Many people make resolutions at the beginning of a new year. They usually resolve to change their habits or physical shape. This year I have resolved to look more closely at shapes as I walk.

When the sky is "Carolina Blue", cloud formations and tree silhouettes are strikingly beautiful. There is a remarkable contrast between the dark green of the evergreens and the gray lines of deciduous tree branches. On my walks I most often see white pines (*Pinus strobus*) that grow tall and straight as a ship's mast. Was it the white pine that was harvested by the British for that purpose? Another tree with a straight trunk is the tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). Most of their seeds have been scattered by the wind but some still appear to have wooden cups on their branches. This tree is favored by squirrels for nesting and large leaf nests are clearly visible.

Some of the plants have swollen buds that are ready to produce spring flowers. The dogwood and rhododendron are just waiting for warm days to bring forth their early blossoms.

Yesterday the sky had a leaden hue
the same shade as the tiny catkins emerging on the willow by the gate.

What have you seen on your winter walks?

*Salix sericea*

Silky Willow

Cover: The flower on the cover is *Shortia galacifolia*, Oconee Bells. Our newsletter is named for this southern endemic which is now rare in the wild.
Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Burton: 311B Beatrice St., Greenville, SC 29611

Elizabeth R. Craig: 18 Riverwood Dr. E., Burnsville, NC 28714-9513

Elizabeth "Bet" Fontaine: 106 Robin Crest Drive, Hendersonville 28791, 890-2277. A native of WV, she became a master gardener at Virginia Institute of Technology at Blacksburg, Va. She collected herbarium specimens for Dr. Core, author of the Flora of West Virginia.


Address Changes:
Betty Carlson, P.O. Box 563, Candler, N.C. 28725 (828) 670-6702
Barbara Center, 18 Fairway Lane #146, Dillard, Ga. 30537 (Summer address)
Suzanne Huie, 664 Greenville Hy, Apt 4K, Brevard NC 28712-8526
Ivan and Harriet Kuster, 70 Oak Street , apt 102, Tryon 28782
Nancy Meister, 402 Laurel Oak Lane, Hendersonville, N.C. 28791
Millie Pearson, 3148 Pearson Falls Road, Saluda, N.C. 28773
Grace Rice, 526 Boscoe Court, Santa Maria, CA 93454
Henry & Therese Smoke, 130 Hague Drive, Columbus, N.C. 28722

Member News:
Elisabeth Feil was elected to the Board of the Botanical Gardens at Asheville at their annual meeting on February 4, 2001.

Membership Dues were renewable the first of January. If the mailing label on the back of your issue of SHORTIA has a RED DOT this will be your last issue of the newsletter and we cannot include your name on the new membership list to be mailed next month. To renew, send the $12 dues to our Treasurer, Rachel Conway at 211 Aldersgate Circle, Asheville, N.C. 28803.

Club Receives Award

Cindy Carpenter, Interpretive Specialist at the Pisgah Forest's Cradle of Forestry, presented the Club with an award from the U.S. Forest Service for the two year study the Club carried out at the Cradle. The award reads: "The U.S. Department of Agriculture Certificate of Appreciation [is] Awarded to Western Carolina Botanical Club for dedicated volunteer service to the Cradle of Forestry completing plant surveys of the Biltmore Campus and Forest Festival Trails. 1999-2000." Dated: January 12, 2001 and signed by Art Roe, Pisgah District Ranger. The award was presented at the annual meeting in January.

Eight club members visited the Cradle monthly to record the plants on the trails. They were: Peggy Ellis, Elisabeth Feil, Betty Jones, Elaine Montgomery, Erika Parmi, Helen Smith with Bonnie Arbuckle and Anne Ulinski serving at co-leaders.
e-mail Addresses

At a recent board meeting is was decided to compile a list of the e-mail addresses of our members. In the future this can be included with the once a year membership list. If you want your e-mail listed, please send it to Bonnie Arbuckle <barbuckle@brinet.com>.

---

Financial Report
Fiscal Year Ending December 2000

RECEIPTS
Membership dues 1224
Donations 147

TOTAL RECEIPTS

DISBURSEMENTS
Mailings (SHORTIA, Program 727
(Schedules and Membership Lists)*
Microphone/Speaker 117
Copying/Office Supplies 91
Meeting expenses 88
Plant lists 65
Contributions 55

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS

RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS 228

*Expenses include postage

This report has been consolidated and adjusted to show both cash and accrued receipts and disbursements.

---

Notes from the Past

The first meeting of the Western Carolina Botanical Club was held almost 28 years ago on March 18, 1973. The President was Lincoln Highton; Vice President, Gordon Tooley of Brevard; Secretary-Treasurer, Barbara Hallowell and Field Trip Chairman, Harry Logan. Of these officers, Lincoln Highton and Harry Logan are deceased. Gordon Tooley still lives in Brevard and Barbara Hallowell has remained a member all these years. She and her husband, Tom, live in Pennsylvania.

---

Botany Bookmarks

<www.ncsparks.net/nhp/search.html>

This is the new N.C. Natural Heritage Program internet access to Rare Species Lists by County or by Quad.

P3
This is the confession of a list maker. I make shopping lists, “to-do” lists, “books-I-have-read” lists, Christmas card lists, luggage packing lists, box content lists, bird lists and, of course, plant lists. At our local library, I maintain a list of the contents of the vertical files and the obituary file. I like order and structure: books with spines all even, piles of paper with edges neatly aligned, sheets without wrinkles, genealogy charts with names all properly linked, bowls that nest properly. I like things to be predictable: trips that are well organized, weather that matches the weather report, birds and plants that show up where I expect them (from my lists). Being the club Recorder suits my personality very well.

So why was I uneasy when I sat down to prepare my annual report? Couldn’t I simply run a few statistics from the Trip Reports and consult the plant lists to highlight a few of our special walks?

Two thoughts kept nagging me. First, I remembered a comment that Anne made in her “From the President” column in the summer 2000 issue of Shortia. She said, “Make use of the lists to learn common and scientific names but don’t become just a ‘lister’. If you have to choose between finding and checking off the plant on your list or looking at the plant --- always look.” This really hit home and I felt properly chastised.

Second, looking back over the past year, I came to realize that the walks that left an impression on me were not necessarily those with the longest plant lists. It was those where we saw special plants or had pleasant surprises. I think of the fantastic displays of trillium at Pacolet Falls; the wild comfrey and dwarf larkspur at Coleman Boundary (and the great diversity of plants there); at Graybeard, the mass displays of Solomon’s plume, Michaux’s saxifrage all along the trail, Gray’s lily and the large purple fringed orchid; the rare starflower at the Fishback place, the sweet pitcher plant at Kanuga; and even the ragged fringed orchid I discovered at my own place.

That said, I won’t stop being a list maker. But I do resolve to focus less on the numbers and more on really looking at the plants and enjoying the moment. No list or number can capture the pleasure of the first sighting of a favorite spring flower or the joy of discovery of a new species. End of confession and sermon.

There are a few numbers that reflect the vitality of our club in the year 2000. Forty-four walks/outings were scheduled; five of them were cancelled. Average attendance at these events was 17.2, more than one person higher than last year. And, finally, our plant lists continue to lengthen as we identify ferns and mosses and include plants that are in fruit or seed.

Thanks to all of you who volunteered to be recorders for our walks. You did an excellent job, in spite of the apprehension expressed by some of you. I hope that you learned by doing. I look forward to receiving more of your reports in 2001.
PEARSON WILDFLOWER PRESERVE

Millie Pearson has realized a long-held dream -- she has protected her forty acres of forested and streamside land in Saluda.

Millie has donated two conservation easements* on her land. One easement includes four acres on the North Pacolet River and four acres on Fork Creek. This total of eight acres was donated to the N.C. Clean Water Management Agency, a state organization with a mandate to protect land along streams and rivers in N.C. The remaining acres are included in an easement Millie donated to the Pacolet Area Conservancy, a private land trust located in Columbus, N.C.

Millie’s property has not been altered significantly in the last 100 years. It contains almost 200 species of herbaceous plants some of which are uncommon or rare, fifty species of trees, 2 club mosses, 18 vines, 13 species of ferns and many mosses. The Leatherwood Tree, Dirca palustris and the Green Violet, Hybanthus concolor, are two special plants found on the property.

Under the terms of the easement, the property now officially known as the Pearson Wildflower Preserve, will remain in its natural state in perpetuity. No logging or earth moving will be allowed. One small house site is reserved along Pearson Falls Road but no other development will ever take place. The terms of the easement pertain not only to Millie as the present owner but to all future owners as well. Millie does plan to grant permission to botany teachers and their students to visit the site to study the native flora.

To the many botany club members who have visited Millie’s property in past years, it is good news that her land is now protected.

*A conservation easement is a legal document which prohibits such activities as logging and development on qualified conservation property.

When I went out
In the spring meadows
To gather violets
I enjoyed myself
So much that I stayed all night.

-Akahito (8th c.)

---
RESTORATION PROJECT

Barbara Allen, garden designer and new member of the botany club, is working on a restoration project at her summer home in Toxaway. She writes* We have a unique island in the middle of the road through our neighborhood. The residents were distraught with the way it looks and over a few years have attempted to beautify it with rhododendron, mountain laurel, azaleas, junipers and English ivy. I had a feeling that under all this fluff was a granite outcrop."

Barbara consulted Elaine Carter, co-author of a small book, Guide to the Plants of Granite Outcrops* and Dr. Larry Ragsdale, head of Environmental Studies at Brevard College. Dr. Ragsdale declared it a disaster and recommended that all the plantings be removed. Much of this has been done. Barbara writes, "It looks a little naked now."

Barbara wants to blend the granite outcrop into a public area. She says her biggest problem may be educating the residents of the value of this outcrop and trying to keep it as natural as possible. She also wants to make it attractive to the people who live there and pass it every day.

She is looking for granite outcrop plants such as:
- *Bulbostyliis capillaris*, Common Hairslide;
- *Corydalis sempervirens*, Pale Corydalis
- *Hypericum gentianoides*, Orange-grass
- *Polygala curtissii*, Candyroot
- *Senecio anonymous, Small's Ragwort*

If any of you have such plants growing on your property and would be willing to share, or if you know of another source, please contact Barbara at 5 River Court Parkway, Atlanta, Ga.30328 or send her an e-mail at <jandballen@mindspring.com>. Barbara has issued an invitation to all our members to visit the restoration project.

Published by the University of Georgia Press, $15.95 hardcover.

A New Species

Found so far in only four sites in the world, Coastal Goldenrod, *Solidago villosicarpa*, has recently been declared a new species. The four sites are all within about one mile of the coast or near tidal creeks in North Carolina. Coastal Goldenrod is a showy plant that grows in pine and hardwood forests usually in canopy openings. It can reach 5 feet in height and has numerous flowers nearly an inch wide. Because it seems to thrive in canopy openings, it is thought it may be a species that has adapted to hurricanes.
The Universal Symbol of the Southern Swamp

The Bald Cypress (Taxodium distichum) is the universal symbol of the southern swamp. It grows slowly in its watery habitat and can do so for a thousand years or more. Its unique feathery leaves turn a coppery bronze in autumn before falling to the ground, for this conifer is deciduous even to its small twiglets. In the early spring staminate catkins appear and later the small round pistillate flowers develop into spherical brown cones nearly the size of golf balls. The hollow "knees" or pneumatophores of the trees are aerial extensions of the root system and serve several purposes, one being the stabilization of the trees in severe wind storms.

These are low-elevation trees intolerant of the cold because of specific reproductive requirements. Their seeds must have constant moisture to germinate; the seedlings must have constant access to surface water; and the saplings must have seasonal flooding to kill the hardwood competition that would outgrow them.

Guy Sternberg and Jim Wilson, who wrote the article from which I have drawn this information write: "The Bald Cypress is invariably the largest and tallest tree in the old swamp forests of the South and so it attracts everything that likes high places over water -- eagles, ospreys, anhingas, cormorants, herons and lightning."

In the same article they report on the wonders of a canoe trip in the heart of Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in Georgia. They write "...the birds, alligators and the canivorous plants were marvelous. But the most lasting impression is of a black night spent in total solitude, camping among islands of beautiful bald cypress trees that were draped with ghost-like moss and alive with tree frogs."

The authors list the Francis Beidler Refuge in South Carolina as one of the most convenient places to admire these ancient trees. The Club has scheduled a trip there on April 28 and 29th. We will experience the swamp at night with a walk on the 6500 foot boardwalk beginning at 7:30 p.m. The next morning we will have a wildflower walk led by a guide from the Beidler staff. For those who are interested, a 2 or 4 hour canoe trip into the swamp is possible but must be reserved separately. Our trip is limited to 20 with registration closed on April 1. Call Anne Ulinski for information and registration.

Excerpted with permission from an article by Guy Sternberg and Jim Wilson which appeared in Wildflower, North America's Magazine of Wild Flora. Sternberg and Wilson are co-authors of Landscaping with Native Trees which will be published in an expanded edition by year end.
LOOK AGAIN!

Although not even distantly related to the true ginger of the tropics, the roots of our Wild Ginger, *Asarum canadense*, have a surprisingly similar flavor and tang.

Each spring this plant puts out a pair of large downy leaves, and a solitary reddish or purplish brown flower near ground level. The flower is actually a fleshy calyx (there are no petals), bell-shaped with three spreading triangular lobes which may vary greatly in length.

Another group of plants popularly known as Wild Ginger but endemic to the Southeast possesses a different set of characters; some authors have placed these in the genus *Hexastylis* and have given them the alternative common name of Heartleaf. They have smooth evergreen foliage (sometimes variegated), a single leaf being formed each year to join the persistent older ones.

The earliest of these to bloom is *H. arifolia*, in which the leaves are triangular. The little flowers, which are greenish brown and flask-shaped, have given it the colloquial name of Little Brown Jugs.

This is followed in our area by three species with more rounded leaves and larger flowers that vary from cylindric to urn-shaped. The calyx lobes are very short in *H. virginica*, longer in *H. heterophylla*. *H. shuttleworthii* is made conspicuous by its big flowers, which usually exceed an inch in length.

In 1999 Dick Smith cleared for republication some of his *Look Again!* articles which were originally printed in SHORTIA. This is the fourth article to be reprinted.
SHORTIA

Vol. XX111. No. 1

A quarterly publication of the Western Carolina Botanical Club

Editor: Anne Ulinski
Editorial Assisting and Art Work: Pat Arnett

Please submit contributions for the next issue by May 15, 2001 to: Anne Ulinski
1212 Chanteloupe Drive, Hendersonville, N.C. 28739

The purpose of the Club is to study the plants of the Southern Appalachian Mountains and the Southeast through field trips and indoor meetings. Membership is open to all. Individual/family memberships are $12. New members joining from the period July 1-December 31, pay $6. All memberships are renewable on January first of each year. Please send dues to:

Rachel Conway, Treasurer
211 Aldersgate Circle
Asheville, N.C. 28803

SHORTIA
c/o Anne Ulinski
1212 Chanteloupe Drive
Hendersonville, N.C. 28739

FIRST CLASS