

OCANPS FALL NEWSLETTER 2025

FALL EVENTS

Arkansas Native Plant Society

Fall Meeting

September 19-21, 2025

Harrison, Arkansas

Everybody is welcome to attend! Meeting registration is only \$10 with no pre-registration required. Registration will begin at 5:00 PM on Friday, September 19, 2025. The meeting events wrap up on Sunday, September 21 around noon.

Location: Signature Tower (part of Signature Bank), Community Room
303 N Main St Suite 100
Harrison, AR 72602

Dining Options: We will have a potluck meal Friday and Saturday evenings.

Auctions: The **silent auction** will begin at 6:00 PM on Friday and close at the end of the program on Saturday evening, and our **live auction** will begin at 7:00 PM on Friday and end later that evening. Proceeds from the auctions support the ANPS small grants program, student research grants, and student scholarships!

Field trips: Field trips to local areas of top botanical interest (e.g., Baker Prairie, Round Top Mountain) will be scheduled for Saturday 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM and Sunday 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM. You must sign up for field trips on Friday evening to allow for adequate logistical planning.

Speaker: Justin Thomas, a botanist from Missouri and co-founder of the Institute for Botanical Training and NatureCITE, will give a presentation on interesting stories associated with several Arkansas plants with a healthy splash of natural history at 7:00 PM on Saturday, September 20.

For more information including lodging see the ANPS website

OCANPS FALL FIELD TRIP

COMPTON GARDENS, Bentonville

Sunday, October 12, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Meet in the main parking lot

Entrance is off N. Main, north of 3rd Street

Co-Leaders: Lowell Collins and Sue Hubbard

Lowell Collins is Chairperson of the Ozark Society Sugar Creek Chapter. For the last 3 years she has organized series of spring wildflower walks on Wednesday mornings. I, Sue Hubbard, have enjoyed attending those walks and have found her to be knowledgeable not only of the plants in Compton Gardens but also the history of and current happenings in the gardens. This will be a causal stroll mostly on paved paths using mostly common names of plants.

OCANPS FALL RETREAT

HARMONY MOUNTAIN, South of Jasper

Friday October 31 – Sunday November 2

This is a weekend of eating, socializing, playing games, making music as well as botanizing. We will hold an auction to raise funds for local groups who support native plants – we decide who receives the money at the retreat. It is also where we hold our annual meeting including electing officers.

The cabin has 8 rooms with private bathrooms so typically couples will get their own bedroom, but this cannot be guaranteed. There is also flat ground around the cabin so camping or bring small campers is an option, but you still need to pay the full rate for the cabin. OCANPS charges guests the actual cost of the cabin so prices for the weekend will vary depending on how many people come. If 10 people come the cost per person for the weekend will be \$99.00. If 20 people come the cost will be \$62.50. Prices will be higher this year than last because at our last annual meeting we voted to have attendees pay the deposit rather than have it come out of OCANPS general funds.

For more information contact me, Sue Hubbard, at shubbard@redshift.com or 831-737-4792.

*****IMPORTANT*****

NEW FOR THIS YEAR: In order to attend Harmony Mountain, you must pay a deposit of \$35.00 per person to be received by Friday, October 10. This payment is non-refundable. Checks should be mailed to:

Deb Bartholomew
300 Jonathan Drive
Bentonville, AR 72612

SPRING FIELD TRIPS 2025

PONCA

Our first field trip of the season was on Saturday March 22. We met at the Ponca Low Water Bridge and our leaders, Samantha Heller (ANPS Treasurer) and Morgan Russell (student at UARK), led us up the trail towards Steele Creek. The 12 people on the trip got to enjoy a beautiful spring day and although we did not make it to Steele Creek we got to enjoy many spring wildflowers. They are including Ozark trillium (*Trillium pusillum* var. *ozarkanum*), Cleft phlox (*Phlox bifida*), Spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), Toothwort (*Cardamine concatenata*), Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), Common violet (*Viola sororia*), both White and Yellow trout lily (*Erythronium albidum* and *E. americanum*) and Dutchman's britches (*Dicentra cucullaria*).



BELLA VISTA – CHINQUAPINS

Dr. Fred Pallet, Adjunct Professor at UARK, had agreed to lead a walk focusing on Ozark Chinquapin (*Castanea ozarkensis*) on Saturday, April 5 but it was canceled due to a storm. As we approached the rescheduled date of Saturday, April 26 the weather was also iffy. It was good we decided to go ahead as the rain held off for our field trip and 13 people attended. We met at the Bear Hollow trailhead which is part of the Back 40 trail system in Bella Vista. Dr. Pallet started by showing us specimens of Chinquapin wood and spoke about the effect Chestnut Blight had on Chinquapin in this area. He then took us on the trail to see areas where Chinquapin are re-sprouting. We even found nut casings with seeds from last year. We then drove a short distance down the road and re-entered to woods to see several logs from Chinquapin that were still recognizable despite, in all likelihood, have lain there since the 1950's. Along the way we stopped to appreciate spring wildflowers such as a large display of Wild hyacinth (*Cassia scilloides*), Fire pink (*Silene virginica*), Bird's foot and Common violet (*Viola pedata* and *V. sororia*), Rue anemone (*Thalictrum thalictroides*), Yellow stargrass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*), Cornsalad (*Valerianella radiata*) and Two-flowered dwarf dandelion (*Krigia biflora*).



ROB AND MELANI WALTON PRESERVE

Long time OCANPS member Ginny Masullo organized a trip on Thursday, May 8 to the Rob and Melani Walton Preserve in Garfield. She arranged for Chas McCoy, Watershed Specialist for The Nature Conservancy (TNC), to talk about how TNC manages the property included a large scale project to remove non-native blackberries. Doug Zollner, Ecologist for Arkansas TNC helped out with plant identification. Chas led the 19 people who attended on a tour of a section of the property including a meadow area (where the blackberry removal occurred) and woodlands. Along the way we saw Ozark mock orange (*Philadelphus pubescens*), Blue toadflax (*Nuttallanthus canadensis*) and re-sprouts of Ozark Chinquapin (*Castanea ozarkensis*).



BAKER PRAIRIE

I don't know if it was the beautiful day in the mid 70's, the chance to learn from Jennifer Ogle (Collections Manager at the UARK Herbarium) or the chance to visit Baker Prairie. Maybe it was a combination of all 3 but 30 people showed up our field trip to Baker Prairie in Harrison on Saturday, May 31. Deb O'Donnell, an UARK Herbarium volunteer and assistant trip leader, provided participants with a sheet allowing them to play plant bingo as we strolled through the prairie. Doug Zollner, Ecologist for Arkansas TNC, provided plant identification for those who could not get close enough to hear Jennifer. We took the trail on the east side of the Prairie because that side was burned late last year. Plants seen included pale coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*), Green eyes (*Berlandiera betonicifolia*), Goat's rue (*Tephrosia virginiana*), Bush's Poppy-Mallow (*Callirhoe bushii*), Carolina rose (*Rosa carolina*) and Carolina larkspur (*Delphinium carolinianum*). We even found one Compass plant (*Silphium laciniatum*) which had already put out a bloom).





Pictures for the Baker Prairie trip were taken by Scott Simon

Thanks to Andrew Ruegsegger who volunteered to lead a trip to Wilson Lake which was canceled due to the weather and also to Brent Baker who volunteered to lead a trip to the Arkansas River Valley on what turned out to be another bad weather day.

Interested in learning more about our native plants – I recommend checking out Samantha Heller's substack *Chinquapin & Chickadees*. Samantha led one of our trips this spring (see above) and is ANPS's treasurer. To access it go to the Substack website and search for *Chinquapin & Chickadees*. She writes about field trips she has made including a couple of the above plant walks.

HOW TO JOIN OR RENEW:

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025 IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO.

Membership:

Arkansas Native Plant Society Membership Application

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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

Samantha Heller, Treasurer

8461 Apple Glen

Rogers, Arkansas 72756

TO JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE GO TO: anps.org/join.

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

Ozark Chapter Arkansas Native Plant Society:

To join the Ozarks Chapter, after joining ANPS, please send a check for \$10 to:

Deb Bartholomew

300 Jonathan Drive

Bentonville, AR 72612