

CLAYTONIA

Newsletter of the Arkansas Native Plant Society

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Every Rose Has Its Prickle

By Andrew Ruegsegger

It's an oft-repeated joke among plant-lovers that, if you're not careful, preparing for a hike may never take you past the parking lot. This is owed to the fact that plant-lovers share an affinity for the minutiae that give rise to the diversity of the vegetative world—getting caught up in the details is kind of our whole thing. Anybody unfamiliar with this detailed diversity might be surprised at *just how much* there is to see in a parking lot.



The thorns on this Carolina rose (Rosa carolina) and all roses are technically prickles. Photo by Eric Hunt.

But when an hour into the plant walk led by Richard Abbott and Melanie Rudolf at Rattlesnake Ridge—a 373-acre property managed by The Nature Conservancy and home to Wright's cliffbrake fern (*Pellaea wrightiana*), a species of state conservation concern, and the rare Ouachita Mountain Sandstone Outcrop Barrens—hadn't taken our group out of sight of the parking lot, it wasn't for an abundance of plant diversity or even for any grand display of late summer asters; being such a dry part of the late summer, the leaves of most plants drooped, and flowers (especially the showy kind) were in short supply. Rather, it was because, in lieu of flowers or vegetative abundance,



Melanie Rudolf (center) kicking off the plant walk/workshop with Richard Abbott (right). Photo by Andrew Ruegsegger.

Dr. Abbott decided to share with us his encyclopedic knowledge of his patterns-method to plant identification he has cultivated and refined over a lifetime of studying plants across the globe.

Conducting more of a workshop in field identification than a simple plant walk, the master of mnemonics led us on a dizzying journey of acronyms and shared characteristics to look for that guide the spectator through the vast world of plant taxonomy to arrive

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at particular families and genera. For example, MADCap allows you to narrow down the woody, opposite-leaved plant you're looking at to either maple, ash, dogwood, or honeysuckle (Caprifoliaceae family). If you want to narrow down the genus of that vine snaking its way close to the ground, consider TAN: tendril at node. If it's TAN, it'll be either a grape, a squash, or a passionflower. If you can't find tendrils on the vine, pick it up and admire its compound, trifoliate leaf structure, as Dr. Abbott demonstrated early on in the workshop, and you can be almost certain you're looking at *Toxicodendron radicans*, better known as poison ivy (he assured us that the urushiol doesn't tend to affect him *that* badly and rubbed some dirt on his fingers afterwards to be safe).

He didn't only go over pattern identification, though. For example, did you know that, according to Dr. Abbott—forgive me if I'm getting this wrong—the reason ragweed (*Ambrosia* spp.) tends to inflame the histamine responses of so many of us, in addition to its wind-pollinated abundance, is because the pollen literally tries to fertilize your eyes shortly after landing? Gross, if true. We also learned about the differences between prickles, thorns, and spines; because, yes, botanists have a word for everything. Epidermal outgrowths like on green-brier (*Smilax*) or roses (*Rosa*), for example, are actually prickles! Of course, as Dr. Abbott pointed out, 'every rose has its prickle' isn't nearly as catchy as 'every rose has its

thorn.' I guess that's why botanists name plants, and rock bands like Poison write hit songs. Thorns are modified branches (think of honey locust or black locust), and spines are modified leaves (cactus!). Also, pokeberry (*Phytolacca*) gets its beet-red color from a lipid-soluble pigment called betalain. I'm adding this part on myself,



Rattlesnake Ridge group. Photo by Gregory Rajsky.



Dr. Abbott pointing out a woody plant to discuss his patterns-method of field identification. Photo by Gregory Rajsky.

but it was an ink colored with these poke-pigments that Thomas Jefferson dipped his quill into to pen the U.S. Constitution. No joke. At least, that's what the Internet says.

Finally, returning back to the whole patterns-method of identification, here's an overlooked character of legumes for the uninitiated: look to the base of the petiole for a tiny characteristic called the pulvinus. If it is strongly swollen, you might just have a legume. That gets us back to the main thrust of the workshop: you don't need to (and can't) remember the way every plant looks to get started in field identification. Instead, just knowing characteristic patterns of plant families or genera like leaf arrangement or margin morphology or pulvinus swollen-ness—what detailed diversity!—can help you both in identification and in understanding the relationships between different plants. It's a point that maybe anyone familiar with a dichotomous key understands intuitively, but having those patterns elaborated by someone so well-versed in them was an invaluable experience. Having such an animated instructor willing to pick up poison ivy just to point out some characters only made the information that much more memorable.

(P.S. - We did eventually get a little ways away from the parking lot and saw a few neat, albeit common, plants in flower or fruit like flowering spurge (*Euphorbia corollata*), a senna (*Senna* sp.), pokeberry (*Phytolacca americana*), camphorweed (*Pluchea camphorata*), a very fragrant mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum* sp.), and others that I'm forgetting or didn't note.)

Aging Shortleaf Pine Stands

By Willa Thomason

Shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*), a commercially valuable conifer with a native range spanning 440,000 mi² across 22 states throughout the southeastern United States, was heavily logged throughout the 19th century through the mid-20th century. It is estimated that, by World War I, original uncut old-growth shortleaf pine stands were reduced by 60 to 80 percent. Populations of this species have continued to decline from 1980 to as recently as 2013 for several reasons, including land clearing, altered fire regimes and succession to hardwood species, disease and pest infestations, and hybridization with loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*).

Old-growth shortleaf pine-bluestem ecosystems provide critical habitat for the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW; *Picoides borealis*), as well as other species. Several organizations, including the Western Arkansas Woodland Restoration Project (WAWRP), the Shortleaf Pine Initiative (SPI), and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) have undertaken efforts to restore shortleaf pine ecosystems. In conjunction with the WAWRP and the SPI, the USFS has successfully restored approximately 150,000 acres in the Ouachita National Forest to near pre-settlement conditions using mechanical mid-story stand thinning, followed by prescribed burns every 3-5 years. RCW populations, which depend on old-growth southern pine ecosystems for survival, have more than doubled in response to these management treatments. Additionally, shortleaf pine chronologies serve as a powerful proxy for pre-instrumental climate. Tree ring chronologies derived from the few old-growth shortleaf pine stands remaining have the strongest correlation with summer precipitation totals yet detected for any tree species in the United States.

Shortleaf pine stands in the interior Boston Mountains are unusual in that they exist primarily above bluff lines at

relatively small topographic breaks in the hardwood canopy. This differs from the larger, more open and pine-dominant stands of the Ouachitas or elsewhere in the Ozarks. The primary goal of this project was to locate several undisturbed old-growth shortleaf pine stands in the



The view from Big Pine Hollow southwest overlooking the Upper Buffalo River valley. While the shortleaf pine tree in the foreground was not included in the sampled plot, it is roughly 25 cm DBH, and perhaps 120 years of age. The asymmetrical structure of the tree's crown is typical of shortleaf pines growing towards full sunlight on the bluff line surrounded by dense hardwood canopy. The small size and asymmetrical canopy make this pine unsuitable for commercial lumber harvest. Photo by David Stahle.

rugged interior Boston Mountains, to analyze their age-structure and species composition, and to further inform plans to restore the declining species. To accomplish this, four study sites were established in the interior Boston Mountains of Newton County, and one, a perimeter Boston Mountains site selected for comparison with the four interior sites, was established near the Mulberry River in Franklin County. Several 0.1 ha plots were established at each site, where I, with help from friends and colleagues, identified trees to species, measured their diameter at breast height (DBH), and cored every shortleaf pine tree with a DBH \geq 10 cm.

The fieldwork for this project led me to some of the steepest, most rugged bluff lines the Boston Mountains has to offer on the wild hunt for old-growth shortleaf pine. One of the most wonderful, and sometimes frustrating, aspects of dendrochronology is its inherently low-tech nature. While GIS, drones, and remote sensing techniques can help to pinpoint probable pockets of old-growth, these tools are no substitute for the human eye, and this project required me and my helpful friends and colleagues to bushwhack for miles up and down the steepest hills in the Ozark National Forest. Of course, the bushwhacking was only a warm-up for the tree coring to follow. While shortleaf pine is soft and relatively easy to core, heart-rot was common among the oldest trees observed in this study, leading to a gross underestimation of their maximum age, and turning promising old-growth encounters into frustrating and exhausting tug-of-wars to retrieve stuck increment borers.

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A typical bluff line with shortleaf pine in the Upper Buffalo River watershed of the Boston Mountains. While no cut stumps or other indications of human disturbance were apparent at any of the study sites, broken stumps indicating death due to environmental causes were common. Photo by Willa Thomason.

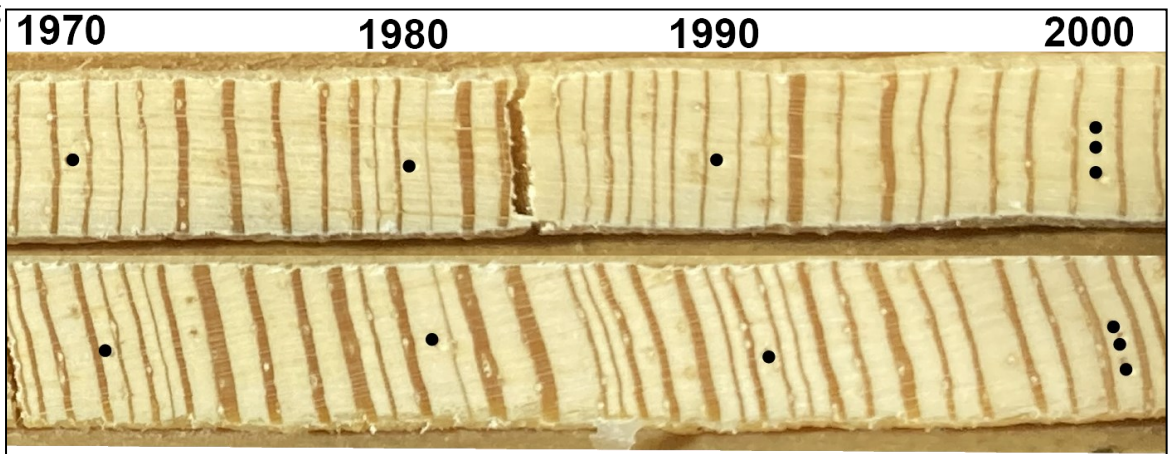
ed, and measured for earlywood and latewood ring width. Species composition, basal area, relative frequency, and stem density were calculated for each plot, and new site chronologies were developed using the Douglas method of ring-width crossdating. The derived ring-width chronologies were also correlated with gridded precipitation and temperature data for North America from 1950-2021 to define the seasonality, strength, and spatial scale of the moisture signal.

While the purported maximum age attainable for shortleaf pine is around 400 years, the expected life span of shortleaf pine is typically 140-250 years, and the oldest trees observed in this study did not exceed that expectation. The oldest minimum age observed in this study was a 242-year-old tree sampled at the Mulberry River site, and the tree was cored to pith at breast height. We cored a 43 cm DBH tree at Big Pine Hollow, but because the tree had heart-rot the radius of the core was only 13 cm. We aged it to 241 years, and through we were certain it was older we can't know exactly how much older it was. Overall, only 7 trees out of the total 435 that were dated and measured attained ages of 200 years or more.

The five old-growth pine sites described in this study represent only a subset of the native shortleaf pine stands present in the pre-settlement environment and it is probable that there are other small stands of old-growth shortleaf pine still present above bluff lines elsewhere in the Boston Mountains. I am so grateful and honored to have received the Delzie Demaree Research Grant, without which this project would not have been possible. THANK YOU to the Arkansas Native Plant Society for this incredible support!

The rare encounter with a heavy-limbed, and gnarled vestige of the days prior to the 19th Century timber boom in the Arkansas Ozarks more than compensates for the hours of strenuous exertion, but this was not the only reward of fieldwork for me. Every time I ventured into the field, I saw something beautiful; azaleas at peak bloom, a newly emerged luna moth, lions mane mushrooms, giant hollow beech trees, and waterfalls galore. One of my favorite days in the field was last May when Jennifer Ogle accompanied me to one of the sites in Newton County to help with tree identification. We were walking through one of the study plots when something erupted in a flurry a few feet to our left, making both of us jump. We looked down to see that we had nearly stepped on a brooding turkey hen and her clutch of no less than a dozen eggs!

The lab work, though more tedious than field work at times, yielded an abundance of raw data. After coring approximately 435 shortleaf pine trees across the five study sites, each core was mounted, sanded, dendrochronologically dat-



Cores from two different trees sampled at the Upper Buffalo River. Each sampled core was dendrochronologically dated, and measured for earlywood, latewood, and total ring-width. Note the excellent crossdating between the two cores, particularly in the latewood growth. The total ring-width variation in these cores is representative of the highest and lowest years of growth in the Upper Buffalo chronology. The ring-width for 1978, among the years of lowest growth, is visibly thin here, while the growth ring for 1994, one of the years of highest growth, is thick in these samples.

Plants to Entice a Child's Mind (Part 2)

By Sarah Geurtz

Lonicera sempervirens — Coral Honeysuckle. This native honeysuckle vine isn't aggressive like the invasive Japanese Honeysuckle. Sadly, it seems to not contain as much nectar as the Japanese Honeysuckle. I found that on this native honeysuckle, a good way to get to the nectar is to pinch off the very green base of the flower and suck the nectar out (*instead of pulling out the pistil from the flower's end, which is how I grew up getting nectar from the Japanese Honeysuckle*). As an added benefit, the vine will usually hold some flower buds through much of the winter, which add a bit of color. Its plump red berries are also very attractive.



Coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*). Photo by Eric Hunt.

Ludwigia alternifolia — Seedbox. In the late fall and winter, this plant holds upright seedheads with a small hole in the top. What makes them so interesting is that they are squarish in shape – like a tiny box! When the seeds are ripe, turn a seedbox over and dust-like seeds will spill out of the hole into your hand!

Rhexia — Meadowbeauties. Like *Ludwigia alternifolia*, in the late fall and winter, this plant's seedpods hold tiny seeds. Instead of a "box" seed capsule, though, the capsule is in the shape of a vase – perfect for accompanying a story about fairies.

Clinopodium arkansana — (Arkansas Mint/Ozark Calamint) also has a very strong minty scent and is shorter than the ones listed above.

Physostegia virginiana — Obedient Plant/False Dragonhead. In the later part of summer, this native peren-

nial produces spires of lavender, pale pink, or white tubular flowers. When the individual flowers are gently pushed sideways, the flower will stay that way for a while. Hence the name of "obedient plant." Children will enjoy trying this out on their own. After trying that, ask them if they can figure out why it is also called False Dragonhead. I bet they'll figure it out! Note that this is also a rhizomatous spreader so plant accordingly.



Obedient plant (*Physostegia virginiana*). Photo by Eric Hunt.

Pycnanthemum albescens/pilosum/tenuifolium — Mints. These are some of our native mint species. The foliage's minty scent will delight everyone. Keep in mind that they are rhizomatous spreaders like the invasive non-native mints, so if planting them in a small space, plan accordingly with barriers (or let them duke it out with other aggressive spreaders).



White-leaf Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum albescens*). Photo by Eric Hunt.

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Rubus species — Raspberries, Blackberries, Dewberries. Try growing one or more of these for the berries and let your child experience the taste of the different stages of ripeness. Once the berries are ripe, they can make a little picnic for you!

Scutellaria — Skullcaps. Many of the skullcaps offer fun seedpods – flip the pods over and they look exactly like tiny baseball caps! Kids love this plant because of this! The tubular flowers that precede them attract hummingbirds - an added kid bonus. *Scutellaria incana* (Hoary Skullcap), in particular, has a long summer blooming time which will provide many bird sightings. If you grow *Scutellaria parvula* (Southern/Leonard's Skullcap), tell children that the plant decorates itself with necklaces. Let them wonder at that weird statement and then have them dig in the ground – this plant is rhizomatous and the rhizomes grow what are called moniliform tubers along its roots. The roots look like beaded necklaces! However, do this digging during the growing season, as the tubers are supposed to decompose over the winter. To find this plant, you'll likely have to grow it from seed, as I've never seen plants of it offered in AR (*hint, hint to native plant growers!*). Another interesting thing about *Scutellaria parvula* is that some of its flowers remain closed and self-pollinate (called cleistogamous).



Skullcap (*Scutellaria parvula*).
Photo by Eric Hunt.

Verbesina virginica — Frostweed. Grow some of this plant and let the fall frost flowers be a welcome surprise for a child. Cold temperatures cause the sap to freeze and extrude from the stem. As the sap flows, further sap pushes upwards and freezes, pushing the earlier-frozen sap outwards. This results in beautiful, curling, extrusions of sap. You may again see frost flowers later during the winter, but they generally are not as showy as those first ones.

After the first truly cold winter morning, check to make sure the Frostweed has “bloomed” because you don't want to let the children down. Then, wake the chil-

dren, throw on your robes, and run out in great excitement to “see if the frost flowers have bloomed.” You're bound to leave an exciting and lasting memory. A word of caution, though – if you plant this in a garden (instead of an area that is “wild” in character, do *not* allow it to flower and set seed! It is a prolific self seeder.



The frost flower of Frostweed (*Verbesina virginica*). Photo by Sid Vogelpohl.

Zizia aurea — Golden Alexander. This native carrot relative will invariably attract Swallowtail Butterflies to lay eggs on it. When the eggs hatch and the caterpillars get large, you might get to see their defense mechanism – they extrude what's known as their osmeterium from behind their “heads.” It's an orange, forked organ that resembles a snake's tongue. It also produces a very stinky smell which is sure to delight kiddos. I once raised some eggs in my home and I *could not* scare the caterpillars into doing this for my daughter – I suppose they had no fear of us. Wild caterpillars did it quite readily, though. The stench their small bodies can produce is shocking!



Osmeterium on a swallowtail larva. Photo by Jamie Newton.

Gillam Park— Mindful of its Past, Hopeful for its Future

By Jennifer Ogle

Little Rock's Gillam Park is a hotspot for naturalists, drawn to its more than 400 acres of diverse habitats that support many types of wildlife. The Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission has identified several plant community types there, including glades and woodlands on outcrops of igneous rock known as nepheline syenite, upland white oak forest, mesic riparian and stream terrace forest, wooded seeps and springs, hardwood flatwoods, cypress sloughs, and seasonally flooded bottomland hardwood forest. It also has plenty of disturbed areas, partly due to its history as a city park.



Seedbox (Ludwigia alternifolia). Photo by Virginia McDaniel.

Gillam Park was named for Isaac Taylor Gillam Sr., a Black citizen of Little Rock who was born a slave in 1839 in Tennessee. During the Civil War, he enlisted in the Union army at Little Rock, and after the war had a long and successful political career in Arkansas. Unfortunately, during much of the late 20th century, his namesake park was remembered more for its negative cultural history than for his accomplishments or the significant natural features that make it so popular today. In the 1930s the City of Little Rock bought the property, which was then located just outside of the city limits with-

in the Black community of Granite Mountain, to relocate its growing transient jobless and homeless population during the Great Depression. In 1935, a bond was passed to

develop the site as a segregated city park, but it was not actually built until after World War II, and then only in response to protests from the Black community. At about the same time, Gillam Park became the foundation of a slum clearance and urban redevelopment plan that aimed to relocate much of Little Rock's Black community into that area of the city.

If you are interested in delving deeper into this important aspect of the

park's history, the Encyclopedia of Arkansas entry on Gillam Park is worth a read. Audubon Delta also recounts some of this history in photographs on the walls of their Little Rock Audubon Center, on their website, and during guided tours of the property, which is how I first learned of it. In 2005, Audubon leased the property from the city and has since managed it as a wildlife preserve and community education center. The preserve has several miles of public walking trails, and Audubon staff have developed programming at their Little Rock Audubon Center for cen-

SAVE THE DATE!

FALL 2024

MEETING

OCTOBER 4-6

MINERAL SPRINGS, AR



American lotus at Millwood State Park.

Photo by Eric Hunt



Jennifer Ogle teaches the group a plant. Photo by Andrew Ruegsegger.

tral Arkansas K-12 students and for underserved, low-income communities in Little Rock. They also have a summer internship program for teens.

On the morning of October 1, the last day of the Fall 2023 ANPS Meeting in Little Rock, 20 people met me and Virginia McDaniel for a tour of Gillam Park's plants and natural features. Because conditions were so dry during our visit, we decided to focus on the low and (we hoped) wet or at least moist areas of the preserve near Fourche Creek. That turned out to be a solid plan for botanizing at this incredibly dry time of the year. After a brief introduction to the site that included a discussion on the park's history, we set out to find some plants.

Andrew Ruegsegger, ANPS's newly elected Vice President, kept a copy of ANHC's checklist for the site and recorded new plants the group found as we walked slowly downhill from the parking lot near the old swimming pool to the

cypress slough. Shortly after we set out, a tiny ring-necked snake (*Diadophis punctatus*) that was resting in the middle of the asphalt path nearly derailed the entire trip, but after a few minutes almost everyone had recovered from the cuteness overload, and we were able to resume our walk to the slough.

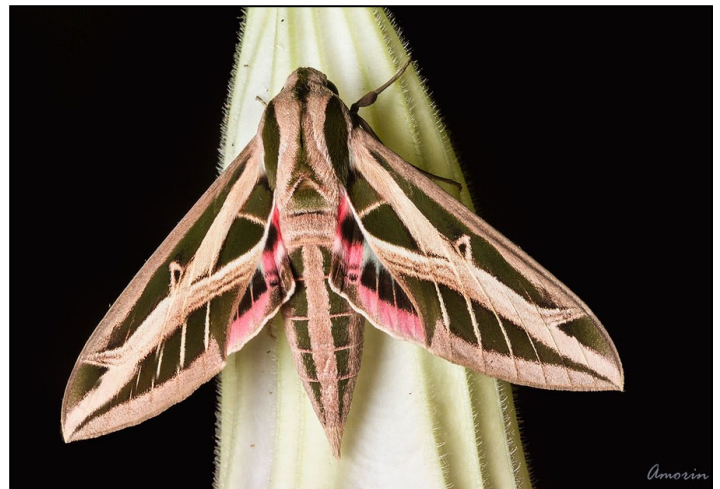


By the end of the trip, we had record-

Horned beak sedge (*Rhynchospora coniculata*). Photo by Eric Hunt.



Above: Banded sphinx moth larva eating *Ludwigia*. Photo by Steve Collins. Below: Banded sphinx moth. Photo by Jose Amorin.



Dry bald cypress slough. Photo by Virginia McDaniel.

ed 23 new plants for ANHC’s list. Notable additions included slender false foxglove (*Agalinis tenuifolia*) and thimbleweed (*Anemone virginiana*) in the disturbed upland woods along a gravel road, and cedar elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*) and overcup oak (*Quercus lyrata*) in the bottomland hardwood forest. Once we reached the slough, we took some time to enjoy all the plants that were thriving in the mud and along the slough’s edges - horned beaksedge (*Rhynchospora corniculata*), white grass (*Leersia virginica*), arrowhead (*Sagittaria platyphylla*), seedbox (*Ludwigia alternifolia*), camphorweed (*Pluchea camphorata*), and water elm (*Planera aquatica*) to name a few, all new additions to the checklist.

The group also documented six species of moths, including some monstrous banded sphinx (*Eumorpha fasciatus*) caterpillars that were eating leaves of water purslane (*Ludwigia palustris*). Despite receiving less than a half an inch of rain in the month before we visited, many of the park’s plants and animals were clearly thriving.



The Gillam Park Group. Photo by Greg Rajsky.

Today, Audubon is working with the City of Little Rock and ANHC to develop a conservation easement for the property that, once finalized, will forever protect it as a nature preserve.

We are mindful of Gillam Park’s past each time we visit. Thanks to the present action of these groups, we have reason to be hopeful for its future.

Welcome, New ANPS Members!

These members have joined ANPS since the last issue of *Claytonia*, from August 14, 2023 to March 6, 2024:

- Rudy Allen (Little Rock, AR)
- David Bevans (Little Rock, AR)
- Audrey Cobb (Little Rock, AR)
- Alison Cowles (Conway, AR)
- Barbara M. French (Little Rock, AR)
- Laurie Gaines (Bigelow, AR)
- Tracy L. Garstka (Little Rock, AR)
- Kathryn Gold (Maumelle, AR)
- Dawn Gregory (Ogden, UT)
- Nadine Bozek (Cherokee Village, AR)
- Jeff Hanks (Little Rock, AR)
- Sam Harper (Little Rock, AR)
- Whitney Hartgraves (North Little Rock, AR)
- Ingrid Karklins (Leslie, AR)
- Cathi Kindt (Hot Springs, AR)
- Bonnie La Borde Johnson (Metairie, LA)
- Beth & Fletcher Lambert (Lonkin) (Little Rock, AR)
- Louisiana Native Plant Society
- Margaret Morehart (Greenbrier, AR)
- Joshua Poland (Bentonville, AR)

- Marrian Ramsfield (Fayetteville, AR)
- Kara Richey (Jonesboro, AR)
- Sarah Roberson (Fayetteville, AR)
- Melanie Rudolf (Little Rock, AR)
- Hope Shastri (North Little Rock, AR)
- Barry Snow (Little Rock, AR)
- Gene Sparling (Hot Springs, AR)
- Cherilyn Stewart (North Little Rock, AR)
- Bo Verser (Heber Springs, AR)
- Jonathan Young (Little Rock, AR)

New Life Members

- Ginger Allinson (Benton, AR)
- Jennifer Boone (Little Rock, AR)
- Tom Dillard (Malvern, AR)
- Alan Dean Flanagan (Fort Smith, AR)
- Douglas Myers (Huntsville, AR)
- Jami Nash (Jonesboro, AR)
- Isaac Ogle (Fayetteville, AR)
- Gregory Rajsky (Melbourne, AR)

Southeastern Grasslands Initiative Expands into Arkansas

by Theo Witsell

In mid-January, with mixed emotions, I left a wonderful 25-year career with the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission for a new role as the Chief Conservation Officer for the Southeastern Grasslands Institute (SGI). Now in its seventh full year, SGI is significantly expanding its staff and geographic base of operations with the addition of five new staff positions in Arkansas, and another 15 new positions east of the Mississippi River.

The new team in Arkansas, the “western grassland science team”, will include an ecologist, biologist, and field technician, all based in Little Rock with me, and a tribal liaison who will be based in western Arkansas. Another “eastern grassland science team” with the same structure will be based in Clarksville, Tennessee and Cherokee, North Carolina. These teams will be conducting extensive field work to classify, inventory, and map remnant grassland habitats across their respective regions, with the goal of advancing the knowledge and conservation of grassland biodiversity.



A remnant dolomite glade in Fulton County with several globally rare plant species. This site needs restoration work to reverse decades of encroachment by eastern red-cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) trees in deeper soiled barrens around the margins of the opening. Photo by Theo Witsell.

ta), Florida (Melrose), Tennessee (Clarksville and Chattanooga), Virginia (Roanoke), and now Little Rock. The organization was founded by Dr. Dwayne Estes and myself in 2017 and by the end of this year will have 30 full time employees as well as a number of part-time, seasonal technicians spread across our 24-state focal region,

The SGI Focal Region

SGI operates across “the biogeographic southeast”, an ecologically-defined region that includes all or parts of 24 states. This is the region of the eastern U.S. that was never glaciated and where “southeastern flora and fauna” are found in remnants of natural ecosystems. It extends from

the eastern edge of the Great Plains, in east-central Texas and Oklahoma, north to the southern limit of the Pleistocene glaciation, and east and south to the coasts.

What Does SGI Do?

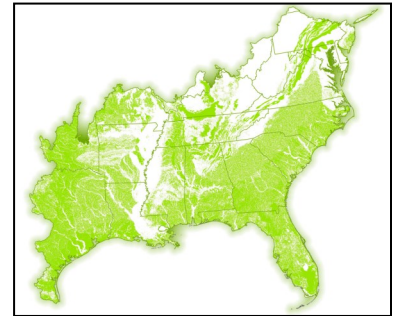
We find, study, restore, and work to protect grasslands of all types. We also take a “big tent” approach in defining “grasslands” to include prairies, barrens, glades, balds, savannas, bogs, fens, dunes, river-scour, meadows, marshes, and even the grassy open woodlands often associated with many of these communities – basically any naturally occurring open ecosystem with sun-dependent species. Our main focus is on finding and saving remnants - the precious surviving scraps of these ancient ecosystems - and all the imperiled biodiversity they sustain. We also work to re-create grasslands on appropriate sites.

Our list of projects is ever expanding and varies geographically, but in Arkansas we are currently partnering with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to identify and help restore high priority examples of remnant grassland ecosystems on private lands, and our science team will begin work in May to document, map, inventory, and classify different types of grasslands, many of which are poorly understood, and have not been formally described or classified.

We are particularly excited about an online grassland-focused science and history portal we are developing with funding from the National Park Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and USDA Farm Service Agency. This portal, which we are calling *Grasslandia*, will serve as a “one stop shop” for information on grassland ecology, biodiversity, history, conservation, and a decision support tool for grassland restoration.

Learn More

Check us out online at www.segrasslands.org/ and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/southeasterngrasslands/.



A map of the Southeastern Grasslands Institute Focal Region created by SGI and NatureServe. Areas in green had a significant grassland and open grassy woodland component historically and areas in white were mostly forested or open water.

The Concatenators

Introducing the Eric and Milanne Sundell Award

Concatenate – to link things [people] together.

We came for the native plants, but we stayed for the camaraderie, the community. This is the environment that Eric and Milanne have helped create.

- Jennifer Ogle

If you have attended an Arkansas Native Plant Society Meeting in the last 30 or so years, there are two people you were sure to have encountered: Eric and Milanne Sundell. Like with many pairs, the bower bird comes to mind here, there is the showboat and the one who gets stuff done. But together they make a family, a community that endures through time. So it was with Eric and Milanne in forming this home we call ANPS. Eric was the showboat. Sure he had street cred: a founding member of the ANPS in 1980 and botany professor at the University of Arkansas at Monticello where the herbarium carries his name. But what we remember is how he dazzled us all with his incredible knowledge of the most mundane of sidewalk weeds and rare plants alike, and made us all fall in love with plants with his complex yet goofy way of talking about them. Meanwhile, Milanne was getting stuff done. She was in the

They are just good folks and part of what makes ANPS so special.

- Karen Fawley

You blew me away with your knowledge and your enthusiasm for plants and you ignited that passion in me. I teach the way you taught me, the way you taught all of us, with quirky, fun stories... It really makes it stick.

- Sarah Geurtz



Eric and Milanne Sundell on an ANPS hike. Eric holding Hairy Phacelia. Photo by Sid Vogelpohl.

You have championed me through all these years on continuing my education and all the work I've done in research.

- Brent Baker

background, but a constant presence building the solid foundation of ANPS with her welcoming spirit, with conversation, with kindness and hard work. Without Milanne, the Eric we know is not possible. And together they form the solid trunk of this organization or, as Isaac Ogle says, they are the mortar that holds us all together. The concatenators.

Because of the Sundells' dedication and commitment to the Arkansas Native Plant Society, the board decided unanimously to create a new Award – The Eric and Milanne Sundell Award which adds to the 4 others already in existence. If you missed the fall meeting you can watch the ceremony here:

https://youtu.be/VxSA06VczBc?si=DX8_ZwbJU0sJvz-l

He could make people who had never been around plants come [to a Master Naturalist class]."

- Larry Price

Eric was doing good if you got far enough down the trail that you couldn't see the parking lot. The reason why everyone joked about that was because he knew so much about every plant and was so captivating in his storytelling that you were just enthralled about each one.

- Theo Witsell

Fall Business Meeting Minutes

Arkansas Native Plant Society
Business Meeting, September 30, 2023
Little Rock Audubon Center
4500 Springer Blvd., Little Rock, AR 72206

The Arkansas Native Plant Society held its Fall 2023 Business Meeting at the Little Rock Audubon Center, Little Rock, AR.

President Joe Ledvina called the meeting to order. Joe thanked the Members for coming to the meeting and he thanked the Little Rock Audubon Center for providing the meeting space to ANPS at no charge.

Joe reported that the Saturday morning and afternoon field trips went very well in spite of the dry, hot weather. Joe thanked the field trip leaders for leading the various hikes. Diana Soteropoulos said that the yard tours, which were held for the first time, also went very well. Joe asked Sunday's field trip leaders to describe the hikes for the next morning. The field trip leaders then told members what they could expect to see and where to meet.

Leslie Patrick gave the Treasurer's Report and explained notable income and expense items for the year to date. Grants and awards were higher than usual but after several years of Covid-related awards inactivity, there were more requests than usual. She said that, after calculating the expected proceeds and expenses from the fall meeting, ANPS would still have around \$18,000 in the bank. There was a question about why there was no donation to the Halberg Ecology Camp. The summer Camp was uncertain for a while and the donation was not requested. Leslie then presented the budget for 2024. The budget was balanced at approximately \$13,000. Sarah Geurtz moved to accept the 2024 Budget. Susan Hardin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Joe Ledvina asked the Membership to consider a grant application made by All Saints Lutheran School in Jonesboro. The application was for \$1,700 and included hardscaping. The Board recommended that Joe asked the requestor if they could get support from another source for the hardscaping and the school has agreed to provide it. The revised request was for \$1,005. Joe provided the Membership with the final request which included the cost of the native plants. Members then discussed the cost of the plants on the list. Sheryl Willis moved to award the All Saints Lutheran School \$1,000 and said that she would donate an additional \$20. Diana Soteropoulos seconded. The motion passed with one "no" vote. Sheryl gave her \$20 donation to the Treasurer, Leslie Patrick.

Joe Ledvina reported that Mike Burns was leaving the Board after 12 years of exceptional service. Virginia McDaniel spoke and thanked Mike, who could be counted on to distill lots of complex issues; his advice and counsel were invaluable. He did an exceptional job. Joe also reported that Margaret Lincourt was leaving the Board and he thanked her for her excellent contributions as Secretary for the past six years.

Joe Ledvina asked Greg Rajskey and Andrew Ruegsegger to tell the Membership about their background and interests. Joe said that the Board recommended the following slate of officers for election:

Nate Weston, Social Media Officer
Joe Ledvina, Publisher
Greg Rajskey, Secretary
Andrew Ruegsegger, Vice President

Sarah Geurtz moved to elect the slate of officers as presented. Peggy Burns seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Ledvina asked the Board to consider a change to the bylaws, (Section IV, 2, a) and explained the rationale for the change. The change would require the Board to meet in the month prior to the business meeting, and not the weekend of the business meeting. The change read: "... during the month preceding each Spring and Fall meeting." Sheryl Willis moved to accept the bylaws change as presented. Susan Hardin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Ledvina said that River Valley Horticulture was having an open house for vendors and organizations October 21, 2023 and had invited ANPS to participate. There was a question about whether we could sell merchandise and Joe will look into that. He asked for a volunteer to help him with the event.

The ANPS Spring Meeting will be held May 17-19, 2024 in Mountain View, Arkansas.

Jennifer Ogle, on behalf of the Board, thanked Joe Ledvina for his outstanding service as President.

ANPS merchandise (t-shirts, hats, etc.) may be purchased at: <https://www.bonfire.com/results/arkansas+native+plant+society>

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Lincourt, Secretary

Spring 2024 ANPS & OCANPS Field Trips

Fayetteville's Westside Gems

Saturday, April 13 at 10:00 a.m.

Fayetteville's Westside Gems

Meet: 1837 North Ruppel Road, Fayetteville; home of Ginny Masullo and Steve Smith

The west side of Fayetteville has several places we can see spring interests. Woolsey Prairie would be top on the list. It is a prairie restoration success story. It was burned in January and by April 13th it should be green and growing. Also near Woolsey Prairie is Wilson Springs. There is a short creekside walk in from the west side that some folks don't know about. Right now it is closed for restoration but hopefully will be open in April. Across from the west side of Wilson Springs is a new city park, which is not completely developed right now. It's an old golf course and it's called Underwood Park. Depending upon the conditions and what we can see we might go to one or all of these places. We will meet at Ginny and Steve's home which is central to all the above places and there is plenty of parking. We can decide where we will walk depending on conditions. Steve Smith and Ginny Masullo are leaders/greeters. We will all share our knowledge of plant identification and learn from each other.

Logan Springs Preserve

Saturday, April 27 at 10:00 a.m.

Meet: Logan Springs Preserve, 15300 Osage Hill Rd, Siloam Springs, AR 72761

Logan Springs Preserve is located between Tontitown and Siloam Springs and sits adjacent to the Logan Cave National Wildlife Refuge. Hiking at Logan Springs is a botanical treat and includes diverse habitats such as restored prairie habitat, wetland marsh habitats, as well as an Oxbow Lake. Chas McCoy from the Nature Conservancy and Laurie Scott will co-lead a OCANPS hike at the Logan Springs property, see up close its unique features and hear from Chas as he talks about the refuge, plants of botanical interest, rare habitat and plants. In a labyrinth-like experience, navigate the twist and turns on the levee system that surrounds the old spring-fed commercial minnow ponds and Oxbow Lake. The levees are level, easy and offer a neat view of nature as we explore Logan Springs! Please wear durable shoes, and bring a hat, sunscreen, your choice of insect repellent, and a snack or light lunch (and a picnic blanket) for an 'Ol fashioned picnic lunch beside the pond, or near the Oxbow lake weather permitting. There is a parking lot at the

entrance to the preserve that will hold several vehicles, but please carpool as much as possible to help save space, gas and our environment!

Little Fir Glades

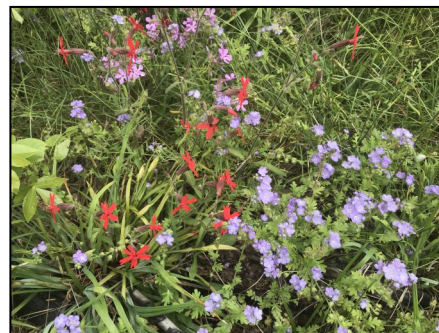
Friday, May 3 at 10 a.m.

Meet: Caddo-Womble Ranger District Office; 1523 Hwy 270E Mt. Ida, AR 71957 (34.54246, -93.61264)

Join Jennifer Ogle of the University of Arkansas Herbarium and Virginia McDaniel of the Southern Research Station for a tour of a Ouachita National Forest shale glade restoration project. Shale glades are a rare plant community in Arkansas and house a host of diverse and endemic species. The area was burned this winter so the display of flowers should be incredible.

Level of Difficulty: Moderate to difficult; unpaved old road and the then walking cross-country through the glade and over occasional downed cedar trees.

Bring a lunch, water, sturdy shoes and tick repellent.



Flower display on the Little Fir glades in on the Ouachita National Forest. Photo by Virginia McDaniel.

Lincoln Lake

Saturday, June 15 at 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Meet: Lincoln Lake, Co Rd 669, Lincoln, AR 72744 (35.998194, -94.427283)

Join Jennifer Ogle of the University of Arkansas Herbarium and Marson Nance of the Northwest Arkansas Land Trust for a tour of Lincoln Lake, one of NWALT's newest conservation easements. We will visit plant communities of dry to dry-mesic Ozark forests, sandstone bluffs, and a glade with a sweeping view of the lake.

Directions: From Hwy 62 in Lincoln, turn north on N. West Ave. and continue for 3.5 miles, then turn right into the parking lot for Lincoln Lake. Park in the gravel lot before the low water bridge.

Level of Difficulty: Moderate to difficult; the unpaved, rocky trail is steep in places and close to the edges of high bluffs.

OCANPS News

From the Spring 2024 Ozark Chapter ANPS Newsletter, written by Burnetta Hinterthuer:

I hope that all of you have been well and hardy and able to enjoy the unusually mild winter this year. I keep expecting to get hit by a hard freeze before too long. So far, I have been wrong.

It has been challenging in ways I could not imagine so far this year, but the good news is that OCANPS nominated last year's slate of officers – who readily accepted. Sue Hubbard is President, Sandy, Tedder Vice President, Deb Bartholomew is Treasurer, with Janice LaBrie as Historian/Photographer, and Steve Smith as Auctioneer. We held our auction and are once making donations to Audubon Ecology Camp and Ozark Natural Science Center. Remember that the Spring Annual Meeting of the state organization Arkansas Native Plant Society will be held in Mountain View, Arkansas, this May 17-19th. More details can be found [on page 14 or www.anps.org]. We hope to see you there. Stone County is one of the richest botanical areas in Arkansas. I will be happy to send out a reminder as it gets closer to the time, with more details.

[On page 13] you will find a listing of hikes planned for the spring. Thanks to Sue Hubbard for helping plan these and to those who have agreed to show us some new areas and new plants. Have a happy spring.



Top: Ginny Masullo, Kent Bonar, and Deb Bartholomew discussing the fall environment.

Above: David Geneson, Janice LaBrie, and Jim Dudley at Ozark Campground.

Left: Group photo at Ozark Campground in Pruitt during the Harmony Mountain Retreat, November 2023.

Photos by Burnetta Hinterthuer.

In Memoriam

HAROLD "GENE" FORD

Longtime ANPS member and an original OCANPS member, Gene Ford, died in February. Burnetta Hinterthuer wrote a lovely tribute to him in the latest OCANPS newsletter, which we are reprinting here.

Gene was such a great friend to everyone throughout the years, on hikes and at Harmony Retreat which we have enjoyed for the past seventeen years. He was always our hero transporting Mary Ann and Pine Ridge Gardens plants for the auction. But, he was interested in plants and people and we enjoyed many conversations over the years. We will certainly miss Gene but are so glad we have had those years in the woods, on the glades, and riverbanks looking for native plants. We wish Mary Ann peace, comfort, and joy at this time.

- Burnetta Hinterthuer



OBITUARY: Harold "Gene" Ford, 92, of London, Arkansas, died Sunday, February 11, 2024, at his home. The son of James and Wanda Pearl (Montgomery) Ford, he was born January 25, 1932, in Rogers, Arkansas. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, James Ford.

His survivors include his partner of 40 years, Mary Ann King of London; a son, Larry Ford (Veronica) of Bella Vista, Arkansas; two daughters: Cathy Thompson of Bentonville, Arkansas; and Debra Fricks (Jeff) of Sherwood, Arkansas; seven grandchildren & 11 great-grandchildren.

Gene loved his work and spent many hours helping individuals and families find their dream home as an agent and broker in the real estate business, serving also on the Board of Realtors. Investing in his community was an important value to Gene, as he was active in Rotary International. Gene's faith was also important to him as he worshiped with his faith family at All Saints Episcopal Church in Russellville. In his leisure time, he enjoyed hiking, fishing, and spending time in the great outdoors, especially working on his tractor around his land.

The family is planning a memorial service at a later date at All Saints Episcopal Church. In lieu of flowers, the family invites memorial donations to: All Saints Episcopal Church, 501 South Phoenix Ave., Russellville, AR 72801, or The Nature Conservancy, 601 N. University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72205.

SHARON LUVOIS SHUGART

OBITUARY: Sharon Luvois Shugart, age 76, of Percy, passed away on December 16, 2023, in Hot Springs, Arkansas, due to complications from Parkinson's Disease. She was born on July 22, 1947, at The Fincher Clinic in El Dorado, Arkansas. Sharon was a compassionate individual who brought smiles to the faces of many. She had a deep love for nature and animals, adopting and caring for scores of dogs and cats throughout her life. She took joy in keeping the birdfeeders in her yard well-stocked and would even stop on highway shoulders to help box turtles safely cross. Sharon was a kind soul who happily shared her property with wildlife, welcoming species from tarantulas to chipmunks. She fondly remembered floating the Caddo River with family in her youth, and was a lifetime member of the Arkansas Native Plant Society.

Sharon is survived by her loving husband, Mark Blaeuer of Percy, her brother Dr. Herman Henry "Hank" Shugart, Jr. (Ramona) of Charlottesville, Virginia, her niece Dr. Erika Shugart of Rockville, Maryland, and her niece Stephanie Bell of Charlottesville, Virginia; her niece Lisa True-love (Stephen) of Ashland, Oregon, her nephew Kurt Blaeuer of Buffalo, New York, her nephew Karl Blaeuer

(Rose) of Oregon City, Oregon, her niece Carma Smith (Marc) of O'Fallon, Illinois, and her nephew Craig Frutiger of O'Fallon, Illinois. Surviving also are four great nephews, two great nieces, and a host of other relatives, as well as seven dogs and four cats. Surviving second cousins are Alfred Joseph Marti, Jr. of Hot Springs, Dr. James B. Atkinson III of Nashville, Tennessee, Anne Atkinson Moore of Wilmington, Delaware, Scott Edmund Atkinson of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Mark Howell Inman of Bentonville, Sara Margaret Hunt of Carlisle, Dr. Samuel M. Strong of Little Rock, Richard Edward Davidson, Jr. of Gurdon, James Cooper Davidson of Gurdon, Cheryl Reames of El Dorado, Steve Shugart of Alvin, Texas, Marsha Taylor of League City, Texas, Mark Bridges of Katy, Texas, Traci Bridges of Dallas, Texas, Fred Harry Morecraft, Jr. of Pearland, Texas, Mary Murdock of White Hall, Betty Ray of White Hall, and Joan Wessels of White Hall.

She was preceded in death by her father Herman Henry "Shug" Shugart, Sr., her mother Kathryn Luvois (Rich) Shugart, her grandparents, aunts, uncles, first cousins, and many others, including her mother-in-law Hazel Marie (Pence) Blaeuer, brother-in-law Dr. David Blaeuer, and sister-in-law Linda (Blaeuer) Frutiger.

The family appreciates the efforts of her caretakers during the past two and a half years, notably the staff at Lakewood Therapy and Living Center, as well as the employees of Dierksen Hospice.

Sharon attended El Dorado High School, graduating in 1965. She furthered her education at Ouachita Baptist University, earning a B.A. in English in 1969, and later obtained an M.A. in anthropology from the University of Arkansas in 1990. Her thesis was A Socioeconomic Analysis of a Small Plantation in Dallas County, Arkansas, 1844-1868.

In 1992, Sharon began her career as a museum specialist for the National Park Service at Hot Springs National Park. During her tenure, which extended through 2009, she curated a large collection, designed exhibits, wrote informative text, created intricate color graphics on the computer, conducted valuable research, and assisted other researchers. Sharon's dedication and expertise were recognized in 1996 when she was awarded the Thomas Jefferson Prize by the Society for History in the Federal Government for two of her exceptional reference aids at the national park. One, a chronology of park events, eventually became a popular book. Prior to her work there, Sharon found success in a variety of other professional endeavors. She served as an assistant editor at the Arkansas Archeological Survey's publications department in Fayetteville, wrote and distributed a newsletter for Sierra Estates Mobile Home Park in Fayetteville, performed outreach for the

Volunteer Bureau in Glossop, Derbyshire, U.K., worked as a copywriter and catalog coordinator for the C.V. Mosby company in St. Louis, was employed as an electronics assembler at Wescor, Inc. in Logan, Utah, and taught English in the St. Clair, Missouri, school district. Her adventurous spirit also found her living, at various times, in Sheridan, Arkansas; Coralville, Iowa; Webster Groves, Missouri; North Little Rock, Arkansas; and a log cabin north of Swain, Arkansas, in the Ozark National Forest.

In her free time, Sharon pursued multiple interests. She enjoyed listening to music of diverse styles, singing, playing the piano and guitar, and once composed a beautiful setting of Dylan Thomas's poem "Fern Hill." Sharon was an avid reader, with Jane Austen and Virginia Woolf being her favorite authors, and she loved to cook for family and friends. As a volunteer with the Garland County Historical Society, she received several awards from the Arkansas Historical Association for articles she researched and wrote for the Society's annual publication, *The Record*. These articles explored numerous aspects of the national park. She also turned her skills in research and writing to the study of her own family history.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Humane Society of Garland County or the Garland County Historical Society.

Sharon will be dearly missed by all those who had the privilege of knowing her.



Spring Meeting Highlights



2024 Spring Treasurer's Report

2024 Spring Treasurer's Report					Proposed 2025 Budget
			January 1 - March 4, 2024		
			Start 2024	→	\$18,176.40
	2023 Actual	2024 Approved Budget	2024 Actual		
INCOME					
Membership Dues	\$4,253.30	\$6,500.00	\$975.00		\$4,300.00
Meeting Registration	\$1,630.11	\$1,600.00	\$0.00		\$1,600.00
Plant/Silent Auction	\$703.58	\$1,100.00	\$0.00		\$700.00
T-Shirt, Hat, Book Sales	\$1,912.19	\$1,800.00	\$0.00		\$1,900.00
Contributions	\$1,252.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00		\$1,300.00
TOTAL	\$9,751.18	\$13,000.00	\$975.00	→	\$975.00
EXPENDITURES					
ANPS.Org (website domain/wordpress)	-\$189.96	-\$190.00	\$0.00		-\$190.00
Claytonia (Print & Distribute 2 Issues)	-\$2,334.06	-\$2,000.00	\$0.00		-\$2,400.00
Directory (Print and Distribute)	-\$1,432.57	-\$1,450.00	\$0.00		-\$1,450.00
Memorial Awards/Scholarships	-\$12,000.00	-\$6,000.00	\$0.00		-\$6,000.00
Grants/Support to Public Gardens	\$0.00	-\$1,000.00	\$0.00		-\$1,000.00
Meeting expenses (space, copies, speaker,etc.)	-\$464.41	-\$1,000.00	\$0.00		-\$1,000.00
SWS: AR Eco Tour	-\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Ecology Camp	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Bulk Mail	-\$290.00	-\$290.00	\$0.00		-\$320.00
PayPal/Square fees	-\$35.43	-\$100.00	-\$3.16		-\$50.00
Zoom (webinar series)	-\$162.83	-\$163.00	\$0.00		-\$163.00
Supplies/postage/fees/misc	-\$215.17	-\$100.00	\$0.00		-\$200.00
T-shirts/Hats/Books Purchases	\$1,139.25	-\$800.00	\$0.00		-\$500.00
Tabling (ASB, MG)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
TOTAL	-\$16,235.18	-\$13,093.00	-\$3.16	→	-\$3.16
		Total as of March 1, 2024	→	\$19,148.24	
Respectfully submitted by Leslie Patrick, Treasurer					

Don't forget about the ANPS Monthly Webinar Series

If you would like to receive webinar announcements and Zoom links, contact Eric Fuselier to be added to the email list (anps.programs@gmail.com). Watch past webinars at youtube.com/channel/UCEIIEFuRaz0HbIlgXxwRIHvw.

President's Message

Spring has sprung! And boy did it spring early this year. After an unusually warm winter, we saw the eastern red-bud trees bloom an entire month early, at least here in the northern part of the state. We'll see what the rest of the spring brings us, and whether the timing of any other blooms will be out of sync.

Thinking of how warm the past few months have been, I'm reminded of the first ANPS event I ever attended. It was a hike at Devil's Eyebrow Natural Area led by Theo Witsell in

May 2013, the day after the natural area was opened to the public. The weather that spring was in stark contrast to what we've seen so far this year. Most memorable was that the day before the hike, we had an unusually late snow that accumulated up to an inch in depth be-



fore quickly melting. It's amazing to see how volatile and unpredictable our climate is becoming, and it'll be interesting to see how the native plants of Arkansas are able to adapt.

But there's at least one thing that is still predictable: the annual rhythm of ANPS biannual membership meetings. And this year we have an exciting Spring meeting planned for you in Mountain View. Sarah Geurtz has been working very hard to plan this meeting, and I can tell you that it is shaping up to be a very memorable one filled with some

great hikes and speakers. So mark your calendars folks! We look forward to seeing you in May!

– Eric Fuselier, ANPS President and Programs Officer

Arkansas Native Plant Society Membership Application

Membership Categories

- \$10 Student
- \$15 Individual
- \$20 Supporting
- \$25 Family
- \$30 Contributing
- \$150 Lifetime (age 55+)
- \$300 Lifetime (under age 55)

- New Member
- Renewal
- Address Change

Opt out of receiving paper *Claytonia*

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Mail this completed form with a check made payable to the Arkansas Native Plant Society to:

Leslie Patrick, Treasurer
15 Pinecrest Court
Conway, Arkansas 72032

JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE INSTEAD! Details at anps.org/join.



CLAYTONIA

Virginia McDaniel | Editor
virginiamcd31@yahoo.com

Please check your mailing label!

The calendar year is the membership year. If your mailing label says "23" or earlier it's time to renew. Life members have an "LF" on their label.

To renew your membership, fill out the application for membership on page 20 and mail it to the address on the form.

Or renew online at anps.org/join.

Random plant tidbits from Wildflower Folklore

by Laura C. Martin

[The following are mostly direct quotes that I found entertaining. Any medical advice is for entertainment and should NOT be used without consulting a medical professional.]

Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*): Although it depends on a variety of insects for pollination it has developed a method of keeping away unwanted pests, like ants. The stems are covered with tiny barbs which make it impossible, or at least very uncomfortable, for ants to crawl up.

Bellwort (*Uvularia perfoliata*): It was once thought to be an effective cure for throat problems, according to the doctrine of signatures. The earliest herbalists thought the blossoms of the bellwort looked like the uvula, that funny-looking pink thing that hangs down from the soft palate in the back of the mouth.

Buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.): The tiny, innocent buttercup at some point acquired the reputation of causing lunacy and was called the "crazy weed" by many country folk. To hold the flower next to your own neck on a night when the moon is full, or simply to smell the flower, were said to drive you insane. Although there has never been an official report as to anyone's actually losing his [or her] mind because of the buttercup, many species are poisonous and will severely irritate the skin. On species of the buttercup was even used in poison arrows.

Whorled loosestrife (*Lysimachia quadrifolia*): Both the common and the generic names of this plant refer to the supposed power of the plant to soothe animals or "loose them from their strife." Legend tells us that King Lysimachus of Sicily was walking through a field when a bull began to chase him. The good king grabbed this plant and waved it in front of the bull, calming him and loosing him from his strife. It was thought that tying a branch of the plant to the yoke of oxen would make them easier to handle. It was also found that the plant helped to repel gnats and other irritating insects, and perhaps this explains why the animals were easier to handle with loosestrife close by.

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