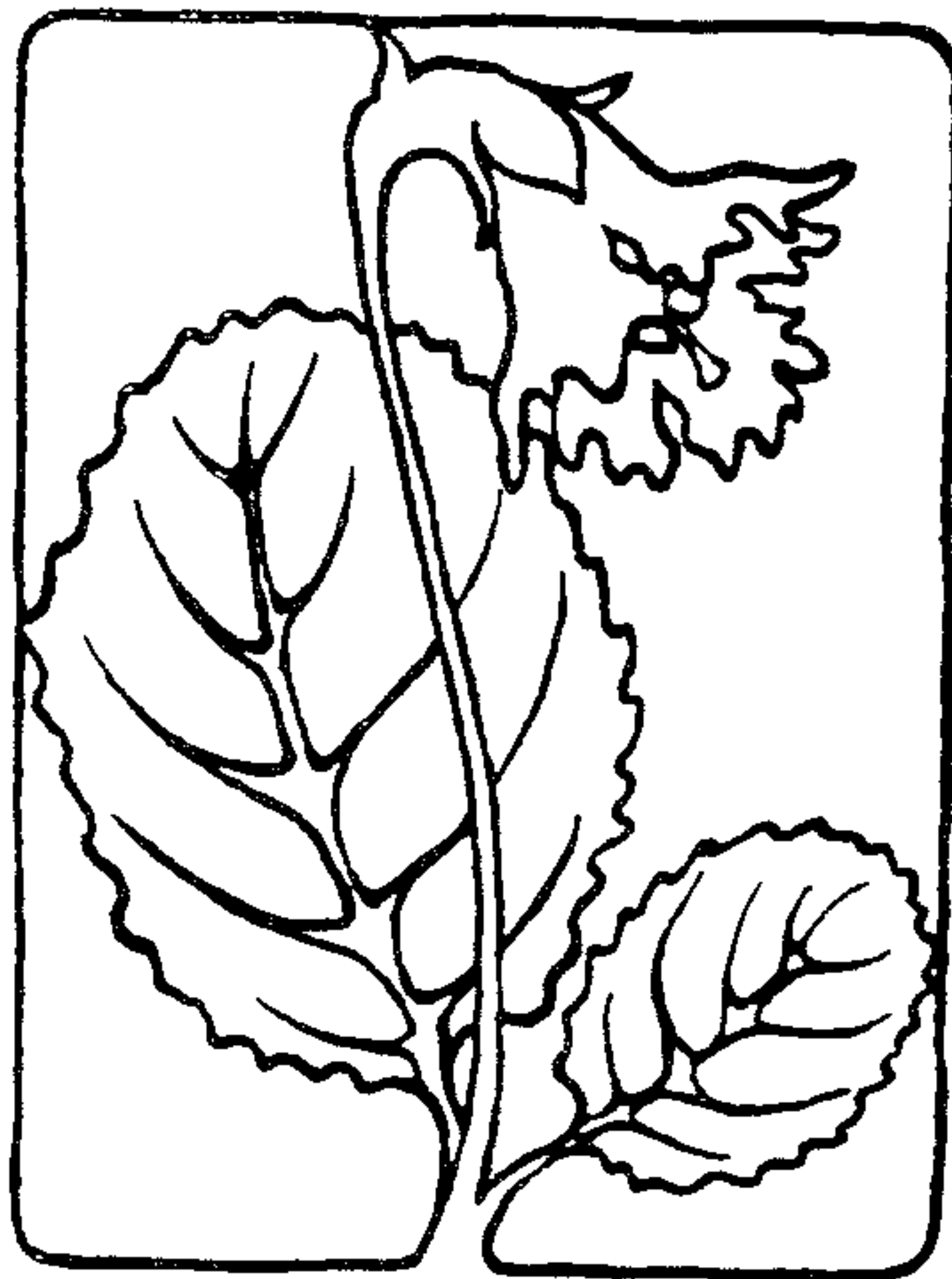


# SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

SUMMER 1997



ELTON and ALINE HANSENS  
Editors

WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

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FROM THE PRESIDENT.....DON HERRMAN

Spring is here! Now that you have paid your dues, come out and participate. The field trips are many and varied. The Program Committee has met again and the second half of the year looks just as good as the first half. While attendance has been good, we can handle larger groups safely, without trampling the environment. Oh yes, to a few of you, there is still plenty of time to send in your dues.

Today it is raining - a great day for hiking! (See Dean). The dog and cats went down to the meadow with me. Moss is everywhere and thriving but where are the spring beauties? Maybe it is too early - or maybe I am the only one who doesn't know that.

Yesterday, as I was washing the dishes, I glanced out the kitchen window. A white squirrel was headed for the yard. I got all excited! By the time I got the camera it had disappeared. Later I saw him again but he took off before I could get that picture.

But guess what? Standing in my front yard, stretching all the way down past my 5 tree orchard are all the violets you will ever want. They are everywhere. Only the arbutus are able to stand in their way. This has been a great year for arbutus. It hugs low to the ground and is blooming and spreading. Between the two, arbutus and violets, I won't worry about mowing. There is one other thing about violets---they are too successful in the vegetable garden. Would you believe I am transplanting violets to an undeveloped area of my yard.

Excuse my rambling. (After all this is "Ramblewood"). There is one last question. I have noticed there are quite a few different and varied colors of violets. Does anyone know the names of all of these violets?

FROM THE EDITORS.....ELTON and ALINE HANSENS

"LOOK AGAIN" has been a feature of every issue of SHORTIA since the spring of 1982 when we joined the WCBC. DICK SMITH has written and illustrated four pages each year for more than 15 years. We are sure that all members of WCBC recognize the skill and dedication of the author. This issue of SHORTIA presents the last of the series. We hope Dick will produce further copy for SHORTIA from time to time. We need his expertise.

Your editors are delighted to present this issue of SHORTIA with a challenging array of contributions. Our members have responded to our urging and we ask many more of you to help. This number introduces the "WCBC Forum --- A Place for Open Discussion".

GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....ALINE HANSENS

**Davies, Walter and Betse:** 200 Crestview Dr., Hendersonville, NC 28791 (704) 891-5926. Betse originally from Ohio and Walter from Wales, UK, moved here from FL about 1½ years ago. Walter's business as a chemical engineer kept them on the move in this country and overseas but now the rolling stones are slowly coming to a halt in H'ville. Time to stop and smell the wild flowers.



**Hilton, James (Jim) L. and Mary:** 20 Indigo Way, Hendersonville, NC 28739, (704) 696-1629. Jim Originally from TN and Mary from VA, moved to this area a year ago, drawn by the lure of the mountains. Both have degrees in botany and science. Mary, a teacher and Jim with a PhD in botany and biochemistry, retired from the USDA. Both joined the club hoping to learn the local flora.

**Matthes, Herbert F. and Anne M.** 151 Arthur Lane, Hendersonville, NC. 28791. (704) 891-9700. Moved here from New England 9 years ago, as semi-retirees, to escape cold winters and drawn by the natural beauty of the area. Both have had a lifelong interest in botany but with no formal training. They learned of the club from Dean Crawford.

**Vande-Weghe, Linda:** P. O. Box 302, Cedar Mountain, NC 28718 (704) 966-9481. Grew up in NJ but moved here from Chicago drawn by the beauty of the mountains and nearness to family. Linda established a landscape design business specializing in woodland and shade gardens---has a degree in Horticulture and Landscape Design.

**Yeamans, Meg:** 20 Nottingham Rd., Brevard. NC 28712. (704) 884-6980. A biology major, Meg enjoys the outdoors and nature. Originally from Michigan and Ohio but with close ties to western Carolina since childhood and finally made her home in Sherwood Forest. She learned of the WCBC through friends.

**PEARSON'S FALLS**

*By saxifrage and trillium,  
By violet and by rue,  
Such tiny, fragile flowers  
We passed them - me and you!*

*We walked in the wet morning  
And in wakening Spring.  
We felt old Nature's promise  
And heard the river sing.*

- Walter Davies

RECORDER'S REPORT, FEBRUARY - MAY 1977.....ERIKA S. PARMİ

The FENCE trip on March 21 inaugurated the spring flower season with 22 plants in bloom. The trips to the waterfalls were inspiring both for their beauty and their flowers---Pearson's Falls on March 28, Oconee Station on April 7, and Pacolet Falls on April 14. The Givens Estates trip was especially rewarding in spite of a temperature in the 30's and a strong, cold wind. Fifty-two species were recorded including several plants of the rare spotted mandarin (Disporum maculatum).

On April 11 a star was born! The field trip to Glassy Mountain Heritage Preserve in SC was an unqualified success. We hiked on 3 rock faces highlighted with spectacular displays of white smooth sandwort (Minuartia groenlandica var. glabra) and false garlic (Allium bivalve) interspersed with the blue and pink of an uncommon spiderwort (Tradescantia hirsuticaulis. The undisputed star of the show was the tiny elf orpine (Sedum or Diamorpha smallii). The red stems and leaves with their tiny pink and white flowers bathed the rock faces in a fiery glow. In addition to all this glory, there were great views of the Blue Ridge Escarpment and of Table Rock. The fourth rockface which had the most spectacular view had a beautiful red buckeye on its face along with a mass display of bluestar (Amsonia tabernaemontanum) at its edge.

The Smokies overnight April 21-23 was headquartered at our favorite motel, the Talley Ho, in Townsend, TN. Despite inclement weather the first day we walked the Nature Trail and Sutton Ridge Trail at Cosby and the Ashopper Branch Trail near Sugarlands Visitor Center. Although Tuesday was mostly cloudy we had a full day of botanizing in all the usual Little River areas. The rain arrived after dinner, so we did not visit Cades Cove. Showy orchis and trilliums were everywhere this year, both on the Smokies trip and on our local trips.

Perhaps the star performer was the Horse Cove Trail on May 2 when five species of trillium were found -- Trillium erectum (the red form), T. grandiflorum, T. undulatum, T. vaseyi and T. cernuum. The last named may actually be T. rugelii as some of the ovaries were deep red rather than lavender. Trillium catesbaei was prolific along the Pacolet Falls trail. Jackson Park on April 28 was the only trip cancelled because of rain.

If the summer season continues as the spring season has begun, it should be a great wild flower year. Let's all get out and enjoy!

THE SMOKIES, APRIL 21-23.

In spite of weather this was a wonderful trip. Two of the highlights were seeing the cross vine, Anisostichus capreolata and one-flowered cancer root, (Orobanche uniflora). The cross vine was spectacular on Little River Road. We also saw a very large display of wild ginger, Asarum canadense, on the Little River Trail at Elkmont.

We owe a big hand of gratitude to leaders, Erika Parmı and Elton and Aline Hansens. Erika, especially, put great effort into scouting many trails and planning a detailed schedule. All we had to do was follow! Our accomodations were nice.

I feel very priveleged to be a part of this group of nice people. Mary Helen Harris.

## HARDY SOULS AND COOKIES.....by THE SHADOW

Is Western Carolina Botanical Club a misnomer? Can a Club be botanical? In any case, when something is accepted long enough, it becomes a tradition. Another of our traditions is that each winter, usually in February, we schedule the Hardy Souls Hike. The original idea was to whet the appetites of members experiencing a little "cabin fever" and provide anticipation that soon we'd be taking our gatherings into the field to observe and identify plants in bloom..

In spite of its title, this hike has sometimes been canceled because of inclement weather! This year the decision was made, and incorporated into the printed schedule, that the hardy souls would hike regardless of weather. So it was that February 28 dawned in a cold drizzle. Two members showed up at the Hendersonville meeting place; another two were waiting at the secondary site.

These four intrepid souls piled into one car and headed into increasing rain, proceeding to the trailhead. This year's goal was to discover the first wildflower blooms of the year, always a possibility with trailing arbutus. The intent foursome slogged onward and upward, peeking in vain under one arbutus leaf after another. Finally a bud about to open was sighted and the search was arbitrarily declared a success!

As a reward, the rain diminished enough to allow our brave pioneers to have lunch at a nearby campground in relative dryness. They even ventured across a river for a short distance to explore a trail which might hold promise for a future expedition. Aren't you sorry you didn't take part? Will you plan now to be a hardy soul in 1998?

Another of our traditions is the annual December Cookie Fest. At this year's event we will have a special contest with a fantastic prize! If you give the designated recorder a slip of paper containing the correct names of the aforementioned "Hardy Souls" from the 1997 hike (and your name as the contestant) you will be the winner. The prize: you will be selected to take home some of the leftover cookies!! (The true Hardy Souls are not eligible. They already had their own intrinsic reward and may not be brave enough to feast on cookies. Anyone even hinting that four of our members trudging through the mud are anything less than heroic will be in danger of having their cookies cut off!

### WCBC FORUM

Dick Smith writes "Rhode Island is a small state and its flora must be limited but its Wild Plant Society members are long on enthusiasm!" He enclosed an announcement from the Rhode Island Wild Plant Society as follows: "Painted Trillium Viewing. Date, time and place: To Be Announced. Here's an opportunity to see a Painted Trillium, if it blooms this year! RIWPS member Norm Boyer will notify registrants when the trillium is blooming, (usually in the first week of May) and will lead us to the site on private property. Participants must be able to adjust their schedule on a day's notice."

WCBC FORUM --- "A Place for Open Discussion".

I purchased "Wild Flowers of Pearson's Falls Glenn", published in 1995 by the Tryon Garden Club (cost \$2.50). Pen and ink drawings illustrate 40 flowers with a description of each. An acknowledgement states "Special appreciation must be expressed to Ivan Kuster, Botanical Consultant, who has given so generously of his time, expertise and support in compiling this guide".

Millie Blaha.

An inexpensive guide to N.C. trees, COMMON FOREST TREES OF NORTH CAROLINA, a pocket manual, 1995 edition, can be ordered from the Division of Forest Resources, P.O. Box 29581, Raleigh, N.C. 27626-0581.

This small 9" x 5" paperback covers 84 of the most common N.C. trees. Drawings are from The Book of Trees by William C. Grimm and include the flower, leaf, fruit, and in some cases both leaf scar and end bud, as well as a map showing where the plant grows in our state. Enclose \$1.95 to cover costs. -- Anne Ulinski

LOOK - SEE! PICK - NIX!

Picture touring Arizona on a sunny blue sky day. A beautiful patch of Eschscholzia californica (California poppy) appeared beside the road. In a moment we were parked, my camera was in hand, and I was crouched to shoot a close-up.. Louisa was also examining the blossoms. Then we heard the crunch of tires on gravel and saw the Highway Patrol. Fortunately the camera satisfied him as to our intentions. I still have the picture. But we were lectured impressively about the depredation of wildflowers and particularly cacti by visitors as well as residents.

On a WCBC hike several years ago Habenaria ciliaris (yellow fringed orchis) was featured. None were seen. Instead, plainly visible, were many rather uniform bare shallow holes left by a poacher. Only one bedraggled specimen was left to prove its existence.

Last year on a trail in early spring I encountered two pleasant elderly ladies. They were openly carrying off several Sanguinaria canadensis (bloodroot) plants. They assured me they meant no harm, that there were plenty of plants and that they only wanted some to plant in their gardens, all of which was undoubtedly true. I told them that this was not condoned, and that the plant would probably not survive, which was also true. What I did not say is that they were stealing. That was true, too.

This spring, friends showed us two sizable patches of Epigea repens (Trailing arbutus) in full bloom in a grassy area near a foot path. Two days later I had occasion to walk past again and observed an area of bare soil where a third of one patch of arbutus had already been removed

As WCBC members we are aware of our own admonition against destroying wild plants. We know transplanting seldom succeeds. Furthermore, club leaders invariably set a good example in carefully minimizing plant damage when pointing out plant characteristics. Many others need to know and care!

Don Bender

## THE BYRD'S AND THE FLOWERS.

Our farm in McDowell County is an old place where we go to camp, play in the creek, do wild flower surveys, etc. Which brings me to the subject of this letter. There is an unusual blue flower which grows abundantly in the meadow in the fall. I tried to identify it with my only resource at that time, Peterson's Field Guide to Wildflowers, but couldn't seem to fit it into any category. After getting Newcomb's Wildflower Guide, I was sure I would find it, but again no luck. I also tried Wildflowers of North Carolina, which didn't help, and tried describing it to a couple of botany club members, but my powers of description were not too great, so....

Last fall I was reading the newest issue of Shortia (Autumn '96) when I came to Dick Smith's "Look Again". About halfway through the article a light bulb went off in my head. This sounded like the flower I had been trying to identify for so long. The drawing looked just like it. EUREKA! Now I know that the mystery flower is Elephantopus tomentosus. THANK YOU DICK SMITH AND SHORTIA!

Now I have another mystery flower. I would love to have some help. They were seen at Linville Falls campground on August 23, 1996. Lots of them were growing in a damp, shady, woody area under tall pine trees. They were green all over, leaves like Clinton's lily, racemes 2 to 3 feet tall, green 6-petaled flowers arranged up the stem like a Cranefly Orchis. The green seed pods above the flowers were triangular and heavy enough to make the plant droop somewhat. Does this ring a bell with anyone??

Long live SHORTIA! I always read it from cover to cover and save all issues for future reference. --- Margaret Byrd.

It's very obvious I'm not a botanist (or a writer), but believe me I am married to a true wildflower enthusiast. A few years back all of those pesky weeds were transformed into beautiful untouchable wildflowers, after we joined the WCBC. This club is very fortunate in having so many talented and knowledgeable people available. I now thoroughly enjoy each outing and never cease to be amazed at all the different "things" to be seen out there!

We never go anywhere without my "driving consultant" spotting things along the roadside that only she can see. We have suddenly stopped on interstate highways, side roads, mountains and foothills - risking life and limb - to look at something interesting. I don't know how she does it, but she can spot anything different a mile away!

This is truly a great group of people and I enjoy and appreciate every minute of it. -- Carl Byrd.

**Flora of North America:** The third of 14 volumes has been published--Vol. 1. Introduction, Vol. 2. Pteridophytes and Gymnosperms, Vol. 3. Magnoliophyta. In this volume the 'lower' angiosperm families including: Birch, Buttercup, Dutchman's Pipe, Elm, Lotus, Magnolia, Oak, Poppy, Walnut, and Water-lily families. These families (plus others) are keyed, described, mapped, and habitat and ranges summarized. Lets ask the Brevard, Hendersonville, and Arboretum libraries to subscribe to this series from Oxford University Press. Up to May 31, 1997, the first three volumes are \$68.00 each plus NC sales tax and a shipping charge of \$3.50 for the first book and \$1.50 for each book thereafter.

**Legume Update:** One of my specialities with the USDA/ARS was working on the identification of legume seeds and fruits. I am pleased to note that the third volume (the first 2 volumes have been published) on seed and fruit morphology of the subfamily Faboideae is being readied for a USDA/ARS Editor. It will be included in the Technical Bulletin series. My estimate is that it will run 1,250 pages.

**Deerlake Checklist Update:** I am still finding new species in Deerlake. The last two were a naturalized peach and a weeping cherry. I have a list of 227 species, representing 62 families. I am sorry to note that we lost some species due to building and general cleanup of some wild areas. We have formed a garden club, renovated the beds around the club house, and the club house is completed.

# Times-News

## EDITORIAL

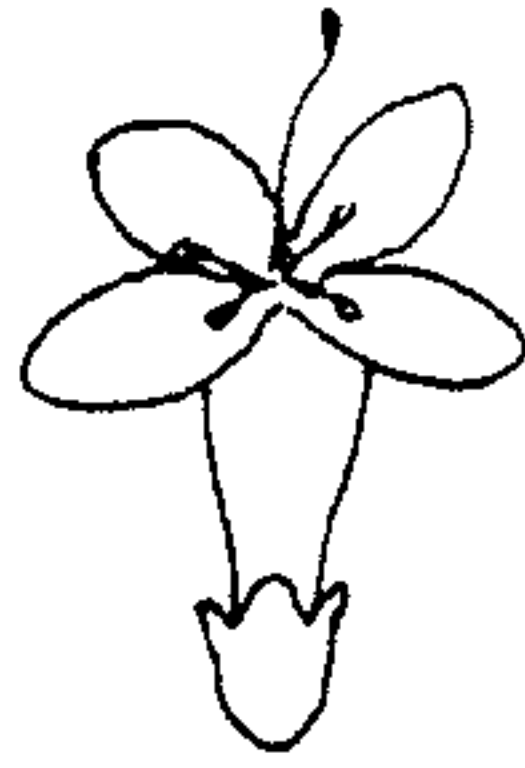
■ **Bouquets** -- To Anne Ulinski for her long-time interest and activism on the behalf of conservation. She was recently honored by the Environmental and Conservation Organization of Henderson County with its highest honor, the Founder's Award, for her work. Ulinski not only was the motivating force behind the formation of the Henderson County Natural Heritage Inventory in 1994, but she worked closely with state staff to perform the actual inventory. She and her associate Millie Blaha have inventoried a number of sites in the county, including the wetlands along the Jackson Park Nature Trail and the Mud Creek Nature Trail, which resulted in both areas being put on the N.C. Registry of Natural Areas. She and Blaha have also completed an inventory of the Carl Sandburg National Historic Site and are creating an herbarium there. More recently she played a key role in transforming the former Natural Heritage Trust of Henderson County into the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy and in its acquisition of a 590-acre plot in the Gerton community. The Founder's Award is presented in recognition for outstanding contributions to preserving and conserving Henderson County's natural heritage. Obviously, Ulinski deserves the recognition.



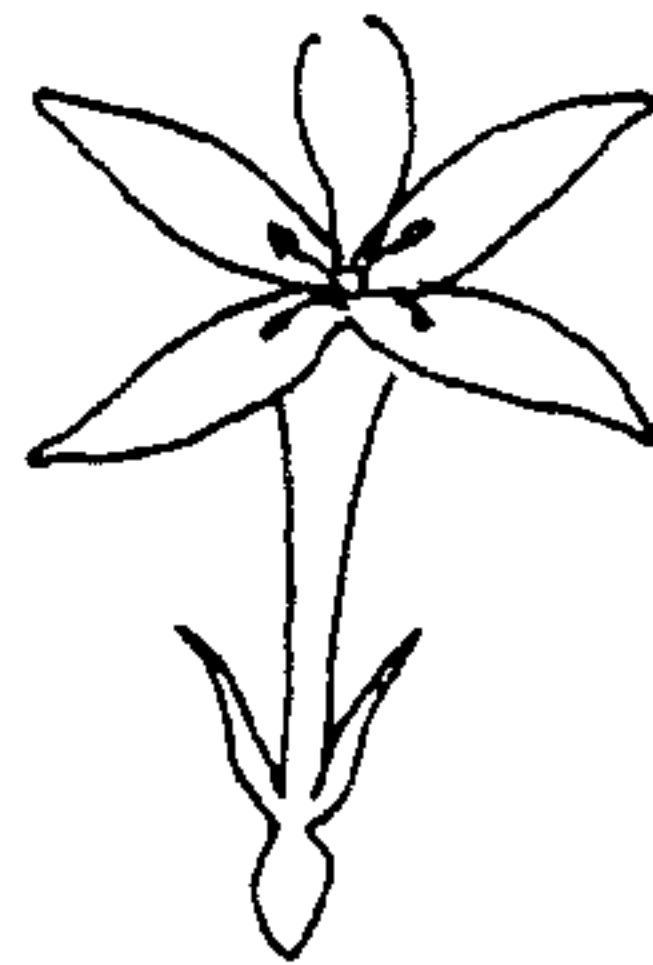
# LOOK AGAIN !

The Madder Family (Rubiaceae) is a largely tropical group of plants which include those that gave us quinine and coffee, as well as many ornamentals such as Gardenia and Bouvardia. Among our wildflowers it is represented chiefly by the Bluets (Houstonia), Bedstraws (Galium) and Partridge Berry (Mitchella), all of which are familiar to most of us and are amply treated in the literature.

There are, however, several species that are just as attractive but apparently are considered too insignificant to be included in most field guides. Two are so widespread as to be almost impossible to overlook. They are Diodia teres and D. virginiana, commonly called Buttonweeds; both are low herbs with narrow, opposite leaves and 4-lobed flowers in the axils. In D. teres the corollas are funnellform,  $\frac{1}{4}$ " long and pink, subtended by 4 short sepals. D. virginiana has white salverform flowers and 2 more elongate sepals.



*D. TERES*



*D. VIRGINIANA*

Field Madder, Sherardia arvensis, is a sprawling weed of European origin with a more sparse distribution in our region. Its flowers resemble those of Bedstraw but are pink or lavender, have a slender tube  $\frac{1}{8}$ " long, and are crowded into heads. Its leaves are linear, mostly in whorls of 6.

*Dick Smith*

S H O R T I A

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