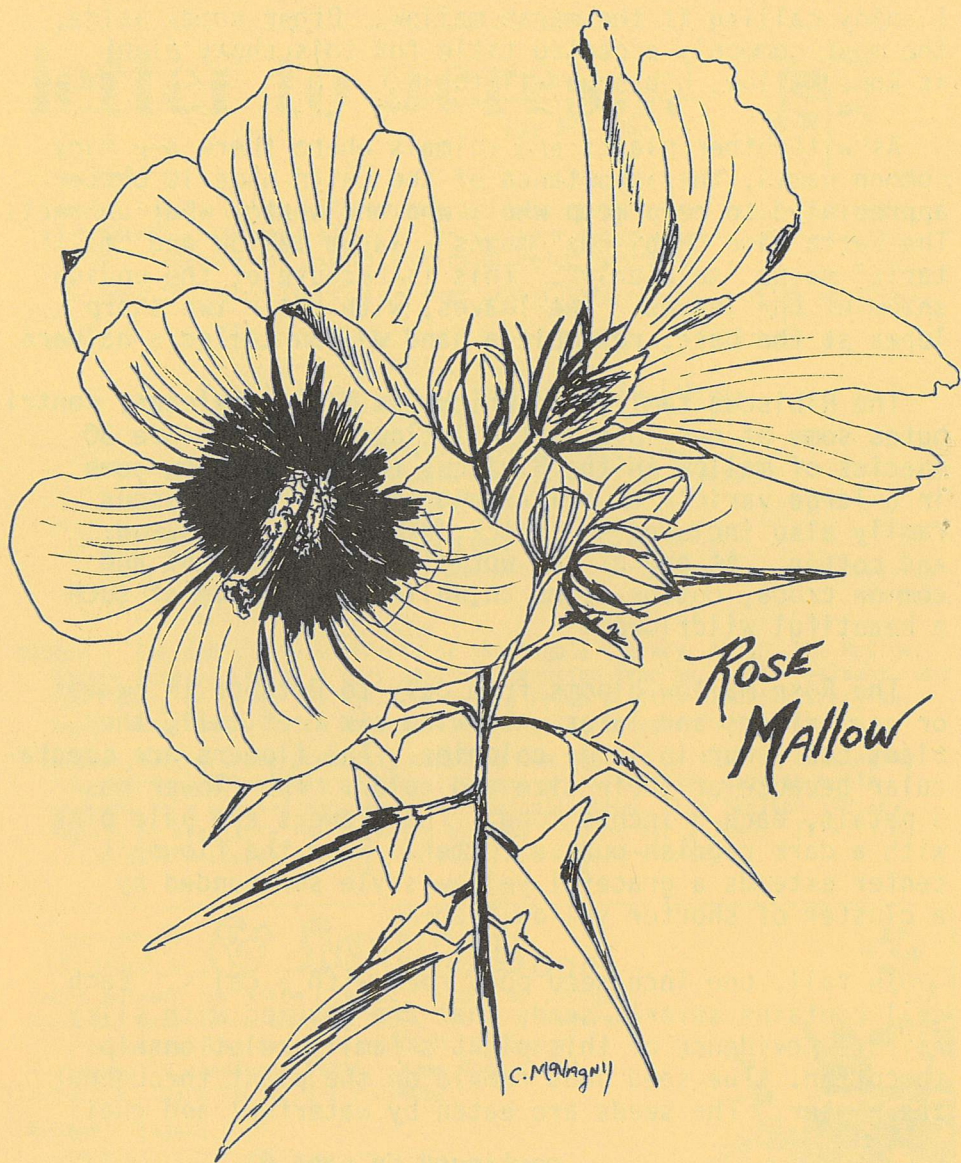


A C R E S



Quarterly
Summer - 1989
Volume XXVIII No. 3



ROSE
MALLOW

The Rose Mallow

Canoeing along an Indiana river or lake, one can glide past beautiful, large flowers growing along the banks. The flowers are so large, that you will find them hard to ignore. Depending on who you ask for identification, this flower will be called mallow rose, swamp mallow, water mallow, halberd mallow, or soldier rose mallow. I enjoy calling it the marsh mallow. Other names aside, the most commonly accepted title for this showy plant is Rose Mallow, Hibiscus militaris.

As with other plants and animals where there are many common names, the importance of the Latin name is better appreciated to help keep who's who and what's what correct. The Latin name "Hibiscus" means a large mallow and "militaris" means "soldierly". This is because of the unusual shape of the leaves. The leaves, with their two sharp lobes at the base, resemble a hand weapon called a halberd.

The Hibiscus family, to which the Mallow belongs, contributes some of our loveliest wildflowers. There are 30 species of mallow in the Hibiscus family and they come in a large variety of colors and sizes. The Hibiscus family also includes hollyhock, okra, rose of sharon, and cotton. As one of the world's most important and common crops, cotton seems an unlikely relative of such a beautiful wildflower.

The Rose Mallow blooms from July to October in swamps or near rivers and lakes. Growing six feet tall, the plant can occur in large colonies. The flowers are spectacular because of their size and color. The flower has 5 petals, each 3 inches long. The flowers are pale pink with a dark reddish-purple center. From the flower's center extends a graceful yellow style surrounded by a cluster of shorter yellow stamens.

In fall, one inch seed pods form with 5 cells. Each cell contains several seeds that are covered with silky hairs -- evidence of this plant's family relationship to cotton. The seed pods remain on the plant throughout the winter. The seeds are eaten by waterfowl and quail

continued on page 6

Committee by lot.

- If less than six nominations are made by the members, then between October 13 and October 29 the Nominations Committee may, but need not, nominate enough to make a total of ten nominees.
- Each nominee may submit a statement of his/her qualifications which will be sent to members with the ballot. Such statement must be received by the Secretary before November 1.
- No later than November 1, the Secretary will mail to members entitled to vote, a ballot and the statement of nominees' qualifications, together with a short reminder of the voting procedure.

letter to acres...

May 12, 1989



Dear Members:

We of Angola Carnegie Public Library wish to extend to members of ACRES our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your generous gift, enabling the Library to acquire the nature library of Helen Skelton.

We know the community will be ever grateful for your unselfish contribution.

Very truly,
Angola Carnegie Public Library
Board of Trustees
David Ballinger, President
Connie Greenamy, Vice President
Helen Buse, Secretary
David Syler, Treasurer
Dianna Roe, Dean Haiter,
Mary Ann Weigand, Elisabeth Stewart, Librarian

* * * * *

Editor - Through the fine efforts of the Angola Library, ACRES, The McClue Nature Reserve Board, a very generous donation from an Angola resident, and the family of Helen Skelton, the entire Helen Skelton Nature Library was kept intact and will be housed at the Angola Carnegie Public Library.

Library workers are presently tackling the tremendous task of cataloging the nearly 2700 volumes of books. Plans are also being made to build shelves in a special room to house the collection. The Skelton library should be available for browsing by late 1989 or early 1990. It will be a tremendous resource for all who visit the Angola Library!

lost & found...

Cable Release for Nikon Camera! Found at Spurgeon Woodland Reserve on June 2, 1989. If it is yours, please contact Lee Casebere, 9202 N. Delaware, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46240. Home Phone: 317-843-8379. Work Phone: 317-232-4052.

Editor - Thanks Lee!

(Even though you did say that you would have kept it and not said anything had you not already owned your own!....)





THE BACK PAGE

Hummers!

A favorite pastime for bird enthusiasts in the summer is the feeding of hummingbirds. For a long time it was felt that the fluid for these miniature marvels had to be red. Recent research has shown, however, that red coloring may cause birth defects and liver damage for the birds. It is now recommended to **leave the fluid clear**. The red on the feeder is enough to attract the birds. Some people even take baby food jars, paint the top red, poke a hole in the lid, and hang it for a feeder. A red ribbon tied around a medicine bottle also works!

For the hummingbird solution, mix 1 part sugar to 4 parts water. Boiling helps dissolve the solution. Mix a big batch and store in the refrigerator. If you have a big feeder, do not fill to the top. Put in just a few days' worth so that the feeder can be emptied and cleaned on a regular basis.

The **ACRES QUARTERLY** welcomes letters, articles, artwork, black and white photos, gossip about fellow members, and anything else of interest to our readers. If you're out enjoying one of our preserves, drop us a note, let us know what you discovered and enjoyed! Send any and all items to Fred J. Wooley, Editor, **ACRES Quarterly**, Rt. 2, Box 108, Angola, Indiana, 46703. Deadline for the fall issue is September 15, 1989.

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