

FLORA
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at the history and legend of specific points of interest throughout the forest. Having never been clear-cut, the forest contains monarch oaks, tulip poplars and American beech dating back to European settlement in 1740.

Not far from one of the dense areas of invading privet, honeysuckle and even red-berried nandina, we three were ecstatic to find that patch of emerald-green watercress. Watercress, a perennial in the mustard family, is dependent on having its succulent stems and roots in the moving water. The watercress was nestled down in a stream close to where moving water magically emerged from beneath one of those giant trees.

We enjoyed tasting some of the tender new leaves, being careful not to disturb the base of the plants that seemed barely anchored in the streambed. The taste is distinctively spicy, unlike anything else.

My medicinal and edible-plant guru, Dr. James Duke, describes enjoying watercress up in Maryland almost all year long. He does lament, however, the reality of pollution in most streams and thus cautions about eating watercress without first cooking it. Though its spicy uncooked flavor is hard to beat, a few nights ago I really enjoyed the sweet taste of quickly sautéed watercress.

I am happy we found the watercress. Chapel Hill-ian Diana Steele reports



Bright-green watercress patch sparkles on the winter forest floor. PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

knowing about that "down-in-the-woods" watercress as a youngster some years ago. Since that patch has been there for a while, I'm most proud that we three wood-walkers pulled out all the invasive Chinese privet from where, poised along stream-

side, it would eventually have displaced that watercress. In addition, we lingered long enough to extract a few of those encroaching nandinas.

You'll find watercress easy to discover on Saturday mornings at the Carrboro Farmers' Market, where at

least one of the local farmers has it for observant patrons!

Email Ken Moore at flora@carborocitizen.com. Find previous Ken Moore Citizen columns at [The Annotated Flora \(carborocitizen.com/flora\)](http://TheAnnotatedFlora(carborocitizen.com/flora)).



Troop 39, 1959-60

With this year marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of Chapel Hill Boy Scout Troop 39, many old campers are planning festivities this spring. Back in the day when I was a Troop 39er, our scoutmaster was Ed Johnson, who made this goofy shot in 1959 or 1960. The human pyramid is made up of (bottom row, from left): the Ik Word guy, Robert Crook and Joe Moore; (second row) Tim Hubbard and David Radford; and Johnny Allcott on top. Allcott, one of my best childhood chums and a longtime Eugene, Ore., doctor of internal medicine, and I have exchanged Christmas cards faithfully for 44 years. Former Scoutmaster Ed Johnson, who shot this photo using Kodak slide film, lives out off Buckhorn Road and turns 79 this spring. I hear a big reunion is planned for Memorial Day weekend. Even though I bet the elder scouts attending won't be doing any gymnastics, some of us still can tie a square knot in the dark – left over right; right over left.



A THOUSAND WORDS
BY JOCK LAUTERER

Do you have an important old photo that you value? Email your photo to jock@email.unc.edu and include the story behind the picture. Because every picture tells a story. And its worth? A thousand words.

TRACKING
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County would have no way to fix.

"To close the landfill and send it somewhere else, creating another Rogers Road, just shows we didn't learn our lesson," Rich said.

However, while many elected officials have voiced their concerns about where the trash would go from Durham, many don't seem to know exactly where it would go, or even if it would be staying in North Carolina.

As it turns out, that trash does stay in state and does more good than officials might anticipate. From Durham's waste transfer station, trash is trucked to Montgomery County, N.C., to the Uwharrie Regional Landfill, managed by Republic Services Inc., a private waste disposal company.

According to Matthew Woodard, interim county manager for Montgomery County, the land the landfill occupies is deeded to Republic by the county and then split into quadrants, which are filled with trash. The county gets \$2.36 per ton of garbage taken to the landfill, which goes to funding county operations.

"I guess people would think you would never say you're fortunate to have a landfill, but we are," Woodard said.

Montgomery County was once filled with textile mills that employed a large percentage of the county's population, but when the mills started moving overseas, Woodard said, having the landfill in the county helped keep them afloat.

Woodard estimates that around 25 percent of the county is currently unemployed, with 12.8 percent collecting unemployment benefits.

"We would have been in dire straits if it had not been for that landfill," Woodard said.

Opened in October 2006, the Uwharrie Regional Landfill accepts trash from Greensboro, Durham and, on occasion, Chatham County. Even with the addition of Orange County's trash to Durham's load, Woodard said the landfill is projected to stay open for 15 more years.

While environmental issues are a concern for the county, especially since most of the land in Montgomery County belongs to the Uwharrie National Forest, Woodard said it is a risk the county has to take.

"We are very sensitive to the environment, but at the same time we have to recognize we have to meet the needs of the citizens," he said.

—Rose Laudicina



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