

OZARK CHAPTER, ARKANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING SPRING WILDFLOWER EVENTS

Dry Fork Creek Valley in rural southern Carroll County

Sunday March 29, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Directions: 754 County Road 546 (Carroll County). This is a farm owned by our trip leader Larry Lowman. From Hwy 21 turn west onto County Road 524. CR 524 is approximately 2 miles north of Hwy 412, approximately 16 miles south of Berryville and just south of the Dry Fork Creek bridge. The turn onto the gravel road that is CR 524 can be hard to spot and may be made harder by the work to build a new bridge over Dry Fork Creek. Coming from the south there is a sign about 100 feet before the turn. Start looking for the sign after you pass Underwood Road. When you see the sign pass a small farmhouse and the turn is right there. Currently there is no sign before the turn when coming from the north due to the bridge work but it is a few hundred feet passed the bridge. There is currently a sign right where you make the turn that may or may not be there by the time of the event. If you see a sign for Blackberry Lane you are in the right place but do not go up the slope along Blackberry Lane, rather go down the slope by a stream. Proceed westward along CR 524 (enjoying spectacular views of Dry Fork Creek, bluffs, caves, etc.) for a little over a mile, passing only one house, and no other county roads. The first county road you reach is at Larry's property, a tee intersection, turn right onto CR 546 (there IS a sign directly at this corner). From this point, all land on the west (left) side of the road is Larry's homestead. You will immediately cross low-water concrete bridge over Dry Fork Creek, then proceed a few hundred yards further, until you reach Larry's mailbox on the left. You'll see the neighbor's homestead on the right, and they have a big bamboo patch opposite Larry's drive. The mailbox is hanging from a living Walnut tree, with my name, LOWMAN and 754 on the north side. Turn left into my drive, thru metal gate, and proceed a few hundred feet through second gate posts, and you'll see garden downslope to the left, red barn straight ahead, and Larry's home and white trucks up to the right.

View a variety of early spring ephemerals, some other interesting, rare or unusual local natives and a quick look at organic veggie farm if visitors are interested. Event will consist of various short walkabouts and hikes. Walks will be very easy, mostly from field edges, rural road shoulders and one brief excursion through natural woodland without a trail. A few botanical highlights we might hope to observe in flower would include (woodies): Leatherwood (*Dirca sp*), Ohio Buckeye, Pawpaw, Spicebush, Serviceberry, Bladdernut, Creeping Strawberry Vine (*Euonymus obovatus*), (herbaceous): Bloodroot, Dutchman's Breeches, Jacob's Ladder, Trout Lily, Toothwort, Spring Beauty, Sweet William, Ozark Trillium, and Hepatica, with others likely. Bring a brown bag lunch.

Leader: Larry Lowman, owned RidgeCrest gardens, a native plant nursery, on Crowley Ridge for many years and is now a farmer in Carroll County. His landline is (870) 545-3205.

NOTE: Larry's farm is not accessible in the event of heavy rain. If rain is forecast check the OCANPS Facebook page to see if the event has been cancelled or, if you are an OCANPS member, check your email.

Big Sugar Creek State Park, Missouri

Saturday, April 11 at 10:00

Directions: Meet at the Sugar Creek State Park parking lot on Big Sugar Creek Road. Exit I-49 at Pineville MO. Take highway West off Bus 71 into Pineville, turning right at 8th Street. At the end of the street take left onto Big Sugar Creek Road. The park is on the left some ten miles beyond. Coordinates: 36.62N 94.36W. Address is 6727 Big Sugar Creek Road.

The park has the 3-mile Chinquapin Trail Loop. We will explore the larger drainage basin on the left-hand branch to see the rich herbaceous growth on the creek bottom. An extensive chert glade will arise on our right as we go. About a mile upstream the trail enters scenic limestone ledges worth viewing. Relatively uncommon blue ash trees grow out of crevices there. The name comes from old pioneer use of inner bark as a dye, and the four-sided nature of its quadrilateral twigs gives the tree its Latin name. The chinquapin trail title comes from the many Ozark chinquapin saplings that are found along the trail after it climbs out of the ledges to get over to the other leg of the trail loop. If you want to see that part be aware that there are a few tricky side hills on the way up, and you can come back down on an easy and wide bridle trail that runs down the crest of the ridge between the pair of trails.

Leader: Fred Paillet is Adjunct Professor of Uark Geosciences and has published on chinquapin and chestnut investigations from around the world.

Eureka Springs Urban Trail and Spring Gardens Walk

Date: Saturday, April 25, 10:00 a.m. - noon

Location: Park on Crescent Drive below the Crescent Hotel in Eureka Springs. We will meet at the entrance to St. Elizabeth Catholic Church.

Eureka Springs Parks and Recreation maintains a number of pocket gardens located at the site of historic springs. This guided walk will visit a number of these spring gardens and we will focus on the native plants growing in them. We will utilize sidewalks as well as historic walking trails which go up and down the hills of Eureka.

Leader: Sharon Roberts is the Gardens Specialist for ES Parks and Recreation and is determined to promote ecologically sound gardens in a tourist town.

Kings River Falls Natural Area

Saturday May 2, 10:30 a.m.

Directions: From the south take Hwy 16 to Boston and then take Madison County Roads 3175 and 3145 north 4.5 miles. Turn left on CR 3500 a short distance to the Kings River Falls parking area. From the north take AR-127 off Hwy 23 at Aurora and follow it as it turns into Madison 3345. About 10 ½ miles from Aurora turn right onto Madison 3500 and go about 1 ½ miles to the parking area.

We will hike along a branch of the Kings River and see wild azaleas in flower, along with wildflowers like larkspurs, bluestars, and Jack-in-the-Pulpit. There will be Umbrella Magnolia, Smoke Tree, and Ninebark present as well. The trail is about 2 miles total, in and back, on ANHC property. Being close to the river, the terrain is a bit uneven and may be slick should there be recent rains. Somewhere between easy and moderate in difficulty.

Leaders: Samantha Heller and Evan Walden. Contact: (479)531-9794

Arkansas River Valley Excursion

Know Your Natives Garden (KYN) near Paris and Pine Ridge Gardens Native Plant Nursery near Dardanelle

Saturday, May 23, 9:30 a.m.

Directions: KYN Gardens are south of I-40 near Paris. House is located at 2480 South State Highway 309 (house number on the mailbox). However parking is sooner at next door neighbor's to the west (3670 on mailbox). Do not enter that driveway (on top of hill). Enter the same neighbor's next driveway (along new privacy fence) and drive into a parking pad. The host will meet us there.

Sid and Jeanette Vogelpohl refer to their 50-acre property as “Know Your Natives Garden” in reference to articles of that name authored by Sid that were posted on anps.org over a 10 year period. Sid's plant inventory for the property has 390 forb species, 75 tree species, 17 fern species along with various grasses and sedges. Highway 309 (route to Mount Magazine) follows the top of Pine Ridge from which the elevations on the property drops 200' via cliffy slopes (upper) and rocky talus slopes (lower) to Short Mountain Creek (city water supply). The property is mostly wooded along with a steeply sloped glade below the house with native grasses and a several-acre mowed area in the valley. The rocky creek, bordered by trees and shrubs has an 80' bridge. An abandoned stream channel, draining into the creek, has wetland characteristics that support ferns and other wetland species.

Native plants, along with some non-native favorites, surround the house, along the driveway and near-house paths. Trails extend away from the house along the ridge and down the cliffy slopes. In the valley walking will be along mostly level trails. After exploring the area around the house we will have a brown bag lunch on the deck at around 11:30 before driving to the valley to explore that area.

After leaving Sid's property we will take an approximately 50 minute drive to Pine Ridge Gardens. Pine Ridge Gardens are owned by OCANPS member Brent Baker and are one of the premier native plant nurseries in Arkansas. We will visit the nursery's new location 6 miles south of Dardanelle. Brent will be holding an open house so this is an excellent chance to purchase native plants.

SAVE THE DATE:

This year our retreat at Harmony Mountain will be November 13 – 15. Details will be included in the fall newsletter.

ANPS UPCOMING EVENT:

ANPS will be holding its Spring retreat in Jonesboro May 15-17. Details are posted on the ANPS website (anps.org). I encourage you to attend as they are a good opportunity to spend time in the field with expert botanists.

BURNETTA RECIEVES AWARD

ANPS held its Fall meeting in Harrison September 19-21, 2025. During that event Burnetta Hinterthuer was given the Eric and Milanne Sundell Award. Burnetta was one of the founders of OCANPS and guided the chapter for many decades. She is still an active member. Jennifer Ogle, who presented the award, also highlighted the considerable amount of botany field work Burnetta has done the state, the numerous herbarium Burnetta started around the state (all are still active) and the many students she supported during her time as an instructor at NorthWest Arkansas Community College, including Jennifer.

Congratulations Burnetta on this well deserved award.



Burnetta and her husband Steve sit in front of the podium as Jennifer Ogle highlights the reasons for giving the Eric and Milanne Sundell award to Burnetta. Photo by Andrew Ruegsegger.

PAST EVENTS

Compton Gardens

On Sunday, September 12 eight of us were able to navigate road closures in downtown Bentonville, due to a bicycle event, to meet at Compton Gardens. Lowell Collins led us around the gardens and shared her extensive knowledge, including history and future plans for the gardens, as well as discussing many of the plants growing there. We looked at the many tree species planted in the gardens along with American burnweed (*Erechtites hieracifolia*), false sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*), tall white aster (*Symphotrichum lanceolatum*), American witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), foxglove beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*), Late boneset (*Eupatorium serotinum*) and false indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*).



HARMONY MOUNTAIN RETREAT

OCANPS held its retreat at Harmony Mountain October 31 – November 2, 2025. We had our usual fun time with friendship, laughter, lots of food, music and games. On Friday night we held our auction with many plants and other items donated by those attending. Thank you to Steve Smith for being our auctioneer.

On Saturday many of us hiked to Magnolia Falls and nearby Woods Boy Falls and were happy to see water in both falls.

Saturday evening was the OCANPS annual meeting. Sue Hubbard was elected to continue as President. Veronica Chessgrove was elected as Vice President. Deb Bartholomew will continue as Treasurer and Cat Donnelly as Secretary. Jennifer Lewter became the Historian. Based on what we raised at the auction and money raised from membership dues we voted to give \$200 each to 4 organizations: ANPS scholarship program, Ozark Natural Science Center, Audubon Ecology Camp and the Ozark Society Youth Grant Program.

On Sunday, before heading home, several of us took a hike to Big Creek Cave Falls and Wolf Creek Falls.



Some of the participants on the Magnolia Falls Hike



Everyone was serious during the general meeting



Game night