

CLAYTONIA

Newsletter of the Arkansas Native Plant Society

Monitoring Baker Pr.
Page 3

Burnetta Award
Page 4-6

Sweden Creek Trip
Page 7-8

Sundell Video
Page 8

Spring Meeting Details
Page 9

Membership Info
Page 10-11

Fall Meeting Minutes
Page 12

UARK New Chapter
Page 13

Ozark Leatherwood
Page 14-15

Treasurer's Report
Page 15

Member Spotlight
Page 16-17

OCANPS News
Page 18

Maumelle Rare Plants
Page 19-21

Field Trips
Pages 22-23

Behind the Label
Page 23

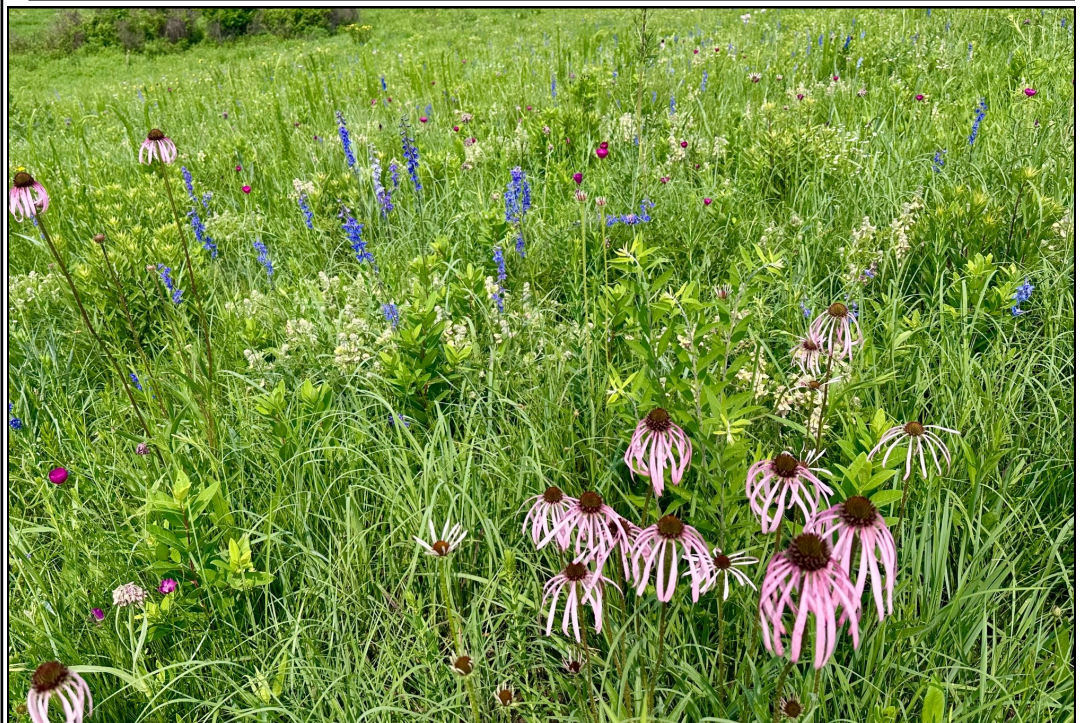
Anne with an E
Page 24-25

President's Message
Page 26

Membership App
Page 26

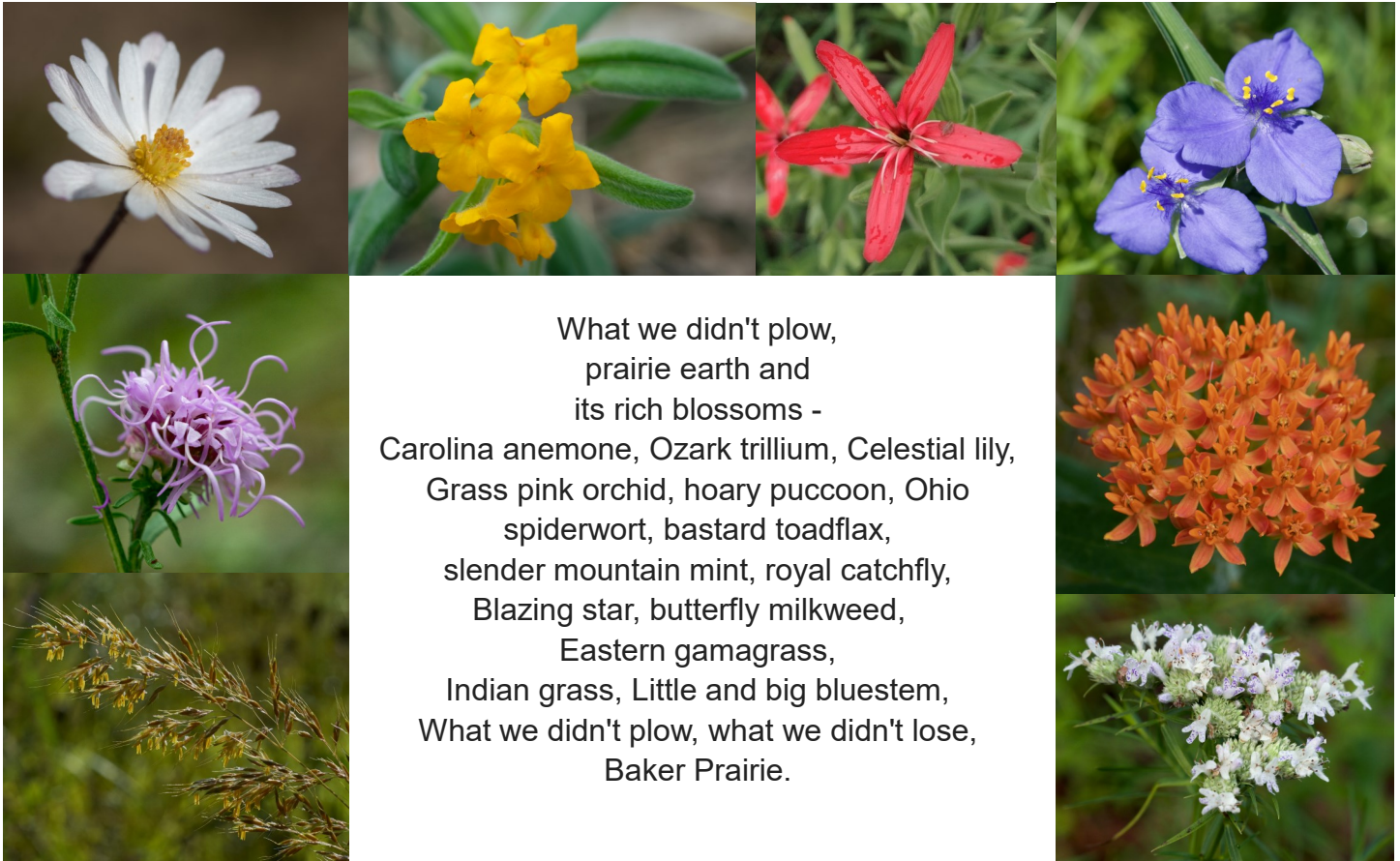
What We Didn't Do

By Burnetta Hinterthuer



Dormancy breaking in
Every bulb and rhizome!
Something unseen moves
across the prairie
and soon colors begin to pop,
Sporadically at first in early April.
Later shades of green and shadows
from long afternoon rays
play tricks on the eyes and
the prairie dances,
awash in rhythm and thyme.
Sometimes what isn't seen is the
most memorable view,
What isn't heard is more eloquent
than what is spoken.
What is left behind,
What we didn't do,
makes all the difference.

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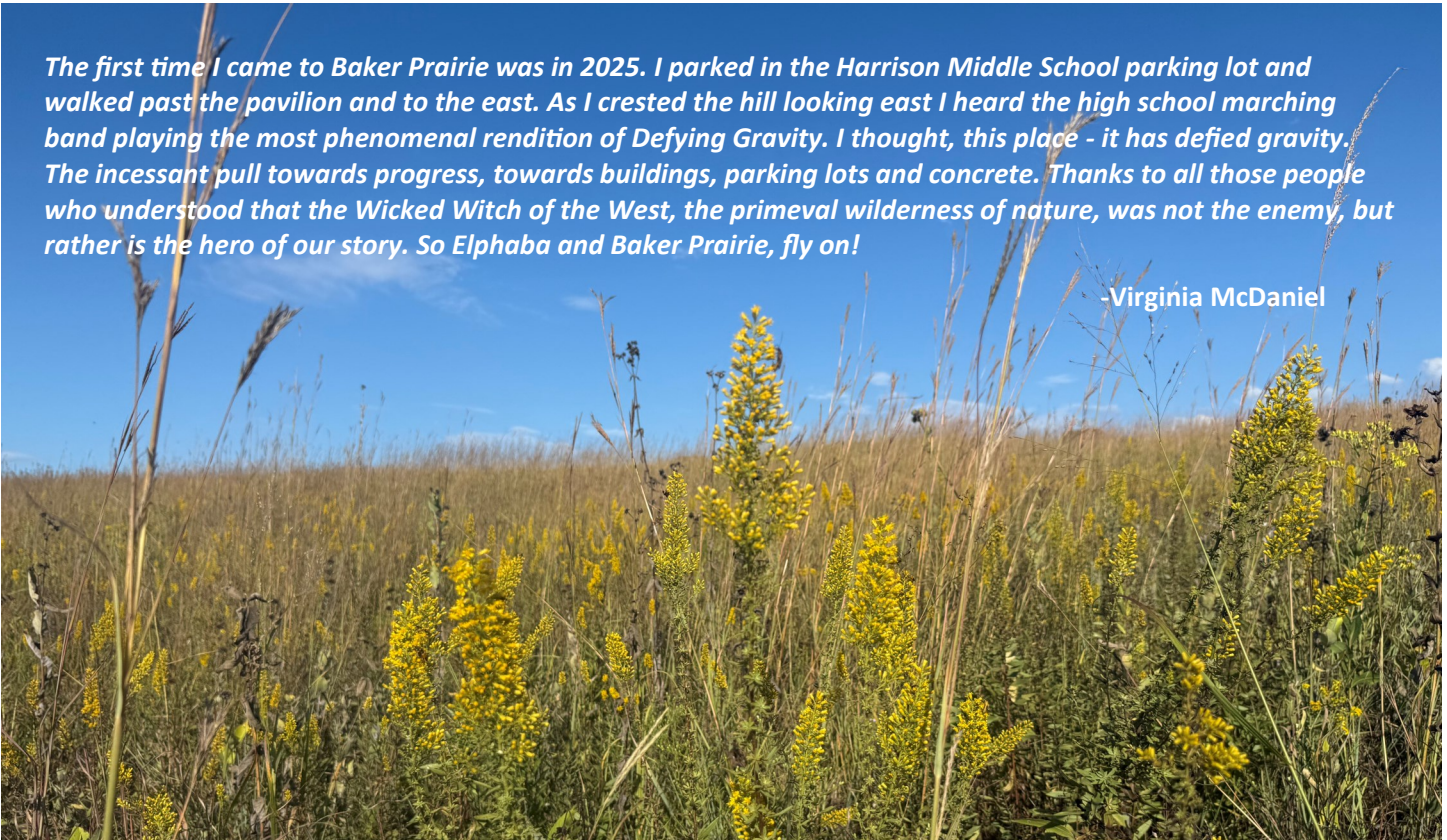


What we didn't plow,
prairie earth and
its rich blossoms -
Carolina anemone, Ozark trillium, Celestial lily,
Grass pink orchid, hoary puccoon, Ohio
spiderwort, bastard toadflax,
slender mountain mint, royal catchfly,
Blazing star, butterfly milkweed,
Eastern gamagrass,
Indian grass, Little and big bluestem,
What we didn't plow, what we didn't lose,
Baker Prairie.

Front cover: **Baker Prairie in spring.** Photo by Scott Simon. Above from bottom left: **Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), Rough Blazing-star (*Liatris aspera*), Carolina Anemone (*Anemone caroliniana*), Hoary Puccoon (*Lithospermum canescens*), Royal Catchfly (*Silene regia*), Ohio Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohioensis*), Butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), and Slender Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*).** Photos by Eric Hunt except Royal Catchfly which is by Morgan Meador. Below: **Baker Prairie in fall.** Photo by Virginia McDaniel.

The first time I came to Baker Prairie was in 2025. I parked in the Harrison Middle School parking lot and walked past the pavilion and to the east. As I crested the hill looking east I heard the high school marching band playing the most phenomenal rendition of Defying Gravity. I thought, this place - it has defied gravity. The incessant pull towards progress, towards buildings, parking lots and concrete. Thanks to all those people who understood that the Wicked Witch of the West, the primeval wilderness of nature, was not the enemy, but rather is the hero of our story. So Elphaba and Baker Prairie, fly on!

-Virginia McDaniel



Monitoring Baker Prairie

by Jenn Wagner

Baker Prairie Natural Area is a remnant, tallgrass prairie that lies within the Springfield Plateau of the Ozark Mountains in Harrison, Arkansas. The soil at Baker Prairie is rich in minerals from the underlying calcareous limestone and chert that make up the Boone Formation. The composition of the soil allows for a unique mixture of plant species, often with a selection toward alkaline tolerant species. At Baker Prairie, restoration efforts have been underway since 1998, with sections of the prairie undergoing prescribed burning every two years, in addition to targeted removal of invasive species. The Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC) keeps track of rare, native plants to ensure the preservation of the state's biodiversity and promote a balance between development and environmental protection. When monitoring plant communities, we keep an eye out for rare species to monitor for their conservation status.



Prairie Rattlesnake-root (Nabalus asper). Photo by Jenn Wagner.

United States, reaching as far north as Minnesota and Canada. It is a perennial that resides in prairies, glades, barrens, and limestone woodlands. With its creamy, white petals and its tall, rough stalk and leaves, it sticks out when in bloom and is a treat to see in the field. Downy Gentian is in the Gentianaceae (Gentian Family) and has a similar distribution to Prairie Rattlesnake-root, also reaching as far north as Minnesota and Canada. It is a perennial that can be found in prairies, glades, and open woodlands, usually over calcareous substrates. The flowers of Downy Gentian are bright blue to deep blue-violet and provide a lovely color addition to the prairie. Both tracked species reside in habitat types that have been declining and restoration efforts, like the ongoing work at Baker Prairie, help maintain these dwindling habitat types.

Jenn Wagner is the ecological monitoring lead for The Nature Conservancy of Arkansas based in Little Rock, AR.



Downy Gentian (Gentiana puberulenta). Photo by Jenn Wagner.

While conducting plant community monitoring for ANHC at Baker Prairie Natural Area this fall, we encountered two ANHC tracked species: Prairie Rattlesnake-root (*Nabalus asper*) and Downy Gentian (*Gentiana puberulenta*). Prairie Rattlesnake-root is in the Asteraceae (Sunflower Family) and is sprinkled throughout sections of the southeast and Midwest

Burnetta Hinterthuer Receives Eric & Milanne Sundell Award

By Jennifer Ogle

During the Fall 2025 ANPS Meeting in Harrison, Burnetta Hinterthuer was given the Eric & Milanne Sundell Award. It was presented by one of her former students, Jennifer Ogle, and included tributes by Sue Hubbard, OCANPS president, Steve Smith, her long-time field partner, and Joan Reynolds, another former student. What follows is modified from Jennifer's presentation.



Burnetta on an OCANPS field trip along the Kings River Trail in 2008.

Good evening, everyone. I am a botanist and ANPS board member, where I serve as the Awards Officer. I have the best job on the board, as I get to give students money and advocate awards given to members for outstanding achievement.

Tonight, I have the great honor of presenting the Eric & Milanne Sundell Award to Burnetta Hinterthuer. The Sundell Award was recently created to recognize "rare individuals in our group who have had an outsized influence on the society, contributing tirelessly to the preservation and enjoyment of nature for all." Burnetta is one of those rare individuals. She is an Arkansas botanist, educator, conservationist, and founder of the Ozark Chapter of ANPS. Through many contributions she has made to the Society over some thirty years, Burnetta has built a legacy for this organization.

In 1995, Burnetta's mother-in-law, Kelly Holst of Witts Springs, saw an ANPS newsletter, which included a call for chapters to be started around the state. She showed the newsletter to Burnetta, and then both wrote letters to

ANPS President Bob Clearwater expressing their interest in starting an Ozark Chapter. Their request was approved in early 1996, and OCANPS was born. At that time, Burnetta served as President, Newsletter Editor, and Chief Field Trip Leader of the chapter. She served in these capacities for many years, only recently relinquishing some of her duties to others within the thriving chapter. Burnetta told me that during the early years, they held a field trip nearly every weekend. They traveled all throughout the Arkansas Ozarks and sometimes wandered over to the Missouri side when OCANPS member and Missouri botanist Linda Ellis would lead field trips on her home turf.

Burnetta not only led the charge with OCANPS, but she also served on the president track of the state society in the early 2000s. She has certainly created a strong legacy within our organization, one that will continue long after most of us are gone. And truly, this would be enough for someone to be nominated to receive the prestigious Sundell Award.

But Burnetta has done so much more than create a legacy within the Society. She has worked for many decades as a naturalist, botanist, and educator who created avenues for others to not only have access to nature, but for students to pursue careers in the natural sciences. Being a woman in the natural sciences was not easy in the late 1960s and early '70s (or even in the '80s and '90s for that matter). As an undergraduate at Murray State University in the 1960s, where she earned two degrees (English and



Burnetta breaking for lunch at Buffalo Point while working for the National Park Service in 1976.

Biology) and two minors, she held a work study position in the herbarium with Dr. Gordon Hunter. At one point during her undergraduate experience she was told that, as a woman, she could study wildlife biology if she wanted but would never find a job as a wildlife biologist. Burnetta was undeterred.

Herbarium. It seems that herbaria crop up like beneficial weeds everywhere Burnetta works.

While in Harrison, Burnetta and Rick were important members of a group of concerned residents who were determined to save Baker Prairie from development by a realtor who also happened to be the school board president and wanted to build a high school there. Burnetta's group met with the school board and others to educate them about the importance of Baker Prairie, explaining that development would threaten both the unique plants and animals that occurred there, including the ornate box turtle. This earned them the nickname "The Box

Turtle League" by the school board president. Burnetta also wrote an op-ed piece for the local paper, arguing that for the people of Harrison, Baker Prairie was their history and legacy. Soon after, she got a phone call from a prominent businessman in Harrison who threatened her by saying "if you don't have half a million dollars to buy the land, you'd better shut up." In her gentle voice she calmly replied, "Well, I'm not going to do that." Her group continued to advocate and watch over the prairie for many years. The school board did get their school, but it turned out to be difficult for developers to acquire all of the land, so the remainder would lay undeveloped until 1993 when most of it was permanently conserved



The first OCANPS field trip was at Long Pool Recreation Area in Pope County on March 23, 1996. Dr. Gary Tucker led the hike to see early spring wildflowers.

After graduation, she answered an ad in a magazine for the Student Conservation Association and was sent to Organ Pipe National Monument to train for a position in natural resources. After that, she had the distinction of being the first woman naturalist hired for the Arkansas State Parks system. During the interview for that position her interviewer said, "I didn't know a woman could walk three miles." Undeterred, Burnetta got the job.

However, soon after she followed her future husband, Rick Hinterthuer, to Missouri after he accepted a position in the 5th US Army Lab in St. Louis. There, she saw an ad in the newspaper for a position at the Missouri Botanical Garden and was hired as an herbarium assistant. When her supervisors learned of her plant knowledge and interest in field botany, they promoted her to field botanist and sent her out with a crew of five male biologists, where she would spend all week in the field documenting the plants of Missouri. During that time, she collected 1,100 specimens for MOBOT, earning her an acknowledgment in George Yatskievych's revised *Steyermark's Flora of Missouri* in 1999.

In 1973, Rick secured a position at NorthArk Community College in Harrison, and Burnetta worked part time teaching botany and biology. She also started an herbarium that still thrives there today. For 10 years, she he worked seasonally for the National Park Service at the Buffalo National River, where she started the BUFF



The 1997 Arkansas Envirothon cohort. T-shirts were designed by Burnetta's husband, the artist Steve Holst.

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by The Nature Conservancy and Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission.

In 1991, Dr. Gary Tucker asked Burnetta if she wanted to work for the U.S. Forest Service, and another chapter of her career was born. This was a time when the agency was hiring non-traditional workers and giving them exotic titles like “Wilderness Expert” and “Botanist.” So, Burnetta became a U.S. Forest Service Botanist. This position was so foreign within the agency that even her own supervisor said, “I don’t know what a botanist does.”



An OCANPS field trip to Blanchard Springs on September 21, 1996, led by Bob Clearwater. Pictured, left to right: Bob Mills, Suzie Walker, Burnetta, and MaryAnn King.

Around this time Burnetta also worked with Susan Hooks, past ANPS president and retired forest botanist for the Ouachita National Forest. Susan recently wrote, “Burnetta and I worked on a trail survey along the Buffalo River way back in the day. We walked a lot of miles. You know how botanists are - they have to stop and discuss every plant. Well, we were no different, so when we came to a disagreement about a plant, Burnetta would pull out her 20-lb Steyermark and proceed to prove me wrong. Now on these long treks [...] I would sometimes carry her backpack. That book with my backpack was pretty heavy but we laughed about her not wanting to leave it behind. I guess it was unthinkable for us to wait to ID the plants. I had a strong back before that summer was over. We had some great adventures that summer. I am so glad that she is getting the award. She has done so much with teaching and volunteering.”

After funding ran out for her position with the Forest Service, Burnetta went to work for the Soil Conservation Service and in 1993, was asked to start an Envirothon team in Northwest Arkansas. Envirothon is a nationwide education-based environmental competition that gives scholarship funds as prizes. She took Arkansas students to

nationals three times.

At the NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC), she taught many students who went on to have careers in botany or related fields. She took them to Baker Prairie and to the Buffalo River to show them the botanical wonders of those places. She also saved a historic post oak savanna on NWACC’s property from development. Today, this locally rare example of a once common plant community serves as an outdoor learning lab for the college’s students, thanks to Burnetta’s efforts. And of course, she started the NWACC Herbarium while she was there.

I met Burnetta in 2002 when I took her plant biology class. At that time, I was suffering from a debilitating condition known as shyness (a condition I have since mostly defeated). So, she and Sandy Tedder, another influential woman botanist and professor at NWACC, held my hand and dragged me to my first professional conference in October 2003. There, during the *Rare and Invasive Plants of Arkansas Conference*, I met Johnnie Gentry, Travis Marsico, Sarah Nunn, and Theo Witsell, botanists who helped lead me further down my own academic and career path.

Burnetta, you helped create a path over very rough terrain for women like me to work more easily in the field of conservation. If it weren’t for you, my career would look very different. I am forever grateful for your persistence and quiet determination in doing what you love and for sharing it with others.

Jennifer Ogle is a botanist and collections manager of the University of Arkansas Herbarium in Fayetteville.



An OCANPS field trip to Baker Prairie on May 25, 1996, was attended by 19 members and featured a large population of Oklahoma grass-pink orchids (*Calopogon oklahomensis*) in flower. Burnetta later reported that “there were many accomplished botanists, photographers, illustrators on this hike and the discussions and dissensions were quite lively.”

Fall Trek to Sweden Creek Falls

by Greg Rajsky

Sweden Creek Falls Natural Area is a 136-acre site in the Boston Mountains of Madison County owned and managed by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. The dissected terrain is clad in oak-pine woodland featuring sandstone glades and bluffs, including the eighth-tallest waterfall in Arkansas. Our field trip took place September 20, 2025.

Arkansas Alumroot (*Heuchera arkansana*), a rare plant endemic to Arkansas' Boston Mountains and Ozark Plateau. According to Weakley's Flora of the Southeastern United States, of the four *Heuchera* species native to Arkansas, two (*H. arkansana* and *H. puberula*) may be found in bloom from midsummer into autumn; both are somewhat restricted in range. The other two



The Sweden Creek Falls were dry on the day of our visit, but the view from above was no less impressive. Photo by Ben Thesing.

Upon our arrival at the trailhead, we were met with a light sprinkle of precipitation that soon turned to a steady rain. Undaunted, we set off down a path that led through an open woodland. We spotted the small yellow composite flowers of Soft Gold Aster (*Bradburia pilosa*), its genus named for John Bradbury, a nineteenth-century botanist celebrated in the keynote address delivered by Justin Thomas later that evening.

Along the trail we found evidence of a former homestead, eventually reaching a cabin, still standing, the grounds of which exhibited remnant plants introduced by prior inhabitants. These garden relics included exotic species such as Rose-of-Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*) and Chinese Chestnut (*Castanea mollissima*), although we also found there a nice stand of the native Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*).

Further downslope, where the trail divides to follow the bluff top or dive into the hollow, we paused to admire

Heuchera species (*H. americana* and *H. hirsuticaulis*) bloom in the spring and are generally more widespread in range.

We followed the bluff line through oak woodland where we encountered a few more notable species of forbs in bloom. Gattinger's Agalinis (*Agalinis gattingeri*), also known as Round-stem False Foxglove, appeared inconspicuously along the trail. This species is considered uncommon in Arkansas, where it occurs on bluffs and in woodlands, so it was fitting to see it on a wooded bluff top.

We visited during a dry spell—the day's rain notwithstanding—so the 80-foot waterfall for which the site is named was not flowing that day. However, that gave us safer access to the top of the bluff, where we came across the delicate Glade Knotweed (*Polygonum tenue*), also known as Slender Knotweed, its tiny flowers

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Arkansas Alumroot (*Heuchera arkansana*) is endemic to the Boston Mountains and Ozark Plateau. Photo by Ben Thesing.

scarcely more than three millimeters long, bearing five miniscule tepals. The flowers occur along the thin, wand-like stem, interspersed by tiny lanceolate leaves.

What seems to have been everyone’s favorite forb that day was the peculiar White Flat-topped Goldenrod

(*Solidago ptarmicoides*), which we found in full flower along the bluff-top glade. As we might rightly intuit, goldenrod flowers are (typically) golden in color, whereas asters might bloom white, blue, or purple. In fact, *Solidago ptarmicoides* used to go by the scientific name of *Aster ptarmicoides*. However, genetic studies revealed that this member of the Asteraceae is more closely related to *Solidago* species than to *Symphotrichum* or other so-called New World asters. We all enjoyed seeing a species representing the maxim of the exception that proves the rule.

Greg Rajskey is a semi-retired educator and conservationist currently managing private lands in Izard County, Arkansas.



Our intrepid band of rainy-day field-trippers. Photo by Ben Thesing.

“It’s a Three Croton Field Trip” The Eric Sundell Experience

ANPS offers several walks each year, but we know you are busy and can’t make them all. One we know you hated to miss was Eric Sundell’s walk along the Arkansas River last October. Luckily, Virginia McDaniel caught it all on video — suspenders and all! You can watch it [here](#)!

Eric Sundell is a long-time member of the Arkansas Native Plant Society and professor emeritus of biology at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. He has been leading ANPS trips for nearly all of its 46 years of existence and his breadth of knowledge and down-to-earth delivery is a joy to watch and listen to.

On this breezy fall day we made it out of the parking lot and several hundred meters down the River Road. We saw over a dozen tree species and lots of herbaceous plants, including 3 species of Croton! This video is for the notice and expert alike.



Eric Sundell speaks to the group during the Arkansas River Walk in October 2025. Photo by Virginia McDaniel.

ANPS Spring Meeting

May 15 –17, 2026 in Jonesboro, 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, May 15, 2026. The meeting events wrap up on Sunday, May 17th at around noon.

Date: May 15-17, 2026

Location:

Arkansas Biosciences Institute at AR State University
504 University Loop
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Google maps link: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/wSbM3yKX3oDpQ2rp7>

On Google, the building will appear as Arkansas State University - Biosciences Institute (see parking map below).

Lodging:

Embassy Suites by Hilton
Red Wolf Convention Center
223 Red Wolf Blvd., Jonesboro, AR 72405

We have a courtesy block of 10 rooms reserved at a discounted rate of \$124 per room, plus taxes. When those are booked, another block of 10 will be reserved, and again as needed. These blocks of rooms will be held until 5:00 pm April 24th. Complimentary “cooked-to-order” breakfast, free WiFi, and parking are included. To **make a reservation online**, use this [Arkansas Native Plant Society Booking Link](#).

To **make a reservation by phone**, call **(870) 619-4482, extension 0**, and ask for the Arkansas Native Plant Society room block. Individuals are responsible for their own room and taxes.

If you are unable to (or wish not to) reserve a room at Embassy Suites, there are other hotels nearby, such as the Hilton Garden Inn.

Dining Options: We will have a potluck meal Friday and Saturday evenings. Bring a dish or just come, eat, socialize, and learn! There are also some dining options (fast food and others) in Jonesboro.

Auction: The silent auction will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and close at the end of the program on Saturday evening. Proceeds from the auction support the ANPS small grants program, student research grants, and student scholarships! Bring any donations you would like to

include in the auction before 6:00. Auction sheets will be provided. If your item does not sell, you must take it back with you at the end of the meeting.

Field Trips: Field trips to local areas of top botanical interest (e.g. Crowley’s Ridge) 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. Our field trips will offer both easy and more vigorous walks. We’ll be in northeastern AR in the spring, and will probably visit some Sunken Lands swamps, so we advise bringing waterproof boots/shoes, bug spray, water, and a good hat! At a time to be determined, Dr. Travis Marsico, botany professor at A-State, will also lead a tour of the Arkansas Biosciences Institute, of which he is Executive Director.

More Info:

For complete and up-to-date details, visit anps.org or contact Art Browning at art.browning@gmail.com or 281-728-6327.



Red box shows where to park at the Arkansas State University—Biosciences Institute.

How Far We've Come!

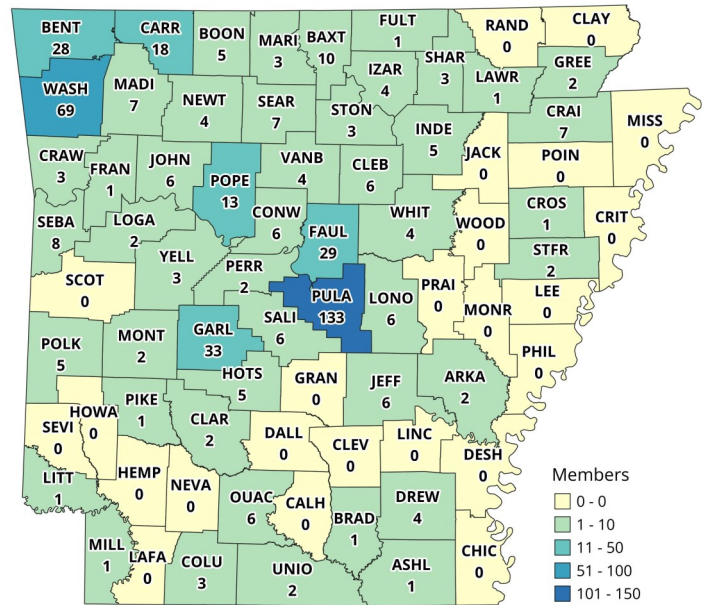
By Virginia McDaniel

Last fall I took a gander through early *Claytonia's* to see what people were writing about and came across a map of membership by county. My immediate thought was, "I wonder what our current membership by county looks like?" I sent a note to Membership Officer Molly Robinson who got the numbers and developed a new membership by county map. Showcased here is not only how far our membership has come, but also how far computer graphics have come - at least in the hand of a skilled user - Thank you, Molly! Overall, membership has increased from 183 to 544 members (487 from

Arkansas and the rest from other places including the Netherlands!). Every county has shown an increase with the exception of Woodruff and Clay. We have cut the number of counties without a member from 45 to 24. Twenty-four counties without a member, however, still seems too high! What if we make it our goal to get a member in every county in Arkansas by our 50th Anniversary in 2030? What do you say? Maybe if you live in a county near a no-member-county, bring a copy of *Claytonia* to their library or a local nursery? Let's fill this map in by 2030!



Geographical Distribution of ANPS Membership. April 10, 1983.
 • = 1 member. ○ = 5 members. ● = 10 members.



Members
 0 - 0
 1 - 10
 11 - 50
 51 - 100
 101 - 150

County maps of Arkansas showing the number of members in each county. The map on the left was presented to the membership on April 10, 1983 (4th year of ANPS) by George Molnar. The map on the right was created by Molly Robinson March 10, 2026 (46th year of ANPS).

SAVE THE DATE!

FALL 2026 MEETING

SEPTEMBER 25-27

Mena, AR



Welcome, New ANPS Members!

New Members to ANPS since the fall issue of *Claytonia* (between 07 August 2025 and 08 March 2026)

Hunter Adkisson (Fayetteville, AR)
Steven Augustine (Little Rock, AR)
Tonya Badger (Oden, AR)
Nita Brown (Little Rock, AR)
Roger Brown (Harrison, AR)
Courtne Burge (North Little Rock, AR)
Alana Carlson (Hot Springs, AR)
Tiane Christy (Claremore, OK)
Jody Clark (Lead Hill, AR)
LaKay Dailey (Paris, AR)
Cynthia Dawson (Little Rock, AR)
Rob Fannin (Fayetteville, AR)
Donald Hall (Bella Vista, AR)
Mathew Jones (Bono, AR)
Beth Juhl (Fayetteville, AR)
Levin Kinsey (Parthenon, AR)
Ginny Masullo & Steve Smith (Fayetteville, AR)
Caroline McEwen (Parthenon, AR)
Reva Meeks (Fayetteville, AR)
Tale Mender (Eufaula, OK)

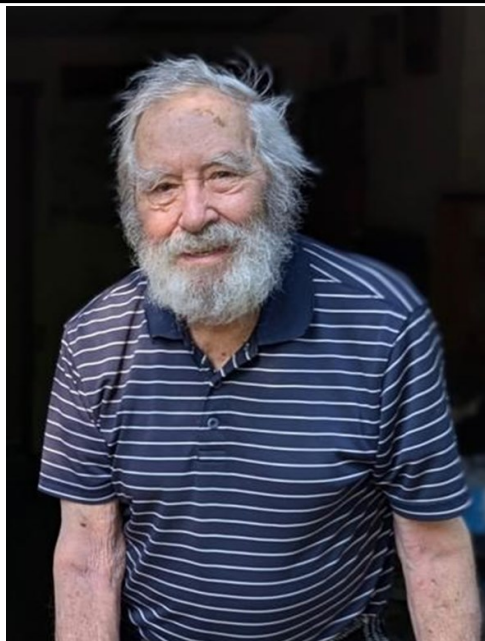
Devin Nix (Fairfield Bay, AR)
Jacko Obels (Tilburg, Netherlands)
Lauri A. Patterson (Mountain Home, AR)
Bill & Nancy Pell (Hot Springs, AR)
Lauren Post (Fayetteville, AR)
Caleb Shelburne (Bentonville, AR)
Lilia Stemet (Monticello, AR)
Stephen Stumne (Bentonville, AR)
The Floating Island Network, LLC (Hot Springs, AR)
Faron Usrey (Harrison, AR)
Emily Valentin & Dylan Buyskes (Eureka Springs, AR)
Jennifer Wagner (Little Rock, AR)
Evan J. Walden (Witter, AR)
James Wang (Oakland, CA)

New Lifetime Members

Burnetta Hinterthuer (Fayetteville, AR)
Joe Neal (Fayetteville, AR)
P. Allen Smith (Little Rock, AR)
Steve Warmack (Little Rock, AR)

Members Passed—A Place to Remember

The Arkansas Native Plant Society has been around for 46 years, and our membership is constantly fluctuating like sand on the beach. Some of the same, some new, but always in new yet familiar formations. Some members have not been to a meeting in a while but have impacted ANPS in the past or ANPS has had a big impact on them. Sometimes we find out about them through an obituary that mentions ANPS. Sometimes it is through another member letting us know. In any case, if any of you know of an ANPS member who has passed and would like to be remembered in *Claytonia*, please sent me an e-mail (virginiamcd31@yahoo.com).



Bruce Ewing, former ANPS President.

Bruce Ewing was a former president of the Arkansas Native Plant Society. You can read his **From the President's Desk** in the Spring 1990 issue of *Claytonia*: <https://anps.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/1990-issue-1-spring-web.pdf> Bruce passed away in his home in Mena, AR in January of 2026 at the age of 93. Here is his obituary:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/bruce-ewing-obituary?id=60640308>

Fall Business Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2025

Signature Tower, Harrison, Arkansas 72602

The Arkansas Native Plant Society (ANPS) held its Fall 2025 Business Meeting in the Community Room of Signature Tower, Signature Bank, in Harrison, Arkansas. President Sarah Geurtz called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. She thanked all the members of the Board of Directors individually for their contributions to the Society, singling out Immediate Past President Eric Fuselier, who served two terms, ushered the organization through the Covid-19 pandemic, and was now completing his second leadership cycle.

Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the ANPS Business Meeting held May 2, 2025 had been published in the Fall 2025 edition of the *Claytonia* newsletter. Joe Ledvina moved to accept the minutes as presented; Art Browning seconded; motion carried.

Spring Meeting 2026. Sarah introduced Vice President Art Browning, who shared a summary of preliminary plans for the following Spring Meeting, slated for May 15-17 in the Jonesboro area, with field trips to nearby sites, likely to include Crowley's Ridge. The Fall Meeting would be organized for the area near Queen Wilhelmina State Park, over dates to be determined.

Field Trips. Sarah Geurtz thanked members and guests for coming to the meeting and invited everyone to attend a Sunday morning field trip, whether to Baker Prairie Natural Area or Round Top Mountain Trail. She noted that the Saturday morning and afternoon field trips had been well received despite inclement weather, thanking the field trip leaders for conducting the hikes and inviting them to describe highlights of those excursions.

- One of the highlights of the visit to Round Top Mountain Trail, an area of rich, shady forested slopes, was an exceptionally large specimen of Ozark chinquapin (*Castanea ozarkensis*).
- At Baker Prairie, visitors saw an array of native prairie grasses, along with forbs such as prairie rattlesnake root (*Nabalus asper*) and naked-stem sunflower (*Helianthus occidentalis ssp. occidentalis*). The presence of lightning in the area forced an early end to the hike.
- The visit to Lost Valley Trail also was curtailed due to rain, but stalwart hikers found ghost pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*), along with both yellow-flowering wingstem (*Verbesina alternifolia*) and white-flowering frostweed

(*Verbesina virginica*).

- Hikers at Sweden Creek Falls explored woodland and glade environments, identifying Arkansas endemic Ozark alumroot (*Heuchera arkansana*) and the rare white flat-topped goldenrod (*Solidago ptarmicoides*).

Election of Officers. The Nominating Committee put forth the following slate of officers for election:

Vice President (one-year term and Presidential track):

Willa Thomason

Secretary (re-elect to two-year term):

Greg Rajskey

Publisher (re-elect to two-year term):

Joe Ledvina

Internet and Social Media Officer (two-year term):

Sarah Geurtz

Sarah introduced Willa Thomason, who shared information regarding her qualifications and interest in serving. Rosalie Overby moved to elect the slate as presented; Sue Hubbard seconded; motion carried. Sarah thanked the candidates.

ANPS Carl Amason Conservation Award. Sarah reported that Diana Soteropoulos had nominated Larry Price to receive the Carl Amason Conservation Award. Sarah read portions of Diana's nomination petition, reflecting Larry's accomplishments. Ben Thesing and Margaret Morrell spoke about Larry's extensive volunteer work as an Arkansas Master Naturalist with native seed sourcing and grassland restoration. Jennifer Ogle shared her own insights about Larry, expressing her support for granting him this much-deserved recognition, and accepted the award on his behalf.

Grant Application. Sarah reported that a revised grant application had been received from Bernice Garden (a community garden in Little Rock) requesting \$1,000 for native plants to install and enhance the garden. The Board discussed the merits of the application at their September 14 meeting and recommended that the membership approve the request for funding. Jackie Leatherman moved to approve the funding of the grant as recommended by the Board; seconded by Andrew Ruegsegger; motion carried.

Website and Directory. Joe Ledvina reported that he and Molly Robinson were continuing their work to implement a refreshed website and online membership management system, targeting launch in 2026.

Treasurer's Report. Samantha Heller presented the statement of financial position as of July 31, 2025, reflecting a

fund balance of \$18,121; she shared additional details of recent revenues (of approximately \$10,000) and expenses (about \$4,000), along with budget projections for 2026.

Bonfire. At the recommendation of Virginia McDaniel, Jennifer delivered a demonstration of the Bonfire search function and showed that getting to the site from the ANPS website was the most effective method for access to ANPS merchandise.

New Business. Jennifer reported that Pam & Jack Stewart opened their property to visits on Sunday afternoon (September 21); there would be no guides, but an email was to be sent to ANPS members with information about how to gain access to the property.

Adjourn. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregory T. Rajskey, Secretary

ANPS Student Chapter at UARK!

By Andrew Ruegsegger

The very first student chapter of the Arkansas Native Plant Society has officially formed at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville! The *Arkansas Native Plant Society at the University of Arkansas (ANPS-UARK)* was formed as a Registered Student Organization last fall by ANPS president and University of Arkansas PhD student Andrew Ruegsegger with staff support from UARK Herbarium collections manager and ANPS memorial awards officer Jennifer Ogle. Its current officers include me (president) and fellow graduate students Lauren Luther (vice president), Rachel Savage (treasurer), and Paul Akpejelu (secretary). Paul and I are also previous recipients of the ANPS Aileen McWilliam Scholarship. I

started the group to get more students involved with the state organization, provide a community for students interested in botany, and to promote and host volunteer opportunities and events that support native plant communities in Northwest Arkansas. The group's first official meeting was held on November 11, 2025 and was attended by 16 students from the departments of Biological Sciences, Landscape Architecture, and Horticulture. Currently, the group is organizing events around maintaining a native green-roof garden at the University of Arkansas and removing invasive plants in public areas in Fayetteville, with plans to adopt an area in town to focus efforts on invasive plant removal. I hope that ANPS-UARK will serve as a model for students at other Arkansas universities and colleges to form their own chapters. You can keep up with ANPS-UARK events on our Instagram page @anps.uark!



Documenting the first meeting of the University Arkansas Native Plant Society at the University of Arkansas. From left to right: Paul Akpejelu, Lauren Luther, Jennifer Ogle, Rachel Savage and Andrew Ruegsegger.



The ANPS-UARK logo was designed by the artist Caite Mae Ramos.

Dirca decipiens in the Sylamore—Field Observations

by Stephen Dickey

The Ozark Leatherwood (*Dirca decipiens*) shrub has a disjunct population with observations and collections from Arkansas, Kansas, and Missouri (SERNEC, 2026). One relatively new location, with observations posted to iNaturalist, is along the Cole Fork in the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) Sylamore Wildlife Management Area, Ozark National Forest. The first iNaturalist observations from this location were made by Jim Keesling and Paul Barnard in April 2022 (iNaturalist, 2022).

Armed with this site information and the required permits, I visited the Sylamore between 2024 and 2025 to research *D. decipiens*' preferred habitat. The permit applications were made possible through a University of Arkansas course taught by UARK Herbarium Collections Manager Jennifer Ogle.

On my last site visit on April 23, 2025, I had the pleasure of working with Forest Service Wildlife Biologist Idun Guenther. Our fieldwork involved the collection of imagery, soil samples, leaf chlorophyll readings, leaf samples, and voucher material for observed stems at two locations. The first location was a population of Eastern Leatherwood (*D. palustris*) at the Blanchard Springs Day Use Area, and the second location was the population of *D. decipiens* along the Cole Fork. The goal was to collect on both species for comparative purposes.

During our visit to the Cole Fork location, we initially collected data on the small group of plants that I was aware of. In hopes of finding more stems, we expanded our search and discovered that the population was larger than anticipated. Using a handheld GPS, Idun recorded 73 stems! This was an excellent size, and we were able to collect some voucher material.

While identifying stems and recording the individual coordinates, Idun came upon a plant whose leaf

characteristics appeared to be those of *D. palustris*, and not *D. decipiens*. After examining the plant using magnification tools, we confirmed that it was indeed *D. palustris*! This was quite a surprise; to my knowledge, there have been no reports or observations of the species being found together. By the time it was

necessary for us to hike back out of the location, three Eastern Leatherwood stems had been found within this Ozark Leatherwood community.

Of course, finding these two *Dirca* species together brought up new questions, such as:

How similar or dissimilar are the preferred habitats of each species?

Are there any interactions between the observed species; are they distinct and separate?

How do the morphological and genetic characteristics compare with disjunct populations?

Does this habitat point to other suitable locations where *D. decipiens* might be found?

It will be fun to work on answering these and other questions. Additional visits to the Sylamore are planned for this spring and I

hope others are out there as well. There is always something new to learn about this deceptive shrub!

My thanks to Jim and Paul for posting their observations, to Jennifer Ogle for supporting the collection plan and permit application, and to the AGFC and the Forest Service for approving scientific collection permits/waivers. Science is a team effort!

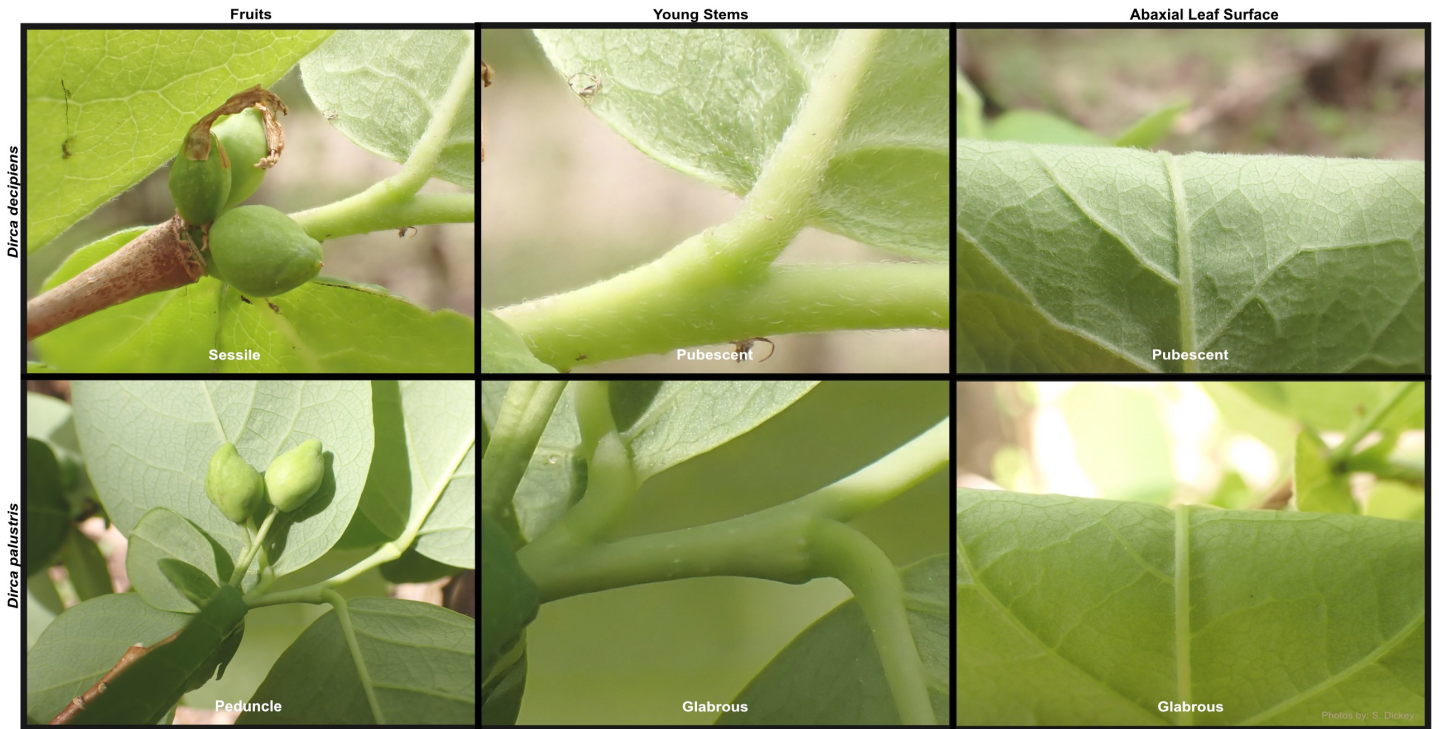
iNaturalist. (2022, April 03). Observations, *Dirca decipiens*. Retrieved January 17, 2026, from iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/>

SERNEC. (2026). SERNEC Portal Data Portal. Retrieved February 14, 2026, from SERNEC, Southeast Regional Network of Expertise and [Collections](#).



Ozark Leatherwood (*Dirca decipiens*) in July at Lake Leatherwood City Park in Eureka Springs. It was located on a shallow bank of southwest to northeast ephemeral rocky watercourse feeding into W. Leatherwood Creek. Shaded understory of mixed deciduous/coniferous forest. Steep bank on west side and bench to the east. Photo by Stephen Dickey.

Stephen is the Grants and Finance Coordinator at the Watershed Conservation Resource Center in Fayetteville, AR.



A comparison of *Dirca decipiens*—Ozark Leatherwood (top photos) and *D. palustris*—Eastern Leatherwood (bottom photos). *Dirca decipiens* has sessile fruits versus the peduncled fruits of *D. palustris* and pubescent petioles and undersurface of the leaves versus glabrous petioles and undersurface of leaves of *D. palustris*. Photos by Stephen Dickey.

2026 Spring Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report // Spring 2026		2026	
		Cash, 1 January 2026 → \$29,471.49	
	2025 Actual (Spring)	2026 Actual (Spring)	Σ
Income			
Membership Dues	\$610.00	\$210.00	
Meeting Registration	-	-	
Silent Auction	-	-	
Merchandise Sales	-	-	
Contributions & Grants	<u>\$16.10</u>	=	
	<u>\$626.10</u>	<u>\$210.00</u> →	\$210.00
Expenditures			
ANPS.Org	-	-	
Claytonia	-	-	
Directory	-	-	
Memorial Awards, Grants, and Scholarships	-	-	
Garden Grants	-	-	
Meeting Expenses	-	-	
Supplies (Postage, PayPal fees, Etc.)	<u>\$30.85</u>	<u>\$2.37</u>	
	<u>\$380.85</u>	<u>\$2.37</u> →	\$2.37
Submitted by Samantha Heller, ANPS Treasurer		Cash, 15 March 2026 → \$29,679.12	

Member Spotlight—Mary Hogle

“I like people almost as much as wildflowers. Almost.” -Mary Hogle

On April 4, 2026 Virginia McDaniel sat down for a conversation/interview with ANPS member Mary Hogle.

MH: All right. Well, you just ask what you like and if I say anything too outrageous, well, don't repeat me.

VM: Can you tell me about yourself? Who is Mary Hogle?

MH: Oh well, a weird person but I grew up in Northeast Missouri, 5 miles from the Iowa line and 70 miles from the Mississippi. We were farmers. We had crops and we had cattle, pigs, and chickens. I earned my money by washing the separator that separated the milk from the cream, and I got the cream money. We had jersey cattle - the best cream in the world. That's what has caused me to live 91 years. That and I still get out and walk. I walk along the highway and find 23 species in no time.

VM: When did you know you liked plants?

MH: I was a little girl, and it was before I started school. I started first grade when I was five and walked 2.5 miles to get there. I would go out with my father who was plowing with the horses. I was at the edge of the woods, and I saw something blue and I asked him what it was. He said it was Sweet William. Of course it was phlox, but that was the beginning. I'm sure I was younger than 5.

VM: Wow, you were hooked at 5.

MH: Yep, absolutely, an addict at 5. And then wherever I've been from then on, that's what I do. I walk up and down the ditches or along the woods. One time I was in Turkey on a tour and the bus broke down. We sat a minute and then I asked the driver, Would you let me out please? and I started walking up and down taking pictures of flowers. Pretty soon everyone else got off the bus. Nobody complained. That bus driver loved me.

VM: That's awesome!

MH: Oh well, it's just if you have an interest in something it makes life much better. And besides, I like all the people I've met pursuing wildflowers. Been fun, lots of fun.

VM: How did you become involved with the Arkansas Native Plant Society?

MH: I had a friend, a fellow teacher, who started me coming. How she knew about it I don't know. One of the earliest trips I was on, probably to Harrison, as we were driving along, we saw a fringe tree in the ditch. And I fell in love. That's what caused me to buy two from MaryAnn and they have been on my property for 20 years this spring. And bless their little hearts. They are blooming on April 1st. I looked out and there I could see a teeny, tiny little blossom. My boy gets more water so he's doing much better. My girl's on the other side of the walk and doesn't get as much water. She's struggling and of course that's normal. She has to do all the work. We know how that goes.

VM: What is your fondest/funniest ANPS memory?

MH: The time I threw my arm around Brent [Baker] and said we spent the night together and everybody cracked up because we had spent the night together. He stayed with me when he was talking to the Master Gardeners. That was after they got saved. In the beginning when I knew them all they could think about were cultivars. They finally got enlightened and started getting interested in native plants.

VM: Once you started hanging out with them?

MH: Yes. I was so happy to see that they improved. And that was part of Brent's coming to talk with them. I miss him at our meetings.

VM: I do too.

MH: Of course I miss the old Carls. I think I've probably told you the story [about Carl Amason], but I'll tell it again because it's my favorite. I asked him what he did in his "real life" and he said he was a criminal. I said, what kind of criminal? He said, I worked for an oil company.

VM: And what did you do in your "real life"?



Mary on a field trip to Lorange Creek Natural Area during the 2025 Spring ANPS Meeting.

Photo by Jennifer Ogle.

MH: I taught for 40 years. I taught 3rd, 4th, and mostly 5th grade. I spent most of my time teaching science. I used to have a lot of fun. Next door to one of the schools I taught in for 10 years was a beautiful cemetery. And there were flowers growing in the cemetery, so I'd say, Do you know what a crocus is? And nobody would and I'd say, Let's go see and we would. Of course, I shouldn't have been taking them off the grounds without permission, but I did. I didn't get arrested and we would do things like go out and count the colors on a sweetgum tree. Don't you think that's scientific?

VM: Absolutely! Wow, 40 years teaching.

MH: I actually spent 57 in the classroom. When I was teaching the last part, there were lots of government grants being given to schoolteachers and lots of different courses. I got my bachelor's degree in Missouri at the oldest teacher's college west of the Mississippi – Truman University now. I taught a little while in Iowa, a little in California and then got married and my husband loved the Ozarks when we moved here. During those last years I went to school all the time; I was enrolled in about every college in Arkansas. Because I got so many grants, I wound up getting my master's plus 30 or 32 hours. Can you imagine?

VM: I know you and Jackie [*Leatherman*] and Carol [*McCorkle*] are on a pilgrimage to see champion trees. Can you tell me about that?

MH: I have collected a leaf from each one. They are on my kitchen counter and always will be as long as I'm here. And whenever somebody brings me home or stops by, I drag them in there and name my champion leaves and where they came from. It's a good thing to help my memory. And I have 9 now. And the last one was a Blackjack Oak in St. Joe. The tree was huge. All my life I remember seeing them and they are just little saplings with big leaves. Well, I collected a leaf that wasn't any bigger than my palm. And then I picked up an acorn, and you talk about a weenie! [*The first time I heard Mary tell this story she reached into her pocket and took out the acorn.*]

I have another table in my living room, and it's stacked pretty high with leaves and acorns and hickory nuts and things from here and from quite a few other countries. Now you know, you're not supposed to bring leaves and things [from other countries]. It was always an accident. One time a little dog caught me. I happened to have some jewelry that was made from palm fronds and the officer said, oh she made a mistake. It's just those. They don't count. But when I got home my journal was full of leaves and things. She made no mistake. You can't fool a dog!

VM: Do you have a favorite plant?

MH: It's just beyond me right now. They grow on the prairie. I like it because people are going by saying what the heck is that and then it blooms and you know. I like two things that are growing beside Highway 5 where I walk all the time, where I get stopped because they think I've escaped from some place.

VM: What?

MH: Yes, they do! Once I had three vans stop. They said I'd been reported. A man called and said, She came out of the woods with a stick. Of course, I had my walking stick and my camera. I have found prairie turnips which is pretty exciting. They look like little lupines. I suppose they are probably in that family. And then I've also found yellow pimpernel. Which I also think is exciting. I just like the name.

MH: My father was a schoolteacher for a little while before he started farming. He had a lot of neat books. He loved poetry. He knew reems, reems of poetry. So, I have carried those books around with me for 91 years. And this spring I've started reading them. There is one by Washington Irving and it's called a Sketch Book because it's his short stories. It has Rip Van Winkle and the Legend of Sleepy Hollow but so much more. But instead of saying old he says "well stricken in years." He also talks about the "uselessness of old age," which is true. Especially when you can't think of your favorite flower.

VM: I think you have many years to go, owing to how active you are in your body and brain.

MH: Well, it takes a lot of work. But I'll tell you what makes it worthwhile.

VM: What's that?

MH: Wildflowers and good people.



Mary and Brent Baker at the 2023 Spring ANPS Meeting in Cave Springs. Photo by Jennifer Ogle.

OCANPS News

by Sue Hubbard

COMPTON GARDENS



Compton Gardens crew. Photo by OCANPS member.

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 hieraciifolius*), 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 four 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. Photo by OCANPS member.



Game night during the OCANPS retreat at Harmony Mountain. Photo by Sue Hubbard.

Rare Grassland Biodiversity on the Maumelle River

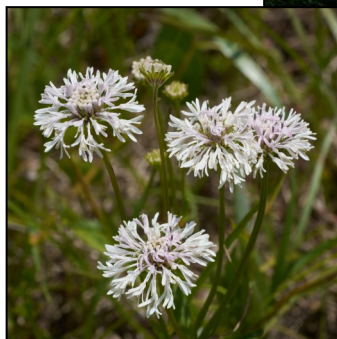
By Theo Witsell

This article draws from multiple field trips and discoveries by Ben Thesing (Central Arkansas Water), Ben Benton (Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission), Virginia McDaniel (Ouachita National Forest), and Allison Wilson and Theo Witsell (Southeastern Grasslands Institute) over the last few years along the Maumelle River west of Little Rock.



Two Bens (Benton and Thesing) in a large stand of Cumberland Sandgrass (*Sporobolus arcuatus*) in high-quality riverscour on the Maumelle River in Perry County. Photo by Virginia McDaniel.

The headwaters of the Maumelle River begin high in the Fourche Mountains of Perry County and the watershed feeds Lake Maumelle in western Pulaski County, a major water supply for half a million central Arkansans. Central Arkansas Water (CAW), which manages the lake and has a vested interest in protecting the watershed, has acquired several important tracts in recent years that include some surprising and rare grassland biodiversity. This article focuses on two types of grasslands known from the lower elevations in the bottom of the river valley: [riverscour barrens](#) along the main channel, and a very interesting but poorly understood prairie-like grassland on elevated river terraces. This second type may have originally been a type of savanna or open woodland, perhaps including small prairies. Both of these grassland types have floras with many species more typical of the Coastal Plain, despite



being located solidly in the Ouachita Mountains, a phenomenon seen in many types of grasslands across the interior Southeast.

The riverscour habitat occurs upstream from the lake in specific areas along the river where conditions are just right for it. These sweet spots experience infrequent, very high-energy flood events but have substrate (cobbles, boulders, or bedrock) stable enough to stay in place through this disturbance. This intense flood-scouring literally beats back woody vegetation and creates a unique sun-dependent natural community that combines elements of prairies, glades, wetlands, and floodplains. Riverscour is especially rich in rare species, including a long list found only, or at least primarily, in this habitat.

The best of the river terrace grasslands is a 5-acre seasonally wet field full of Prairie Gayfeather (*Liatris pycnostachya*) and other grassland wildflowers. Prior to purchase by CAW this site was managed as a hayfield. Some of this same grassland flora is also expressing itself in former pine plantations that were recently clearcut before being acquired by CAW, a clear sign that these areas were grasslands or open woodlands historically.

Several rare species of conservation concern occur in these sites. The most significant is probably an undescribed and globally rare species of Barbara's Buttons (genus *Marshallia*) with an odd two-part range -- the Maumelle River watershed in Perry and Pulaski counties, and a few sites in Sharp County, Arkansas and Ozark County, Missouri, where it grows in dolomite glades. It has



New species of Barbara's Buttons (*Marshallia* sp. nov.) in high-quality grassland remnant along the Maumelle River in Pulaski County. Photos by Eric Hunt.

(Continued from previous page)

long been identified as *Marshallia caespitosa* var. *signata*, but research by Derick Poindexter and Alan Weakley at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has shown that it is actually an undescribed species, which we are told will be formally published soon.

A second puzzling plant in these sites is a beautiful violet with deeply lobed leaves that is clearly not anything in the books for Arkansas. Several violet experts on iNaturalist have suggested that this is Lovell's violet (*Viola lovelliana*, or *Viola* × *lovelliana*), supposedly a hybrid between Missouri Violet (*Viola missouriensis*) and Lobed Violet (*Viola palmata*) but it seems closer in several respects to Arrowleaf Violet (*Viola sagittata*) or perhaps to something called Limestone Riverbank Violet (*Viola viarum*), which is known to occur north of Arkansas. Whatever it is, it is peculiar and interesting, and we have some plants in cultivation for further study.



Left: Glossy-seed Star-grass (*Hypoxis sessilis*) with its characteristic basal flowers, in a clearcut along the Maumelle River in Perry County. Right: Gulf Coast Bulrush (*Isolepis pseudosetacea*), probably Arkansas' smallest sedge, in a clearcut along the Maumelle River in Perry County. Photos by Theo Witsell.



The odd lobe-leaf violet in a clearcut along the Maumelle River in Perry County. Photo by Theo Witsell.

Other species of conservation concern in these stream terrace grasslands and adjacent woodlands include Creeping Beaked Panic Grass (*Coleataenia anceps* subsp. *rhizomata*), Oval-flowered Rosette Grass (*Dichanthelium ovinum*), Glossy-seed Star-grass (*Hypoxis sessilis*), Shortleaf Skeleton Grass (*Gymnopogon brevifolius*), and Carolina Clover (*Trifolium carolinianum*). All of these rarities except perhaps the clover have strong Coastal Plain affinities, as do several other interesting species found there including Flatwoods Bluestem (*Andropogon hirsutior*), Big

Carpetgrass (*Axonopus furcatus*), Dwarf Sundew (*Drosera brevifolia*), Yellow Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*), Gulf Coast Bulrush (*Isolepis pseudosetacea*), Gulf Skullcap (*Scutellaria integrifolia*), Lanceleaf Greenbrier (*Smilax smallii*), Shaggy Hedge-hyssop (*Sophronanthe pilosa*), Southern Dawnflower (*Stylisma humistrata*), and Gray Violet (*Viola villosa*).



Carolina clover (*Trifolium carolinianum*) in a clearcut along the Maumelle River in Perry County. Photo by Theo Witsell.



Dwarf Sundew (*Drosera brevifolia*) in high-quality riverscour on the Maumelle River in Perry County. Photo by Theo Witsell.



Pineywoods Dropseed (*Sporobolus junceus*) in high-quality riverscour on the Maumelle River in Perry County. Photo by Allison Wilson.

Rare plants of the riverscour habitat include the same *Marshallia* and violet as well as Ouachita Indigo-bush (*Amorpha ouachitensis*), Ouachita Bluestar (*Amsonia hubrichtii*), Sticky Hedge-hyssop (*Gratiola brevifolia*), Cumberland Sandgrass (*Sporobolus arcuatus*), and Pineywoods Dropseed (*Sporobolus junceus*). These two *Sporobolus* species, found by Ben Benton and Allison Wilson respectively, are especially significant finds. Cumberland Sandgrass is of global concern (rare throughout its range) and Pineywoods Dropseed was previously known in Arkansas only from two sites in the Gulf Coastal Plain and one in the Grand Prairie. Other Coastal Plain species in the riverscour include several species mentioned above from the terrace grasslands as

well as Staggerbush (*Lyonia mariana*) and American cupscale (*Sacciolepis striata*).

The sites described above are now all protected and will be managed by CAW to restore and maintain their rare grassland biodiversity. Furthermore, there is still a lot of ground in CAW's ownership that remains to be surveyed and there is high likelihood of other interesting discoveries to come in the Maumelle watershed.

Theo Witsell is co-founder and Chief Conservation Officer for the Southeastern Grasslands Institute, a program of Austin Peay State University. He lives in Little Rock.



Cumberland Sandgrass (*Sporobolus arcuatus*) in high-quality riverscour habitat on the Maumelle River in Perry County. Photo by Ben Thesing.

Upcoming Field Trips

Eureka Springs Urban Trail and Spring Gardens Walk

Date: **Saturday, April 25 10 AM—12 PM**

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 (Gardens Specialist for ES Parks and Recreation)

Kings River Falls Natural Area

Date: **Saturday May 2 10:30 AM**

GPS Location: **35°53'40.2"N 93°35'05.4"W**

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



Check your boots before coming on a field trip! Molly Robinson found this out the hard way. :) Photo by Virginia McDaniel.

Arkansas River Valley Excursion

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

Date: **Saturday, May 23, 9:30 AM**

Directions: **KYN Gardens are south of I-40 near Paris. House is located at 2480 South State Highway 309 (house number on the mailbox). NOTE: Parking is 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. Trails extend away from the house along the ridge and down the cliffy and rock talus slopes, through woods, across an 80' bridge to an abandoned stream channel and field below. After exploring the area around the house we



*Ben Benton shows Yanlin Wang the rare Prairie Rattlesnake-root (*Nabalus asper*) at Baker Prairie Natural Area during the a Fall ANPS Meeting field trip, just before a thunderstorm rolled in and we all took shelter in the pavilion. Photo by Virginia McDaniel.*

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.

**Wildflower & Woodland Restoration—
Ouachita National Forest, Waldron**

Date: **Thursday, May 21st 10:00 AM—12:00 PM**
Directions: **Meet at the USDA Forest Service office in Waldron, at the junction of Hwy 71 & 248 (address: 1541 Hwy 248W, Waldron, AR). We will carpool from here to the woodlands.**

Join Virginia McDaniel, Forestry Technician with the U.S. Forest Service, and Jennifer Ogle, botanist and Collections Manager at the UARK Herbarium, for a tour of the Pine-Bluestem Woodland Restoration area on the Ouachita National Forest. We will see a variety of grassland species including little bluestem, panic grasses, sunflowers, wild petunias, coneflowers, and milkweeds. Bring water and snacks/lunch, and wear sturdy boots.

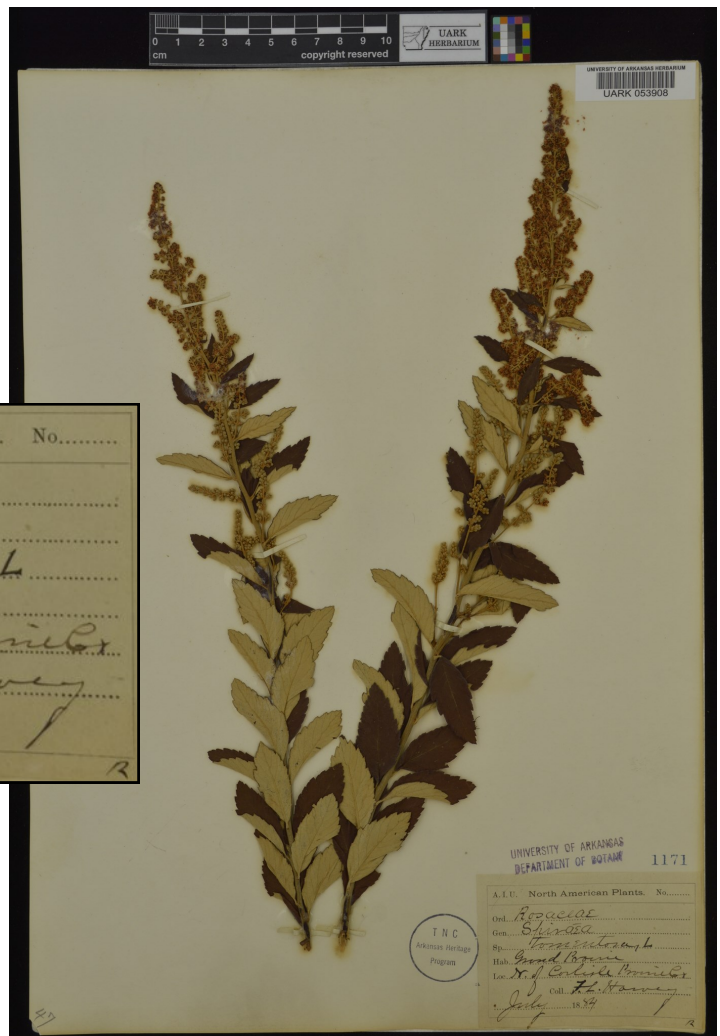
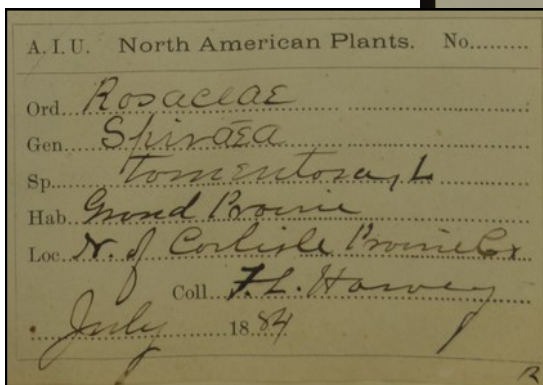
Leaders: Virginia McDaniel (828-545-2062) and Jennifer Ogle. Please RSVP to Virginia.

Behind the Label

By Jennifer Ogle

This specimen of Hardhack (*Spiraea tomentosa*) from the UARK Herbarium was collected by its founder Francis L. Harvey during a trip to Arkansas' Grand Prairie in July, 1884. Also called Steeple-bush, this native, thicket-forming shrub of moist to wet habitats is considered secure throughout most of its eastern North American range, but is imperiled in Arkansas. Known from just a handful of populations in four central and northeastern counties, its habitat here includes sandy seeps, open pine flatwoods, swamp margins, and wet prairies.

This is a notable specimen for two reasons. A duplicate specimen housed at Harvard University's Gray Herbarium (GH) notes "first time found west of Miss. R." Harvey was the first scientist to document the species west of the Mississippi River! His discovery, north of Carlisle in Prairie County, also marked the first and only time the shrub was documented in the Grand Prairie. Modern botanists have searched for it in the ecoregion's grassland remnants but have found no populations. This is perhaps not surprising, given that more than 99% of the Grand Prairie's namesake ecosystem has been destroyed.



Anne with an E

by Virginia McDaniel

In June of 2023, I lead a tour of the Mount Ida Seed Orchard for the Diamond Lake Master Naturalists. It was a beautiful day and the flowers were popping – Yellow Crownbeard (*Verbesina helianthoides*), Pale Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*), and even a Green

Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera lacera*)! But what I remember most about that day was that as I talked about each plant, there was a person in purple overalls and a sketch pad, squatting down at the level of each plant. After about the fifth plant I asked if I could see what she was drawing.

She showed me her notebook which was filled with exquisite sketches, true to the shape and form of each species. In the 5 minutes it took me to talk about the plant she had drawn its essence on the page. “I’m Anne Greenwood.” In the pause I took committing it to memory she read my mind and said, “Yes, that’s Anne with an E.” I laughed [How did she know I was watching the Anne of Green Gables series!?] and responded, “And yes, there is a Santa Claus.” Bonded by clichés.

That summer Bill Randall, the Education Coordinator of the Diamond Lake Master Naturalists, came to volunteer at the Ouachita Herbarium. I taught him how to mount specimens and after about an hour he said, “Virginia, this really isn’t my thing, but I know the person you need to call. Anne Greenwood.” For the last 3 years Anne has volunteered for the Ouachita Herbarium several times a month, mounting over 700 specimens and keeping the place shipshape.

I call Anne a brainy artist. Her Master of Fine Arts Thesis was “Radical Empathy in the Anthropocene.” She likes weeds. She likes wildlife living in human-altered environments. She’s not focused on what we have destroyed, but the wildness that coexists with us and

ultimately how this notion of nature there and humans here is complete nonsense – all our DNA has the same building blocks and we are all interdependent. As Robin Wall Kimmerer says, “All flourishing is mutual.”

Herbaria are like a mixture of science and art, so it really works into Anne’s playbook. The label is the science that tells the story of the habitat the plant was found, its buddies (plant associates), the time of year it flowers (if it was collected in flower) and its name. Its name helps organize it into the taxonomic groups of order, family, genus, and species. How the plant gets pressed and its placement on the page is the art. And Anne is a master artist. When I taught her how to mount a specimen, she said, “Yes, and can I come back weekly please?” Her unique perspective and understanding of art makes her

placements unique, visually pleasing, and elegant. She pays attention to subliminal things that you’d only know from having a degree in fine arts. For

example - did you know the Western mind prefers groups of three or five while the Eastern mind is fine with even groups of 4? Or that too much glue in a spot causes the paper to curl.

In nature reciprocity is essential and our work in the herbarium is no different. I am so thankful for Anne’s help in keeping the herbarium organized and mounting specimens which has moved the Ouachita Herbarium



Pale Purple Coneflower (Echinacea pallida) and Green Fringed Orchid (Platanthera lacera) sketches from at trip to Mount Ida Seed Orchard with the Diamond Lake Master Naturalists. Drawings by Anne Greenwood.

forward by leaps and bounds. And in return, Anne gets ideas for her art pieces. Using one of the first plants she mounted at the Ouachita Herbarium, she created a thoughtful piece on the interdependence of plants, fire, and pollinators (see next article – Silent Spring Series - Crow Poison). Her mind is always working to find new and innovative ways of telling nature’s stories in unique and profound ways and it’s an honor to have the Ouachita Herbarium help seed these ideas.

The Ouachita Herbarium (OUF) houses nearly 3,000 specimens collected mostly from the Ouachita National Forest. Virginia McDaniel, OUF curator, is thankful for Anne and the many other volunteers who have helped move specimens from newspaper in plastic Tupperware bins to herbarium paper in metal herbarium cabinets and onto [SERNEC](#).



Anne Greenwood mounts specimens at the US Forest Service Ouachita Herbarium (OUF). Photo by Virginia McDaniel.

Silent Spring Series—Crow Poison

by Anne Greenwood



**Plant: *Nothoscordum bivalve*, Crow Poison, or False Garlic.
Butterfly: *Anthocharis midea*, Falcate Orangetip, these early-emerging butterflies depend on False Garlic for nectar. Bee: *Andrena nothoscordi*, a specialized pollinator of crow poison.
Artwork by Anne Greenwood.**

The Silent Spring series focuses on species that depend on one another, taking its name from Rachel Carson’s 1962 book of the same title that brought attention to the effects of pesticides not only on insects but other interdependent species such as plants and birds. Carson was an advocate that “[i]n nature nothing exists alone.”

Crow Poison

This piece explores the way insect and plant populations are dependent upon each other.

Each plant silhouette in these works is taken from my photographs of the herbarium specimens maintained by the US Forest Service in Hot Springs, Arkansas. As a volunteer at the herbarium, I’ve gained a deep appreciation for the possible plant biodiversity that can be cultivated and protected in our state. For me, the use of cut silhouettes evoke absence, what can be diminished with the loss of interconnected species.

The charcoal used in some of these works is sourced from local controlled burns that create a greater diversity in plant, insect, bird, and animal life. Crow Poison is one of those plants.

The insects are collaged from iNaturalist images submitted by users— making them a collage not only of insects found in the area but also a representation of citizen scientists working to observe and conserve them.

To see Anne’s herbarium work go to [@greenwood.ann3](#)

President's Message

I attended my first ANPS meeting a little less than three years ago now in the spring of 2023. Coming into contact with the enthusiasm, kindness, and intellect of the Society's members and their fervor over the beauty, ecology, and identification of native plants was infectious and inspiring. I was so glad to have attended and to know a place where a zeal for *plants* was well-met—and nonetheless by extremely kind people. It isn't easy finding people that love plants just for what they are, so I try not to take it for granted that a group such as this exists, which thrives how it does on account of its wonderful membership and devoted board members who I have the privilege of serving alongside. Thanks to all of these people, our 2025 spring and fall meetings were great successes with diverse speakers in diverse places with diverse floras. We have a



Andrew Ruegsegger, ANPS President.

seriously rockstar cast of board members; I cannot say enough how capable and devoted these people are, taking time out of their busy lives to fulfill their officer roles and then some. A special shout-out is owed to Art Browning, our new president-elect, who is doing a fantastic job planning our spring meeting in Jonesboro. I seldom have the chance to visit that part (or many parts, for that matter!) of the state, so I for one am looking forward to it. We also welcomed Willa Thomason as our new vice president at our fall meeting, whose passion, ability, and kindness I can personally vouch for as a friend. I'm very excited to see everyone again in Jonesboro and hope the winter months have not treated anyone too harshly. :)

Andrew Ruegsegger
ANPS President

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



CLAYTONIA

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Please don't forget to renew your membership!

The calendar year is the membership year.

To renew your membership, fill out the application for membership on page 26 and mail it to the address on the form.

Or renew online at anps.org/join.

ANPS Index

Number of dollars Mary Hogle bid for a Fringe-tree at the 2025 ANPS Plant Auction— 10,000

Number of plant taxa known from Arkansas in 2024 when the C-values of AR were published— 3,124

Number of new state taxa discovered by Jim Keesling (and many with Tall Paul) since 2024—12

Number of UARK Herbarium tours given this year — 8

Number of oak species found in Arkansas— 30

Number of oaks that are tracked by ANHC — 5

Number of oaks that are non-native to Arkansas — 2

Number of oaks that are endemic to Arkansas — 1

Number of virtual presentations on ANPS youtube channel — 29

Number of ANPS members as of this issue —544

Number of members from Jefferson county as of this issue—4

Number of years Eric Sundell has done ANPS botany walks—45



Fringe-tree (Chionanthus virginicus). Photo by Eric Hunt.

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