

THE MOUNTAIN LAKE ECHOES OF 1946

Courses

Three courses were given during the first term at Mountain Lake:

Invertebrates taught by Dr. E. Ruffin Jones of the Norfolk Division of the College of William and Mary. Students: Crews Borden, Constance Howell, Richard West, Jeanette McCroskey, Catherine Russell, Gwen Smiseth, Gladys Richardson, and Pearl Shane.

Cell Physiology taught by Dr. C. S. Shoup of Vanderbilt University. Students: Morrison Miller, Trent Laviano, Don Gordon, Sam MacFadden, John Woodard, Craig Burks and Charles Wilson.

Plant Anatomy taught by Dr. J. C. Strickland of the College of William and Mary. Students: Dorothy Green and Peggy Wilson.

During the second term the following four courses were given:

Bacteriology taught by Dr. George Lawson of the University of Virginia. Students: Alice Grizzard, Arthur Shively, Jeanette McCroskey, Sam MacFadden, Craig Burks, and Morrison Miller.

Cell Morphology taught by Dr. Jones, with Catherine Russell and Don Gordon as students.

Vertebrates taught by Dr. Thomas Smyth of State Teachers College, Indiana, Pennsylvania. Students: Olwyn Williams, Bobby Burns, Crews Borden, John Woodward, and Richard West.

Mycology taught by Dr. Rolf Singer of Harvard University. Students: Peggy Walton, Gladys Richardson, Herman O'Dell, Charles Wilson and Amy Garthright.

Social and Cultural Note:

Stephen Elliott entertained in August with an art exhibit, to delight the aesthetes, and a wild tea party, to please the gourmets.

Competition was keen among the artists whose works were shown. Exhibitors came from as far as Georgia and Cambridge, Mass., lured by the fine prizes offered and by the fame victory in such a contest would bring. The winning painting was Martha Odum's "Mountains", a water color study of Doe Mountain. This picture now hangs in the Lawson house in Charlottesville. Second place went to an abstraction by J. S. Strickland. The daring conception and execution of this Arctic masterpiece defy description. In the children's division, first prize was won by a colorful painting by Heidi Singer.

Lena Artz presided over the wild tea table, where three varieties were offered: Sassafras, Bergamot and Fragrant Goldenrod. A booklet on the table described other native teas, including New Jersey Tea and Loosetrife. Of the three teas served, Sassafras led in popularity, with Goldenrod coming in last, though those who liked the licorice flavor claimed it was best of all.

One of the big events was the appearance of female Diana butterflies in larger numbers than usual, and the disappearance

of most of the males, which are generally more abundant. One cache was discovered where some sixty females were seen, and of these over thirty were captured by Dr. Hubbell and Johnny Burns.

The customary seminars were held during the summer, on Thursday nights. The speakers included Drs. Wallace, Shoup, Cleveland, Hubbell, Lawson, Smyth, and Odum.

Among Those Present:

Dr. and Mrs. H. K. Wallace and Nancy; Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Wolcott; Mr. and Mrs. Trent Laviano; Nancy Eliason; Marjorie Carter; Dr. and Mrs. R. K. Burns, Booby Burns, Johnny Burns; Craig Burke; Jane Belcher; Mr. and Mrs. Richard West; Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Odum, Bill and Tommy; Vivian Farlowe; Dr. and Mrs. Ivey Lewis, Penelope Lewis; Dr. and Mrs. Rolf Singer and Heidi; Dr. and Mrs. George Lawson, David Lawson; Gwen Smiseth; Jeanette McCroskey; Miss Edna Turpin; John Woodard; Dorothy Green; Lloyd Cair; Crews Borden; Olwyn Williams; Janet Vivian; Constance Howell; Catherine Russell; Dr. and Mrs. Malcolm Owen, Malcolm and Blanton; Dr. and Mrs. E. Ruffin Jones, Helen Bell and Frances; Lucile Walton; Peggy Walton; Jack Strickland; Dr. Thomas Smyth; Amy Garthright; Dr. Arthur Shively; Dr. and Mrs. T. H. Hubbell, Mary Joan Hubbell and Stephen; Dr. H. B. Sherman; Charles Wilson; Gladys Richardson; Herman O'Dell; Dr. and Mrs. J. Speed Rogers, Irene Rogers; Dr. and Mrs. L. R. Cleveland, Elaine and Bruce Cleveland; Dr. J. I. Hamaker; Morrison Miller; Don Gordon; Dr. and Mrs. C. S. Shoup, Charles Shoup; Alice Grizzard; Dr. and Mrs. James Southall Wilson; Dr. and Mrs. John C. Metcalf; Dr. and Mrs. George H. Boyd and their two daughters; Roy Kiser; Pearl Shane.

Mrs. Lewis and Penelope who visited Mountain Lake in December, 1946, report the lake lower than they ever saw it. There was a narrow beach which extended along the water's edge, and apparently went all the way around the lake. However, the experts say that is only a sign of lack of rain and doesn't mean the lake is going dry.

The Great Sheep Experiment

Following a disabling injury to the lawn mower, the Salt Pond Sheep Grazing and Improvement Association Inc. was formed with twenty-five stockholders. Two sheep were purchased and named, after a contest won by Lucile Walton, Sickle (a dumb looking Hampshire - she did not belie her looks as she ultimately hanged herself - by mischance - if she had tried she could not have done it) and Scythe (an unintelligent looking Southdown - she survived the season). They were tethered on the lawn under personal supervision of the Herdsmen, Dr. Hamaker and Bobby Burns, to both of whom acknowledgements are due. The experiment was not an unqualified success. Adult ewes lack the woolly charm of lambs, have a way of baa-ing at night and are somewhat lacking in personal diantiness. Upon dissolution the Association contributed its funds (from the sale of Scythe) to the repair of the victrola. I.F.L.

The various traps set by Drs. Smyth and Odum failed to catch one of the rarely seen jumping mice, but a rattlesnake killed near the traps proved to have been more successful (at capturing a jumping mouse, anyway) for one was discovered in its stomach.

The Staff

Dr. R. K. Burns of the Carnegie Institution, Baltimore, Maryland, acted as Director for Dr. Lewis who had to spend most of the summer in Charlottesville.

Vivian Farlowe was Secretary; Mrs. Lewis shopped for the groceries in Blacksburg; Penelope Lewis ran the Commissary, and cleaned up the Stockroom the second term; and the kitchen was ably presided over by Sara Goins and two helpers.

The new caretaker was Mr. Hobart Lafon of Kyre. His son, James, who had recently returned from service in Germany, drove the B-12, and MacKinley Lafon assisted in the kitchen after one of Sara's helpers had left.

In Memoriam

Mrs. Lorande Loss Woodruff died in the Spring of 1946 at New Haven, Connecticut. She was buried in the cemetery of the Church of the Messiah in Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

Investigators at the Station this summer included: Drs. J. Speed Rogers, H. B. Sherman, T. H. Hubbell, and H. K. Wallace of the University of Florida; Miss Marjorie Carter of the Georgia State Women's College at Valdosta; Dr. L. R. Cleveland of Harvard University assisted by Mrs. Cleveland and Miss Janet Vivian of Radcliffe; Dr. Ivey Lewis of the University of Virginia and Miss Lucile Walton of George Washington High School, Denville, Va.; Dr. Eugene Odum of the University of Georgia; Miss Nancy Eliason of the University of North Carolina; Dr. H. Malcolm Owen of William and Mary; Miss Dorothy Green of Memphis High School; Dr. Gordon Wolcott of Southwestern University; Dr. George Lawson, Mr. Trent Laviano of the University of Virginia; Dr. Rolf Singer of Harvard University; Dr. Jane Belcher of Sweet Briar College; Dr. J. C. Strickland of William and Mary College; Mr. Stanley Rhodes of Madison College.

Joke of the Summer:

Charles Wilson's remark as he watched the croquet course being laid out: "Now, if we can just persuade the sheep to eat the wickets, we'll have steel wool."

The trip to White Top, second-highest spot in Virginia and of interest to biologists as a good collecting ground and as a fine example of a grass bald, was led this summer (August 6-7) by Strick and Dr. Burch of Radford. About twenty-four people made the trip, or perhaps we should say voyage, for the group hit rain (or rain hit the group) just a few minutes after arrival.

val at White Top and lasted the rest of their stay. Many of the dauntless went collecting in spite of the wetness and returned to the to dry themselves by a roaring fire. In the evening there was singing by the firelight in which everyone joined, with Dr. Shively giving a fine rendition of "Willie the Weeper". After a night spent sleeping/lying awake (check one) on bedsprings or the floor, the visitors greeted the foggy dawn. A small, courageous party drove to and climbed Mount Rogers, the highest mountain in the state. When they had returned and all had been fortified with a fine lunch, they started back to the Station. Each of them could now say with Lucile Walton, "I've been to White Top."

For the benefit of those who may go there in the future, it is suggested that you take a complete change of clothing and shoes, raincoat and rainhat, which will probably insure constant sunshine during your stay.

A family of duck hawks summered at Barney's Well, after missing the 1945 season.

Dr. John Galvin Metcalf, former Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Virginia, and Dr. James Southall Wilson, present Dean of the Graduate School, and their wives spent several weeks at the Station.

Among the alumni visitors at Mountain Lake were Sara Nooe, Lena Artz, Anita Cruise, Shirley Hoover Taylor, Bee Collins, Dr. J. K. Roberts, Dr. Burch, Mildred Haddon, Mr. Ballard Messie, Pat Kelly Porter, Mrs. Feil, Dr. and Mrs. Reynolds, James Rogers, John Killough, Peggy Stirewalt, and Trenton Ruebush.

Trouble with Beavers by Lucille Burns

Our beaver friends in Little Meadows, after residing on Little Stony Creek for several years, moved back this Spring to their former haunts on Meredith Branch. There, unhampered by lack of materials or labor, they tackled their reconstruction problem with such zest that the waters of the branch were backed up over the road. A fair-sized pond, too deep for a car to cross, cut us off from the Cascades and Butt Mountain. Something had to be done.

Experiences proved that a small daily breach in the dam was easily repaired at night by the eager beavers, so early in July two Burnses set out to make a real break. All afternoon they heaved branches and logs and made the mud fly, and had the satisfaction of seeing the area above the dam, which was itself somewhat upstream from the familiar location of past years, almost completely drained. What was their chagrin upon reaching the road, to find the level of the water absolutely unchanged! There was another dam!*

At this point Engineer Burns arrived from overseas and the work of demolition went forward. After another busy afternoon the road was once more passable and plans were made for the annual Cascades picnic. The heavens apparently took the hint.

Until the closing of the Station the road remained clear, but at last reports the water was just touching the road.

Announcement

In the Summer of 1946, Dr. Lewis became Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in addition to retaining some of his duties as Dean of the University. Because he felt that the pressure of this work, plus the headship of the Department of Biology, was all he could carry, he resigned as Director of the Mountain Lake Biological Station. Dr. Bruce D. Reynolds of the University of Virginia has been appointed Director for 1947.

Dr. Cleveland and the Bear

Dr. Cleveland was sitting on a log in the woods one day, within a mile of the Station, eating a delicious, vitamin-filled bar of candy from the Commissary (adv.) when he heard a sound near him. Looking up he saw a half-grown bear standing rather close, gazing at him. Dr. C., armed only with a hatchet, reported that after the bear had looked the situation over, he sauntered away. Shortly thereafter Dr. Cleveland took off more hurriedly, in the opposite direction.

More About Bears

Several weeks after the "bear details" of the above story, the caretaker at the V. P. I. Preserve at Little Stony announced that he was considering leaving. "Too many bears", he said. "They've been chewing up logs all around here." The logs he had seen were the work of Dr. Cleveland and his little hatchet in search of wood roaches.

Alumni News:

The wedding of Marie Brickert and Stanley Rhodes took place in August in Farmville, Virginia. Stanley is now teaching at Davidson and Marie is teaching in the public school there.

Both Marie Brickert Rhodes and Roy Kiser received their Master's degrees at the University of Virginia at the September commencement.

Bill Burns enlisted in the Army in the Spring and was assigned to the Army Air Forces.

Sam Meyer is now head of the Department of Botany at the University of Tennessee.

Peggy Stirewalt, Trenton Ruebush, and John Killough are all in the Navy, located at Bethesda, Maryland. Peggy has been living with another Wave, on a boat moored in the Potomac and reports it a fine way to solve the Washington housing shortage. Rue is married and has a baby. John now holds both PhD and MD degrees.

The Ruskin Freers have a son, born last Spring.

John Mahan has married and is now teaching at the University of the South, Sewanee.

Late Flash - Alice ("Ducky") Eastlake was married Dec 28 to a fledgling PhD. For his name see next summer's "Echoes".

Many Mountain Lakers have changed their locations during the past year: Dr. Horton H. Hobbs is now at the University of Virginia, where he succeeded Dr. William A. Kepner who has retired. Dr. J. C. Strickland is now at the University of Richmond. The Malcolm Owens are at the University of South Carolina. Dr. Arthur Shively is at Franklin and Marshall. Dr. E. Ruffin Jones and his family are at the University of Florida. Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Wolcott are at Madison College, Harrisonburg, Virginia. Tom and Mary Oglesby Brown and their little daughter are living in Valdosta, Georgia, where he is teaching at Emory. Drs. Rogers and Hubbell have left Florida for the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Ruth Patrick Hodge of Philadelphia has been chosen to write the section on dictoms for North America Flora.

Commander Tom Stewart of the Navy is the governor of Guam. Fred Ferguson is living in Seattle, Wash. and is Associate Professor at University of Washington.

Bob Brumfield is teaching at Farmville State Teacher's College; Andy Ingles is at Radford State Teacher's College; Walton Gregory is at North Carolina State; Arthur Jones is at the University of Tennessee.

Charles Maphis ("Mahatma") came down from Pennsylvania where he is now working with an aircraft company to spend Christmas in Charlottesville with his family.

"Dutch" Copenhever is chief chemist with the Sonoco Company in Hertsville, South Carolina.

May Reynolds was married to James Elkins in the Spring.

Dorothy Parker is working in Mexico City with the Carnegie Agricultural Mission. She reports she enjoys both the work and the place.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Feil and their two sons are living in Charlottesville where he is associated with the Textile Institute. Before coming back to Charlottesville, Ralph was with the Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester.

Dr. Coker has retired from teaching at the University of North Carolina.

Dr. Fogg is now Vice-Provost of the University of Pennsylvania.

The Mountain Lake Echoes

Published annually by members of the Mountain Lake Biological Station.

Motto: It's never out, it's never over, it's going on all the time.

Editor: Penelope Lewis Feature Writers: Mrs. Burns, Dr. Lewis

Founded by Dorothy Parker and Ralph Feil ---- July, 1938