The Trillium

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A Garden of One's Own: Letters from Elizabeth Lawrence to a Friend

by Bobby J. Ward

On a golden autumn day in the mid-1950's, Linda Mitchell Lamm of Wilson, NC and her sister Laura Mitchell Braswell accepted an invitation to tea at Elizabeth Lawrence's home on Ridgewood Avenue in Charlotte. It was the first of many visits for Mrs. Lamm and Miss Lawrence and the beginning of an endearing friendship that would span some 30 years until Miss Lawrence's death in June, 1985. It was a friendship borne of their mutual love of gardening and horticulture and was one that extended to an intimate sharing of common interests in literature, art, and languages. It was a fellowship consisting of regular visits, many telephone calls, and frequent correspondence—the majority of which Mrs. Lamm has saved.

Special Elizabeth Lawrence Memorial Issue of *The Trillium*

Reading through the several scores of letters written by Elizabeth Lawrence to Mrs. Lamm (between October 1960 and December, 1984) is an education in itself, and to understand fully and to appreciate the correspondence sometimes requires scurrying to a reference book. It is not unusual to find a quote from the Oxford English Dictionary, a remark about an article in the *New Yorker* magazine, a brief poem, a phrase in idiomatic French, a thought about Francis Kilvert's diaries, a reference to a specific page in *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, or a quote from Eudora Welty's writings. Mrs. Lamm recalls that Elizabeth (as she preferred to be called) was consumed with the world around her—with a classical mind and with great recall. "She could fit a reference from a book or magazine article into anything around her," she says.

Her letters contain the usual personal communication between close friends about family matters; at times they would record marriages and sickness as well as the passage of time and life itself. But the heart of her letters is a passion, a quest for horticultural and botanical knowledge: queries of her own or

Continues. See Letters on Page 2

Plants Elizabeth Lawrence Might Have Grown

by Doug Ruhren

The scree we constructed at Montrose Nursery in the summer of 1991 has allowed us to try many "new" rock garden plants. New plants are one of the many things that keep gardening nearly endlessly interesting. Elizabeth Lawrence, through her writings, introduced gardeners to many new plants, and her book *A Rock Garden in the South* is a wealth of information. I would like to share with you a few plants that did not find their way into this book; but I believe they would have met with Miss Lawrence's approval had she known them.

Zinnia acerosa (Asteraceae) was last year's big surprise. It is a small plant less than 6 inches tall and about a foot wide with needle-like foliage and about three-fourths inch wide yellow-orange flowers which more closely resemble single French marigolds (*Tagetes*). It was planted in June, started blooming soon afterwards, and continued up into frost. It is a perennial which came back this spring stronger than ever.

Calylophus serrulatus (Onagraceae) is, like the previous *Z. acerosa*, a native of the southwestern US. Its bright, lemon-yellow cup-shaped flowers resemble its close relatives, the sundrops (*Oenothera spp.*). Bloom is nearly nonstop from May till frost. In size it is a little bit bigger than *Z. acerosa*, and so is still small enough for medium or larger rock gardens, though it hardly needs the pampering of a rock garden.

Rhodohypoxis baurii (Hypoxidaceae) is a small bulbous South African with odd flowers of white, pink or rose-pink that was once uncommon, but is now occasionally seen in grocery store flower shops. I have to think that most of these plants get discarded once they finish blooming. However, there's no need for this because they are winter hardy here. The usual advice is to protect them from winter wet. I didn't follow this recommendation and by late May-early June (1992) they were

Continues. See Plants on Page 6

Letters Continued from Page 1

answers to questions from Mrs. Lamm who, at the time, was newsletter editor of the North Carolina Wildflower Preservation Society (for which Miss Lawrence occasionally wrote articles).

Through those decades she rarely used a typewriter—the majority of the letters being written in a penmanship requiring close inspection and at first blush is difficult to decipher. The envelopes were often stuffed by Miss Lawrence with ads, leaves, or seed; and the letters were frequently started and finished over a period of days, sometimes shifting from pen to pencil or back again. The vast majority of her letters were signed "Aff —her abbreviation for 'Affectionately'—Elizabeth". Regrettably none of her letters are dated; however, the post marks on the majority of the envelopes are legible. An additional half dozen or so with illegible or incomplete post marks can be dated rather approximately based on the postage affixed to the envelopes.

The following excerpts from these letters give continued evidence that Elizabeth was consumed with a passion for gardening, even in her most casual and personal moments.

Designing Linda Lamm's Garden

Miss Lawrence designed a terrace and woodland garden for Mrs. Lamm's home in Wilson, NC in the 1960's and was inspired by Gertrude Jekyll when she wrote, "I have been rereading Gertrude Jekyll on woodland gardens since I got interested in yours, and the parallel is uncanny: the sitting-room windows she says, '*look straight up a wide grassy way, the vista being ended by a fine old Scotch Fir*' —just like your pine. I was afraid to say too much to you, for that is so confusing, but I felt that all of the woods needs thinning, especially the part toward the house, and that this is something you should think about as you sit in it or walk through it. Miss Jekyll has much to say on this point, especially that it has to be done with the most careful watching and that it must 'cause interest, not confusion.' So easily said, so hardly done. You can't decide it in a minute. You must brood."

Later Elizabeth would write, "I was so relieved to have your letter, and to find that the sketch for the terrace was not too late. I had open urns in mind, but perhaps the lead ones would be better so you won't have to worry about plants. Proportion is all. If you could set something up in each corner—even a bucket—and see how it looks as to size. I used to think myself feeble-minded because I had to try before deciding, and then I found that all the big gardens are done that way—just as the French design clothes on the person, the garden designers first make what they call mock-ups of garden features to see what they will look like on the spot."

As her thoughts on Linda's garden continued to develop, she again wrote, "When I sat down to my typewriter I looked out the window and saw that the Korean daisies are beginning to bloom. They spill over the path with the weedy ageratum. I put it on the list of things to give to you. I have put a card in the box on my desk: '*Boltonia*, Japanese Aster and *Arum italicum*.' Let me know when I see you at the meeting if I left anything off.

"I am still thinking about the questions I didn't answer. How would it do to put the large hosta in that point left vacant in front of the late azaleas? How about putting a yucca (instead of a shrub) on either side of the gate, and then putting plume poppy (*Bocconia*) in place of the large hosta? The *Bocconia* would make a stunning plant all summer, and there would be the yucca in winter. I can give you the *Bocconia*, and I put down on your list the lovely white *Iris tectorum*; I have enough to give you a start. If you can find room for it under the bird bath it would be the thing. You should not have given me all of that beautiful moss. I put it in the stone steps at the back of the garden, and it looks as if it had been there always.

"How would it do to plant hyacinths and tulips in pots, since they won't grow in the beds. There isn't really anything else that I can think of for spring. Have you tried the St. Brigid anemones? How about rubrum lilies? the daylily hypericum? Or *Sedum spectabile*? I feel I let you down on that little square under the guest room window. Don't let me persuade you not to do a little formal bed there if you really want it. You could send me the dimensions and I could draw it. But I see it as filled with flowers. I didn't see any *Rohdea japonica* in your garden—one of the nicest winter greens, but it must not get any sun at all.

"This year I had a lot of feverfew in the borders, and it made them shine for weeks and weeks. When I cut them back, John [Miss Lawrence's gardener] worked up a little place in the back of the bed and stuck down a lot of cuttings for next year. Another standby [for your garden] is sweet rocket. And I think I said columbines? I like those white ones—not too long-spurred.

"If you have a Tillotson catalog, look in it for *Rosa gallica officinalis*. I have written to ask whether [they have] budded plants. I think we should have four in your garden—one in each of the triangles around the wheel. The peonies should also be *officinal*. I have written to the Mission Gardens to ask whether they still list *Paeonia officinalis rubra*. If not, I am sure we can get it somewhere.

"I think *Iris florentina* would be the best and I will get it from Sunnybrook Farms [Chesterland, Ohio] but let's plant the old white iris, too. They send a tiny rhizome of *I. florentina* and it takes it so long to grow—if it does grow.

Lavandula officinalis is the same *L. spica* and *L. vera*. Sunnybrook list *L. vera officinalis* at 50¢. They would be very small plants. If you can find a locally grown lavender, it would really be best. Let's put lavender in each of the points.

"The enclosed sprig is *Salvia leucantha* in case you do not know it. I always get a couple of plants . . . in spring, as they do not last through the winter—or at least I can't count on it."

A Trip to England

On a "castle and garden" tour to Europe in 1968 with her close friend from Charlotte, Hannah Withers, Elizabeth wrote of her visit to Gertrude Jekyll's house. She revealed her disappointment in seeing it for the first time when she wrote, "We told [Mr. Rivers, the driver] we wanted to see Miss Jekyll's house [and] he said it had just been sold again, and it would be all right to go by, as no one was living there. There was a gardener working in some borders, and I am sure he would have

let us walk around, but I could see that there is not much left of what was. Just wide lawns and grown up shrubs (rhododendrons). Miss Jekyll would die at the turn-about at the entrance, and the garages built at the side, so you look right into the service area. Remember how she said (in *Home and Garden*): *'My house is approached by a footpath from a quiet, shady lane, entering by a close paled hand-gate. There is no driving road to the front door. I like the approach to a house to be as quiet and modest as possible, and in this case I wanted it to tell its own story as the way into a small dwelling standing in wooded ground.'*

"The quiet shady lane is still there, and must be just as it was fifty years ago, but there is no gate, and the front of the house is open to public gaze—not that many people ever pass. As we went back along the lane, I said, 'The thunder house.' And there it was looking exactly as it does in *Garden for Small Country Houses* , with its fortress-like walls and pointed roof. I should like to have climbed to the second story, though I doubt whether you could see the storms gathering over the chalk hills, for the land was closed in like a tunnel. We drove down the lane, and around by another to the third side where we could see the Hut through an overgrown tangle of vines and shrubs. That is where Francis Jekyll was living when he wrote to me, and where he died about a year ago. We got out of the car, and peered through the wire fence and the bushes, but we couldn't see much. Mr. Rivers took us by Miss Jekyll's church (where his daughter was married) and I wanted to see her grave, but he said we would never find it."

On the same trip Elizabeth visited Vita Sackville-West's Sissinghurst and she noted, "Sissinghurst was exactly as I knew by heart, and everything in bloom, even the Florentine iris and the tall white foxtail lilies against the yew. But I didn't know how beautiful the weald would be, and that you could see it from all parts of the garden, with cloud shadows moving across."

Elizabeth's Flower and Weather Reports

Miss Lawrence regularly reported in her letters on flowers and the weather and how it was affecting her garden and plants. The detailed information she collected (and published) on blooming dates for plants in her garden, in Raleigh and later in Charlotte, has become useful, valuable information for Southern gardeners. Here are typical examples she wrote to Mrs. Lamm: "The first flower of *Amarcrinum howardii* is open. The rains have brought it out. The earliest date I have is the 27th of July and the latest the 18 of November. *Crinum moorei* is one of its parents and is about to open, too."

Or in this exchange: "The quince was frozen, but is coming out again. It is warm and sunny again and something new every time I go in the garden: yesterday February Silver [a bicolor *Narcissus cyclamineus* hybrid] and *Anemone patens* (like a large and more deeply-colored hepatica)."

Linda recalls that on her first visit to Elizabeth's home in Charlotte, she saw *Cobaea scandens* for the first time ever. She immediately fell in love with it and through the years they exchanged seed and plants with each other. On one occasion Miss Lawrence wrote, "The cobaea you sent me is growing fast. It spread over the holly at the end of the terrace instead of climbing into the tree. And later, "We escaped our usual last of October frost, but we had a black one last night, and that is the end of the cobaea. It has been magnificent and was in full bloom yesterday. Dr. Meyer, the botanist in charge of the U.S. Arboretum's Herbarium, came down in October to make an inventory of the garden . . . and was much impressed to see it [the cobaea] climbing high in the locust. He came years ago to talk to the garden club. [He] also corrected the names of several things in the garden. I hope he is right."

In further correspondence on her fascination for cobaea, she wrote, "I have been writing and going into the garden and coming back and writing some more. Last night I looked up and saw the first flowers of *Cobaea scandens*. They are off-white the first day, faintly violet flushed the second, deeper violet the next, and finally deep purple."

And in another letter to Linda, "The bloom has been erratic and made little show in the garden but the red spider lilies—the early ones were better than ever and some amaryllids that hadn't flowered for years produced a scape or two: one was a pale pink *Crinum* that hadn't bloomed since we left Raleigh."

While continuing to record the passage of the seasons from her Charlotte garden, in a spring note she wrote, "This is the loveliest and rarest time of year and the loveliest the early spring has turned for many years. The yulan is almost fully out. It usually gets killed or whipped by wind as soon as the first buds come."

Similarly, the following summer she reported, "I haven't had a single humming bird this year. They usually come to the bright blue Mexican sage outside the kitchen window. Remind me to send you some (sage, not hummingbirds!). They will come when the pineapple sage blooms by the terrace. They love that, too, and will come to it while we sit there."

In a typical seasonal winter note she told Mrs. Lamm, "I found the first winter iris last week [and] did you see the magnificent sunset; I think it was Wednesday night?"

The Garden Ladies

Her correspondence with her "garden ladies" (as Elizabeth affectionately referred to the various southern farm women with whom she exchanged seed and plants) was often mentioned in her letters to Mrs. Lamm. The correspondence with these rural house wives became the basis for Miss Lawrence's posthumous book *Gardening for Love: The Market Bulletins* (Duke University Press, 1987). In a typical example she wrote Linda, "I didn't know you, too, had had plants from Mrs. Hides [Mississippi Garden Bulletin correspondent]. I would like to hear about them. I have just sent her a bunch of questions, and I have identified most of the plants, but you can't take anything for granted, no matter how obvious the plants appear. For instance, is her *Houstonia* [a] bluet? It is not likely to be the pink one or the rare boreal species, *H. serphyllifolium [serpyllifolia]* that grows on the highest mountains. She said, 'I have the little lily, too.' That is not likely to be *L. grayi* which is also boreal and grows only on top of Roan Mountain and perhaps a few other places, so I feel sure that it is *L. michauxii*. I asked her to look in *Wildflowers in NC*. The wood anemone is *A. quinquefolia*. She sent that to me with a few leaves left. Ladies' Wash Board is Bouncing Bet—did I tell you that?—*Saponaria officinalis* it is, of course! "

Miss Lawrence frequently received plants, often parts of twigs and leaves, for identification from her correspondents. In one letter to Mrs. Lamm she reported on having received a plant that was identified as *Justicia americana.* Elizabeth described the plant as "an undistinguished plant but with delicate little orchid-like flowers." As an afterthought she noted that the woman who had sent the plant is "just like us. She has to know [all the plant names], too."

"On another occasion she wrote, "I think the twig Laura [Linda Lamm's sister] brought me from Chapel Hill must be the English cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*—a narrow leafed form of it. But I will take it with me to Chapel Hill when we go and ask Bill Hunt to find out for certain. Laura also brought me some snowdrops. My fall one, *Galanthus corcyrensis* [*G. nivalis reginae-olgae*], hasn't bloomed yet."

In sending Linda an envelop stuffed with two market bulletins for plant sources, Elizabeth penned a P.S.: "What do you think the flora on the [6 ¢ South Carolina commemorative] postage stamp is—yellow jessamine and cotton? I do hope I included enough postage."

Writing *The Herb Gatherers*

Elizabeth Lawrence mentioned frequently the progress on her own writings, particularly her work on *The Herb Gatherers* which was published as one of the chapters in *Gardening for Love: the Market Bulletins.* Mrs. Lamm had read drafts of the material that Elizabeth sent her and in one of the letters she wrote Linda: "The main things I want to know [from you] are whether I have put in too much about the herbalists—I got so carried away it is hard to stop quoting. At times, I thought it sounded like the Department of Fuller Explanation because I was trying to explain it to myself. I felt I had to explain Gerard, Parkinson, Theophrastus—not to mention others I had never heard of myself—to the general reader (which is me). I'd like to know where your attention flags, or it gets too monotonous . . . [I'm] glad I got a captive audience for [reading] the *Herb Gatherers* . Please don't be in any hurry to send it back. I am now starting all over with the last of the manuscript—*The Herb Gatherers* being less that half.

"*The Herb Gatherers*" is (at present at least it has turned out to be) not a book. It is a section of my original Market Bulletin Book, *Gardening for Love*. Probably not a good title so far as publishing is concerned, but that is what it is about, because, as you know, that is what my old ladies do."

Receiving a response from Linda, Elizabeth wrote, *The Herb Gatherers* came back in the morning's mail. I am grateful for your attention, and it is all most helpful. You are the one who called my attention to Eudora [Welty's] writing about the market bulletins in *The Golden Apples*. I read it so carelessly that I missed all that. I don't seem ever to have made it clear that *The Herb Gatherers* is just one section of the book about the market bulletins, *Gardening for Love* . It is the last section and so Caroline Dorman, Eudora [Welty], and Mrs. [Ethel] Harmon are already introduced in their respective states. It was Caroline who introduced me to the Louisiana Bulletin and wrote me about it. And she is quoted throughout that part. All of the first two sections have to be rewritten as I have so much more material than I had when I sent it around to the publishers the first time, so there is no question of publishing it now. I am appalled at what I have to do to get it in shape. The herbs were merely touched on in the first writing (I have done all that in the last three or four years) along with taking notes and writing bits about the various states and the flowers.

"As soon as I can redo the introduction, telling about the market bulletins and my old ladies, I am going to send . . . the part already done about the Mississippi bulletin and Eudora Welty to [a publisher]. There is more market bulletin material in [Eudora's] *Losing Battles*—'Grannie's Birthday Presents' ".

Other Planned Books: "A Garden of One's Own" and "Flowers of the Church"

Miss Lawrence wrote several articles for the North Carolina Wildflower Preservation Society's newsletter when Linda was its editor. As they exchanged letters relating to these articles and on other writing projects, Elizabeth noted, "The book I am working on is ... about gardeners. The one about "A Garden of One's Own" is not the one I've been working on now. I mean to do that next... "

And she wrote of other possible future books after Linda had sent her a print of a flower painting, "I love it. It will add to my material for a book on "Flowers of the Church". There is a flower for each virtue and most of them medicinal. I wonder if I'll ever live to get to that. You have given me so much help, and in such a delightful subject."

The Poetry of Gardening

Elizabeth Lawrence letters often freely mixed literature and poetry with her passion for gardening in her correspondence with Linda Lamm. Prompted by a newspaper clipping that Linda had sent her about Hope Plantation in northeastern North Carolina, Elizabeth recalled her first visit there and her agreeing to do the garden; she recommended including sweet bay and sassafras because she had seen it growing along the roadside and knew that it would grow in the Hope Plantation garden. The owner was delighted.

Elizabeth wrote Linda that a few days after she got home from Hope Plantation she found in chapter eleven in *Jane Eyre,* just how the grounds should look at Hope: "I figured that Thornfield could be about the same period as it was an old house when *Jane Eyre* was written, and from the roof Governor Stone would have seen the same sort of thing that Jane saw when she sent with Mrs. Fairfax up the ladder and through the trap door: '*The bright and velvet lawn closely girdled the gray base of the mansion; the field, wide as a park, dotted with its ancient timber; the wood, dun and sere, divided by a path visibly overgrown, greener with moss than the trees were with foliage...*' As there is nothing to go on, I thought the planning should be simple and informal, and largely of plants already growing there, which could have been used, even if they weren't." Elizabeth went on to say that she hoped that the garden committee at Hope would accept her complete planting plans for the garden design.

On another occasion Elizabeth sent Linda a few lines of poetry that she had received from a friend from an 18th century garden book, called *Digging and Squatting* :

> "If my garden grows/The whats,/It grows on/Squats.
> Spades and rakes/Do truly not/Beat a squat."

A shared pleasure between Elizabeth and Linda was a book of the 19th century diaries of Francis Kilvert, a vicar at Saint Harmon near the Welsh border in England. His diaries over a ten-year period recorded the landscape and the people of his parish.

"Kilvert's is just what I am looking for, and I have sent to England to ask about it. It is all about country parishes, old ladies, and flowers for the altar," she wrote Mrs. Lamm on one occasion after Elizabeth had attended a reading of excerpts from the diaries that had been arranged by Linda's sister Laura in Charlotte.

Elizabeth frequently mentioned articles she had read in various magazines, including the *New Yorker* where Linda's brother author Joseph Mitchell works. If there were an article on plants, gardens or horticulture it was sure to come up in the correspondence.

"I am reading [Katherine White's] *Onward and Upward in the Garden*—just published and edited by Mr. [E. B.] White with a delightful introduction. It is a remarkable book.

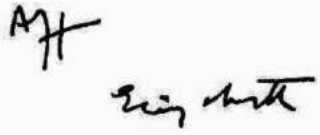
"I read somewhere that Mr. Bowles' [*My Garden in...* series] is being reprinted and it would probably be better than the old editions—mine are falling apart. I don't know Mr. Bowles' yellow hellebore—or any yellow. I looked in the books, but I didn't find it."

In planning for Mrs. Lamm's daughter's wedding, Miss Lawrence found an appropriate note to pen her: "I feel sure that I will have some Lenten roses [*Helleborus orientalis*] for the wedding The problem is to make them keep, but I shall try Miss Jekyll's method of slitting the stems—and as she says, '*They are inclined to droop; it is the habit of the plant.*'"

The Last Letter

In the last letter written the winter before her death, Elizabeth told Linda, "I had no idea you were leading the Herb Society 'onward and upward' or how far they had been lead. Thank you for sending me that beautifully drawn plant; it helps me remember how it (*Ageratum* , isn't it?) looked when I saw it in that blazing hot afternoon in Padua—don't you think shade looks cooler in Italy than anywhere else? The little patches of brick path are as beautiful as a Leonardo's bat wings. She (the artist) should have more than her initials to identify her. The drawings in Edith Wharton's *Italian Gardens and Their Villas* are good for the villas but I am glad Maxfield Parrish didn't draw the Botanical Garden. Can't you just see how he would do it.

Aff[ectionately] Elizabeth



Elizabeth Lawrence's Legacy

Seven years after her death, Elizabeth Lawrence continues to have devotees and admirers. Now we are enjoying a regional renaissance as "new" gardeners are discovering her writings. Her first book, *A Southern Garden*, is in its fourth edition 50 years after its first publication, and three other books of her writings have been published since her death in 1985. Of special interest to Southern rock gardeners is *A Rock Garden in the South* (Duke University Press, 1990). With the exception of 144 of her original essays from the Charlotte (NC) *Observer* which were published in *Through the Garden Gate* (UNC Press, 1990), none of the remaining 576 Sunday columns nor her scores of journal and magazine articles have been readily available. Thus there is still material to be unearthed for a contemporary generation of gardeners.

In one of her letters to Linda Lamm, Elizabeth unwittingly summed up her own life in a quote about the King Arthur legend that she had stumbled upon in Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*:

> "Whether you will or not
> You are a King, Tristram, for you are one
> Of the time-tested few that leave the world,
> When they are gone, the same place it was.
> Mark what you leave."

Elizabeth Lawrence was indeed one of the time-tested few who left a mark on the world of garden writing.

[ARGS Piedmont Chapter member Linda M. Lamm lives in Wilson, NC and continues to share with friends her love of plants and horticulture in the garden that was designed by Elizabeth Lawrence in the 1960's. The author appreciates Mrs. Lamm's sharing her correspondence and memories of both Miss Lawrence and their friends during the preparation of this article for this special Elizabeth Lawrence Memorial Issue of *The Trillium.*]

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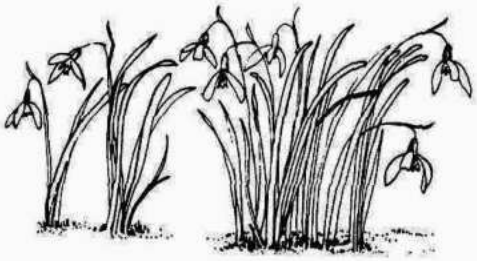


Plants. Continued from Page 1

in full bloom. However, three-fourths inches of gravel on top of them will do the trick.

Can you imagine verbascums small enough for a rock garden? Well, two forms bloomed for most of May here at Montrose. ***Verbascum dumulosum*** (Scrophulariaceae) is much like its big roadside cousins. From a 4 inch-wide rosette of grayish-felted leaves arise numerous 4 inch spikes of good-sized yellow flowers. The hybrid ***Verbascum*** 'Letitia' is about the same stature and color as *V. dumulosum* but differs in that its flowers are smaller and borne on a much-branched inflorescence giving 'Letitia' the appearance of a small shrub.

Penstemon pinifolius (Scrophulariaceae) is a small West Coast native with very narrow foliage and almost foot high stalks of narrow tubular flowers, scarlet in the type, or yellow in the cultivar 'Mersea Yellow'. Rick Dark from Longwood Gardens (PA) remarked, when he saw this penstemon on a visit here last spring, that he thought we could also grow it in our unamended native soils. He might be right. I'll try; but then again he doesn't know about our summer mugginess. Perhaps the scree will prove necessary to get this penstemon through the summer.

Pterocephalus parnasii (Dipsacaceae) is a *Scabiosa* relative which gives you a good idea of the shape of its three-fourths inches wide pale pink flowers. The flowers are produced just above its mound of attractive slightly-gray leaves.

Scutellaria orientalis (Labiatae) came to us as seed from the Royal Horticultural Society. It surprised us when it came into bloom in late May because its flowers are bright yellow. Other species of *Scutellaria* that I've seen have been blue or violet. It is a short (3" to 4" tall) somewhat sprawling plant.

Let me end this article not with another flowering plant but with a beautiful little fern **Cheilanthes lanosa** (Polypodiaceae). Its 3 inch-tall fronds are finely dissected and stiffly upright. In a most unfern-like manner, this little guy wants full sun and dry soil.

All of the plants that I have described here are growing in full sun and on soil that is heavily amended with gravel and then mulched with on average about 3 inches of gravel. I do not have extensive experience with any of them, so this is not the final word. I am enjoying each of them and believe that they have great potential. Perhaps some day these plants will be listed in an addendum to a future edition of Elizabeth Lawrence's *A Rock Garden in the South.*

I am certain that Elizabeth Lawrence's writings will remain essential and pleasurable reading (and rereading) for gardeners in this area.

[Doug Ruhren, of Durham, NC, is co-curator of the Elizabeth Lawrence Memorial Border at the N.C. State University Arboretum, Raleigh, NC. He is the nursery manager and garden designer at Montrose Nursery in Hillsborough, NC].

Elizabeth Lawrence Celebrated the Sharing of Gardening

By Bobby J. Ward

[This issue of *The Trillium* is a tribute to Elizabeth Lawrence in honor of the 50th anniversary of the publication of her first book *A Southern Garden.*]

Elizabeth Lawrence (1904-1985) was an author, gardener, and landscape architect. Although born in Marietta, Georgia, she spent most of her life in North Carolina. She moved with her parents to Raleigh from Garysburg, NC at the age of twelve. Miss Lawrence gardened first in Raleigh, NC on Park Avenue just off Hillsborough Street at a house that is now the NCSU Farmhouse Fraternity. Her second garden from 1950 onward was on Ridgewood Road in Charlotte, NC. She died in June, 1985 in Maryland, having moved there the previous fall to be near her niece. Miss Lawrence is buried in Lothian, Maryland.

Elizabeth Lawrence graduated from St. Mary's College in Raleigh, NC. She earned a B.A. degree in English at Barnard College (1926) in New York and a B.S. degree in landscape architecture from N.C. State College in 1930 (the first woman to graduate with that degree). Among the gardens she designed was the Medicinal Herb Garden at the Country Doctor Museum in Bailey, NC.

Miss Lawrence was the author of seven books (three published after her death); numerous magazine and journal articles; various book introductions; and hundreds of newspaper garden columns for the Charlotte *Observer* .

At the age of 53, she produced the first of 720 Sunday garden columns for the Charlotte *Observer*. The subjects of her essays ranged widely, often including plant lore and literature, her "garden ladies" (which were the subject of her *Gardening for Love* book), seed catalogs and plant source information, and plants that were associated with festivals of the church. She included articles on the classic herbalists and medicinal plants, which were one of her special interests. She wrote of Virgil, Shakespeare, and Thoreau and lesser known authors if they had something to say about plants or gardens, thereby expanding the knowledge of her readership and herself as well (as she would admit to in her personal correspondence).

She maintained a large and vigorous correspondence with just about anyone who shared her interest in plants. Her contacts ranged widely from plant scientists to farm women. "Through correspondence with gardeners in various parts of the world, I have learned that there is a bond between all Brothers of the Spade...," she wrote in an article in the Fall, 1977 newsletter of the NC Wildflower Preservation Society, Inc.

A newspaper notice about her death in 1985 quoted a friend that said "she was sort of the Jane Austen of the gardening literary world." The friend went on to say that he thought her garden columns were too elegant for the general public. Another friend described her as "genuinely a scientist as well as a poetic writer."

Although *A Southern Garden* was published in 1942, the detailed blooming records and her close observations as a "scientist" and a "poet" are still relevant today. Elizabeth Lawrence's graceful, conversational writing style communicated the sharing that was associated with her joy in gardening.

Elizabeth Lawrence Books

Lawrence, Elizabeth. A Southern Garden: A Handbook for the Middle South. Chapel Hill. UNC Press, Chapel Hill, NC, 1942. Reprint 1992.

Lawrence, Elizabeth. The Little Bulbs: A Tale of Two Gardens. 1957. Duke University Press, Durham, NC. Reprint, 1986.

Lawrence, Elizabeth. Gardens in Winter. 1961. Claitor's , Baton Rouge, LA. Reprint 1977.

Lawrence, Elizabeth. Lob's Wood . Cincinnati Nature Center, Cincinnati, OH. 1971.

Lawrence, Elizabeth. Gardening for Love: The Market Bulletin. Allen Lacy, editor. Duke University Press, Durham, NC. 1987.

Lawrence, Elizabeth. Through the Garden Gate. Edited by Bill Neal. UNC Press, Chapel Hill, NC. 1990.

Lawrence, Elizabeth. A Rock Garden in the South. Edited by Nancy Goodwin with Allen Lacy. Duke University Press, Durham, NC. 1990.

To Elizabeth Lawrence

We yearned for Spring.

Then dining at the windowsill
We gazed outside and saw it there!

Snowdrops, cherry, Lenten rose,
Hazel, crocus, daphne sweet,
Enclosed within an ivied wall—
A pleasant, sunlit private spot.

With friends we shared the garden's charm.

[The preceding poem was inspired by the atmosphere at Elizabeth Lawrence's home in Charlotte, NC, during a Board Meeting luncheon of the NC Wildflower Preservation Society, Inc., in the Spring of 1973. The authors were Nell Lewis, Nancy Tyson, Caroline Donnan, Jean Stewart, and Mercer Hubbard. Reprinted by permission from Linda Lamm editor of the "Newsletter Spring, 1973 of the NCWPS, Inc."]

A Wildflower Garden in August

by Elizabeth Lawrence

I wouldn't choose August as a time to see a wild garden, but every season has its lesson in flower, fruit, and leaf. [At Mrs. Herbert Smith's farm near Liberty, NC] butterfly weed was in bloom along the roadside, and in the garden there was a single large violet blossom on the butterfly pea *Clitoria mariana*. There were still a few golden flowers of the wild foxglove, *Aureolaria virginica,* which is called oak-leech because it is parasitic of the roots of oak trees. Climbing aconite, button snake-root and pink turtle-head were all in bloom, and the cardinal flower was at its spectacular best. It will thrive in sun or shade in any garden soil. At the Smith's it was blooming well under the trees, but in the bog it was three feet tall with 12-inch spikes of spectrum red flowers.

The bog is knee deep in swamp soil, with a plastic sheet at the bottom. Pitcher plants, skunk cabbage, golden club, sea holly, horse-tail, and Venus' fly traps grow there with Japanese irises. Golden club is *Orontium aquaticum*; the common name calls to mind the curious flowers that come up out of the mud in spring, like yellow fingers, not at all like flowers.

Mr. Smith gave me a twayblade (*Liparis lilifolia*). When I planted it under a pine tree I noticed that his soil matches mine, so I hope it will stay, if the chipmunks don't get it. I remember finding the pretty little brown flowers in the woods near Raleigh the last day of May.

I tried turkey-beard (*Xerophyllum asphodeloides*) in my Raleigh garden, but it died without blooming, though it was in just such a shady place as it seems to like in the Smith's garden. He says his bloomed twice. The tall white flowers are called mountain asphodel. The grassy leaves are evergreen and the plant looks like a clump of fescue.

I had been looking for the climbing milkweed, and there it was in fruit. Lionel Melvin, consultant to the [NC Wildflower Preservation Society, Inc.], says it is probably *Gonolobus suberosus*, though the species seems to be confused. Anyway, it is an angle pod with large decorative fruits, and bunches of maroon flowers. Mrs. Smith calls it carrion vine, and Mr. Melvin says that is a good name. He says once when he was collecting where there were many vines in full bloom, the scent was so strong he had to leave. Mr. Smith says the silk of the common milkweed, *Asclepias syriaca,* is used for insulation in space suits. He has endless bits of odd information and knows the charming country names of native plants. He says *Clematis viorna* is called curlyheaded Johnny. Spray is *Leucothoe catesbaei* which is shipped to northern florists for funeral sprays and wreaths. Mrs. Smith calls perfoliated bellwort Merrybells, a pretty name that I have heard only in the mountains. Solomon's plume is a prettier name than false Solomon's seal. It is in fruit in August, a little spray of wine-mottled berries drip from the tip of the slender stalk.

["A Wild Flower Garden in August 1967" by Elizabeth Lawrence. NC Wildflower Preservation Society, Inc. Newsletter, Spring, 1976. Linda Lamm, Editor. Reprinted by permission.]

Southerners Neglect Rock Garden Plants

by Elizabeth Lawrence

The Rock Garden Society [in 1960] has some six or seven hundred members in forty-four states. There are also members in Canada and ten foreign countries—from Sweden to Japan, Indonesia and New Zealand.

Very few of these are in the South. There are seven of us in North Carolina. In South Carolina, there is only one, Mr. Littlejohn of Spartanburg. I have written to ask him if we can't get together. Evidently in all of Georgia there is only one rock garden; in Alabama one; in Mississippi none. In Louisiana there are two, and these belong to my friend Caroline Dorman and our friend Minnie Colquitt.

Southerners have a notion that all rock plants are alpines and therefore not adapted to low altitudes and hot weather, but many come from the lowlands, and even among the mountain plants there are plenty that will grow in ordinary gardens if they are given good drainage and the proper soil.

There seems to be, also, a general idea that rock plants are difficult to establish. Some are, but the majority are as easily grown as daylilies or daffodils, and much more easily than roses.

It is a great pity that Southerners persist in neglecting this delightful form of gardening especially around Charlotte where there are so many beautiful rocks, and where the ups and downs invite the sort of planting that flowers of the rocks lend themselves.

But even without rocks, the rock plants can be enjoyed. One of our members is searching for plants to grow in the Sandhills.

At Cloud Hill [Pennsylvania], Mrs. Doretta Klaber [author of *Rock Garden Plants*, Holt and Company] has a rocky hillside for her garden, but she also brings little plants into the dooryard, where they can be enjoyed close at hand, and all through the year.

She believes that they are especially suited to modern houses where there are various changes of level, and where an intimate little garden is seen through a glass wall.

Although Mrs. Klaber gardens in Quakertown, Pennsylvania, her plants are much the same as those that grow among the rocks in my garden in Charlotte.

In her door yard garden, there are "flat carpets of thyme or Veronica, mounds of pinks or candytuft, the sharp upthrust of iris spears, fluffy spires of astilbes and tiarellas—clumps, mats, and rosettes gray or green—furry or smooth, each one different." At Cloud Hill, spring says primroses.

In the woods, "hepaticas rival the primulas with their earlier show. There are phloxes (*Phlox divaricata* and *P. stolonifera*), narcissus, muscari, hardy cyclamen, irises (*Iris cristata, I. verna*, and *I. gracilipes*) dicentra, polemonium, anemones..."

All of them (except *Iris verna* which is difficult anywhere) are easily grown here. A good portion of the four hundred plants described [in the book by Doretta Klaber] with delightful pen and ink drawings of nearly a hundred and fifty of them, have grown successfully either here or in my garden in Raleigh.

The main difference between Mrs. Klaber's part of the country and ours [in the South] is its soil, not its climate. In her limey soil she has no trouble with the beautiful Japanese gentians that I have never been able to keep. But with more patience I expect I could grow those, too.

Mrs. Klaber likes to grow plants from seeds. Every winter she plants two hundred and fifty packets. In the book she tells her methods, and gives further advice on propagation. She has a nursery at Cloud Hill, but she does not ship plants. You will have to pay her a visit, and pick them up.

Reprinted by Permission of *The Charlotte* NC *Observer*, January 10, 1960.

NCSU Arboretum Sponsors Garden Symposium on Elizabeth Lawrence —A Southern Garden: Past-Present-Future

The NCSU Arboretum is sponsoring a fall garden symposium focusing on Elizabeth Lawrence and the 50th anniversary of the publication of her first book *A Southern Garden*. The symposium will celebrate the contributions that Miss Lawrence made to gardening and gardening literature. The symposium will be on held Friday, September 25 through Sunday, September 27, 1992 at the NCSU McKimmon Center on Western Blvd. in Raleigh, NC. There will also be a dedication of the Elizabeth Lawrence Memorial Border at the NCSU Arboretum on Saturday afternoon.

Speakers on the program include Pamela Harper, Nancy Goodwin and Doug Ruhren, William Lanier Hunt, J.C. Raulston, Edith Eddleman, Ann Lovejoy, and Allen Lacy.

For a registration form and flyer on the symposium, telephone 919-515-3132; or write the NCSU Arboretum, Department of Horticultural Science, P.O. Box 7609, Raleigh, NC 27695-7609.

Book Review...

The Tried and True Plants for the South: Where Snobbery is Welcomed

A Rock Garden in the South. By Elizabeth Lawrence. Duke Press, Durham, NC. 1990. 239 pp. $19.95 cloth.

by Tony Avent

How many garden writers can claim to start a book, submit it to a publisher only to have it rejected, then finally have it published fifty years later? The answer is probably only one—North Carolina's own Elizabeth Lawrence. Reading *A Rock Garden in the South* was a most unusual experience for me; I had never before opened one of Lawrence's books. My trepidation was in part due to her status as something of a cult figure: I felt that it was all too easy to jump on the bandwagon and get caught up in the swell of public sentiment. I have, however, been fortunate to visit Lawrence's gardens in Raleigh and Charlotte, and to obtain plants from both, after her death.

Lawrence was not by any stretch of the imagination the greatest gardener that the South has ever possessed. Throughout the book, she speaks of the plants that die—many because of climatic difficulties and many because of her less-than-optimum gardening techniques. Lawrence was, however, one of the South's more prolific plant collectors, and she was probably the best at documenting her successes and failures on paper. She seems very adept at sharing her personal trials and tribulations with the reader on an intimate scale. This is not a how-to book; instead, it is a documentary of her years of trial-and-error gardening as she tested new plants for Southern climates. The value of *A Rock Garden in the South* lies in the enjoyment of her light-hearted garden experiences, captured in the first two dozen pages, as well as in the wonderfully informative plant dictionary that comprises the book's final 168 pages.

One of the difficulties in publishing an outdated manuscript is the taxonomic changes and new plant introductions that are reflected in the ever-changing horticultural world. Nancy Goodwin, Paul Jones, and Allen Lacy—all gardening aficionados—have expanded the book's dictionary and made other horticultural corrections in a wonderfully unobtrusive style, almost indistinguishable from Lawrence's original prose. In the preface Lawrence presents a wonderful explanation of the scientific plant- language that most gardeners detest. "You can get along best with the Latin names if you regard them as friends instead of enemies. *Saxitalis* tells you that a plant grows among rocks, *monticola* that it loves the mountains. *Caespitosus* lets you know that it is a tufted plant, and therefore low, and *pulvinatus* that it is cushionlike." Lawrence shares the view that all aspects including the naming of plants should be fun.

As for rock gardeners, I'd say that Lawrence has the group pegged. "Some snobbery is to be expected, for all are agreed that the cultivation of rock plants is the highest form of the art of gardening, and rock gardeners are essentially individualists, each with his specialty, his own dear delight." And, "All gardeners become rock gardeners if they garden long enough. They may not mean to, or even desire it, but it is natural to one long familiar with plants to single out certain individuals too newly come. . .One by one, special corners are singled out for special treasures, until they become so numerous that they must be drawn together. In this way the rock garden is created, and for this reason it is the most personal of all forms of horticulture."

Lawrence stresses the need for gardeners to find plants that are adapted to our area, instead of trying to grow all alpine plants simply because they are difficult. "But this book is not written for determined gardeners," she warns. "It is for gardeners who would rather spend their energies on finding the plants suited to their region than in devising ways to grow those that are not suited to it." Having done much of the testing herself, she takes the guess work out of selecting plants for Southern rock gardens.

The book is full of advice, reflecting Lawrence's practical experience, a trait sadly lacking in most garden writers. As for design, all rock gardeners should be relieved to hear her say, "It is impossible to make a rock garden from a preconceived plan, or to do it all at one time. It must be created by fitting the rocks to the ground as a costume designer molds the cloth to the figure; and it is more natural for it to come into being as the plants mature than to emerge all at one time in its final form."

While Lawrence doesn't deal with the specifics of constructing a rock garden, her chatty commentary allows readers a broad vision upon which they can build using their own imaginations. "I have read, and I have found it to be true," Lawrence writes, "that more of the rock should be below the earth than above it. This, and laying it with the broad side downward, gives a look of stability." A series of asides adds another personal touch. For example, she mentions the unusual building force behind her rock wall—an old drunk man.

The bulk of the book is a fabulous plant dictionary. Gaps in the perennial dictionary were aptly filled by Nancy Goodwin, of Montrose Gardens in Hillsborough, NC; in the woody plant dictionary, by Sarah P. Duke Gardens curator Paul Jones.

The dictionary is surprisingly complete, with not only commonly grown genera, but with less known but equally adaptable rock garden plants. Its strong point is small bulbs, a subject to which Lawrence has devoted an entire book. Other genera covered in depth are Campanula, Artemesia, Dianthus, iris, Primula, Sedum, Thymus, Veronica, Viola, Calluna, and Cotoneaster. Those subjects covered by Goodwin and Jones also include excellent treatments of cyclamen and dwarf conifers.

Following the dictionary is a compact list of plants by genus, with an accompanying chart indicating needed light exposure, moisture, and drainage requirements. New gardeners can immediately tell which genus of plants may be worth trying before reading the detailed descriptions in the dictionary.

Having hunted around for a good reference book on growing new and unusual plants in the South, I'm glad to discover this one—the best effort by far. It is written for the average to advanced serious plant collector, yet it's far from—thank goodness—a scientifically written, taxonomic reference. *A Rock Garden in the South* will certainly save gardeners lots of time and money by pointing them in the direction of the tried and the true.

[*Horticulturist Tony Avent writes a weekly garden column for the Raleigh* News and Observer. *He has been landscape director of the North Carolina State Fair since 1978. A hybridizer of hostas, he is the owner of Plant Delights Nursery and director of One More Block Horticultural Tours. This book review first appeared in* Duke Magazine. *Reprinted by permission*].

Book Review...

Omnia Quae De Nomina Florum Cognoscere. . . (Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Flower Names. . .)

Gardener's Latin: A Lexicon. Bill Neal. 1992. Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, 136 pp. $14.95 clothbound. ISBN 0-945575-94-7.

By Bobby J. Ward

While laboring through "Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres" as students of freshman Latin, many of us attempted our first childlike palaver in another language as we waded among Caesar's commentaries. In a way, it was the linguistic equivalent of an introduction to Dick and Jane from our primary education days. However, in a modern world where classic Latin is seldom heard outside the classroom or church, after the final exam we promptly expunged Latin from our thoughts only to discover it insidiously creeping upon us when our interests grew toward gardening and horticulture.

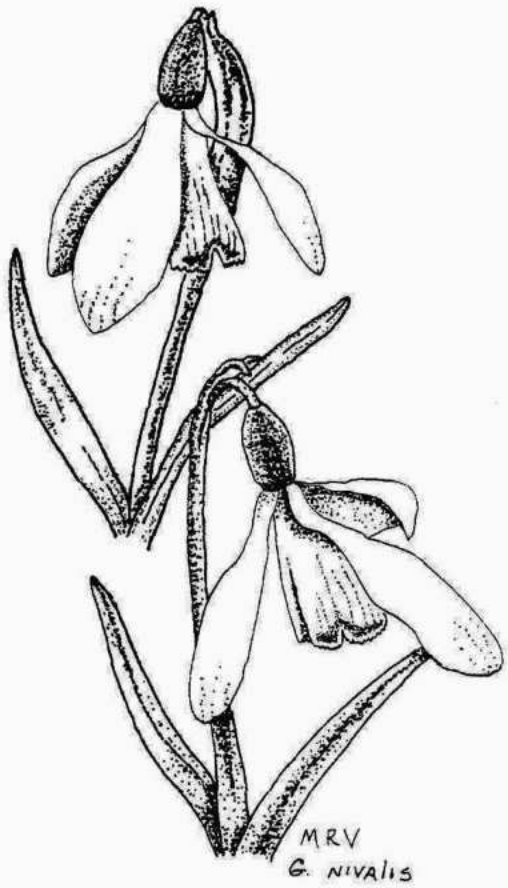
Even though Latin is the language of botanical nomenclature which consists of binomials, one a noun and the other an adjective, it need not be menacing or intimidating whether you are an American saxiphile or a French galanthophile. Although it lacks a basic Latin grammar introduction used in scientific names, Bill Neal's *Gardener's Latin* (with an introduction by Barbara Damrosch) is calculated to simplify the world of the meanings and origins of plant and flower names. The results are a soothing balm for thorny Latin monikers thereby bringing about a measure of order. The argument for using Latin names for plants is, of course, that it will allow you to be understood where there is otherwise no common language. It will ensure that you will get what you buy whether from a catalog or from a nursery yard by avoiding the confusion often associated with using a less precise plant name of regional and colloquial parlance.

In this book, Bill Neal has gathered a lexical bouquet of the most likely encountered botanical names. He has also tossed in a few that are less likely to be encountered. Some of my favorites from this latter group are "tipuliformis" (like a daddy longlegs), "hircinus" (smells like a goat), and "margaritaceus" (with the sheen of pearls). In addition to the plant names in a central glossary, he lingers along the garden path in margin notes that bring plant lore, facts and fiction, and literary associations to the reader while briefly quoting diversely from writers such as Alice B. Toklas, Vita Sackville-West, Elizabeth Lawrence, and Louise Beebe Wilder. His notes on the blue flag iris and the quotes from Edna St. Vincent Millay prompted me to reread her "The Blue-Flag in the Bog".

The late Mr. Neal once wrote that when Southern gardener Elizabeth Lawrence pronounced the botanical name of a plant, it rang with an authority we are unlikely to hear ever again. His *Gardener's Latin* is a continuing legacy from their friendship. I think Miss Lawrence would have approved of this worthy addition to our bookshelves. She might have lauded it generously by quoting from Virgil's *Eclogue*: "Felix qui potuit rerum cognoscere causas." ("Happy is the man who can search out the causes of things.")

I highly recommend this slightly-larger-than-pocket-size book, typical of Algonquin's publications. It makes a fine companion to the rather stuffy *Botanical Latin* by William T. Stearn and to the now hard-to-find *A Gardener's Book of Plant Names* by A. W. Smith.

[Bobby J. Ward is an environmental scientist who lives and [gardens in Raleigh, NC.]



Our September & October Speakers....

Rebecca Zinn's Passion for Plants and Planes

Our September speaker is Rebecca Zinn of Chapel Hill. She is a native of western NC near Lenoir. Professionally Rebecca is a clinical psychologist with undergraduate degrees and a doctorate from UNC-CH.

Her interest in gardening began about 14 years ago when she moved to her current home in Chapel Hill which had no prior landscaping. Her enthusiasm for plants started initially as a hobby that became an addiction, then turned into a business (She operated Shady Brook Garden nursery for about 8 years with Kim Hawks now of Niche Gardens as its manager.), and has now evolved into a passion. Her lot in Chapel Hill is shady with handsome old trees and with land that is steep and rocky in places. The shade and sloping land were strong elements that dictated what plants and plantings she could choose. In areas with sufficiently strong sunlight, she has added suitable sun-loving plants.

Rebecca's garden uses lots of native plants particularly wildflowers. Her special interest and love are for hostas, peonies, and daylilies. These are the plants that she can't stop buying she shyly admits. She particularly enjoys dwarf conifers but finds that she must use them sparingly in her landscape. A spring visit to her yard shows a wonderful collection of phlox sloping downward toward her driveway.

Another passion of Rebecca's is flying. She has a pilot's license for a single engine airplane and finds that she can fly up for the day to Allen Bush's Holbrook Farm and Nursery at Fletcher, NC or to Charleston, SC, load up the plane with plants (some she will actually buckle into the seat beside her!) and be home in time for dinner. She worries that a sudden down draft will toss her plant treasures about before she can get them safely to Chapel Hill.

Rebecca's talk to the Piedmont Chapter of the ARGS is entitled "The Evolution of My Garden." It will be a photographic tour of the development of her garden from her first year there to the present. It will be held on Saturday, September 19, 1992, at 10:00 am at the Totten Center of the North Carolina Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill, NC. ---BJW

Bob McCartney's Love for Native Plants

Bob McCartney is one of the owners of Woodlanders plant nursery in Aiken, SC and is a native of southeastern Virginia. He has a BS degree in Wildlife Management from Utah State University and a Masters degree from Louisiana State University in game management. His interest in the outdoors gradually evolved into a horticultural career.

While a horticulturalist with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in Williamsburg, VA, he introduced a wide range of new plants into its gardens and grounds. Bob has a special interest in native plants, particularly woody plants, and he has explored the Southeast looking for plants for introduction into our southern landscapes. He notes that there are many native plants that are underutilized and ought to become part of our gardens in the South and beyond its borders.

Bob works closely with regulatory agencies and private organizations, such as the Nature Conservancy and the Natural Heritage Program, in protecting populations of rare and endangered plants in the South.

He joined Woodlanders in 1980 and is a recognized expert in his field. Bob lectures extensively and has been featured on public television's "Victory Garden."

Bob McCartney will speak to the Piedmont Chapter of the ARGS on Saturday, October 17, 1992 at 10:00 am at the Totten Center of the North Carolina Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill, NC. His topic is "Plants Appropriate for a Southern Rock Garden."

Piedmont Chapter's Fall Plant Seedling Sale Set for September 19, 1992

by John Dilley

Another reminder that our chapter holds its annual plant seedling/cuttings sale to promote the exchange of interesting, rare, unusual, and hard to find plants among our chapter members. As a plant contributor and member of our Piedmont Chapter, plan now to provide some choice plant seedlings which would be appreciated by the other members. Plants can be propagated from cuttings, divisions, seeds, or bulbs. Clearly label each pot separately with the correct name. Plants will be priced according to size and rarity—generally between $0.50 and $2.00. Those plants which are extremely rare or hard to find may be priced a $5.00.

Members who contribute plants to the sale will be allowed to chose two plants before the rest of the chapter members are permitted into the sales area. Last year our fall plant sale netted $425 for our chapter treasury; let's exceed that amount this year. This sale is a primary source of revenue for our chapter since the receipts from sale of all plants that are donated by our members go to our treasury.

Get busy now (there's still time) and pot up some plants for the sale. Remember, the plant sale will be held on Saturday, September 19, 1992 at the Totten Center at the NC Botanical Garden. It will be held immediately after our speaker's program. **You must be a currently paid member of the Piedmont Chapter of ARGS to participate in the sale.**

If you are bringing plants, plan to arrive by 9:30 am so that your plants can be set up and priced. Also, I need a couple of chapter members to volunteer to help me set up and manage the sale. And, bring along some bags or boxes in which to take home your purchases.

Come and have fun with your fellow gardeners. If you have any questions, give me a call at 833-1209.

Don't Forget Our *Upcoming Chapter Events*

September 19, 1992
Rebecca Zinn
Chapel Hill, NC
"The Evolution of My Garden"

October 17, 1992
Bob McCartney
Woodlanders Nursery
Aiken, SC
"Plants Appropriate for a Southern Rock Garden"

November 21, 1992
Robert Bartolomei
Bronx, NY
"The New York Botanical Garden's Rock Garden"

January 16, 1993
Norman Beal
Raleigh, NC
"From Forest to Fantasy"

March 20, 1993
Larry Thomas
Manhattan Chapter of ARGS
New York City
"Small Plants in Small Containers"

April , 1993
Annual Spring Nurseryman's Sale
Time and Date to be Announced

April/May, 1993
Members' Spring Garden Tour
Date and Places to be Announced
(Volounteer Gardens Needed)

May, 1993
Annual Spring Picnic and Meeting
Time, Date and Location to be Announced

Board Members 1992-1993 Piedmont Chapter of ARGS

Chairman: Bob Wilder, 1213 Dixie Trail, Raleigh, NC 27607; telephone (919) 781-2255 or (919) 362-7115.
Vice-Chairman: Richard W. Hartlage, P. O. Box 7477, Durham, NC 27708; telephone (919) 490-9785.
Past Chairman: Paul Jones, 622 Stagg Road, Hillsborough, NC 27514; telephone (919) 732-8656.
Treasurer: Alan MacIntyre, 900 Stagecoach Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514; telephone (919) 968-6868.
Board Member-at-Large: Norman Beal, 2324 New Bern Ave., Raleigh, NC 27610; telephone (919) 231-2167.
Board Member-at-Large: John Dilley, 611 Boundary St., Raleigh, NC 27604; telephone (919) 833-1209.
Board Member-at-Large: Barbara Scott, 1321 Chaney Road, Raleigh, NC 27606; telephone (919) 859-6703.
***The Trillium* Newsletter Editor**: Bobby J. Ward, 930 Wimbleton Drive, Raleigh, NC 27609; telephone (919) 781-3291.

Piedmont Chapter Positions of Responsibility

Refreshments & Hospitality: Ruth Lee, 102 Dixie Dr., Chapel Hill, NC 27514; telephone (919) 968-0737.
Joan Wall, 113 Collins Avenue, Hillsborough, NC 27278; telephone (919) 644-6422.

Spring Nurserymen's Sale: Volunteer(s) needed.

Spring Garden Tour Committee: Volunteer gardens and coordinator(s) needed.

Don't Forget to Bring "Goodies" for Next Chapter Meetings

Just a gentle reminder, that the social committee of our chapter supplies coffee and tea at our meetings. But it's the members that bring in the goodies of cookies, breads, cake, cheeses, dips, etc. When do you bring something in? Members bring in treats based on an alphabetized schedule of your last name.

Persons whose last name begins with an **A through E should bring something to our September 19** meeting.

And persons whose last name begins with **F through H should bring something to our October 17** meeting.

Any questions, just call Ruth Lee at 968-0737, or Joan Wall at 644-6422.

Focus on...

Calylophus serrulatus by Richard W. Hartlage

What is *Calylophus serrulatus* ? Would you know it by *Oenothera serrulata* (Onagraceae) as it was previously known or by its common name the tooth-leaved evening primrose? If you are fond of clear, bright but not too harsh a yellow between canary and cadmium, then you should make yourself acquainted. A native of our mid-western plains states and southward into lower Texas, *C. serrulatus* is a gem for the front of the border, the rock garden or for a pot.

In a non-stop show, the plant is covered by one inch *Oenothera*-like flowers from May to September. Not choosy about growing conditions, it likes full sun in any reasonable well-drained soil; it is also drought tolerant. Plants typically reach about 10 inches high and can make mats 18 inches across. Leaves are small and minutely toothed with a glossy upper surface making for a fine texture in overall appearance.

Such clear, bright yellows are one of my favorite colors in the garden as it can be used to soften hotter shades of scarlets, crimsons, and oranges as well as to give a little pizzazz to pastel pinks, mauves, and blues. I am using my *Calylophus* this year in a large pot with bright purple daisies (*Brachycome* 'Purple Splendour') at the base of the tender silver-leaved *Buddleia asiatica* which I am in the process of training as a standard. I don't know how you will use your *Calylophus*, I just hope you will seek it out and grow it. You're sure to be pleased with it.

[Richard W. Hartlage lives in Durham, NC, and is head gardener at Chatwood in Hillsborough, NC. He is also staff horticulturist for Butterfly Ridge Design Works in Durham, NC.]

Piedmont Chapter Welcomes New Members

We welcome to the Piedmont Chapter of ARGS the following new members who have joined us since March, 1992.

LeNeve H. Adams
1618 Ambleside Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27605
828-3859

Mary Jane Baker
708 W. Main St.
Carrboro, NC 27510
929-2807

Dolores M. Blaney
4324 Wood Valley Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27613
846-2426

Louise M. Bryan
3335 Alleghany Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27609

Ron and Tammy Carrea
3913 Doeskin Dr.
Apex, NC 27502
662-7263

Racile Casey
1412 Wylewood Rd., No. C-1
Durham, NC 27704
477-1312

Carl and Doris Cole
1900 Varnell Ave.
Raleigh, NC 27612
781-7265

Geoffrey Driscoll
3939 Obra Rd.
Graham, NC 27253
376-8951

Allan Eure, MD
3400 Ocotea St.
Raleigh, NC 27607

Vivian T. Finkelstein
3601 Charterhouse Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27613
847-3658

Alan Galloway
Stan Barone
1802 Fairview Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27608
832-2155

William (Bill) M. Geer
325 Azalea Dr.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Marilyn M. Gordon
917 Willow Run Drive
Raleigh, NC 27609
847-0562

James G. Harrison, Jr.
828 Rutledge
Spartanburg, SC 29302
803-583-4407

Deborah L. Harvey
2408 Clark Ave.
Raleigh, NC 27607
755-0758

William H. Heins, Jr.
1906 Windmill Dr.
Sanford, NC 27330
774-4230

David D. Herlong
131 Brannigan Place
Cary, NC 27511
467-7459

Jane B. Holden
4009 Forestville Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27604
266-2011

Bob Johnson
P.O. Box 19747
Raleigh, NC 27619
266-6313

Wayne Jones
103 West Whitaker Mill Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27608

Jeanette A. Massengill
1010 South 3rd St.
Smithfield, NC 27577
934-2734

Kurt Muller
76 Webb Court
Morehead, NC 28557

Jean M. Phay
123 Morgan Bend Ct.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
942-5997

June Preston
2703 Ashland
Raleigh, NC 27605
782-0245

Maurice B. Richardson
Rt. 4, Box 311
Newport, NC 28570
726-3769

Alice Russell
Cooperative Ext. Service
Courthouse Square
Beaufort, NC 28516

Catherine Shelburne
2318 Mary Catherine Dr.
Louisville, KY 40216

Dave Stephan
1100 Manchester Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27609

Lisa M. Stroud
3604 Pinnacle Dr.
Cary, NC 27511
233-0756

Dave & Sandy Schiller
2105 St. James Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27607

John and Elizabeth Tandy
109 Rhododendron Dr.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
942-9933

John and Georgia Theys
5124 Theys Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27606
851-4208

Jonathan D. Whitney
Terry B. Eason
105 Laurel Hill Circle
Chapel Hill, NC 27514-4211
933-1151

Steve Zamparelli
401 W. Whitaker Mill Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27608

If we've missed listing any new members, please let us know.

The Back Page...

Chairman's Comments by Bob Wilder

As you have already observed, this issue of *The Trillium* is devoted to Elizabeth Lawrence. I wish she could be with us today to receive the praise and honor she so well deserves. In 1972 she was given the Award of Merit by the American Rock Garden Society (ARGS) for outstanding service to the Society. The Piedmont Chapter has given the Elizabeth Lawrence award at ARGS plant shows when they have been held at national meetings. Jack Lamm of our chapter has always donated a piece of silver for this award. If Elizabeth Lawrence has not touched your gardening life, open the gate and spend some time with her through her books.

I have too often heard the statement, "I don't want to join the American Rock Garden Society because I do not have a rock garden." An elaborate rock garden is not a requirement for membership. Based on my six years of membership and attending many national meetings, I find that there is one common bonding: a love of plants. We all grow "rock garden plants" in some way or another; but growing "alpine plants" in this area is a different matter. Some of our members are even addicted to "woodies". An elaborate structured rock garden is a thing of beauty. But then, so is a mound of soil well-planted with some choice plants and mulched with gravel; so also is a trough or stone wall with pretty little plants; or just a single pot in bloom.

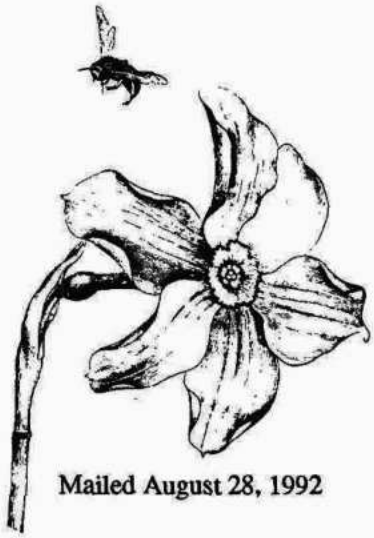
I have a vivid memory which I hope will never fade. It was in 1964 and I was traveling in Europe for the first time. We boarded the train in a Swiss village late one day with a destination to an alpine village at the base of the Matterhorn. That night was spent in a small hotel next to a river full of rushing snow melt water. Luckily the next morning was fair and the sun was shining brightly on the mountain. We headed out on a hike toward the base. There it was: the ultimate rock garden. At the base of a large boulder were flowers of several colors: pinks, whites, blues, and yellows. How ignorant I was at that time not to have known there was something to see other than that massive hunk of rock----the Matterhorn. I feel sure now that the blue flowers must have been a gentian species.

Twenty-one years later in 1985, I discovered the existence of the ARGS and then the Alpine Gardening Society of England. Since then, through the meetings and journals from these organizations, I have visited many more pretty little gardens with wonderful plants. Many of these plants now have names, I discovered. I am sorry that I lost those 21 years when I could have been expanding my rock and alpine garden knowledge.

May you discover that special garden and may the spirit of Elizabeth Lawrence live within us all!

Bobby J. Ward
American Rock Garden Society
Piedmont Chapter Newsletter Editor
930 Wimbleton Drive
Raleigh, NC 27609-4356
USA

First Class Mail



Mailed August 28, 1992