



CLAYTONIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARKANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Spring 1999 Vol. 20 No. 1

From the President's Desk

Greetings to you all. It's hard to believe it is already late spring, and even here in NW Arkansas the wildflowers have been blooming for weeks. In fact, it seems like we have an exceptional flowering this year, and I hope the same has been true all over the state.

Ron Doran has done his usual excellent job with the *Claytonia*; our nominating committee (Don Crank, Jim Peck, and Don Culwell) have candidates to submit for consideration for election at our fall meeting; John Simpson has spearheaded preparations for the spring meeting and kept up with field trips and other activities; Annette Holder and the Awards committee have been at work and have nominees to submit to the Board. A president's job could hardly be easier! My thanks to all of these and our other officers and Board members for their fine work.

Our spring meeting will be at Grandview Prairie, down near the southwest corner of the state. I'm not very familiar with this region, so I'm excited at the chance to see more of the flora. This should be a good meeting and I hope you will all plan to attend.

Steve Marak

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Spring Meeting

When: May 21-23

Where: Hope

Special Focus:
Grandview Prairie

SPRING MEETING SCHEDULE

Friday, May 21

Registration:

4:00- 6:00 Super 8 Motel Meeting Room

Dinner: on your own

7:00 General Meeting

Speaker Linda Knighten of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will discuss the Grandview Prairie and what we'll be seeing on the outings Saturday.

We will attempt to have a time after the meeting for anyone to show personal slides of interest to the group (no trips to Disneyland please!)

Executive Board meeting following

Saturday, May 22

Breakfast: on your own

8:30 and 1:00- Outings to Grandview Prairie near Columbus

Meet at Super 8 Motel for carpooling

Lunch: on your own- may go back to Hope or bring a lunch to eat at the prairie

Dinner: on your own

7:15 PM General business meeting followed by presentation by Linda Westergard of the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission

Sunday May 23

Outing to Nature Conservancy prairie to be led by Scott Simon

Spring prairie wildflowers will hopefully be close to their peak-- we are fortunate to have Linda and Scott to lead the outings.

Don't miss this chance to see two prairies, which are now protected and will be managed to maintain the prairie plants and wildlife.

Accommodations

Super 8 Motel

Rates are \$28.88 single and \$32.88 double- each plus tax.

I-30(Exit 30)& Hwy 4

Phone - 870-777-8601

Best Western Inn

Single \$45 and double \$55 plus tax.

I-30 & Hwy 4 N (US 278)

Phone - 870-777-9222

Fax - 870-777-9077

Toll Free Reservations - 1-800-429-4494

Days Inn

1500 North Hervey

Phone - 870-722-1904

Fax - 870-777-1911

Toll Free Reservations - 1-800-DAYS INN

Economy Inn & Suites

2205 North Hazel

I-30 & Hwy 29 N

Phone - 870-777-4676

Holiday Inn Express

2600 North Hervey

I-30 & Hwy 4 (US 278)

Single or double at corporate rate of \$54.90 which includes a breakfast bar

Phone - 870-722-6262

Fax - 870-722-1922

Toll Free Reservations - 1-800-HOLIDAY

Hope Village Inn & RV Park

2611 North Hazel

I-30 & Hwy 29 N - Exit 31

Phone - 870-777-4665

Quality Inn

I-30 & Hwy 29

Phone - 870-777-0777

Toll Free Reservations - 1-800-228-5151

Spring Field Trips

On most of the trips it will be advisable to bring plenty of liquids and a sac lunch.

May 1: Mt. Magazine

Outing to be led by our orchid specialist Dr. Carl Slaughter (expect showy orchis and much more)
Meet at the Greenfield use area on the top of the mountain at 10:00 AM.

May 8: Boston Mountains

(depending on the weather)
John Logan with the Arkansas Heritage Commission
Has asked for volunteers to help survey for small headed pipewort habitat in the Boston Mountains.
Call Burnetta Hinterthuer, President of the Ozark Chapter to become involved in this. 501-582-0467

May 15: Sylamore District

This is an Ozark Chapter outing led by Karen Tinkle.
Meet at the Mt. View ranger station on Hwy. 14.
Hope to see showy lady slipper and other Stone County rarities.

May 15: West Arkansas

Outing to be led by Bruce and Lana Ewing. Will feature the Cossatot State Park. Meet at the parking lot on the west side of the bridge over the Cossatot River on Hwy. 4 at 10:00

June 5: Possum Trot

Ozark Chapter outing led by Don Mills. Meet in Nail at the church at 10:00. Be prepared for TICKS CHIGGERS & SNAKES. May be hot and steamy; and there is a lot of undergrowth.

June 12: Brady Mountain Area

Ouachita Chapter outing to western Garland County to feature false bugbane in flower and also a wet glade. Meet at the junction of Highway 270 and Brady Mountain Road at 10:00 AM.



Nature Conservancy Events

Work Parties :

Baker Prairie, Harrison

May 1, June 5

Terre Noire , Arkadelphia

May 15

Contact Page Shurgar if you can help.
(Phone and email listed below).

*Conservancy field trips require registration: some have fees. To register send name, address, phone and or Email address to
The Nature Conservancy
601 N University, Little Rock, AR 72205.

Contact person: Page Shurgar

Phone: 501-663-6699

Or pshurgar@tnc.org

They will send you confirmation and meeting place/time information.

Conservancy Field Trips

April 24 Dry Forks Glades Natural Area*
Dedication and field trip.
80-acre natural area located outside of Benton.

May 8 Cache River *

Boating with catfish lunch.
Bring your own boat or \$20. Explore the wetlands and do some birding. "May is a hot time for migrants!"

June 12 Columbus Prairie Natural Area *

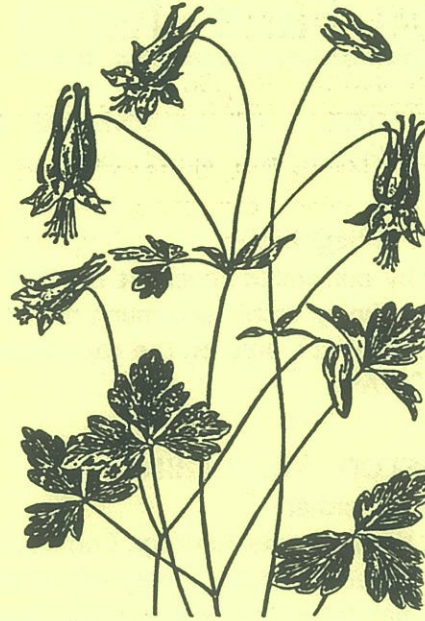
Dedication of 80 Acres of high quality blackland prairie, savanna, and woodland in Hempstead County. Over 150 prairie and woodland plant species have been recorded from the tract.

June 22 Summer Mushroom Foray*

Mushroom hunting at Camp Robinson with expert Jay Justice, President of the Arkansas Mycological Society. There may be a tasting party if enough specimens are found. Handouts will be provided. Fee= \$10.

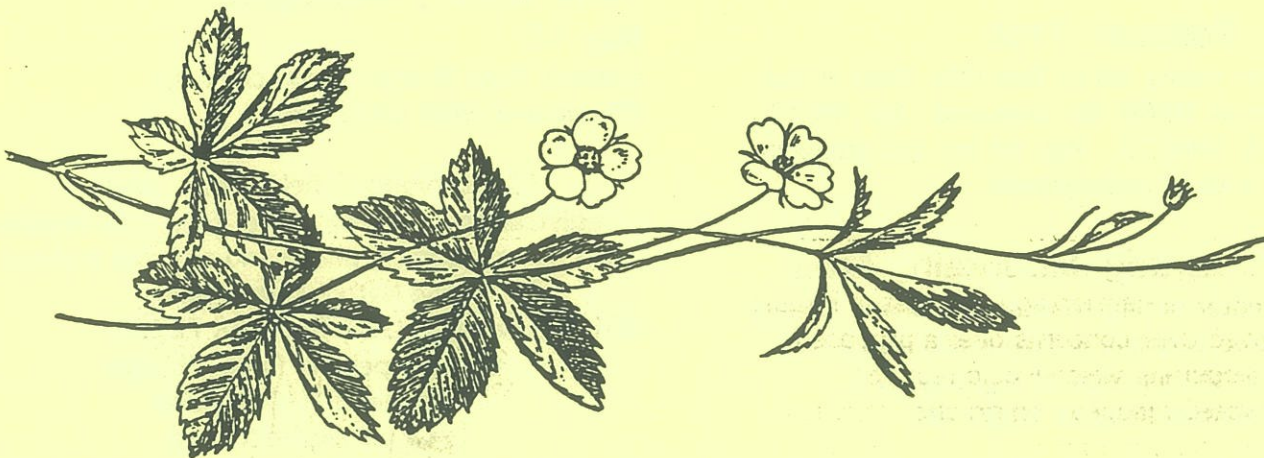
June 26 Presson-Oglesby Preserve*

Another dedication. This time of 155 acres of high quality tallgrass prairie in Franklin County. A representative portion of the once extensive Cherokee prairies of west-central Arkansas



ANPS ELECTIONS

The nominating committee, which is composed of Don Crank, Don Culwell and Jim Peck, present the following nominees for your consideration. These nominees will be voted on at the fall meeting for the stated offices. If you are interested in being nominated for one of the offices, please notify a member of the nominating committee. Nomination will also be accepted from the floor.



EPA MEETING

By John Simpson

On the Afternoon of March first, thirteen invited guests met with the regional director of the Environmental Protection Agency, Greg Cook and his assistant. After introductions, (I apologize in advance for any name mis-spellings in this report) Mr. Cook asked each of us to voice concerns we might have about environmental issues in Arkansas of possible interest to his agency -- that the agency might need to address and correct.

Leslie Spraggins of the Arkansas Field Office of the Nature Conservancy began the discussion supported by Nancy DeLamar, director of that office, and Alan Perkins, Conservancy board member and environmental attorney. Mrs. Spraggens noted and reviewed the three Arkansas areas of greatest concern to the Conservancy -- Northwest Arkansas with its vulnerable cave populations, Spring River with its exceptional biodiversity, and the Big Woods area in eastern Arkansas with its key location in the green north/south corridor in mid-America.

John Gray, representing the Arkansas Wildlife Federation with environmental consultant John Golsing, reviewed the time and effort that organization spent trying to help direct a proposed new bridge across the Mississippi to the area of least environmental impact.

Bill Beyer and Dr. Curtis Merrill representing the Bayou Bartholemew Alliance discussed issues of concern relating primarily to water flow and its effects on wildlife in the bayou area.

Gary Tucker reviewed his position in the commercial environmental consulting field. Several representatives of a developing land trust in Pulaski County reviewed their concerns over a proposed new road to Maumelle, which would require extensive elevated roadbed construction through environmentally sensitive areas.

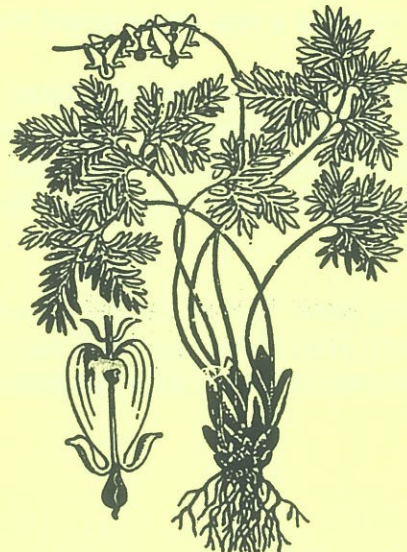
Dr. Joe Nix of the Ross Foundation reviewed studies on mercury contamination of ground water in south Arkansas. He urged the EPA to accept findings that this "contamination" is a natural phenomenon -- and not to spend precious dollars repeating these studies.

I briefly discussed the difficulties in getting individual species designated as endangered. Such listing could result in the EPA assisting in assuring habitat preservation. Also mentioned was the environmental responsibility of corporations whose stock is publicly traded -- as these corporations are major landowners in Arkansas.

Carl Hunter then eloquently spoke to the issue of keeping environmental decisions based on science and not politics.

Mr. Cook then closed the meeting with a discussion on the evolving concept of "Smart Growth Development" -- helping control sprawl. This concept is not federally mandated now but there may be grant money available to support it. He discussed "Better America Bonds" which would be issued to municipalities to assist habitat preservation, water projects, etc. It was noted that this has not passed congress yet and is still subject to major revision and even possible rejection.

Carl and I were glad to be able to represent the Arkansas Native Plant Society at the meeting and glad to be asked to "have a seat at the table." Hopefully Mr. Cook will be able to better serve us all with the concerns brought out at this meeting.



Salt and Pepper Field Trip Report

Feb. 27, 1999

By John Pelton

Members of ANPS and Ouachita Chapter met at the Owensville Baptist Church on Hwy. 5 midway between Benton and Hot Springs, for a field trip featuring *Erigenia bulbosa* – Harbinger of Spring, Salt and Pepper, Apiaceae - Carrot family. The plants start to flower 2-3 inches above the ground. Mature plants can reach to 8 inches. Flowers open the spring woodland flowering season January--April. Tiny white flowers in small simple umbels. Red maturing to purple and black anthers show prominently. Leaves are divided, fernlike, usually show during late bloom. Root: a small ball-shaped tuber. Normally the plants are at the foot of a moist northfacing slope. They are also found on rich alluvial soil of flood plains. The botanical name is from the Greek *Erigenia*, meaning early born, and Latin *bulbosa* in reference to the tuberous roots. The population we visited is by far the largest I've seen in Arkansas: in fact the only site I know of in the Ouachita area. Other sites -- Roasting Ear Creek, Stone County and Lock 2 Road in Independence County. If you know of other sites report them to the Ouachita Chapter Secretary, Bob Byers.

Our next site was the Narrows, a thrust fault beyond compare. False rue anemone, round lobed hepatica, rose verbena, hispid buttercup, bloodroot yellow trout lily, to name a few where found there.

Our members seemed to enjoy this late winter afternoon seeing the early bloomers. The weather was predicted to be stormy but we were lucky. We heard some thunder in the area and had one light shower.

Members attending were: Yvonne Backer, Steve Burgess, Bob Byers, Fred Greenwood, Carl Hunter, Linda Langford, Marion Moriarty, Judy Rosenthal, and John Pelton.



Saline & Montgomery Field Trip Report

April 10, 1999

By Ron Doran

Nine ANPS members and guests met the field trip leader John Pelton at the old deserted Colonial Nursing Home on Highway 5 (not far from the east gate to Hot Springs Village). Those that braved the predicated storms besides John were Jack and Leta Clark, Rocky and Patsy Ford, Virginia Alexander and Jewel Moore from Conway, Erna Hasselbrock and Elsie Murphy from Hot Springs, Carl Slaughter from Petit Jean Mt., and Ron Doran from Searcy.

We left just a little bit after 10 AM and headed up Goose Pond Road to a site along the Middle Fork of the Saline River. One of John's major objectives was to inventory the yellow lady-slipper populations located on Weyerhauser property. We did see that spectacular plant, 81 of them to be exact with 20 of them either in bud or in full flower. The lady's were not alone. Among the other wildflowers in full bloom in the same location were wild ginger, May apple, Sweet William, wild geranium, four of the

worts; bellwort, lousewort, spiderwort and golden ragworts, also seen were crested iris, alumroot and a grape fern. Other interesting wildflowers found there, but either past or not yet blooming, were wild comfrey, trout lilies and false hellebore. By the time we got through exploring that site it was close to 11:30.

We then went back to the nursing home where the Fords had to leave our group because of company coming. The rest of the plant explorers then stopped at a convenient store to "de-tank and to re-tank" and then went on to the thrust faults along Narrows Road south of Crow. There we stopped for a short time to see the delicate red/yellow columbines growing out of the crevices - how can such a delicate looking plant grow in what seems to be such a stressful environment? At the top of the thrust we were able to see (with binoculars) shooting stars. Other blooming plants we saw on or near the thrust fault included cross-vine, bladder-nut, green violets, and alumroot.

From there we took some back roads --John really knows his way around! -- until we got on the Hot Springs bypass and onto US 270 going west out of Hot Springs. On the corner of McClendon Road and US70 John showed us a nice patch of the hairy spiderwort (*Tradescantia hirsuticaulus*). Once we got just past the Crystal Springs area the vanload that was with John stopped to see the silverbell trees that were in full bloom and waited for the rest of the group to catch up. While there we were able to see a mixture of bright red fire pinks, golden ragwort, blue phlox, and birdsfoot violets with the background highlighted with dogwood. Speaking of dogwoods, they were breath taking all along highway 270 west of Hot Springs!!! Do get out that way if you can before the grand show is over. Several of our group thought that they had never seen them so spectacular. Someone even remarked that we were traveling through dogwood heaven. After waiting 10 to 15 minutes the other cars never did show up so we went on, thinking they had decided not to continue on with us. (It was about 1:30 by then and we hadn't stopped for lunch yet.) A bag of chips and some apple slices were shared on the way to Montgomery County.

When we got to the Caddo River site, just out of Black Springs, we were glad we held off eating lunch. John took us to a small knoll above the banks of the Caddo that was carpeted with multi-shades of spiderwort. An artist's palette of white, blues, lavenders and rose spread out around us; reminding me of an impressionist painting. We sat there in awe as we consumed our long awaited repast -- It was worth the wait!! After spending time just taking in the beautiful site (with a few rain sprinkles) we went down to the edge of the stream to see what John calls Caddo waterleaf -- the rare and only recently discovered *Hydrophyllum brownei*. Unfortunately it was not yet in flower. We did add Jacob's ladder, yellow and white violets, Solomon's seal, false indigo, and white spiderworts to our day's list of plants in bloom.

We were not finished seeing unusual plants yet though. From there we went back up through Mt. Ida and then west to Fulton's glade. In the slate of the glade we saw the spiderwort *Tradescantia longipes*, the pretty little violet collinsia, lots of corn salad and plants of the Ouachita blue-star, umbrella plant, threadleaf coreopsis and the stonecrop called widow's cross. [The collinsia find may be a county record for the plant, at least it is not recorded in Montgomery County in Smith's Atlas.]

As we traveled back to Saline county we were again amazed by the forest full of dogwoods and the roads lined here and there with phacelia and bird's foot violets. By the time we got back to our original meeting place it was 5:30. Tired but inspired!

Thanks to John Pelton for an educational and delightful trip.



*Quercus phellos*

When Is Pin Oak Not a Pin Oak?

BY RON DORAN

Not long ago I received a letter from one of our members who made a request that the common names be given for the plants discussed in the Claytonia.

Generally, those with some scientific training don't use scientific names to be pedantic but to be sure that everyone, no matter where they live, know what plant we are talking about. Scientific names are meant to be universal, common names often mean different things depending on where you are from. For example, coming from West Virginia I knew pin oak as an oak with several lobes, each of which came to a sharp extended point. When I made reference to not seeing pin oak in the woods around Searcy one of my students said that there were quite a few in the woods behind his house. I asked him to bring me a specimen for our herbarium. His pin oak was an oak all right -- he also brought the acorns -- but it had long narrow leaves without lobes. My plant taxonomy professor in South Carolina had taught me its common name as willow oak. Many of the native people in this area do call the willow oak, pin oak or maybe it is I calling the pin oak, willow oak? The oak with the slender leaves is *Quercus phellos* while the one with several lobes is *Quercus palustris* no matter where you learned your trees.

The current botany text that I use mentions that the broad-leafed plantain (*Plantago major*) has 45 common English names, 75 Dutch, 106 German, and 11 French names and who knows how many common names in other languages.

Another reason we use scientific names is that the same common name is often used to refer to many complete different species. I read somewhere that the common name buttercup is used in reference to a dozen or more different species though they are all yellow. Unfortunately, most plant identification books don't list all the common names for each species so that you may have to use several different books if trying to find a scientific name knowing the common one and vice versa.

I would like the writer of the letter to be aware that we will try to give at least one common name for things when we give the scientific ones but that there are many plants, especially those in the rare and endangered category that don't have common names. One of the reasons some plants don't have common names is that they aren't common enough to be seen by many folks and thus are not in the every day language. There will be a scientific name for it unless the plant has never been found before, which is possible but not probable in Arkansas.

By the way, if you have plant related questions I am sure that someone in our society of over 400 members is apt to know the answer. Send those questions to the editor or bring them to a meeting. We will be glad to help if we can.

*Quercus palustris*

ANPS NEWS BRIEFS

FALL MEETING

The fall meeting place is still undecided at press time. If you have a suggestion let John Simpson know.

will be available at the Spring Meeting in Hope or the editor can send you the forms via Email or snail mail.

Roadside Use of Native Plants

A handbook reference for those who restore, design, or manage native plants, is being published by the Federal Highway Administration and will be available during the spring of 1999. The handbook contains primers on roadside restoration and management concepts; and for each of the 50 States: native plant species lists and other resources, and valuable appendices. The State by State information is provided as a starting point in decision-making. Within each State, expertise with local flora will be necessary. This handbook is aimed at preserving the native remnants that still exist and restoring natural heritage where necessary. Order forms to obtain your free copy

This Cup

A book authored by ANPS member Carl Hunter is at the Little Rock area bookstores now. " Much of it takes place in Arkansas. It was designed to be a clean, uplifting story and a true account of the King Arthur legends." Carl says he will bring some books to Hope to sell at wholesale (\$5.00) but then he will have to go to retail (\$8.00) to keep peace with the bookstores. [Editors note- Carl sent me a copy and it is a good read. He has an interesting way of tying semi-autobiographical information in with information about the Arthurian legends. You will have to ask him how much of it is autobiographical.]

Arkansas Native Plant Society Membership Application

Please check below.

Membership Categories:

- \$10..... Student
- \$15..... Regular
- \$20..... Supporting
- \$25..... Family Membership
- \$30Contributing
- \$150.... Lifetime Membership (55 and over)
- \$300Lifetime Membership (under 55)
- New Member
- Renewal
- Address Change

Name _____

Address:

Street or Box _____

City _____

State..... Zip _____

Telephone: _____ - _____ - _____

E-Mail address _____



Please cut and send this form along with any dues to:

Eric Sundell, Membership ANPS
Division of Mathematics and Science
University of Arkansas
Monticello, AR 71655

