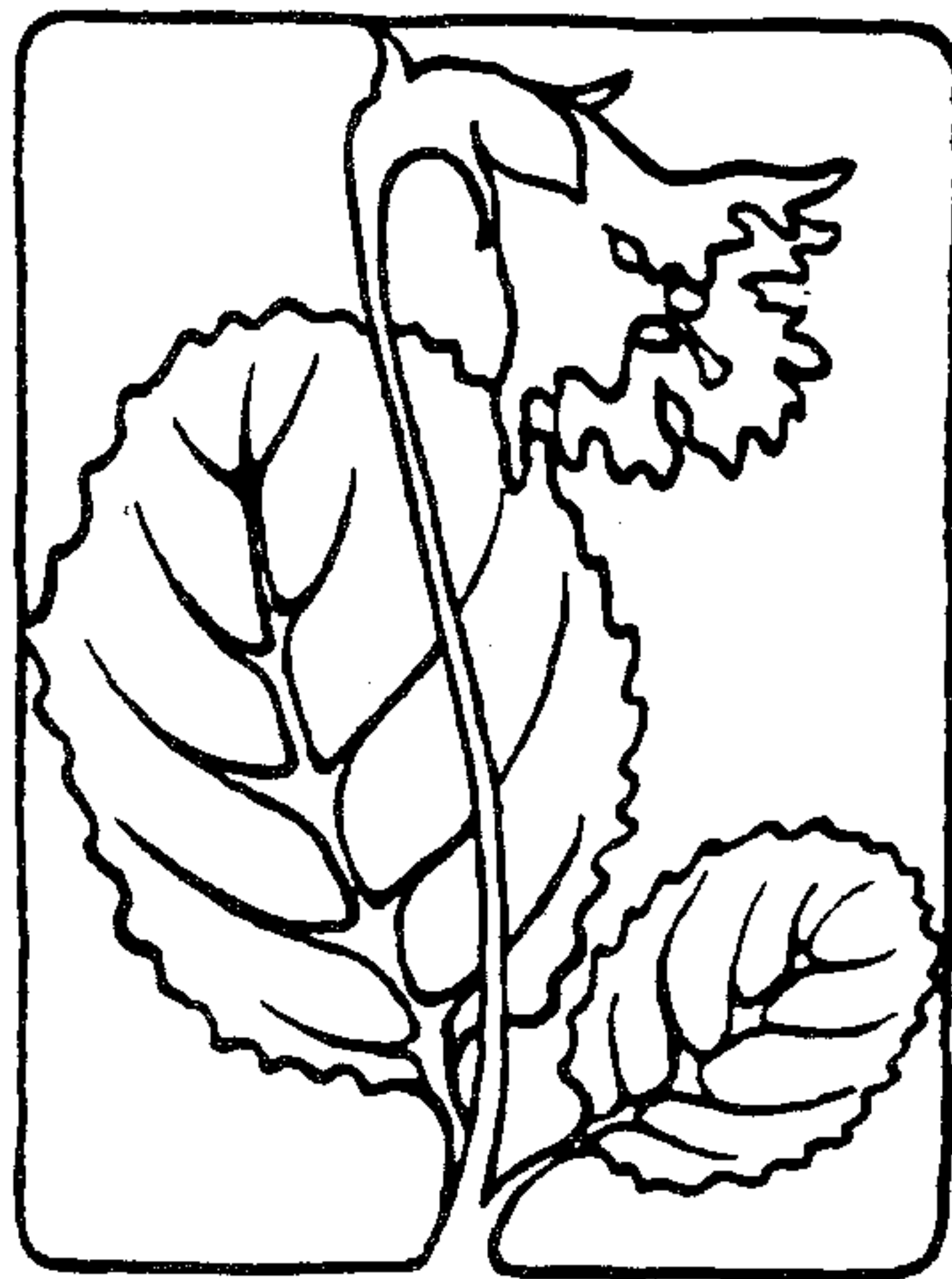


# SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

SPRING 1998



ELTON and ALINE HANSENS  
Editors

WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB - 1998

President:	Don Herrman	Recorder:	Erika Parmi
Vice-President:	Elaine Montgomery	Recorder:	Anne Ulinski
Secretary:	Peggy Ellis	Historian:	Anne Matthes
Treasurer:	Rachel Conway		

FROM THE PRESIDENT.....DON HERRMAN

Random thoughts about our 25th Anniversary Meeting: I do not want to hear any more about rain and the flu, they do cut into our attendance. But we had a good meeting with great food and socializing. It was good to see people volunteering for the offices of Secretary, Recorder, and Historian. At the end of the meeting there was a discussion and exchange of ideas that demonstrated a vibrant interest in the success of the club. Also our thanks should go to the ones who set-up, worked in the kitchen and helped clean up.

Today is bright and sunny at Ramblewood. The stream that runs through the meadow is pretty and peaceful. However, there is a sandy, silted beach where the ladies tresses flowered and flourished. We will see how the spring flowers react to the changed environment.

Since I have received my schedule for 1998, I assume everyone else received theirs. It is one that contains something for everyone. Take advantage of it and join us as often as you can. Please remember that the next issue of Shortia needs your contributions. Thank you!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....ALINE HANSENS

**Arbuckle, Bill & Bonnie:** PO Box 1049, Flat Rock, NC 28731 (704) 696-2077. Moved to Robbinsville, NC from south FL 15 yrs. ago and to Flat Rock in May '97. Bonnie has long had an interest in native plants and was a naturalist at Snowbird Lodge for a time. Jeanne Smith is a good friend.



**Bucklin, Robert & Mary:** 1421 Mt. Meadow Dr., H'ville, NC 28739 (704) 891-1073. Moved here from Houghton, MI about 4 months ago, drawn by the mild climate and beauty of the area. Mary loves plants and gardening. Bob's major training and real interest is Biology but also he has a PhD in psychology and a private practice.

**Grimmenga, Jeanne & Leo:** 74 Cardinal Rd., Brevard, NC 28712 (704) 885-2731. Moved to Sherwood Forest, NC 18 yrs. ago from suburban Chicago. Jeanne has had a lifelong interest in plants with encouragement and support from Charley Moore. Member friends are Dick & Jeanne Smith.

## MINUTES OF WCBC ANNUAL MEETING JAN. 16, 1998

The minutes of the 1997 meeting were read by Peggy Ellis; the 1997 Treas. Report by Rachel Conway. Both were accepted as read. Erika Parmi gave the Recorder's Report (see p. 4).

Pres. Don Herrman reported on Shortia for Elton Hansens and requested that members submit material for our current 20th Volume of Shortia. He also commented on the strength of our club and that new members are joining regularly.

Discussion followed on various schemes to publicize WCBC through Welcome Wagon, the Visitor's Center and local newspapers. Dean Crawford suggested a committee be formed to pursue these matters.

The Nominating Committee (Dean Crawford, Grace Rice and Millie Pearson) presented the slate for 1998 as follows: Don Herrman, Pres., Elaine Montgomery, V.P., Peggy Ellis, Secy. and Rachel Conway, Treas. All were elected unanimously. Pres. Herrman announced 1998 Recorders -Erika Parmi and Anne Ulinski; Historian, Anne Mathes; and SHORTIA Editors, Elton and Aline Hansens. Anne Mathes gave her report and requested member participation. Anne Ulinski will keep us informed of Dick Smith's book signing date in the spring.

Special thanks were expressed to Carl and Margaret Byrd for table decorations in honor of the 25th Anniversary of WCBC. Aline Hansens designed the place mats. We appreciate the extra effort and enthusiasm. Respectfully Submitted, Peggy Ellis, 1-16-98.

### WCBC TREASURER'S REPORT, DEC. 31, 1997.

Jan. 1, 1997 Balance on Hand.		\$2410.25
Receipts: Membership dues	\$816.00	
Donations	8.00	
Interest	<u>22.26</u>	
Total Available 1997		<u>\$3256.51</u>
Disbursements:		
Program schedules + postage	\$194.35	
Shortia + postage + copies	598.02	
Membership lists	66.33	
Plant lists	79.10	
Rent, Parish Hall, St. Johns	75.00	
Annual meeting supplies	8.00	
Check register	7.00	
Treasurer expenses	8.50	
Botanical Gardens at Asheville	<u>50.00</u>	
Total disbursements		<u>\$1086.30</u>
Dec. 31, 1997 -- Balance on hand		\$2170.21
This balance includes the Harry Logan Bequest		
1997 Disbursements	598.02	
Dec. 31, 1997 - on hand	\$840.77	

Respectfully submitted, Rachel M. Conway, Treasurer

RECORDER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1997.....ERIKA S. PARMI

This was one of the best years for field trips, since I have been Recorder. We had no cancellations, but we did make substitutions for 2 trips. Only 5 people came for the Coleman Boundry trip (thunderstorms were predicted but never materialized). The group decided not to drive so far and then perhaps be rained out. We decided to go to the NC Arboretum instead. Raven Cliff Falls was substituted for Chandler Preserve, because the road to Chandler was in poor condition. Most of the trip reports came in with comments about the good weather.

We probably will not be able to continue going to Chandler Preserve because of the road deterioration. However, we have found another great South Carolina Heritage Preserve, Glassy Mountain, to take its place. We had a fantastic trip to the Harris property for the first time, but it will not be rescheduled for 1998 since the Woodfin Cascades trail is now off limits. Perhaps we will be able to schedule the trip in future years. The trip there on May 23 produced the second highest number of plants (78) in bloom or in bud for the year 1997.

Only the Parkway South on Sept. 12 produced more - 82. We should continue to schedule this trip early in September. For the last few years we have been going in late September when many of the species have finished blooming. In addition to the above two trips we had 3 more trips that produced more than 60 species - Tanbark Tunnel on May 12 with 74, Oconee Station on April 7 with 63 and the Highlands Botanical Garden with 61. The scouting trip for Coleman Boundary/Douglas Falls produced 75 species with some mass displays of dwarf larkspur. Let's all try to make the May 8, 1998 trip!

Thirteen trips each produced between 40 and 59 species. Eleven trips each had between 20-39 species. Only 4 trips produced less than 20. This year improved on numbers of species in bloom. Two-thirds of the trips had more than 30 species, whereas in the years 1994 to 1996 slightly more than half had more than 30 species.

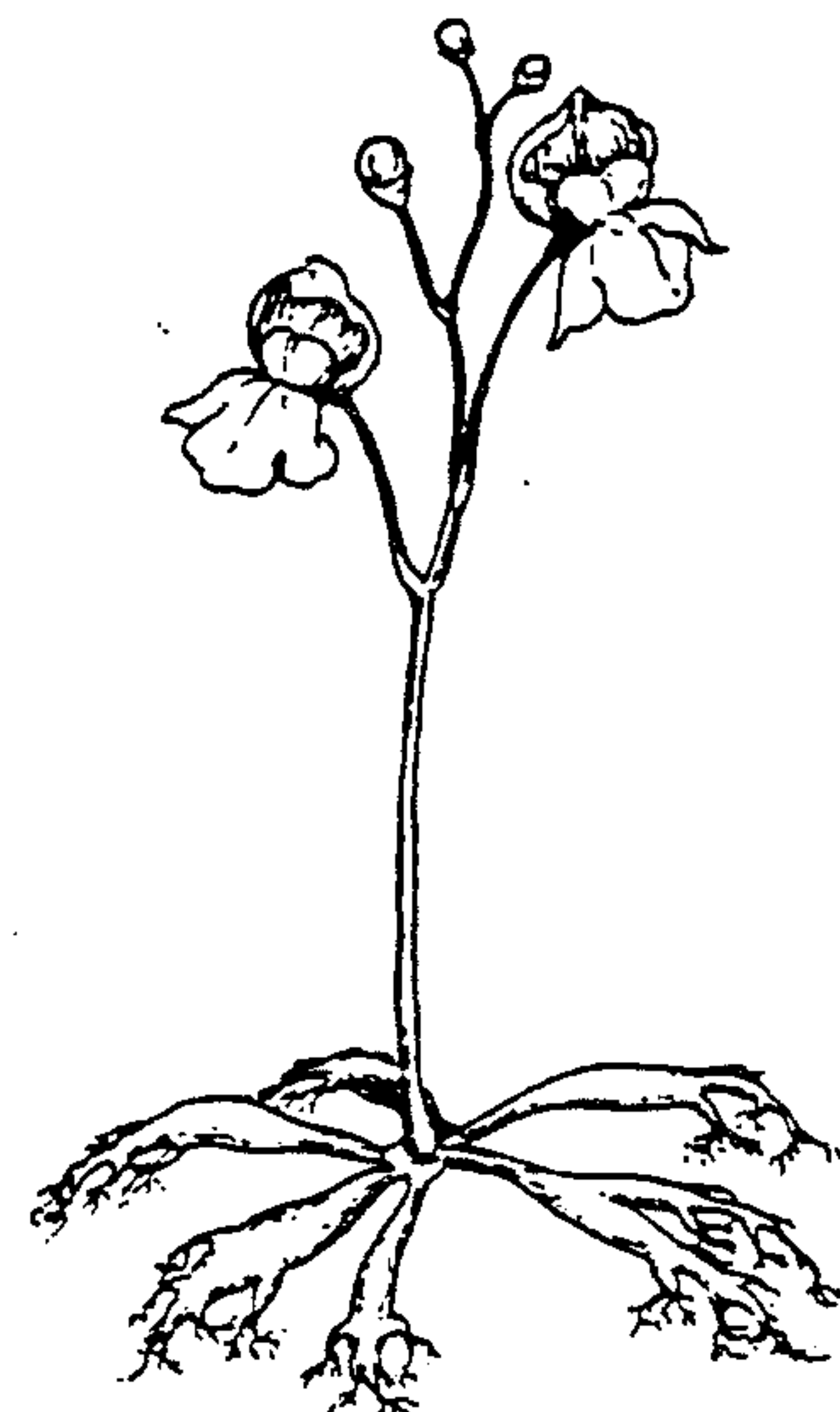
A total of 36 field trips, 2 picnics and one overnight were scheduled. No reports were turned in for 3 trips and 2 were partially reported, so my figures are based on the available statistics. Total attendance of 564 was two less than last year. This averaged out to about 16 persons per reported trip. The highest attendance was at the picnic at Don Herrman's - 35. Of the field trips the Pearson's Falls trip attracted the most people - 30. Nine other field trips had 20 or more participants. Fifteen were attended by less than 10 people. Let's hope for more good weather and more participation for the 1998 season.

In 1998 we will have two Recorders. Anne Ulinski has offered to share the duties. She will be in charge of the compilation of plant lists on her computer. I will continue to assign field recorders, distribute and receive plant lists, and act as contact person for the field recorders. We hope to have a new and improved set of forms for the 1998 season. If you have any suggestions regarding plant lists and trip reports, please let one of us know.

**Utricularia radiata**

**Floating bladderwort**

This aquatic plant of ponds, lakes, swamps, drainage ditches and canals floats free in the water. It has a golden yellow corolla with a spur sometimes streaked or dotted with red. The flowers are on a slender stem and are held afloat by a whorl of from 4-9 inflated branches which lie just below the surface of the water. The branches themselves are repeatedly forked into filiform segments. Below these "water wings" the stem continues to descend and branch into more filiform segments or leaves with many tiny bladders.



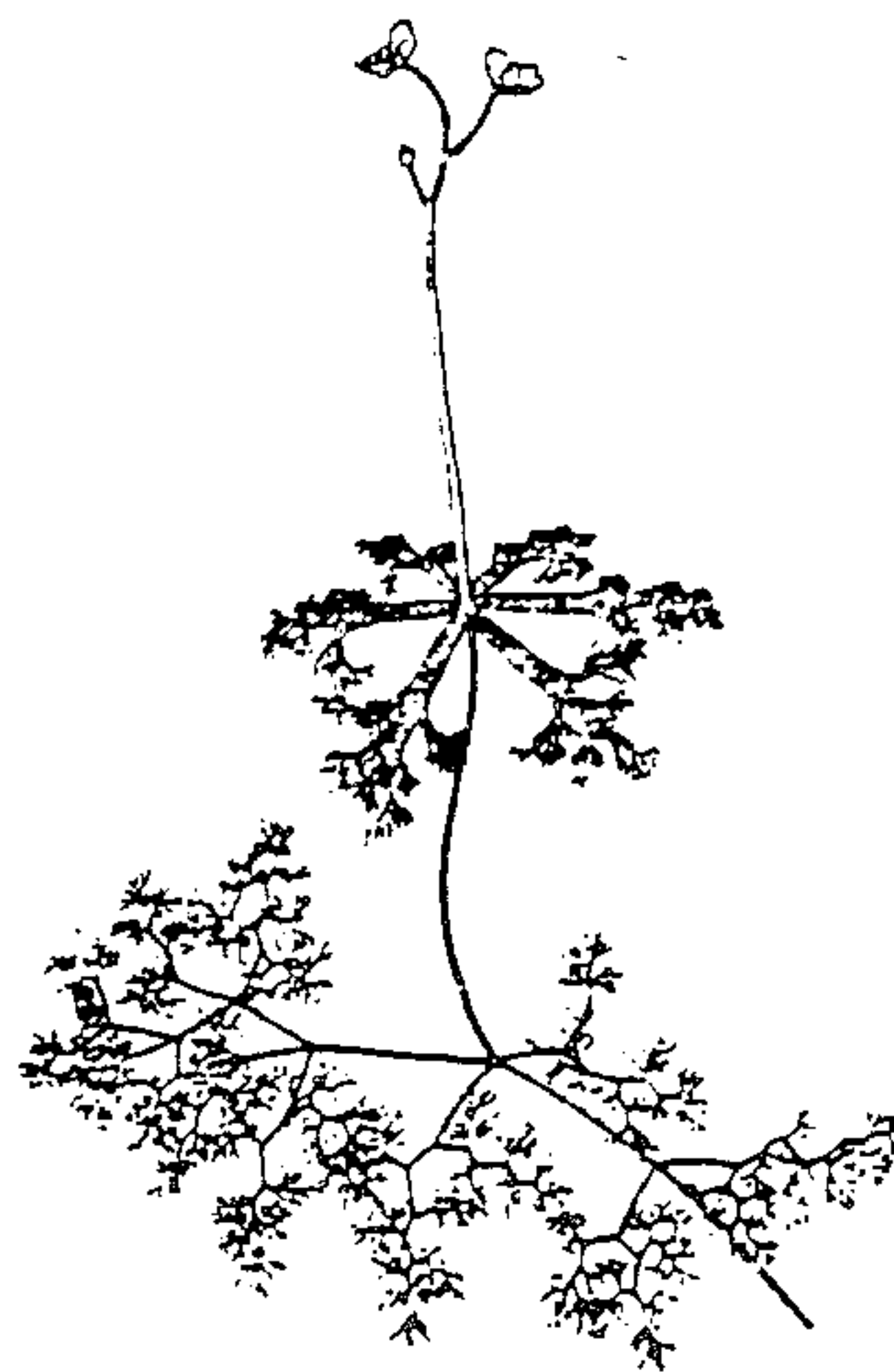
This amazing plant in the Lentibulariaceae family was collected for the herbarium project in September 1997 from the front lake at the Carl Sandburg National Historic Site in Flat Rock, N.C. Each plant held between 1-3 yellow flowers. More than 40 of these floating plants could be seen from the bridge which crosses the front lake at the dam. Its appearance is especially surprising because in June 1996 this lake was completely drained.

Radford, Ahles and Bell in the "Manual of the Vascular Plants of the Carolinas" do not show this plant growing in the western part of N.C. but in the coastal plain. Geoffrey and Wooten in their "Aquatic and Wetland Plants of Southeastern United States" show this species as one of the coastal plain from N.J. to south Florida and westward to east Texas. Newcomb merely states that it grows "Near the coast".

RAB lists this plant as *Utricularia inflata* var. *minor*

-Anne Ulinski

Upper drawing from "Wild Plants of America"  
by Richard M. Smith



Equisetum, horsetail, scouring rush. Interesting plant, so different. Best place to look for them is down along the railroad tracks. Why do they prefer such a limited location?? A beautiful, big patch grows along the Clinchfield RR just this side of Erwin, TN. River banks are also likely places to find them. Found one patch in W VA tall as my shoulder. B&B says "This genus is an ancient one and was much more prominent in earlier geological periods.

Lycopodium, shining club moss and others. Such beautiful plants. Only 6 species grow in the mountains, only 4 are common. (Shame on you if you do not learn their names.) When spores are ripe in August, bring matches and play a bit. The spores are used in fireworks and as a dusting powder.

Selaginella is another interesting genus that we overlook because it doesn't have gaudy flowers. (I'm prone to champion the "have-nots".) Two species live on the bare rocks at the top of waterfalls. Why there and seldom any other bare rock?? Makes a rough looking mat over large patches.. Look for the lovely, dainty meadow selaginella right up against the back of the log cabin in the Botanical Gardens at UNC Asheville. Only place I've ever seen it wild. It is often used in terrariums--or is it terraria? WARNING: do not "borrow" any from the Garden!

Isoetes, quillwort. A mystery plant. Radford shows it occurring throughout the mountains. I have never seen it and I have never heard it mentioned on any of our trips. Seems it grows in or very near the water of pools, ponds and bogs. I hope I meet up with it someday in some roadside ditch.

All the above are what I think of as orphans. They are not really related to each other. They are too advanced to be included in the mosses and not far enough along to join the ferns. Books often refer to them as "fern allies". Fern books are about the only sources of non-technical information.

And that brings us up to the ferns---another subject for another day and I hope another writer.--(Barbara, where are you?)

Flowers are beautiful -- but DO expand your horizon to include mosses, lichens, ferns and their allies. You will enjoy them all!

The books mentioned above are technical but they do have some pictures of some species...

REFERENCES: 1. Radford et al. Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas. 2. B&B, the New Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora by Henry A. Gleason.

**PLEASE HELP:** 1. If your address is circled on this SHORTIA you have not paid your 1998 dues. Please send your check for \$8.00 to Rachel Conway, Treas., 211 Aldersgate Circle, Givens Estates, Asheville, NC 28803. 2. Please check your 1997 List of Members for accuracy of listing (address & phone). Send corrections to Rachel. A 1998 Membership List will be mailed in March.

## OUR DAVIDSON RIVER WALK

We walked beside the river  
(The weather was just great.)  
We could have stayed much longer  
But life can hardly wait!

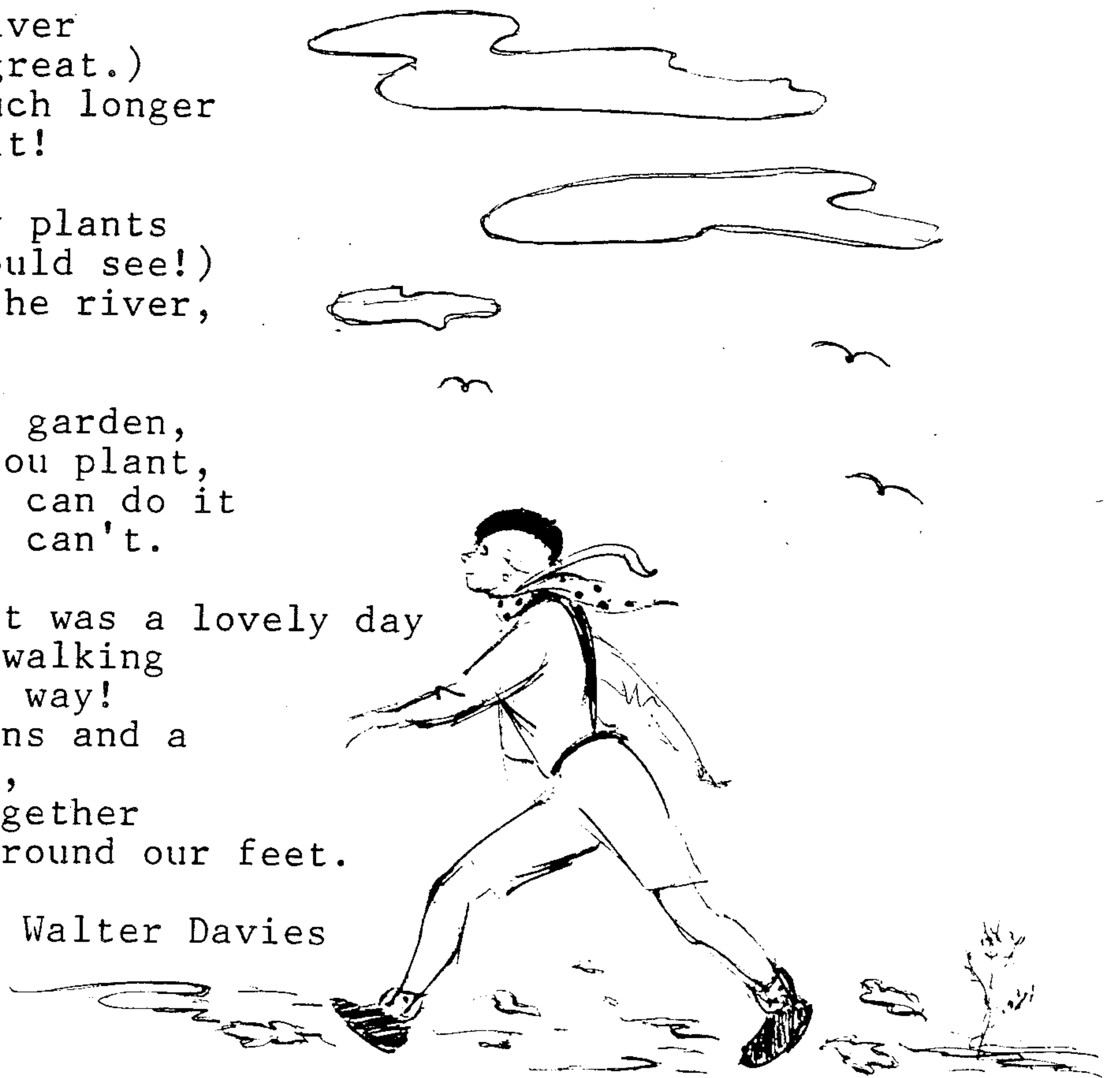
So many shrubs and tiny plants  
(They named all they could see!)  
As we strolled beside the river,  
Our tiny group--and me!

It's said life's like a garden,  
That you harvest what you plant,  
But we know of some who can do it  
And we know of some who can't.

One way or the other, it was a lovely day  
So we all just kept on walking  
... And talking all the way!  
With congenial companions and a  
place to stop and eat,  
We laughed and joked together  
While the leaves fell 'round our feet.

10/31/97

Walter Davies



## SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE

Today, Feb. 8, I saw the first dandelion in bloom,  
nearly open catkins on tag alder, and tiny white  
flowers on bitter cress, (Cardamine pennsylvanica).  
LOOK AND SEE!!!

CORNER.

## FROM THE EDITORS OF SHORTIA

As WCBC celebrates its 25th Anniversary, **SHORTIA**, our quarterly newsletter, begins its 20th year, thanks to a succession of editors. We think this is a good issue with interest and variety.

This is YOUR newsletter and your contributions help to keep the issues rolling out. We look forward to input from members to add interest and variety---so please continue to send us your ideas on WCBC and your thoughts on Plants, Places, and People. We look forward to receiving your writing, illustrations and innovations.

TRILLIUM VARIATIONS.....IVAN J. KUSTER

It is interesting to note that trillium is a plant of the lily family in three parts. The "tri" in Latin is three so trillium has three leaves, three sepals, three petals, six stamens and a three segment ovary. However, have you noticed that sometimes a species will change its "tri" form in the petals?

Trillium grandiflorum is especially notable for its variations. I would like to record some of these odd forms I have seen over the years. I recall back in 1965 exploring a wooded area between Lockport and Middleport, N.Y. there were thousands of T. grandiflorum, more than half of which were variations. They had broad white petals with narrow green stripes in the middle, some were the opposite, green petals with narrow white stripes. Some were all green with fancy ruffled white edges. A few had narrow, long white petals with broad pale green centers in tiers of three on top of each other - nine petals in all. There were also variables of these varieties making the whole show a memorable experience.

We found some T. erectum with white petals and fine red veins which were very different from the usual solid color variations of this species. T. grandiflorum also depart from the three petal forms, occasionally producing four and five petals which I have found in our hikes in the south. On one hike near Douglass Falls in the Craggy area I found a painted trillium (T. undulatum) with four petals. Also in that general area there was a white T. erectum with four leaves, sepals and petals. So while trilliums basically are in parts of three, some, especially grandiflorums get a bit restless and take off for a special show.

Harold W. Rickett in his two volume set "Wildflowers of the United States" says "If we translate Lilium into lilies, why not Trillium into trillies?"

#### A LONG AWAITED ANNOUNCEMENT

When the wildflower season begins this spring we will have a new field guide to take with us on the trails. It is the long-awaited *Wildflowers of the Southern Mountains*, written and illustrated by past president Richard M. Smith and published by The University of Tennessee Press.

Dick commenced work on this project a dozen years ago, but shelved it temporarily when asked by an editor to develop a guide to places of botanical interest throughout the United States; this culminated in his *Wild Plants of America*, published by John Wiley & Sons in 1989.

The new book focuses on the Blue Ridge physiographic province and surrounding mountains--that part of the Southeast where most of us live and which is widely known for its botanical diversity--although its usefulness will extend far beyond its boundaries.

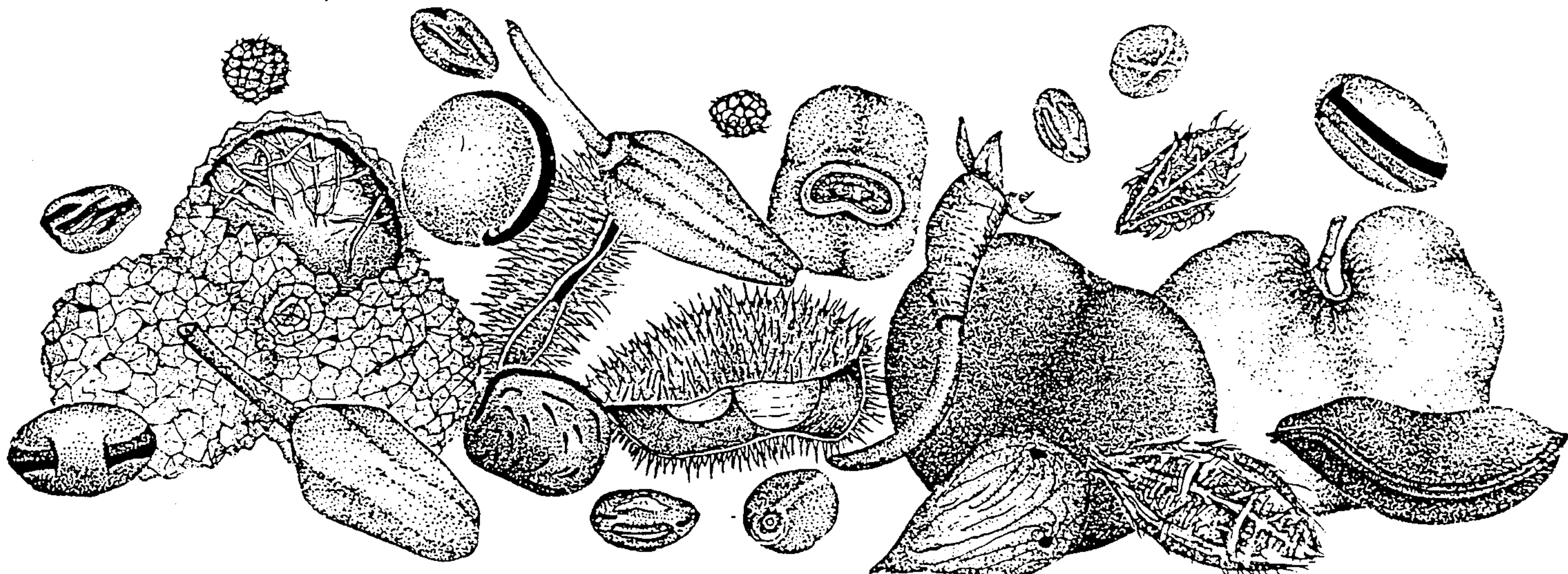
Coverage is unusually comprehensive, with more than 1,200 species (virtually every wildflower in the region) described, and approximately half of them illustrated with 600 color photographs.



NOTES FROM WHITE SQUIRREL.....Charles R. Gunn

This has been a topsy-turvy fall!! I have discontinued my day to day work with tropical drift seeds and fruits. My extensive collections have been moved to the Orlando, FL area and the Editorship of the Newsletter has gone to Melbourne Beach, FL. Before leaving this subject, I want to note that over 300 people attended our October 1997 meeting in Melbourne Beach. For those who would like to know more about this subject, come to my talk on February 13, 1998.

With a sad sigh and a very large dose of apprehension, I am starting on my final nonflora subject---Fruit-seed morphology at the family level for all spermatophyte families. This can only be done with these elements in place: 1. Access to the Worldwide Web and E mail; 2. a stabilized concept, on a world basis, of these families, and this has been done; 3. a major and tested taxonomic computer program - in my case DELTA; 4. an extensive literature overview - I have spent 12 years assembling this, and house it in Brevard; and 5. access to the world's largest seed-fruit collections which I assembled in Beltsville, MD.



BOOK SIGNING

The Western Carolina Botanical Club and the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy will co-sponsor a book signing of Dick Smith's new book at two local bookstores: Mountain Lore, North Main Street, Hendersonville, and Highland Books, 409 Broad Street, Brevard.

This is an opportunity to purchase a copy of Dick's new book, "Wildflowers of the Southern Mountains" and have your copy personally signed.

Members will be notified of the dates of each of the signings. For more information call Anne Ulinski, 697-9527 in Hendersonville or Bill Thomas, 885-8229, Brevard.

S H O R T I A

Vol. XX, No. 1

SPRING 1998

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 15, 1998 to Aline Hansens, 125 Far Horizons Lane, Asheville, NC 28803.

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

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FIRST CLASS  
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