



her finger and a drop of blood landed in the centre of the lace pattern.

As the flower clusters mature they fold inward forming a structure somewhat resembling a bird's nest. This explains another name of the plant - "bird's nest". When the seeds mature they can be easily gathered, rubbed out by hand, and blown clean. These seeds can be an addition to your spice collection. They can be ground in a food grinder or blender. I have not tried this myself but hope to in the coming summer. Euell Gibbons, an authority on wild foods, is the authority for this statement and he wrote of nothing that he had not tried himself.

The root of the Wild Carrot, though white in color, is quite edible, and is an excellent source of vitamin A. Again, quoting Euell Gibbons, it is possible to select over a period of time, a carrot resembling a cultivated one. Gibbons tells of a lady in Maine who did exactly that and came up with an excellent carrot that she said was sweeter tasting than the commercial varieties.

For those who wish further information on Wild Carrot there are many sources of information. I would suggest "Stalking the Healthful Herbs" by Euell Gibbons; "A Sampler of Wayside Herbs" by Barbara Pond; "Magic and Medicine of Plants" published by Reader's Digest. If a really complete story is required, it will be found in "The Biology of Canadian Weeds", Canada Agriculture publication 1693. Oddly enough, this very complete article does not mention the red or purple floret.

## Natural History Society update

The last meeting of the Natural History Society before the summer break, held on Tuesday, May 5, saw some new faces among the 36 people in attendance. Bruce Smith gave members a rundown on the meeting to be held in St. Peter's on the proposed Greenwich development. The Island Nature Trust has been saying all along that they are not against development - they are against the location of the development, and are trying to avoid conflicts between conservationists and the people in the area. There are serious concerns about the development site and the Nature Trust is trying to arrange a land swap with the developers for nearby government-owned land.

May 15 marked the launching of NHS member Patrick Wootton's "Islands of Silence touched by the Healing Hand". The celebrations for the book took place at the Harris Gallery in the Confederation Centre of the Arts and were opened by the Honourable Tom McMillan.

Ian Scott of the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation told members that he would like to see a Birds of PEI published, similar to Robie Tufts' book on the birds of Nova Scotia. Included would be nesting records, migration records, colour plates, etc. NHS members supported the idea, and Dan McAskill suggested putting something about enhancement for each bird in the book.

The society renewed its membership in the Canadian Coalition on Acid Rain and postcards to be sent to politicians to protest the proposed LePreau II nuclear power plant were handed out at the meeting.

As always, the highlight of the May meeting was the slide competition, this year judged by Glen MacEachern, an accomplished Island photographer. The quality was again very high, and Mr. MacEachern's insights gave members a better idea about what actually makes up a top quality slide. Jennifer Taylor's scenic slide took 1st place. Geoff Hogan and Dan McAskill took second and third respectively. Dan and Rosemary Curley took top honours in the wildlife category.