

THE HIGHSTEAD LOG

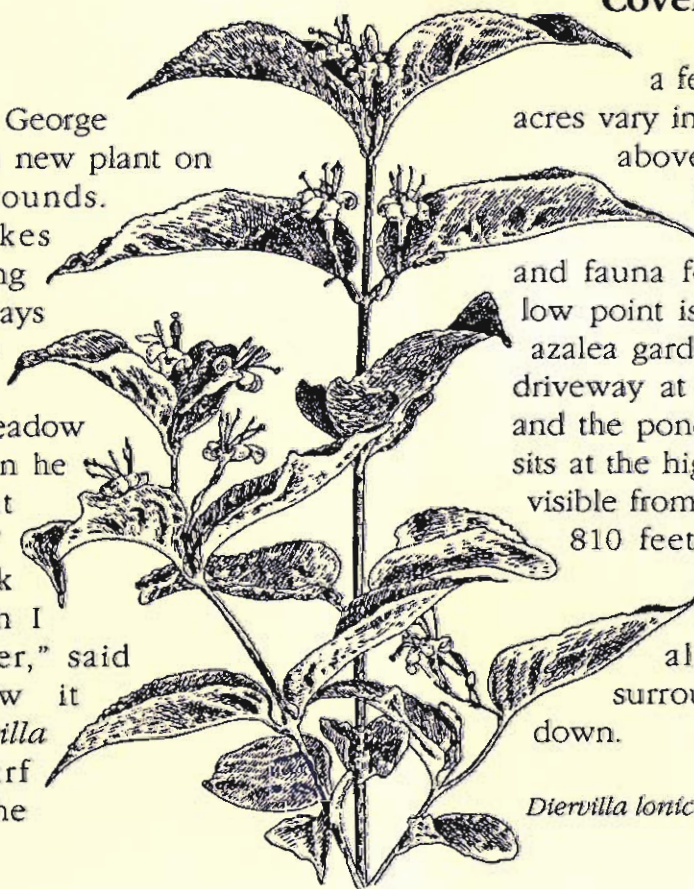
Friends of Highstead

Highstead Arboretum gratefully acknowledges the contributions of its members. This fall we particularly want to thank the following friends of flora and fauna:

- Walter and Mary Plant, botanists from Stamford, Connecticut, are contributing their expertise in the area of native non-flowering plants. Their leadership of the staff in identifying and collecting mosses, ferns, and mushrooms will expand the scope of the Highstead herbarium, as well as add to the number of plants recorded on the grounds.
- As part of a data-collecting project on bird habitats, Redding's own Fred Schroeder and Ben Olewine continue the process of surveying Highstead's bird population. To date they have identified 87 species here, a large variety for such a small area. Interested members may obtain a copy of this list by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Highstead Arboretum.

Discovery #69

Staff Horticulturist George Elkins has identified a new plant on the arboretum grounds. George, who makes weekly rounds looking for plants, said, "I always have my eyes peeled for the oddballs." In May he was in the meadow west of the barn when he "noticed a leaf that looked out of place" at the edge of a rock outcropping. "When I looked a little closer," said George, "I knew it immediately as *Diervilla lonicera*," or Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle. The



plant was in leaf and about to bloom. George took a cutting and confirmed his identification by matching it to references in the arboretum library. Though George says the *Diervilla* is not truly rare – he's seen it here and there – this is the first specimen he has spotted in Redding. It is typically found in rocky sites and, though not ornamental, it does bring to 69 the total number of indigenous woody plant species (trees, shrubs, and vines) found at Highstead.

Membership Flourishes

In just four years Highstead's membership has grown to 143 active members. That's 143 individuals who value our



efforts to document the progress of native plant communities as we work to bring people and plants together. While the majority are local residents, we are proud to include 30 members from 10 different states.

Covering Ground

In case you were wondering, a few vital statistics: Highstead's 36 acres vary in elevation from 607 to 758 feet above sea level. That difference of 151 feet accounts for some of the variety of habitats, flora, and fauna found within our bounds. The low point is in the northern corner of the azalea garden; other low spots include the driveway at the stream crossing (632 feet) and the pond at 646 feet. Our pump house sits at the highest point. The glacial drumlin visible from the hill above the barn rises to 810 feet above sea level, one of the highest points in Redding. The next time you visit, stay alert to the changes in your surroundings as you climb up and down.

Diervilla lonicera

SATURDAYS AT HIGHSTEAD

FALL 1997

Highstead Arboretum invites members and guests for walks and talks on the second Saturday of each month. Come dressed to walk and plan to stay 1 to 2 hours. Reservations are suggested; call ahead for weather-related rescheduling.

Wildflower Walk

Saturday, September 13th, 10 AM

Walk our meadows and fields – it's peak season for the late-flowering species – under the expert guidance of Carol Levine, noted lecturer and author of *Winter Wildflowers*.



Blueberry Hill

Saturday, October 11, 10 AM

Horticulturist George Elkins will acquaint you with what Director Ted Lockwood calls “one of the most underutilized of native plants.” Learn which members of the blueberry family growing wild on the grounds – and possibly in your yard – can be decorative, attract birds, and provide superior fruit.

Leaf Hunt!

Saturday, November 8, 10 AM

Share an outdoor adventure with your child, while instilling an appreciation of nature. After a brief orientation, parent-child teams will search Highstead's loop road for fallen leaves. The team that collects the greatest variety of leaves wins.

Reservations required.



Pressing Plants for Preservation

Saturday, December 13, 10 AM

Ted Lockwood offers a glimpse at the winter work of botanists: With help from the staff, he will explain the significance of an herbarium, and demonstrate how it is made. Apply this technique to create your own collections.

For further information, call Highstead Arboretum at 203-938-8809, 9 AM - 4 PM, Monday - Friday. There is a non-member fee of \$5.00 per program.

HIGHSTEAD ARBORETUM

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