

The Pinehurst Outlook

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SPRING IN PINEHURST.

Spring is here, the mocking bird says;
He has sung it now for seven days
In various notes as if he thought
That he alone the good news brought.
Those timid birds dressed all in blue
Their sweet low message bring anew.
Crocus and pansy now have heard
From 'neath the earth the same glad word;
And when the glass is sixty and five
Oh! 'tis a joy to be alive.

NATIVE PLANTS AND TREES.

The flora of our section is the more fascinating to the observing stranger from the North, because, while it reminds him to a certain extent of the trees and plants he was used to meet with at home, there is enough again of the semi-tropical in the first impression gained of our landscape to be conducive to a more or less close study of our native plants.

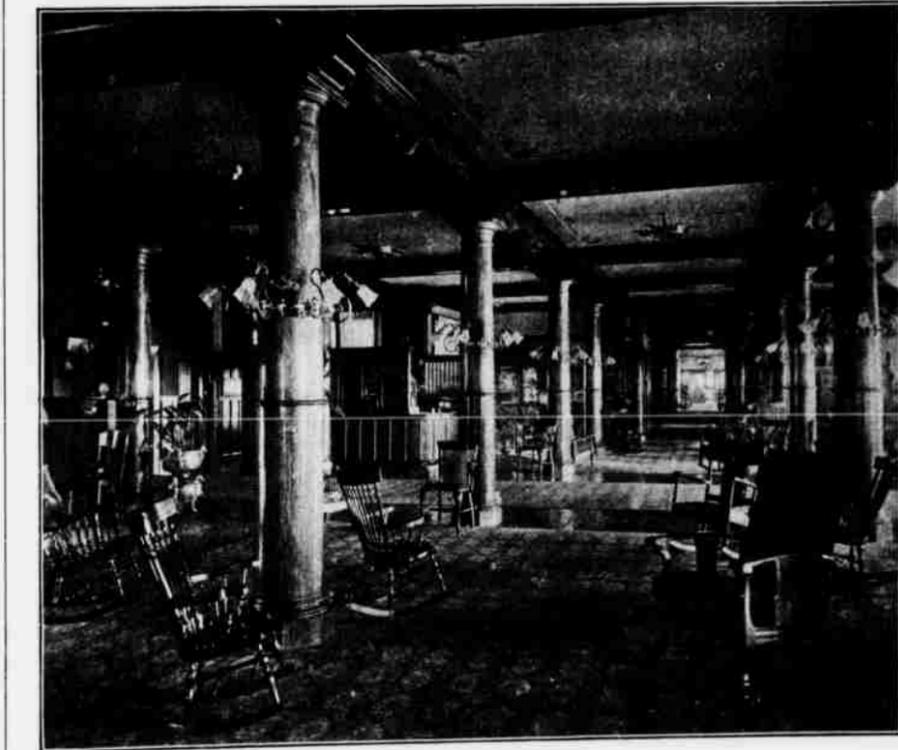
It has been my privilege to make a specialty of the trees and plants indigenous to this section for the last four years and I must confess that the more I see of them and the better I get acquainted with their development in their natural locations, the more I appreciate the words of a recent writer who declared North Carolina a portion of paradise as far as wild flowers enter into the idea.

Our flora can be distinctly separated into plants growing along the course of our creeks and in those growing in upland. The most important representatives of the latter class are of course the long-leaf pines, which are or ought to be the dominant feature of our landscape, but thanks to the incessant attacks on the part of turpentine stillers and lumbermen on the one side, and of forest fires and the ravages of the omnivorous razorbacks on the other, there are comparatively few specimens left, in this section at least, in their virgin beauty. Where the pines were destroyed they are followed by oaks, of which there are a great many kinds and varieties around here, but which mostly originate from the blackjack or from the post oak. Where the soil is not quite so poor, persimmons are found growing singly or in little groups. Their delicious fruit, after it has been touched by a good frost, is too well known to need more than be mentioned here. Where the ground is not only a little rich but also moist, hollies and dogwoods will thrive and bloom and fruit. If there is anything finer than a group of dogwood in bloom intermingled with the somber green of the holly, I do not know it.

The more we approach the edge of our creeks the more varied the flora will become. High towering stands the tulip tree, building up its branches as symmetrically as if laid off with the rule and producing its yellowish green tulip-shaped flowers in early spring. The black-gum is another denizen of the creeks. It grows also to a good sized tree, has very pretty foliage which colors

finely in fall and it produces black cherry-shaped berries. The sweet-gum, which also is found mostly in moist ground, grows with us to a very large fine tree, colors simply gorgeously in early fall and is prominent wherever it appears. Hickories are found sometimes but are comparatively scarce. Of somewhat smaller growth but as showy as any is the red maple, blooming as early as March and immediately afterwards developing its bright red winged fruits.

Of shrubs and small trees the sweet bay is one of the most prominent ones not only for its frequency but also on account of its leaves, its flowers and the glow of its fruit-stands. The cliftonia or ironwood has a narrow peach-shaped nearly evergreen leaf and forms a very finely shaped bush. The foliage hangs on almost all winter, as do the drooping



LOBBY OF THE CAROLINA.

thread-like fruit-stands. The sourwood is as well known farther north as it is with us and it deserves to on account of its fine foliage and the very conspicuous drupes of flowers which hang all winter.

Smaller yet than those named before are the beautiful fetterbush, with its bright glossy evergreen foliage and its fine health-like flowers which appear very early in spring and excite general admiration. Its brother, the deciduous staggerbush, drops its foliage during winter but produces much more showy flowers of distinct fragrance in April. The gallberry, or as it is called further north, the inkberry, is one of our standbys. It is always pleasant to look at with its dark green foliage and its abundance of glossy black berries which hang on all winter. There is a tall variety of the gallberry which has larger and still more glossy and leathery foliage and which produces larger berries also.

The bayberry or wax-myrtle is rather common not only along our creeks but

also on higher ground, is almost evergreen with us and is of a fine appearance to look at, as are also the sweet pepper-bush and the alder. A rare species of the alder—the fothergilla—is found sometimes, but is not common at all. Many shrubs besides holly are especially valuable for their glowing red berries during winter time. Conspicuous among these are the deciduous holly, the foliage of which resembles the evergreen holly a good deal, but which is shed in fall. It, as well as the red berried chokeberry, begins to be generally recognized now among the finest winter fruiting shrubs.

The chokeberry is among our earliest bloomers again in spring when its apple-blossom-shaped flowers brighten up the landscape. Then there are haws, with an abundance of clusters of sometimes eatable bluish black berries, pink bloom-

of Pinehurst. The plants were taken up with only ordinary care, wherever they could be found growing naturally and in sufficient quantities, and were instantly removed to high and dry ground, which had been prepared for their reception but scantily and where no special care and attention could be given them after they were once planted, except an occasional hoeing. Of all these enormous quantities thus used, but a slight percentage has been lost even though their first season was an exceptionally hot and dry one. In fact, most of them did not seem to mind the complete change of location at all but continued not only to grow but actually to thrive, especially after they were fed with manure or fertilizers.

Not only in fine and interesting woody plants, however, our section abounds but there are a great number of most attractive perennial herbaceous plants, which are prominent through fine flowers, foliage or fruit. To speak of them more extensively would give material sufficient for another paper and I shall confine myself, therefore, to just a few of such that while well known here, are at the same time rare elsewhere. There is for instance our deer cabbage, *Lupinus diffusus*, which is a biennial. It forms very large tufts of grayish green thick leaves and produces a profusion of flowers, which appear in early spring in very showy spikes and which are extremely pretty. It may be worth mentioning here, that the seed will generally lay over a whole year before it germinates and that it ought to be sown therefore as soon as possible after ripening, although it keeps its germinating power for several years. This lupine and the quite as well known devil's shoestring, are most excellent sand binders. The devil's shoestring obtained its quaint name most probably just for the reason, as its roots can hardly be eradicated wherever they once take firmly hold.

Earliest of the spring bloomers is the mayflower, which opens here by the middle of February and our sweet little pyxies, the flowering moss, which is in its glory at about the same time. But both the mayflower and pyxie are getting scarcer and scarcer with us every year now, thanks to the indiscriminating vandals who seem to delight to pull up large quantities of them, roots and all, without any other purpose seemingly than to throw them away again after a short while.

As the season progresses, our woods look like real fairy gardens. Flowers innumerable and in all colors, modest and gorgeous, can be observed until in late fall the gentians bloom and remind us of approaching winter.

To protect and preserve our native plants and trees from useless destruction every effort ought to be made individually and collectively, or many of our choicest gems will soon become memories only instead of being sources of constant enjoyment to all. OTTO KATZENSTEIN.

ing azaleas, which bloom in earliest spring before their leaves appear; the yuccas which have a strikingly semi-tropical aspect with their stiff leaves and which send forth their tall spikes of snowy bell-shaped flowers every May; and many, many other shrubs, which to enumerate only would take more time than can be allotted to me. I will only mention here yet the different briars, which ramble luxuriously over and among all the other denizens of our creeks. The evergreen *Smitax-laurifolia* with its black berries and the deciduous *Smitax-walterii* with its red berries are the most prominent of them.

While it will appear from all I have said before that a majority of our shrubs occur in moist places, it is not said that they will only thrive in such. Quite the contrary! We have for instance used many thousands, and I may as well say hundred thousands of fetterbush, gallberry, sourwood and in fact of all other shrubs I have mentioned, on the grounds