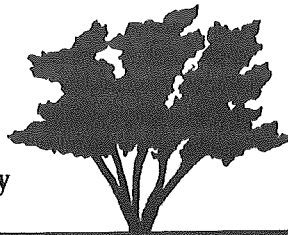


# Chinquapin

The Newsletter of the  
Southern Appalachian Botanical Society



Vol. 1, No. 2

Summer 1993

## From The Editor's Desk....

You will note the difference in the nameplate of this second issue. First, you will see we have settled on the spelling for the common name of *Castanea pumila*. A polling of the members at the annual meeting at Virginia Beach, Va., on April 16 gave the following results: CHECHINQUAMIN, 1; CHINCAPIN, 0; CHINKAPIN, 7; and CHINQUAPIN, 45. President Herr reported in his search of 10 books he found only "chinquapin." Although dendrologists use "chinkapin," Hal DeSelm ran across "Chiathunquamin oak" for *Quercus muhlenbergii*, and several expressed a desire to use the Amerindian "chechinquamin," it seems most prudent that we use the familiar and traditional "chinquapin."

We still need some improvements

in our nameplate logo. Someone remarked that the present silhouette looks too much like beet tops. Surely someone can find an existing tree that is not so infected with *Endothia (Cryphonectria) parasitica* that it looks like beet tops. We have considered a leaf or fruit, but do not wish to have the appearance too similar to the flowering shoot and fruit of our journal and regular logo.

I am suggesting a contest to select a new newsletter logo. Anyone who is familiar with *Castanea pumila* in a mature condition and who has some flair for drawing a silhouette is encouraged to submit an entry to me.

**I will personally contribute one year's subscription to SABS membership to the contest winner, and the organization will provide a canvas tote bag and coffee cup with the CASTANEA logo.**

Entry deadline is Nov. 30, 1993.

The chinquapin is sometimes a large tree. Duncan and Duncan, 1988, in Trees of the Southeastern United States, indicate it gets up to 15 m (49 ft.) tall and to 80 cm (31 in.) in trunk diameter at breast height. But we usually think of the species as a small tree about half this height with several trunks scarcely more than 15 cm (6 in.) in diameter. It would be good to learn of a mature individual in the extremes of the tree's range that is larger or smaller than these sizes.

Perhaps we should follow Jim Hardin and Fred White's lead regarding the treatment of our namesake. Their treatment (Harlow, Harrar, Hardin, and White, 1991, Textbook of Dendrology, p. 281) follows G.P. Johnson's revision of *Castanea* and recognizes only a single species. *C. alnifolia* Nutt. and *C. ozarkensis* Ashe are recognized as variants of the species *C. pumila* Mill..

## SABS Officers And Newsletter Editor

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Western Kentucky University  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

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Nashville, TN 37212-3757

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Department of Biology  
Western Carolina University  
Cullowhee, NC 28728-9539

## Windler Issues Challenge

Don Windler of Towson, Md., issued the following challenge to his fellow SABS members at the Society's annual meeting:

**"If during 1993, fourteen (14) individuals not on the 1993 list of donors either donate \$100 or more, or pledge \$300 or more, I will donate an additional \$1,000 to the CASTANEA Endowment."**

The Endowment was established to ensure the future health of SABS and its publications. The original goal was set at \$200,000. The fund now contains \$33,000 — about one-sixth of our goal.

If you have not contributed \$100 or more to this important Society goal, now would be a good time to do so. Help us take advantage of Don's Challenge. Send your check and/or pledge to Cynthia Aulbach-Smith, SABS Secretary-Treasurer, Department of Biological Sciences, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, 29208.

## Proposals To Promote Botanical Interest

In my report to the annual meeting, I spoke of my hope that the Society take a leadership role in promoting botanical interest. As you may know, at the November meeting I proposed to the Council that the Society establish with other botanical organizations a "Consortium of Botanical Societies." Such a union could provide a forum for botanical organizations to work together not only to revive an active interest in botany at all educational levels, but to increase botanical awareness among all citizens.

I am convinced that efforts toward innovative teaching of botany will be directed to progressively smaller audiences unless society as a whole undergoes a complete change of thought and attitude regarding the importance of plants and plant study. I hope that SABS will continue to explore the idea of a consortium with a view toward establishing it in the near future.

We also must do more within the ranks of our own Society. A 1959 brochure entitled, "The Southern Appalachian Botanical Club: An Invitation to

Membership," states that "the organization has grown from an original membership of less than 100 in 1936 to over 300 in 1959, representing all states of the area and many other parts of the country." As of April 10, 1993, membership in the Society numbered 623. Thus, the rate of growth has diminished from approximately a threefold increase in the first 23 years to about a twofold increase in the past 34 years.

Although it certainly should, the Society's growth is not following the kind of sigmoid curve that typifies the indeterminate growth of seed plants. Accordingly, I recommend that the Society place a renewed emphasis on increasing the membership through standard and innovative approaches. Perhaps the means for effective action could be designed by the Planning Committee in consultation with a committee of responsibility, viz., the Membership Committee.

—John M. Herr, Jr.

## What's In A Name?

**(Editor's note: The following is taken from a summary of the Report of the President at the Annual Meeting of the Society.)**

History reflects in an interesting way on the matter of the recent name change of our organization from "Club" to "Society." The Constitution for the Southern Appalachian Botanical Club was first printed in Vol. 1 (8), pp. 95-96, Dec. 1936, of "The JOURNAL of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Club." Article 1, Section 1 of this document states: "The name of this society shall be The Southern Appalachian Botanical Club."

The use of "society" in Article 1 persisted at least until 1959, as evidenced by a membership brochure circulated about that time. But in the last printing of the Constitution in the journal in 1986 (Castanea 51: 245-246), the term "organization" appears in place of "society." Thus, in the beginning we were a society that called itself a club; now, it seems, we are a club

that calls itself a society.

Between the first and last journal printings of the Constitution, the purpose of this society expanded significantly, as a comparison of Article 1, Section 2 in the two documents reveals. The 1936 document states: "The purpose of this Club shall be to promote botanical interest and to disseminate information concerning the flora of the Southern Appalachian region." The second part of the purpose was expanded in the 1986 printing to include "ecology" as well as "flora" and "the Southeastern United States" as well as "the Southern Appalachian region."

The purpose of the Society in the 1992 Constitution remains unchanged from that of the 1986 document. In the future, however, I hope that our society will take a leadership role among all botanical societies in the United States in the effort "to promote botanical interest."

— John M. Herr, Jr.

## Lamboy Receives Windler Award

Warren Frank Lamboy has received the third annual Richard and Minnie Windler Award for the best systematic botany paper published in the 1992 volume of CASTANEA.

Dr. Lamboy's winning paper was entitled "The Taxonomic Status and Probable Origin of *Aster chlorolepis*, a Southern Appalachian Endemic." The study reported in his paper used traditional, phytogeographical, cytological, and numerical techniques to investigate the relationship of this endemic to the widespread *A. divaricatus* and other *Aster* species.

The Richard and Minnie Windler Award was established in April 1990 by Dr. Donald R. Windler as a memorial to his parents. This year's award was presented to Dr. Lamboy at the 1993 meeting of SABS at Virginia Beach, Va. As award recipient, he received a framed certificate and a \$200 check from the Society.

Dr. Lamboy is a research associate at the Plant Genetic Research Unit of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Cornell University in Geneva, N.Y.

## Technical Bulletins Available From N.C. State

A limited supply of copies of these two N.C. Agricultural Experiment Station Technical Bulletins is available at no cost:

— Baranski, M.J. 1975. "An Analysis of Variation within White Oak" (*Quercus alba* L.). Tech. Bul. No. 236, 176 pp.

— Kologiski, R.L. 1977. "The Phytosociology of the Green Swamp, North Carolina." Tech. Bul. No. 250, 101 pp.

Requests should be sent to Dr. Ernest D. Seneca, Department of Botany, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695 -7612.

"...we are a club that calls itself a society"

## New 1993-94 Council Members Elected At Annual Meeting

The following were elected new Council members at the annual meeting: Larry Mellichamp, UNC-Charlotte, president-elect; David R. Hill, Belmont University, recording secretary; Doug Ogle, Virginia Highlands Community College, CASTANEA editor; Doug Rayner, Wofford College, member-at-large; Katherine Kirkman, Joseph W. Jones Research Center, member-at-large.

### Congratulations to these energetic botanists and public servants.

President Gary Dillard also has announced the 1993-94 standing committees and representatives. For your convenience and future reference, they as well as all Council members are listed below:

#### Council

Gary Dillard, President (1993-94)	502-745-3696; Fax 502-745-6471
John Herr, Jr., Past Present (1993-94)	803-777-8110; Fax 803-777-4002
Larry Mellichamp, President Elect (1993-94)	704-547-4055; Fax 704-547-3128
Cindy Aulbach-Smith, Secretary-Treasurer (1993-94)	803-359-5027
David Hill, Recording Secretary (1996-97)	615-385-6431
Richard Carter, Chair, Editorial Board, CASTANEA	912-333-5759; Fax 912-333-7408
R. Wayne Tyndall, Editor, CASTANEA	410-974-2870
Doug Ogle, Editor, CASTANEA	703-628-6094
Doug Rayner, Member-at-Large (1993-94)	
Katherine Kirkman, Member-at-Large (1993-95)	912-734-4706

#### Editorial Board, CASTANEA

Richard Carter, Chair (1993-94)	912-333-5759
	Fax 912-333-7408
R. Wayne Tyndall (1994-95)	410-974-2870
Doug Ogle (1995-96)	703-628-6094

#### Nominating Committee

John Herr, Jr., Chair (1993-94)	803-777-8110
Nancy Coile (1993-94)	904-372-3505, ext. 402
Joe Winstead (1993-94)	502-745-6004

#### Bartholomew Award Committee

Cliff Hupp, Chair (1993-94)	404-409-7700
George Ramseur (1994-95)	615-598-1304
Dan Evans (1995-96)	304-696-6467

#### NC Botanical Garden Award Committee

Peter White	919-962-0522
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#### Endowment Committee

Don Windler, Chair	410-830-3042
Andy Ash	919-521-4214, ext. 418
John Freeman	205-844-1633
Bill Martin	502-564-2184
Joe Winstead	502-745-6004

#### Outreach Committee

Jim Wallace, Chair	704-227-7244
Larry Davenport	205-870-2584
Joan Gibson	304-292-9772
John Nelson	803-777-8196

#### Finance Committee

Jim Matthews, Chair	704-547-4061
Cindy Aulbach-Smith	803-359-5027
David Whetstone	205-782-5215
Larry Mellichamp, Pres. Elect	704-547-4055

#### Richard & Minnie Windler Award Committee

Nancy Coile, Chair (1995-96)	904-372-3505, ext. 402
David Whetstone (1994-95)	205-782-5215
Jim Matthews (1993-94)	704-547-4061

#### Representative to ASB

Mike Baranski	704-637-4442
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#### Representative to Eastern Native Plant Alliance

Ed Clebsch	615-974-6209
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#### Planning Committee

John Herr, Jr.	803-777-8110
Mike Baranski	704-637-4442
Hal DeSelm	615-974-2256
Donna Ware	804-221-2213
Larry Mellichamp, Pres. Elect	704-547-4055

#### Chinquapin Newsletter Committee

Dan Pittillo, Editor & Chair	704-227-7244
	Fax 704-227-7647
Bill Logan	704-372-3383
Deborah White	502-564-2886

#### Membership Committee

Larry Davenport, Chair	205-870-2584
State Representatives	

## Council Approves Sponsoring Of Two Memorial Trees At Core Arboretum

The SABS Council has approved the sponsoring of two memorial trees honoring Earl L. Core and Betty Bartholomew in the Core Arboretum at West Virginia University.

The curator has informed me that the arboretum welcomes such memorial plantings. The preferred method for designating a memorial begins with the sponsor choosing a tree from a list of the arboretum's plant needs. The arboretum labels the tree with the name of the honoree and the sponsoring organization. The sponsor then makes out a check for \$100 or more to The WVU Foundation and sends it to the arboretum curator.

In a letter dated March 3, 1993, Core Arboretum specialist Jonathan R. Weems enthusiastically endorsed the idea of SABS designating a second "Earl L. Core tree" in the arboretum. The West Virginia Botanic Garden (now a dormant organization) planted a southern red oak, *Quercus falcata Michx.*, as a memorial to him in 1985. Weems regards a second memorial appropriate because of its coming from SABS, which meant so much to Dr. Core.

In the same letter, Weems stated: "I also had the thought that it would be appropriate if some...organization were to designate a memorial to Elizabeth Ann (Betty) Bartholomew, a warm and formidable lady who poured her heart and soul into the successful effort to nurture the SABS in its early years."

I'm pleased that the Council has approved the designation of a memorial tree for Earl L. Core, as well as one for Betty Bartholomew.

— John M. Herr, Jr.



## The Mysterious Grassy Balds Of The Southern Appalachians

When Europeans first came to these mountains, no one thought the grassy meadows of the high mountains were unusual. The pioneers assumed the meadows had been cleared by human activity. Indeed, the Indians often burned the forests and presumably the highland meadows. But as the early plant collectors were followed by students who were interested in vegetation patterns, the presence of the Southern Highland grassy balds became a topic of inquiry that lasted at least half a century.

How could these grassy meadows remain open and unforested in a region without a tree line? (The highest peaks are less than 7,000 feet in elevation — more than 4,000 feet below the expected tree line at this latitude.) Many theories were advanced, such as the effects of ice storms, fire, windthrow, and grazing by animals. None of the theories, however, seemed to fit observations of all sites.

One school of thought, perhaps most aptly credited to the late R.H. Whittaker, indicated that fluctuating climates may have played a significant role. B.W. Wells, on the other hand, theorized that Indians played the major role in formation of these vegetation phenomena. A more recent review of the controversy was summarized by Phil Gersmehl, a geography student at the University of Georgia. He thought that most evidence related to the European pioneers' activities, including cattle grazing, clearing, and the setting of fires.

Many of the botanists and plant ecologists have suggested there indeed may be several causes for the various grassy balds, some applicable to certain sites and some to others. The Roan Mountain area, for example, seems to fit the fluctuating climate concept of Mark and his colleagues. The straight-sided clearing at Judaculla Fields of

Richland Balsam suggests the involvement of humans, giving the reported clearing for Indian ceremonies a credible cause. And the historical development of grassy balds at Graveyard Fields (just east of Richland Balsam) from a combination of timber slash and intense fire indicates how burning may have played a major role in balds formation.

Evidence of past Indian activities are beginning to accumulate and might support some of the following speculations:

After the last glacial maxima, about 18,000 years ago, the high-elevation shrub and grass tundra gener-



ally gave way to advancing forests. Perhaps grazers, especially forest bison and elk, and browsers such as deer helped keep some areas open. Windthrow and ice storms may have flattened some forested areas, providing slash that would burn easily upon drying.

Indians are known to have burned forests, often after mast fall to clear chestnuts of leaf litter and perhaps to kill the nut weevils. In fact, evidence of charcoal is found throughout the forests and most of the existing grassy balds areas. Fire would have burned any downed timber as it moved up slopes, perhaps creating new grassy openings at the high elevations as well. Burning also would have been successful in killing many shrubs and trees, leaving spaces for grass to be established and thus providing good grazing, especially during hot summers.

We now find ample evidence that Indians often camped near springs in high-elevation gaps, many of which were adjacent to the grassy balds. These camps likely were abandoned during the colder months as the Indians moved to the warmer valley floors — much as our summer second-home residents do nowadays.

—J. Dan Pittillo

# BOTANICAL EXCURSIONS

By George Ellison

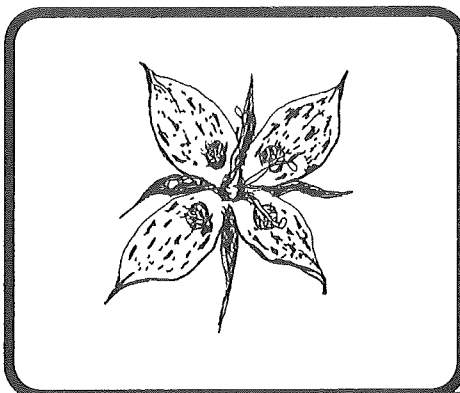
As enumerated in the first installment of this newsletter, the manner in which we locate, identify, learn about and become infatuated with certain plants and habitats is continually fascinating. The entire process — not just plant location and identification — is one I like to think of as “botanizing.” The process itself becomes addictive, so that we continually require new plants and new habitats to contemplate. This Botanical Excursions column will focus upon specific plants or habitats found in the southern mountains and adjacent regions, but the ongoing process through which one explores and ultimately comes to terms with the natural world will always lie at the heart of the matter.

For the most part, it's the commonly encountered plants that get us through the year: hepatica, bloodroot, trout lily, bellwort, wild geranium, the trilliums, etc., in spring; Turk's-cap lily, soapwort, passion flower, evening primrose, mullein, morning glory, Joe Pye weed, etc., in summer; gentians, goldenrods, asters, lady's-tresses, witch hazel, etc., in fall; and the evergreens in winter. Like old friends, we touch base with them regularly or simply observe them from afar while driving to and from work. They're the backbone of our floral universe.

Less frequently encountered plants spice up botanical excursions, providing incentive and focus. Who wouldn't want to come upon a plant previously unreported from the Southern Appalachians, or establish a new state record? Few of us, alas, will have that opportunity. We can rather easily, however, enliven outings by seeking previously unreported plants in our home counties, region, or wherever we happen to be botanizing with some regularity.

Here in western North Carolina, the process of establishing which plants have been reported from the general moun-

tain area or specific counties is relatively simple. One starts with the Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas (University of North Carolina Press, 1968) and the updates by J. Dan Pittillo, et al. published in the JOURNAL OF THE ELISHA MITCHELL SOCIETY, vols. 85, 88, 104 (1969, 1972, 1988), pp. 18-22, 144-152, 1-18. B. Eugene Wofford's Guide to the Vascular Plants of the Blue Ridge (University of Georgia Press, 1989) doesn't provide dot-map county locations, but does indicate whether a given species has been reported from the portions of Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Georgia that lie within the Southern Blue Ridge Province. This data can then be fine-tuned with more recent information appear-



Each petal of American columbo (*Frasera caroliniensis*) features a fringed, nectary gland that attracts pollinators, often sweat bees, to serve as pollinators.

— Drawing by Elizabeth Ellison

ing in various journals (like CASTANEA), checklists (like Flowering Plants of the Great Smoky Mountains), and the regularly updated Natural Heritage Program List of the Rare Plant Species of North Carolina. These same sources — except for the Smokies checklist and Natural Heritage Program List — apply to South Carolina as well, but those of you in other states will have to work out your own methodology, which is part of the fun.

I've marked a copy of Newcomb's

Wildflower Guide to indicate those species that haven't been reported from Swain County, N.C., where I live and do most of my botanizing. Collecting and pressing herbarium specimens to establish Swain County records for plants like fairy wand (*Chamaelirium luteum*) solitary pussytoes (*Antennaria solitaria*), pennywort (*Obolaria virginica*) lily-of-the-valley (*Convallaria montana*) auricled tickseed (*Coreopsis auriculata*) eastern agave (*Manfreda virginica*), and most other species doesn't really interest anyone except me, as they've been previously reported in numerous adjacent counties and merely needed confirmation for this one.

Other finds like the second N.C. county record for goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), the third N.C. county record for American columbo (*Frasera caroliniensis*), the first station of water willow (*Justicia americana*) reported west of the Balsam Mountains in North Carolina, and an extensive stand of glade spurge (*Euphorbia purpurea*), which is listed as one of the “sensitive plants” in the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests, are more noteworthy. It's gratifying to be able to add tidbits of potentially useful range information to that collected by several generations of professional field botanists. One does what one can, too, to protect these plants by informing landowners of their presence and by reporting their whereabouts to appropriate state and federal agencies.

Primarily, however, the opportunity to locate plants that one might otherwise never see turns each botanical excursion into a mini-adventure in which anything could suddenly pop up. Like a kid at Christmas Eve, I dream of finding the dainty little goldthread (*Coptis groenlandica*) growing in some remote high-elevation bog in the Cowee Range,

Cont. on page 7

## Herbaria Becoming An Endangered Set Of "Species"?

The herbaria curators of several institutions met at the annual meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists at Virginia Beach. An issue of deepest concern expressed by Drs. Carol and Jerry Baskin was the impending disposition of the University of Kentucky herbarium.

Carol indicated that Kentucky's case isn't unusual, as many university administrators consider disposing of their herbaria or other collections to make space for various new programs. Herbaria at Chapel Hill, N.C., Durham, N.C., Lafayette, La., Nashville, Tenn., and other sites are being or have been considered for relocation. Southern Methodist University's herbarium already has been moved to the Texas Research Institute.

The group suggested that we plan a symposium in two years at the Knoxville, Tenn., ASB meeting. It was noted that many curators are retiring within the next decade, and that institutions are typically not replacing faculty in these positions as the better-funded molecular biology programs expand. In many cases, institutions have discontinued or significantly reduced the number of taxonomic courses and taxonomy students. IS THIS AN ISSUE OF CONCERN TO YOU?

During the past few years, field botanists for field surveys have become more difficult to find for some areas, especially in the Southern Appalachians. In North Carolina, increased emphasis on Natural Heritage Surveys and the protected plant program has contributed to this field survey need. Thus, it is imperative that we continue to have good trained field botanists. DO YOU AGREE AND HAVE YOU NOTICED AN INCREASED DEMAND IN YOUR AREA?

**Editor's note: Send me your responses to these issues and we'll share them with other SABS members in upcoming newsletters.**

## Southern Appalachian Botanical Organization Spotlight

**Editor's Note: In the upcoming issues we hope to feature various botanical groups within the region. Please send a brief summary of your organization to appear in this column over the next several issues.**

### Western Carolina Botanical Club

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Western Carolina Botanical Club. In the fall of 1972, C. Ritchie Bell, then professor of botany at UNC-Chapel Hill and director of the N.C. Botanical Garden, taught a series of wildflower classes at Brevard, N.C. Harry Logan, Barbara Hollowell and others in the class suggested that they should continue meeting.

The following March, several members met and the first officers were elected: Lincoln Highton, president; Gordon Tooley, vice president; and Barbara Hollowell, secretary-treasurer. The group's aims were to study, enjoy, and appreciate the plants in their natural environment of Western North Carolina; collect data on these plants to be shared with others; and to extend the knowledge and appreciation to other interested people. Starting with a membership of 25, most of them participants in field trips throughout the year, the organization has grown to more than 250 members.

Field trips have been the main feature of the organization. During the past year, there were 41 field trips and 11 lectures.

A recorder is appointed for each trip, and a list of species observed in bloom is compiled. Field trips have been concentrated in Western North Carolina, but some have been made to the North Carolina coast and to the botanical gardens at Chapel Hill, Duke, and Callaway Gardens.

Several other activities have been recorded by the club. Since 1979, the membership has been served by a quarterly newsletter, SHORTIA. Many informative bits of information have been featured, including species observed on field trips, organizational news, and identification aids such as Dick Smith's "Look again!" Other highlights during the past decade include library exhibits; a self-guiding nature walk at the Pisgah Inn on the Blue Ridge Parkway; Millie Blaha and Anne Ulinski's assistance in developing the Jackson Park Wetlands Natural Heritage Area in Hendersonville, N.C.; and the hosting of visiting botanists from Europe.

If you are interested in the organization, you might wish to write to Dick Smith, 6 Tenequa Drive, Conneestee Falls, Brevard, NC 28712.

## Golden Alexander (*Zizia*) Or Meadow Parsnip (*Thaspium*)?

Some of our most frustrating wildflower species are those bearing umbels of small yellow flowers and belonging to two genera in the Carrot Family (Apiaceae): *Zizia*, or Golden Alexanders, and *Thaspium*, known as Meadow Parsnips. Not only are there similar species within each genus, but some *Zizias* have a closer resemblance to certain *Thaspiums* than to others in their own genus, and vice versa.

Fortunately, all *Zizias* can be distinguished by the fact that the central floret in each umbellet is sessile, while in *Thaspium* all are stalked. This should

suffice to separate *Z. aptera* and *T. trifoliatum*, both of which usually have long-stalked heart-shaped basal leaves and compound cauline leaves. (Typically, the latter has dark purple flowers, but the yellow-flowered var. *flavum* is even more common.)

Three others normally have all of their leaves divided into three or more leaflets. *T. barbinode* is unique in having very small, stiff hairs at each of the upper nodes. These are lacking in *Z. aurea* (which has finely toothed foliage and umbels consisting of at least 10 primary rays) and *Z. trifoliata* (in which the leaf-

Excursions Cont:

or locating a station of Oconee Bells (*Shortia galacifolia*) flourishing way back along the headwaters of Second Hurricane Branch. Such dreams — even when not specifically realized — take one into some grand terrain.

Usually we discover the unexpected in curious ways. My wife, Elizabeth, first observed water willow while spin-casting in the rapids of the Tuckaseegee River for small-mouthed bass. I first observed American columbo from a van moving at 40 mph along a dirt road near the Cherokee Indian Reservation. The astonished, non-botanical driver thought it was an emergency when I ordered him to halt. On a whim, I stopped a native mountaineer in the post office in Bryson City and inquired if he ever saw goldenseal while hunting ginseng. "Yep, plenty of it," he said, and led me to a mountain just outside Bryson City covered with the stuff. Behind wa-

terfalls, in bogs, down in gorges, on steep cliffs, and in other unlikely places, we'll go on locating plants that may not be new to science but are new to us individually, so long as we devise strategies that keep us looking.

Deliberately searching for a given species in the specific habitat where it might be expected has greatly enhanced my understanding of the diverse flora and natural areas of the southern mountains, even when the plants that actually materialized were the ones least expected. The chance location of a new colony of American columbo exceeding a thousand plants gave me goosebumps on a warm May morning, and inspired me to inquire into a curious life cycle that features prominent, fringed nectaries on each petal and the habit of flowering synchronously at regular intervals.

As an unpaid amateur in the world of botanical exploration, the "county

record game" often keeps me going on over that next ridge or around that far bend in the river when otherwise I might retire from the field for the nearest tavern. And the process of continually seeking out new plants in my home county has, in turn, given me a clearer idea of not only where I am but of who I am. Through them and their wonderfully diverse habitats, I have a clearer notion of my exact place in the world.

Bryson City, N.C., writer/naturalist George Ellison writes a weekly Nature Journal column for the "Smoky Mountain Neighbors" supplement of the ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES; teaches plant identification workshops for various institutions; and serves as a field trip leader for Western Carolina University's annual Native Plants Conference. His upcoming Botanical Excursions piece will consider the periglacial boulder fields found throughout the Blue Ridge Province.

## SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN BOTANICAL SOCIETY Application for Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(name and address should be four lines as given)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code (9 digit if avail.)

AFFILIATION (Check one): College or university \_\_\_\_\_ Other educational or research institution \_\_\_\_\_ Non-institutional \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY AREA OF INTEREST: \_\_\_\_\_ Floristics and distribution \_\_\_\_\_ Vascular plant systematic \_\_\_\_\_ Community ecology  
\_\_\_\_\_ Non-vascular plant systematics \_\_\_\_\_ Physiological ecology \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

Regular membership .....	( )\$20.00	Sustaining membership .....	( )\$50.00
Family membership .....	( )\$30.00	Emeritus .....	( )\$15.00
Student .....	( )\$10.00	Life membership .....	( )\$400.00

Indicate when membership, Journal, and Newsletter subscriptions are to start: Jan. \_\_\_ this year \_\_\_ next year

Send To: Cynthia Aulbach-Smith, Secretary-Treasurer  
Department of Biological Sciences, University of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC 29208

## Golden Alexander Cont.

lets are coarsely toothed and the rays are 10 or fewer.)

A rarer species, *T. pinnatifidum*, cannot be mistaken for any of these, as its leaves are decomposed with the ultimate divisions no more than 1/8 inch wide, and the flowers are cream-colored.

-Dick Smith

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Ed. Note: Dick Smith says that early in the flowering sequence there may be difficulty in determining if the central floret of the umbellet is sessile, even

with a ten-power hand lens, but it becomes easy later in the season as the fruit enlarges. He also adds that the hairs of *T. barbinode* are difficult to see for many observers.

Dick Smith has been providing this "Look Again!" column for SHORTIA for the past decade in their quarterly newsletter. **Do or would you find this type of identification aid helpful in your area?**

## Calendar of Events

June 12-18 Appalachian Trail Conference, North Georgia College, Dahlonega, GA. Contact: Deep South '93, PO Box 33396, Dahlonega, GA 30033

Jul 21-24 Landscaping With Native Plants, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC. Contact: Continuing Education, 704-227-7397

Aug 1-5 American Institute of Biological Sciences, Iowa State University, Ames. Contact: Don Farrar 515-294-4846 or Fax 515-294-1337. (Note: American Fern Society has field trips planned for July 29-31 with Dr. Farrar.)

Sept 22-24 Autumn Wildflower Workshop, High Hampton Inn, Cashiers, NC. Contact: Inn at 704-743-2411

Oct 14-17 Bartram Trail Conference, Fontana Village, NC. Contact: Fontana Village 1-800-849-2258 or 704-498-2211

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