SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

SUMMER 2002

Shortia galacifolia

Oconee Bells
FROM THE PRESIDENT.................................................................................. Bonnie Arbuckle

This has been a spectacular spring for woodland plants. Each trip has had a special display of one or more plants. The Wilder Forest trail was lined with Trillium cuneatum (Toadshade Trillium). They seemed to tumble down the slopes. Pearson Falls had an infinite variety of spring ephemerals, birdsong and water music. At Station Cove the Podophyllum peltatum (May Apple) were just sending up their umbrella shaped leaves; appropriate for a misty day. Phacelia bipinnatifida (Purple Phacelia), Uvularia grandiflora (Giant Bellwort) and Trillium rugelli (Southern Nodding Trillium) lined the Bat Cave trail. Taking time to stop to admire the blooms and to catch our breath made walking the steep path easier and definitely worthwhile. The scent of Chionanthus virginica (Fringe Tree) perfumed the air at Glassy Mountain The granite rock faces were covered with Minuartia groenlandica (Mountain Sandwort) and Sedum smallii (Elf Orpine). The list could go on and on.

On each trip I heard someone say: “Oh, I wish my yard looked like this.” Wouldn’t that be wonderful? Although we can’t reproduce the waterfalls or have an exact copy of our favorite spot, we can have natural areas in our yards. In the shady part of my front yard I have removed most of the grass and added woodland plants. Observing the habitat of a plant in its natural setting gives an idea of where to put it in a garden. If put in the right spot, plants spread quickly and there will be some to share with friends. The Phlox divaricata, Bruce’s White, is making a lovely ground cover under the Cercis canadensis (Redbud Tree.) Sometimes plants rearrange themselves. This year the purple phacelia moved across the path to live by the columbine. Who knows where it will be next year?

The 19th Annual Cullowhee Conference 2002 Native Plants in the Landscape will be held July 24-27. For the first time you can register on line at http://cess.wcu.edu.np or contact Bobby Hensley at hensley@mail.wcu.edu or telephone 828 227-7397.

Native plants can be purchased from nurseries that propagate from seed or cuttings or from sales at arboretums and plant societies. A list of native plant nurseries is on page 6.
New Members

Joel & Sharon Kotch moved here this year from Weston, Va. They have many wildflowers on their new property and are interested in identifying them. Charlotte Lackey did research five years ago on the Shortia galacifolia, Oconee Bells, growing around the shoreline of Lake Jocassee. This May she made a presentation of her work to the International Michaux Symposium. A retired government worker, she has a degree in field biology.

Robert & Marjane Pell

Change in Club Dues

In mid-April a short board meeting was held to discuss club finances. It preceded the scheduling meeting. We currently have about 100 members and a budget of $1500.00. Mailing costs will increase in June 2002. Our current dues of $12.00 member/family will not cover these expenses. It was the consensus of the board and scheduling group members present that the dues be raised to $15.00 per year beginning in 2003. When dues were paid this year, our treasurer received a check for $15.00 and a note that said membership was a bargain at that price. I hope you agree. -President Bonnie Arbuckle

Membership Lists

Each summer issue of Shortia will have a list of Botanical Club members by place of residence (summer address) -- see page 3. This replaces membership lists mailed in past years. For information concerning specific field trips, call the leader or co-leader shown on the field trip schedule.


A quote from Pigeon Forge, Department of Tourism: “Educating about the ecosystem and having fun doing it is the focus of our Wilderness Wildlife Week of Nature. Come and join the many national and international visitors who come to the nine-day event to learn and explore the mountains of East Tennessee.

...Join the city of Pigeon Forge and the 88+ recognized experts from Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Tennessee State parks and the many educators from the universities in Tennessee and surrounding states. For nine days you can enjoy hikes, a llama trek, field trips, lectures, leadership workshops, displays and much more. Learn about nature and come to understand the fragile environment that makes up the nation’s most visited national park.”

Information can be found on their web site <www.mypigeonforge.com. >. Botany club member Jan Fishback has attended this event in previous years and suggests it will be of interest to other members.
Western Carolina Botanical Club Membership 2002

Asheville, N.C.
  Bender, Donald & Louisa
  Conway, Rachel M.
  Crawford, Dean & JoAnn
  Dupree, Al & Agnita
  Durpo, Wilma
  Feli, Elizabeth
  Hansens, Elton & Aline
  Lackey, Charlotte
  Lindley, Mary Ellen
  Middleton, Dave & Milly
  Robbins, Paula
  Takaro, Tim & Marilyn
  Bon Air, VA.
  Verduin, Bill & Evelyn
  Brevard, N.C.
  Blaha, Millie
  Craig, Elizabeth R.
  Cross, John
  Farrar, W. Edmund & Carver
  Gunn, Bob & Betty
  Hudson, Jack & Dorothy
  Jones, Betty
  Moore, Alc & Peggy
  Peelle, Miles
  Perry, Pat & Lois
  Schiffeling, Daniel & Annalee
  Smith, Jeanne
  Strayer, Lucie A., Colmont, R.
  Updike, Connie
  Wickham, Alice
  Candler, N.C.
  Carlson, Betty
  Canton, N.C.
  Fishback, Happy and Jan
  Charlotte, N.C.
  Ward, Courtney
  Clemson, S.C.
  Hall, Karen
  Columbus, N.C.
  Smoke, Henry & Therese
  Tener, Albert & Virginia
  Dillard, Ga.
  Center, Dan & Barbara
  Etowah, N.C.
  Kotch, Joel & Sharon
  Flat Rock, N.C.
  Arbury, Bonnie
  Avery, Larry & Anita
  Gibson, Ruth Anne & John
  Holmes, James & Barbara
  Fletcher, N.C.
  Ellis, Peggy & Craig
  Gerton, N.C.
  Florence, Thomas & Glenna
  Greenville, S.C.
  Burton, Mr. & Mrs. Henry B.
  Hendersonville, N.C.
  Anderson, Kenneth & Jane
  Arnett, Patricia
  Ballard, Larry & Anna
  Bockoven, Paul & Elizabeth
  Butenhof, Ed & Barbara
  Davis, Thomas and Jane
  Dratz, Beverly
  Edmondson, Patricia
  Fontaine, Bet
  Foresman, Louise
  Gadd, Charles & Frances
  Herrman, Don & Dana
  Hoerich, Ruth
  Krumenauer, Keene
  Lambert, Larason & Juanita
  Lenhart, Jean
  McDaniel, Lois
  Matthes, Herbert & Anne
  Merkle, Mary L.
  Montgomery, Bob and Elaine
  Pearson, Bud & Laverne
  Petteway, Joe
  Pell, Robert & Marijane
  Polchow, Peggy
  Prentice, Donald & Alta Mae
  Sauborn, Barbara S.
  Sidoti, Marjorie
  Sinish, Ken & Bessie
  Styles, Cora
  Tregay, Rosemary
  Ulinski, Anne
  Yeager, Tim & Lana
  Highlands, N.C.
  Davis, Charlton & Patricia
  Harris, Walker
  Poole, Kay & Edwin
  Horse Shoe, N.C.
  Dodge, Hatha
  Morgan, Shirley
  Lake Junaluska, N.C.
  McFarland, Linda & J. Edgar
  Lake Toxaway, N.C.
  Allen, Barbara D.
  Dziedzic, Betty
  Yost, Sandra
  Lexington, N.C.
  Fisher, Don
  Leicester, N.C.
  Yost, Sandra
  Marion, N.C.
  Goldsmith, James W.
  Norcross, GA
  Arrington, Daisy
  Pisgah Forest, N.C.
  Kurinsky, Allen & Naomi
  Parmi, Erika
  Schmidt, Christine
  Smith, Helen M.
  Saluda, N.C.
  Pearson, Millie
  Wilkes, Holly
  Santa Maria, CA
  Rice, Grace
  Seneca, S.C.
  Kegeley, Kathy
  Sylva, N.C.
  Harris, Mary Helen
  Horne, Ann and Lynn
  Miller, Earl & Bettye
  Stenger, Raymond & Gloria
  Tryon, N.C.
  Flower, Bill and Sonia
  Galda, Odessa
  Kuster, Ivan & Harriet
  Waynesville, N.C.
  Couric, Erlise/Hollinger, Sue
  Evans, Maxilla
  Fitts, Jackie and Robert
  Thomas, Jane and George

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Recorder Ramblings

Betty Jones

Ten "hardy souls" braved balmy spring weather to walk through the woods at Caney Bottom. Nothing was yet in bloom, but the buds of Trailing Arbutus (Epigaea repens) gave promise of the spring to come.

Our next walk of the 2002 season was truly a "hardy souls" walk as, in the words of the walk recorder, "the temperature dropped into the 20's during the night, the wind howled and there was a dusting of snow on the deck". Wilder Forest, a new site for the club, is a part of Warrior Mountain that has recently been acquired by the Pacolet Land Conservancy. The trails are well-marked and maintained and sturdy bridges cross the creek, but part of the cliff trail is steep. There were "millions of trilliums", specifically Trillium cuneatum, an abundance of Blood Root (Sanguinaria canadensis) and many of our other spring favorites.

Our perennial visit to Pearson Falls was well attended as usual (24). Since we had a fern specialist in the group, eight ferns were identified. Seven species of violets were seen, as was the Green Violet (Hybanthus concolor) which is not in the genus Viola. A new plant was Green Dragon (Arisaema dracontium) which may have been planted there recently.

Star Chickweed (Stellaria pubera) and Rue Anemone (Thalictrum thalictroides) carpeted the banks along the trail at Green River. A special treat was finding a Carolina Rhododendron (Rhododendron minus) in bloom this early in the year. Highlight of the walk was a grove of Pawpaw (Asimina triloba) trees in full bloom.

In spite of threats of rain all morning, we stayed dry for the Station Cove walk. Seventy-three species were reported, forty-six in bloom. Especially noteworthy were Green-and-Gold (Chrysogonum virginianum) all along the trail, Birdfoot Violet (Viola pedata) on the road banks, Trillium cuneatum, erectum and catesbaei scattered throughout, the lone Pinxter Flower (Rhododendron periclymenoides) next to the path and a mass of Canada Violets (Viola canadensis) near the falls. Nine ferns were identified.

The recorder report for Bat Cave says it all: "This was the most spectacular flower walk I have attended. The number of plants in bloom and the profusion of plants was unbelievable. There were vast areas covered with purple phacelia, great bellwort, yellow mandarin, blue cohosh and Canada violet. The Trillium rugelii, although not as numerous, was outstanding." A definite repeat for next spring.

The walk at Glassy Mt. Preserve is always a treat because we see plants that rarely appear on any of our other walks. Once again we admired the Elf Orpine (Sedum or Diamorpha smallii), False Garlic (Nothoscordum bivalve), Mountain Sandwort (Minuartia groenlandica) and Hairy Spiderwort (Tradescantia hirsuticaulis) growing in mass-and-mixed profusion. The buckeye was keyed-out as Painted Buckeye (Aesculus sylvatica). The scent of Fringe Trees (Chionanthus virginicus) in full bloom was heavenly.

Our timing was perfect for the walk along the Davidson River and through Sycamore Flats. Creamy Violet (Viola striata), Foamflower (Tiarella cordifolia), Mayapple (Podophyllum peltatum), Showy Orchis (Galearis spectabilis) and Star Chickweed (Stellaria pubera) were abundant and at their peak. Sharp eyes spotted the Pennywort (Obolalaria virginica).
Plant Labels

Do you ever wonder what that plant is growing in your garden, or in the spring do you inadvertently plant a plant over a plant? Our club member, Larason Lambert, offers the following instructions for preparing plant labels to mark your garden flowers:

A very practical material for making plant labels is vinyl siding, as is used for the outside finish of houses. Odd pieces are often available from home supply stores such as Lowe's or Home Depot at discounted prices. White pieces provide the best background contrast for writing, but one could use different colored pieces for color coding if desired. The five-inch "traditional lap" can be cut into five-inch wide flat strips using a box cutter. These, in turn, can be cut into any size and configuration using a pair of tin snips.

The simplest configuration would be a simple rectangle with a 1/4 inch hole punched in the middle of one side using a leather hole punch. This piece could then be hung from a length of 14 gauge, galvanized, solid steel wire; with one end shaped into a spiral, as illustrated in Figure 1.

Another one-piece configuration can be cut from the five-inch wide strips in a manner illustrated in Figure 2. This one-piece design could be cut to any length, and to widths of either 2" or 5". Of course, all of this requires a lot of time for cutting, and is only as neat as your own cutting precision and handwriting.
Invasive Non-native Plants

Every national park has a mandate to protect the native species found on its land. A new focus on such protection is the removal of invasive non-native species (exotics). Many of these exotics are harmless but others pose a serious threat to the ecosystems of our national parks.

The Smoky Mountains National Park has a four member vegetative management team to protect native species by keeping exotics from spreading. Of the many species of plants identified in the Smokies, 380 are non-native, introduced from Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia. Most do little harm but about 35 spread aggressively.

The Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site has a three year management plan for the removal and control of exotic species on its property in Flat Rock, N.C. Forestry Technician, Irene Von Hoff, worked on the property through the summer of 2001 to prepare this plan. For the next two years she will be at the Sandburg Site to implement the study.

Among those plants which are a serious threat to native plants are multiflora rose, privet, garlic mustard, kudzu and evergreen exotics such as Japanese honeysuckle and English ivy. The evergreens can be removed in the winter, multiflora rose in early spring and kudzu, garlic mustard, oriental bittersweet, mimosa and others in late spring and summer.

How can we, gardeners and owners of private land with native plants, do our part in the control of exotics? In a conversation with Irene Von Hoff, she suggested we remove from our private land some of the most invasive of the exotics to prevent their spread to nearby properties. Some of these exotics are privet, Japanese barberry, autumn olive and Oriental bittersweet - all spread by seed dispersal. English ivy, long a landscape favorite, should be carefully controlled or replaced with one of our native ground covers. When English ivy spreads into wooded areas it can out-compete native plants such as trillium, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, ginger, bloodroot, partridge berry, Solomon's seal and many other of our desirable native plants.

NATIVE PLANT NURSERIES

Arrowhead Nursery 6150 Watia Road, Bryson City, NC 28713 (828-488-6840) - Trees
Crow Dog Native Plants, 376 Carrick Creek Rd, Pickens, SC 29671 (864-878-1786) - Ferns
Darvin's Backyard PO Box 3532 Cullowhee, NC 28723 (828-586-6369) - Bog plants
Elk Mountain Nursery PO Box 599 Asheville, NC (www.elk-mountain.com)
Laurel Springs Nursery Bradley Rd, Hendersonville, NC 28792 (828-89-1264)
Native Gardens 5737 Fisher Lane, Greenback, TN 37742 (www.native-gardens.com)
Niche Gardens 1111 Dawson Rd, Chapel Hill, NC 27516 (www.nichegardens.com)
Sandy Mush Herb Nursery Dept CG9, 3316 Surrett Cove Rd, Leicester, NC 28748
Sunlight Gardens 174 Golden Lane, Andersonville, TN 37705 (www.sunlightgardens.com)
Sunshine Farm & Gardens Renick, WV 24966 (www.sunfarm.com)
Wa Ya Nursery & Tree Farm 11095 Canada Rd, Tukasegee, NC (828-293-5720)
Woodlanders, Inc 1128 Colleton Ave, Aiken, SC 29801 (www.woodlanders.net)
Allegheny Spurge........................................Deanne M. Eversmeyer

Everyone is familiar with the ubiquitous groundcover, *Pachysandra terminalis*, but the Southeast is home to our own species, *Pachysandra procumbens*, the Allegheny Spurge. This evergreen member of the Boxwood (Boxaceae) family is found in deciduous woods from West Virginia to Kentucky and south to Florida and Louisiana.

By winter the old foliage is a mottled bronze-green with a dappling of silver, mostly prostrate, radiating out from the center. In midwinter, tight chains of flower buds can be found at the crown, waiting for the earliest signs of spring. As soon as the weather begins to warm, short bottlebrush-like spikes of fragrant pinkish-white flowers emerge. The showy male flowers occupy the upper part of that spike, while the less conspicuous and less numerous female flowers sit below.

The floral display is followed by the emergence of new bright green foliage which stands upright and unfolds into a matte green canopy 6 to 10 inches tall, bigger than its Japanese cousin in all parts.

There are a few named varieties in commerce based on the amount of mottling on the leaves. “Eco Treasure” is more highly variegated, and “Forest Green” is a darker green form.

Allegheny Spurge performs best in a rich, moist woodland soil in part to full shade. Propagate by cuttings taken in June or division of mature plants. Instead of sending runners, our *Pachysandra* forms a clump, radiating out from the center. This, according to Carole Ottesen in her book, *The Native Plant Primer*, makes the Allegheny Spurge ideal “as an edger along a shady path where its beautiful coloration can be appreciated and where more robust groundcovers would be too invasive.”

Although Allegheny Spurge is easy to grow and not troubled with problems which plague Japanese Spurges, it is not always easy to find. Ask at your local native plant nursery -- with demand comes supply.

*Excerpted with permission from “Cullowhee Notes”, The Newsletter of the Native Plants Conference, Spring 2002. Deanne is managing horticulturist for Washington Golf and Country Club in Arlington, Va., Horticulture Chair for the Virginia Native Plant Society; and Editor of “Cullowhee Notes.”*
Cumberland Falls State Resort Park.................................................. Anne Ulinski

A vast inland sea once covered the area of Kentucky where Cumberland Falls lies. This was millions of years ago, long before man inhabited the land. The sediments carried into the sea from creeks and rivers were slowly deposited in layers on the sea floor. As the sea dried out, these layers changed into rock, especially a hard and very resistant type called Rockcastle Conglomerate. The intricate carvings and layering which can be seen at Cumberland Falls Park are the result of the wearing away of the softer layers of the rock faces.

Twenty-two members of the Botanical Club visited the Park from April 29-May 1, enjoying perfect weather; the leadership of Steve Smithey, our Park trail guide; and the fun of sharing a new landscape with other club members.

As we walked the trails, we saw familiar plants but others new to many of us. Some of the unusual ones were: Krigia biflora, Cynthia; Oxalis violacea, Violet Wood Sorrel found throughout the woods; Coreopsis auriculata, Eared Coreopsis; Isopyrum biternatum, False Rue; the much rarer Heuchera parviflora, Grotto Alumroot growing on the wet and shady rock faces; Silene rotundifolia, Sandstone Firepink; and Trichomanes boschianum, Appalachian Filmy Fern found in the damp acid grottoes of sandstone cliffs and described in one book as the "daintiest and most delicate" of our ferns. Although not as unusual, we enjoyed the orange and red bell-shaped flowers of Cross Vine, Bignonia capreolata, found in full bloom on trees as close as those along the parking lot and the colorful Salvia lyrata, Lyre-leaved Sage, found in large numbers on banks and along the roads. Crossing a brook on one of the trails we found a tall flourishing plant with small white flowers. Steve keyed it out as garlic mustard, Allaria officinalis, an exotic invasive. He had been told to look for this plant so that it can be removed as it appears and does not spread throughout the forest.

We were fortunate to have with us two members with a knowledge of astronomy, Anna and Larry Ballard. Anna helped us identify the five planets, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, Mercury and Mars as they slowly appeared in the darkening western sky. And four determined members stayed at the falls one night until 2:30 a.m. to see the "moonbow", a rainbow appearing over the falls at or near the time of the full moon.

Sillea rotundifolia
Sandstone Firepink

Trichomanes boschianum
Appalachian Filmy Fern

Coreopsis auriculata
Eared Coreopsis
Editor: Anne Ulinski
Editorial Assistants: Pat Arnett and Jean Lenhart
Art Work: Pat Arnett

Please submit contributions for the next issue by August 15, 2002 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

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FIRST CLASS
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