

Volume 22

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Spring/Summer
2001



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Claytonia

Newsletter of the Arkansas Native Plant Society

ANNUAL FALL MEETING

&

PLANT AUCTION

OCTOBER 19, 20, 21

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
LAB SCIENCE BUILDING
JONESBORO, AR

ACCOMMODATIONS

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Western Sizzlin Steak House
Cracker Barrel
Couch's BarBque
Corky's BarBque
Ta Mollys, El Chico's — Mexican
McDonald's, Burger King, Pizza Inn

*** WE HAVE RESERVED A BLOCK OF
20 ROOMS THAT WILL BE HELD UNTIL
OCTOBER 12, 2001.
MENTION ANPS TO GET THIS RATE.

ARKANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SPRING GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

March 17, 2001

Rich Mountain Community College
Mena, Arkansas

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., Vice-President Lana Ewing presiding. Lana thanked James Lynn for taking care of the meeting place, setting up projectors and helping in many ways.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The minutes of the September 29, 2000, meeting were printed in the Claytonia. Carl Amason moved that they be approved as printed; Linda Gatti Clark seconded, the minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Al Hecht presented the treasurer's report showing a total balance of \$26,641.51. Carl Amason moved that it be accepted. Mary Ann King seconded, the report was approved.

OLD BUSINESS: There was a report on today's field trips. A. J. Higginbottom thanked Steve Walker, Park Interpreter at Cossatot State Park, for his help on the morning field trip.

The Sunday morning field trips were announced. A. J. will leave at 8:30 from the parking lot for Crooked Creek. Bruce Ewing will lead a field trip at the Ewing's newly-acquired land, leaving at 8:30 from the parking lot.

NEW BUSINESS: Johnny Gentry reported on the progress of the Arkansas Vascular Flora Committee. The Committee is sponsoring several beginning plant identification workshops on September 29, 2001, in a number of colleges over the state to stress plant education and publicize the Flora Project. The only prerequisite is an interest in plants. There will be

a \$5.00 registration fee, brochures will be provided to attendees, there is a limit of 16

people and will last five to six hours.

A Rare and Endangered Plant Conference and Invasive Species will be held at the earliest in February of 2002, and at the latest in the fall of 2003. Theo Witsell asked for ideas for a two to three day workshop. Vice-President Ewing announced the Board decision to obtain 501(c)(3) standing from the IRS, which will help in obtaining further grants and funding.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. for the program on staghorn ferns given by Roy Vail.

Gary Tucker then presented a program of slides of the past in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of ANPS.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Clark, Secretary



OUACHITA CHAPTER NEWS

Greetings to friends and members of Ouachita Chapter ANPS.

I suppose many of you are having plenty to do and see in the wild. Some are working with Carl Hunter at Pinnacle Mtn. State Park gardens, also the Hunter Wildflower Glen at Wildwood Music Center. I'm sure some are also working with Bob Byers at Galvan Gardens. I'm thrilled to learn Paula Wallace is now employed there.

Saturday, April 28, we celebrated the dedication of the John and Donna Simpson Natural area on Trap Mtn. between Hot springs and Bismark. WOW! I'm impressed. the Nature Conservancy is at work in Ark. Dr. Simpson has been active in a leadership role for many years (15 I think) and now he has committed 500+ acres to their stewardship. We are talking about real commitment from John and Donna and the Nature Conservancy. We can all join this team with pride and enthusiasm.

Things are also going well with the Ouachita Chapter. We've turned up two sites in Saline Co. for Dwarf Iris Verna, one site for *Hottonia inflata* (water violet).

Theo Whitsell, the botanist for Arkansas. Heritage Commission, and I have been two days in the field checking out natural areas such as Shaw Bridge Road, the Narrows, the west Saline County lady's slipper site (113 plants and 41 flowers this year), Burk Road Glade - all in one day. I thought Theo would need to help me to the door when this day was done, but I made it OK. The next trip was an auto tour across the mountains. from Hwy 9 north of Paron to Hwy 7, then on across 7 to Hwy 27 north of Storey, then back to Hwy 7, via Hwy 298. We located another *Tradescantia longipes* site with 1000+ plants, four sites for the rare Nuttal's corn salad, one site for the rare Ouachita Bluestar, and one site for Solomon's Seal.

June 13, 2001

Dr. Simpson, Susan Hooks and I had a day in the Ouachitas, May 5th, which was refreshing, edifying, and beautiful. We stopped at Bear Creek to photo the greatest patch of Solomon's Seal I've seen in Ark. We caught them in bloom, so the slides were good. We also located another dwarf spiderwort site on Forest Rd. 11.

Frances and I visited the Rose pogonia site on Bruce Trail (approx. 30 plants and several flowers but past prime bloom). We cleaned up the site of fallen limbs, etc. Our next trip was to Grandview Prairie. The flowers were fantastic.

We took several photos, had an unusual photo op of a Great Egret feeding along the bank of a pond on the Prairie. We drove north and checked the lady slippers in Montgomery Co.

They were bloomed out and had withered. We did have a normal bloom this year. The ice storm left the sites in awful shape. We spent the night at Mt. Ida. Following day was really nice; woodland flowers blooming, camera clicking, found another new site for dwarf spiderwort (1000 + plants), butterflies along Forest Rd. 11,

a shower or two - how refreshing! We had a grand trip. The following week Theo Witsell and I visited a site between New Hope and Nashville called Stone Road Glade. A remnant of Blackland the Nature Conservancy and Natural Heritage had acquired from Weyerhouser Corp., a very interesting site in a pine woods area. Theo collected several plants, including *Allium drumondii*, a rare onion, and added approximately 40 plants to the plant list for Stone Road Glade. We also visited Grand View Prairie. Tremendous flora, a fine place to visit.

Recently we visited the Traskwood orchid site. The Grass pink was blooming. We then visited the Haskell Trail site to check on Purple fringeless orchid. We counted 68 plants in flower, which led to our report to Morgan Richardson and Dr. Slaughter and also Douglas Zollner of the Nature Conservancy. I'll report later on our second inventory results. I will say now that I got to hold the umbrella and clean up

a site or two for the most experienced Orchid photographer in our Society. The whole world is his Orchid Patch. We are blessed to have Dr. Slaughter in our Chapter.

I have a proposition for our friends and chapter members. Theo Witsell, is 26 years old and ready to become our next D. Moore (botanist and photographer). I asked him to bring the photo gear Natural Heritage had on hand; a fair list, but inadequate for Theo's needs. So I propose we come together and help our newest Chapter member buy a camera like Dr. Slaughter's and mine and a macro lens we can be proud of. So far Theo has collected and identified over 450 plants this year. Now this is serious work; several county records, etc. We want Theo to work with the photographers in our Chapter until he can stand alone as a great botanist-photographer. We need approx. \$1500. We already have 50%+ pledged, and I have ordered the camera so he can begin this month.

Think of this project like I'm paying dividends on all the slide shows I've seen by Carl Hunter, Dr. Slaughter, Bob Clearwater, Ed Hall, Don Crank, Jay Justice & John Pelton. Make your check out to the Ouachita Chapter and send it to John Pelton. I'll see that Bob Byers gets it which will verify our records - what we collect and how the money is spent.

July 16, 2001

Good things are happening this summer, I'm glad to say. I received word from Penny Robbins that she is in much better health, and ready to field trip again. Others have illnesses that may limit their activity to some extent.

I want to report that the Photo outfit for Theo Witsell is a success. In checking my records, I find that \$1750 is already contributed to the project. We bought a used Nikon F4s camera, a Kiron 105 F2.8 macro lens that will focus 1-1, a new Bogen 3221W tripod, a new Bogen 3275 mini gearhead for the tripod, and a tripod-carrying strap. I ordered a Pelican 1600 case to carry and store the camera and lens, film, etc.

The case will keep equipment out of dust and moisture, and be excellent when transporting the outfit. The case is also lockable. The equipment

we purchased for Theo will add to what the Heritage Commission has on hand, and will give Theo a basic Professional Photo Outfit. I'm confident Theo will become a great nature photographer. I want to congratulate our Chapter members and friends for a successful project.

Theo will need a 200F4 macro and a 300 F4.5 EDIF, so I'll leave the fund open. We can use approx. \$1000 more for these lenses.

I'm including an e-mail I received from Theo 06/18/01: Subj: **NEW RARE PLANT FOR ARKANSAS AT POISON SPRINGS NATURAL AREA!**

Hi Everyone,

I had a fantastic visit to the Poison Springs Barrens Unit Friday evening. The purpose of the trip was to look for (and voucher) *Talinum rugospermum* (prairie fame flower), a new species for the state. The plants were first spotted several weeks ago by Jason Singhurst (botanist with the Texas Heritage Program) who suspected that they were *T. rugospermum* (no flowers or fruits yet when he was there). I found them to have both flowers and nearly mature seedpods on Friday and was able to confirm his ID. The plants are large (up to 40 cm!) and they have a very robust stem which branches once in the mature plants. There are 10-25 stamens and the flowers are only open between about 5 and 7 in the evening.

The seeds (as the name implies) are wrinkled. I counted about 50 plants and took a voucher. They are growing in the largest (I think) barrens opening with *Polygonella americana*. I'm going back this evening with talented wildflower photographer John Pelton to get some good pictures and survey additional habitat (Arkansas Oak?, Bluff City Sandhills?).

I also found some other new EOs while I was there.

There are 25+ individuals of *Streptanthus hyacinthoides* scattered in the openings and I found about 10 plants of *Cyperus grayoides* in the eastern-most opening (but within the boundaries of the NA proper). And on the way out I found *Carex atlantica* subsp. *capillacea* in the seep area. What a trip!

Anyway, everyone be on the lookout for this giant fame flower when in the sandhills.

Theo Witsell

Thanks.

Sincerely, John Pelton,
Pres., Ouachita Chapter, ANPS

CALION FIELD TRIP REPORT

By Carl Amason

March 10, 2001

After a week of heavy rains and sodden grounds, Saturday morning broke sunny but cool with a slight frost in the early morning. It was a wonderful spring day and visitors had to park inside the grounds because the usual outside the fence parking spots were wet with the possibility of getting stuck a real possibility. Of the native wildflowers blooming were *Claytonia virginiana* (spring beauty) *Cercis canadensis* (redbud) and *Cardamine concatenata* (better known as *Denaria laciniata* or footwork). Perhaps the thing that struck the eyes, noses and fancies of the visitors were the masses of daffodils in shades of yellow and white, the many camellias in shades of white, pink, and red and oriental magnolias in shades of white, pinkish and purplish as they do not have true spectrum colors. The first to arrive were Winnie Dawson from Canada and Malvern with her friend Francis Smith, followed soon by the veteran field trippers of Sandra and Bob Gamble of Stephens. Other field trippers included Betty Swindler, Kathy Daniel and Caroline Daniel, all from Camden with Ann Beale of Chidester. Soon after George and Lilly Sinclair of Marshall, Arkansas brought their granddaughter Rachael and Kathleen Cook of Camden.

There was a sprinkling of the small annuals of *Hedyotis australis* and purple *Hedyotis crassifolia* (*Houstonia* / bluets). There was also a scattering of *Prunus mexicana* (Mexican plum) among the pear and non-native plums. The tiny *Ophioglossum crotaloporiodes* (bulbous adder's tongue fern) was up and with good eyesight could be seen in all of its glory. This is one of several small adder's tongues ferns which usually push out of the ground with the coming of the fall rains but this year there were no fall rains but plenty of January and February thunderstorms and that is when they came up. The *Botrychium lunariodes* (winter grape fern) dared not to show up this winter however

Botrychium biternatum was up and doing quite well. Among the native orchids only the winter foliage of *Tipularia discolor* was common but none of the precocious early *Listera australis* and *Malaxis unifolia* had come up at their regular times. It was too early this year for the big flush of early spring wildflowers.

The day was pleasant and the fellowship was typical of happiness and great interest in the wonders of the flowering world.



SOME NOTES ON

ARISAEMA ATRORUBENS

JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT

By Carl Amason

Perhaps the Jack-in-the-Pulpit is one of the best known of all the wildflowers of Arkansas and probably occurs in every county and in all of the

surrounding states. For some reasons it is considered to be rare but on the Coastal Plain it is fairly common where the spathe (pulpit) that surrounds the pastor (Jack) is stripped with purple and yellowish green, those from the Ozarks have stripes of yellow and green. In any color they are always admired. The arise quickly, almost suddenly in mid to late spring from the soil frequently in wet or damp areas close to springs, creeks or lakes. They are found in small to medium sized colonies or as individual plants, alone or with one or two others. The sex of the flowers can be female or male or both according to the literature. The flowers are tiny on the Jack (or Jill) and are obscure or hidden from the view of most people but the species continues to please people and perhaps confuse the botanists. The name of the species is also another cause for discussion but the ordinary people really care little about that but enjoy the plant. The flowers develop into a cluster of red berries in the late summer and the foliage has usually dried and withered away. I do not know if any wildlife eats the fruit but it can be another feature to enjoy about the plant. The berries can be planted and they easily develop into seedlings that usually take two to three years to make flowering plants. It is worth the trouble!

In the fall and the winter young people, especially boys, like to talk an unsuspecting person into "eating" an Indian turnip. The turnip part seems harmless but eating is hardly the word. For that matter tasting is really not the word as the oxalic acid content of the corm is so concentrated that the mouth is literally felt to be afire, and the "flavor" lasts for some time -- the unsuspecting person has been initiated into the knowledgeable about the Indian turnip.

Actually, the corms were an important item in the food of the American Indians. They smashed the corm in cold water which removed the oxalic acid after several washings, leaving a flour like substance which was used in several ways. Later when the Europeans introduced turnips (the real ones) the Jack-in- the- pulpit was no longer used as a food source. Today the plant can be an

integral part of a wildflower garden which is looked upon as something beautiful, unique and interesting with no thought as a food item.



SOME NOTES ON *PASSIFLORA INCARNATA*

By Carl Amason

Passiflora incarnata, better known as Maypop or Passion Flower, is probably found in every count in Arkansas. I have been told that it was the Arkansas state flower before the apple blossom was so declared in the late 1800's when Washington and Benton Counties were the principle apple producing regions in the United States and before "Delicious" apple production went into high gear in Washington state.

How the common name Maypop was derived is lost in the tales of times but the name Passion flower or its Spanish name is well recorded in history because the Catholic missionaries to the tropics, where there are many native species of *Passiflora*, say the story of Christ's passion is expressed in the complicated floral parts. Most of the flowers are beautiful, if not interesting.

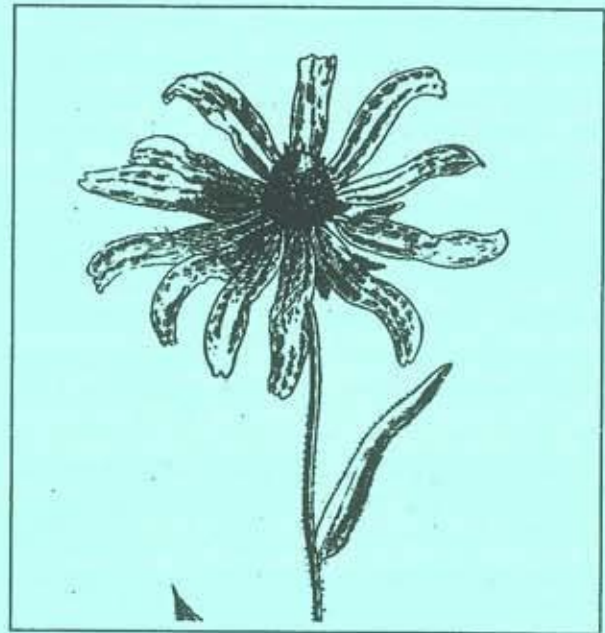
Perhaps the only fault that can be given it would be the somewhat unpleasant odor of the plant when it is crushed.

More about the plant! First, it is a vine, complete with tendrils, but no thorns, that can climb into bushes up to 5 or 6 feet. It has alternate leaves that have three distinct lobes. The leaves can be up to 5 inches long and across. It is also a perennial that freezes or dies back to the ground and new vine stems develop each year. The flower buds develop from the axils and further developments form 5 pointed sepals, covering 5 petals, all of which are covered by purplish, almost purple, or rarely white, crown of filament-like segments which are attached to a floral cup inside the petals, forming part of the petals by some authors. Generally these parts are covered and the flower has to be closely examined, and this colored filament-like parts is the "crown of thorns" as described by the early Spanish missionaries. The floral parts above the showy crown are obvious as the five stamens are conspicuous with yellow pollen above the pistil with its three spreading styles, all above a superior ovary. The ovary develops into an ellipsoid green berry, about 1 x 2 inches, containing many seeds. When the fruit is ripe the color becomes a dirty wrinkled yellow and the seeds are covered with a pleasant sweet-sour gelatinous substance that is edible. Many people taste or eat a little but they prefer other fruits to eat, but the American Indians ate the fruits as a food source and there are several from the tropics that are grown for their fruits.

Today, the plants or vines are cultivated for the unique and beautiful flowers with its religious stories. Also, to a lesser degree, the vines are cultivated in butterfly gardens as a food source for the Gulf Fritillary and others in the Heliconiide all of which eat the passionflower vine leaves. Maypops, the showiest native species, is easily grown from seeds and from cuttings. As the vines occur all over the state and the southeast and beyond, soil is not particular but they do better in sun or light shade, a bit of moisture and good disturbed soil. To a

limited degree, horticulturalists have hybridized this native with the tropical species.

There is another native species of *Passiflora*. This vine is *Passiflora lutea*. It is a vine with light yellowish flowers that are small and a disappointment after seeing the Maypop in bloom. It is more common than people realize but it is not showy in flower, and even its black ½ inch fruits are just not seen by most people.



SOME NOTES ON *RUDBECKIA HIRTA*

By Carl Amason

One of the most common wildflowers, which is also found in every county of Arkansas is *Rudbeckia hirta*, better known as Black-eyed-Susan. With such a wide distribution throughout the South and beyond it also has a number of other common names. The name *Rudbeckia* commemorates the Swedish professors, father and son, both named Olaf who taught at Uppsala before Linnaeus, and *hirta*, which means short bristly hairs, much like those on a man's face that shaves daily but before he shaves in the morning. The simple beauty and elegance of the

plant was observed early in the botanical literature.

It is one of those "confusing yellow composites" but most people can easily distinguish these from many others. *Rudbeckia hirta* blooms in late spring and into summer here in south Arkansas and later further north. The plant grows from one to 2 ½ feet tall in good growing conditions, emerging from winter rosettes of hairy simple lance shaped leaves. The hairy stems have alternate hairy simple lance shaped leaves. The stems often fork with each stem bearing a single head of two-toned yellow ray flowers with a rounded central dense mass of fertile dark purplish-brown disc flowers which develop into the seeds. The seeds are simple and slender in the persistent cone-head after the ray flowers have died.

Rudbeckia hirta grows into a short-lived perennial but is often only a biannual, depending on the summer growing conditions. It is most often found growing along sunny dry roadsides banks where at times the whole mass is yellow. The eyes of the casual observer don't always see the two-toned yellow flowers but a good photograph or slide will show the bi-colored effects.

The plants are reported to be somewhat poisonous to domestic livestock but they are important deer browse. In the wild they are showy but when grown as a flowerbed ornamental they become elegant. They are considered to be easily cultivated and make a grand show for several weeks. The flowers can be utilized for arrangements in which they are useful and long lasting. A bit of household bleach can keep the water from developing stinking bacterial slime and only about one tablespoon per gallon is effective.

Not only are the plants easily grown from seeds—they will bloom somewhat the first year but bloom better the second year. They are easily transplanted into the garden. At times the 3 inch flower head will develop a maroon or

reddish color on the ray petals and for some years now, plant breeders have increased the flower size to a full four inch across with many having the bi-colored flowers of yellow and reddish and such flowers are sold as plants and seed as "Gloriosa Daisy". Such flowers are grown en masse or in groups of many plants alternating with some other plants blooming with red or maybe white flowers as contrast. The wild *Rudbeckia hirta* is still an elegant plant of the countryside and has become a symbol of country living as well as city culture. This is truly a plant to enjoy.

EVENTS OF INTEREST

Haynesville Celebration of Butterflies

The third annual Haynesville Celebration of Butterflies will be held September 15-16, 2001 at the Claiborne Parish Fairgrounds in Haynesville, "Butterfly Capital of Louisiana". The festival is known as "a classroom for learning about nature".

Special consultant for the festival is Dr. Gary Noel Ross of Baton Rouge, a professional lepidopterist.

Featured speaker is Barbara Damrosch of Harborside, Maine author of several books including *The Garden Primer* and *Theme Gardens*, and was a correspondent on the PBS series *The Victory Garden*. Other speakers will give programs on butterfly gardening, water gardening, herbs, water conservation, greenhouses, forestry, and composting.

A highlight of the festival is a 25-foot by 40-foot conservatory complete with butterflies, larvae and chrysalides as well as their host and nectar plants. Additional attractions are field trips for butterflies, wildflowers and birds; nature craft booths; food; music; nature photography contest and display; and children's activities.

Contact: Loice Kendrick, Director,
1937 Baily Ave., Haynesville, LA 71038;
Phone (318) 624-1929
e-mail loicekendrick@excite.com.

WEB PAGES

The following is information about a site that might be of interest to our members. Thanks to Don Crank for sending this URL of a site developed by Don Lubin .

(<http://world.std.com/~donlubin>)

Don invites you "to visit it, and send me [Don] comments, and any corrections or even additions. The 257-page site now includes 114 images of ferns and other pteridophytes found in New England, or Bermuda, or my garden. There are also some fern identification data, discussion, lists of pteridophytes at various sites, and photographs of garden flowers."

Be sure to also check out www.anps.org our official web site. I should be updated by the time you receive this newsletter.

IN MEMORIAM

Our sympathy goes out to the family and friends of **Robert Boggan** of Jacksonville, AR who passed away on May 10th, 2001. Robert was a charter member of ANPS and attended meetings regularly when his health allowed. He will be missed! Thanks to all of those who sent memorials to the society in his name.



ARKANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please check appropriate box below.

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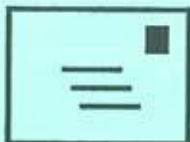
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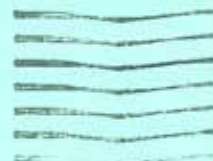
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The purpose of the Arkansas Native Plant Society

is to promote the preservation, conservation, and study of the wild plants and vegetation of Arkansas, the education of the public to the value of the native flora and its habitat, and the publication of related information.

Claytonia

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