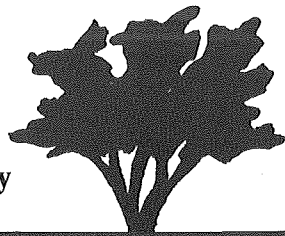


Chinquapin

The Newsletter of the
Southern Appalachian Botanical Society



Vol. 1, No. 4

Winter 1993

From The Editor's Desk.....

Several of you responded to our CHINQUAPIN logo contest. There are some very good entries and the Newsletter Committee is carefully considering entries. We were thinking of a tree silhouette, but the wild condition of this small tree is more shrubby in appearance and perhaps not as suitable. One suggestion is to use the single-seeded fruit; this may turn out to be a better alternative. We will make the choice and the first issue of 1994 will be graced by this winner's drawing.

I continue to get responses to our newsletter topics, many of them worth sharing with others. Some of these responses are verbal and I would like to see them written for sharing with a larger audience. Jim Horton, for example, addressed the

"sarvis or serviceberry" term in his book, *The Summer Times* (1979, Cider Press, Inc., Tampa, FL, now out of print) and commented when he read Bill Logan's essay in the last issue, "I think his story is better than the 'preacher' one, since [the late] uncle Rufus [Morgan] pointed out that Baptists and Methodists have 'meetings' and 'preachings,' etc., but no 'services.'"

The Council at its meeting in Charlotte November 6, suggested that we should start a "Letters To The Editor" column and with this issue we are beginning that column. We will have the usual editorial privileges but if you do not wish to be quoted, please note somewhere in the letter, **NOT TO BE QUOTED IN THE NEWSLETTER**. I think balanced and reflected opinions are important to us and occasionally the minority are found to be right in due time. If you have a thought in a less formal way

and wish me to comment on it in this column, please do not feel inhibited to phone or communicate this to me. While our organization is more encompassing than many of our local organizations and we would not wish to comment about happenings only of interest to these groups, sometimes issues or ideas need to be shared with our wider audience.

The Council also suggested that some chatty or interesting "One Liners" might be an interesting addition to the newsletter. Perhaps you would be willing to share some of your favorite short and witty lines?

We are also contemplating some very selective and quality photos for future newsletters. ["While a picture might be worth a thousand words, perhaps a dull or poor photo is not worth the space it is printed on" is a principle I'd prefer to operate on here.]

As soon as you can, those

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SABS Officers And Newsletter Editor

Gary E. Dillard, President
Biology Department
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Larry Mellichamp, President Elect
Department of Biology
University of North Carolina at
Charlotte
Charlotte, NC 28223

John M. Herr, Jr., Past President
Department of Biological Sciences
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

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

David R. Hill, Recording Secretary
Department of Biology
Belmont University
1900 Belmont Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37212-3757

J. Dan Pittillo, Newsletter Editor
Department of Biology
Western Carolina University
Cullowhee, NC 28723-9539

Report Of The Council Meeting Nov. 6

A recommendation was made by President Gary Dillard and Past President John Herr to expand the region of the organization to include the entire Eastern United States, instead of the core Southern Appalachian area now pretty well defined as the Appalachian Mountains from Pennsylvania to Alabama. This proposal attempts to give a better expression of the location of the actual membership within the eastern U.S., and to address to contributors the appropriate geographical area for papers. You should have received a ballot from Cindy Aulbach-Smith in the fall mailing addressing the rationale and particular changes.

96 new members

"We have more new members this year than in recent years."

- Cindy Aulbach-Smith

Letters to the Editor...

Robert Braunberg of Rockville, MD writes:

I am very enthusiastic about the new *Chinquapin*. I like the Zizia-Thaspium article and hope you will include such pieces as a regular feature. I am sure many S.A.B.S. members are people like me with few with whom to discuss their interest and who aside from days in the field have little opportunity to hone their plant identification skills. Articles such as Mr. Smith's are a joy. [Ed. note: Thanks for the suggestion! I talked with Dick Smith of Brevard, NC and he thought it was nice that some felt the short "Look Again!" pieces he has contributed to be of interest. He and the Western North Carolina Botanical Club are allowing us to reprint a selection of these to share with others.]

Ross Clark, Eastern Kentucky Univ., writes:

I LIKE the newsletter and feel it will be an excellent forum to keep us in touch with each other, and facilitate our focus on regional issues and news. It's also a forum which serious amateurs should appreciate.

I'd like to lend my strong personal endorsement to the idea of a symposium on the future of field training and herbaria at the Knoxville ASB meeting.

[Ed. Note: I hope some of us involved with herbaria are planning to make presentations at this proposed symposium, too.]

Larry Mellichamp, UNC Charlotte, sends the following letter:

I attended a conference at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens Sept. 22-23 dealing with aspects of the genus *Sarracenia*: botany, conservation, collecting and national/international trade. I was one of a very few botanists who attended (by invitation), and it was very eye-opening. Thousands of *S. leucophylla* are legally and sustainably harvested every year down in Mississippi and Alabama for sale to the florist industry, in the U.S. and abroad. Furthermore, many of these pitchers are dried and are long-lasting

in flower arrangements. They are used fresh as well. One family had been "harvesting" from their own land since the 1940's!!! Their biggest threat is illegal poaching, where the plants are poorly gathered and damaged. There apparently is less need than ever to export *Sarracenia* plants as so many are grown commercially in Holland, perhaps enough to satisfy the European market. The CITES laws certainly make it difficult to illegally export plants now. In the U.S., only one company mass-produces *Sarracenia*s for sale as plants. Other companies produce smaller quantities, and some are still wild-collected. Tissue culture works for *Venus-Flytrap*, but not yet for *Sarracenia*. It is being worked on. Most plants sold are species, but I am working on producing interesting hybrids at UNC Charlotte with hopes of getting selected ones into tissue culture for the mass market. There does seem to be a demand for them, and I feel horticulturally produced plants will relieve pressure on wild populations. There was a crew from CNN television at the conference making a tape which has been aired several times, though I have not seen it. Several students told me they saw me this past week on CNN and that it was a well-done report on the symposium. One of my pet comments is to note that *Sarracenia*s are endemic to eastern North America, especially the Southeast (SABS territory!) and are world-famous; and yet they are relatively unstudied here at home. They are endangered due to destruction of their habitat; otherwise, they would widely populate wetland habitats through the Southeast. This conference went a long way towards a better understanding of *Sarracenia*s from many points of view. I am certainly not against sustainable harvest now that I see what can be done to manage them.

By the way, I like what you're doing with *Chinquapin*.

Joseph M. Mullen, Principal, Terrestrial Environmental Specialists, Phoenix, NY writes:

I noted in the recent *Chinquapin* that you are interested in knowing about the demand for field botanists. I have worked in the environmental consulting business for over 19 years. One area where there is a big demand for botanists is in the wetlands field. Wetlands have become an extremely important environmental issue in recent years and the federal methodology for delineating wetlands boundaries involves an assessment of vegetation, soils, and hydrology. The vegetation criterion requires the identification of plant species and it seems that few students are trained as botanists these days. As a result, those with a strong botanical background are in demand. Field botanists with an interest in wetlands should look for job opportunities in the *Bulletin of the Society of Wetland Scientists*, and other such publications.

[Ed. note: I wonder how many field botanists are in training in institutions of higher learning in the US now. Anyone have students?]

Windler Challenge 75% Met

Ten members have met the 1993 \$1000 challenge Don made for contributions of \$100 or more or a pledge of \$300 or more. With only 3 to go, maybe we can have a nice present to announce in the first issue of 1994!

Editor's Holiday Wish



May you have a break from the mundane in the following holiday season and find a few moments to reflect upon the good things that we experienced this past year and the exciting and good things that might occur in the botanical world in the coming year.

Endangered Species Act

Coming Up In Congress

Next summer probably will be the time Congressional hearings are held on re-authorization of the Endangered Species Act. I presume most of us appreciate the relatively small \$700 million expenditure (\$54.5 million in 1991, the largest in history although only 4/1000th of 1% of federal expenditures for that year) during the 20-year history of the act (cf. Nicholls, J. and N. Murdock, 1993 (August), *Wildlife in North Carolina* 57 (8): 18-23. "Is the Endangered Species Act Endangered?"). Nicholls and Murdock provide some interesting data on the accomplishments of the act and some questions often posed by citizens concerning the applications of the act during the past couple of decades.

The Endangered Species Coalition, a group made up of eight national conservation organizations, pulled together a fact sheet, "The Endangered Species Act: A Record Success," that illustrates the valuable effects of the act. Some plants listed as improved in our region include green pitcher plant in Alabama and Georgia, small whorled pagonia in New Hampshire and Vermont, and round-leaved birch in Virginia.

(For more information contact: Michael Bean, Environmental Defense Fund, 202-387-3500; or Bob Irvin, National Wildlife Federation, 202-547-9009).

Castanea Back

Issues SALE!!!!

Volumes 47-58 are available at \$10 ppd. per volume (4 issues) or \$2.50 per single issue. For Volumes 1-46, see inside front cover of *Castanea* for information.

Interested in the history of SABS? Order reprints of "A Commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Club," edited by Michael J. Baranski, *Castanea* 51: 229-262, 1986. Cost is \$1.00.

Send your order and check made out to SABS to Cindy Aulbach-Smith, Secretary-Treasurer, Southern Appalachian Botanical Society, Department of Biological Sciences, University of South Carolina Columbia, SC 29208.

Wildflower and Naturalists' Rallies

Throughout the East there are numerous organizations which have forays, hikes, workshops, rallies, etc., for their members which are often open to the interested naturalists and botanists throughout the region. One of the earliest such activity took place with our organization over 50 years ago. Perhaps if you have enjoyed such excursions within your group and would like to know what some others

at a distant and new place are doing at some of these outings, you might like to have a general reference. With this issue we are compiling such a listing and start with a few organizations and their general dates for outings here for your information. If you wish to have your organization included in such a listing, please send the information along to the editor at your earliest convenience.

Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage
Georgia area
404/429-1836
last wk Mar-May

Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage
Great Smoky Mountains
615/436-1262
last full wke Apr

Assoc. Southeastern Biologists
Southern universities
615/576-8123
Apr

Spring Hike Week
Fontana Village, NC
800/849-2258
3rd wk Sun-Fri Apr

Conservation Retreat
Cashiers, NC
919/515-3184
last half Apr

Wildflower and Bird Walk
Roan Mt., TN
615/772-3303
1st wke May

Wildflower Weekend
Natural Bridge, KY
800/325-1710
1st wke May

Spring Wildflower/Bird Pilgrimage
Asheville, NC
704/251-6444
1st wke May

Spring Wildflower Symposium
Wintergreen, VA
800/325-2200 ext 992
mid May

Landscaping With Nat. Plants
Cullowhee, NC
704/227-7397
3rd wk Wed-Sat Jul

Virginia Naturalist Rally
Wintergreen, VA
800/325-2200 ext 992
mid Sep

Naturalists' Rally
Roan Mt., TN
615/772-3303
2nd wke Sep

Fall Wildflower Workshop
Cashiers, NC
704/743-2411
Sep - Oct

Fall Hike Week
Fontana Village, NC
800/849-2258
3rd wk Sun-Fri Oct

From page 1, Editor

involved with event planning for your organization, especially events about which you wish to inform our wider audience, please communicate to me by the 30th of January, March, July, and October if you wish them to appear in the spring, summer, autumn, and winter issues. Since EVENTS OF SPRING are so pervasive

and extensive throughout the region, I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THESE ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WINTER ISSUE BY OCTOBER 30. In this fashion, the notice to our readership will be soon enough that members can look ahead several months and make appropriate plans.

Nyssa.... the Harbinger of Fall?

This year's autumn colors, as vivid as any in recent memory, give cause to reflect on our heritage of spectacular Fall foliage. Lest we become jaded by familiarity, it is wise to remind ourselves that the temperate forests of the American East are the envy of tree lovers around the world at this time of year. The chromatic display we are privileged to witness every year has no equal, anywhere. Wherever there are deciduous trees, there is color with abscission, but nowhere is there the abundance, variety and brilliance displayed from the Blue Ridge to the Adirondacks. I had occasion last night to speak to a visiting artist from the South of France. She was familiar with Fall color (there are temperate forests in France too) but unprepared for the resplendent mountainsides she had just witnessed. Unfortunately, her medium is pastels. That may be suitable for seascapes in Provence but it just won't cut it with the scarlet, vermilion, orange and ochre of our mountains.

Every year there is the inevitable contest with the color intensity of last year. Will this be a "good" year or a "mediocre" year? (There are no "bad" years.) In the absence of a reliable indicator, such as the woolly worm for winter, the sages foresee the intensity of this year's display with a vague concoction of factors such as temperature, drought and number of sunny days mysteriously compounded into a predication that verges on mystical. In my neck of the woods, around Boone, NC, the mountain folk have an easier method. It all hinges on the "gum tree" by which they mean the blackgum or tupelo, *Nyssa sylvatica*.

The vibrant color of the blackgum is held in high esteem, there being no more brilliant crimson red, despite honorable mention to dogwood, sourwood, scarlet oak, red maple, and the occasional sassafras. The butter yellow of black birch, ochre of hickory and orange of maple are striking, and necessary, components of the palette but, for the purist, they lack the reverence given a pure shining red. Not only is blackgum the king of red but it accents its color by contrast with a still lustrous green, which often clings to the proximal half of the leaf as if the other half turned red overnight, catching the rest of the tree by

surprise. It may hold this tantalizing half color for a few days before exploding into a riot of spectacular red, admixed with orange and burgundy.

But even if we concede special status to the blackgum's color display, it would be of no use as a harbinger unless it also occurred early. Fortunately, that is the case. Blackgum is one of the trees which is in the vanguard of the march of color. However, for the last three years that I have been paying attention to this, blackgum has trailed dogwood, sourwood and hickory rather conspicuously. In fact, my favorite tree (does everyone have a favorite tree or is it just me?), a large, 20 inch dbh, contorted, alligator-barked patriarch, was actually tardy this year, trailing the maples which ordinarily have the last hurrah.

In all likelihood, the particular time of leaf change will vary from year to year and tree to tree and no one species will always precede the others. If this is true, no tree, not even the blackgum, can presage the season with any accuracy. As disappointing as it is, my usually accurate source of insight into the pulse of the forest, those mountain folk who know their trees as well as they know their neighbors, appear to be wrong about the colorful gum tree.

I guess every year we'll just have a wait patiently for the show Mother Nature has in store and then revel in the surprise. Wasn't it a dandy this year?

—Bill Logan

(Ed. Note: I have been a casual observer of fall leaf coloration for much of the past half century in western North Carolina, and even proactively by news releases from Western Carolina's Office of Public Information during the past few years. For some reason, I never viewed *Nyssa* as a "harbinger of fall leaf color" and would like to know if others in the East have. At the higher elevations (5000 feet up) of the Southern Appalachians, I often note *Amelanchier* colors up early, soon followed by the birches and *Sorbus*. *Oxydendrum* saplings are one of the earlier species to color, and in my experience, many mountain rock outcrop trees that begin to change color or turn brown early provide a good clue to a bright fall coloration in general. What are some of your observations?)

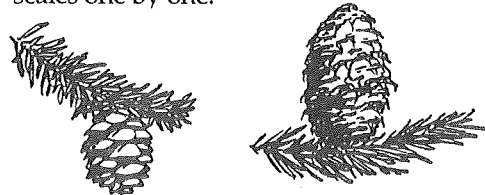
Look Again

Reprinted from *Shortia*, winter 1982-83 newsletter, Western Carolina Botanical Club.

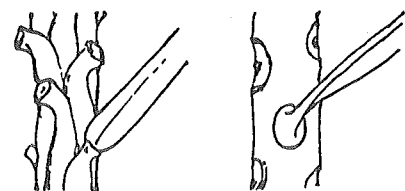
"He Balsam" and "She Balsam" - the names would seem to indicate a dioecious species, or at least very similar plants, but such is not the case at all. They differ from each other in many ways, and the wonder is that we can so easily be confused even when we see the two side by side.

First of all, the name "He Balsam" is simply a local one given to a Red Spruce (*Picea rubens*) that happens to be growing in the southern highlands instead of, say, the Adirondacks or Ontario. "She Balsam" probably has a little more legitimacy, since the tree it applies to is found only in the Southern Appalachians; technically it is a Fraser Fir (*Abies fraseri*).

Both trees are conifers, and that alerts us to a basic difference: On spruces the cones are pendulous and on firs they are upright. Also, the cones of spruces fall from the tree intact, but those of firs usually disintegrate, dropping their scales one by one.



So far so good, but often the cones are high on the trees and out of view. So let's look at the needles. Spruce needles are square in cross-section and can be twirled between the thumb and forefinger, while fir needles are distinctly flat. Just remember: "S" = Square = Spruce, "F" = Flat = Fir. Also look at their attachment to the twigs. Spruce needles are mounted on short stubby projections which remain after the needles are removed. Fir needles, on the other hand, are attached directly to the twigs and leave only smooth, flat, circular scars.



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BOTANICAL EXCURSIONS

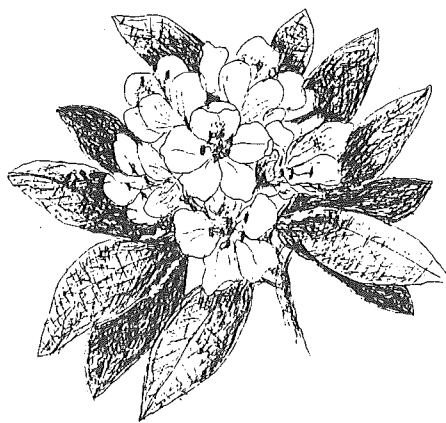
By George Ellison

Whether you're exploring the natural world directly or simply trying to write about that world, one thing tends to lead another. I initiated this Botanical Excursions column with the sole intention of describing the distinctive high-elevation natural areas botanists classify as "heath balds," but which are otherwise known to native mountaineers, back country hikers, and botanists who have become way-laid in them as "laurel hells." My objective was to consider some of the more interesting botanical and anecdotal aspects regarding this habitat. Rather quickly, however, I discovered that it wasn't feasible to discuss heath balds without placing them in a context that included other shrub-type balds, as well as grassy balds and related natural areas. That led to an essay much too long for a single column. So I've cut the text into two installments. First we'll survey the various bald habitats found in the southern mountains. Then in the spring issue, we'll focus on heath balds.

The word "bald" has several meanings, but when applied to terrain it refers to the lack of "usual or natural covering"; that is, in this instance, to a virtual absence of trees where might otherwise be expected. The Oxford English Dictionary cites the earliest explicit usage of the word in this context as being "Where a place is bald of wood," which appeared in a work titled *Holy and Professional Studies* in 1654. We can probably assume that the European settlers in the southern mountains utilized the word to describe appropriate areas. Arnold Guyot, the famous Swiss geologist and geographer who initiated his survey of western North Carolina in the late 1850's, was surprised to find that locals applied it to both forested and treeless areas (see

below). In 1903 J.W. Harshberger used the word in its present scientific sense to define areas categorized as "sub-alpine treeless formations."

Even in the most recent scientific literature, there's considerable confusion regarding bald types and terminology. For our purposes here, it can be observed that there are at least two general types: grassy balds and shrub balds. Within the latter category, there are two



Cawtawba rhododendron, which has shorter leaves with tips more rounded than Rosebay rhododendron, usually dominates heath bald habitats in the higher elevations.

-line drawing by Elizabeth Ellison

fairly distinct subtypes: heath shrub balds (i.e., heath balds) and non-heath shrub balds (see below). These occur mostly between 4,500 and 6,000 feet, often — but not always — on drier ridges and mountain tops featuring thin and rocky soils.

Bald habitats tend at times to intergrade so that specific designation of a particular site as to type or subtype can be difficult. To further complicate the matter, as Guyot noted, many places in the southern mountains called balds by locals (and indicated as such on USGS and other maps) are forested. Some of these were perhaps balds in earlier days that have been reforested, but many were simply high-elevation oak, beech, or chestnut stands with herbaceous understories that provided excellent grazing. Since true grassy balds pro-

vided the prime site for grazing livestock, other suitable high-elevation grazing areas were also called balds, especially when situated on the top of a mountain. In time, such sites often became bald in a literal sense (i.e., worn bare) due to constant use that decimated the ground cover.

A cogent argument, I think, could be made that high-elevation rocky summits and the tops of granitic domes featuring extensive patches of vegetation are treeless habitats which could be identified as "rock balds" forming an ecological continuum with shrub balds. R.H. Whittaker (1956) took the position that some heath balds are topographic climaxes and noted the succession between rock bald habitats (lichens, mosses, tufts of grass, cushions of sand myrtle, etc.) and adjacent heath balds on Mt. LeConte. Charles Wharton (1991) indicated a relationship of

that sort for the North Carolina mountains, a concept he confirmed in a recent telephone conversation. Michael P. Schafale and Alan S. Weakley (1990) took the position that heath balds are to be distinguished from high-elevation rocky summits by "the dominance of shrubs and the subordinate importance of bare rock." Their comments, however, in regard to both high-elevation rocky summits and granitic domes indicate they have contemplated the rock bald-shrub bald relationship.

In a grassy bald, the terrain is primarily open, being dominated by mountain oat grass and other herbaceous species. More ink has been spilt trying to explain their origin than on any other of the region's diverse natural areas. For what it's worth,

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From page 5, Excursions

this writer suspects that — like the periglacial boulder fields also found at higher elevations — some of the initial openings could have been forged during the dramatic freeze-thaw intervals of the Pleistocene Epoch (by frost heaving and solifluction), then expanded and maintained by wind, dryness, cold, fire (natural and man-made, starting with the earliest Indians that penetrated the region 10,000 or so years ago), grazing (by settlers' livestock, as well as by the herds of elk, caribou, and other grazing animals that once populated the region), and other activities. Additional openings that also became grassy balds were doubtless forged during the post-Pleistocene by other causes, natural and man-made, then maintained by the same forces. Whatever their origin, these lovely natural areas are apparently not being created at the present time; indeed, those now in existence are disappearing as they are being

invaded by shrubs and trees.

In areas like Roan Mountain (along the Tennessee-North Carolina line) and Craggy Gardens (along the Blue Ridge Parkway north of Asheville), grassy and heath balds noticeably intergrade. This makes it possible, in places, to stroll through delightful environments that have been described as "grass-heath balds" or "heath gardens." Not enough attention has been paid to the fact that there are high-elevation non-heath shrub balds; that is, balds that are not primarily composed of ericaceous materials (i.e., rhododendron, laurel, sand myrtle, blueberry-type species, etc.). On Roan Mountain, for instance, there are extensive pure stands of green or mountain alder (*Alnus viridis* ssp. *crispa* = *Alnus crispa*) that Harshberger placed in his "sub-alpine treeless formation" almost a century ago. Charles Wharton (1989) noted that certain mountain tops in Georgia are

dominated by blueberry-type species, viburnum, mountain holly, dwarf willow, bush honeysuckle, black chokeberry, and shrubby specimens of mountain ash and mountain maple.

In a true heath bald, however, there's full coverage of the terrain by a variety of evergreen shrubs, primarily mountain laurel and rhododendron. Although heath bald types intergrade, sometimes inexplicably, it can be observed that mountain laurel and rosebay rhododendron tend to dominate sites in the lower elevations, with Catawba rhododendron dominating higher sites. Rosebay rhododendron is generally absent above 5,000 feet, while mountain laurel persists as a component up to 6,000 feet. The shrub canopy ranges from 10 to 12 feet in height in lower protected areas to 3 or 4 feet on exposed ridges and summits.

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SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN BOTANICAL SOCIETY Application for Membership

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

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____
(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. ___ 1993 ___ 1994

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

From page 4, Look

The name "balsam" does not belong to any genus, but it has been freely used in vernacular names not only for firs and spruces but for Balsam Poplar, the old-fashioned garden Impatiens, and other plants. The word also refers to resinous secretions of certain trees and shrubs, notably "Canada balsam", which is obtained from Balsam Fir and is used in preparing microscope slides. Such a substance is produced copiously by Fraser Fir and collects in blisters beneath the thin outer bark. It is this characteristic, with its suggestion of "a tree that gives milk," that is thought to provide an explanation for the colloquial term "She Balsam".

-Dick Smith

(Ed. note: My uncle once "milked" the resin from the Fraser fir for "kidney medicine," so "she balsam" is a valid vernacular name for *Abies fraseri*. But nowadays, the use is primarily that of Christmas trees and decorations, a multi-million dollar business for tree growers in the region. But the home use of the red spruce is much more limited in the form of ornamentals or Christmas greenery, for its growth in warmer, lower elevations is poor, and the needles fall off much more readily than the fir's. If you have not experienced the fragrance of the Fraser fir, by all means seek one out this winter and crush a few leaves.)

"And Who Will Weigh the Mountains"

The Outreach Committee of SABS, chaired by Jim Wallace, has been working with Joan Gibson to develop a slide-tape presentation on some of the aspects of the history of SABS and the role of botany in the southern Appalachians. The goal of this program was to promote the society by providing it as a presentation for garden clubs, high schools, wildflower walks, etc. This program may be edited as a video production. Members of SABS will have opportunity to see the program at the Orlando meeting in April to help decide whether we would like to further invest in transferring the program to video tape. Jim also asks members if they have any slides that might be appropriately considered for the program.

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.

The Eastern Native Plant Alliance

The Eastern Native Plant Alliance is an association of organizations that promote and demonstrate native plant conservation in the eastern United States and southeastern Canada. ENPA's purpose is to provide a network for exchanging ideas and defining issues, and to facilitate cooperative action. Current membership in ENPA, which held its first general meeting in 1988, represents some 70 organizations.

The decision to form ENPA grew out of a shared concern for conservation of native plants, heightened by increasing public interest in their landscape use. The need was evident for public gardens, nurseries, native plant societies, and other organizations working with native plants to join in a consistent conservation message.

The ENPA network fosters communication and interaction among diverse organizations, helping each to strengthen and refresh its own approach to plant conservation. Common interests are explored at annual meetings held at various locations in ENPA's area (stated formally, the Eastern Deciduous Forest and Coastal Plain provinces defined by Gleason and Cronquist in The Natural Geography of Plants). A newsletter and occasional "issue alerts" bring current information to members throughout the year.

Through its constituents, ENPA furthers public education concerning native plants and their conservation. The

alliance promotes awareness of the beauty and diversity of each region's indigenous flora, and appreciation of the importance of native plants to the well-being of human communities and to the human spirit.

ENPA also seeks to be a catalyst for effective joint action by constituents who share the same concerns. It encourages increased understanding of indigenous species and their ecological relationships; protection of the integrity and genetic diversity of native plant communities; preservation of existing natural areas; and responsible, sustainable uses of native plants to enhance human life.

Small groups within ENPA develop strategies to address various issues. Among those of current concern are the invasion of natural areas by exotic plant species; the impact of wild collection on common, widespread species; nursery practices in marketing native plants; and education of the public and appropriate professional groups. Past projects include a campaign against the misleading use of "nursery grown"; a session on protecting biodiversity; a petition and continuing work on invasive exotics; and a survey designed to shed more light on the extent of problems with deer.

For further information on ENPA and its activities, write Eastern Native Plant Alliance, P.O. Box 6101, McLean, VA 22106.

From page 6, Excursions

Cont Literature Cited

- Harshberger, J.W. 1903. An Ecological Study of the Flora of Mountainous North Carolina. Botanical Gazette.
Schafale, M.P., and A.S. Weakley 1990. Classification of the Natural Communities of North Carolina: Third Approximation. N.C. Natural Heritage Program, Raleigh, N.C.

- Wharton, C. 1989. The Natural Environments of Georgia. Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Ga.
Wharton, C. 1991. Introduction to the Natural History of the North Carolina Mountains. The Georgia Conservancy's Guide to the North Georgia Mountains. The Georgia Conservancy, Atlanta, Ga.
Whittaker, R.H. 1956. Vegetation of the Great Smoky Mountains. Ecological Monographs.

Calendar of Events

Assoc SE Biol/SABS
annual meeting
Orlando, FL
Apr 13-16
803-359-5027

New York Natural History
Conference III
NY State Museum, Albany
Apr 13-15
518-474-5812

Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage
Great Smoky Mountains, TN
Apr 27-30
615-436-1262

Spring Conservation Retreat
Cashiers, NC
Apr 28-May 1
919-515-3184

Wildflower Weekend
Natural Bridge, KY
May 6-8
800-325-1710

Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage
Georgia
May 6-8
404-429-1836

Spring Wildflower Symposium
Wintergreen, VA
May 12-15
800-325-2200 ext 992

Landscaping With Native
Plants
Cullowhee, NC
July 20-23
704-227-7397

Virginia Natural History
Wintergreen, VA
Sep 16-18
800-325-2200 ext 992

Fall Hike Week
Fontana Village, NC
Oct 16-21
800-849-2258

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

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