

Wells' Natural Gardens: Photos and Prose

This presentation focuses on the life and work of pioneer ecologist B.W. Wells. Wells was Professor and Head of the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at North Carolina State College (now North Carolina State University) from 1919 to 1949, and he remained on the faculty until his retirement in 1954. Wells was one of the first generation of ecologists in the United States, and he contributed in fundamental ways to our understanding of the ecological conditions and processes responsible for North Carolina's diversity of natural communities. The presentation is illustrated with Wells' own remarkable photographs, four-by-five-inch negatives he converted to glass lantern slides. Many of these black-and white photographs, featuring native plants and natural communities, were hand-tinted by Wells. The presentation will also feature readings from Wells' popular work, *The Natural Gardens of North Carolina*, originally published in 1932. The combination of Wells' inimitable writing style and his lovely photographs should be of interest to anyone interested in North Carolina's natural history and native plants.