



Herbarium Celebrates Jubilee Year

The University of the South recently celebrated its sesquicentennial (2007-2008) and now in 2009 the Herbarium is celebrating the semi-centennial or jubilee year of the founding of the Sewanee Herbarium, as we now know it. Although Systematic Botany was listed in the college catalogue as early as 1947, when Waring Webb arrived, only a few scattered collections survive, mainly those of Harry and Jean Yeatman, who came to Sewanee in 1950, and Edmund and Dorothy Berkeley, when he was botany professor from 1952 to 1957. The main collections date from the spring of 1959 when George Ramseur first taught Systematic Botany, ordered the first herbarium cases, and began to house student collections, which are an important part of the Herbarium today.

The earlier collections have printed labels proudly headed: "Herbarium, The University of the South," and there must have been more than one batch printed because they are two different sizes. A couple of these specimens were even mounted on standard herbarium mounting paper. One of these is *Botrychium biternatum* (Sav.) Underw. collected by E. and D.A. Berkeley on November 12, 1952, in a "ravine below Kyser house"; another is *Asplenium montanum* Willd. collected by H.C. Yeatman on June 18, 1952, at Morgan's Steep. A number of these

earliest specimens are ferns, which are perhaps more resistant to the predations of time. Many other specimens must have perished because of lack of proper storage facilities — dried, pressed plants are very susceptible to damp and insects. In fact, the herbarium must have lost in that way what would have been a valuable core collection, the 500



specimens collected by Jean Yeatman as a student at UNC, which she brought with her to Sewanee and gave to the Biology Department. Interestingly, all these botanists named, including George Ramseur, were trained at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, so botany at Sewanee has a close relationship with botany at UNC. (See

"Botany at Sewanee," *The Plant Press*, Vol. I, nos. 1-2 and Vol. II, nos. 1-2.)

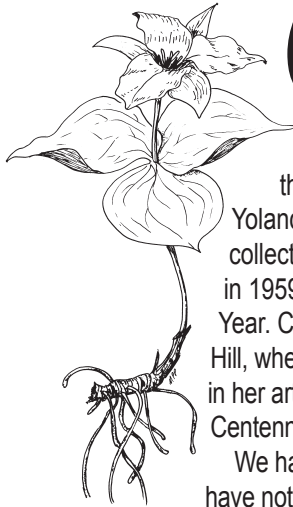
Ramseur required students to collect and process plant specimens to begin to establish a representative herbarium collection for the Sewanee area as a way of learning plants as well as a systematic methodology. He aimed to have 10 good specimens per student.

He would assign each student a number of families, beginning with the most common and important ones, and have them search the literature for the species to be expected in the area so they could look for them on field trips. Popular field trip sites were: the vicinity of the "hairpin turn" on the Sherwood Road/TN Hwy. 56 (a fabulous place, says Ramseur); below Green's View; down the Alto Road; U.S. Hwy. 41 toward Pelham; and Lost Cove. Some of the earliest collections from that first class are from trips to Lost Cove. All specimens were accompanied by carefully type-written labels with complete collection information. Although many of these labels were superseded by computer-generated labels when the specimens were mounted in recent years, the original labels have been preserved in the Herbarium files.

The first manuals used to key plants out were Small's *Manual of the Southeastern Flora*, 1933; Fernald's

(continued on p. 4)

From the Editor



Get out the sparklers; strike up the band; we're having a celebration! As close as we can determine — close enough to whoop it up, anyway — the Sewanee Herbarium turns 50 this year. Thanks to Associate Curator Yolande Gottfried's sleuthing, we know that collecting for the herbarium began in earnest in 1959, so we are declaring 2009 our Jubilee Year. Coincidentally, the herbarium at Chapel Hill, where Yolande and the people she names in her article got their degrees, just celebrated its Centennial. Congratulations to us all!

We have got all kinds of plans, most of which have not yet gelled. But one thing we know we want to do is to gather reminiscences from the first 50 years of the Herbarium. Depending on space restrictions, we would like to publish them in the *Plant Press* or on the webpage. If you have a memory of botanizing at Sewanee or on one of George Ramseur's or Jon Evans' famous field trips that you would like to share, please contact Yolande at ygottfri@sewanee.edu. Stay tuned for more on our Jubilee Year Celebration in the next issue of the *Plant Press* and on our webpage.

Friend of the Herbarium Mary Davis, distraught by herbiciding of roadside wildflowers here on the Cumberland Plateau, organized a

meeting of TN Department of Transportation (TDOT) and state park representatives, as well as concerned citizens, to see what could be done to maintain highway safety without sacrificing the native flora. Before we knew it, she had gotten the Herbarium, in partnership with the Tennessee Native Plant Society, involved in an effort to educate the local TDOT road crew. The men will spend a day at the Herbarium this winter. We hope the session will be the pilot for a larger project that will spread across the state. Chances are, we are all in for some education!

We have some new non-plant additions to the Herbarium that we are proud of. Mathematics professor Chris Parrish, an avid botanical photographer, has given us the use of several hundred of his beautiful photos, taken on and around the Domain and in the Smokies. We purchased a digital photo frame and have them on display for passers-by in the hallway. And we have a new volunteer: Dale Hoagland, a home-schooled Sewanee native with a budding interest in botany. Dale participated in our botanical watercolor workshop this fall and apparently was bitten by the botany bug. Welcome, Dale!

Last and most importantly, many thanks to our supporters in the Friends of the Herbarium. Extra purchases like the photo frame and materials for our TDOT session are possible because of your support.

—Mary Priestley

Thanks for Your Support in 2008!

Dr. & Mrs. Fred Allison, Jr.
Daisy Arrington
Joan Baird
George Barnes Barrett
Juanita Barry
James T. Berry
Andrea Shea Bishop
Mr. & Mrs. James Blythe
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Bowyer
Mr. & Mrs. Kemper W. Brown
Ralph Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Burnett
Gloria Butler
Liz & Ed Camp
Rick & Jennifer Candler
Jill & Ronn Carpenter
Susan Charke
Donna Cheek
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Chesney
Chevron Texaco
Rennie & John Christof
Ed & Meredith Clebsch
Patricia Clemens
David Clough & Mary McCleaf
Stewart Connor
Frank & Peggy Cregor
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Cushman
Donald Davidson
Mary & Latham Davis

Vickie G. Davis
Hal De Selm
Mary Lynn Dobson
Phil & Kathleen Dotts
Judy Downing
Serena DuBose
Maurice E. Edwards
Paul Erwin & Renée Hyatt
Mary Eschbach
Norm Feaster
Betty Foreman
Priscilla Fort
Pamela Foster
Howard Fox
Katherine Frazier & Charles Zammit
Boyd B. Gibbs
Eleanor Gilchrist
Anne Giles
Charles E. Goodman, Jr.
Susan Gorrell
Irene Hamer
Georganne Harmon
Garland & Daphne Head
Katie Healan
Thomas Hemmerly
Cheryl Hiers
Glenn Himebaugh
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Howick
Mrs. Wade B. Janeway

Tom & Debbie Kandul
Karen & Bob Keele
Miriam & Bill Keener
Elizabeth Kimbrough
Ron Lee
Marge & Guy Lyman
Shirley Manaley
Tom Mankiewicz
Dick & Camille McClure
Virginia McDaniel
Robert W. Meyer
Mrs. Arnold Mignery
Ann & Roy Millar
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Milner
Dorothy Minkler
J. E. Moffat
Jennie Murray
Loch & Freya Neely
Dr. & Mrs. John Oates
Kathleen O'Donohue
Ann Oliver
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Pasch
Lynn C. Patten
June Peters
Patrick Rakes
John H. Reid
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Reid
Leah Rhys
Flournoy S. Rogers

Carlotta Rotman
Robin Rotman
Nanette Rudolf
Louise Russell
Paul & Annabelle Salter
Emily Butler Schultz
Dr. & Mrs. Bill Shasteen
Caroline Shoemaker
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen H. Smith
Debby Smith
Radford Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Snell
Elizabeth Rossi Spatafora
Susan Stahl
Victoria Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. John Szeglin
C. Morris Terry
John Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Turrentine
Mary & Lewis Vance
Marlene Allen Varner
Elizabeth Manning Vaughan
June Weber
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Wells
James O. Williams
D. Reid Wiseman
Clyde Womack
Marie Cartinhour Woods

Winter Calendar of Events

Hunt for the First Hepatica – Shakerag Hollow

Sat., Feb. 14, 1:30 PM, Yolande Gottfried
Celebrate St. Valentine's Day, which is also Old Groundhog Day, with a walk to see what might be out early in Shakerag. If flowers are scarce on the ground, we'll look at mosses, liverworts, lichens, clubmosses, and even some ferns which are not fazed by winter weather. Meet at the Shakerag Hollow trailhead near the University Gates for this 1-hour moderate walk. Come prepared for muddy, wet, and/or rocky conditions.

Botanical Drawing Sat., Feb. 28, 9:30 AM, Dead Plants Society

Join the Dead Plants Society for a morning of botanical drawing. Meet at the herbarium



(Spencer Hall, room 171) and bring your drawing/painting materials of choice. We will present a short description of plant anatomy and provide some favorite botanical drawing books for perusal. Otherwise, this will be an unstructured time. Some plant material will be available, but if there is something botanical that you would especially like to draw and you are looking for a block of time to work on it, bring it along.

Early Spring Wildflowers – Shakerag Hollow Sat., March 21, 1:30 PM, George Ramseur

It's the day after the Vernal Equinox and time to head out to Shakerag Hollow. If you don't get out about now you might miss the beginning of the big show in Shakerag – bloodroot, trout lily, and spring beauties bloom early and fade fast. Meet at Green's View for this moderate-to-strenuous 2-mile walk that may include a steep rocky section of the trail.

All times are CST or CDT.

Wear appropriate shoes on all of these walks. Risks involved in hiking include physical exertion, rough terrain, forces of nature, and other hazards not present in everyday life. Picking flowers and digging plants are prohibited in all of the above-mentioned natural areas.

For more information on these or other Sewanee Herbarium events, please contact Yolande Gottfried at the Herbarium (931.598.3346) or by email at ygottfri@sewanee.edu.

THE SEWANEE PLANT PRESS

The Sewanee Herbarium
Dr. Jon Evans, Director
Biology Department
Sewanee: The University of the South
735 University Avenue
Sewanee, TN 37383

WEB SITE

<http://lal.sewanee.edu/herbarium>

EDITOR

Mary Priestley
marypriestley@bellsouth.net

CALENDAR

Yolande Gottfried
ygottfri@sewanee.edu

CONTRIBUTOR

Yolande Gottfried

COMPOSITOR

Tammy Elliott

Drawings, by Mary Priestley, are of Virginia pine, American holly, 7-year-old white trillium, and one lighthearted lycopod.

Membership Application/Renewal

The Friends of the Sewanee Herbarium support the work of the Herbarium: education, research, and conservation. A \$10.00 annual contribution would be very much appreciated. The date of your most recent contribution is printed on your address label.

Name and Address (if different from that on the mailing label on the back):

Amount Enclosed: \$10.00 Other: \$ _____

Please make check payable to The University of the South. Gifts are fully tax deductible.

Send to: Sewanee Herbarium
c/o Mary Priestley
735 University Avenue
Sewanee, TN 37383

Others who might like to receive *The Sewanee Plant Press*: _____

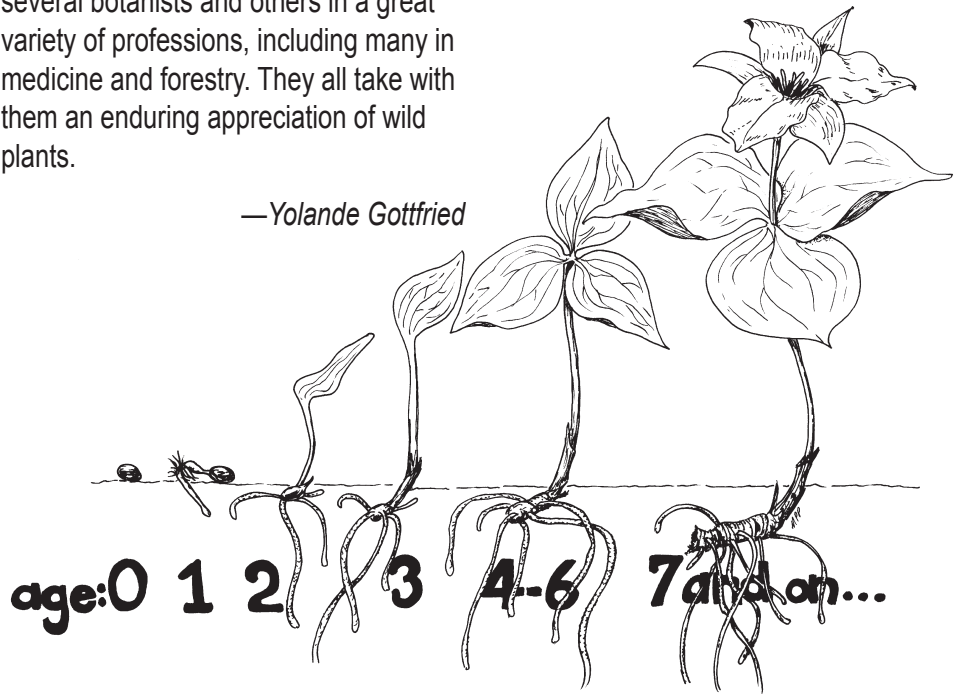


Jubilee, continued from page 1

rewritten *Gray's Manual of Botany*, 1950; Blomquist and Oosting's *Guide to the Spring and Early Summer Flora of the Piedmont, North Carolina*, 1959; and Britton and Brown's *Illustrated Flora of the Northeastern United States and Canada*. Some of the texts used were Lawrence's *Taxonomy of Flowering Plants*, 1951; Porter's *Taxonomy of Flowering Plants*, 1959; and Benson's *Plant Taxonomy*, 1962. When Albert E. Radford, George Ramseur's dissertation advisor, published, with Harry E. Ahles and C. Ritchie Bell, the *Manual of the Flora of the Carolinas* in 1968, it became the standard key for plant identification. Systematic Botany students pursued a number of different careers. There are

several botanists and others in a great variety of professions, including many in medicine and forestry. They all take with them an enduring appreciation of wild plants.

—Yolande Gottfried



♻️ Printed on Recycled Paper

SEWANEE

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

Herbarium, Biology Department
735 University Avenue
Sewanee, TN 37383-1000

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

