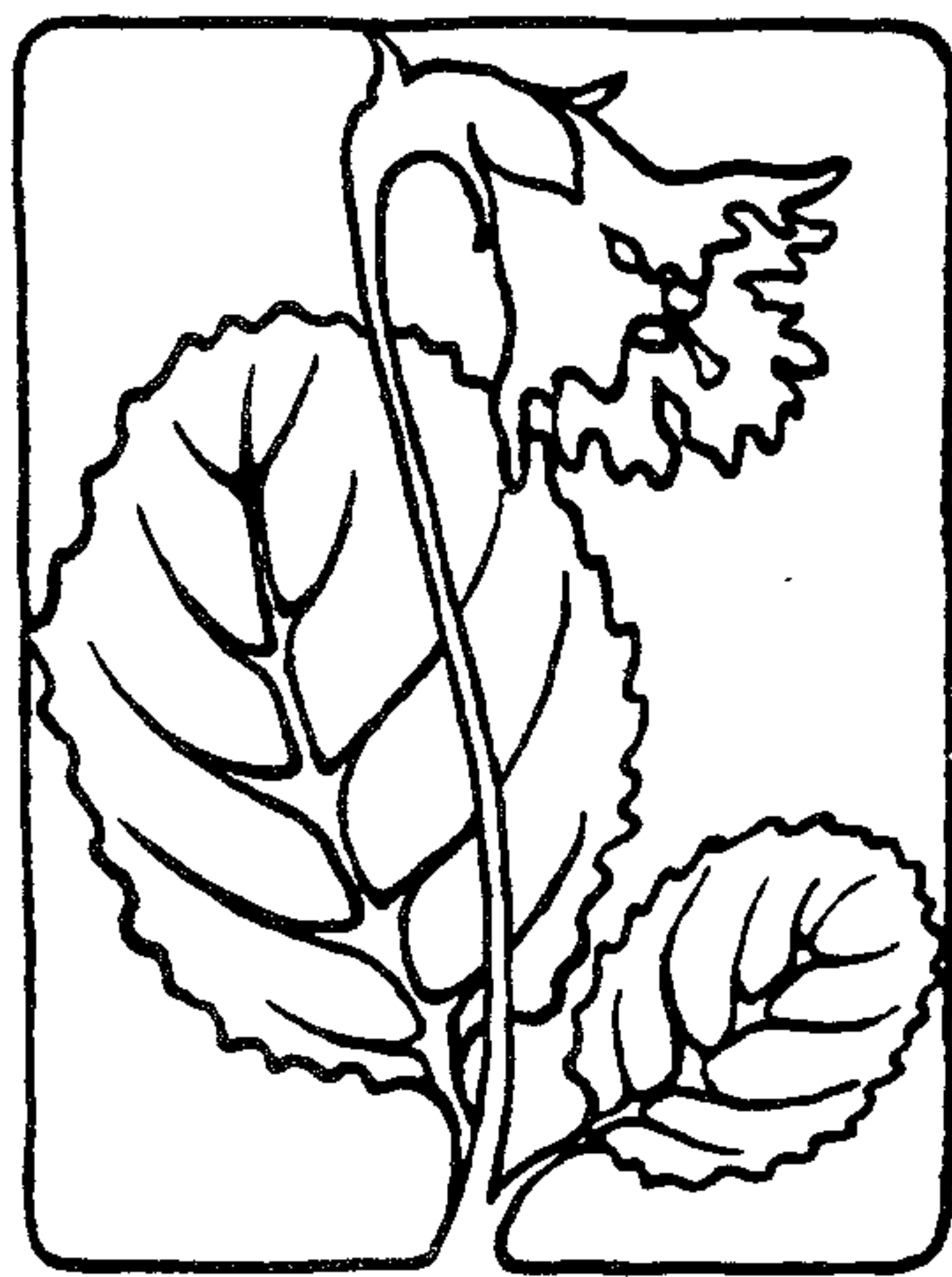


SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

AUTUMN 1996



ELTON and ALINE HANSENS
Editors

WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

President:	Don Herrman	Treasurer:	Elaine Montgomery
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FROM THE PRESIDENT.....DON HERRMAN

Summer is here!! When I was tubing down the road this winter enjoying the snow, I wondered if the meadow would ever recover. It has in abundance. Even the encroaching moss has yielded to the spring beauties and other weeds and wild flowers. I won't use the mower until fall.

By fall we will be having another meeting of the Scheduling Committee. If you have any ideas for next year let your club officers know. Your participation is always welcome.

Now this is especially true where SHORTIA is concerned. It is apparent that only a few members are contributing articles and letters to our publication. Remember it is Shortia that helps bind us together.

It is going to be much more interesting for our Editors and readers when more members SHARE their experiences--all of us travel, read and botanize in our own surroundings. Why not share our findings with the rest of the Club. Shortia is the way to do this. Contact our Editors and let them know what you are doing.

Although our Annual Meeting is a few months away, another Nominating Committee has been appointed. Don Bender, Lois McDaniel, and Erika Parmi have graciously consented to take on this task.

As the summer winds down and I await what is going to happen in the meadow I am struck by the many ways we can contribute to WCBC, especially through Shortia.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....ALINE HANSENS

Forshaw, Yvette 47 Lake Dr., K6, Hendersonville, NC 28739. (704) 692-8022. Yvette, a retired army and V. A. nurse, has lived almost 50 years in the Asheville area. Loves plants and flowers; learned of the WCBC from member Ruth Hoerich.



Greer, Frederick & Jeanne 205 Stonebrook Dr., Hendersonville, NC 28791. (704) 697-1406.

Jaffe, Bernard & Gloria Route 1, Box 74. Zirconia, NC 28790. (Temporary address until move to Flat Rock).

Sirchia, Vincent & Jean 14 Lakewood Rd., Hendersonville, NC 28792.

MEMBER NEWS.....ANNE ULINSKI

In May of this year, Millie Blaha and I signed a contract with The Nature Conservancy's Southeast Regional Office to do a two-year study at the Carl Sandburg National Historic Site. Our assignment is to inventory the vascular flora and collect herbarium specimens for each species found in the park during all growing seasons over the two-year period. We will also be helping with the mapping of the plant communities, preparing the herbarium specimens in accordance with National Park Service guidelines and assisting with the recording of the data into the Automated National Catalog System. This project stems from a partnership arrangement between The Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service

So far Millie and I have collected over 150 plant specimens. It's a real departure for us because we are required to dig up specimens so that the root structure is also available for study. It's a wonderful project and we are having lots of fun.

I'm also spending considerable time with the land trust we organized in Henderson County. I believe we'll be successful in saving some land from the chip mills and developers. I like to think of plants and animals surviving under our watchful eyes!

A BOOK FOR THE AVID BOTANIST.....ELTON J. HANSENS

We have recently purchased **GUIDE TO THE FLOWERING PLANTS** by Wendy B. Zomlefer, a highly technical and beautifully illustrated book published by University of North Carolina Press. The 158 original pen and ink plates depict intricate dissections of 312 species in 130 temperate to tropical families. I could spend hours studying the detailed drawings. Aline, being a scientific illustrator herself, truly appreciates the magnitude of the work and its excellence. This is not a field manual but is a valuable tool for classroom and laboratory.

RECORDER'S REPORT FOR MAY THROUGH JULY 1996.....ERIKA S. PARMİ

During this period all trips were held except the May 6 trip to Tanbark Tunnel which was cancelled because of rain. The Laurel River trip on May 3 was noteworthy for the abundance of early saxifrage (Saxifraga virginensis) and a patch of liverworts on the wet rock walls. Seven species of violets were seen.

The May 10 trip to the Coleman Boundry Road was held on a beautiful spring day. This road always has a great variety of species. A short walk on an old forest road to Corner Rock (a large overhanging rock above a small creek) produced one-flowered cancer root (Orobanche uniflora), showy orchis (Galearis spectabilis) and a special treat - a wild hen turkey (Meleagris gallopavo)! Along the road yellow coltsfoot (Tussilago farfara), which we seldom see, was in bloom.

The cold day on Buck Springs Nature Trail on May 13 surprised everyone with a few snow flurries. In spite of this many flowers were out with an abundance of painted trillium (Trillium undulatum) including one with 5 petals rather than the typical six.

Whiteside Mountain on May 20 presented us with a spectacular display of Catesby's trillium (T. catesbaei) along the cliffside trail. The sand myrtle (Leiophyllum buxifolium) was in full bloom. On our fall foliage trips to the mountain we usually see only a few late blossoms of the myrtle. The lunch hour conversation was enlivened by students on a geology/natural history field trip from the University of Oklahoma.

The drive to Bearpen Gap on May 24 was a beautiful one with pink shell azaleas (Rhododendron vaseyi) in full bloom along the Parkway. On the trail itself there was an abundance of hawthorne, toothwort and bluets with more than forty other wildflowers in bloom.

The Horse Cove trip on May 27 and the Heintooga trip on June 7 produced few flowers. The Horse Cove trip was held much later than usual and the Heintooga trip was earlier in the month.

June 14 at Craggy Gardens was a little early for the Catawba rhododendron (R. catawbiense) to be in full bloom, but the abundance of the white three-toothed cinquefoil (Potentilla tridentata) made up for that.

The picnic on June 21 at Don Herrman's was an unqualified success with good weather, camaraderie, delicious food and interesting plants. Of special note were the orchids - green adder's mouth (Malaxis unifolia) with its one green leaf and tiny green flowers only seen well with a hand lens; a group of colorful rosebud orchids (Cleistes divaricata) and the common downy rattlesnake plantain (Goodyeara pubescens). Don has an amazing variety of flowering plants, both common and unusual, on his acreage. Also seen was lizard's tail (Saururus cernuus). Its drooping raceme of white flowers is normally found in the piedmont and coastal plain of the Carolinas. Another interesting plant was the silverberry or autumn olive (Eleagnus umbellata), a shrub (not in bloom) whose fruit is enjoyed in the fall by birds. It gets its name from the silvery undersides of its leaves.

RECORDER'S REPORT p. 2.

On June 28 many flowering plants were seen at Grassy Ridge Mine Overlook in spite of competition from trucks and workers repaving a section of the Parkway. A line of single traffic prevented the group from going to other overlooks we usually visit.

July 12 at Butter Gap turned up another orchid. It was in fruit at the time and remained unidentified. Dick Smith did some intensive research and identified it as the rare Loesel's twayblade (Liparis loeselii), another orchid with tiny greenish-yellow flowers.

The meadow at Haywood Gap on July 19 again was covered with a spectacular display of fly poison (Amianthemum muscaetoxicum) along with a few blossoming plants of bunchflower (Melanthium virginicum) which we seldom see. The month's field trips ended on July 26 on the Shut-In Trail where we saw more than 40 species in bloom. We especially enjoyed the small-flowered false hellebore (Veratrum parviflorum). This was a good year for the species. They have been seen abundantly on other trails. The turk's cap lily (Lilium superbum) also was especially abundant.

Because I was away for most of these trips I am indebted to all the individual recorders who sent in plant lists and such good trip descriptions.

SAVING THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

Preserver's of the Blue Ridge Parkway hopes to raise \$250,000 this calendar year to purchase selected land. The pastoral character of the Blue Ridge Parkway is under increasing pressure from development in its scenic corridor. Every penny raised will be used to purchase essential rights of way. Members of the WCBC are invited to participate. To become a parkway preserver send your contribution to "Preserver of the Blue Ridge Parkway, c/o The Conservation Trust of North Carolina, P.O. Box 33333, Raleigh, NC, 27636."

My UN-FAVORITE Plants

poison ivy	devil's walking stick	castor oil
blackberry with thorns	nettles	
skunk cabbage	stick-tights	sneeze-weed

How about yours ??

A BOLD BEAR TALE.....ERIKA S. PARMI

We are all guilty of falling pray to the "mañana syndrome" when difficult tasks have to be done. On Wednesday, August 7, I had the perfect excuse for postponing my afternoon of writing the Recorder's Report for SHORTIA.

On that morning I returned from my weekly grocery shopping and left the car and basement doors wide open to facilitate carrying in my groceries. As I climbed the stairs to the main level with the first bag I saw a large black animal on the deck. It was a bear! As I reached the top of the stairs it reared up covering the entire panel of the deck door. Was it staring at me---hungrily?? It was a HUGE bear!

Since there is no easy exit from that deck---a closed in screened area at one end and a ten foot drop at the other--I was a little apprehensive thinking that the bear might crash through the deck door or the screened in area. I dropped my groceries on the kitchen counter and dialed 911. Then I ran downstairs to slam the car and basement doors, hoping that the bear would remain on the deck. The bear had twisted a heavy 6 foot metal rod into two almost 90° angles pulling it and the bird feeder to the floor of the deck. The bear had finished eating the sunflower seeds and started to walk to the open end of the deck. I followed inside by way of the hallway and heard a horrendous crash before I got to the open bedroom door and its glass door to the deck. When I got to the bedroom, I found that the bear apparently had leaped off the deck onto the woodshed below, crashing through the roof. The bear was nowhere in sight. I waited until my neighbor's two sons and the sheriff's deputies arrived before I ventured out to assess the damage.

The open lean-to shed is 18' long and 5' wide. The bear had broken through six of the nine corrugated roofing panels and had broken one 2 x 4 but, amazingly, had not tipped over the stacked firewood. After a late lunch, a visit from the regional wildlife officer, and calls to my insurance company and to neighbors, the afternoon was gone and no recorder's report had been written! Never a dull moment out here in the woods.!!



Our neighbor gave us some Louisiana-grown Amaryllis and ginger (Zingiber) plants, which I planted outside last fall. With the bad winter we had, I did not expect anything - but lo-and-behold one Amaryllis has had 8 blooms. The gingers are growing like bamboo. This is being written in June.

Up to now in these columns I have written about easily understood families. The Amaryllis brings to mind one of the most complicated family situations in the Spermatophyta. And like jumping off a cliff into ice cold water, I am going to tell you what happened to the now-defunct family Amaryllidaceae, and the battle over the parameter of the Liliaceae. Many of us were taught that members of the amaryllis family had an inferior ovary, and members of the lily family had a superior ovary. This separation has not stood the test of time, and the Amaryllidaceae, as a family, is generally not accepted in books written after the 1980's. So the Liliaceae has some 300 genera and nearly 4550 species. Most Americans recognize this one family: Liliaceae sensu lato, with some minor satellite families such as the Smilacaceae (Smilax) and Agavaceae (Agave). Some Australians, New Zealanders, and British recognize a myriad of segregate families, such as: but here is a problem. There are so many segregate families (up to 80) that there is no room to list them all. Clearly the last word has not been written.

Here in North Carolina these families may be recognized in the future: Alliaceae (onion), Asparagaceae (asparagus), Convallariaceae (lily-of-the-valley), Hemerocallidaceae (day-lily), Hyacinthaceae (hyacinth), Hypoxidaceae (yellow-eyed-grass), Trilliaceae (trillium), Uvulariaceae (bellwort), as well as the families listed above. I am pleased that I am no longer responsible for USDA/ARS scientific names of plants on a national and world basis.

Among the major genera in the Liliaceae are Allium, Amaryllis, Asparagus, Aspidistra, Convallaria, Funkia, Gloriosa, Hemerocallis, Hosta, Hyacinthus, Lilium, Medeola, Mucari, Narcissus, Ornithogalum, Scilla, Smilacina, Trillium, Tulipa, and Zephyranthes and my favorite North Carolina species, fly poison (Amianthium muscaetoxicum).

Two of the smallest satellite families of the Liliaceae are Petrosaviaceae (1 genus, 2 species) and Triuidaceae (7 genera, about 70 species). The former family is native from southern China to Borneo. The latter family is widespread in tropical and subtropical regions and seldom has been seen or collected.

Charles Moore

The Book of Life was closed for Charles Moore, age 92, on June 18, 1996. It was a big book with many special chapters in it, many of which were focused on the world of nature. Some of the chapter highlights relating to nature are these:

- For 50 years, Charlie, as he was affectionately known, was employed by Duke Power and its predecessors. In his early working years Charlie traveled the roads of Transylvania County, collecting payment of bills in the days when even the main roads were dirt roads. When roads were to be widened or paved, and when new roads were built, before the bulldozers destroyed vegetation, Charlie rescued plants and brought them to his land. Before Lakes Keowee and Jocassee were dug and created, Charlie convinced Duke Power to let nature lovers "rescue" Shortia, also called Oconee bells, which was growing there. Those of us who have this Endangered plant growing in our woods and gardens can thank Charlie for making this possible.

- Students in Charlie's classes at Blue Ridge Community College not only were exposed to his botanical knowledge but also to his delightful sense of humor. Everyone now knows that "lady ferns wear purple party hose".

- Charlie shared the wonders of nature's beauty on the 365 acres of his land (which he affectionately referred to as the "Farm") with nature lovers - individuals, garden clubs, and other groups. The Western Carolina Botanical Club always was warmly welcomed to this botanical wonderland with Kings Creek flowing through it.

- When distinguished botanists from all over the world came to Transylvania County, Charlie was contacted to be their guide to show them where the plants they were studying, photographing, or writing about were growing and blooming.

- Orchids pictured in Carlyle Luer's book "Native Orchids of the US and Canada, excluding Florida" which were photographed in Transylvania County were located for the author by Charlie Moore.

- When the range of the orchids in Fred Case's book "Orchids of the Western Great Lakes Region" extended into North Carolina, an orchid trails Case sought the field companionship with Charlie and his wife, Mary Lee.

- Duke Power's beautiful colored brochure "The Forest and Flowers of Keowee-Toxaway" contains excellent photographs of wild flowers made by Charlie and Dr. C. L. Rogers.

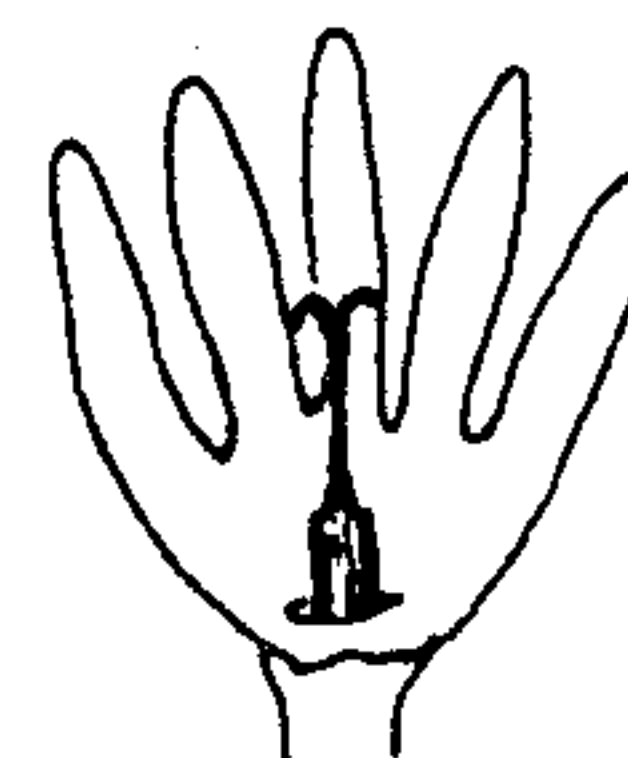
The legacy which Charlie left for those of us whose lives he touched and who were privileged to be called his friend cannot be measured in dollars and cents but rather in our having a richer life because of having been introduced to and having a greater appreciation for the world of nature because our paths crossed with his.

written by Millie Blaha

LOOK AGAIN !

The individual florets that make up a composite "flower head" in plants of the Aster Family may be either tubular (as seen in the central yellow disk of a daisy, for instance) or strap-shaped (like those that form the daisy's white perimeter). Typically, the tubular corollas terminate in five lobes; these are often echoed in the strap-shaped florets in the form of vestigial teeth at the ends of the flattened corollas.

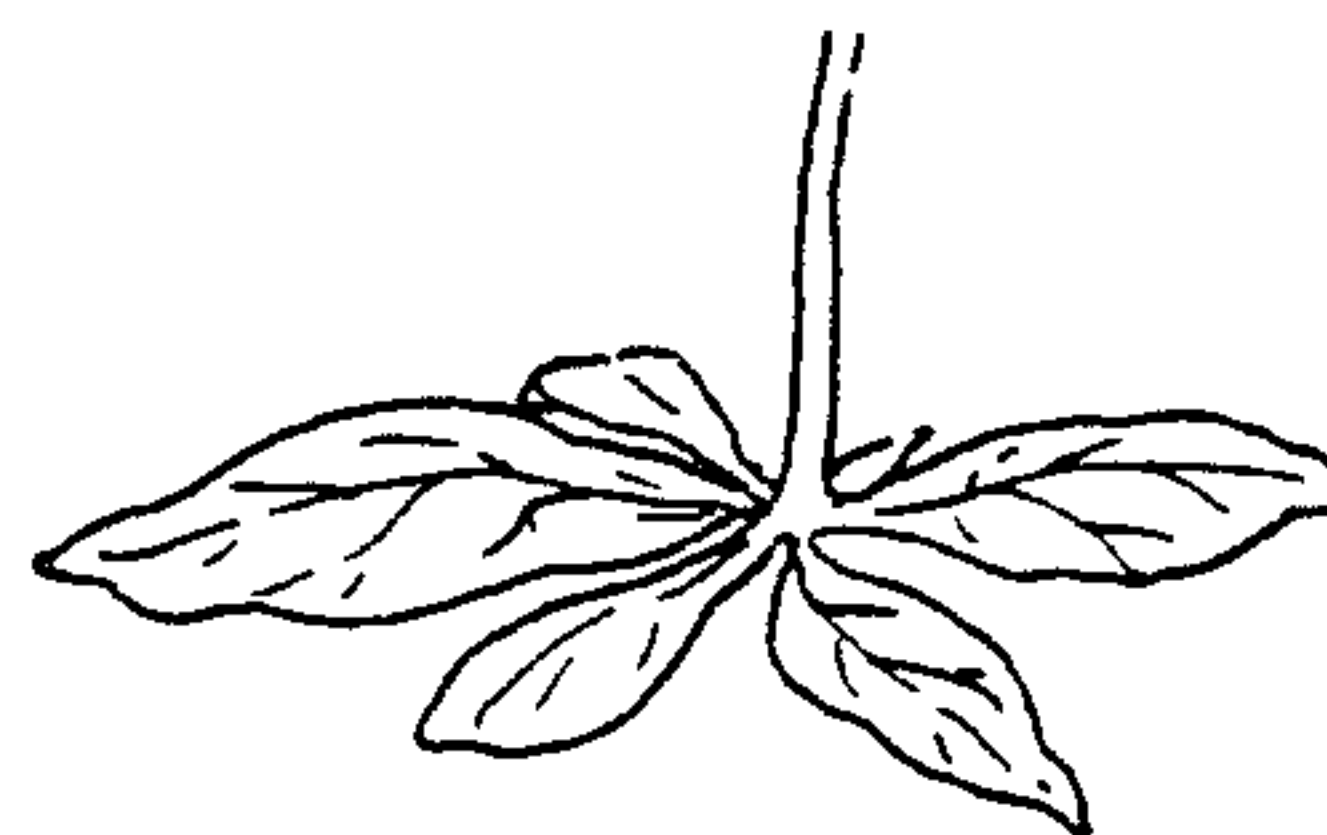
In the genus Elephantopus, known as Elephant's Foot, which bears only tubular flowers, we see an interesting variation in that the corollas are lop-sided--i. e., the lobes are all on one side, and since there are only a few florets in each head the radiating lobes combine to form a pattern that simulates a single, many-rayed flower.



Our most common species is E. carolinianus. It can be distinguished by its leaves, which are mostly cauline and are well developed. On the other hand, E. tomentosus--which is occasionally seen in our mountains but is much more common at lower elevations--has several large, flat basal leaves but few if any on the stem.



E. CAROLINIANUS



E. TOMENTOSUS

Dick Smith

S H O R T I A

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FIRST CLASS
