SHORTIA
NEWSLETTER OF THE
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

Shortia galacifolia

Oconee Bells

Summer 2021
Field Trip Cancellations: Occasionally, field trips must be canceled 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 canceled when Henderson County Schools are closed (see http://www.hendersoncountypublicschoolsnc.org) but NOT necessarily canceled because of the delayed opening.

For any change of address, email or telephone number, please send an email to wcbotanicalclub@gmail.com.

Our webpage is located at http://wcbotanicalclub.org

NOTE: All club activities were canceled until July 2021 due to Covid-19 concerns. All full year ($15) dues for 2020 will be applied to 2021, so memberships will be automatically renewed for 2021.

Starting in July 2021 we will have a weekly walk scheduled through September, 2021. We will have a few COVID safety expectations for you to consider for participation on the walks:

- It is highly recommended that all who attend the walks be fully vaccinated
- Carpool drivers have full discretion over who may ride with them, in relation to vaccination status
- On the walks and gatherings, masks are optional, but social distancing is still recommended, especially if unvaccinated
Well, well, well, we have finally started our walks in the woods again! To say this has been a difficult year is an understatement. As nature lovers, hikers and botanists, we have been grateful that we could still get outdoors, although in small groups or “pods” and seeking little-used trails. It was an enjoyable diversion to binge-watching Netflix! I lead the hiking program for the Swannanoa Valley Museum and History Center in Black Mountain and we have also finally gotten back to our group hikes, starting in March. For organized groups, it has been a difficult decision-making process on how to re-start in a safe manner. For the Club, I think we will follow individual responsibility guidelines since we have all been living with COVID issues and learning how to deal with safety concerns. For example, should you want to mask up in groups or on walks, you know best for your own comfort level. As with my Museum hikes, the only real issue is dealing with carpools. Again, we will leave it up to the driver and/or passengers should they feel uncomfortable with the conditions.

Speaking of a year of no organized walks, I would like to give a tremendous “shout out” to Penny Longhurst for keeping up with our weekly Virtual Field Trips. That was a large undertaking and well appreciated by all. I would not say she single-handedly kept the Club going for the past year, but, yes, she almost kept it all going by herself! Of course, also thanks to the folks that supplied Penny with all the photos, but the bulk of the website work and captioning work was done by Penny. Thank you, thank you!

And, as long as appreciation is in order, thanks to our outgoing Board and volunteer members. Thanks to Gayle for serving as our President, Juanita for all her work on the scheduling issues, and at-large board members John Harrison and David Heavner. Also give thanks to all the others that are continuing their work, like Ken as Master Recorder (and emailer!), Susan as Secretary and Penny as Treasurer and Webmeister. And congratulations to our new Vice-President Cindy Carpenter and our new member-at-large, Martha Rollefson.

As a final note, many of our club members have been following and subscribing to Jim’s Fowler’s photography / botany blog for years. We are sad to note that Jim passed away on June 25th and we will miss him and his excellent work photographing and documenting our special plants here in the Carolinas. Jim passed while photographing Platanthera psycodes (Lesser Purple Fringed Orchid) up at Mt. Mitchell - doing what he loved to do best… photograph Orchids.

Here is a link to a tribute to Jim:
https://jfowlerphotography.com/?p=15747

Happy botanizing (finally!)

Joe Standaert
Plants We Love to Hate – Clovers

Penny Longhurst

The word “clover” is derived from the Latin *trifolium* meaning three-parted, referring to the trifoliate shape of clover leaves. Several different plants are commonly referred to as clovers, however many are non-native plants that are considered invasive and widespread across the USA. These include plants in the genera *Kummerowia* (Korean and Japanese Clovers), *Lespedeza* (Bush Clovers), *Marsilea* (Water Clovers), *Medicago* (Alfalfa), *Melilotus* (Sweet Clovers) and *Trifolium* (Clovers). Most were introduced as animal fodder, for nitrogen fixation, or for erosion control, but have quickly become invasive weeds. Other than *Marsilea*, they are all members of the pea or *Fabaceae* family.

The plants we more commonly think of as clovers are in the *Trifolium* genus, which has about 300 members, spread all over the world. The clovers we see around here are mostly non-native but play an important role as animal fodder and in nectar production (think of honey). Unfortunately, most escaped from cultivation and now cover large areas of North America.

Three of the *Trifolium* species in our database are native to the Southeast but all are rare plants. Wild White Clover (*Trifolium carolinianum*), which has tiny white-purple flowers, was seen several years ago by the club on a trip to a CMLC property. A plant of the coastal Carolinas it is now rarely found even there. The other two species have never been recorded by the club. Buffalo Clover (*Trifolium reflexum*) has reddish flowers that sit up above the leaves, with the lower petals a pink-white color. As they age the lower flowers droop or become reflexed, hence the name. It has a North Carolina State Threatened status. Kates Mountain Clover (*Trifolium virginicum*) is so rare in this area that it’s not even listed in “Namethatplant” or the “North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox”. Dick Smith describes it in “Wildflowers of the Southern Mountains” as a plant found in the northern part of the southern mountains, and even has a photograph (Plate 255). Since our database was originally created from his plant list, this probably explains why it’s included. Weakley says it’s found in shale barrens from Virginia northwards.

Our database includes eight *Trifolium* species which are non-native. Some of them are commonly seen on our field trips. I don’t recall seeing Rabbit Foot Clover (*Trifolium arvense*) which is more commonly found in the Piedmont area than up here in the mountains. It has cute fuzzy grayish-pink flowers which look a little like rabbit’s feet if you use a lot of imagination or squint. Its leaves are narrow, not rounded like those of red or white clovers. The picture was taken by Joe at Glassy Mountain. Next time we visit I’ll have to look for it more carefully.

Hop Clovers are commonly found in the grass along roadsides, for example, on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Large or Palmate Hop Clover (*Trifolium aureum*), Low or Pinnate Hop Clover (*Trifolium campestre*), and Least Hop Clover (*Trifolium dubium*) all have bright yellow flowers but differ in other characteristics as shown below.
Large or Palmate Hop Clover
*(Trifolium aureum)*

- Leaves palmately trifoliate (all leaflets are sessile)

Low or Pinnate Hop Clover
*(Trifolium campestre)*

- Leaves pinnately trifoliate (terminal leaflet petiolulate, 1 – 3 mm long); lateral leaflets are sessile

Least Hop Clover
*(Trifolium dubium)*

- Leaves pinnately trifoliate (terminal leaflet petiolulate, 1 mm long); lateral leaflets are sessile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Large or Palmate Hop Clover</th>
<th>Low or Pinnate Hop Clover</th>
<th>Least Hop Clover</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leaves</td>
<td>Leaves palmately trifoliate (all leaflets are sessile)</td>
<td>Leaves pinnately trifoliate (terminal leaflet petiolulate, 1 – 3 mm long); lateral leaflets are sessile</td>
<td>Leaves pinnately trifoliate (terminal leaflet petiolulate, 1 mm long); lateral leaflets are sessile</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flowers</td>
<td>20 - 30 flowers per head, 3.5 - 5 mm long</td>
<td>3 - 15 flowers per head, 2.5 - 3.5 mm long</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petal</td>
<td>Uppermost petal has 5 obvious striations or veins</td>
<td>Uppermost petal is inconspicuously veined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence</td>
<td>Probably rare in this area</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Probably uncommon in this area</td>
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Thus, the best characteristics for identification of Hop Clovers are the presence or absence of stalks on the terminal leaflet, the size of the flower head and number of flowers, and the presence or absence of striations on the terminal petal. Looking back at pictures of Hop Clover, this is not as easy as it sounds! We commonly see them on our field trips, but we’ll need to stop and look at the yellow clovers much more closely when we next see them to come up with an identification.

Linnaeus thought that Alsike Clover (*Trifolium hybridum*) was a hybrid between Red and White Clovers and named it as such, but it is now known to be a distinct species. It has white-pink flowers, is an erect plant, and lacks the white blotch or “V” on the leaflets that is commonly seen with Red and White Clovers. Next time we see a red clover, we need to check out the leaves.

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**Crimson or Italian Clover (*Trifolium incarnatum*).** Photograph by Ken Borgfeldt.

Crimson or Italian Clover (*Trifolium incarnatum*) should be easy to identify with its beautiful bright red elongated flower heads. Ken’s photograph was taken in DuPont State Recreational Forest several years ago. It’s probably less common here in the mountains than it is in the Piedmont, but if we see it, we should definitely be able to recognize it.

The plants we see most commonly and that are easiest to identify are Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and White Clover (*Trifolium repens*). *Pratense* means “of a meadow”, describing the characteristic location where Red Clover is found.
*Repens* means “creeping”, describing the characteristic of White Clover to form mats unlike Red Clover which is a more upright plant. Both are extremely common and, although thought of as “weeds”, play important roles in farming. In fact, Red Clover was chosen as the state flower of Vermont due to its use as animal fodder. Red and White Clovers, like other *Trifolium* species, are also important plants for pollinators, producing large amounts of nectar and acting as host plants for many species of butterflies. So, weeds, but maybe with some beneficial qualities?

Have you ever wondered what kind of plant the shamrock is? A couple of Irish studies over the past century asked people to send samples of what they considered the “true shamrock”. It turns out that the plant that most participants considered to be a shamrock was *Trifolium minus* (we know it as Least Hop Clover, *Trifolium dubium*) closely followed by *Trifolium repens* (White Clover). So, rather than buying shamrocks on Saint Patrick’s Day, we could all go out and pull up some non-native clovers!

Finally, one of the most important questions concerns lucky four-leaf clovers. They result from a genetic mutation of White Clover (*Trifolium repens*), occurring in about 1:10,000 plants. So next time we’re walking in an area that has a load of White Clover, we need to look closer. We might just find a lucky four-leaf shamrock!

Sources:

[https://vnps.org/kates-mountain-clover-trifolium-virginicum/](https://vnps.org/kates-mountain-clover-trifolium-virginicum/)

[https://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/forb/kumspp/all.html](https://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/forb/kumspp/all.html)

[https://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/shrub/lesbic/all.html](https://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/shrub/lesbic/all.html)


North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox. *Trifolium*. [https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/find_a_plant/?q=trifolium](https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/find_a_plant/?q=trifolium)

https://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/forb/medsat/all.html

https://www.invasive.org/weedcd/pdfs/feis/Melilotusalba.pdf

https://ncbg.unc.edu/research/unc-herbarium/floras/
Over the last 15 months or so I’ve found a lot of, what I called sedges on the Oklawaha Greenway. As a club we have not spent a great deal of time identifying sedges so I was at the mercy of my plant identification apps to tell me what I had found. They, the apps, found three different genera in the family Cyperaceae; Carex typically called Sedge, Cyperus called flatsedge, and Kyllinga called spikesedge. I have provided photos of plants that I found on the Oklawaha labeled with my app’s best guess as to genus and species. I provide them for your pleasure and for your criticism. If I have mislabeled anything, please take a few minutes to provide me with the correct name.
20210511_Shallow Sedge (Carex lurida)
Passiflora lutea—a Surprise in the Woods

Lucy Prim

I want to tell you about a surprising experience I had this week. I was walking up Big Glassy Trail at Carl Sandburg’s, as I’ve done hundreds of times, when I noticed something I had never seen before. It was a dainty vine to the side of the path, clambering up a small maple tree. The leaf was so distinctive with its three rounded lobes and shallow sinuses I had no difficulty identifying the plant—Passiflora lutea. I went back up the trail the next day, this time to look for flowers. Much to my delight, I did find a flower!

The architecture of this dainty little flower is amazingly complicated. I wanted to get a really good picture of it, showing the different parts in sharp focus. Every day for a week I went back to this spot. In the beginning, the flowers were all above my head and it was very hard to take a picture of something up high like that. My arms got so tired holding the camera up. One little section of the vine is lower down, and each day I went back hoping one of the lower flowers had opened up. Finally, that day came. I was there at 10:30 in the morning, and no flowers were open at all. Disappointed, I walked a little further along the trail, then turned back, and by the time I got back to the vine, three flowers had opened! It was only 15 minutes later! To my delight, one of them was on the lower vine, so I finally got to take some pictures without having to reach up over my head.

A few more surprises are associated with this flower. Searching the internet on Google Scholar I came upon an article describing a solitary bee, Anthemurgus passiflora, which only gathers up pollen from this particular Passion Flower. It forms the pollen into a neat little package, seals it up with nectar, lays an egg on top, and then the larva hatches and eats the pollen. (See, “Foraging and Nesting Biology of the Bee Anthemurgus passiflora” by John L. Jeff and Jerome G. Rosen, Jr.)
I think most of us know Jim Fowler, the wonderful flower photographer who died at Mt. Mitchell a few weeks ago. I was looking around on the internet for information about Passiflora lutea when I came upon a comment Jim had written on somebody’s website. He said he had Passiflora lutea growing at his house and it was so rampant he had to keep trimming it back!

One more surprise I had concerning this little flower. While trying to take pictures of it beside the trail, several people walked by and thinking they might be delighted to see the flower, I asked, “Would you like to see something really special?” Of course, they said yes, and I showed them the little flower. None of them seemed surprised! A few said dismissively, “Yes, I know that flower. I’ve seen that in Florida!”
Gender Reveal!

Penny Longhurst

Some of the plants that we see on our walks, such as Hollies, are dioecious. That is, male (staminate) and female (pistillate) flowers are borne on separate plants. However, I don’t recall ever trying to identify the gender of these plants on our field trips. Several years ago, we planted a Holly at my house. Every year it is covered with blooms and bees, but never bears a berry. Clearly, we have either a boy or a girl Holly with no nearby suiters. So, this spring I set myself a goal to learn to sex Hollies. That turned out to be quite easy, and I expanded my goal to include other dioecious plants.

Female American Holly (*Ilex opaca*) flowers are generally solitary and have a large green round bump, the ovary, in the center of the petals. In contrast, the male flowers have four yellow pollen-covered stamens, are clustered together in cymes, and are sometimes so numerous that they can be seen from a distance (like my Holly).

![American Holly (Ilex opaca) - Female bloom and fruit](image1)

![American Holly (Ilex opaca) - Male blooms](image2)

I probably shouldn’t have been surprised to find that the blooms on Mountain Holly (*Ilex montana*) were almost identical to those of *Ilex opaca*. In the picture below, the stigma is evident sticking out from the center of the ovary on the female plants. I didn’t see this on any of the female *Ilex opaca* plants that I observed.

![Mountain Holly (Ilex montana) - Female blooms](image3)

![Mountain Holly (Ilex montana) - Male blooms](image4)
Fairy Wand (*Chamaelirium luteum*) is another dioecious plant. The upper section of the Forest Demonstration Trail at Holmes Educational State Forest is a great place to look for these flowers. The male flowers are much more conspicuous, on a raceme up to 6 inches long and curving. The female flowers are much denser, on a shorter (1 to 2 inches) and broader raceme.

![Fairy Wand (Chamaelirium luteum) - Female blooms](image1)

![Fairy Wand (Chamaelirium luteum) - Male blooms](image2)

We commonly see the male flowers of Wild Yam (*Dioscorea villosa*) on the trails along the Blue Ridge Parkway, but the female flowers are unusual and harder to find. The male flowers spread out along a thin stalk that dangles from the vine. The female flowers also dangle but on a much sturdier stem. Their small petals sit on top of an elongated ovary.

![Wild Yam (Dioscorea villosa) - Female blooms](image3)

![Wild Yam (Dioscorea villosa) - Male blooms](image4)

All Smilax plants are dioecious. Carrion Flower (*Smilax herbacea*) is a plant we see often along the Parkway. Clearly there are lots of female plants around since we see the fruit quite commonly. However, looking back through all the pictures that I took of *Smilax herbacea* flowers over the years I couldn't find any females. Then, last month I finally found a female plant at the beginning of the Frying Pan Gap trail! It reminds me a lot of the Holly flowers, having round ovaries in the center of the petals. Like the Hollies, the pollen-covered stamens are conspicuous on each male *Smilax herbacea* flower.
The dioecious plant we are probably most familiar with is Early Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum dioicum*). The species name says it all! Again, the male flowers are much more conspicuous (and easier to photograph) than the female flowers. The attractive and colorful stamens dangle, allowing pollen to float off in the breeze. The female flowers are much fewer, smaller, and paler in color.

I’ve been trying to find female flowers of Buffalo Nut (*Pyrularia pubera*) for several years with no luck. According to Coder, the female flowers (7 – 10 in number) are borne on shorter spikes than the male flowers (15 – 32 in number) and have 4 vestigial stamens. The male flowers have 8 short-stalked stamens arranged in 2 whorls, and an obvious characteristic is white hairy tufts at the ends of recurved sepals. Alan Cressler has some excellent pictures illustrating this on his Flickr account that he kindly gave me permission to include in this article. Now I know what I’m supposed to be looking for, finding these flowers will have to be one of next spring’s goals!
Buffalo Nut (*Pyrularia pubera*)- Female blooms
Photography by Alan Cressler

Buffalo Nut (*Pyrularia pubera*)- Male blooms
Photography by Alan Cressler

Sources:

Kim D. Coder: Tree Root Parasite: Buffalo Nut. School of Forest Resources, University of Georgia, Publication Number FOR05-3, 2005
https://urbanforestrysouth.org/resources/library/citations/tree-root-parasite-buffalo-nut/

Alan Cressler: https://www.flickr.com/photos/alan_cressler/


https://ncbg.unc.edu/research/unc-herbarium/floras/
The 9 July 2021 Western Carolina Botanical Club Annual Meeting was held at Holmes Educational State Forest, at the Picnic Shelter. President Gayle Mercurio called the meeting to order at 11:35. There were 43 members and visitors attending, including all Board Members.

**President Gayle Mercurio’s Report:**

Welcome to all again! This is the 47th meeting of the Western Carolina Botanical Club. The Board held one meeting this year to figure out how to get things going again after the pandemic. This year we have 111 + members, possibly more as some are family memberships.

It was decided, now that restrictions are lifted, to continue as we were, using the same Friday walk procedures as before. We used the same hike schedule we had set up for 2020 with a few small changes. Ken said he had already sent out by email the new 2021 schedule. The first walk will be next Friday, 16 July. In December, before the Christmas party, we will meet to decide what to do about the winter talks at Bullington.

**Treasurer Penny Longhurst’s Report for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021:**

**Membership:**

As of June 30, 2021, we have 111 members, including 1 honorary and 22 new members. The true numbers are higher than that since some of these are family memberships. Of those new members, 12 joined since July 1, 2020. Sixteen of the new members joined since our last club meeting in March 2020 and therefore have not had any opportunity to attend club functions.

Penny noted the newest member, David Lentz, was writing a cheque at that moment!

**Financials:**

Dues for 2021 were waived for all members who had joined in 2020. We started the fiscal year with $4,340. Our income was $252, and expenditures were $999. We donated $150 to the Botanical Gardens at Asheville and $800 to Bullington Gardens. As of June 30, 2021, we have $3,593 in the bank.

**Master Recorder Ken Borgfeldt’s Report:**

Due to the lack of walks, there was little to report. Please note the change made in 2019 and affirmed at the last Board Meeting: there will be no plant lists handed out at walks. Copies will be included in the weekly walk reminder, for you to print your own.

**Bullington Botanical Bunch, Juanita Lambert:** Work in the Natural Areas of Bullington Gardens, (July 2020 - June 2021):

We have re-titled this 2021 report to WCBC to reflect the expansion of our activities at Bullington Gardens. Larason Lambert and John Colson have devoted most of their time to the long-neglected Nature Trail and the vicinity of the Azalea Repository, and Steve Mininger helped them when not needed for heavy-duty work in the Native Woodland Garden.
Juanita Lambert’s crew of Daudie Colson, Mary Ann Lee, and Marty Mininger worked diligently in the Native Woodland Garden and the open area near the Amphitheater, mostly on maintenance activities of cleaning up fallen branches, weeding, pruning, and watering when needed. New plantings occurred only when new plants became available from donations: Purple Phacelia (*Phacelia bipinnatifida*), Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), and Wild Hyacinth (*Camassia scilloides*), or from Bullington Gardens’ stock: Leatherflower (*Clematis viorna*).

Removal of the large pine tree near the Amphitheater in late 2019, increased light levels substantially, thus dramatically increasing growth of weeds and desirable plants. The Franklin Tree (*Franklinia alatamaha*) bloomed for the first time ever at Bullington Gardens. And to our surprise, a Devil's Walking Stick (*Aralia spinosa*) was discovered this Spring. Even in shady areas, some desirable plants have done too well, most notably the Yellowroot (*Xanthorrhiza simplicissima*), requiring removal as it spreads too far.

Steve’s work in the Native Woodland Garden and Amphitheater Area included repairs of some Rhododendron Fence rails, installation of water bars on some trails to prevent erosion and spreading wood chips on trails.

Out along the Nature Trail, Larason and John spent much time cleaning up fallen and dead woody material and trimming back impinging bushes. Late in the Fall, the three men rerouted a fifty-foot section of the trail to make it less impactful with respect to potential erosion. In the Spring, we began adding wood chips to the trail to lessen the impact of heavier use resulting from increased visitation to the Fairy Garden near the end of the trail. This activity will likely be required annually. In order to facilitate delivery of wood chips to points along the half-mile trail, Steve created an expansion of Bullington’s utility vehicle bed, tripling its capacity. We are also widening a 600-ft section of the trail to accommodate the vehicle.

Looking to the future, we will likely have to reroute the last 350-ft section of the trail because that current section is now being used in a one-way mode to access the Fairy Garden.

So even though the Bullington Botanical Bunch (as we call ourselves) is currently well-staffed, there always seems to be too much physical and botanical work for us, and we still need to make the Natural Areas of Bullington Gardens more user-friendly from an educational perspective. Furthermore, we need to insure that the physical-botanical infrastructure we have created remains in the future.

**Shortia Editor Ken Borgfeldt’s Report:**

Ken noted the quarterly appearance was due especially to contributions from membership, Lucy Prim, Penny Longhurst and Gayle Mercurio in particular. All were applauded for their on-going work. The current issue is still open for contributions, which are always welcome.

**Secretary Susan Sunflower’s Report:**

The 2019 Annual Minutes were summarized and accepted by voice vote. There was no 2020 Annual Meeting, due to Covid. These 2021 Annual Minutes will be sent out for review and approval by the Board.
Nominations Committee Report, Susan Sunflower:

The Board had approved nomination of Joe Standaert as President and Cindy Carpenter as Vice President, for terms of two years each. The membership was invited to volunteer for the open Member-at Large Board position. Martha Rollefson accepted! The full slate was unanimously accepted by voice vote.

General Discussion: the open Program Scheduler position

Ken Borgfeldt initiated talk on this important topic. Botanical Walks and Talks are our basic activity, why we come together. Juanita Lambert has resigned, with many thanks, much appreciative applause. We need one or more people to step up.

The Schedule is established in 6-month segments, Jan - June, July - December, culminating with the Christmas Potluck. The Scheduler calls the twice-yearly meeting of all interested members. Those with ideas for winter talks follow-up with the possible speaker re date and topic. Walks are agreed upon at the meetings. The Scheduler and co-scheduler prepare the 6-month schedule for publication, which is sent to all members.

Juanita Lambert then thanked the membership for their support in scheduling walks and talks, especially Ken Borgfeldt and Penny Longhurst, for web support, procedures and problem solving. Members expressed great appreciation for her work these past several years.

Webmaster Penny Longhurst’s Report for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

Our website, https://wcbotanicalclub.org/wcbotanicalclub.org, was created in October 2015. There are currently 109 club members who receive email notifications about new posts. In addition to members, we have 68 followers or subscribers who are notified automatically whenever we post.

As of July 1, 2021, we’ve created 228 posts. In 2020 we had 131,163 views (when a visitor loads or reloads a page), and 14,580 visitors (when a user or browser goes to our site for the first-time during a given period [day, week, month, year]). During the first 6 months of 2021 we’ve had 75,344 views and 10,276 visitors. So, we are ahead of last year’s numbers.

The post with the greatest number of views to date was the “Purchase Knob” field trip on 9/8/19, closely followed by one of our Virtual Field Trip posts, Ken’s “Native Flora of Henderson County Walkways – June 21 – July 25, 2020”.

Although we have not been able to do any formal field trips this year, we were able to post “Virtual Field Trips” almost every week, as well as continue through the winter with something new, “Virtual Indoor Meetings”. Thanks to Alice & Charlie Brice, Jackie Burke, Ken Borgfeldt, David Heavner, Richard Holzman, Betty Jones, Jim Poling, Lucy Prim, Randy Richardson, Joe Standaert, and others who contributed trip reports or pictures to help us continue posting.

In addition to our weekly posts, the most popular pages are the Plant Keys, especially “Bryophytes” and “Violets”, both created by Bonnie Arbuckle and Betty Jones. Our site generally appears on the first page for Google searches for NC native plants (try googling “NC moss”). The “Wildflower of the Week” page, written by Jim Poling, also gets a high number of hits.
Bonnie Arbuckle presented her special appreciation for Penny’s work, especially this past year of Covid. She then led the membership in a big round of applause and cheers of appreciation.

Out-going President Gayle Mercurio then presented the tree-limb gavel to In-coming President Joe Standaert. Much applause! She repeated her thanks to Board and membership. More applause!

Jackie Burke announced the Vaughn Creek Greenway plant identification project, near Tryon. She would like volunteers. jackiecburke@gmail.com New President Joe Standaert then gave his first speech: Time for Lunch! And added his thanks to the Board, especially Ken Borgfeldt, Penny Longhurst and Juanita Lambert, for their great work in demanding roles, especially during Covid Year. He called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to Adjourn by Charlie Brice, seconded by Penny Longhurst, at 12:15 p.m.

After lunch, a short walk in the woods was enjoyed in the rain by 7 members.
The mission of the Club is to identify and study native plants and their habitats and to advocate the protection of biodiversity in our natural world. Membership is open to all. Individual/family memberships are $15. Send dues to Western Carolina Botanical Club, 351 Cheestoonaya Way, Brevard, NC 28712