

CHINQUAPIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN BOTANICAL SOCIETY

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Bastard Toadflax

By Lytton John Musselman, Old Dominion University

What is bastard about this plant? The common name is misleading, as *Comandra umbellata* bears little resemblance to toadflax, species of the genus *Linaria*. Comandra's flowering overlaps with a common weedy toadflax in southeast Virginia and growing together they would never be confused. So it is difficult to imagine how this white flowered parasitic plant with symmetrical flowers could be confused with the two-lipped species in the genus *Linaria*.

Current classification places *Comandra* in the *Comandraceae* while older treatments (and older botanists) include *Comandra* in the *Santalaceae*. It is a wide-ranging species, found in 47 states and the majority of Canadian provinces making it the most widespread of all native parasitic angiosperms in North America, perhaps in the world. It usually occurs in open, sunny areas. For example, it is common in some prairie communities in the Midwest. Hemiparasites favor such habitats probably because of the need for high transpiration rates to move materials from the host. Like many variable widespread species, numerous varieties of bastard toadflax have been named.

News from the SABS Annual Meeting

On April 10-13, the annual meeting of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society took place in Charleston, West Virginia along with the Association of Southeastern Biologists and affiliated societies. This was a homecoming for SABS, returning to the state where the society was formed in 1936. The society's Financial Statement is reprinted inside this issue of Chinquapin. Other items of interest:

- Thanks to the following for their service to SABS, as they step down from their posts! Lytton Musselman (past-president), Ruth Douglas (recording secretary), Ed Lickey (council member at large), Dan Pittillo (interim newsletter editor)
- New Officers and Members of Council— Kathy Matthews (president-elect), Susan Farmer (recording secretary), Brian Keener (council member at large), Joe Pollard (newsletter editor)
- Award Winners –
Richard and Minnie Windler Award: Joey Shaw, University of Tennessee at Knoxville
Elizabeth Ann Bartholemew Award: Stewart Ware, College of William and Mary
Student Poster Award: Gwendolyn Casebeer, University of North Carolina at Asheville

One other species has been recognized, *Comandra elegans* found in the Balkans. I have seen *C. elegans* on the shore of the Black Sea in Albena, Bulgaria where it grows in the upper strand vegetation along with the impressive, rope-like dodder, *Cuscuta lupuliformis*. Present taxonomy, however, recognizes it as *C. umbellata* var. *elegans*. The Balkan-North American phytogeography is intriguing and shared with few other species.

The only other genus in the *Comandraceae* is the monotypic *Geocaulon lividum*,

found in boreal and arctic habitats. It superficially resembles bastard toadflax but has a larger orange-red fruit. I have seen the two species growing together on the shores of Lake Superior where they share a similar habitat and likely similar hosts as well. (While the eminent botanist Merritt



Flowers of *Comandra umbellata* in southeastern Virginia in May.

Lyndon Fernald described many species, I believe *Geocaulon* is the only genus he described).

Comandra is a small plant seldom more than a foot tall. It is strongly rhizomatous and can form large patches. Small white flowers appear in the spring. The fruit is a purplish drupe. I rarely find fruits and have not been able to verify that they are sweet as reported.

The presence of chlorophyll belies the parasitic nature of bastard toadflax. However, the numerous small haustoria are readily seen when the plant is dug. The host range is very broad but little is known about any host preference. As if one level of parasitism



Roots and haustoria are on the right half of the picture and lighter in color. The host is likely *Quercus laevis*, turkey oak.

were not enough, this unassuming plant is the alternate host of *Cronartium comandrae*, a rust that can infect and cause damage to pines.

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From The Editor's Desk:

Joe Pollard, Newsletter Editor

The Southern Appalachian Botanical Club (now Society) was born in West Virginia over 75 years ago, but we have not had an opportunity to meet in the state of our birth in living memory. There have been many reasons for this extended "exile," including the lack of suitable hotel and conference facilities for a meeting as large as the Association of Southeastern Biologists, with whom we regularly meet. So SABS owes a heartfelt thanks to the officers of ASB, especially to the Place of Meeting Committee and the Meeting Coordinator, Scott Jewell, for securing the facilities to hold such a convivial and productive 2013 meeting, in Charleston, West Virginia last April. The meeting included several newsworthy outcomes that are reported in this issue of Chinquapin.

One of the matters discussed by the SABS Council in Charleston was whether Chinquapin should move to an all-electronic format. Our society could save some money by doing that, and save a few trees as well. As editor, I will do what SABS tells me, but my personal view is that we should continue

in print for now. Until I became editor, I would generally get my Chinquapin from the mailbox and toss it on my office desk. Often, I would read the articles when I had a few spare minutes before going to a class, or while waiting for a student who was late for an appointment, or even while on-hold for a telephone call. A newsletter begs for that kind of casual reading. It's true that most SABS members now receive Castanea electronically, and even the august botanical journal New Phytologist (which was "new" back in 1902!) has recently become electronic-only. That works for scholarly scientific articles, which researchers and students must consult in order to stay current in their fields. But it's different for a newsletter. If it requires much effort to read it, most people won't bother, and in the process we become a bit less of a society, in the full sense of the word. At least that's my opinion. If you have views on the paper vs. online debate, you are welcome to send them to me or to any of the other SABS officers (preferably in a nice, paperless email).

In the meantime, please remember that if you prefer to view Chinquapin online, you can always do so at <http://sabs.appstate.edu/chinquapin-issues>, with future issues scheduled to be downloadable in color!

Mistletoe Considered on the Positive Side

By J. Dan Pittillo

Nearly everyone finds kudzu the bane of forest trees, at least in the edges or where tree succession is attempting to take place. In our southern Appalachians we have another semi-parasitic plant (see Chinquapin 19[4]), *Phoradendron serotinum* (= *P. leucarpum*) or eastern mistletoe. Our widely distributed mistletoe is common on many deciduous trees but not conifers as noted by Lytton Musselman. Lytton also has observed death of silver maples (*Acer saccharinum*) infested with eastern mistletoe. Further north in the Appalachians is dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium pusillum*) that lives on black spruce (*Picea mariana*).

In Mid December last year, Alanna Mitchell of the New York Times popularized the 2012 report by David Watson and Matthew Herring at Charles Sturt University in Albury, New South Wales, finding that the removal of mistletoe in Australian forests had a negative impact on the diversity of the forest fauna. Subsequently NPR picked up the story and reported it nationally.

In Watson and Herring's study, a dozen people spent two seasons removing mistletoe (predominantly *Amyema* spp.) from 17 eucalypt woodlands that were compared to 11 woodlands not harvested. Although only a few plants were found in each acre, during the study 40 tons of mistletoe was removed and left on the ground. Three years later, a third of the bird species were lost from the removal sites, including those feeding on mistletoe fruits, which was expected, but also those feeding on forest floor insects. There was also a decline in mammals and reptiles, according to the NYT interview. There was a slight increase in birds in the 11 control woodlands.

Perhaps a second added ecological boost by mistletoe is increased recycling of minerals. This is related to the evergreen nature of the Australian mistletoe as their leaves are frequent-

Mistletoe continued on Page 15

Everything is Rare Somewhere

By Alan Weakley, UNC Herbarium (NCU), North Carolina Botanical Garden, UNC-Chapel Hill

Some years ago, I attended a conference in Montréal, and went on a field trip afterwards to Parc National du Mont-Tremblant (Mont-Tremblant National Park) about 50 miles (or, 80 kilometers, I should say) north of the city. The field trip leaders led a wonderful tour, enticing us onwards on the longish hike with mention of a special and rare plant we would see at the end of the hike. After leaving the trail and bush-whacking a few hundred meters, we arrived at the quarry, which proved to be... to be... *Quercus rubra*, Northern Red Oak! Apparently, this was one of its northernmost outposts, slightly disjunct from its main range.

It would be easy to react with laughter or sarcasm – “Ah, the rare and elusive *Quercus rubra*! Why did we hike over hill and dale to see red oak!?” But, we should check that response with the humility that everything is rare somewhere, and rare plant lists in every jurisdiction include a mix of species that are rare rangewide, along with species that are common (or even weedy) somewhere else and rare only locally as a peripheral or disjunct species. If I imagine taking my Quebecker hosts for a trip in the mountains of North Carolina, I might lead them excitedly to see *Trichophorum caespitosum* (Deerhair Bulrush), or *Chamerion platyphyllum* (Fireweed), or North Carolina's only population of *Campanula rotundifolia* (Bluebell), and perhaps they would chuckle, as all these are common, dominant, and even weedy plants in Québec. Other North Carolina rarities might elicit derision from those in other parts of the continent, like *Sabal palmetto* (Cabbage Palmetto) to a Floridian ecologist, *Sporobolus heterolepis* (Prairie Dropseed) to an Iowan natural area manager, *Deschampsia caespitosa* (Tufted Hairgrass) to an Oregonian botanist, or *Pellaea wrightiana* (Wright's Cliffbrake) to a Texan or Chihuahuan biogeography professor.

But perhaps we should see these disjunct and peripheral rare plant populations as the closest thing to a time machine that we will see. These present plant distributions are guideposts to understanding the almost unimaginably different North American ecosystems of the past – most recently, the hotter and drier time from about 9000-5000 years before present sometimes referred to as the Hypsithermal or the Holocene Thermal Maximum, and the Pleistocene glaciation before that. With our short life spans, we think of plants as stolid and stationary (almost all trees outlive us, as do many perennial plants), but with a little longer time perspective and some imagination, we can see plants almost racing around the landscape in response to changing climates. Boreal species marching southward into the southeastern Coastal Plain and Piedmont; prairie plants moving across the Gulf coast into dry habitats of the southeastern Mountains, Piedmont and Coastal Plain Blue Ridge; tropical species moving northward along the coast, but also inland in protected humid sites? Each of these movements has left outposts and pioneers behind – boreal species at high elevations or on shady north-facing slopes at lower elevations; “dry” species in shallow soils of glades and barrens, on deep sands, or in woodlands on sun-drenched southwest-facing slopes; and subtropical species on coastal islands or mountain waterfalls, with killing cold tempera-

tures prevented by the heat-absorbing qualities of water.

These sentinel outposts of plants will have varying fates in the future, as rapid and unprecedented climate change takes us into novel climates and ecosystems. We know that edge-of-range and disjunct populations often have greater genetic diversity than, or different sets of alleles relative to, populations that are more central in a species' distribution. Some of these outlier populations will be lost, unable to adapt or move fast enough in response to change, while others will expand and colonize new territory. Perhaps Mont-Tremblant's red oaks will prevent an ecological collapse by being positioned to expand northward as a new northern oak forest ecosystem. Our southern fir, *Abies fraseri*, has almost had its epitaph written as doomed in a warming world, but it has persisted through hotter and drier times before, and perhaps having done so, it will persist again and provide the genetic stock for a warmer and drier central and northern Appalachians. Who can say? The details of climate change are still very uncertain, and, moreover, we know next to nothing about the physiological requirements, genetics, and ecological abilities of nearly our entire flora. Let us be humble in our judgments and predictions, and conservative in handing down all the pieces of the natural world to our descendants.

Castanea Cover Contest Photo Winners

We're pleased to announce the winners of the 2012 cover photo contest for the *Castanea* journal. The contest was open to all SABS members, who submitted a variety of plant and landscape subject matter. Many excellent entries were received. We thank everyone who submitted photos to the contest. A special thank you to Jonathon Horton and Alan Harvey for serving on the Judging Committee.

Congratulations to our winners!

- Cheryl Gregory: Fraser Fir (*Abies fraseri*), Sandhills Lily (*Lilium pyrophilum*)
- John Gyer: Indian Pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*), Decumbent Trillium (*Trillium decumbens*), Spotted Trillium (*Trillium maculatum* – berry trans-section)
- Jennifer Stanley: Mafic Glade (*Bidens* species: *aristosa* or *polylepis*), Sedge (*Cyperus echinatus*), Marshallia (*Marshallia legrandii*)

These photos will be featured on the covers of the 2013 and 2014 volumes of *Castanea*.

BOTANICAL EXCURSIONS

Pathological Ventures

By George Ellison

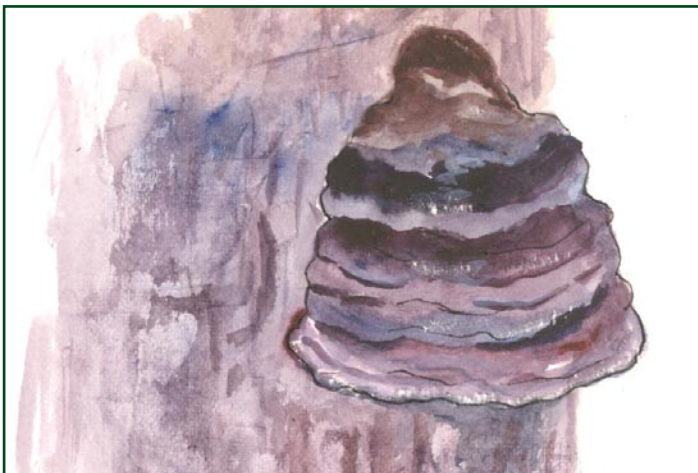
Years ago--when I was a grad student at the University of South Carolina and had a few extra dollars--I would drive over to Abbeville and spend the better part of a day rummaging through the vast disarray of printed materials shelved or stacked or piled in every corner of the old Noah's Ark book emporium. (Chicken wire was strung up along the multiple tiers connected by step ladders to keep patrons from falling to their death.) Some of the happiest days in my life were spent in such places ... when I should have been in class.

I still remember purchasing a 45-page booklet with a title page that reads: "Northern Hardwoods Culls Manual / by Savel B. Silverborg / Research Associate in Forest Pathology / Bulletin 31 / Price 75 cents / January 1954 / State University of New York / College of Forestry at Syracuse." I know that I paid 35 cents because the price is still penciled in the right hand corner of the title-page. Copies are selling on the Internet these days for \$65.

The Silverborg manual wasn't written with grad students in English literature in mind. It was for "timber cruisers, foresters, timber land managers, and farm woodlot owners"--people who needed practical advice on which trees should be culled. But I had an interest in nature writing of any sort and the manual attracted my attention for two reasons: the full-page black-and-white photos depicting the pathologies described in the text; and the descriptive language employed in that particular field of study.

The terminology associated with these extraneous growth forms would be suitable in a gothic novel. Internal "heart rot," Silverborg advises readers is commonly classified according to the color of the decayed wood as either "white rot" or "brown rot." Fungi gain entrance via "dead stubs" and "bark wounds." "Fungus filaments" tend to "feed" vertically within a tree, producing "decay columns." External "conks" serve as fruiting structures.

The horse's foot "conks" (*Fomes fomentarius*) crack with age and become "incrusted." A single "conk" of *Fomes igniarius* on beech or maple indicates a "decay column" six to seven feet both above and below the fruiting structure. On yellow birch the "decay column" extends eight to ten feet above and below.



Horse's Foot Conk (watercolor by Elizabeth Ellison).

Coal fungus (*Ustilina vulgaris*) is associated with "butt scars" on stumps and logs. Older fruiting bodies are "crust like" and completely "carbonaceous."

"Sterile conks" occur around "wounds" and cause serious "heart rot." Black clinker-like fungus frequently breaks through "the face of older cankers." Those in the genus *Nectaria* display "elliptical, target-shaped areas with definite callous ridges resulting from killing back of successive folds of healing tissue." Those in the *Eutypella* genus "contain numerous minute bristle-like projections that are the necks of fruiting bodies."

Lightning or freeze-thaw create vertical or spiral "seams" (especially in beech bark) that can run the length of a trunk, folding inward like a carefully tucked blanket or remaining open like a knife wound. Commonly initiated by fire or logging injuries, "butt scars" create triangular-shaped openings at the bases of trees large enough for livestock or humans to take refuge in during rain or snow. And so on.

Here we part ways with Silverborg and his grim recitations so as to conclude on brighter note. Because of associations pertaining to both the natural and human history of the Southern Appalachians, burls are, for me, the most intriguing of these growth forms. Spelled "bur" or "burr" in Great Britain, they are roundish elongated swellings, ranging in size from a few inches to several feet in length. Some are of unknown origin, but most are probably caused by either insect or fungal infestations. Fantastically shaped burls on old yellow birch trees in the higher elevations of the mountains lend an eerie touch to that often fog-shrouded landscape.

Burls from the trunks of yellow birch often yield a highly patterned wood prized for its beauty and sought after by furniture makers, artists, and wood sculptors. During World War II--when the European wood traditionally used to make briar pipes wasn't available--burls from the roots of laurel (*Kalmia latiflora*) and evergreen rhododendron (probably *R. maximum* for the most part) in boggy places in the Southern Appalachians were "grubbed up" as a substitute.

The center of the industry in Western North Carolina was around Hendersonville and Brevard, as well as Sparta, where the Dr. Grabow pipe company was established. Another spot associated with the industry was the White Oak Stamp in Clay County, adjacent to the Appalachian Trail just north of the state line with Georgia. An old road near Chunky Gal Mountain in the Nantahala range is still known as "the old burl road."

Digging was hard work and the end product only brought ten to twelve dollars a ton. But it was money. As the Blue Ridge Parkway project continued after the war, construction up-rooted a great many burls that were easy to harvest.

The burls suitable for pipes are apparently not abnormal growth. They are "root collars" called "lignotubers" that develop slightly below or slightly above the soil line. They are perhaps an adaptive trait for recovery and persistence under stresses of many types, especially fire.

It is certain that I am more attentive to these matters than would have otherwise been the instance if I hadn't invested 35 cents in a cull manual 45 years ago at Noah's Ark in Abbeville, South Carolina, when I should have been in class studying Shakespeare.

Contact info: <www.georgeellison.com> or <www.elizabethellison-watercolors.com>.

Name That Plant (dot net)

By Janie Marlow

The website called www.NameThatPlant.net was built to fill a need that, at the time, few people seemed to see: A plant identification site with a local focus that would be technically accurate but not intimidating, easy-to-use but not vacuous. I'm not a botanist: my role is the visual presentation of other people's knowledge, closer to a scribe than an author. That's why I'm writing this article. I would love for NameThatPlant to be able to tap into the repository of knowledge stored in the minds of the readers of [Chinquapin](#).

What can I tell you that might persuade you to become a contributor? The website reaches a broad audience, from students to the general public, encouraging each to learn more about the native (and naturalized) plants of the Carolinas and Georgia, and it has a number of features you might not expect. I've tried to describe those features below, but I recommend you go see them in action at the website.

NameThatPlant uses the synonymy provided by Alan Weakley's [Flora of the Southern and Mid-Atlantic States](#), which kindly makes a point of explaining how a new name relates to older names with which we may be more familiar, even when that older name is now considered to have been "misapplied."

Each plant's photographs are sorted by month, and the notes under them usually point out some significant feature. (Words and pictures together have wonderful teaching potential — ask any kindergartener how they learned to read.) Occasionally, accompanying the notes under a picture, there may be a link that says "Compare." Clicking that will allow you to view similar or related or potentially confusing plants. (If you like this kind of thing, you can see a whole list on the Gotcha's page: www.namethatplant.net/gotchas.shtml)

Clicking a button next to a plant's name allows you to hear the

Latin pronounced. Clicking "Plants National Database" takes you to the same plant on the USDA site. Clicking under the physiographic province map takes you to a detailed county-by-county range map maintained by the UNC Herbarium.

The site includes numerous articles of botanical interest and the entire text of "South Carolina's Natural Wildflower Communities" from Drs. Porcher and Rayner's [A Guide to the Wildflowers of South Carolina](#).

Searching can be done by scientific name, common name, family, or plant description. The search results page has a dropdown box at the top of the page that allows you to toggle between (and compare) the flower, sepals, bracts, leaf, fruit, map, and habitat of the various species, or to manipulate the "sortable table of key characters" by clicking the column headers.

Brand new to the site are beta versions of some "teaching keys" whose premise is not so much to take the user to a species-level ID, but to build a framework in their head with which to approach unknowns. Simple illustrations and species lists change with each click, providing immediate feedback and reinforcing the meaning and memory of what the key says (www.namethatplant.net/keys.shtml).

You can help by telling me if you see something that needs correction, by contributing photographs (see www.namethatplant.net/picsneeded.shtml), by volunteering to record Latin names, by allowing an appropriate article to be republished on the site, by creating an Excel file of a field guide's page numbers, or even by slogging through the newest edition of Weakley's Flora to see if a plant's name or synonymy or map or habitat has changed!

Please consider getting involved, and let me know what you think you'd like to do.... Thank you.

— Janie Marlow, <webmaster@namethatplant.net>

Society Awards and Grants

The Southern Appalachian Botanical Society presents awards and grants each year at its annual meeting in April. Information on the application process can be found on the SABS web page: <http://www.sabs.appstate.edu/Awards/Index.htm>

RICHARD AND MINNIE WINDLER AWARD

This Award is designated for the best systematics paper published during the preceding year within our journal [Castanea](#). It was established by Dr. Don Windler as a memorial to his parents. If you published or will publish a paper in one of the 2012 issue, your paper will automatically be considered for the award.

EARL CORE STUDENT AWARD

Dr. Earl Core was a major force in the founding of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Club in 1935. The annual Core Student Award was established by the Society in 1996 to provide financial assistance in support of student research projects in plant taxonomy, systematics, and ecology. The application deadline is February 1st each year. Both students and their professor must be SASB members during the year of award.

ELIZABETH ANN BARTHOLOMEW AWARD

The Society annually presents this award in memory of Elizabeth Ann Bartholomew's untiring service to the public, to plant systematics, and to SABS. It is presented to individuals who have also distinguished themselves in professional and public service that advances our knowledge and appreciation of the world of plants and their scientific, cultural, and aesthetic values, and/or exceptional service to the society. If you feel a person deserves recognition, please submit an application and request others to write supporting letters.

STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARDS

The newest of the SABS awards was started at the annual meeting in April 2011. Each year we will present two awards as follows:

- SABS Outstanding Student Poster Award
- SABS Outstanding Student Contributed Paper Award

Each award includes an honorarium of \$150, and the winners are announced at the Association of Southeastern Biologists (ASB) banquet. To submit your paper for consideration, make sure to note such as you submit your abstract to ASB in the fall. Students need to be members of SABS to receive an award.

--Charles Horn, SABS Treasurer

Mystery Plants

By J. Dan Pittillo

This year we are relating our native Southern Appalachian plants with some from elsewhere. In the first example, there was only one SA plant: *Juniperus communis* var. *depressa*. It occurs throughout most of North America (see: <http://plants.usda.gov/java/nameSearch>). All the others were photographed in China on my trip there in 1984. There was only one submission for the last issue from Georgia Hall. In addition, there are numerous references you could consult for presence. So, let's offer some images that I made



in various travels and let you pick out those that would be found here. Let's keep this to only this year's effort and Judy Dumke has offered a copy of Kristin Johannsen's [Ginseng Dreams, the Secret World of America's Most Valuable Plant](#) to the winner. For this second set, pick out the correct one (or more) species that is native to the defined Southern Appalachians. I'll score the number right minus wrong so being more certain would give the better result. And you will have two more sets to choose from by end of the contest.

[Dan is best contacted via email: dpittillo@gmail.com If you don't have computer access write to: 675 Cane Creek Road, Sylva, NC 28779]



Where's Linda Chafin's column?

Linda Chafin is taking a year's leave from her usual column on rare plants to focus on writing a field guide to the wildflowers of Georgia. The guide is being published by the University of Georgia Press and should be available early in 2014.

(Just didn't want anyone to think that I had done anything nefarious to Linda! We'll welcome her back in 2014 – ed.)

Kudos for George Ellison

The “Botanical Excursions” column by George Ellison has been a regular fixture in Chinquapin since the very first issue in 1993. From his home on the edge of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park near Bryson City, NC, George has had a long and distinguished career of writing about the natural history of his beloved landscape. His works span many genres including poetry, prose, essays, and literary criticism. He is an acknowledged expert on the life and career of Horace Kephart, whose work in the 1900’s helped set the stage for the preservation of the park. Many of George’s writings have been accompanied and enhanced by watercolors painted by his wife Elizabeth. The partnership between these two is clearly synergis-

tic, with the whole exceeding the sum of its parts. Those who want to learn more about George are encouraged to consult the extensive biography and interview recently published in the North Carolina Literary Review (Byer KS. 2011. Writing the interior landscape: an interview with George Ellison. North Carolina Literary Review 20:79-93.)

George has recently received one major award and been nominated for a second. Last March, Wild South honored George with the Roosevelt-Ashe Conservation award as Outstanding Journalist in Conservation. In the words of Tracy Davids, Wild South’s Executive Director, “Like Teddy Roosevelt and W.W. Ashe for whom our awards are named, [George’s] work exem-

plifies passion, dedication, and leadership.” Then, in April, the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance nominated George’s latest book, Permanent Camp as a finalist for the annual SIBA Book Award in the category of poetry. It is worth noting that the other two nominees are the former Poet Laureate of North Carolina, and the current Poet Laureate of the United States – very impressive company indeed! The final award will be announced in July. You can check out George and Elizabeth’s work in Permanent Camp: Poems, Narratives, and Renderings from the Smokies (Natural History Press, Charleston SC, 2012). And you can see the latest installment in “Botanical Excursions” in this issue of Chinquapin!

Mistletoe continued from Page 10

ly shed, thus providing more decomposing litter that supplies the trees rooted with these hemiparasites.

While no similar study has been conducted in North America, there are some values from mistletoe. A study of mistletoe in junipers indicated an increase of juniper seedlings in areas where it occurs, apparently related to bird consumption of juniper berries along with mistletoe berries, thus spreading more junipers as a result. In our West where other mistletoes live, removal of large masses of dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium douglasii*) from Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) has been halted, as they are favorite places for nesting sites of the spotted owl.

Maybe there is not a good woodland system suited for a similar study of our eastern mistletoe, as it is not very abundant in my experience, but if you know of abundant stands, pass that knowledge along.

National Public Radio. 22 Dec. 2012. <http://www.npr.org/2010/12/22/132263833/kiss-away-harvesting-mistletoe-from-the-treetops>

Mitchell, Alanna. 2012. New York Times: http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/18/science/beyond-the-kiss-mistletoe-helps-feed-forests-study-suggests.html?_r=0

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Watson, D.M. and M. Herring. 2012. Mistletoe as a keystone resource: an experimental test. Proceedings of the Royal Society B 279(1743):3853-3860.

Wikipedia, May 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mistletoe>

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Book Corner

Two recently-published books were highly recommended by Linda Chafin, the regular contributor of our Rare Plants column (see note elsewhere in this issue). At this point we’ll just call them to your attention. Perhaps we’ll include a full review in a future Chinquapin. If you’d like to write such a review, contact the editor.

The Natural Communities of Georgia by Leslie Edwards, Jonathan Ambrose, and L. Katherine Kirkman, with photographs by Hugh and Carol Nourse. University of Georgia Press, 2013. 800 pp. ISBN-1 3: 978-0820330211

Spring Wildflowers of the Northeast: A Natural History by Carol Gracie. Princeton University Press, 2012. 336 pp. ISBN-13: 978-0691144665.

“The evolutionary heritage of life in the Appalachians is profoundly ancient, yet most of the signs I see are fleeting...A muddy streamside is a blackboard, scribbled by passing feet and erased by every rain...I follow them...remembering myself only when I turn and face my own footprints.”

Chris Bolgiano,
The Appalachian Forest, 1998, Stackpole Books, p. 1.

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Young Botanists Meet Peter Raven



In an unannounced treat, Dr. Peter Raven, President emeritus of the Missouri Botanical Garden was in attendance at the ASB/SABS annual meeting in West Virginia this April. For many readers of *Chinquapin*, Dr. Raven will need no introduction. His accomplishments as an evolutionary researcher, conservation advocate, and garden director have been recognized with a long list of awards, including a MacArthur Foundation fellowship and the U.S. National Medal of Science. At the annual meeting Dr. Raven was named a Fellow of the Association of Southeastern Biologists, the highest honor bestowed by ASB. He also attended the SABS Botany Students' Reception, and is shown below with a group of the next generation of southeastern botanists.