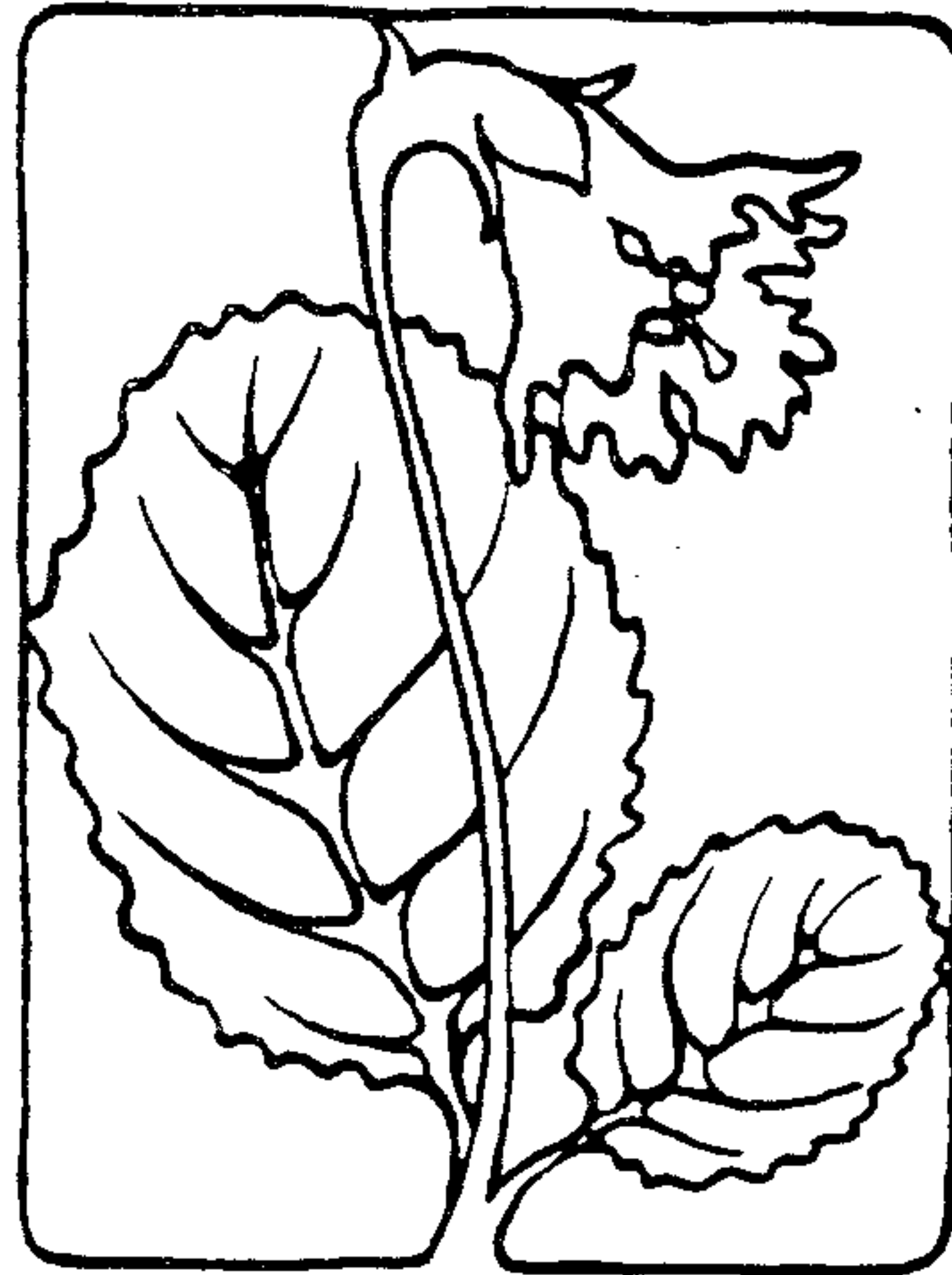


# SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

SUMMER 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

Its the Vernal Equinox with all kinds of stormy weather that cancelled the Holmes Educational State Forest hike, although El Nino gets all the blame. If you want to predict rainy weather--just schedule a Hardy Souls Hike.

At the meadow, the moss is loving this weather--I am sure the wild flowers will follow. The British Soldiers are standing guard over the fruit trees. Next will come the violets, so I won't have to mow.

The newspaper contained the news of our new 828 telephone area code and the pending change of street addresses in Hendersonville and surrounding area. This presents quite a challenge to Ruth and Rachel who are putting together our membership list. The good news is that this provides more time to send dues to the treasurer and to be listed in the 1998 WCBC Membership List.

If you will refer to our summer 1996 issue of Shortia you will find an interesting article on comfort on the trails. It has some good tips by EJH. If you can't find any past issues just call the Editors. They will be glad to hear of your interest in Shortia....Thank you!

FROM THE TREASURER:

FINAL CALL for dues before the new Membership Directory comes out. Also, be sure you notify Rachel Conway, 211 Aldersgate Circle, Asheville, NC (Tel. (828) 274-1414) if you have a new address or phone number.

\*\*\* PLAN AHEAD FOR THE WCBC PICNIC AT RAMBLEWOOD \*\*\*

FRIDAY JUNE 12. Early arrivals have a choice of easy trails.

For lunch bring a casserole, salad or dessert. Bring your own beverage and table service. MEETING PLACE: Laurel Park Shopping Mall. TIME: 10:00 a.m. Join others at Herrman's Ramblewood. If you have questions call DON, 877-3532.

## PARABLE OF THE BOTANIST'S APPRENTICE

Once there was an outdoorsman who lived for many years in a place of two seasons which were called "winter" and "not winter." He became restless and bored with the same old surroundings and too-familiar flora. Carrying his few belongings he wandered until he came to the Land of Four Seasons and Blue Ridges and knew he had found a home.

However, once there the man came to feel as a stranger, unable to recognize most nearby plants and environments. "Where are the marsh marigolds?" he cried. "And there are no larch trees!" So he sought out a person who had mastered these things, fell on his knees before her and cried, "Poor me! This all is so very different! I am out of place here."

The Master Botanist sympathized, "Yes..., that is so."

The man pleaded successfully to be allowed to apprentice himself to her and began to faithfully follow her onto nearby trails. He soon noted, "Mistress, I observe that there are tenfold the genera of plants in this new place. It even seems that not everybody uses the same name for the same plant! Must I also learn Latin names to be sure we speak of the same thing?!"

And the Teacher replied, "Yes..., that is so."

So the Apprentice strove and strove until he had learned much of what she had to teach. Even then, from time to time, he saw that the Teacher might still point out another new or rare species and he was sore dismayed. "I have a plethora of Clethera!" he objected. "A confusion of profusion!" Then news arrived and it came to pass that even some of his hard-learned Latin names were changed for greater accuracy!!

The Apprentice tore his hair and rent his garments. "Just when I do learn something," he wailed, "they change it! Even plant names! There is no way I shall ever know all there is to know!"

And the Teacher said, "Yes..., So?"

Accurately related by Dean Crawford

**HARDY SOULS HIKE, 1998.....DEAN CRAWFORD**

The WCBC maintained the tradition of scheduling the annual Hardy Souls Hike on the last Friday of February. The following is the official, complete and unexpurgated report on that hike as a record for the archives.

**Location and weather:** Davidson River Trail near the Pisgah Forest Ranger Station, a cool, drizzly and foggy day.

**Number of Hikers:** one, including leader and recorder but not including our faithful President who did come to the meeting place to commiserate.

**Trail condition:** probably pretty good, but fog made it difficult to tell.

**Plants observed in bloom:** Daffodil, Narcissus sp.

**Fauna observed:** red salamander(2). Pseudotriton ruber ruber. Also signs of recent activity by beaver, Castor canadensis, having gnawed down a tulip tree, Liriodendron tulipifera.

**Cusine:** Judged as excellent. Main course was thickly sliced turkey, Meleagris domesticus, on a platform of wheat bread and garnished with sprouts and just a hint of horseradish. This was served with a domestic Lemon Zinger, vintage 1997, which was found to have a youthful yet serious bouquet with a pleasantly tangy aftertaste.

A good time was had by all.



## North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

PISGAH CENTER FOR WILDLIFE EDUCATION is an agency of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission located in a new facility near the Fish Hatchery on FS 475 off Hwy 276. A variety of workshops, hikes and special events are listed in a brochure available at the center.

" 'Tis the Season for Wildflowers" is offered on two different dates, May 23 and May 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Participants will learn to identify wildflowers based on Newcomb's Wildflower Guide method.

"Join in the fun on June 5 by participating in the "Our Feathered Friends" program. From 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. participants will walk on the trails surrounding the wildlife education center and learn to identify birds by sight and sound."

FROM THE DESK OF BILL VERDUIN:

Saturday Terry, Ev and I went up to the Manasses area to see Virginia bluebells -- and see them we did! We saw clumps, small patches, strips along the trail, quarter acre patches, HALF ACRE patches, and places where it looked like they just went on forever! It was breathtaking. They were down in a floodplain and with all the rain we have had, some obviously good places we could not travel. After you see the first million who cares about another million or two.. And just to set them off to advantage the entire area was completely carpeted with zillions and zillions of spring beauty - just like grass in the lawn. What a sight!

There was almost nothing else in the area, but I did see American bladdernut for the first time, just one bush, but it was in bloom.

**A RARE PHENOMENON.....DON BENDER**

An unusual natural flower display seen at Glassy Mountain Preserve on the April hike this year deserves special mention.

Glassy Mountain is a true monadnock, its rock formation standing rather alone in the midst of a surrounding, slightly rolling, land surface. The hiking trail is several hundred feet below the top of the easterly side. Just above the trail are a few broad areas of exposed sloping rock on which we found a magnificent showing of wild plants with concurrently blooming flowers.

Mosses had built up in many areas on the lichens and on the rock face. These provided a green base for an extensive mat of elfin orpine (Sedum (diamorpha) smallii) which was showing its small white flowers and dominant red foliage. Above the orpine were masses of smooth sandwort (Arenaria groenlandica v. glabra) with white flowers providing a beautiful contrast. In addition, there were scattered clusters of bluish-purple spiderwort (Tradescantia hirsuticaulis, bluets (Houstonia caerulea, dwarf dandelion (Krigia virginica), and prickly pear cactus (Opuntia humifusa), all in flower.

This specacular color composite had a clearly fragile beauty, and we approached it cautiously to avoid damage. The occasion will undoubtedly remain memorable to all who saw it. We can only hope that its rarity will be preserved for the future.

"THE BOTANICAL GARDENS OF ASHEVILLE" Please help!!

A special Winter Storm Fund has been established to repair damage to the gardens from January's storm. We welcome contributions (Tax Deductible) payable to "The Botanical Gardens of Asheville" and earmarked for the STORM FUND. Mail checks to the Gardens, 151 W.T. Weaver Blvd., Asheville, NC 28804.

Submitted by WCBC Treasurer Rachel Conway.

WHO IS CURTIS?.....CONNIE UPDIKE

On several of our hikes in the fall we have encountered Solidago curtisii and Aster curtisii. Along the maintenance road leading to the trail at the Fish Hatchery, they were blooming side by side. Who was Mr. Curtis? In the Larousse Dictionary of Scientists, 1994 edition, I found reference to William Curtis (1749-99). He was an English horticulturist and botanist born in Alton, Hampshire. (How many of you have been there -- or near there?) Curtis started a botanical garden in Lambeth in 1777. Before that he was director of the Chelsea Physic Garden from 1772-77. In 1777 he made a list of all the plants growing within 10 miles of London. Unfortunately because of the cost this was never published. However, his study of the Enumeration of British Grasses was published in 1787.

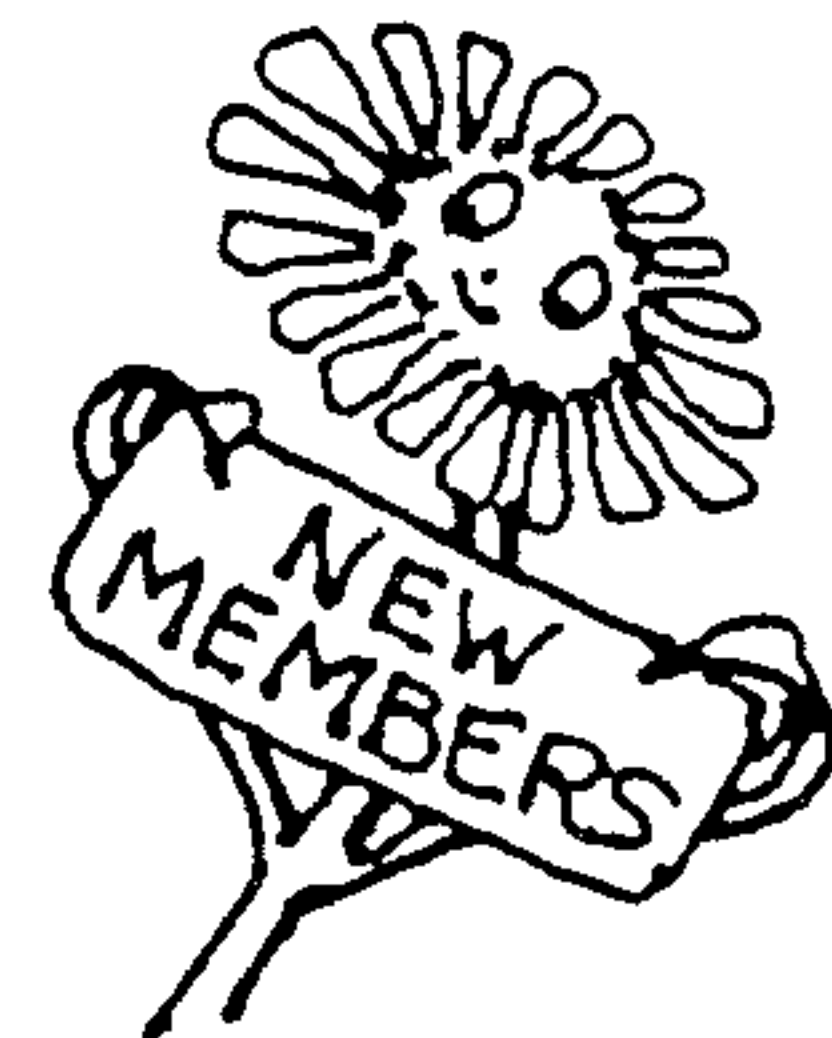
He began the first periodical devoted only to plants in 1794. It was directed to horticulturists, and included both descriptions of plants and lovely hand-colored plates. Originally called Curtis's Botanical Magazine, it is now called Kew Magazine and uses much of the original format.

I found nothing indicating that William Curtis visited the New World.

EDITOR: Another interesting article on this subject can be found in SHORTIA Vol. XVII, No. 3, p. 7.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....ALINE HANSENS

**Chattaway, Pat:** P.O. Box 2, Balsam, NC 28707. (828) 456-5801. Winter Address: (after Oct. 1248 So. Alahambra Circle, Coral Gables, FL 33146. (305) 661-0029). Retired kindergarten teacher; has enjoyed wild flowers. Learned of the club from Mary Helen Harris.



**SIMS, WILLIAM R. (BILL):** 24 Timberlane Circle. Pisgah Forest, NC. 28768. (828) 884-9804. Former member reinstated. Avid gardener, was a friend of Harry Logan.

## "WILDFLOWERS OF THE SOUTHERN MOUNTAINS"

The wildflowers of the southern mountains are here--in all their springtime glory--and so is the book of the same name.

*Wildflowers of the Southern Mountains*, written and illustrated by WCBC member Richard M. Smith and published by The University of Tennessee Press, has finally arrived in the bookstores. Printing and binding took place in Italy, which necessitated shipment by sea and involved the inevitable customs clearance in New York before the distribution center in Chicago could begin filling the accumulated backorders. (Participants in some of our early field trips did have a sneak preview, but only because Dick and Jeanne brought along the two advance copies that had been airmailed to them.)

This new guide book focuses primarily on the Blue Ridge physiographic province and is unusually complete in that it describes more than 1,200 species--virtually every herbaceous wildflower occurring in this region. Fully one-half of these are depicted by 600 color photographs chosen for their representation of diagnostic characters. Identification is further aided by a pictorial key based on flower shape and color, and by an extensive glossary of botanical terms.

A more detailed description of the book's features, including sample pages, can be seen on the publisher's site on the World Wide Web at <http://sunsite.utk.edu/utpress>.

Through the efforts of Anne Ulinski, Bill Thomas and Elton Hansens, the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy and the Western Carolina Botanical Club co-sponsored two book signings at local stores: one at Mountain Lore Books on North Main Street, Hendersonville, and one at Highland Books at 409 Broad Street in Brevard. These events were publicized in part by announcements provided by the sponsoring organizations and mailed to their members. Both stores will, of course, continue to stock the book for those who were unable to attend the signings. For members who wish to obtain autographed copies, Dick will accept mail orders at the regular price of \$24.95 plus 6% NC sales tax (where applicable) and a \$3.00 charge to cover shipping and handling; orders should be sent to him at P. O. Box 2343, Brevard, NC 28712.



CAROLUS LINNAEUS -- BOTANY TEACHER EXTRAORDINARY...DON BENDER

Linnaeus fame is based on his system of classifying plants according to their reproductive organs and using binomial names. His system was ridiculed but he saw far beyond his detractors to its utility for broadening botanical knowledge. Remembered primarily for this system, his qualities as a teacher are likely to be overlooked.

Fascinated by flowers from early childhood, and aided by an orderly mind and an incomparable memory, he was already impressive botanically when he arrived to study at Uppsala. His comprehension in natural science including botany, medicine, zoology and mineralogy, was recognized early; he gave many lectures as a student. In 1735, he visited Western Europe where his reputation had already reached many of the foremost doctors and botanists of the time. Despite strong incentives to make his career there, he returned to Sweden, where he was later married.

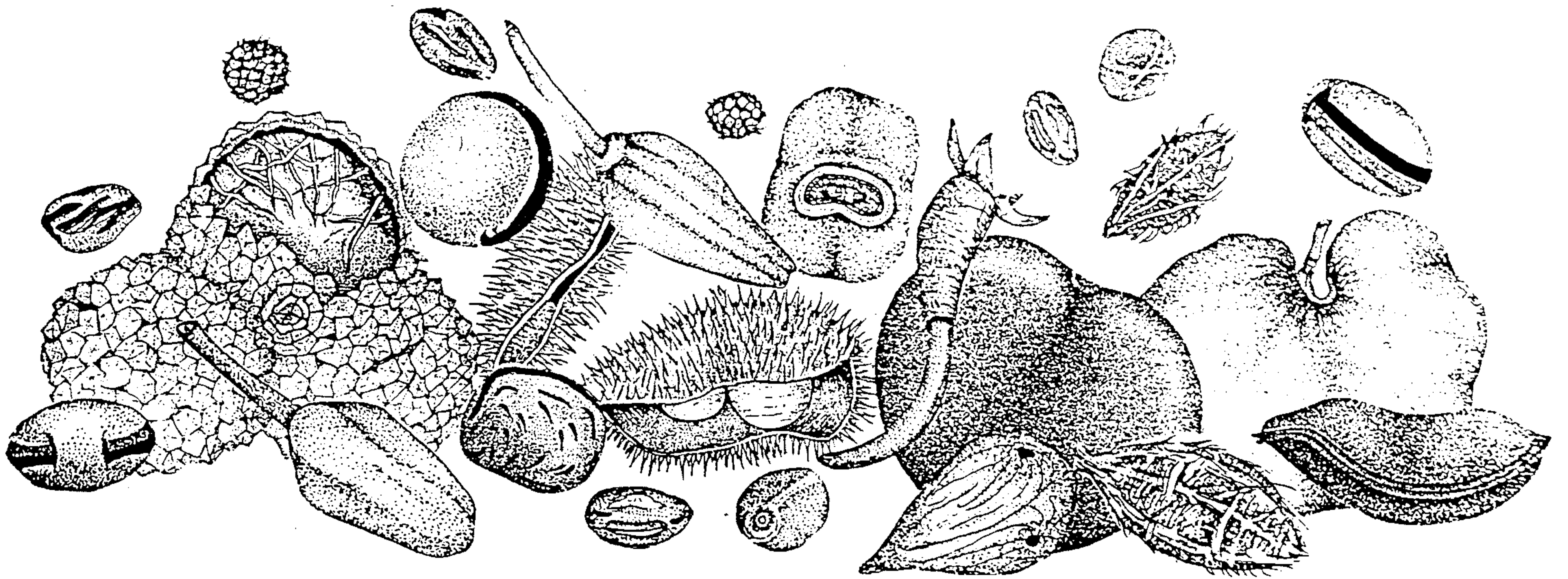
In 1741, Linnaeus received the Professorship he had hoped for in Medicine and Botany at Uppsala, and from the outset his popularity and effectiveness with students was quite universal. He was a consummate lecturer, using but few notes. He never failed to captivate his audience. His Saturday Walks are also revealing. There were often 150 students. They could dress informally and scatter into small groups. Linnaeus never restrained hilarity, but did try to make them think for themselves. If an unusual plant was found, a bugle was blown, all would gather, and Linnaeus would elucidate. A table for 20 was set with lunch. Those who found the rarest plants sat at this table with Linnaeus, and there was lively competition for the honor. The walk would end with all shouting "Vivat Linnaeus" (Long live Linnaeus!)---and so he did through 23 of his students who became professors!

As the years passed, widespread recognition and many honors came to Linnaeus. King Fredrik I, in 1747, gave him the rank and title of Archiater (Chief Physician). In 1753, he received the Knighthood of the Polar Star, and, in 1760 he was Titled Carl von Linne'. Many Royal Societies made him Honorary Member. And in 1775 he was visited by King Gustof III. In later years he suffered several debilitating strokes and died January 10, 1778.

Reference: "The Compleat Naturalist, a Life of Linnaeus", Wilfrid Blunt, The Viking Press, New York, 1971.

SHORTIA going back to 1983 is housed in the Biology Department at UNCA and is available for student referance in botany courses. Thank you for keeping me on the mailing list over the years, and please continue to do so. SHORTIA is a valuable resource for the department. James D. Perry, UNCA





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

The question: What green plant is more or less invisible in the summer and green and quite visible in winter?

The Clue: Look up into the trees. This species is at the margin of its North Carolina distribution in Brevard. In our subdivision, Deer Lake, I have located two plants. The seeds of this species are spread by birds. They eat the whitish berries including the seeds. When they land, the birds may leave a seed or two neatly glued in furrows of a tree branch. Even though this species has green leaves, the plant is a parasite.

The answer: This is authentic mistletoe (Phoradendron serotinum), a member of the mistletoe family, Loranthaceae, also called the Showy Mistletoe Family. On the other hand, we have in Europe, the Christmas mistletoe, Viscum album in the family Viscaceae. In North America, the role of the Christmas mistletoe is taken by Phoradendron serotinum.

Basically, the Showy Mistletoe Family, Loranthaceae, has perfect flowers, 4-12 seeds per fruit, and lack chlorophyll, while the Christmas Mistletoe Family members have unisexual flowers, 2(-3) seeds per fruit, and have chlorophyll. The two families were one until the 1950's.

As a follow up to our beautiful visit to Pearson's Falls, the Tryon (private) Library has a copy of Donald Culross Peattie's FLORA OF THE TRYON REGION. I also have a copy of this report.

Copies of PEARSON'S FALLS GLEN...ITS STORY...ITS BIRDS by Peattie are available at the gate to the Falls. Appended to this booklet are THE GLEN'S TRAILSIDE PLANTS by Oliver M. Freeman and THE GLEN'S BIRDS by C.T. Downer. The Freeman article lists only the popular plants, only one grass species and no members of the Juncaceae. Remember the pathrush (Luzula)?

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 Aug. 10, 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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