

BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER

OF THE

VIRGINIA WILDFLOWER PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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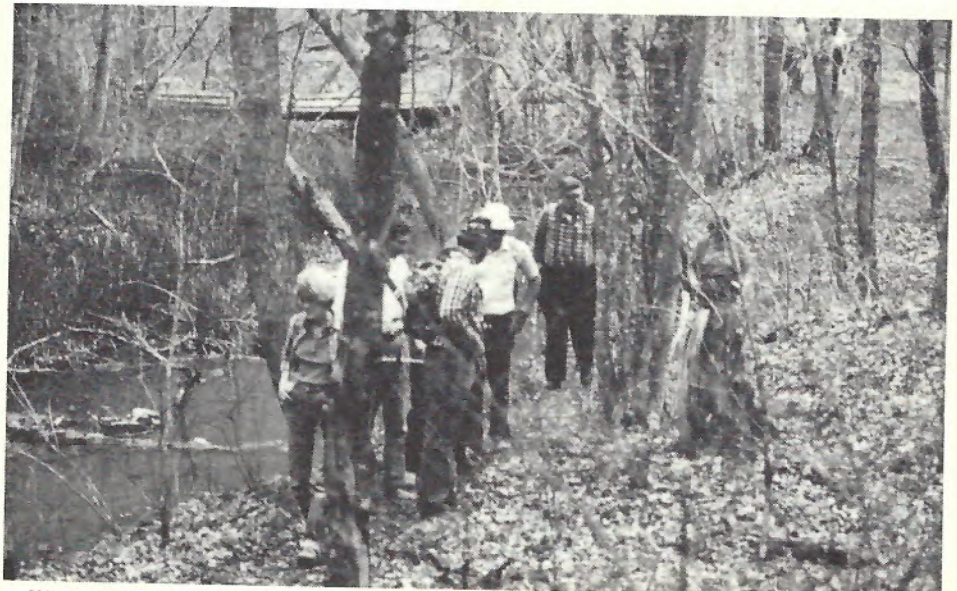
ROANOKE VALLEY SCIENCE MUSEUM WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE AND ART EXHIBIT

by Sky Preece

Join in and experience the awakening of Appalachian springtime. Through hemlock forests, across bottomland pastures, over mountain trails, and down streamside paths, discover hidden spectrums of color and life. Bring your camera. Bring your friends. Bring your curiosity about dwarf ginseng, showy orchis, fire pink and Jack-in-the-Pulpit.

For a better understanding of the plants you see, don't miss the wildflower slides, lectures and exhibits available at the Roanoke Valley Science Museum from March 22 to April 30. On display until April 30th, the floral beauty of an Appalachian spring is the subject of four remarkable nature artists. Bob Toler's photography, Elizabeth Peckham's oil paintings, Barbara Stewart's pen and ink illustrations, and Donna Thomas's watercolors combine in this exhibit to bring the viewer the inspiration of botanical reawakening in the river valleys and alpine meadows of the Virginia mountains. This exhibit will be especially significant to those viewers who plan to participate in the numerous wildflower walks.

Additionally, Frieda and Bob Toler will narrate a slide presentation entitled "Wildflower Walks" on April 13th at 3:00 p.m. Don't miss this preview of the upcoming Pilgrimage.



We would like to extend special thanks to members who have helped make these wildflower events possible: Bob Toler, Paul James, Sam Ellington, Rich Crites, Frieda Toler and Dora Lee Ellington. There are still opportunities to get

involved in the wildflower program. Leaders, registrars, welcomers, and general support people are needed. Contact Vicki Ellis at (703) 342-5722.

Join us; put on your hiking boots or old tennis shoes. Take a walk on the wild side.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

DATE: April 3, 1986 **TIME:** 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: 3rd Floor Multi-Purpose Room - Center in the Square

PROGRAM: Slide Share Program. Bring 10 of your Spring Wildflower Slides. We will project them and you tell us about them.

PLEASE ATTEND AND BRING A FRIEND

LETTER FROM CHAPTER PRESIDENT

by Paul James

These past few weeks have been busy ones indeed. The nice weather and the arrival of the new seed catalogs made us rush to gather the last remaining seed we failed to collect last fall. Already with the days getting longer the excitement of spring is with us. We have had several meetings planning the upcoming Wildflower Pilgrimage and we hope that each of our Blue Ridge Chapter members will be able to attend. Many people from out of town will be attending and what better opportunity will we as a group have to show off our beautiful area than this.

Work continues on the Blue Ridge Parkway project and we will complete our survey there this spring. Also in our efforts to become more visible, we will be contacting the highway department and the city on roadside plantings. Plans are underway for a spring wildflower sale and many new plants will be available this year. January was letter month and I spent a lot of time contacting and writing to our state officials asking for support to obtain funding for the Virginia Endangered Plants Program. Under this program only three species are currently listed, Virginia's roundleaf birch, *Betula uber*, *Isotria medeoloides*, Small Whorled *Pogonia* and *Panax quinquefolius*, Ginseng.

Many thanks to those that have renewed your memberships and to those that have given your financial support. I would like to personally thank all our members who have worked so hard this past year. Your support and your friendship has made the difference.

A special welcome to all our new members. I look forward to meeting you and thanks for joining us.

EXHIBITS

Wildflower Portraits, a photographic exhibit by Bobby Toler opens March 22 at the Science Museum. It includes 40 color photographs of wildflowers by the photographer.

Also, on March 22 three other exhibits open. Elizabeth Peckham, Hardy, Va., Donna Thomas, Roanoke, Va. and Barbara Stewart, Annandale, Va. are displaying their artwork as part of the Wildflower Pilgrimage.

It is a delightful show so please make your plans to see it.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Just one more reminder to those 1985 members who have not renewed their membership. We need your support, ideas and interest in the VWPS. Membership and fiscal year is November 1 through October 31 and dues are renewable by October 15 each year. Please send your renewal to Paul James, Route 2, Boones Mill, Va. 24065.

TRILLIUM

by Frieda Toler



Trilliums are among the most familiar of the spring wildflowers in the eastern United States. They are members of the Liliaceae family and offer a wide variety of color and texture. Generally, they are divided into two groups, those having stems (pedunculate) and those having flowers without stems (sessile).

The pedunculate group has leaves that are a solid color while the sessile are mottled in silver or dark red. The trillium found in our area generally require a deep acid soil, shade and ample moisture.

The name trillium comes from the structure of the plant, all parts being in threes, meaning three leaves, sepals, petals and six stamens.

Most familiar of the pedunculates is the (*Trillium grandiflorum*). The leaves are cordate without any mottling and grows from 12 to 20 inches high. The flower generally opens pure white and turns various shades of pink as it ages.

Trillium erectum has several common names like Wet Dog because of its unpleasant smell and Wake Robin which is much nicer for this lovely dark red flower. There is a white *erectum* and also mutants. Mt. Cuba Center, Greenville, Md. is presently studying the muted *Trillium erectum*.

The sessile trillium are not as plentiful as the Large-flowered and Wake Robin here in the Blue Ridge Chapter area. The flowers are dark red in the *Trillium recurvatum*. They never really open fully as the Large-flowered but always resemble a flower just opening. A common name is Toad trillium. There is a yellow Toad trillium that, when warmed by the sun, has a lemon fragrance.

Trillium undulatum or Painted trillium prefers the cooler summer temperatures and is usually found in the higher elevations. The petals are white with the center streaked in a deep red. Go to the mountains and try to find it. You will be beautifully rewarded.

As we begin to think spring and field trips, we look forward to seeing one of the faithful spring perennials in all their glory.

WHY DOGWOODS FAIL TO BLOOM

by Virginia Klara Nathan

When a plant fails to flower, the cause is normally one of seven factors: 1) insufficient light, 2) heavy pruning, 3) alternate flowering, 4) frost injury, 5) winter injury, 6) improper fertilization, 7) plant immaturity. With flowering dogwood, frost injury, over fertilization or plant immaturity would be the most probable causes of failure to flower.

Insufficient light is rarely a problem with flowering dogwood as it will flower in more than 50% shade. If insufficient light is suspected, pruning overhead trees to allow additional light to reach the ground will improve flowering of understory plants.

Excessive pruning, or pruning at the wrong time of the year, are also responsible for many plants' failure to flower. Heavy pruning promotes vegetative growth and will often remove flower buds after they have been formed. In dogwoods, flower buds are initiated in late summer. You will not want to prune later in the growing season.

Plants, such as flowering dogwood, are subject to a phenomenon called alternate flowering. Plants with this characteristic will frequently flower very heavily one year and then fail to flower for one or two years. This is a natural phenomenon which you may encounter once the trees begin to bloom.

Frost injury threatens all spring flowering plants. Regardless of how cold hardy the plants might be, they are subject to frost injury to the new growth in spring. Flower buds are generally even more cold tender than the young leaf buds. This can result in death of the young flower buds without damage to the leaves and an apparent failure on the part of the plant to flower. Plants which flower quite early in the spring, and which are located in frost pockets are most subject to this kind of damage. Winter injury may decrease flowering following a particularly severe winter, but it would not be a chronic problem with dogwoods.

Excessive amounts of nitrogen can prevent dogwoods from flowering. This often occurs where the trees are planted in a lawn area which receives high amounts of nitrogen fertilizer. Deficiencies of other elements, such as phosphorus, can also result in poor flowering. Soil and/or foliar tests are normally required to determine if improper fertilization is at fault. Generally, incorrect fertilization is one of the easiest problems to correct.

Most plants undergo a juvenile stage of growth. At this time the plant does not flower. Flowering Southern magnolia, dogwood and wisteria are examples of plants which may have a juvenile period exceeding 10 years. Most nursery grown stock flowers much earlier. But regardless of the source or location of the tree, patience is the key to overcoming juvenility.



THE BLACK WALNUT AND ITS TOXIC EFFECTS ON OTHER PLANTS

by Dorothy C. Bliss

The walnut and hickory family, Juglandaceae, includes two species of walnuts in Virginia, the black walnut, *Juglans nigra*, and the white walnut or butternut, *Juglans cinerea*. The black walnut occurs in nearly every county of Virginia, whereas the butternut occurs chiefly in the Blue Ridge Mountains and west. The term, *Juglans*, is derived from Jovis glans, nut of Jupiter. The black walnut is prized as a shade tree and source of excellent nuts, while the butternut is grown chiefly for its nuts.

Both species have compound leaves, made up of 11-23 toothed leaflets with an odd leaflet at the tip. The foliage is aromatic when crushed. The pollen producing flowers are in hanging catkins and the nut-producing flowers are in terminal clusters, both flowers on the same tree. The nut of the black walnut is nearly spherical, black and finely ridged and enclosed in a green husk. That of the butternut is pear shaped and sticky. The butternut may also be distinguished by the hairy fringe above the leaf scar, this fringe being absent in the black walnut.

The black walnut is one of our most valuable forest trees as the heartwood is strong and durable and used especially in veneers, cabinet making and gunstocks. The nut husks yield a brown dye and the bark is used in tanning. In addition to use by humans, the nuts are eaten by squirrels and mice. The twigs are browsed by deer. Although now illegal, the bruised nut husks were once used to kill fish for food.

The butternut is less valuable than the black walnut, its wood softer and weaker, but still suitable for furniture and interior finishes. Colonists boiled the half-ripe fruits to extract a yellow-brown stain and these same young fruits were also boiled and pickled. In the spring the sap was boiled down to make syrup.

The toxic effects of walnut and other plants was first mentioned by Pliny in his "Natural History". Since that early date, the detrimental effect of these trees on surrounding vegetation has been noted by many individuals. In 1951 Maurice Brooks of West Virginia reported that black walnut trees "exerted a detrimental effect on certain plants, apple, alfalfa, blackberries, heaths" and "beneficial effects on Kentucky bluegrass, black raspberries and timothy". The toxic substance, juglone, occurs in the root bark and also in the leaves. Experiments have shown that tomatoes and cabbage are wilted and stunted in close proximity to black walnut, but that some grasses, corn and beans were not affected by the toxin.

In a recent article by Mary Ann Hausen of VPI, the following plants are listed as susceptible to juglone. They are alfalfa, apple, rhododendrons, white pine, red pine, white birch, cinquefoil, cotoneaster and blackberry. Wild hydrangea, red clover, and wild grape appear to grow better near black walnuts. In nature plants found growing under walnuts include wild rose, spice bush, hazelnut, smooth sumac, dwarf sumac, Virginia creeper, wild grape, maple-leaved viburnum, common elderberry, greenbrier and alternate-leaved dogwood.

I became interested in this problem of walnut toxicity when shrubs planted in the vicinity of a black walnut on my lawn gradually died. Although planted outside the dripline, several andromedas, azaleas, roses and a Japanese maple succumbed within a few years. It is impractical to remove the tree since the roots in the soil must also be removed and these roots have been found to extend more than 50 feet from the base of the trunk. This past year grasses were planted under the walnut and several hollies, dwarf nandinas and a blue spruce beyond the shade of the canopy. It may be a few years before I will know if these will survive.

I am anxious to find evergreen shrubs that will survive near - not under - this walnut tree. All ericaceous shrubs (heaths) are probably sensitive to the toxin. Observations in the wild of any evergreen shrubs growing in the vicinity of black walnuts might offer some lucrative information. Any suggestions?

THINK SPRING

by Dora Lee Ellington

The propagation committee has done just that since November when it placed the remaining pots of wildflower plants in the ground and covered them with a blanket of pine needles. After a nice winter sleep they should be in good shape for the spring wildflower sale.

We have a nice wildflower seed collection plus quite a few have been ordered. These will soon be started in flats and hopefully they will be ready for a fall sale.

We plan to add a few new flowers at our sale such as shooting stars, blood root, quaker ladies and more.

The date of the spring wildflower sale will be decided upon later and a notice will be sent to members announcing the sale.

Come spring, if you have wildflowers that need dividing or seedlings please remember we can use any you have.

Think Spring! Skunk Cabbage is ready to pop out in bloom on Route 311 in Catawba Valley. Rich Crites has already seen wild ginger blooming at Chestnut Ridge and Bluets are blooming in Dora Lee's basement.

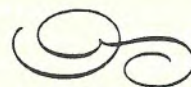
WILD FLOWER OF THE YEAR PROJECT

In conjunction with the Garden Club of North Carolina, the North Carolina Botanical Garden is continuing the Wild Flower of the Year Project. The Project's aim is to select and actively promote throughout the states an attractive native North Carolina wild flower. Individuals are encouraged to raise this year's selection at home and share plants with friends, neighbors, and other gardeners. Also, the conscientious gardener can suggest to local garden centers and nurseries the need to propagate the wild flower of the year for availability to the gardening public.

Foamflower, *Tiarella cordifolia*, an outstanding groundcover for the shade garden, is the 1986 Wild Flower of the Year. Plants begin blooming in mid-April, continuing for nearly a month; small white, star-shaped flowers in compact, showy spikes make a spectacular effect when plants are massed. Downy, maplelike leaves form attractive mounds of foliage. Use plants to edge a path or mass them at the base of trees and shrubs. They are also effective when used singly or in small groups, particularly in the rock garden. Plants propagate readily by division in the fall and from seed. Establish Foamflower in a soil high in organic matter, such as a compost of well-rotted leaves, water regularly during dry periods, and locate plants out of direct sun.

By making attractive native species available through propagation, we can steadily draw attention to our much-neglected wild flowers and introduce a practical category of plant material for use in the home landscape.

Individuals, garden clubs, and nurseries interested in obtaining seed of Foamflower should address requests to: Wild Flower of the Year Project, NCBG, Totten Center 457-A, UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request.



SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY, AND HER NAME IS MINERVA

Anonymous

*I went for a walk in the woods one day,
Thinking I was quite alone --
Then I seemed to hear a voice nearby,
With a 'pleading' kind of tone.*

"Please watch where you step," it seemed to say,

*"Can't you see I'm busy growing?"
Looking down, I saw a wildflower there --
Among the leaves, a blossom showing.*

*How many times have we hurried along,
Never looking where we're going --
And all the while our pathway's lined
With a carpet of flowers growing.*

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Please notice there is a General Membership Meeting six times a year instead of quarterly.

Our chapter is growing and the Board of Directors decided there is a need for more frequent meetings. These are listed on the calendar of events on page 4.

March Field Trip

March 29, 1986

**Booker T. Washington
Birthplace**

Meet at Towers Shopping Center
— Lower Level —

9:00 A.M.
Bring Lunch

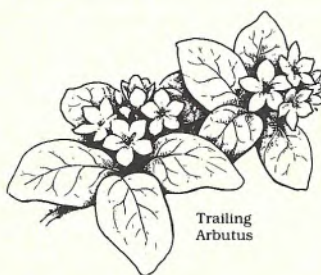
RECOMMENDED READING

Hot off the Press - Feb. '86

A Garden of Wildflowers
Henry W. Art

Storey Communications, Inc.
Pownal, Vermont - 05261
\$12.95 paperback and available in cloth

List 101 native species and how to grow them including plants in the east and west. However many of the western plants are good for this area. Has excellent illustrations in black and white, common and scientific names, culture, propagation, companion plants and area map for each flower. Special sections for suppliers of seed and plants, botanical gardens by states, native plant and horticultural societies (our V.W.P.S. is the only one listed for Virginia), references, glossary and index. Excellent!



Trailing
Arbutus

MAY FIELD TRIP

**Blackwater Creek
Lynchburg, Virginia**

**May 17th 10:00 A.M.
Bring Lunch**

Meet at end of Thomson Drive.

Directions: Take 460 to Lynchburg. 501 North to 2nd light beyond E. C. Glass High School. Turn right on Atherholt Road. Left on Thomson Drive at next light. Drive to end of Thomson Drive where signs for beginning of trail are located. Meet there. (Lynchburg Clinic, Fine Arts Center, etc. are located on Thomson Drive, which is one block from Lynchburg General Hospital).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 1986

February 6	General Membership Meeting
March	NEWSLETTER
March 6	Board of Directors & Committee Meeting
April 3	General Membership Meeting
April 25-27	16th Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage
May 1	Board of Directors/Committee Meeting
June	NEWSLETTER
June 1	General Membership Meeting
July 3	Board of Directors/Committee Meeting
August 7	General Membership Meeting
September	NEWSLETTER
September 4	Board of Directors/Committee Meeting
October 2	General Membership Meeting
November 6	Board of Directors & Committee Meeting
December	NEWSLETTER
December 4	General Membership Meeting

NEW MEMBERS

Judith Collins
2308 Highland Farm Rd., N.W.
Roanoke, Virginia 24017

Vickie K. Ellis
4228 Woodridge Dr., S.W.
Roanoke, Virginia 24018

Samuel J. Gamble
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