

Volume 21

3

Winter

2001



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Newsletter of the Arkansas Native Plant Society

President's Message

Having waited until early November, it is now my delightful task to write this on a genuinely **RAINY** day, the third in what promises to be a string of rainy days (not 40 days and nights, but a goodly string anyway). Although a few pines and hardwoods have quite literally bitten the dust in this past summer's scorching dryness, most of the native vegetation seems to have survived. What a life-saving adaptation it is, the ability of hardwoods under summer drought stress to simply reduce their water loss by shedding some of their leaves. The spring wildflowers probably endured with little stress, being quite dormant, and next March when we gather near Mena they should present their usual glorious show. Lana and Bruce Ewing definitely do know where to find them, and we'll have a great time following where they lead. By then there'll be more news on how the Society can be involved in the Arkansas Vascular Flora Project, including a definitive lecture (limit 5 minutes) from our latest recipient of the Carl Amason Conservation Award, Don Culwell, on the full meaning of the expression "vascular flora." In the meantime, enjoy all the winter rains. Even enjoy any snow, secure in the knowledge that it all goes to replenish the groundwater. In March it will be spring (meaning temperatures between 30 and 80 degrees, plus, we trust, more rain. Yay!

Robert (I am **not** navigationally challenged) Wright.

Spring Meeting MENA

BOOK YOUR ROOM SOON

MARCH 16-18

SEE YA'LL THERE



ANPS SPRING MEETING 2001

Location: Mena, Arkansas
Rich Mt. Community College (RMCC)
Spencer Building

Date: March 16-17-18

Friday, March 16

4:30-7:30 Registration -- Spencer Building—Plenty of parking.

7:30 Program -- "Wild Orchids of Texas" by Joe Liggio

The program will be a slide show and talk by Joe Liggio, author and photographer of *Wild Orchids of Texas* (University of Texas Press, © 1999)

From the East Texas swamps and forests to the Edwards Plateau canyons and the Trans-Pecos Mountains, Texas hosts a surprising number of native orchids, 54 in all. They range from the bog-loving grass pink orchid of East Texas to the saprophytic non-chlorophyllous species commonly known as coral root. Joe will describe some unusual facts about the natural history of orchids and some of his experiences in "orchid hunting". He will also discuss conservation issues such as preserving the habitats of these irreplaceable native orchids.

Joe is an environmental consultant and freelance writer and photographer. His photographs and articles about Texas orchids and wildflowers have appeared in books, magazines, and calendars. He has a B.S. degree in Biology from Sam Houston State University and is currently completing an M.S. degree in environmental science from the University of Houston at Clear Lake. *Wild Orchids of Texas* was co-authored by his wife, Ann, who is a freelance writer and editor. The Liggios live in Houston. There will be books for sale.

Saturday, March 17**8:00 A.M. Field Trips**

Meet at RMCC -- A list of trips will be available at the Friday evening meeting.

7:00 P.M. Program: Spencer Building. Special program by Roy Vail on the stag horn fern. We would also like to have a slide show in honor of our 20-year history. If you have some slides/photos or news articles from past meetings or field trips that you could share with the membership please get them to Gary Tucker who has volunteered to put them together in a Power Point presentation. Please look through those old photo albums or boxes or were ever you keep such artifacts and send them to Gary at 2606 West D St., Russellville, AR 72703. They will be taken good care of and we promise to get them back to you.

Sunday, March 18

To be determined by interest.

Accommodations**Motels:**

Lime Tree (Best Western) 501-394-6350
Four blocks from RMCC.

Sun Country Inn 501-394-7477
Four blocks from RMCC.

Ozark Inn 501-394-1100
Other end of town.

Queen Wilhelmina State Park 501-394-2863 -- 14 miles.

Camping:

Acorn, 6 miles North on 78.

Fall 2000 Meeting Report

by Robert Wright

About 50 members and friends gathered Friday evening, September 29 in the Holiday Inn Express Convention Center for the annual fall auction. Auctioneer Carl Amason coaxed over \$1100 from bidders on an amazing variety and quantity of mostly native plants plus preserved fruit extracts (both non-alcoholic and the other kind) and a small library of donated books.

Saturday morning saw all hands trooping out to Big Creek Natural Area, an Arkansas Natural Heritage property, for a day on the bluffs, in the woods, and along the creek. As dry as the weather had been, there were a satisfying variety of flowering plants to discover and monitor, including several new to the plant list of the area. Eric Sundell found a couple of suitably intriguing milkweed species. The creek bed revealed interesting animal life as well, including a rough green snake twined among the shrubbery. Oralee Price had prepared maps and plant lists, and guided everyone out there. So far as is known, all found their way back, even Robert Wright. (Ron Doran wasn't able to attend, which broke up the Society's premier duo in the art of getting lost!)

Saturday evening the group gathered in the Carl Garner Visitor Center for the business meeting and to hear remarks from Carl Garner himself. Long time Administrator of Greer's Ferry Dam, Mr. Garner shared some excellent lore on the dam's history, as well pungent remarks on the importance of environmental stewardship.



Fall General Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2000

The fall, 2000, meeting of the Arkansas Native Plant Society was called to order at 8:15 o'clock, p.m., by President John Simpson at the Carl Garner Visitor Center for Greer's Ferry Lake, following a talk by Mr. Garner.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Carl Amason moved that the minutes be approved as

published, Eric Sundell seconded, the minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: A copy of the Treasurer's Report was distributed to the members showing a balance of \$4,883.24 in the operating fund, and \$19,084.41 in the total flora, scholarship and award funds. Jason explained the balance of color brochure costs under expenses as the printing costs. There was a previous expenditure for the layout of the brochures. The purpose of the Dwight Moore Award Fund was explained by Jason, and the fact that it has no source of replenishment. He asked the membership to consider combining the Delzie Demaree and the Moore fund: it would keep both names before the membership and allow more equity between the funds. Gary Tucker moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Carl Amason seconded, the Treasurer's Report was approved. Jason announced that the fall auction had brought in an excess of \$1100.00.

OLD BUSINESS: Johnny Gentry presented a progress report of the Arkansas Flora Project and discussed the Arkansas Vascular Flora Conference that was held recently. Dr. Gentry than thanked ANPS for its support and sponsorship of the Conference. Suggestions on raising money for the Project were asked for. For a \$200.00 donation, a person may spend two days in the field with Dr. Gentry. If you would like to do this, call 870-575-HERB.

NEW BUSINESS: The Nominating Committee report was given by President Simpson in the absence of Linda Gatti Clark, Chairman of the Committee, as follows:

Vice-President: MaryAnn King;

Treasurer: Al Hecht;

Editor: Ron Doran.

Eric Sundell moved that the slate be accepted by acclamation; Bill Shepherd seconded the motion passed. Robert Wright announced the recommendation by the Scholarship Award Committee of Don Culwell for the Carl Amason Conservation Award. The award will be presented to Don at the spring meeting.

President Simpson announced that the spring meeting will be March 16 and 17 at Mena, Arkansas.

Bill Shepherd discussed briefly how the Big Creek Natural Area, where our field trips were today, became preserved. There was an announcement that the Sunday trip would be on your own, and was the trail behind the Visitor Center. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Clark,
Secretary



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Big Creek Plant List

By Theo Witsell

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
Staff Botanist

Thanks to members of the Arkansas Native Plant Society, the plant list for Big Creek Natural Area in Cleburne County now has 381 species. On behalf of the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission I would like to thank all the ANPS members that went on the field trips to Big Creek Natural Area at the fall 2000 meeting and helped us expand our plant list for that area. The Natural Area is split into two tracts: the main tract and the disjunct (and smaller) Hiram Bluff tract. This was the first real trip to gather plant data for the Hiram Bluff tract and we came away with 152 species (not bad for a fall trip). The list for the main tract is a compilation of four older lists and a fifth list which was generated at the fall meeting and recorded by ANPS member Oralee Price. There are now 343 species listed for the main tract. Plant lists have been compiled for each area separately but, as you would expect, there are some species (38 to be exact) that occur on the Hiram Bluff tract but have not been recorded on the main tract. This brings the total for the entire Natural Area to 381 species.

Of particular interest to the Natural Heritage Commission are the five special plant species recorded on the natural area. These are species that are considered rare or sensitive in Arkansas and that we track. They are as follows:

Castanea pumila var. *ozarkensis*
(Ozark chinkapin)

Sedum ternatum (wood stonecrop)

Philadelphus hirsutus (mock orange)

Podostemum ceratophyllum (threadfoot)

Silene ovata (ovate-leaf catchfly)

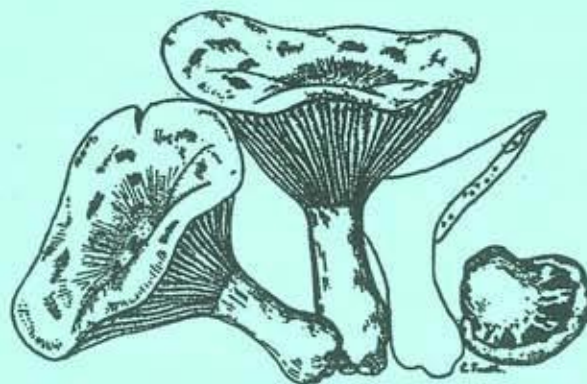
The plant lists include scientific and common names of the plants as well as data on their habitat and abundance. Copies of the plant lists for Big Creek Natural Area are available free of charge from

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
1500 Tower Building
323 Center St.
Little Rock, AR 72201

Or email theo@arkansasheritage.org and specify whether you would like a paper copy or an electronic copy.

Special thanks to Oralee Price for providing copies of plant lists she made both on and before the field trips and for finding the ovate-leaf catchfly on the natural area.

ANPS
Members Bring
Big Creek Natural Area
Plant List Up to 381
Species





European Chickweed Invades Arkansas

by Philip Hyatt

You won't find *Stellaria pallida* in Smith's atlas. It wasn't known in Arkansas in 1988. In fact, when it did turn up, the first Arkansas location was the fifth report of this little weed in North America. Common Chickweed (*Stellaria media*) grows statewide. As an early weedy species, it's commonly collected by students who are required to collect a few plants when taking plant taxonomy classes in college.

Common plants sometimes allow similar less common plants to hide unnoticed. In the case of *Stellaria pallida*, the plants had spread across north Arkansas without being

noticed, much like a bedstraw did.

The bedstraw (*Cruciata pedemontanum*, previously listed as *Galium pedemontanum*) was found in Arkansas years ago, but in the late 1980's was discovered to have spread over much of Arkansas. That bedstraw is a well-known weed to people now, even if they don't know its name. *Stellaria pallida* turned up in collections around Mountain Home back in 1988-1989. A specialist in the pink family (Caryophyllaceae) happened to receive a specimen from Arkansas; Richard Rabeler of the University of Michigan herbarium noted this plant among several Arkansas specimens he received in trade. Dr. Smith reviewed those in his collection. Sure enough, a few plants of this species were hiding in the Common Chickweed pile! He went out the door of his office and found it immediately as a weed by the door of the Science-Engineering Building on the University of Arkansas campus in Fayetteville. A potential state record plant was hiding just outside his door! Identifying *Stellaria pallida* takes a bit of patience. On the surface it looks like a frost bit, poorly nourished, sometimes care worn specimen of Common Chickweed. This may be why it was overlooked. Within a few years of the first collection, we found it in 14 Arkansas counties, from Crawford and Washington, across the north tier from Carroll to Baxter, and down through Stone and Izard counties into Independence. Cross, Poinsett, Crittenden, and Ashley counties also have it. It could be hiding nearly statewide in Arkansas but is surely throughout the Ozarks. I used to add new counties by stopping and checking at gas stations when I filled up with gas! A key character is the absence of petals, but Common Chickweed sometimes lacks petals. It also has only 2 anthers (vs. 3-7) that are gray-violet in color (vs. red-violet). The seeds are also reported to be smaller than those of Common Chickweed, but I've found these technical characters hard to see, even with a microscope. If you want to record new sites for *Stellaria pallida*, the best thing to do is

this: in early spring, before the season hits for most plants, look for it on the south sides of buildings. It basks in the tiny pockets of heat thrown off of buildings and protected on the south sides. As spring progresses, other species take hold and this plant begins to disappear. Since its early, it often gets hit by frost, making the collected plant look very miserable. The color is paler than Common Chickweed, so look for and collect a beaten up chickweed and you may have this formerly "rare" plant. It's hard to call a weed rare! Does it grow in Missouri, Oklahoma, and other states in the region? Almost certainly. It apparently hasn't taken hold in central Louisiana, as several years of searching have failed to turn up specimens there. But if you want to contribute to the knowledge of the Arkansas flora, why not pull up a few weeds?



Spring Field Trips

March 10th – Carl Amason's –Near Calion

June 9th -- Meet at Carl's about 10 AM bring lunch and a drink as usual at both dates. Directions: Turn off US 167 on Calion's Main Street, go 1/2 mile, go over a rise –old railroad bump—turn right onto S. Hoover, go 1 block to stop sign, turn right, cross over the upper end of Calion Lake, which is Ward Street. Shortly it becomes Country Road, about 1 mile. A new transmission tower is by the road. Then the 3rd house on the right is Carl's. No house on the left.

In March early spring flowers should be blooming. Perhaps both regular pawpaw, dwarf pawpaw and the intermediate hybrid between the two (rare). Also a lot of non-native plants that the deer have not demolished.

In June *Alophia drummondii*, *Erythrina herbaceae* (Cherokee bean or coral bean), and some of the early summer wildflowers that the deer haven't eaten.

Contact Carl at (870)748-2362

April 7th -- Big Creek 1 and 2.

Meet at Ron Doran's place. at 9:30 AM. Directions: From the south take exit 42 off of 67/167 to Searcy. This will be Main Street. Follow Main through Searcy heading north. After stopping at a 4 way stop go 1.5 miles where you will see the street sign Willow Crk Ln on the right. Go to the end of that private gravel driveway. If you see a dinosaur sign that says **dead end** you are on the correct driveway. Ron's house is the cedar wood house at the end circle. From the north take exit 46 off of 67/167. Turn right off the ramp and you will be on Race Street. Follow Race toward the old part of town until you meet Main St. (five traffic lights.). Turn right on Main and follow the above directions.

There are two Big Creeks near Searcy. One is in White County and other in

Cleburne County. They both join the Little Red River but several miles apart. You enjoyed the Big Creek Natural Area in the fall, wait to you see it in the blush of spring. We will stop at Bluff Hole on Big Creek on the way to the Natural Area.

This will be a semi-strenuous trip. Bring drinks and snacks. Contact Ron Doran at (501)268-2503 or email doran@harding.edu for further information.

May 19th -- Sylamore District.

Participants should be at the US Forest Service Work Center located on the north side of Arkansas 14 at the town of Fifty-Six, Stone County, Arkansas no later than 10 AM. From the Work Center, the group will promptly leave for a trip to a good location for spring wildflowers and woody plants within the Sylamore District. This trip will involve rough terrain and should not be chosen by anyone who might have difficulties with a rigorous field experience. Bring your own lunch. NOTE: The Work Center is a different facility from the District Office at Mountain View, which some may be familiar with.

Led by Earl Hendrix.

OZARK CHAPTER TRIPS

All are invited. See note at end of section.

March 31st -- Lost Valley -- Meet at the parking lot at Lost Valley at 10:00AM. Lost Valley is in Newton County. From Clarksville take #21 to Boxley & take 74 to Lost Valley turnoff. If taking Highway 7, turn west onto #74. Bring lunch & drinks.

April 14th -- Possum Trot -- 10:00 A.M. Meet at the store at Nail on Highway #16. Bring lunch & drinks. Another trip into Newton County.

April 27, 28 & 29th
Ozark Chapter Spring Meeting.

Buffalo Lodge & Learning Center out from Jasper. Take 74 West from Jasper & watch for signs to Buffalo Lodge. Try to meet there at noon on the 27th but if you can't make it early, get there when you can. Possible Canoe trip in offing & work on wildflowers beds at Buffalo Lodge. **Please** call Burnetta or MaryAnn King to make reservations.

May 12th --Lead Hill & Ninestone. Meet at Baker Prairie at Harrison at 10 AM. Baker Prairie is on Goblin Drive by High School between Capps Road & Industrial Park Road. Lead Hill, Baker Prairie & Ninestone are in Boone County. Part of the purpose of this field trip is to gather additional information for the flora of Boone County, which has been very undercollected. Bring lunch & drinks.

May 26th -- Glade and Butterfly Garden in Branson

Meet at 10:30 - However traffic can sometimes be intense around Branson due to tourists - so wait to give others time to show up. Meet at the state park by the Shepherd of the Hills Play on the road that goes to Silver Dollar City.

For additional details on Ozark Chapter trips as well as directions on where to meet, contact either Burnetta Hinterthuer at 501-582-0467 or email her at steveholst@aol.com or (MaryAnn King) phone: 501-293-4359 Fax 501-293-4659 or email pineridg@cswnet.com

Have you checked the ANPS web site lately?

The web address is

www.anps.org

be sure you use the .org

Pondberry Field Trip Report

By Robert Wright

Ron Doran and Robert Wright constituted the group visiting the sand ponds on the Missouri border where endangered Pondberries (*Lindera melissifolia*) are conserved. Their bright yellow fall foliage emphasized how numerous and extensive are the clones, spread over about a mile of forest floor, where shallow spring ponds eliminate most other understory plants. Although drought-stressed, the plants had survived the summer well and were ready to flower in early spring. Although never more than 200 yards from roads on a sunny day, Robert and Ron still were able to become disoriented and, given more time, would undoubtedly have gotten lost.



Arkansas Native Plant Society Membership Application

Please check below.

Membership Categories:

- ☐ \$10..... Student
- ☐ \$15..... Regular
- ☐ \$20..... Supporting
- ☐ \$25..... Family Membership
- ☐ \$30Contributing
- ☐ \$150.... Lifetime Membership
(55 and over)
- ☐ \$300Lifetime Membership
(under 55)
- ☐ New Member
- ☐ Renewal
- ☐ Address Change

Name _____

Address:

Street or Box _____

City _____

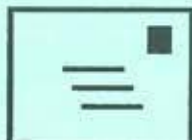
State..... Zip _____

Telephone: _____ - _____ - _____

E-Mail address _____

Please cut and send this form along with any dues to:

**Eric Sundell, Membership ANPS
Division of Mathematics and Science
University of Arkansas
Monticello, AR 71655**



Please check your mailing label!
If your mailing label has a 00 or earlier it is time to renew!

Life members will have an LF

Please fill in the information form on the opposite side of this page and send it with your renewals, applications for membership, changes of name, address, e-mail address or telephone numbers to the address given on the form: **[Not to the editor.]**

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(501)968-7061

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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