

by J. Lawrence Smith

## Abloom in June

Early summer is an excellent time to observe the beauty of the flowering shrubs and many wild flowers of the Blackwater country. Here are some that can't be missed and some to look for:

**RHODODENDRON** - State flower of West Virginia. Often called "great laurel" to distinguish it from mountain laurel that appears a somewhat miniature version.



Rhododendron



Flame Azalea

**AZALEAS** - Flowering shrubs with blossoms looking like honey suckle which is what many mountain people call the plants. Their rosy hues add color amid the spruce at Dolly Sods.

**PAINTED TRILLIUM** - Still in bloom in early summer, look for this trillium with rose or purple in the flowers in woods at higher elevations,



Painted Trillium



Dwarf Cornel

**DWARF CORNEL** - Abloom in June beneath the

spruce with flowers looking like the dogwood. A relict plant that came here with ancient periods of glaciers in the North.

**YELLOW CLINTONIA** - A little lily with yellow bell-like flowers. Somewhat "companion" of the dwarf cornel that is also called the bluebead lily from the small blue berries in the fall.



Yellow Clintonia



Purple Fringed Orchid

**PURPLE FRINGED ORCHID** - Small, delicately fringed, rosy purple flowers appear atop a rather tall stem. Look for this beautiful wild flower in rich woods through early to mid-summer.