic--and there was plenty--cars, motorcycles, and even bicycles---so, a big bouquet for everyone!!

On Oct. 1 the ladies tresses made their appearance in our meadows. This just about completes the cycle. Soon there will be a killing frost or even snow. The meadow has been fun to watch this year with the weeds and wildflowers competing with the mosses. I wonder which will win out next year.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Cookie Fest on Dec. 1 and especially at our Annual Meeting January 19, 1996. Watch for the WCBC Program Schedule for Feb. thru June 1996.

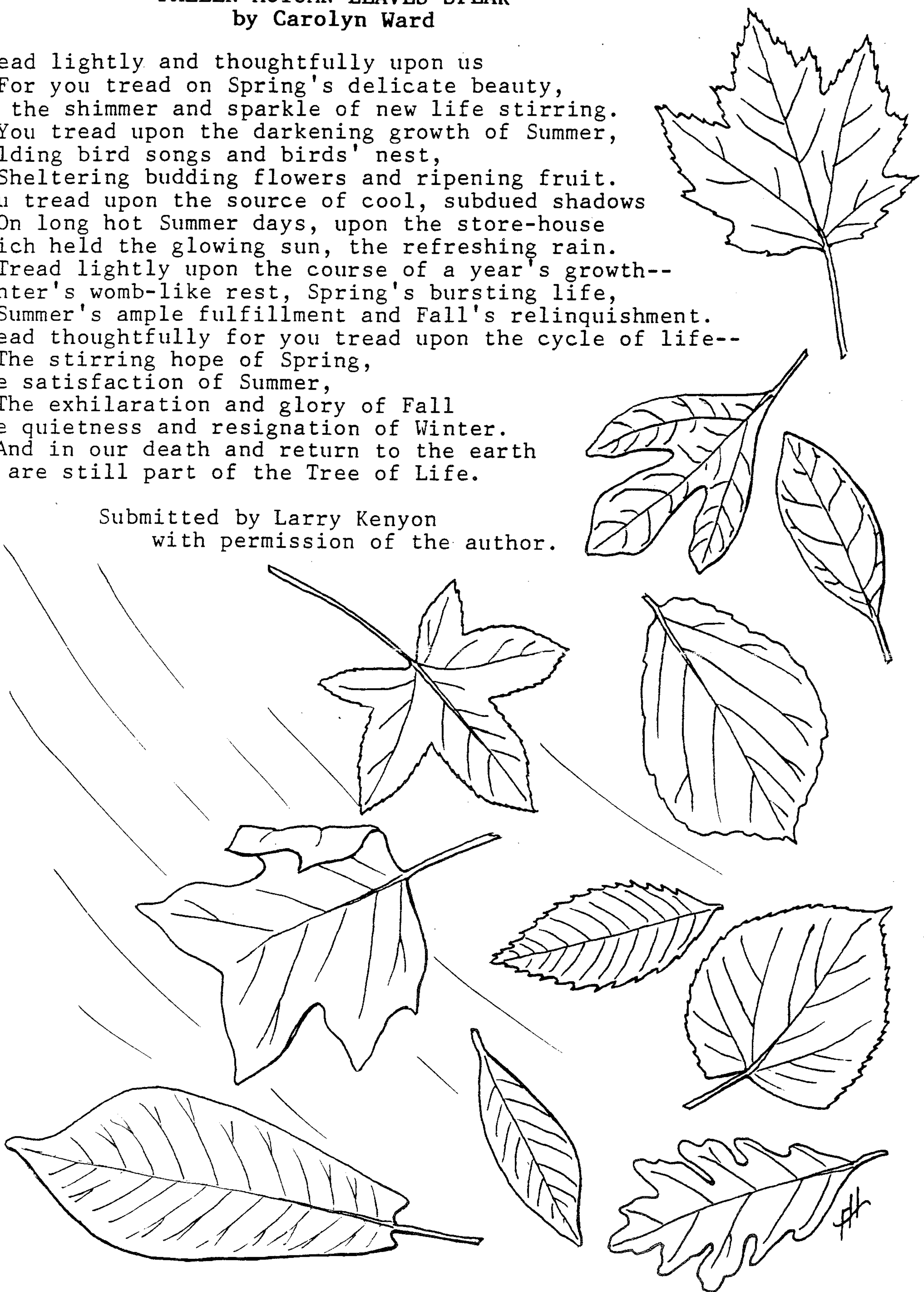
HENDERSONVILLE WCBC MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:

If your zipcode is different than that in the 1995 WCBC Membership List please give the new one to Ruth Hoerich (696-8063) or 215 Newport Rd., Hendersonville, NC 28739. THANKS.

FALLEN AUTUMN LEAVES SPEAK
by Carolyn Ward

Tread lightly and thoughtfully upon us
For you tread on Spring's delicate beauty,
On the shimmer and sparkle of new life stirring.
You tread upon the darkening growth of Summer,
Holding bird songs and birds' nest,
Sheltering budding flowers and ripening fruit.
You tread upon the source of cool, subdued shadows
On long hot Summer days, upon the store-house
Which held the glowing sun, the refreshing rain.
Tread lightly upon the course of a year's growth--
Winter's womb-like rest, Spring's bursting life,
Summer's ample fulfillment and Fall's relinquishment.
Tread thoughtfully for you tread upon the cycle of life--
The stirring hope of Spring,
The satisfaction of Summer,
The exhilaration and glory of Fall
The quietness and resignation of Winter.
And in our death and return to the earth
We are still part of the Tree of Life.

Submitted by Larry Kenyon
with permission of the author.



RECORDER'S REPORT - SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 1995....ERIKA S. PARMI

Since I have missed most of this quarter's field trips, I will take this opportunity to thank all of the field recorders for a job well done. Most of you have recorded at least twice during each six month period and some have recorded more often graciously accepting extra assignments or pitching in as substitutes for recorders who could not come on their scheduled trips.

Recording is a great way to become more familiar with the botanical names of plants. It has helped me immensely and now those scientific names just roll off my tongue - at least most of the time! If any of you out there who have not been asked to record would like to, please let me know. For most of the trips plant lists already exist which you can use as a basis for the trip that you are recording. In addition to the plant list you will need to write a brief narrative (a paragraph or so) of the trip noting the date, place, leaders, number of people and anything of special interest, e.g. an unusual plant or an outstanding display. Instruction sheets are available for new recorders - just ask for one.

In conclusion, if any of the computer owners have a yen to take over the Recorder's position, I think it would be great. A computer, I believe, would help to make the job a better, quicker and easier one.

VOLUNTEER TO RECORD - IT'S A GREAT WAY TO PARTICIPATE AND LEARN!

Letter to the Editor

September 24, 1995

In one of the interesting articles in the autumn Shortia, a recommendation was made that a specimen of a record plant (in essence a new sighting) be collected and sent to a herbarium. A few cautionary remarks are in order.

First to consider is the legality of collecting a plant whether on private or public land. The U.S. Forest Service requires a collecting permit. The National Park Service requires written permission. Threatened or endangered plants should not be collected. On private land, seek permission from the landowner. Having met these conditions, consideration should be given to the possibility of depleting what may be a very small population at the site. Many herbariums require a whole plant specimen which means removing the roots.

Two of us who have been working on intensive plant inventories at certain sites for the last ten years have worked out an alternative to herbarium collecting. We have established a working relationship with two of the recognized biologists in the area. They have confirmed identifications for us and can do further reporting if necessary. In addition we send written plant and site descriptions with photographs to Alan Weakley who is revising the "Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas" by Radford, Ahles and Bell -- the new book will be entitled "Flora of the Carolinas and Virginia".

It is exciting to find a record plant and important to report such a finding but actual collection is not always necessary. A reminder: The Botanical Club "does not condone removing plant material from the wild (other than gathering edible fruits)" -- see the front page of each field trip schedule.

-Anne Ulinski

GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....ALINE HANSENS

Martin, Ethel: 100 Wesley Drive, Unit 612, Asbury Hall, Givens Estates, Asheville, NC 29903 (701) 277-8751. Became interested in nature when an elementary school teacher in Cincinnati, OH. Retired to this area 22 years ago. Has a long standing interest in plants and is now coordinator of the Creekside Wildflower Garden at Givens Estates.



Miller, Bettye & Earl: Rt. 1, Box 654, Sylva, NC 28779 (704) 456-3631. Winter address: PO Box 78, LaBelle, FL 33935

Mueller, Werner: 1514A Blanton St. Ext., Columbus, NC 28722. (704) 894-5512. Has considerable knowledge of botany in which he has long been interested.

Stenger, Gloria: Rt 1, Box 645-A. Sylva, NC 28779. (704) 456-7392 (May thru Oct.). Winter address: 4550 J. Stenger Rd., Bartow, FL 33830. (813) 537-1728. Originally from Atlanta but now winters in Florida. Love of mountains brought her to this area since 1972. Has long-standing interest in wild flowers.

Warren, Ina W.: Rt. 1, Box 246A, E. Fork Rd., Brevard, NC. 28712. (704) 862-4079. A native of this area with an avid interest in the outdoors and wild flowers. Gives workshops and slide shows on the historical use of medicinal plants.

Williams, Joseph K.: 115 Spartan Hts., Lot 27, H'ville, NC 28792. (704) 696-3287. Free lance naturalist and outdoor education specialist with wide experience. Bill is eager to explore new botanical areas and to increase his botanical knowledge. Introduced to WCBC by Ivan Kuster.

BRUCE ALFRED LEECH -- A TRIBUTE

Bruce Leech died at age 87 on Sept. 21, 1995 in St. Joseph's Hospital, Asheville. Bruce joined the Western Carolina Botanical Club in 1973 soon after it was organized. He was elected President in 1979 and 1980. He was honored by our club with the Second Wind Hall of Fame Award. Through the years he was a very active club member and led many field trips. Several of the trails Bruce first introduced are favorites to this day. He was also active in the Carolina Mountain Club and, with other enthusiasts, volunteered much time and effort in trail building and maintenance.

We remember Bruce for his ready smile and friendly manner and for his interest and work in the WCBC through some 20 years.

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

Now I have over 100 spermatophyte families growing around the house---it's time to talk about families. One of my projects here in Brevard is to describe the seeds and fruits of the 399 families listed in FAMILIES AND GENERA OF THE SPERMATOPHYTES RECOGNIZED BY THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE, USAD/ARS Technical Bulletin 1796. I plan to feature in this column one or more families each issue along with brief notes about the interesting local plants.

Lowe's in Hendersonville was selling butterfly vine (Mascagnia macroptera) with its pure yellow flowers and remarkably intriguing fruits which resemble clusters of butterflies. The plant belongs to the Barbados-cherry family (Malpighiaceae) which has 65 genera and 1100 species. This family is native to the tropical and subtropical New and Old World, especially South America. Plants primarily are trees, shrubs, and lianes. The leaves are usually opposite, simple, and bear 2 large fleshy glands on the petiole or below the blade. More than half the species occur in 8 genera. Two of the more noteworthy species are the Barbados-cherry (Malpighia glabra), famous for its edible drupes with high concentrations of vitamin C, and Banisteriopsis caapi which produces hallucinogenic alkaloids.

At 120 White Squirrel, meadow beauty (Rhexia mariana) and rose pink (Sabatia angularis) became families 100 and 101 in my garden. The next 100 families will take a lot more than a year to add to my garden.

The most unusual plant I saw in July came from Hendersonville and was marsh pennywort, (Hydrocotyle umbellata) in the Apiaceae family.

On the weedy side, The Manual of the Vascular Plants of the Carolinas, page 979 describes buttonweed, Diodia teres as having "white flowers", but I found pink-flowered plants in Brevard. B. Eugene Wofford in his Guide to the Vascular Plants of the Blue Ridge, page 287, got me back on track with his flower color note "Flowers pink, rarely white". I have the highest regard for both books. Wofford's book has the advantage of being about twenty years newer. Now I have both species of buttonweeds in my summer wildflower garden:

Along White Squirrel I found an ancient buffalo-nut (Pyralia pubera). The shrub has poisonous fruits which resemble miniature pears. I planted them at the bases of oak trees. Buffalo-nut is parasitic on oak tree roots. I doubt that the shrubs will leaf and fruit next year but hope I have helped the species survive along White Squirrel Lane.

The surprise: Butterfly-pea, (Clitoria virginiana) and pencilflower, (Stylosanthes biflora), both in the Fabaceae, are atop the stone drive at 120 White Squirrel Lane.

NATURE ON A RAMPAGE.....MILLIE PEARSON

Fork Creek (in front of my house) and Colt Creek at Pearson Falls (just up the road from us) are gently flowing streams, gurgling over stones and sparkling in the sunshine as they hurry along to the Atlantic Ocean. These two creeks, along with three others and about a dozen smaller streams all empty into the Pacolet River which runs through the valley at Melrose between Saluda and Tryon and winds its way into South Carolina. This river, which the Cherokee called "Laughing Water" is normally a gently flowing stream, small, as rivers go. This changed drastically on the night of August 19, 1995. A band of violent thunderstorms, covering an area over Greenville and Spartanburg SC and all the area between, which includes Fork Creek, Colt Creek and the Pacolet River, stalled over this immediate area and dumped 12 inches of rain in a matter of a few hours. The rain began about 8 pm and lasted until after midnight. A frontal system moving in from the east and an upper level front passing at the same time (called a back-door front) created a stalled effect which caused one of the worst floods the Pacolet Valley has had in years.

Unlike the flood of 1977 which did extensive damage in most of western NC and upper SC., this storm was only in "our" area in and around the Pacolet Valley. Several Valley residents had to leave their homes near Hwy 176 between Saluda and Tryon.

The Pacolet gobbled up river banks, washed out bridges and uprooted trees. Boulders and huge chunks of concrete from private bridges were swept down the river as if they were matchsticks. There were numerous mud slides, boulders and trees on Hwy 176 between Saluda and Tryon. The roadway had to be rebuilt in many places where banks caved away. Highway crews are still at work trying to get all the damage repaired.

The railroad was also damaged heavily--rails and crossties were washed away or were covered where trees and boulders crashed down the mountain sides. Trains were not able to run for two weeks. In November crews are still at work in the Melrose area.

No strong winds were part of this storm; the ground simply became so saturated that tons of soil, trees, rocks and boulders just slid down the mountain sides.

I had no damage to my house nor to my yard, except to part of the drive and the area between the drive and the creek. The bridge became clogged with tree roots, logs and debris. Most of the water flowed on my side of the creek, washing out holes and leaving much litter. Believe me, hearing the rocks rumbling and tumbling down the creek in front of my house was not fun. Covering my head with the bedcovers didn't help much either.

One patch of Shortia I had planted beside the creek is now covered with trees, logs and sticks. Another patch was mostly washed away.

See next page.

Most of you who have visited my place may remember the island in the creek in front of my house. It is no more. Piles of boulders and smaller rocks remain and the creek is much wider.

About a third of the swamp trail was covered with sand and debris. The area where the spring beauty grows was little disturbed. Hopefully the wild flowers will appear this spring, especially the large areas of mayapples. We will see what emerges through the sand and debris.

Pearson Falls also had extensive damage. The Lightner Ledge, where the golden saxifrage grows had raging water over the lower half. Spring beauty may be gone. Hopefully enough will be left to survive. Numerous trees were lost near the falls. The falls itself is now wider but still beautiful. Other vegetation on either side of the falls was washed away.

The Tryon Garden Club has employed crews to clear fallen trees and repair walks and hand rails. The Falls is now open to the public. In the spring we may know the fate of the wild flowers.

For most of my life the valley and Fork Creek have changed little. Change came with the flood of 1977. Change came again in 1995. The area will recover. The plants will grow again.

A visit to Pearson Falls is a must in 1996 to see the devastation and to enjoy what is left and what may be new.

SNOWBIRD MOUNTAIN LODGE/KILMER FOREST TRIP

April 23 to 25, 1996--a repeat of this popular trip. Plan now to go and reserve your space by calling Snowbird Mountain Lodge 275 Santeetlah Road, Robinsville, NC 28771. (704)479-3433 More details in the 1996 Spring Schedule which you will receive soon. If you have questions call Elton Hansens (704) 277-7486.



LEAVES PICTURED ON PAGE 3.

Acer rubrum

Hamamelis virginiana

Tilia americana

Quercus alba

Sassafras albidum

Liriodendron tulipifera

Magnolia fraseri

Liquidambar styraciflua

Fagus grandifolia

Nyssa sylvatica

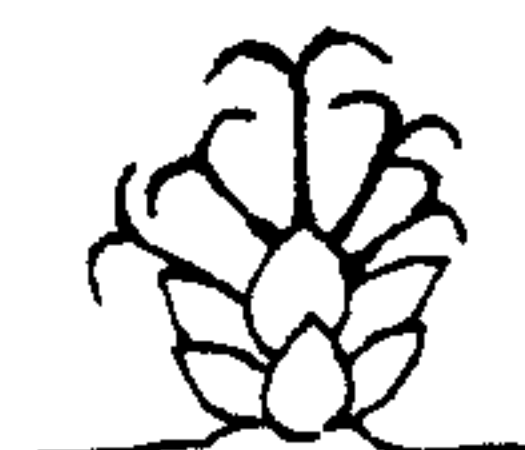
LOOK AGAIN !

The flowers of our native Maples provide us with an interesting subject for study in the spring.

Later in the season we will have no difficulty distinguishing between Red Maple (Acer rubrum) and Silver Maple (A. saccharinum) on the basis of their foliage, but the blossoms emerge very early so this is of no help. They grow in small clusters, each made up of either staminate or pistillate flowers. The two species are superficially similar but have one difference which is diagnostic: Each individual flower of Red Maple has five petals, while those of Silver Maple have none.



ACER RUBRUM



A. SACCHARINUM

In two others--Striped Maple (A. pensylvanicum) and Mountain Maple (A. spicatum)--the situation is reversed. The flowers open later, but although the leaves are then in evidence they are confusingly similar, differing mainly in that the margins are finely toothed in the first species and coarsely serrate in the second. The flowers, however, present no problem. Both are greenish yellow, but those of Striped Maple are $\frac{1}{4}$ " long, bell-like, in pendulous racemes, while those of Mountain Maple are half as long with very narrow petals, and are much more numerous, in slender erect panicles.

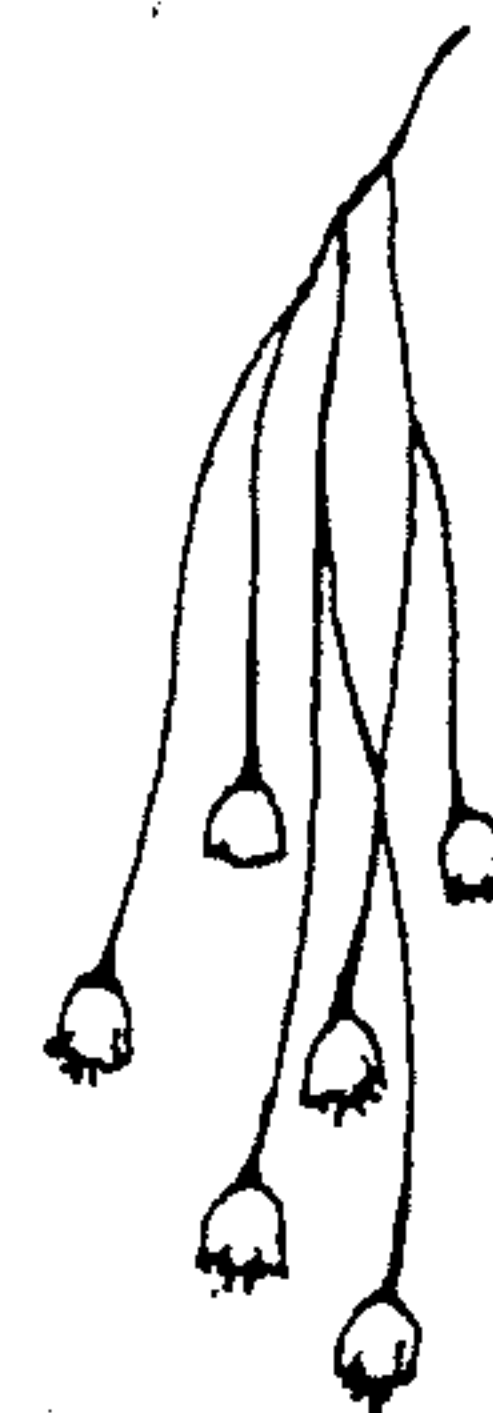


A. PENSYLVANICUM



A. SPICATUM

Sugar Maple (A. saccharum) has leaves that resemble Red and Silver Maple but have only a few large teeth. Its flowers have pale yellow sepals but no petals, and hang from long, threadlike petioles.



A. SACCHARUM

Dick Smith

S H O R T I A

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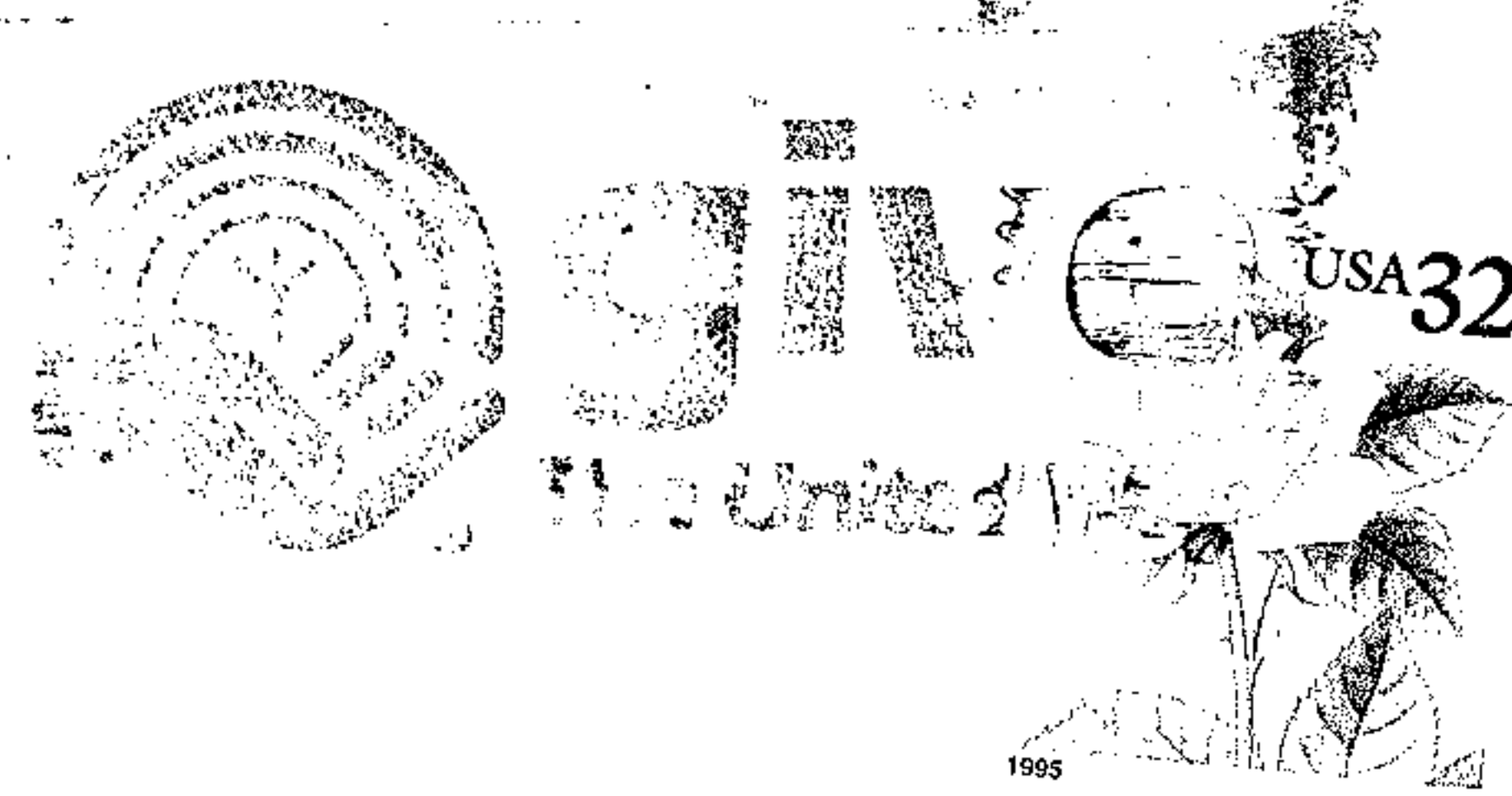
Editors: Elton J and Aline Hansens Distribution: Ruth Hoerich

Please submit contributions (articles, Letters to the Editors, notes, etc. for the next issue by Jan. 15, 1996 to Elton Hansens, 125 Far Horizons Lane, Asheville, NC 28803. (704) 277-7486.

REMINDER: 1996 CLUB DUES OF \$8.00 are to be paid to the treasurer, Elaine Montgomery, 1636 O'Hara Circle, H'ville, 29739.

SHORTIA

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



FIRST CLASS

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