SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE

WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

FALL 2016

\textit{Shortia galacifolia}

Oconee Bells
**Member News**

**Field Trip Cancellations:** Occasionally, field trips must be cancelled or changed either for weather conditions or other reasons such as road closings. Such changes are sent out by email to all members by 7 AM the day of the field trip. If you do not have email access, please call the leader, co-leader, or recorder (whose phone numbers are listed on the schedule) to be sure that the walk is going to go as planned. Indoor programs are cancelled when Henderson County Schools are closed (see [http://www.hendersoncountypublicschoolsnc.org](http://www.hendersoncountypublicschoolsnc.org)) but NOT necessarily cancelled because of delayed opening.

For any change of address, email or telephone number, please inform Alan Graham, 544 Tip Top Road, Brevard, N.C., 28712. 828-884-3947 adgraham@comporiumnet.

**President's Message**

by Penny Longhurst

**Remembering Dana Herman**

Do you associate plants or trails with certain people? I do. Maybe that’s because as a relative newcomer to the club and a novice plant identifier I often remember the person who first clued me in on what each new or forgotten plant was. This summer I’ve had plenty of time to reflect on that as we revisited old favorite places.

I was excited after my first Sky Valley Road field trip. The Yellow Fringed Orchids were spectacular. I had never seen so many in one place. After everyone left, I stayed behind to take pictures. While I was running up and down the road urging butterflies to land on the flowers, Dana drove by and stopped to talk. She had also been dawdling. She said “I should really come here more often. It’s so close to my home”. She then told me to drive further down the road and park by Sky Valley Camp Road to see the Steeplebush Spirea (a first sighting for me) and also to come back to the rock at stop 2 at 2 PM to see the Fameflower bloom. Great advice.
At the Kellogg Center there’s a boggy spot with what I thought was Sensitive Fern growing the first time I was there. Wrong again! Dana crawled around and came up with the distinctive fertile stalk to show me that it was actually Netted Chain Fern, which I had never heard of before. Once you know to look for that, it’s quite easy to distinguish between the two. However, I think I can almost work them out now based on the leaves alone; opposite pinnae are Sensitive and alternate pinnae are Netted Chain, right?

Dana was a leader on my first Shut-In trail field trip. I remember her “Parking Lot” workshop at the intersection of 151 and the Parkway where she explained the differences between Sundrops and Evening Primroses (the “O” plants), and then we crossed over the road and I saw my first Peruvian Daisies. I know most people think they’re weeds but I have liked them ever since that first sighting, and whenever I see them they always remind me of Dana.

Without a doubt, all of us who were on the Graybeard Mountain to Glassmine Falls Overlook trip on June 17th will remember Dana’s last outing with the club. Alan and I drove to the trailhead with Dana, who was the recorder. She was busy reading Dick Smith’s book, reminding herself of the identifying characteristics of Lovage. The Catawba Rhododendron blooms were spectacular that day. Fortunately both Ken and I took lots of photographs and, for many of us, the picture of Dana with the Rhododendrons that we posted on the blog for that day is a fitting memorial. We’re all going to miss her.

Western Carolina Botanical Club Web Site

Remember to look at our new website from time to time. You can find it by typing in “Western Carolina Botanical Club.” If you click on “Posts” you can find pictures from the walks we have
been on this year. It is great to look back over the lovely outings we have been on, seeing pictures of the flowers we saw and our friends, remembering happy times spent together. Thank you Penny and Ken and Jim for your beautiful pictures!

Welcome to our New Members!

Donna Ingram.—Donna is a newly retired teacher, moving to Brevard this August from Raleigh. She walked the Camino in Spain a few years ago. She is looking forward to all the outdoor opportunities here in Transylvania County. Donna also loves gardening and has on her list to grow all her own mushrooms. She is researching this now. Donna would really like to find a group that goes on foraging hikes. She looks forward to learning more about the native plants in this area while hiking with this group.

Jo Hubbard.—Jo had the pleasure of attending two of our walks and now she is back in Florida, where she has lived for 57 years. She looks forward to being once again in our mountains in May. She is interested in birds as well as botany. Jo also likes hiking. She is a retired Microbiology tech, so identifying organisms is a familiar pleasure to her. Jo thanks us for sharing the bounty of our mountains with her, and we thank her for joining us!

Jock and Jan Aplin.—Jock and Jan and moved to Hendersonville from eastern Iowa a year ago. Jan is an Iowa native, Jock grew up in Chattanooga. They’ve enjoyed exploring the natural wonders around here, day hikes and some photography. The Aplins' botanical expertise pretty much amounts to “that’s a cool flower. I wonder what it is,” but they look forward to learning more about the plants and trees and critters in the area, and the area itself, and to meet people with similar interests. They heard about the Botany Club on a recent wildflower walk along the Oklawaha Greenway.

Profiles of New Board Members

The Club began its 44th year with two new officers and two returning ones. I will introduce the two new board members to you.

Mary Standaert, Secretary.—Mary is from Abbeville, SC. She has a Biology degree from Winthrop, a masters in forest science from Yale School of Forestry, and a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of South Florida in Tampa. She had a career with the Veterans Administration Hospital in Tampa Florida as research/biochemist doing basic diabetes research. Now she
serves on the Montreat Town Council. She is active with the history museum in Montreat, volunteering and doing history presentations. She co-authored “Montreat” and “Swannanoa Valley” history books with Joe and edited an additional book on the Montreat Gateboys. She enjoys two daughters, living in Durham and Greenville, a son-in-law, two grandsons and a foster grand-daughter.

Susan Sunflower, Vice President.—Born in New England, raised on an avocado ranch in Southern California, Susan Sunflower received her BA and MA from Goddard College and School for International Training, respectively, in Vermont. She worked in community development in Alaska, Washington and Oregon and was in Peace Corps in Burkina Faso as a spinner/weaver/dyer, before returning to teaching English and training teachers, mostly overseas. Thus, she’s combined her three passions, teaching, learning other cultures through living there, and nature, having taken part in environmental projects in many parts of the world where she’s lived and worked. She began developing kids’ eco activities for the UN COP 10 Wetlands Conference in South Korea, at the Chungnam Marsh, in 2008.

In 2009 she came to the Southern Blue Ridge and was (finally!) able to indulge full time in her passion for nature. She has learned a lot from the Master Gardeners, the NC Native Plant Society, and the Western Carolina Botanical Club wildflower walks. She became an NC Environmental Educator and periodically continued her “day job” of training language teachers overseas.

She has used her teaching and training background, her social services program development skills, and her love of nature to further knowledge and planting of native plants, initiating “Transylvania Naturally” as part of a year-long effort to increase the appreciation and use of native plants (especially those of native pollinators) that enhance our lives and increase economic value of land and water. That resulted in the 2014 Transylvania, Brevard, and Rosman PROCLAMATIONS: If you love land in Transylvania County, PLANT NATIVES FIRST! In 2015, Sunflower facilitated “Eradicate Invasive” Workshops. In 2016, it was BREVARD TREE WALKS and Pollinator Day activities. She continues to talk about our native plants in schools and community groups and to assist our local governments in planting natives throughout Transylvania County.

Anne Ulinski

Most of us know that Anne Ulinski passed away this July 18, 2016. She was a long time member of the Botany Club and Editor of Shortia for many years. Several articles have been written about her amazing life and accomplishments. They can be found here:

Http://www.carolinamountain.org/news_and_events/stories_land_ulinskis_vision_lives
Goldenrods

by Lucy Prim

The season of Goldenrods is here, their yellow blossoms spreading so much beauty across the meadows and beside roadsides and trails here in the mountains of North Carolina. Have you ever seen a Goldenrod with a tight cluster of leaves bunched up together in a rosette at the top of the stalk? I have often wondered what caused that to happen. I have discovered that this is usually (but not always) caused when a female Goldenrod Gall Midge, *Rhopalomyia solidaginis*, lays one or several eggs in a leaf bud near the top of a Goldenrod stem. This causes the stem to stop growing longer. However, the leaves continue to be produced, and that is what creates the tight cluster of leaves that looks at first glance like a big green flower. The larvae hatch, and a gall forms around them, with one chamber for each larva. The larvae feed and shelter in their gall until they have matured. At maturity they have become tiny flies that quickly mate and die, perhaps all in a single day. The rosette becomes a good place for other creatures to live, especially little spiders who find safety nestled amongst the tight cluster of leaves. The midge is called an “eco-system engineer” because it creates a home for other creatures.

I found about six of these rosettes one morning when looking for them among the Goldenrods in my garden. I picked all six and brought them into the kitchen to see if any larvae were still inside. I didn't find any at all; they must have already matured and flown away. But it was interesting to look inside the little gall snugly surrounded by the tight circle of leaves and see the tiny chambers where the larvae had been. I shook the leaves to see if any spiders were hiding inside the rosette. Yes, there were spiders, and several fell out on the kitchen counter! I swept them all up, leaves, spiders, galls, and all, and quickly took them back outside. I saved one little gall and rosette to draw a picture of, and here they are.
American Lovage—*Ligusticum canadense*

by Lucy Prim

Quite often while walking along the trail we find a plant that we think might be American Lovage. I noticed when I first joined the Botany Club, that people who normally seemed very sure of what the plants were, seemed a little less sure about American Lovage. They’d say in a tentative sort of way, “It might be Lovage” or something to that effect. I was never altogether sure what features we were looking for. This summer, Penny suggested that I write an article about Lovage and try to pinpoint exactly which features can be used for identification.

This assignment turned out to be harder than I’d expected. Surprisingly, Lovage, although quite tall (5 feet or higher in the summer, when it has reached its full height) and although very pretty with its umbels of white flowers and bright green leaves, is not even mentioned in many easy-to-use identification books. Among the books that do not include American Lovage are *Newcomb’s* and *A Guide to Wildflowers of South Carolina*. (I wondered whether Lovage is found in South Carolina, and it definitely is, mostly in the mountains but sometimes on the Coastal Plain, down through Georgia and all the way to Alabama and into Florida. To the north it extends up to Virginia and Pennsylvania. *Wild Flowers of Tennessee* mentions it only as a species similar to Water Hemlock. Six of my identification books do not include Lovage at all.

Dick Smith’s book *Wildflowers of the Southern Mountains* does have a short description of Lovage, saying that it has petioles with narrow basal sheaths and main stems sometimes ending in a whorl of branches. He includes a nice photograph from a few feet away, but not close enough to see the leaves in detail.

Among my other identification books, (Britton & Brown, Small, Gleason & Cronquist,) the descriptions of Lovage are so difficult that I gave up trying to decipher them. I wanted an easy way to distinguish Lovage out in the woods, not a way that requires a great deal of cogitating. I continued looking and finally, to my relief, I found a sentence in Weakley that states, “A distinctive character is the straightish and toothless basal portion of each leaflet.” Here at last was a sentence with understandable words!

I also found a site on the internet, Consortium of Midwest Herbaria, which illustrates over 200 pressed Lovage specimens that we can look at. The pages can be enlarged, and the photography of the pages is so clear we can zoom in on the features and see them fairly well.

Studying these pages made me realize that the leaves are variable in shape. All but the apical ones are trifoliate, with a terminal and two lateral leaflets. Especially the terminal leaflets have “straightish” basal portions as described in Weakley; others have slightly curved basal portions. But I think that the “straightish” feature is very helpful. Most of the pressed leaves also have this feature. So when we go out on our walks and see a big plant with sheathed, divided leaves and lovely white flowering umbels, we can look for the terminal leaflets and say with a little more confidence, “I think it is Lovage!”
Ligusticum Canadense
Lovage

Some leaves may be wedge-shaped at the base.

Ribbed carpels

Some leaves have fewer teeth than others.

Some leaves are more rounded but the striated toothless base is evident.
Annual Meeting Report

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the WCBC held at Bullington Gardens, July 15, 2016

The 43rd meeting of the WCBC was called to order at 11:30 AM on July 15, 2016 by President Penny Longhurst. Twenty-two members and guests were in attendance. Minutes of the July 10, 2015 annual meeting held at Holmes Educational State Forest were read and accepted as written.

President Longhurst reported that there had been two Board meetings this year. At these meetings the club by-laws and policies were reviewed and updated. This project was begun under former president Juanita Lambert and included updating guidelines for leaders and scheduling and scouting responsibilities. It was further reported that a website had been created and was being extensively used, with over 12,000 views recorded. On one high usage day, 987 views were noted. It has been linked to other websites, including that of the Weaverville, NC Garden Club. The website appears to be bringing in new members. All past issues of Shortia have been scanned and placed on the website.

Alan Graham gave the Treasurer's Report. The club has a total of 94 members, with 21 new members joining this past year. The Club's monetary balance stands at $5200. Although the club spent $400 more than it received, this is not a cause for concern due to the low costs of the club's operation. A $600 donation was made by the club to Bullington Gardens, and the honorarium fee has been raised from $75 to $100. Alan thanked Lucy Prim for her donating her time, expertise, and the expense for production of the Shortia newsletter and the beautiful wildflower greeting cards that she creates and donates to the club.

Ken Borgfeldt, Master Recorder, reported “in his own words” that there have been many walks and there were many more to come. The checklists for this fall have all been prepared, except for the fern and moss walk that will be held at Sherwood Forest. They will be provided by the hike leaders. Ken handed out checklists to the individual botany walk leaders that were present.

Jeanne Smith reported that the Franklinia tree at College Walk in Brevard was in full bloom.

Past-president Juanita Lambert reported on the club’s work at Bullington Gardens, which is now an official 501c3 organization. WCBC gave a donation of $600 to Bullington Gardens, and Bullington Gardens received a grant for $2,000 from the North Carolina Native Plant Society (NCNPS) for education and use in the native garden. Larason and Juanita gave tour of the native garden following the meeting. Both are active in developing and maintaining the garden.

Mary Kathryn Hardman, Club Scheduler, shared plans for the indoor schedule and urged all to attend. They will begin in November and will include programs on Latin names, salamanders, geology, the American Chestnut, native orchids, book reviews, and the Bonsai exhibit at the NC Arboretum.

President Longhurst read the report of the nominating committee, with Susan Sunflower nominated as Vice-President and Mary Standaert as Secretary. She reported that the election had been held electronically and that the two nominees had been elected unanimously. The elected Board members for 2016–2017 are President, Penny Longhurst; Vice-President, Susan Sunflower; Treasurer, Alan Graham; Secretary, Mary Standaert; and Members at Large, Frances Jones and Joe Standaert. The appointed Board Members are Master Recorder, Ken Borgfeldt; Scheduler, Mary Kathryn Hardman; Shortia Editor, Lucy Prim; and Webmaster, Penny Longhurst.
The President also thanked Susan Goldsworthy and Kim Spencer for their service on the past Board.

A moment of silence was held for Betty Gunn, Don Herrman and Dana Herrman, club members that passed away during the past year. Ken Borgfeldt shared a slide show depicting Dana’s many years of involvement with the group. The picture that Penny Longhurst took of Dana during a botany hike to Glassmine Falls was used by the family in her Memorial Service.

It was reported that the CMLC has renamed the Bunched Arrowhead Bog in honor of Anne Ulinski, a long time club member.

Larason Lambert took orders for ferns, which originate from a tissue culture source, and are ordered in batches of 10 ferns. Many varieties are available.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon, followed by a potluck lunch, a plant exchange, and a tour of the native garden by Juanita and Larason Lambert.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary L. Standaert, Secretary

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**Tiarella cordifolia**—Foamflower, False Mitrewort

by Karen Koeiling

This native wildflower, common in rich, rocky woods in our mountains, is a lovely ground cover, taking its name from the Latin for “little tiara.” In bloom during April and May, it has flowers loosely clustered in terminal, feathery, and graceful spires. The leaves are evergreen, broadly heart-shaped, sharply lobed, and toothed. It spreads easily by stolons (above ground horizontal stems), and the long stamens that extend beyond the flower petals give the inflorescences a foamy appearance.

But wait—there is a second species. Most *T. cordifolia* is as described above, a rapidly spreading ground cover. The second species, *T. wherryi* (also known as *T. cordifolia* var. *collina*) lacks the above-ground runners and is a clumping evergreen. Who knew! These have flower inflorescences tinged in pink, and the leaves are more heavily marbled and blotched with creamy white.

So we have two, one runner, and one clumper. *Tiarella wherryi* is an uncommon, more slow growing, native perennial worth seeking out and adding to your shady grove or woodland garden.
Footprints of Fall in Western North Carolina

by Bernie Fox

The glitz and pomp of painted faces, yellow, red, gold, creates a panorama easy to appreciate.
Sunrise sends slanting rays through mist that camouflages fields where tasseled brown stalks are guarded by scarecrows in tattered garb sleeping under straw hats, their worn visages fading.

Folks imbibe mountain views from the Graveyards Fields Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway.
They inhale the orange of pumpkins, taste the crunch of apples at Skytop Orchard.
Listen to the babble of the Davidson River, catch the reflection of the leaf canopy on its wind-rippled surface.

But there are signs of unrest.
The grinding of leaves underfoot on root-rich trails, house paths crisscrossed by spider webs, errant gusts and October rain stripping limbs of festive garb, jackets zipped against chilled wind.
By mid November, the faces are gone, replaced by the stark countenances of disrobed boughs.
The shivering breath of winter is as close as the lark to dawn, giving no quarter, laying siege to the last bastions of autumn.
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 $15. New members joining from the period July 1-December 31 pay $8. All memberships are renewable on January first of each year. Send dues to Alan Graham, 544 Tip Top Road, Brevard, NC 28712.

Please send me Botanical Articles or stories or tips on plant identification that you think would be good to include in one of our SHORTIAs. If you see anything that needs correction or if you have additional information about a subject or perhaps a personal experience related to a subject, send that in too, and I can include it in a future SHORTIA. Please try to get this to me by November 30 to get it into the Winter issue.