

# CLAYTONIA

## Newsletter of the Arkansas Native Plant Society

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### Wetland Plant Identification Workshop

Report by Theo Witsell

Back in May, before the drought really set in, a number of natural resource professionals, land managers, and other botanically inclined folks gathered in Little Rock for a wetland plant identification workshop put on by the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) with assistance from the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC). The ANRC brought in Justin and Dana Thomas from the Institute of Botanical Training in Missouri to lead the workshop. They were assisted in planning and in the field by Brent Baker and Theo Witsell of the ANHC.

Justin and Dana have an interesting approach to teaching their workshop, which lasted three and a half days. The first morning was held indoors, where the class went over terminology, basic plant morphology, and other details you have to know to identify plants. The entire remainder of the course was taught in the field, where participants examined plants in their natural habitat and received specimens of each species. These were taped into notebooks where the plant names, families, habitat requirements, and identification tips were recorded.

The first afternoon was spent in "Fourche Bottoms" in south Little Rock, just east of Arch Street and south of I-30, where the group explored the flora of some nice wet hardwood flatwoods, bottomland hardwood forest, and roadside ditches. This site is home to several interesting wetland species including copper iris (*Iris fulva*), spider lily (*Hymenocallis liviosme*), swamp buttercup (*Ranunculus*

*hispidus* var. *nitidus*), and the native swamp privet (*Forestiera acuminata*).

The second day of the class was held at Lorraine Creek Natural Area off Bingham Road near the Pulaski/Saline County line. This area is co-owned and managed by the ANHC and The Nature Conservancy and features a number of interesting wetland types including both wooded and open hillside seeps, bottomland hardwood forest, wet pine flatwoods, a seasonally wet powerline right-of-way, and a groundwater-fed cypress-tupelo swamp. Among the interesting species seen



Justin and Dana Thomas of the Institute of Botanical Training instruct the class at the Camp Robinson Special Use Area

Photo courtesy of Theo Witsell

here were Virginia chain fern (*Woodwardia areolata*), arrow arum (*Peltandra virginica*), swamp blackgum (*Nyssa biflora*), and hardhack (*Spiraea tomentosa*).

The third day of the class was held at the Camp Robinson Special Use Area in Faulkner County, which is one of the most spectacular botanical areas in central Arkansas, thanks in large part to more than 60 years of regular prescribed burning by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Interesting wetland species seen here included water hemlock

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## Wetland Plant Identification Workshop

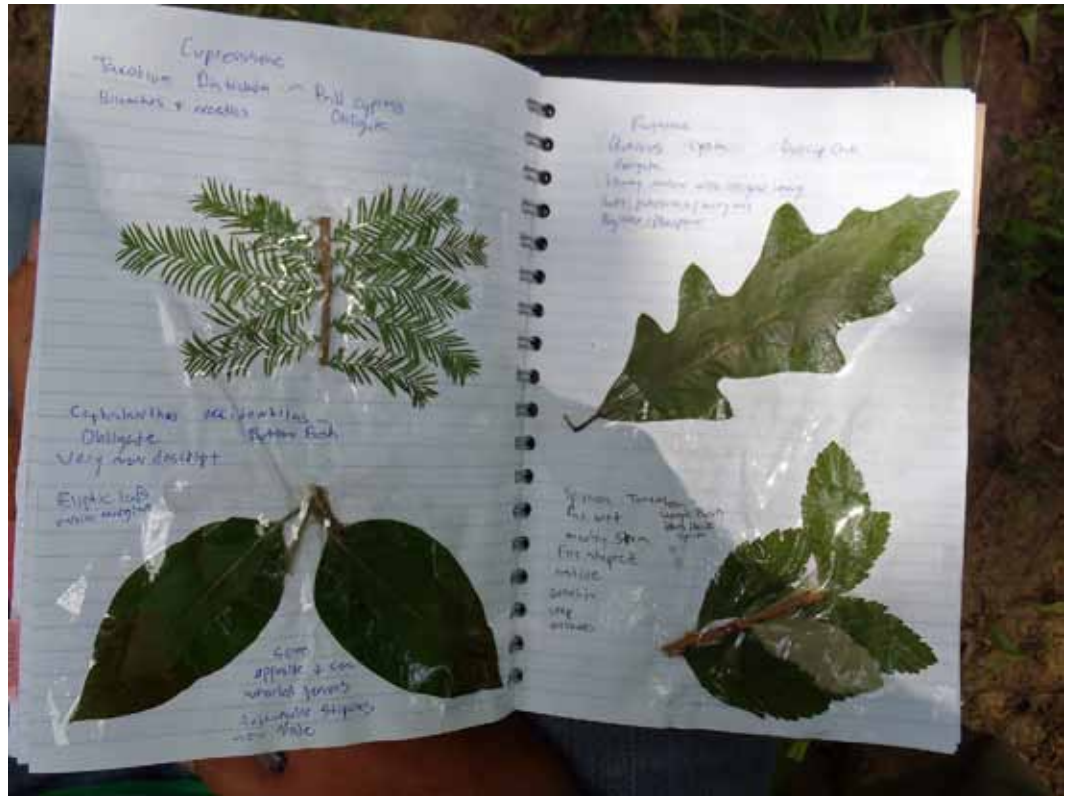
Report by Theo Witsell

(*Cicuta maculata*), southern wild rice (*Zizaniopsis miliacea*), many sedges and rushes, and the floating shrub swamp loosestrife (*Decodon verticillatus*).

Finally, on the morning of the fourth day, the class concluded on the banks of the Arkansas River at Murray Park in Little Rock where participants explored wetland plants of a large river floodplain. Species collected here included riverbank grape (*Vitis riparia*), scouring-rush (*Equisetum hyemale*), and silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*).

Participants ended up with more than 130 plants in their notebooks, which will serve them well into the future as a reference to common wetland flora in central Arkansas.

Justin and Dana presented a lot of information over the three and a half days, and did so in an entertaining way that kept participants, who came to the course with a wide range of interests and experience, engaged. For news of upcoming workshops put on by the Institute of Botanical Training, visit their website at [www.botanytraining.com](http://www.botanytraining.com). For more information on the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, Lorange Creek Natural Area, or any of the other 69 public nature preserves in Arkansas's System of Natural Areas, visit [www.naturalheritage.org](http://www.naturalheritage.org).



An example of a workshop participant's specimen notebook

Photo courtesy of Theo Witsell



Justin Thomas of the Institute of Botanical Training instructs the class in Fourche Bottoms in south Little Rock.

Photo courtesy of Theo Witsell

## **PROPOSAL TO AMEND BYLAWS**

The Society's Bylaws are posted at [www.anps.org](http://www.anps.org) (under "About") and printed in the 2012 Directory.

The Bylaws do not include a waiver to any requirement of the Bylaws. In the best interest of the Society, a waiver of a specific provision may be needed in the future. Article XI has been re-drafted (see below) to add this flexibility.

This Amendment will be presented to Membership at the Fall 2012 Meeting for vote.

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### ***Article XI - Amendment, Revision and Waiver***

***These bylaws may be amended (rewritten in part) or revised (rewritten in whole). An amendment or revision may be initiated by the Board or Membership. All amendments and revisions are approved by the Board. Board-approved amendments and revisions are published once in Claytonia with a vote by Membership at the next Regular Meeting. (Article III, Section 3 and Article IV, Section 3 apply.)***

***If in the best interest of the Society, a one-time waiver to any specific requirement of these Bylaws may be approved by the Board. Such approval requires an affirmative vote by the majority of all Board Members. The waiver will be reported to Membership at the next Regular Meeting.***

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## **OCANPS**

### **Annual Fall Retreat to Harmony Mountain. November 2nd—4th**

We meet Friday afternoon, after 3 p.m., at Harmony Mountain, check in, share a potluck, and hold the annual fall auction to raise money for our chapter. We also hold a business meeting Friday night to elect officers, pay dues, discuss past and new business. On Saturday and Sunday, if the weather cooperates, we hike area trails. If you plan to attend, please contact Burnetta at [burhint@sbcglobal.net](mailto:burhint@sbcglobal.net) to reserve a room at HM lodge. It is important to get on the list as the lodge will accommodate up to 24 individuals. Harmony Mountain is located ca. 12 miles south of Jasper on Hwy. 7. Check out their website: <http://www.buffaloriverlodging.com> for information and good directions.

## **Request for Input to "Annual Work Plan" for Fiscal Year 2013**

An Annual Work Plan for the new fiscal year (January 1, 2013—December 31, 2013) will be approved at the Fall 2012 Board and Membership Meetings. If Members have suggestions for expenditure of Society funds, please prepare a proposal that includes the dollar amount, site of proposed expenditure, purpose of site, what would be accomplished with the funds, who would benefit, and any other information, as appropriate. Maybe a school or park in your community could use help with a Native Plant Garden.

Please send your proposal to the President by October 1, 2012 so that it can be presented to the Executive Board for consideration.

To review the 2012 Proposed Budget, please refer to page 9 of Spring/Summer 2012 *Claytonia*. To review the Society's current fiscal situation, refer to the Treasurer's Report in this issue of *Claytonia*.

*"Oh Botany,  
delightfulest  
of all the  
sciences.  
There is no  
end to thy  
gratifications."*

John Bartram

## Jonesboro Meeting Cool But Too Hot, Too

Report by Eric Sundell

Our ANPS Spring 2012 meeting drew a good crowd up to Jonesboro and Crowley's Ridge in northeast Arkansas.

Saturday field trips to Crowley's Ridge State Park and to the Arkansas Game and Fish Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center were excellent, however with temperatures into the 90s, enthusiasm for outdoor botanizing faded after lunch. Brent Baker—with the help of Jennifer Ogle, graduate student at UA Fayetteville, and Meghan Foard and David Burge, grad students of Travis Marsico—and Eric Sundell led the trips at the state park, Larry Lowman and Travis the trips to the nature center. Travis's former colleague at UARK Sarah Nunn and his grad student Kari Harris helped out on the afternoon walk. Larry gave folks a tour of the nature center native plant garden that he had designed for the Game & Fish Commission several years ago. Here are just a few of the memorable plant moments: A waist-high green dragon, *Arisaema dracontium*, at the nature center. Along the Dancing Rabbit Trail at the park, a single perfect specimen of Virginia snake-root, *Aristolochia serpentaria*, a small perennial herb in the same genus as the high-climbing, woody pipe-vine—the flowers bloom at ground level in the leaf litter where several young fruits were developing, and the spicy-smelling roots were used by old timers to flavor their homemade candy. And along the Spider Creek Trail, native wild yam, *Dioscorea villosa*, with both staminate and pistillate plants in full flower—the foamy sprays of male flowers are especially striking.

Both of the evening programs scored a perfect ten on the Afflicter Scale, which measures the percentage of audi-

ence members asleep by the end of the slide show when the lights come back on. A score of ten indicates that everybody was still awake, and in fact many of them had questions for the presenters. (It was just like teaching undergraduates!)

Larry Lowman gave the Friday evening program, an illustrated talk on the flora and geology of the Ridge, a glob-

ern North America. (The Sino-American disjunction strikes again!)

Travis Marsico's program Saturday evening was titled, *Stop and Smell the Roses: They Are Trying to Tell You Something*. The highlight of Travis's energetic presentation occurred when his film clip of a parasitic dodder vine, *Cuscuta sp.*, seeking a host tomato plant failed to cooperate with the ASU computer projector and could not be screened. Without skipping a beat, Travis shifted to Plan B, personally acting out the role of the dodder and commandeering an audience volunteer, Eric Sundell, to ad lib the part of the tomato plant. The sketch was a big hit. And the fact that it cannot be seen on YouTube suggests that ANPS needs to put more energy into recruiting people who don't qualify for senior discounts.

Brent Baker led the Sunday morning trip to the St. Francis Sunken Lands Wildlife Management Area, where about 20 of us admired the world's largest known population of pondberry, *Lindera melisifolia*, an Arkansas native shrub on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Threatened and Endangered Species list. For those of us who live in more or less upland, well drained habitats, the Sunken Lands are an exotic, foreign place, dominated by the most aquatic of Arkansas trees: baldcypress of course, but

also overcup oak, Nuttall oak, water oak, river birch, Drummond red maple, green ash, sycamore, American elm, and black gum. The low mounds supported most of the woody vegetation. The swales were black with leaf litter scarcely decomposed under prolonged anaerobic conditions. It was a different botanical world.

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Kari Harris of ASU, the girl without the dragon tattoo, examines a near-state-champion green dragon.

*Photo courtesy of Don Ford*

ally unique landform, with a fascinating mix of common and intriguingly rare plants. For example, yellow-poplar, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, so common east of the Mississippi River—and the largest hardwood tree in the eastern forest—is native in Arkansas only on Crowley's Ridge, as is the rare magnolia vine, *Schisandra glabra*, the genus *Schisandra* comprising some 25 species, of which 24 grow in eastern Asia and one in east-

## Jonesboro Meeting Cool But Too Hot, Too

Report by Eric Sundell



Brent Baker's group admires a tangle of fragrant pondberry shrubs at St. Francis Sunken Lands

*Photo courtesy of Don Ford*

### Jonesboro Meeting Lagniappe: Virginia Snakeroot Up Close and Personal

Photos by Martha Bowden



The little perennial herb Virginia snakeroot, *Aristolochia serpentaria*, is first cousin to the high-climbing, woody pipevine, *Aristolochia tomentosa*, nicely illustrating the point that reproductive structures usually are the most reliable witnesses concerning the taxonomic relationships of flowering plants. The two species have similar chemistry, too: both are host plants for the pipevine swallowtail butterfly.



Virginia snakeroot flowers bloom at ground level in the leaf litter and, like those of pipevine, are pollinated by small flies. One flower past its prime can be seen at the upper right along with three young fruiting capsules. The species is not uncommon in the hardwood forests of eastern North America, but it's hard to catch sight of.

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission botanist (and ANPS Past President) Brent Baker's March 31, 2012 trip to ANHC's Cove Creek Natural Area northwest of Greenbrier in Faulkner County—the first walkabout of the new season!—drew a very respectable turnout of 13 ANPS members: Webmaster Martha Bowden, Past President Don Crank, Donna and Bruno Hanke, Becky Hardin and Butch Hinton, Jay Justice (longtime president of the Arkansas Mycological Society), Pat and Sandy Morris, Eric (President Elect) and Milanne Sundell, and Sid (Treasurer) and Jeanette Vogelpohl.

The grand prize of the mile and a half trail loop was to be a look—a first look for many of us—at the Ozark spring beauty growing in ledges and crevices of the sandstone bluffs high above Cove Creek. The plants are not only rare, occurring in just a few known populations in Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma, but their status as a species distinct from Carolina spring beauty was only recently appreciated: *Claytonia ozarkensis* was described as new to science in 2006. Theo Witsell featured Ozark spring beauty in the Fall 2007 Claytonia, which you can revisit at the ANPS website to see a couple of beautiful and informative photographs of plants in flower. In that article, Theo describes the Eureka Moment when he figured out the astonishing mechanism by which the plants disperse their seeds to sites where they have the best chance to thrive free from the competition of larger species.

“The stems, which had been cascading down from the crevices in March, with the flowers facing out away from the bluffs, were now in full fruit. But the stems had turned around and were stuffing the mature seed capsules back into the bluffs! In many cases the capsules had found cracks



Ozark spring beauty with young seed capsules on elongating stalks searching for dark crevices.

Photo: Jeanette Vogelpohl

and crevices in the bluff and were being inserted right into them.”

In Jeanette Vogelpohl's accompanying photo, above right, this adaptation is nicely illustrated: several of the swelling seed capsules, at the tips of elongating stalks, can be seen ‘hunting’ for a dark crevice in which to open and release their contents, the seeds for the next generation of cliff-dwelling Ozark spring beauties.

Our walk at Cove Creek brought to mind a southern European plant unrelated to spring beauty that has evolved a similar dispersal mechanism for a similar habitat: Kenilworth-ivy, *Cymbalaria muralis* (the species epithet means “of walls” or “growing on walls”), is a beautiful, fascinating, and, yes, alien weed that occurs wild in Arkansas (to my knowledge) in only one place, Eureka Springs, where it is locally abundant and easily observed clambering over garden walls, rock piles, and even at sidewalk and parking lot borders. There the exquisitely adaptive dispersal mechanism can be examined without the fear of losing

your life by toppling over a sandstone bluff. The adaptation is captured in a time-lapse motion picture segment in David Attenborough's BBC production, *The Private Life of Plants*, Volume 1, on how plants do their traveling.

The Cove Creek loop trail harbored two additional rare plants. *Draba aprica*, a whitlow-grass of the mustard family, (and one of the most easily overlooked species of flowering plants in the world), is rated G3/S2 (globally vulnerable). If the lovely dandelion can be ignored and even despised because it's so common, then perhaps ‘open-ground whitlow-grass’ can attract some appreciation for its rarity.

The other rare plant was wild white clover, *Trifolium carolinianum*, a native species superficially similar to but entirely distinct from the abundant lawn and roadside alien, white clover, *T. repens*. The alien is a stoloniferous perennial, rooting at the nodes; the native is variously described both as annual and perennial, but either way

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Brent and Eric examining wild white clover on the footpath, with Jay Justice and Milanne Sundell.

Photo: Sid Vogelpohl

non-stoloniferous. Theo featured wild white or Carolina clover in his article on Arkansas' native clovers back in the Fall 2009 *Claytonia*. He observes that the species, which at that time he had seen in the wild only once, in the past had been common: "Nearly all of the known collections are historical, with most made between the 1880s and 1940s, and very few made since the 1950s." The widespread decline of the native clover, which occurs throughout the Southeast, is a mystery, especially as it thrives on disturbance. Brent Baker pointed out a small population under our feet in the middle of the walking trail and another at the edge of the parking area. We were too early for flowers, but we put our trust in Brent's keen field eye and added *Trifolium carolinianum* to our life lists.

Arkansas' premier mycologist, Jay

Justice, noticed the black cup fungus *Urnula* along the path. My former dendrology students used to call them black roses. Our timing was perfect. Several of us knew how to tickle the cups with a finger to unleash the cloud of spores, but Jay taught us the alternative technique of simply blowing softly across the top of the cups. After the split second delay, a puff of smoke rose into the air. Very cool!

We saw some wildlife: a box turtle and a cottonmouth. But we were out for flowers. And if you're out for flowers in Arkansas in late March and early April, it's hard not to have a rewarding walk. We were met by the usual delightful surprises of spring, for example, red buckeye, flowering dogwood, fringe tree, cross-vine, wild hyacinth, Ohio spiderwort, and fire pink. For especially photogenic blue, there was blue-eyed

Mary, and bird's foot violet blooming near the cedars in patches of reindeer moss. Blueberries were everywhere: *Vaccinium virgatum* (we're pretty sure it wasn't *V. pallidum*) was common, with closed, urn-shaped corollas, and *V. stamineum*, deerberry, with open, campanulate corollas, was uncommon. Both promised that the future would be sweet. But yellow may have been the dominant theme of the day. Two species of golden ragwort appeared and reappeared, *Senecio tomentosus* and *S. plattensis*, both classified now by splitters in the genus *Packera*, but still pretty. Three buttercups with large, medium, and small flowers (also called grande, venti, and tall in the technical literature) accompanied us most of the way: *Ranunculus fascicularis*, *R. harveyi*, and *R. abortivus*. And yellow star-grass was beaming. What a fine trip!

Aaron Hinterthuer joined his mother Burnetta, trip leader Bob Morgan, and a gang of Ozark Chapter folks for an ANPS botanical foray:

**Fern Gully: April 1, 2012**  
by Aaron Hinterthuer

“Thanks”

I don't know what I will do without the “old timers” that pop up and bloom around the springtime. Yeah, you see them here and there throughout the winter, but there are much less interesting things to ruminate about in the hibernating months. The muted gray and rust colors that dot the Ozarks landscape lend themselves to introspection or even more convenient, escapism.

However, there is no need for that in the springtime. The color is absolutely radiant now, and there is now less of the urge to escape from a place all together and more of a feeling to escape to places just a stone's throw or a couple of counties away. This brings me back to those “old timers.”



Old Timers (and a New Timer) at Fern Gully:  
Front row: Bob & Sharon Morgan  
Back row, L to R: Aaron Hinterthuer, Virginia Brandt, Rick Hinterthuer, Sid Vogelpohl, David Forst

*Photo courtesy of Burnetta Hinterthuer*

Every winter acts as my forgetting and every spring acts as my remembering. The “old timers” I refer to are dedicated conservationists, artists, wildlife preservationists, amateur naturalists, and friends. Their presence encourages a slowing down and looking around at

the ins and outs of things, the back side and the front side, and everything else every which way. Through a blend of expertise and panache, folk taxonomy and humor, the world opens up to all of us. These “old timers” help me remember every year the wonders present in the world that I and they inhabit.

I was reminded most recently of this remembering on a hike to a beautiful limestone draw nestled in the Ozarks called Fern Gully. Plant species I had once known and forgotten and am now desperately trying to remember were brought back to life through human relationships and a love of the natural world. This for me is better than any guidebook or technological accoutrement the world could provide us today. My “App” is in the company I kept on this day.

A list of species that were rediscovered in the plant world for me at Fern Gully are as follows and in no particular order:

Sweet William Phlox, Bluets, Wood Sorrell, Crested Iris, Rue Anemone, Spring Beauty, Trillium, Birdsfoot Violet, Blackberry, May Apple and an assortment of others that ironically I have forgotten (and must be remembered again through good company).

In addition, the reptiles and amphibians made their appearance in the form of a Western Fence Lizard, with the most beautiful azure blue belly I have seen grace these parts, to go along with skinks and a Hognose Snake gorging on a frog, flaring up like a “Cobra,” and going into its death roll and “soiling” himself through his defensive posturing.

Bird habitats were seen from the base to the very tip of long dead trees. Of note, was a particularly large Shortleaf Pine. We saw the most peculiar Oak Gall in red and white colored revelry and heard the calling of a hawk soaring high above the tree tops in the woods.

One of the most picturesque wa-

tering holes is located at Fern Gully and was a welcome respite from the sweltering heat and that other inconvenience that presented itself to us on our hike that day. Respite from what other inconvenience you may ask?



Fern Gully

*Photo courtesy of Burnetta Hinterthuer*

To live in the Ozarks one must accept the existence of *Toxicodendron radicans*, Poison-Ivy, already in this early springtime, made up we estimated to be about 80 percent of the understory in the woods in some parts and acts disappointingly as a disincentive for me to take wide strides and whimsical jaunts bushwhacking through the woods. But, this is the territory that we claim as home. Nature in this part of the world has no pretense and does not aim to please; it is busy being itself and does not cater to the needs of hikers who would wish to romanticize their relationships with the wilderness. Fortunately, we had no illusions about what we were walking amongst. But, all in all, we were not in any way deterred from seeing beauty none the less.

All in all, the day was a good one.

Note:

Thanks to Bob, Sharon, Sid, David, Mom, Dad, and Virginia for a great Sunday. And thank you to all who were not able to make it there as well. You “old timers” to me are always there in spirit.



On Saturday, May 19, 2012, twenty-one hikers arrived at South Fork to be led by Brent Baker in exploring the ecosystems on the peninsula. Gathering and greeting around the old cabin in midmorning, Almeda Riddle's birthplace, Don Richardson of the Gates Rogers Foundation Board welcomed the group and spoke about the history of South Fork.

Don Culwell addressed the mission of South Fork, to educate the public in providing a greater understanding and love for nature, and noted the many and varied activities that have occurred as docents have led activities from nature art to walks along trails learning about plants, animals, and their ecosystems.

Brent Baker, a botanist with the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission who led the day's walk along the trails, had joined Theo Witsell way back in 2005, at the request of the South Fork Board, for a year-long study of all the plants growing on the nature center grounds, a study that put South Fork "on the map" as being the tract of land in Arkansas with the most intensive plant study anywhere in the state. (Their study and its findings are recorded in the *Proceedings of the Arkansas Academy of Science* and are linked to the South Fork web site: [www.southforknature-center.org](http://www.southforknature-center.org).)

Lunch at the picnic tables around the cabin provided time to rest with a bottle of cold water and discuss Native Plant Society activities as well as the botanical finds of the morning. The day of hiking nearly two miles of trail was a fine one with a gentle breeze and temperatures around 80 degrees... it was a time to relax with friends from a week of one's regular activities, and enjoy nature.

Perhaps one of the most notable finds on the walk was the Ozark Chinquapin (*Castanea pumila*). One specimen was growing on the westerly upside of the trail just above the bluff over the lake and near a large mass of Farkleberry bushes (*Vaccinium arboreum*) covering the hillside. The plant was mostly not alive with several six-foot, dead branches still well attached in the soil and angling away from the two or three short (10-12 inch) living shoots that



Brent uses walking stick to show ANPS members where the Ozark chinquapin is growing along the trail. The red arrow is pointing to the leaves.

*Picture courtesy of Martha Bowden*

were putting out green leaves for the season.

The two miles of pressed gravel trails at South Fork wind around and over the 120-acre peninsula taking visitors along scenic bluff views of the lake and through noted ecosystems. Interpretive trail signs alert hikers to the ecology of the area as well as species of birds, insects, amphibians and reptiles, plants and lichens that can be seen by the careful observer.

The stone entrance to South Fork near Klondike Road is at a kiosk where information and pictures are posted alongside an enlarged map of the area. Hikers are always welcome to walk the trails at any time and inspect the 100 year old log cabin, the birthplace of noted folksinger Almeda Riddle. When the iron gate is closed (when there is no scheduled activity taking place), visitors may park in the lot opposite the gate. Enter at the kiosk and walk the trails. Picnic tables are found at the cabin as are outhouse toilets. Bring your own drinks, since no water is available. Visit our website for available details and information on activities and plant studies. Travel time from Little Rock north on Hwy 65 to Choctaw (just south of Clinton) and east on Hwy 330 to Klondike Road to South Fork is approximately one and a half hours.

If my count is right, there were 26 of us at Burl's Smokehouse at ten o'clock, Wednesday morning, May 30. What a turnout!

The main event, Meyers Creek, would be rich in ferns. But our first stop was a natural spring that splashed into the roadside ditch along Meyers Creek Road—the place where Theo Witsell a few years ago discovered a Ouachita Mountain population of horsetail, *Equisetum arvense*. This is the common equisetum of cooler climates, found across much of North America, but in Arkansas it's an uncommon fern ally mostly limited to our northern Ozark counties. If you're familiar with any equisetums in Arkansas, you probably know scouring-rush, *E. hyemale*, which is likely to eventually turn up in every county. Scouring-rush bears its cones at the tips of tall, unbranched, green stems. Horsetail is dimorphic: Cones disperse their spores from early, colorless stems that quickly die back, much like the fertile fronds of cinnamon fern. Green, photosynthetic stems, crowded with whorls of green branches, emerge as the fertile stems disintegrate. Those stems make hay all summer while the sun shines.

The population of *Equisetum arvense* reminded me that a little farther west in the same Ouachita Mountains, in a coal mine in Bates, Arkansas, on the Oklahoma border, Don Crank had shown me the Coal Age fossils of *Calamites*, a 300 million year old relative of *Equisetum*. Only 15 or 20 species of *Equisetum* are living today worldwide, and all are relatively minor players in ecosystems dominated by seed plants. During the Carboniferous Period of the Paleozoic Era, the calamites were forest giants, reaching heights of 20-30 feet (larger plants were possibly two to three times that height) with stems 2 feet thick. They were among the dominant trees of Coal Age forests. (Those were also the days when the land now folded into the Ouachita Mountains lay near the Equator.)

A second fern ally at the spring was the delicate spikemoss, *Selaginella eclipes*, with little cones at the branch tips.

You might know peacock-fern, an exotic ornamental spikemoss that's becoming popular for wetland gardening. Spikemosses and their close cousins, the club-mosses, constitute another group of fern allies whose pedigree goes back to the Coal Age.

Two flowering plants bloomed on the wet road bank in the sun: jewel weed, *Impatiens capensis*, and tearthumb, *Polygonum sagittatum*. Tearthumb comes by its name honestly. The stems are lined with stiff barbs that can quickly tear up the skin if stems are carelessly handled—a defensive mechanism as effective as that of stinging nettles and faster than that of poison-ivy. Like most members of the buckwheat family, tearthumbs produce nutritious grains that make excellent wildlife food. The species is locally common in scattered Arkansas wetlands, but relatively few specimens have been collected—a plant more fun to find than to handle.

Meyers Creek seep fosters one of the richest habitats in the Ouachita Mountains and in Arkansas, generally. Some

of the state's rarest plants thrive there in soil water uninterrupted by summer drought, for example, fly poison, featherbells, Michigan lily, and American columbo. Eight orchid species have been recorded from the seep, four of them showy: putty root, large whorled pogonia, three-bird orchid, and Kentucky lady slipper. Meyers Creek seep is still the only known locality in Arkansas for yellow twayblade orchid, *Liparis loeselii*. A reconnaissance expedition three weeks earlier had rediscovered none of those rare plants. But the ferns were in abundance, and we found them again, growing in large, dense colonies under a canopy dominated in part by incomparable umbrella magnolias, with their tight spirals of two-foot leaves terminating long, bare branches at multiple levels right to the top of the canopy.



A stem-tip umbrella of *Magnolia tripetala* leaves.  
Photo courtesy of Don Ford



300-million-year-old stem cast of *Calamites*, a large tree and ancestral cousin of our modern horsetails and scouring-rushes (*Equisetum* spp.), photographed at a Bates, Arkansas, coal mine.

Photo courtesy of Henry W. Robison

In a long list of ferns that includes Christmas fern, southern lady fern, sensitive fern, netted chain fern, and broad beech fern, two species, marsh fern (*Thelypteris palustris*) and New York fern (*T. noveboracensis*), stood out for their rarity in our dry state, and two others, cinnamon and royal ferns, for their size and abundance. Fronds of cinnamon fern were as much as five feet long. After two months of unseasonably hot, dry weather, the vitality and diversity of the Meyers Creek ferns was most impressive.

Lunch at Burl's Smokehouse on U.S. Hwy 270 in Crystal Springs hit the spot. Our thanks to Don Crank who thought that a lot of folks would enjoy seeing such a rich, unique site and organized the trip that got us there.

The Arkansas Native Plant Society field trip on 2,753-foot-high Mt. Magazine on June 2, 2012 drew 14 people and dozens of butterflies. And this was scarcely odd because Lori Spencer, author of the comprehensive, beautifully illustrated field guide, *Arkansas Butterflies and Moths*, was our trip leader. The walk went out from Brown Springs over the thinly wooded western ridge and, right from the start, butterflies in abundance seemed to have us on their schedule. And guess what? Just like the plants, it turns out, the butterflies all have names! Oh I suspected as much—but how pleasant and informative to have those suspicions confirmed.

For example, the colorful array of pollinators decorating the bright orange butterfly weed included a male Diana, a few orange sulphurs, and a coral hairstreak. A zebra swallowtail was plying the Arkansas calamint. And a snowberry clearwing moth larva identified its host plant for us: horse-gentian, *Triosteum perfoliatum*. What clever taxonomists these insects are! The field trip's botany guides, Larry Price and Eric Sundell, couldn't quite remember what the sterile wildflower with the opposite, clasping leaves was. But the larva reminded us that "snowberry," being congeneric with our common Arkansas coralberry, *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*, is a member of the honeysuckle family, Caprifoliaceae. And with those hints from a moth larva, the wildflower book quickly yielded the name of our unknown.

The most exciting butterfly encounter started when Don Simons discovered caterpillars of the giant swallowtail feeding on one of the numerous waferash (*Ptelea trifoliata*) bushes along the way. Don, Lori's husband, is Park Interpreter at Mt. Magazine State Park (Lori is Chief Volunteer) as well as the illustrator of her butterfly and moth field guide. Giant swallowtail caterpil-

lars do not like to be disturbed, and to facilitate that, they take on the coloring of bird droppings, an unsavory shiny mottling of gray, white, and black. The cryptic coloring must be very effective. Nevertheless there is in reserve a Plan B, which Lori demonstrated by gently harassing the caterpillars with her finger. Two bright red horns emerge from the head and broadcast the unpleasant smell of something like parmesan cheese—not nearly as bad as a ginkgo seed coat, but apparently bad enough to discourage some predators who have seen through the bird dropping disguise.

Our woodroad (locally known as "the fire line") took us through open woods dominated by a variety of upland oaks—post, black, blackjack, some northern red, and most interesting, a few maple-leaf oaks (*Quercus acerifolia*), a species of scrub oak



The scrubby, rare, bizarre maple-leaf oak (*Quercus acerifolia*) is an Arkansas endemic, known from only four sites of relatively high elevation in the Arkansas River Valley and Ouachita Mountains.

*Photo courtesy of Don Simons*

known worldwide from only four populations at rather high elevation in the Arkansas River Valley and Ouachita Mountains, making it one of the state's ten endemic plants. The common hickory along our path was the uncommon pignut hickory, *Carya glabra*. Pignut is the dominant hickory in much of North America's eastern forest, from the Mississippi River to the Atlantic Coast. But in Arkansas the species is rare or at least certainly problematic—so much so, that Dwight Moore fails to include or even mention the spe-

cies in his (otherwise) very accurate and helpful handbook (published by the Arkansas Forestry Commission), *Trees of Arkansas*. Hophornbeam was common and unusually showy; the species is typically an understory tree that bears its interesting fruit a little too high to be fully appreciated. But here, on the open, savanna-like ridge, the trees are hung with their false hops at eye level and extremely decorative. Three shrubs were abundant: waferash or hoptree, loaded with handsome, elm-like fruit; grancy graybeard or fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*), unfortunately past bloom; and winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum*), with that elegant foliage.

Mt. Magazine is a kind of elevated island in the Arkansas River Valley, and botanically, its habitats support a number of plant species that are rare elsewhere in Arkansas. We saw sev-



Western wallflower, *Erysimum capitatum*, is widespread and very common in western North America from the Pacific states and provinces eastward to the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains. In the East, the species is local and uncommon, and in Arkansas, it is known from only a few populations in three counties, one atop Mt. Magazine. Unfortunately, we missed the flowers (shown here blooming in May) but did catch the young fruit.

*Photo courtesy of Don Simons*

eral of those species, although (full disclosure) none of them was in its prime: western wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum*), yellow nailwort (*Paronychia virginica*), crinkled hairgrass



Happy field trippers under Mt. Magazine pignut hickories

Front row, L to R: Butch Hinton, Becky Hardin, Ellen Repar, Lori Spencer

Back row, L to R: Sid Vogelpohl, Mike & Nancy Weatherford, Jeanette Vogelpohl, Dixie & Larry Price, Eric Sundell, Richard & Bessie Shelton

*Photo courtesy of Martha Bowden*

(*Deschampsia flexuosa*), and on the cliffs across an immense gap from Lori Falls—the spectacular crag where our group rested before turning back—large tufts of the 2- to 3-foot-long fronds of hay-scented fern, *Dennstaedtia punctilobula*, common as a weed in New England but rare and local in hot, dry Arkansas—well, at least I think they were hay-scented ferns, but I couldn't check the fruit dots with my hand lens from 100-200 feet away. Lori thought she remembered that they were just the common marginal shield fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*). I have not added hay-scented fern to my Arkansas life list.

Thanks to Lori Spencer and Don Simons for one of the most pleasant botanical excursions in recent memory. ANPS will be back on Mt. Magazine for our Spring 2013 meeting. If



Like maple-leaf oak and western wallflower, yellow nailwort, *Paronychia virginica*, is another of Mt. Magazine's botanical treasures, known to occur in Arkansas in only six counties: Logan, Faulkner, Montgomery, Garland, Searcy, and Van Buren. The mat-forming perennial is a lover of rocks and ledges and blooms in late summer and fall.

*Photo courtesy of Martha Bowden*

the timing is right, we'll enjoy western wallflower in bloom along with Turk's-cap lily, yellow honeysuckle, prickly gooseberry, mock orange, and

plenty of other delightful things that we lowlanders seldom get to see. Mark your calendars for April 26-28, 2013.

## ANPS 2012 Spring Meeting Minutes

### ANPS Spring Meeting 2012 Membership Meeting Arkansas State University Jonesboro, Arkansas May 5, 2012

Sandy Davies called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m.

**WELCOME AND THANK YOU:** Sandy Davies welcomed everyone to the general membership meeting. She thanked Eric Sundell for organizing the meeting. Brent Baker thanked Eric Sundell for taking on the president-elect position.

**RECOGNIZE NEW MEMBERS AND BOARD MEMBERS:** Sandy Davies recognized all the new members of ANPS that joined during the 2012 Spring Meeting. She also recognized the Board members that were present.

**MINUTES:** Maury Baker made a motion to accept the minutes from the Fall 2011 Board Meeting. Jay Justice seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Sid Vogelpohl presented the current Treasurer's Report (fiscal year 2012-May 2, 2012) and discussed expenditures since the 2011 Fall meeting. A total of \$22,935 (operating + memorial funds) was reported. Maury Baker made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Marvin Fawley seconded and all were in favor.

**President Elect's Report:** Eric Sundell announced that the 2012 Fall Meeting would be held at Lake Dardanelle State Park near Russellville, October 12-14th. Mike and Peggy Burns reserved the meeting room at Lake Dardanelle State Park. The 2012 Fall Meeting will include trips to Mt. Nebo, Long Pool Natural Area in the Boston Mountains north of Russellville. Mike and Peggy Burns will look into hotel accommodations. Peggy Burns suggested the possibility of a boat tour on Lake Dardanelle and there was interest from the membership.

Eric announced that folks should meet in the parking lot at 8:30 a.m. for the Sunday morning walk to St. Francis Sunken Lands.

Betty Owen announced that the 2013 Spring Meeting is scheduled on April 26-28th at Subiaco Academy.

#### Committee Reports

**Awards & Scholarships Committee**  
Eric Sundell announced the 2012 ANPS scholarship/grant recipients on behalf of Mary Ann King, chair of the Awards & Scholarships Committee. The list included one recipient of the Delzie Demaree Scholarship (\$1,000), Meghan Foard (ASU) and seven recipients of the Aileen McWilliam Scholarship. Carey Minter (U of A, Fayetteville) received \$1,000, David Burge (ASU), Kari Harris (ASU), Kristen Finch (Hendrix College), Jessica Needham (UCA) and Autumn Coffey Olsen (U of A, Fayetteville) received \$500 scholarships, and Drew Prescott (UAM) received \$250.

**By-Laws Revision:** Maury Baker explained the process of the by-law revision to the general membership. Sid Vogelpohl introduced the by-laws revision. The By-Law Revision Committee members were Maury Baker (chair), Eric Sundell and Sid Vogelpohl. The committee presented the revision of the ANPS by-laws to the Board in January 2012 via e-mail. The proposed by-law revisions were published in the 2012 Spring Claytonia and approved by the Board on May 4, 2012. The general membership approved the by-law revisions recommendation from the Board.

**Unfinished Business:** Sandy Davies announced that ANPS is looking for an editor for Claytonia. Anyone who is interested in this position needs to contact her in the next month.

#### New Business

**E-distribution of Claytonia and Survey Results:** Sandy Davies presented the electronic versus paper Claytonia survey results. Seventy-seven mem-

bers selected an electronic version and 22 members preferred a paper copy of Claytonia.

An announcement will be published in the next issue of Claytonia so members can confirm their preference for an e-mail or paper copy.

**Thank-You Cards with ANPS Logo:** Sandy Davies announced that the Board approved the ANPS thank-you card design by Linda Ellis.

#### Announcements

**Update on UAM Sundell Herbarium/Research Center:** Marvin Fawley gave an update on the fundraising for the UAM Sundell Herbarium/Research Center. He reported that ANPS members have donated more than \$7,500 toward the ANPS Library and Conference Room. Marvin also noted that the Herbarium Committee met with the architect on April 25th and will hopefully begin the bidding process sometime this summer.

**Nominating Committee for New Officers:** Sandy Davies announced that the Nominating Committee members are Mike Burns (chair), Eric Sundell and Maury Baker. They will present a slate of new officers at the 2012 Fall Meeting at Lake Dardanelle State Park.

**Arkansas Pollinator Conservation Short Course:** May 15th in Booneville  
Sandy Davies announced that a short course on Arkansas pollinator conservation would be presented at the Booneville Plant Center on Tuesday, May 15th from 9:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

**Final Thank You:** Eric Sundell thanked Travis Marsico for hosting the meeting at Arkansas State University. He also thanked Brent for leading some of the hikes, and Cheryl and Norman Lavers for organizing the hikes.

Eric Sundell moved to adjourn the meeting and Maury Baker seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

# ARKANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

## FALL 2012 MEETING

### OCTOBER 12—14, 2012

#### Dardanelle, Arkansas (Featuring Lake Dardanelle, Mt. Nebo, & the Boston Mountains) Lake Dardanelle State Park

##### FRIDAY EVENING, October 12:

Lake Dardanelle State Park – Visitor Center

Registration (\$5) 4—7 p.m.

Sign up for Saturday & Sunday walks 4—7 p.m.

Pot Luck snacks: ANPSers are encouraged to bring snacks and munchies to share. Drinks will be provided.

##### Auction 7—10 p.m.

Bring your native plants, bulbs, seeds, etc. as well as books, jellies, wines, passion flower earrings, and all other things botanical for sale at our annual auction. Proceeds go to build our Aileen McWilliam and Delzie Demaree memorial funds for grants and scholarships.

##### Saturday & Sunday Field Trips, October 13 & 14:

Morning and afternoon field trips will take place at Mt. Nebo, at Long Pool in the Boston Mountains, and in the state park and vicinity. Locations, directions, times, and field trip leaders will be announced Friday evening. You can also contact Eric Sundell (870-723-1089) for field trip information.

##### Saturday Evening, October 13:

Lake Dardanelle State Park - Visitor Center

Registration 6—7 p.m.

Sign up for Sunday walks 6—7 p.m.

Pot luck snacks 6—7 p.m.

##### Program 7 p.m.

Presentation by Burnetta Hinterthuer  
*Flora of Costa Rica—and a crocodile*

Business Meeting will follow presentation.

##### Lodging:

Hampton Inn, 2304 North Arkansas Ave, Russellville (479) 858-7199

ANPS has reserved 30 rooms at a reduced rate at Hampton Inn of Russellville. Room and breakfast will be \$82 + tax and will be held until October 5th (afterwards at the same rate if rooms are still available). Hotels are expected to be booked the weekend of 12-13 October.

Other nearby hotels at Exit 81:

Best Western (\$60-\$70/night) (479) 967-1000

Fairfield Inn and Suites (\$80-\$90/night) (479) 967-9030

##### Directions:

The Russellville Hampton Inn can be seen from I-40 Exit 81 on the south side of the freeway. This is the same exit for Lake Dardanelle State Park.

**Hampton Inn**, 2304 N Arkansas Ave., Russellville, AR 72802.

<http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/arkansas/hampton-inn-russellville-RUEARHX/maps-directions/index.html>

From I-40 East Bound: Exit 81, Turn Right onto Highway 7 (Arkansas Avenue), Go 1 block down, hotel on left.

From I-40 West Bound: Exit 81 ramp, Turn Left on E. Aspen, Turn Left onto Highway 7 (Arkansas Avenue), Go back over interstate, 1 block down, hotel on left.

**Lake Dardanelle State Park**, 100 State Park Drive, Russellville 72802

<http://www.arkansasstateparks.com/lakedardanelle>

From I-40 East Bound: Exit 81, Turn Right onto Highway 7 (Arkansas Avenue), immediately Turn Right onto Dyke Rd/

**ARKANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
FALL 2012 MEETING  
OCTOBER 12—14, 2012**

Lake Front Drive for 1.9 miles, continue through stoplight onto W. Main (bearing left) 0.2 miles, Turn Right onto Marina Rd. for about 3 miles, Turn Right at Lake Dardanelle State Park sign on right. Meet in the Visitor Center.

From I-40 West Bound: Exit 81 ramp, Turn Left on E. Aspen, Turn Left onto Highway 7 (Arkansas Avenue), Go back over interstate, Turn Right onto Dyke Rd./Lake Front Drive for 1.9 miles, continue through stoplight onto W. Main (bearing left) 0.2 miles, Turn Right onto Marina Rd. for about 3 miles, Turn Right at Lake Dardanelle State Park sign on right. Meet in the Visitor Center.

**Driving directions  
to Mt. Nebo State Park  
from Hampton Inn Russellville**



1. Turn Left on Arkansas Hwy 7/27 (Arkansas Ave) and go approximately 7 miles, cross the Arkansas River into and through Dardanelle.
2. Turn Right on Hwy 22 W (toward Ft. Smith) for 0.3 miles.
3. Turn Left on Hwy 155 (marked with Mt. Nebo sign) for 5 miles up windy Mt. Nebo into the state park.

**Driving directions to Long Pool Recreation Area  
from Hampton Inn Russellville**

1. Turn Right on Arkansas Hwy 7/27, cross over I-40 (Arkansas Ave) and go approximately 7 miles to Dover.
2. Turn Left on Hwy 7 N/ Camp Street in Dover for 6 miles.
3. Turn Left on Hwy 164/ Callahan Lane for 3.5 miles.
4. Turn Right on NFR 1801/Old Hwy 7/ Long Pool Road at the Moore Outdoors Canoe Rental—sign to Long Pool—and go 5 miles to the entrance of Long Pool Recreation area.



**ARKANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**  
**TREASURER'S REPORT - FISCAL YEAR 2012**  
**January 1, 2012 - August 15, 2012**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Funds in Operating & Memorial Funds (January 1, 2012):** → **\$24,614.44**

\*\*\*\*\*

<b><u>OPERATING FUND</u></b>				<b><u>Ending</u></b>
<b><u>Funds on January 1, 2012:</u></b>	→	→	<b>\$10,546.93</b>	<b><u>Balances</u></b>
<b><u>Receipts:</u></b>				
Membership Dues	\$1,890.00			
T-Shirt Sales	\$ 300.00			
Spring Registration	\$ 235.00			
Checking Interest	\$ 2.32			
CD Interest	<u>\$ 98.88</u>			
	\$2,526.20	→	+ \$2,526.20	
<b><u>Expenses:</u></b>				
Spring Mtg Expenses	\$ 368.94			
T-Shirts	\$1,259.28			
Bulk Mail Renewal	\$ 190.00			
Claytonia- print, env., labels, mail	\$ 626.63			
Printing - Bylaws + Survey	\$ 123.19			
Postage - Misc Mailings	\$ 14.45			
"Thank-You" Cards	\$ 32.70			
Printing, Mailing (Office Depot)	\$ 245.49			
Web Site Expenses	<u>\$ 134.95</u>			
	\$2,995.63	→	- \$2,995.63	
<b><u>Funds on August 15, 2012:</u></b>	→	→	<b>\$10,077.50</b>	<b>\$10,077.50</b>

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<b><u>MEMORIAL FUND</u></b>				
<b><u>Funds on January 1, 2012:</u></b>	→	→	<b>\$14,067.51</b>	
<b><u>Receipts:</u></b>				
Membership Dues	\$ 1,750.00			
Contributions	<u>\$ 0.00</u>			
	\$1,750.00	→	+ \$1,750.00	
<b><u>Expenses:</u></b>				
AR Halberg Ecology Camp	\$ 500.00			
AR Envirothon	\$ 500.00			
Administrative Cost (FY11/12)	\$ 60.00			
Scholarships/Awards	<u>\$4,750.00</u>			
	\$5,810.00	→	- \$5,810.00	
<b><u>Funds on August 15, 2012:</u></b>	→	→	<b>\$10,007.51</b>	<b>+ \$10,007.51</b>

\*\*\*\*\*

**Funds in Operating & Memorial Funds (August 15, 2012):** → **\$20,085.01**

\*\*\*\*\*

\$20,085.01 (Ending Balance) - \$18,251.56 (2 CDs) = \$1,834.45 (check book balance August 15, 2012)  
 CD #1: \$10,109.36 (@ 0.8% matures 12/13/12) CD #2: \$ 8,142.20 (@ 0.8% matures 2/8/13)

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Note: \$2,000 was transferred from CD#2 to Checking on May 9, 2012 to cover Scholarships/Awards. \$4 loss in interest.

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*Sed Vogelzell*



## ANPS 2012 Grants & Scholarships Announced

ANPS was delighted to receive a record number of applications for grants and scholarships in 2012. The Scholarships and Awards Committee's recommendations, approved by the Executive Board and the Membership at the Jonesboro meeting, were as follows:

**Meghan Foard**, Arkansas State University. Delzie Demaree Grant of \$1,000 in support of doctoral research on the invasive mechanisms of Chinese privet, *Ligustrum sinense*, and their implications for bottomland hardwood forest conservation in the southeastern U.S. Advisor: Travis D. Marsico.

**Carey Minter**, University of Arkansas. Aileen McWilliam Scholarship of \$1,000 in support of her doctoral research on the biological control of spotted knapweed, *Centaurea stoebe*, in Arkansas. Ms. Minter will introduce two host-specific beetle species and evaluate their effect on populations of the alien invasive knapweed. Advisor: Timothy J. Kring.

**David Burge**, Arkansas State University. Aileen McWilliam Scholarship of \$500 in support of his master's research on the use of higher plants and algae as indicators of wetland water quality in eastern Arkansas. Advisor: Travis D. Marsico.

**Kristen N. Finch**, Hendrix College. Aileen McWilliam Scholarship of \$500 in support of her undergraduate molecular research on the taxonomy of ponderosa pine, a western species. Advisor: Ann Willyard.

**Kari M. Harris**, Arkansas State University. Aileen McWilliam Scholarship of \$500 in support of her master's project to digitize ASU's STAR Herbarium, thereby making specimen images and data available online. Advisor: Travis D. Marsico.

**Jessica R. Needham**, University of Central Arkansas. Aileen McWilliam Scholarship of \$500 in support of her master's research on interactions between invasive and native plant communities through a study of the pollination biology of Chinese privet, *Ligustrum sinense*, in the Arkansas River Valley, and the possibly negative effect of the invasive privet on fruit set in the native cutleaf toothwort, *Cardamine concatenata*.

**Autumn Lynn Coffey Olsen**, University of Arkansas. Aileen McWilliam Scholarship of \$500 in support of her master's research on habitat requirements of two of the state's rarest plant species, Ozark spiderwort, *Tradescantia ozarkana*, and the Arkansas endemic Moore's delphinium, *Delphinium newtonianum*. Advisor: Steven L. Stephenson.

**Drew A. Prescott**, University of Arkansas at Monticello. Aileen McWilliam Scholarship of \$250 in continued support of his productive undergraduate interest in botany. Drew received a \$1,000 award last year from ANPS to support molecular research on two closely related species of Arkansas toothworts, *Cardamine angustata* and *C. ouachitana*. Advisor: Karen Fawley.

The Scholarships and Awards Committee comprises chairman Mary Ann King, Brent Baker, and Eric Sundell.

## DO YOU WANT TO GO 100% ELECTRONIC?

If you would like to save a little paper and **NOT** receive future copies of *Claytonia* by U.S. Mail (they are posted on the website in full color!), please notify Membership Chairman Mike Burns by email at: [anps.membership@gmail.com](mailto:anps.membership@gmail.com). Thanks.

## Kentucky Coffee-trees



*Photo courtesy of Ellen Repar*

About a dozen Kentucky coffee-trees encircle the Arkansas Supreme Court Building on the south side of the Capitol grounds off 7th Street in Little Rock. *Gymnocladus dioica* is an Arkansas native, but not an easy one to find in the wild.

The trees are spectacular in every way: leaves are 1-3 feet long and doubly compound; bark is fissured and scaly; pods are massive; seeds have been roasted and ground for a coffee substitute (caffeine free) (however, fresh seeds and surrounding pulp are poisonous); even the pith of the stout branches is sensational, orange-brown to a bright orange. According to the Arkansas Forestry Commission's Steven Burgess, county forester for Pulaski and Perry counties, the trees were planted in the early 1990s.

A champion coffee-tree can reach a height of 90 feet with a trunk 3 feet in diameter.

## Upcoming Field Trips And Events

*Field trips of the Arkansas Native Plant Society are for current and future members (i.e., everyone welcome). Botanists from around the state lead these enjoyable, educational walks. If you are planning to attend, please contact the trip leaders in advance so they will know to expect you: at some locations, there is a limit to the number of people that can be accommodated.*

### **Field Trip to Sweden Creek Falls, an Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission Natural Area: September 8, 2012**

Join leader Rick Hinterthuer for a trip to Sweden Creek Falls Natural Area, located in Madison County's Boston Mountains. The area comprises a rich mix of wooded slopes and ridgetop sandstone glades, with an 80-foot waterfall as the (seasonal) centerpiece. The easy to moderate trail is 1.5 miles, round trip. Take a look at the ANHC website for details.

**Directions:** From the town of Boxley take State Highway 21 north. At 4.0 miles turn left (south) onto a dirt road and proceed 3.0 miles to a gate on the right. The road is closed to vehicle access, but visitors can park in the gravel lot near gate. Rick will meet you there at 10 a.m. Contact Burnetta Hinterthuer at [burhint@sbcglobal.net](mailto:burhint@sbcglobal.net) for more information.



### **Arkansas Champion Trees Exhibit: September 16 – November 4, 2012**

The tour of "Arkansas Champion Trees: An Artist's Journey" will open at the Arkansas Arts Center Terry House Community Gallery (411 E 7th and Rock Streets, Little Rock, AR 72202) on Sunday, September 16, 2012, with a reception from 3-5 p.m. The exhibit features drawings and photographs of selected Arkansas champion trees\* by Hot Springs artist Linda Williams Palmer, who combines art work with stories and anecdotes that explore Arkansas' natural and artistic heritage and inspire viewers to celebrate the

beauty that can be found in their own backyards. It will be on display at the Terry House through November 4, 2012 and will then travel to 10+ other venues in the state. The exhibit will be in North Little Rock from November 11 until December 1 and in Russellville from December 9 through January 5, 2013. Learn more on the exhibit website.

\*Champion Trees are the largest—and therefore some of the most splendid and interesting—of their kind. Our state champions are designated by the Arkansas Forestry Commission according to their Bigness Index which is calculated by the following traditional formula: circumference of the trunk at breast height in inches + height in feet + ¼ the average spread of the crown in feet = B.I. The AFC website has a listing of Arkansas' champions with their localities and of course their B.I.s.



### **September 22 & 23, 2012: Arkansas Audubon Natural History Workshops**

Mark your calendars for September 22-23 (2012) for a weekend of natural history instruction at Ferncliff Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center in the foothills of the Ouachita Mountains, about 10 miles west of Little Rock. Three of last year's workshops will be offered again: *Birding Basics*, taught by Dan Scheiman; *Fall Wildflowers*, taught by Don Culwell; and *Arkansas Tree Identification*, taught by Eric Sundell. A new workshop, *Insects in the Scheme of Things*, taught by Cheryl and Norman

Lavers, is currently full, however, there are still a few slots open in the others. Reserve your place ASAP by contacting Barry Haas at [bhaas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bhaas@sbcglobal.net). For more information, visit [www.arbirds.org](http://www.arbirds.org).



### **Petit Jean Mountain: Seven Hollows Trail: October 4, 2012**

Join Don Higgins and Betty Owen for a beautiful walk on one of the prettiest trails in the state. Hikers will meet at the trailhead parking lot of the Seven Hollows Trail, Petit Jean State Park, at 9 a.m. Thursday, October 4. The trailhead is located on the South side of Ark Hwy 154 about 8 miles West of the main Mather Lodge. Bring water and a hiking stick as we will venture off the trail to see Ozark chinquapin and fringe trees. Call Betty Owen for more information, 501-472-6920.



### **Southwest Arkansas Blackland Prairies: Saturday, October 20**

Join Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission botanist Theo Witsell on a field trip to explore and inventory two of the state's highest quality blackland prairie remnants. We will meet at Terre Noire Natural Area near Arkadelphia at 9:30 am. We'll break for lunch at Arkadelphia, and then head southwest to The Nature Conservancy's Columbus Prairie Preserve for the afternoon. Both sites have been painstakingly restored over many years and are home to many rare plant species. Come for one, the

*Continued on next page* ▶

## Upcoming Field Trips And Events

other, or both sites. Limit 20 people. Please call Theo at 501.831.7473 or email [theo@arkansasheritage.org](mailto:theo@arkansasheritage.org) to reserve a spot and get directions.

.....  
**Champion Trees of**

**Mt. Holly Cemetery:**

**Wednesday, October 24**

Eric Sundell will lead a leisurely botanical stroll in Little Rock's historic Mt. Holly Cemetery, where several of the splendid shade trees are thought to date back to the cemetery's origin in 1843. Known as the Westminster Abbey of Arkansas, the 20 acre cemetery is the burial site for 11 Arkansas governors, 4 U.S. Senators, 21 Little Rock mayors, the poet John Gould Fletcher—but according to the Encyclopedia of Arkansas, no botanists. Meet at the entrance gate on Broadway at West 12th Street at 10 a.m. October 24th. Call Eric at 870-723-1089 or email at [esundell42@gmail.com](mailto:esundell42@gmail.com) for more information.

## New Members

February 2012 — August 2012

David and Anne Butcher  
(Kirby, AR)

Judith Combs  
(Fayetteville, AR)

Angela Gardner  
(North Little Rock, AR)

Robert and Sherri Harris  
(North Little Rock, AR)

Cliff and Debbie Hoofman  
(Enola, AR)

Jack Howe and Patty Camp  
(Paragould, AR)

Deborah Keene  
(Benton, AR)

Caleb Knighten  
(Sheridan, AR)

Becky Mainer  
(Fort Smith, AR)

Travis and Katie Marsico  
(Jonesboro, AR)

Jean Nunn  
(Conway, AR)

Drew Prescott  
(Monticello, AR)

Richard and Bessie Shelton  
(Mammoth Spring, AR)

Patrick Solomon  
(Little Rock, AR)

Charles and Rosemary  
Wingfield (Fort Smith, AR)

Jim Keesling  
(Hot Springs Village, AR)

Veronica Rosenau  
(Huntsville, AR)

.....  
**New Life Members**

Patricia Duke  
(Wynne, AR)

Catherine Hepinstall  
(Little Rock, AR)

Neil Richardson (Hot Springs, AR)

Max Towler  
(Eureka Springs, AR)

Carol Stiffler  
(Little Rock, AR)

We welcome these new members to ANPS and hope to see them at the  
Fall Meeting in Dardanelle, October 12-14.

## NOMINATIONS SLATE

for ANPS Executive Board Officers

The following Executive Board positions will become open in 2013:

Vice President, Scholarships and Awards Committee Chair, Treasurer, and Editor.

The Nominations Committee\* recommends the following candidates for these positions:

Vice President: Jennifer Ogle

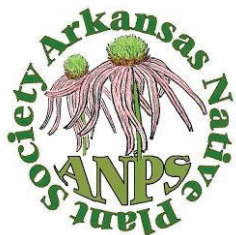
Scholarships and Awards Committee Chair: Mary Ann King

Treasurer:

Editor: John Perrin

The Membership will vote for candidates for these positions  
at the fall meeting in Dardanelle on October 13, 2012.

\*Mike Burns, Chairman; Maury Baker; Eric Sundell



## CLAYTONIA

ERIC SUNDELL  
Interim Editor

NEIL RICHARDSON  
Interim Publisher

### Please check your mailing label!

The calendar year is the membership year. If your mailing label says "11" or earlier it is time to renew. (Life members have an "LF")

Please fill in the information form on the opposite side of this page and send it with your renewals, applications for membership, changes of name, address, e-mail, or telephone numbers to the address on the form **[Not to the editor]**.

Thank you.

### Please send Submissions/Suggestions to:

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The purpose of the Arkansas Native Plant Society is to promote the preservation, conservation, study, and enjoyment of the wild plants and vegetation of Arkansas, the education of the public to the value of the native flora and its habitat, and the publication of related information.

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