



Spring 2007

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Floracliff Selling Rare Prints

By Bob Wilson, President of Floracliff

For several years before her death in 1991, Mary Wharton assembled a collection of antique botanical and bird prints. Although some of the collection was sold at the estate auction, thirteen prints were retained by Floracliff Sanctuary with the thought of using them in a possible future nature center building. Recently, the Floracliff Board of Directors has decided to offer several of these prints for sale and to add the proceeds to the sanctuary endowment.

Most of the prints are by the 18th century English traveler and naturalist, Mark Catesby, who traveled in southeastern America and the Caribbean between 1712 and 1726. Two volumes of Catesby's drawings were published between 1731 and 1747, and a second edition appeared in 1754 after Catesby's death. The etchings were printed in folio size and hand-colored, many by Catesby himself, since he could not afford to hire an artist. In addition to the Catesby prints, there are others by Georg Ehart and Alexander Wilson.

The prints are being offered for purchase at the retail value as determined by the Philadelphia Print Shop, one of the sources for Mary Wharton's purchases. The prints are all attractively framed and have been restored/conserved. The purchaser of one of these prints would not only possess a charming piece of art, but also would be helping to carry on the work at Floracliff that was so close to Mary Wharton's heart. For more information about this offer contact Bob Wilson at 223-2776.



The Small Bittern, left, and Red Legged Thrush, right, are two of the prints by Mark Catesby that Floracliff is selling.

Help us save on printing and postage cost by receiving your newsletter via email. Send an email to Floracliff@aol.com and include your name and address so that we can make the changes. Thank you!

Our Wish List

If you have any of the following items to donate, please contact Beverly James at 859-351-7770 or floracliff@aol.com. Thank you for your support!

- Laptop
- Tools
- Printer cartridges for Lexmark Z31
- Regional field guides
- Office supplies
- Gift certificate to hardware or office supply store
- Birding binoculars



The bloodroot's flower and leaf stalk grow separately from the rhizome.

**“Though we
travel the world
over to find the
beautiful, we
must carry it
with us or we
find it not.”
- Ralph Waldo
Emerson**

Featured Species: Bloodroot– *Sanguinaria canadensis*

Bloodroot, the flower depicted in our logo, is one of the first to bloom, often showing up in late winter. It can be identified by its individual flower and leaf stalk. The flowers usually have eight white petals, but can have as many as 12 or 16. The stem of the flower is wrapped by its leaf, which can have 3-9 lobes. The leaf opens up after flowering and continues to grow until it goes dormant. It is the only species of the genus *Sanguinaria*, which is derived from the Latin *sanguis*, meaning “blood”. It gets this name from the orange-red juice found in its rhizome.

After the plant has flowered, it is followed by a capsule that opens up to release the seeds. The seeds are covered by a fleshy substance called an elaiosome that is favored by ants. The ants carry the seeds off to their nests, where they devour this treat and leave the seeds behind in their nest debris. The seeds are then left to germinate in a much richer environment.

Historically, bloodroot had many uses. Young men of the Ponca tribe would put some of the red juice on the palms of their hands and shake hands with the woman they wanted to marry. In five or six days she would be willing to do so. The red juice has also been used as a fabric dye and the Native Americans used it as body paint. This is not recommended today, since the FDA considers it to be toxic in small doses. The juice is considered to be an escharotic, which is a substance that kills tissue. However, because of this, it has been used to treat ringworm, warts and other fungal growths.

Featured Species: Eastern Comma– *Polytonia comma*

One of the first butterflies to appear in spring is the Eastern Comma which is part of the group of butterflies called “angle wings”. It is very similar in appearance to the Question Mark butterfly, but can be distinguished by looking closely at its markings. On the underside of the hindwing, the Question Mark has a white comma marking plus a dot. The Eastern Comma just has the white comma, which is where it gets its name. On the upper side of the front wing, the Question Mark has four spots in the second row of spots, where the Eastern Comma has only three.

On warm spring days, the Eastern Comma can often be found sunning itself. The ones spotted during this time of year are the winter forms, which first appear in the fall, then seek shelter to hibernate through the winter. They emerge again in the spring to lay eggs in April. These eggs bring the summer form, which can be found flying from May through September, when they lay their eggs. The hindwings of the summer form are mostly black, where on the winter form they are orange with black spots.

The preferred habitat of the Eastern Comma is an open woodland near water. The caterpillars host on plants in the elm and nettle families, while the adults feed mainly on rotting fruit and tree sap. If disturbed, an individual will often fly to a tree limb and hang upside down with its wings closed, where it blends in so well it can hardly be seen.



The wingspan of the Eastern comma is 1.75” to 2.5”.

Schedule of Events

All events require advance registration. They are \$4 per person or \$10.00 per family unless otherwise noted. Call 859-351-7770 to register for more information.

Interpretive Hikes

March 25th @ 1:00 p.m.: Signs of Spring

Join us in welcoming Spring and learn to identify the season's earliest wildflowers.

April 7th @ 10:00 a.m.: Wildflower Walk with Brian Yahn

See the wildflowers at their peak on this hike led by Brian Yahn, ecologist at the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission.

April 15th @ 1:00 p.m.: Wildflower Walk

Get another chance to catch the wildflower display on this hike where we will walk down to Elk Lick Creek.

April 29th @ 1:00 p.m.: Aromatic Plants of Floracliff

Learn why some plants have aromas and get a chance to experience some of them.

May 12th @ 8:30 a.m.: Bird Walk with Zeb Weese

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day on this hike led by Zeb Weese, eastern regional preserve manager at the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission.

May 26th @ 10:00 a.m.: Herpetology with Price Sewell

Price Sewell, biologist from Copperhead Consulting, will lead this hike to find some herps in the ponds and streams of Floracliff.

*In the end we
will conserve
only what we
love; we will
love only what
we understand;
and we will
understand only
what we are
taught.”
-Baba Dioum*

Volunteer Days - free

April 14th @ 1:00 p.m.

May 12th @ 1:00 p.m.

June 9th @ 1:00 p.m.

Come join in the effort to remove invasive plants on the second Saturday of each month. This is part of an ongoing effort to protect our native species and we rely on the help of volunteers. Tools and snacks will be provided.

**THE MARY E.
WHARTON NATURE
SANCTUARY AT
FLORA CLIFF**

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Floracliff is a non-profit organization. We rely on support from community members like you. Please support preservation in your region.

Yes! I would like to contribute a tax-deductible gift to Floracliff.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ **State** _____
Zip _____ **Email** _____
Amount enclosed _____ **Date** _____

Please make checks payable to: Floracliff

**Mail to: Floracliff
P.O. Box 4006
Lexington, KY 40544**



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Address correction requested