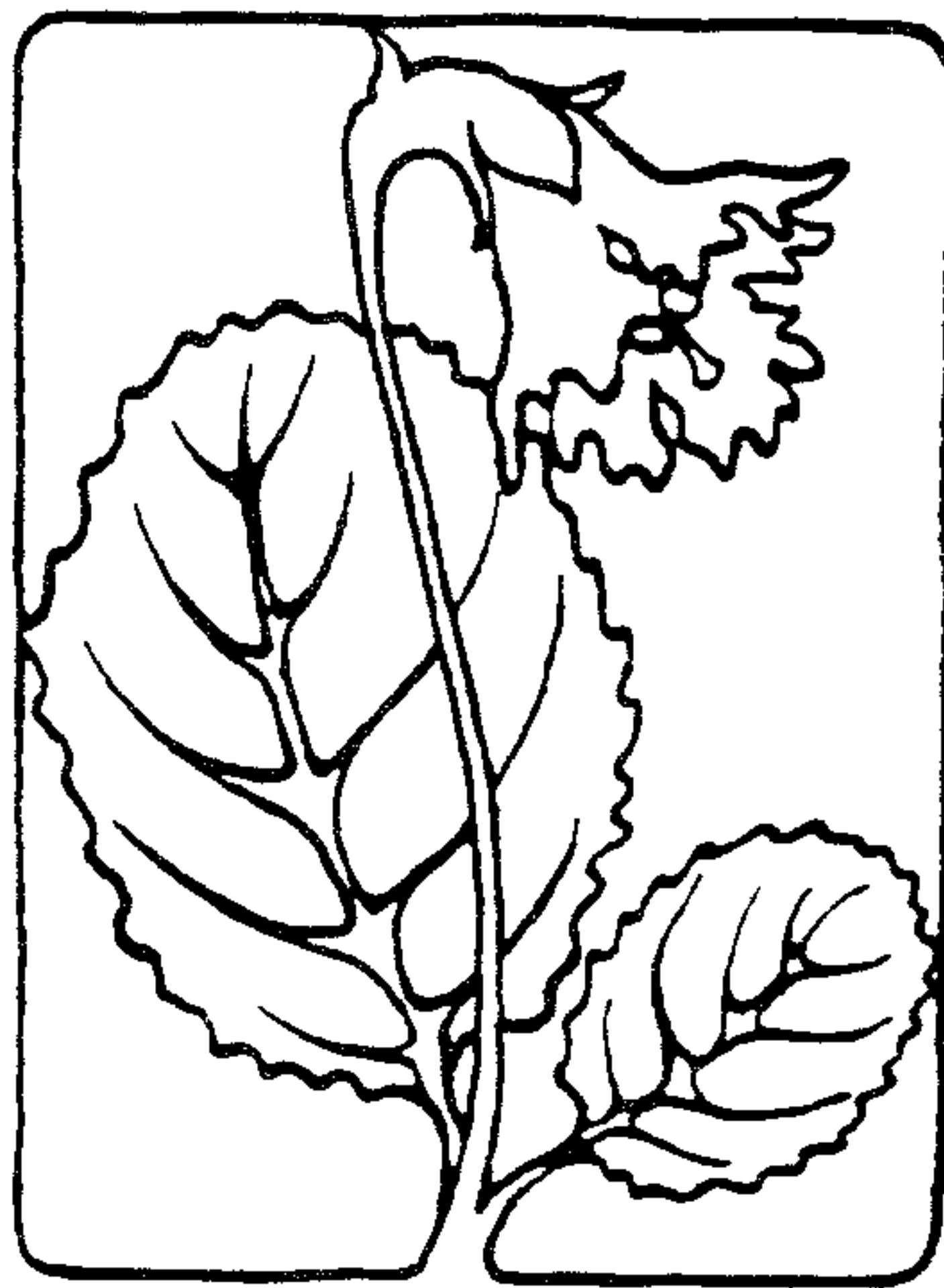


# SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

WINTER 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

As I start to write, the breeze has picked up and the leaves are really coming down. What a great month October has been. Every week-end has been clear and dry, ideal for the WCBC. Today along the Pigeon River we enjoyed the best weather Western Carolina has to offer---from taking a group picture at Cold Mountain Overlook to picnicing on the rocks in the river. We even did some botanizing.

As previously forecast, the Scheduling Committee has come together. It is an energetic and enthusiastic group. There will be more trips like the one today. I would like to give a vote of thanks to all of those who help plan these schedules.

I have just walked the dogs (the cats didn't make it) down to the meadow. This year of benign neglect and lack of rain has been good for moss. However, the ladies tresses arrived on time but not as plentiful as in the past. The asters came in abundance, especially along the creek, where they are still hanging on.

As you check your current schedule, please make a note of the annual meeting (January 15, 1999). There are important items to be discussed. Our annual dues is one of them. Your participation will be appreciated.

Thank you! Don Herrman

NEW MEMBERS IN WCBC

ARNETT, PATRICIA 616 Erkwood Dr., H'ville, NC 28739 696-0823.

DODGE, HATHA L. 1A Spring Lake Drive, Horseshoe, NC 28742-9688  
(828) 890-1634.

FLEMING, ELLEN D. (Mrs. Robert E.) 101-C N. Ridge Dr., Asheville,  
28804. (828) 258-3946.

JONES, NYLA JO May-Oct. 640 Little River CG Road, Pisgah Forest,  
NC 28768. Winter 2759 Gulf to Bay Blvd., Lot 127, Clearwater  
FL 33759.

NICHOLS, ANNE R. 406 Spanish Oak Lane, H'ville, NC 28791. 697-  
2834.

PEELER, DUDLEY F. & ELIZABETH 40 Dogwood Lane, Brevard, NC  
28712.

SMITH, HELEN M. 311 Jordan Rd., Brevard, NC 28712. (828) 883-4946.

TAKARO, TIMOTHY & MARILYN 12 Westchester Dr., Asheville, NC 28803.  
(828) 254-2085.

Reinstated

SCHMIDT, CHRISTINE 2549 Williamson Creek Rd., Pisgah Forest, NC  
28768. (828) 877-3070.

EDITORS: In this 25th year of the WCBC we dig in the files and reprint the minutes of the 1st meeting---MARCH 27, 1973.

Acting president Joe Schatz opened the March 27th meeting with a proposal that a name for the newly organized botany group be selected. From the ensuing discussion evolved the name Western Carolina Botanical Club, which was voted upon and accepted.

Joe Schatz read suggestions for the purpose of the club:

1. For the study, enjoyment and appreciation of the plants of Western North Carolina in their natural environment.
2. For the collection and compilation of information and data on the plants of WNC and the dissemination of this to other interested persons.
3. For the education of interested persons in the enjoyment and appreciation of wildflowers and other plants.

Most of these purposes are to be carried out by means of field trips. It is also possible the club may become involved in environmental and political issues in due time, if they involve plants that should be saved.

The subject of dues was introduced, and it was concluded that charge of \$3.00 per person per year would cover necessary costs of mailings, information sheets and the like. The fiscal year started March 1st.

It was decided to hold one formal meeting per year, this possibly with a program. At this time officers for the coming year will be elected. Occasional informal meetings will be held as needed. The purpose of these meetings will be:

1. To stimulate interest
2. To review trips
3. To hold programs during times of bad weather.

Reviews of trips will be done by a person assigned for this job.

Club officers, nominated by a committee comprised of Gordon Tooley and Harvey Krouse, were elected as follows:

President - Lincoln Highton  
Vice-President - Gordon Tooley  
Secretary-Treasurer - Barbara Hallowell

At this time the meeting was turned over to President Lincoln Highton. Proceedings continued with a discussion about committees. There are to be five. Two will be active immediately:

1. Field trips - chairman, Harry Logan
2. Publicity - chairman, Joe Schatz

The three others will develop as the club progresses;

3. Programs
4. Education
5. Records

It was agreed that riders in cars to and from field trips should pay the drivers 20 cents per mile. Harriet Corwin offered to help with driving people to or from field trips or meetings. The next planned field trip is April 2 to Facolet Falls. Harvey Krouse will investigate possibilities for a trip into the Green River area.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara G. Hallowell, Secretary

Here's another little gem to help bring awareness to one of my missions in life - to give the lowly dandelion it's due.

Bright little dandelion  
Downy yellow face,  
Peeping up among the grass  
With such gentle grace;  
Minding not the April wind  
Blowing rude and cold,  
Brave little dandelion,  
With a heart of gold.

Meek little dandelion,  
Changing into curls  
At the magic touch of these  
Merry boys and girls.  
When they pinch thy dainty throat,  
Strip thy dress of green,  
On thy soft and gentle face  
Not a cloud is seen.



Poor little dandelion  
All gone to seed,  
Scattered roughly by the winds,  
Like a common weed.  
Thou hast lived thy little life,  
Smiling every day;  
Who could do a better thing  
In a better way?

(Author unknown)

While I'm giving out dues, I want to give Dick Smith his -  
We owe the Smiths a great big thank you for Dick's wonderful book -  
"WILDFLOWERS OF THE SOUTHERN MOUNTAINS" - THANK YOU DICK.

#### NEW WCBC FIELD TRIP IN 1999

At the Program Schedule meeting October 28 it was disclosed that a former Givens Estates resident has generously invited a group of WCBC members (not to exceed 20) to enjoy spring flowers along a 1 mile private road on her 350 acre farm in southern Madison County.

Several Givens Estates residents have previously visited the farm and know that this promises to be a very interesting and worthwhile botanical experience. WCBC members check your 1999 Program Schedule when it is published and make your reservation with a leader promptly if you wish to be included.

RECORDER'S REPORT FOR AUGUST TO OCTOBER 1998.....ERIKA PARMİ

The hot, dry summer weather continued into the fall. Dan Pittillo of Western Carolina University predicted an extra colorful and late autumn. Although many of us thought it had been too dry to produce wonderful and brilliantly colored foliage, Dan Pittillo was proved correct. I hiked and drove into the woods as much as possible to enjoy the season. Shame on those of you who did not take advantage of the sunny weather! The mountain ash berries were plentiful and the best that I have seen in several years.

On August 7 the Elk Pasture Gap hike produced 37 species in bloom, one of which was pale corydalis (Corydalis sempervirens) which we seldom see. On August 14 the Frying Pan Gap group found that most of the expected flowers were past their prime. They, however, discovered a colorful and huge patch of pink earth lichen. The trip to Pinnacle Mt. is usually a hot, humid one, but August 21 was a comfortable day with bright sunshine. The plants on the dry, rocky outcrops were obviously in distress from the drought. The fern-leaved false foxglove and the thread-leaf gerardia, however, were outstanding. The fame flower, to our disappointment, was already in fruit. On August 28 the Daniel Ridge Trail was lined with lush poison ivy (apparently not bothered by the drought!), but we found 38 species in bloom along its borders and we did not lose any members to the ivy!

On September 11 the recorder for the Lake Issaqueena trip noted the dry weather had affected many of the plants. The Parkway South trip on Sept., 18 did not produce as many species as usual, but the group did not travel down Rt. 215 because the roadside had been mowed. The Jackson Park fall trip, in my opinion, is always more interesting than the spring or summer trips. This time the porcelain berry (Ampelopsis brevipedunculata) was added to our plant list for the first time. It is a rare, introduced vine.

Over 20 members enjoyed an absolutely gorgeous day on Whiteside Mt. This was the first fall trip on which we failed to find a few late sand myrtle blossoms. All the rest of the October field trips were held on beautiful sunny days. the colorful foliage along the McCall Cemetary Loop, the Asheville Botanical Garden, and the East Fork of the Pigeon River were enjoyed by all. The highlight of the Oct. 16 picnic at Holmes State Forest was Bill Verduin's presence. We were all delighted to see him again. Good food and a blazing fire in the fireplace were enjoyed by all.

Did you ever wonder...What you should do if you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?

DRIVEWAY BEAUTIES!.....ERIKA S. PARMİ

The release of WILDFLOWERS OF THE SOUTHERN MOUNTAINS by our own Richard M. Smith inspired me to make a mini-study of my own---to list all the flowers along my 150 foot driveway. The book came out too late for me to check the early spring flowers such as Iris verna, Viola blanda, V. pedata and V. sororia, but I added them to my list anyway.

In June my most showy flowers were butterfly pea (Clitoria mariana) along with many flowering spurge (Euphorbia corollata) and wild sensitive plant (Cassia nictitans). Rattlesnake weed (Hieracium venosum), a couple of Hypericum species, H. punctatum and H. hypericoides, Small's ragwort (Senecio anonymous) and downy rattlesnake plaintain (Goodyera pubescens) all made their appearances between May and July. The purple flowered hairy bedstraw (Galium pilosum) was the most surprising find for me. I had never noticed its flowers before.

In August I found three bush clover (Lespedeza) species.---the creeping L. repens, the trailing L. procumbens and the wand-like L. intermedia. I enjoyed the blooms first and then the goldfinches dined on the seeds of several sunflower species (Helianthus atrorubens, H. microcephalus and H. resinosus).

I'll have to wait until next fall to struggle with the goldenrods. I was away much of September when some of them came out. The only one I tentatively identified was early goldenrod (Solidago juncea) which was out in mid-August. It had a reddish stem which was not mentioned in Dick's book, but the rest of the characteristics fit.

I had an amazing total (to me) of 38 species plus flowering shrubs that are not covered in Dick's book. I know there are more flowers to be found, so here's to next spring! Thank you, Dick, for the pleasure your book gave me.

IN APPRECIATION.....THE EDITORS SPEAK.

In SHORTIA Vol. 14, No. 2 Erika Parmi published the first of 25 Recorder's Reports she has written for SHORTIA. They contain a wealth of information about when and where and what we see on our trips.

No, she did not take all of the hikes but she has played a major role in planning field trips, arranging for trip recorders and summarizing the individual trip reports. The Editors of Shortia wish to thank Erika for her leadership in the WCBC. She certainly is a major force in assuring our WCBC success. THANKS ERIKA!!!

# FOREST TREES

.....ALINE HANSENS

Among the several species of hickory found in NC, SHAGBARK HICKORY is perhaps the most common and easily identified with its shaggy bark and ovate fruit. Along with the walnuts, hickories belong to the family JUGLANDACEAE.

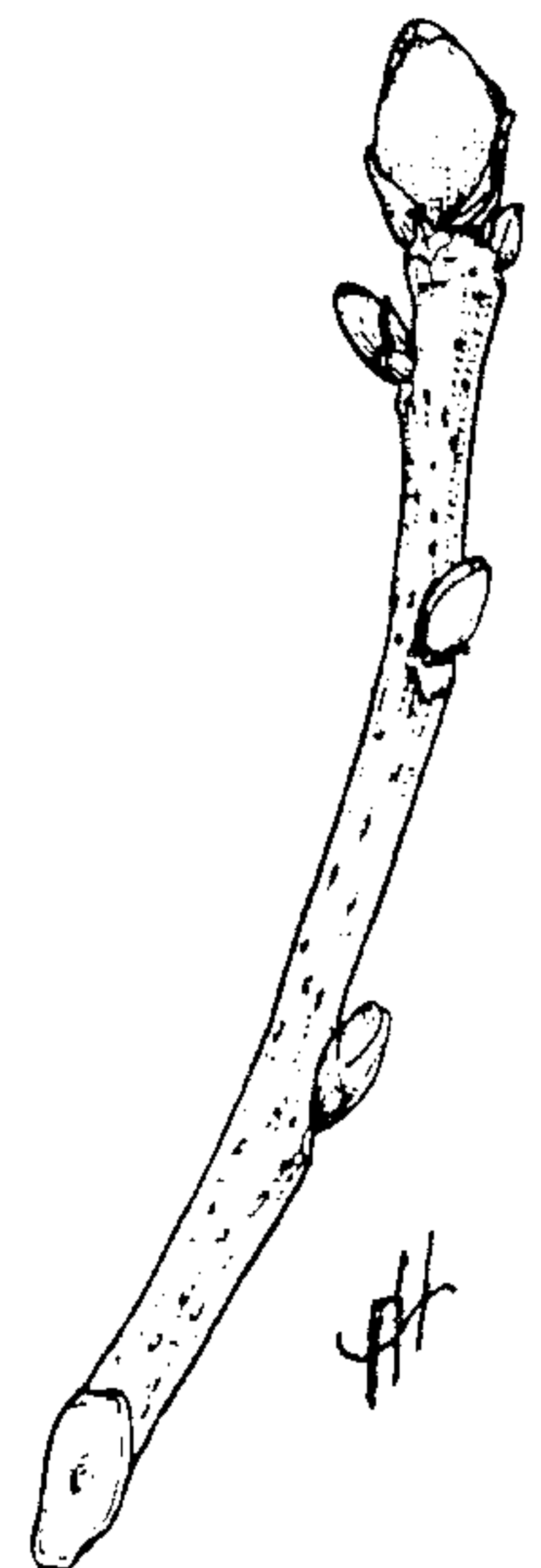
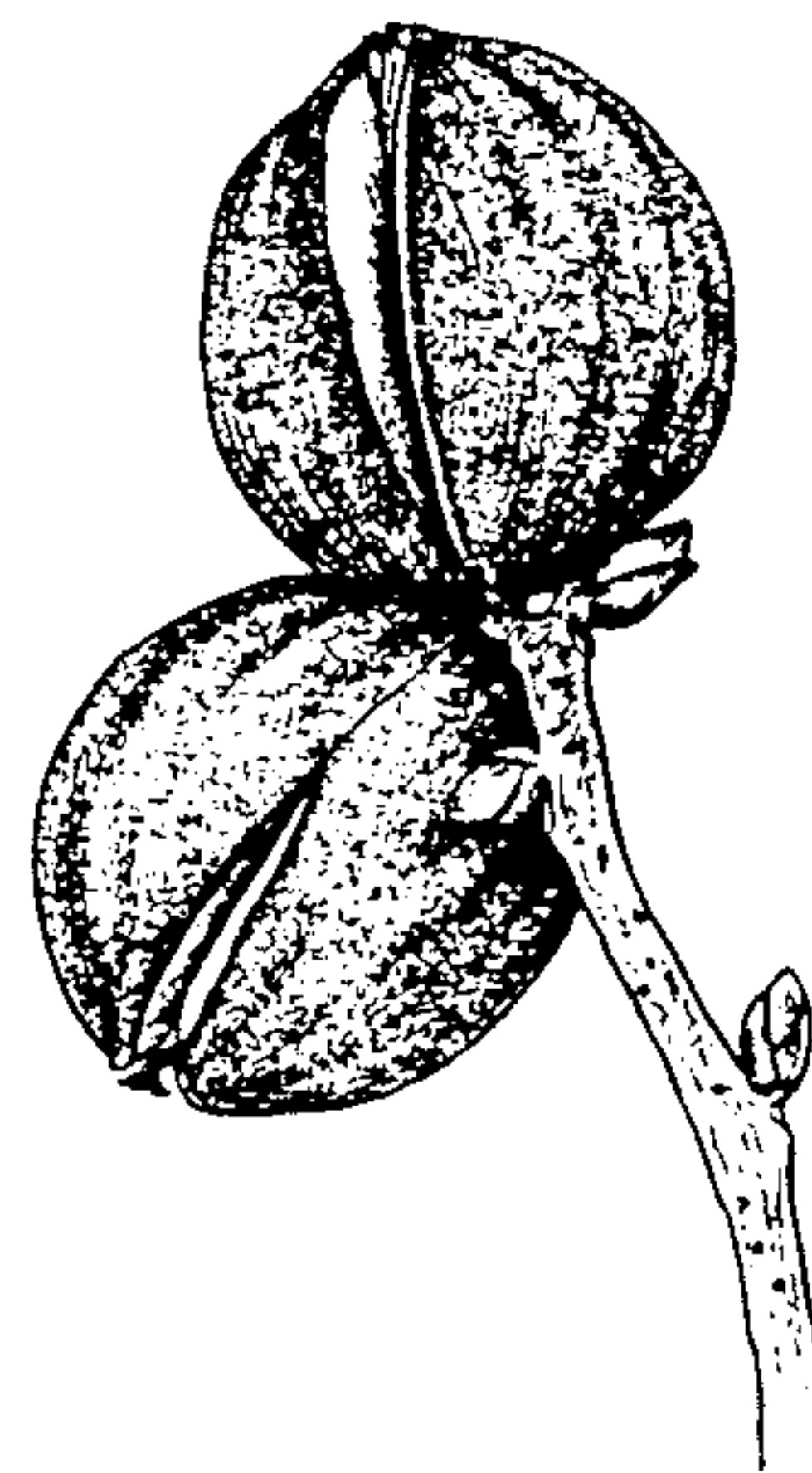
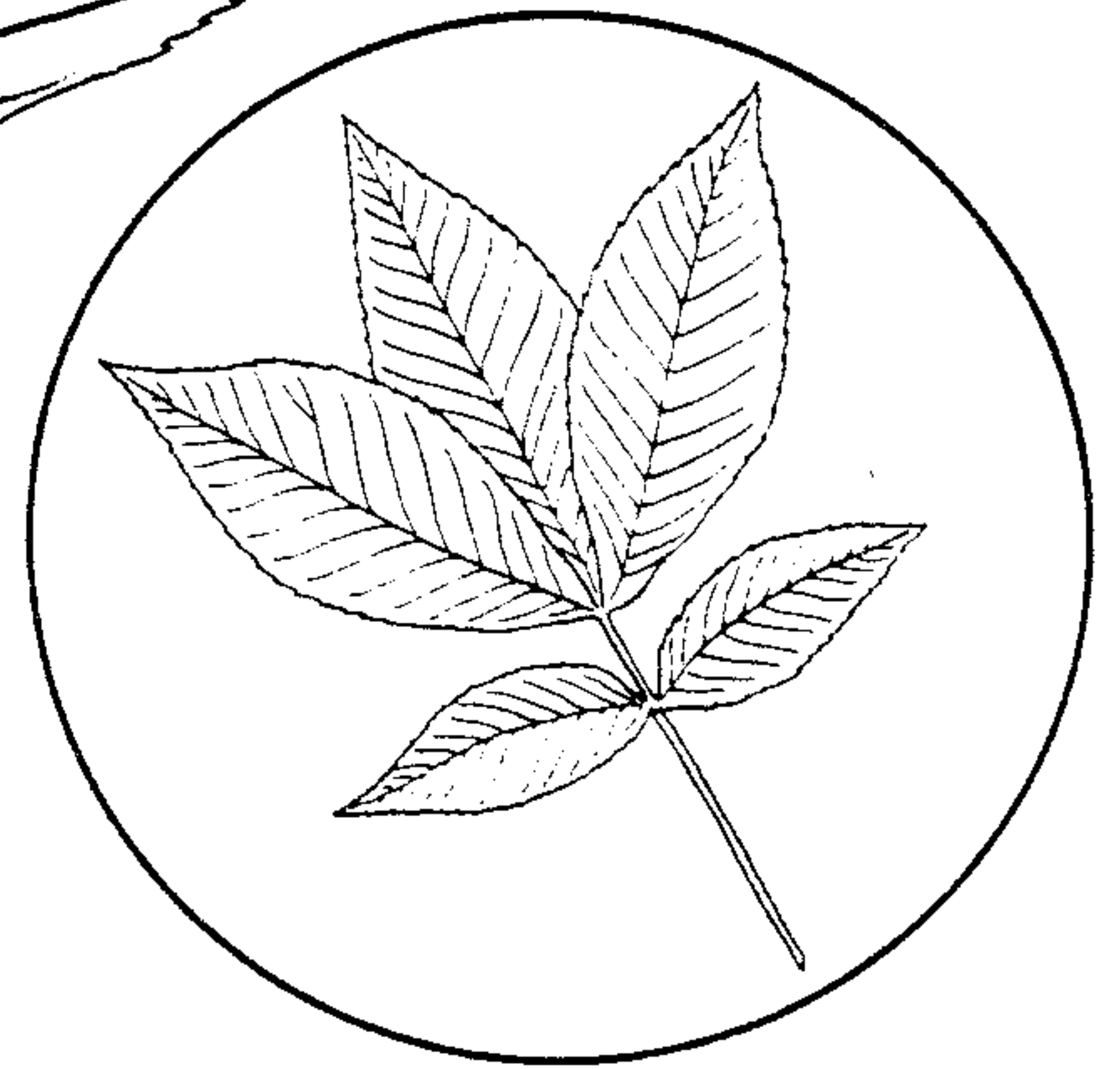
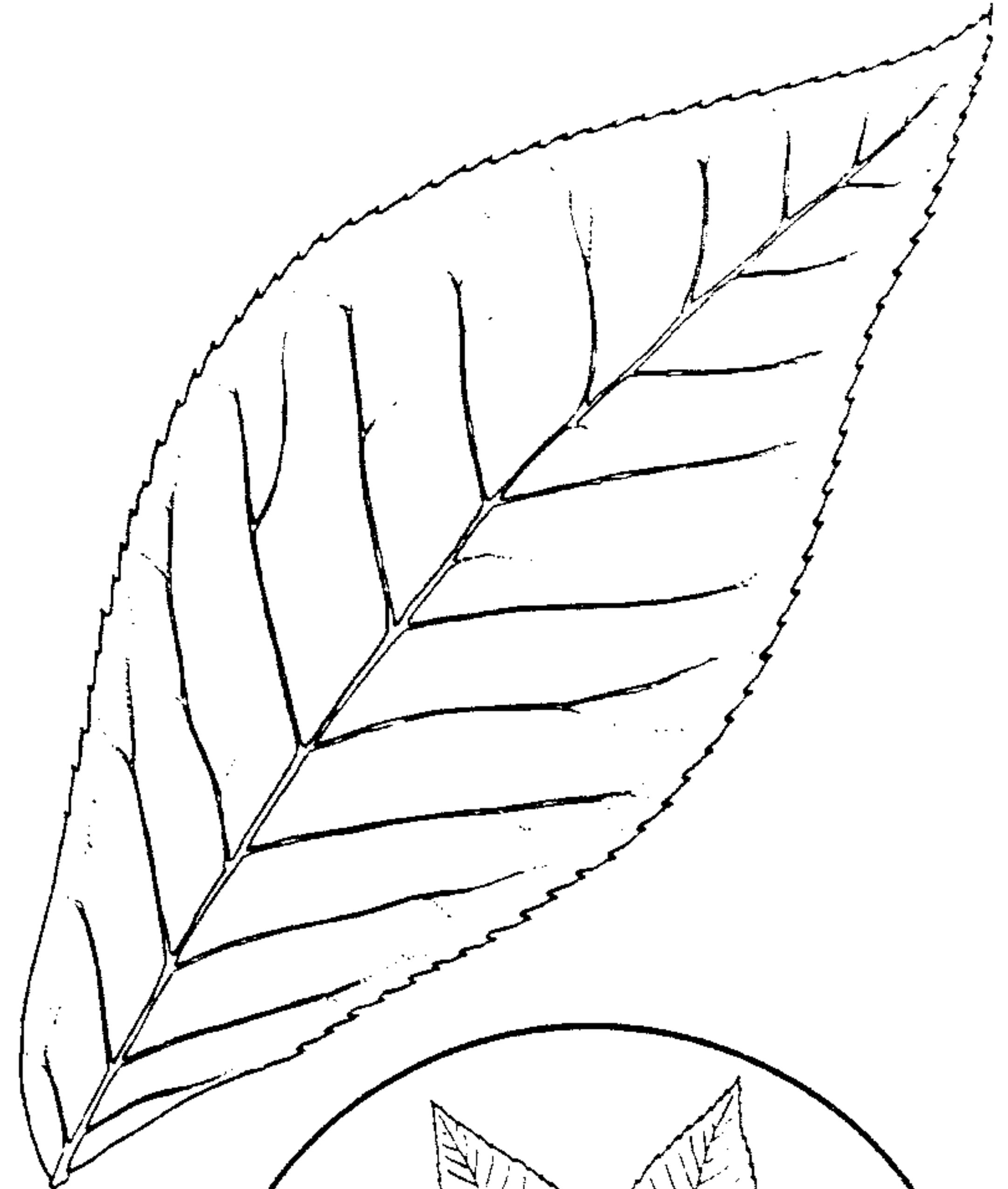
Young shagbark hickories have smooth, firm, light gray bark that separates into thick plates about a foot long. These plates curl outward at both ends giving mature trees a very rough, shaggy trunk.

This rugged, picturesque tree is found in most of the eastern states and may reach a height of 120 to 140 ft. While it is fond of bottomlands and pastures it also grows at elevations up to 2000 ft. mixed with oaks and other hardwoods. Commercially the wood is hard and strong but not durable in contact with soil and is subject to boring insect attack.

The leaves are compound and alternate with 5 to 7 leaflets which are sharply pointed, have serrated margins and are sessile.

In May or June male catkins appear in drooping spikes 4" to 6" long developing in leaf axils of the previous year. At the same time the short spikes of female flowers develop on new growth and, if fertilized, during the summer produce semi-spherical fruits described as ovate, giving rise to the name "ovata". With the frosts of October the fruits ripen and the thick outer husk splits into 4 sections revealing a single, white, hard-shelled nut. Have you ever tried to crack a hickory nut? A voice of experience told me to use a vise (gently) and then pick out the sweet nutmeats. What a reward--the squirrels can't have them all!

## SHAGBARK HICKORY



## BLUEBERRY OR HUCKLEBERRY?

by Dean Crawford

What's the difference? For several years I've been asking local folks, especially berry pickers and sellers, what a huckleberry really is. There were a variety of answers all the way from "just two names for the same thing" to "the little hard redish ones are the huckleberries while the big fat juicy bluish ones are true blueberries." What's a fellow to believe? So, as my Daddy used to say, "When in doubt, read the directions."

Petrides (Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs, Houghton Mifflin, 1958) speaks of huckleberries as "similar to the closely related blueberries...the fruits are small blue to black berries (red in one species), generally in lengthened clusters and usually edible." Usually? How much help is that? He does give a bit of a clue in reporting that they do not "have twigs densely covered with fine warty speckles as in the true blueberries." So I looked at a number of blueberry twigs. Yeah, I guess I might be seeing some "warty speckles," but it's not always evident. Even on the same plant some twigs appear to be basically smooth and some have teeny warts..., maybe.

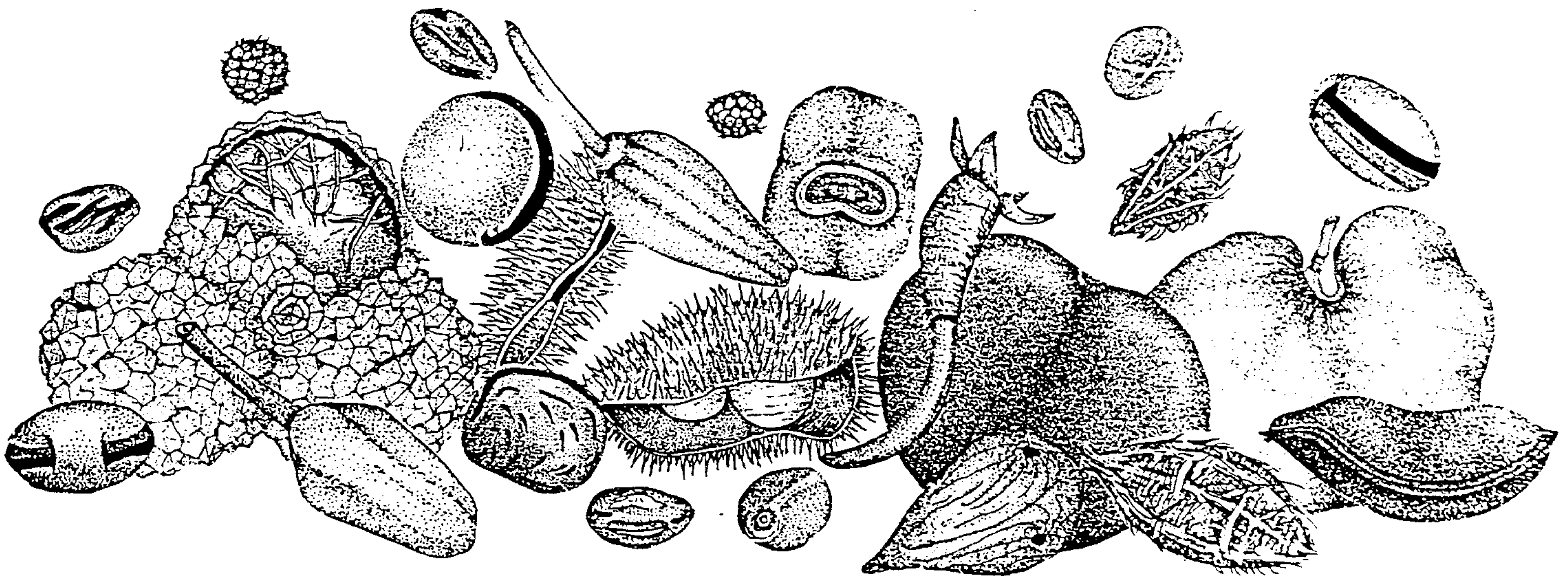
Borrowing "the bible" (Radford, Ahlers & Bell, Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas, UNC Press, 1968) from LaVerne Pearson, I got a typical lesson in researching something common in such an encyclopedic source. They show huckleberries as a whole different *genus*; not *Vaccinium*, as are blueberries, but *Gaylussacia*! Ah, Ha! Then, after a lengthy description of sizes of various parts, variety of color of corollas, etc. they get down to it, to wit: "Often confused with *Vaccinium* from which it may be readily distinguished by the **ten large bony pyrenes and by the presence of resinous glands on the underside of the leaves.**" (Emphasis added.) Now, I can easily check for resin spots under the leaves, but what the heck are "pyrenes?"

Further searching reveals: a pyrene is "The nutlet in a drupe; a seed and the bony endocarp." Then, a drupe is "A fleshy, usually 1-seeded indehiscent fruit with seed enclosed in a stony endocarp." Great! Not I have two more new words to define. Well, it turns out that indehiscent means "not regularly opening, as a fruit or anther." (So why didn't they just say 1-seeded fruit?) And an endocarp is the "innermost layer of pericarp." Here we go again. Pericarp is defined as "the wall of a ripened ovary." Finally! Words I understand!

Radford goes on to list five *specie<sup>s</sup>* of *Gaylussacia* but only one, *ursina*, which might be found in our region and then only at high elevations. Further, he indicates that they generally have ten seeds, or pyrenes, while we all know that blueberries have lots more than that. Conclusion: We're probably not going to see true huckleberries, except just possibly a patch in a wooded and high elevation location. In such circumstances, a quick look on the underside of the leaf for resin spots should reveal any presence of *Gaylussacia ursina*. Whew! I think I'll just relax and enjoy the pie. *Bon appetite.*

We congratulate Dr. Dan Pittillo, professor of Biology at WCU on being the 1998 recipient of the Elizabeth Ann Bartholomew Award presented by the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society. He is a good friend of the WCBC and has assisted our club and its members in many ways and on many occasions.





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

I would not have believed it - but our 2,000-page typescript went to the USDA/ARS head editor on time, has been assigned an editor, and is being edited! But alas, a problem--Who is going to pay for the plates for printing.

Summertime joys: Finding dodder: The parasitic flowering plant that resembles golden threads was just up hill from fire hydrant 18 on DeerLake Road. I believe it is Cuscuta gronovii and is parasitizing our "beloved" (it must be because we have so much of it as a roadside plant) sericea lespedeza. The Brevard city road crew mowed our roadsides, so the dodder probably was not able to set seeds. By the way, dodder is now considered to be in its own family, Cuscutaceae and not in the Convolvulaceae, the morning-glory family.

And then there is the news I gave my neighbor. A front yard weed is a new species for Deerlake. It is a prostrate plant somewhat like carpetweed (Mollugo verticillata) and purslane (Portulaca oleracea). But this species was Ludwigia palustris in the evening primrose family (Onagraceae). Unfortunately this species does not have petals! It had to be controlled where it was growing, and it was, but I know where there are other plants.

A new species has somehow found its way to the pipeline cut between Stone Drive and White Squirrel Lane. It is Agave (Agave virginica) in the Agavaceae. Though not a native of our area, it is a widely planted species. I am not sure that there is a seed-bearing plant in Deerlake. Could seeds come with the mulch that was used in seeding the slope?

I am working on an article about a major problem plant that has a great economic potential for our tobacco farmers. Any idea about what this new crop plant could be? Plant breeding has made it possible to again grow this species in the United States.

S H O R T I A

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Editors: Elton J and Aline Hansens Distribution: Ruth Hoerich

Please submit articles, annual reports, notes, etc. for the next issue of Shortia (Vol. XXI, No. 1) at the Annual Meeting of WCBC, January 1999.

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FIRST CLASS  
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