

Volume 21

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Spring
2000



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Claytonia

Newsletter of the Arkansas Native Plant Society

President's Message

I'm sorry everyone couldn't attend the spring meeting just concluded at Petit Jean. For those who weren't able to attend, the eighty or so registrants can tell you that it was one of our best. Thanks to Robert Wright for his careful planning, to trip leaders for their willingness to share their knowledge and expertise, to those entertaining and educating us with programs each evening, AND to those early, far-sighted Arkansans who saw the unique beauty of Petit Jean and worked to save it as a state park. As you all know, we're not a "cash cow" organization and have not pushed hard to encourage extra donations and gifts. We don't have the skills and personnel to assist individuals in coordinating their charitable giving—but if you feel we are being good stewards of the Society's funds and are distributing them appropriately to good causes, I would request you consider the Society in your annual giving and perhaps a bequest in your will. Any donation could add to our general revenues or to one of the specific funds whose descriptions and purposes are detailed in the annual directory. No pressure—just lots of good causes in need of our support. I would hope someday a group of like-minded Arkansans will look back at what we are doing now and be appreciative—as we are of the founders of Petit Jean State Park.

Happy Springtime in Arkansas!
John Simpson

✳Free Gold✳

The society has 1500 packets of *Coreopsis* seed.

All you need to obtain them is to contact
ANPS President John Simpson and let him know how many packets
you would like and where to send them.

[See Claytonia cover for telephone number and email address.]

Spring General Meeting Report

By Robert Wright

Around 80 people gathered at Petit Jean State Park on March 31 for a weekend of viewing and doing. Mather Lodge served up good food, we were able to dodge most raindrops, and the evening programs were excellent. Friday evening, Park Interpreter Steve Dunlap gave us an intriguing peek into how the original park facilities were constructed, using slides from an old scrapbook recently brought to light. Then Carl Slaughter took us around Petit Jean and Arkansas through the seasons with some superb wildflower slides. On Saturday most visitors took the Cedar Creek trail and the Ridge Trail, enjoying insights provided by leaders Lois Wilson, Mary Ann King, Dan Marsh, and Eric Sundell. At last report the identity of an *Anemone* species was under lively discussion, prolonged by the near-absence of flowers. Besides being the weekend of *Claytonia virginica*, we saw lots of *Viola pedata*, birdsfoot violet, and enough other flowers and scenes to turn a one-mile walk into a full half day's prowl through the woods. Those folks opting for the fields and woods around the Visitor Center got to enjoy the observations and exclamations of Carl Amason. Saturday evening's program started with Bill Shepherd showing and telling us how the video, "Arkansas' Natural Heritage" was produced. Then everyone was entertained by Carl Amason's trip down memory lane, looking at slides from past ANPS field trips. All in all, it was a good family outing for the ANPS family.



Field Trips

Thursday, May 11

Glade Sites near Sims.

This Ouachita Chapter outing will meet Susan Hooks at the Harvest Foods parking lot at Grand Avenue and 270 in Hot Springs at 9:30AM. Bring a sack lunch and hiking shoes.

Friday and Saturday May 12,13

Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge

The personnel of the refuge invite birdwatchers and wildflower enthusiasts to see Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and other birds along with the flush of spring blooming wildflowers. Saturday's trip is a repeat of the Friday trip. Bring your own lunch and drink. Those coming from the east meet at the refuge headquarters west of Crossett on US 82 at 9:00; those coming from the west will meet at Best Western King's Inn in El Dorado on US 167 at 8:00. Contact person is Ruth McDonald at the refuge, PO Box 1157, Crossett 71635 or call during business hours at 1-807-364-3168. Or you may contact Carl Amason at 1-870-748-2362.

Saturday, May 20

Baker Prairie.

Bernetta Hinterthuer (501-582-0467) will show us late spring prairie flowers. Meet at 11:00 a.m. in Harrison on Goblin Drive adjacent to the high school on the west side of the city. Bring a hat, your lunch and plenty of water.

Spring General Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2000

The spring meeting of the Arkansas Native Plant Society was brought to order at 7:20 o'clock, p.m., at Mather Lodge, Petit Jean State Park, John Simpson, President, presiding.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Carl Amason moved to accept the minutes of the fall meeting as printed in the Claytonia. Lew Huddle seconded. The minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: A copy of the Treasurer's Report was distributed to the members showing a balance of \$5,549.66 in the operating fund and \$21,942.76 in the scholarship and award funds. Bill Shepherd moved to approve the Treasurer's report; Richard Speairs seconded. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS

COMMITTEE REPORT: Annette Holder, chairman of the Scholarships/Awards Committee, recommended that April Chamblee from UALR and Travis Marsico from Arkansas Tech be awarded \$500 each from the Aileen McWilliam Scholarship Fund. April is studying the germination of native plants at Pinnacle Mountain State Park and Travis is studying plant succession in an Ozark National Forest clearcut. The Committee also recommended that Edith Hudson of the University of Arkansas, who is studying the management technique and conservation of Moore's Delphinium, and Chris Doffitt and Herbert Young from the University of Louisiana at Monroe, who are surveying Ouachita and Nevada Counties of Arkansas be awarded \$500.00 each from the Delzie Demaree Research Grant. The Board is in agreement with the Committee's recommendations. Carl Amason moved that the scholarships be awarded; Linda Gatti Clark seconded, the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS: President Simpson commended Ron Doran on the ANPS website. President Simpson announced that Dr. Johnny Gentry, who could not attend because of illness, was asking ANPS to help sponsor the Arkansas Flora Conference in Fayetteville on May 19, 2000. Linda Gatti Clark explained that regional experts from Oklahoma, Texas, and Missouri who have been involved in publishing a Flora are being invited to advise the Arkansas Conference people and hopefully keep them from making unnecessary mistakes. These experts will need lodging and travel money and Dr. Gentry felt that \$500 to \$1000 would be in line with donations already donated by the Nature Conservancy and Natural Heritage Commission. Dr. Simpson reported that the Board felt that this money could be taken from the Dwight Moore Fund since the Conference is indirectly involved with publication and there are few demands on this fund and that the Board was unanimous in its consensus that we help sponsor the meeting by donating \$1,000.00. John Pelton moved that ANPS donate \$1,000.00 to help sponsor the Arkansas Flora Conference, Carl Amason seconded. After discussion, Lew Huddle called for the question, and the motion passed. A Nominating Committee will be appointed by the President to nominate persons for the positions of Treasurer, Editor and Vice-President. Thera Lou Adams is resigning from the responsibility of being in charge of the T-shirts and Jason Anders does not want another term as Treasurer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The New Mexico Native Plant Society is selling bumper stickers at a minimum order of 25 for \$1.00 each. ANPS will order \$50.00 worth, or 50 stickers, and sell them for \$2.00 each.

Jack Stewart with the Newton

County Ozark Ecotours announced that 20 acres had been purchased just outside Jasper, Arkansas, and there is a new lodge and learning center, the Woodland Leaning Center and Buffalo Lodge. The lodge has room for sleeping up to 25 people and is open year-round. The Woodland Learning Center is a place for outdoor activities, nature study and experiential learning opportunities for young people of Arkansas. More information is available by calling 870-446-5898 or 446-6208, or toll free 1-877-622-5901. The e-mail addresses are woodland@jasper.yournet.com, or ecotours@jasper.yournet.com. Kathy Downs is the Operations Manager.

Lois Wilson announced the annual spring plant sale at the Lichterman Nature Center April 13, 14, and 15. The Thursday, April 13, preview party has an admission fee. Friday and Saturday, April 14 and 15, is free. It will be open from 9:00 to 5:00 o'clock. Bill Summers from the Missouri Native Plant Society invited our

members to attend their spring meeting April 14, 15, and 16, in West Plains, Missouri.

President-Elect Robert Wright announced that the fall meeting will be in Heber Springs, where ANPS began twenty years ago, the last weekend in September.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Clark, Secretary



News Items

OUACHITA CHAPTER DONATION

The Ouachita Chapter voted unanimously to make a \$305 contribution to support the Society's participation in the Flora of Arkansas Project. (The ANPS has established a dedicated fund for contributions to the Project.)

The Ouachita Chapter wishes to offer this donation as a challenge to other chapters and society members for this very worthy project.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ethel M. Lester gave a \$100 donation to the Aileen McWilliam Fund in honor of her sister on her birthday in Nov. 1999.

OZARK CHAPTER MEETING

The annual spring meeting of the Ozark Chapter, ANPS, will be held **May 6th and 7th at Cave Mountain, Newton County.** Bob Chester has offered us the use of his cabins on Cave Mountain. Meet at noon at the Boxley Church and proceed to the property where the meeting will be held. Those who expect to arrive late, please call Burnetta Hinterthuer (501-582-0467) for directions. There will be a hike to Whittaker Point (also known as Hawksbill Crag) before our potluck and business meeting. On Sunday there will be a hike to the beautiful Dug Hollow area. The walk to Whittaker point is about 1/2 mile and of relatively easy relief, the hike to Dug Hollow a little more strenuous. Bring food to share at the potluck and for breakfast and lunch the next day.



Coneflowers In North Central Arkansas:

Prairie Plants Display on Summer Roadsides.

By Philip Hyatt

June provides summer travelers a brilliant display of coneflowers in north central Arkansas. Three species of coneflowers (genus *Echinacea*) grow across the north part of the state. Here are a few hints on what and where they are, and how to see them. The three prairie species are (from common to rare) Pale Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*), Wavy leaf Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea simulata*), and Bush's Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea paradoxa* var. *paradoxa*). All three belong to the sunflower family, having both ray and disk flowers. In sunflowers (*Helianthus annuus*), the bright ray flowers encircle the disk, which produces the seeds bird and birder love. The rays in Pale Purple Coneflower and Wavy leaf Purple

Coneflower are indeed purple, but Bush's Purple Coneflower somehow has yellow ray flowers. The eastern United States version, known as Purple Coneflower or Eastern Purple Coneflower, likes more shaded habitats.

The three prairie species thrive on roadsides, which seem to imitate the prairie habitat they prefer. In 1812, a traveler (Schoolcraft) noted that most of Baxter County was prairie with "grasses up to the horses bellies" and "prairie birds", (perhaps prairie chickens?) in an overland trip between Norfolk and Bull Shoals with the rivers filled with dense cane thickets. Fire suppression has let trees invade most of the prairie, but remnants of prairie survive in the mown roadside habitats that lack the competition of trees.

Wavy leaf Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea simulata*) has been known in north central Arkansas for some time. Its one of the "lumped" species that didn't make the Arkansas plant atlas in 1988, except as a note under Pale Purple Coneflower. These two species are closely related.

Sometimes, especially in plants, the chromosome number somehow doubles. In this case, Pale Purple Coneflower has 11 pairs of chromosomes, while Wavy leaf Purple Coneflower has 22 pairs. This doubling creates new species. When such doubling occurs the new species (Wavy leaf Purple Coneflower, in this case) is often much more robust than the "parent" species. Fortunately Wavy leaf Purple Coneflower can be told from Pale Purple Coneflower by its yellow pollen (vs. white in Pale Purple Coneflower). Huge stands of Wavy leaf Purple Coneflower emblazon the roadsides of U. S. Hwy. 62/412 in Fulton and Sharp counties. The species also occurs in adjoining counties. The PLANTS database (visit plants.usda.gov on the internet) lists Wavy leaf Purple Coneflower as occurring in the Arkansas counties of Baxter, Boone, and Stone, as well as 14 Missouri counties.

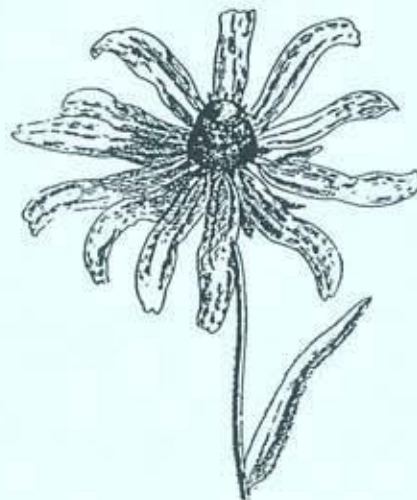
Specimens at the University of Arkansas and the Missouri Botanical Gardens would add several Arkansas counties to the range of Wavy leaf Purple Coneflower.

MacGregor, when he published on the genus back in the 1960s, said a 5 to 10 mile zone of intergradation occurs between the two in the Arkansas and Missouri Ozarks. From collecting experience in Baxter County, the zone is perhaps 30-40 miles wide in that area, with a little *E. pallida* in eastern Baxter County, and (if memory is correct) *E. simulata* occurring in eastern Marion County. Having worked a couple summers in Stone County, I'd say the Salem Plateau is pretty much the range of *E. simulata* in Arkansas. It may occur on the edges of the Springfield Plateau, but (in the areas where I've worked) it's rapidly replaced by *E. pallida*. Wavy leaf Purple Coneflower does indeed occur in northern Boone County too. The plants are, as Edwin B. Smith said, "good biological species, but poor morphological species" as it gets difficult to tell which is which in the overlap zone. If you cross them, you get a sterile plant of $n=33$. But in the zone of overlap, it gets difficult to tell them apart. Of course, Bush's Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea paradoxa* var. *paradoxa*) pops up at selected locations in the same range. Its bright yellow flowers make it immediately distinct from the other two. This variety is another Ozark endemic; that is, like Wavy leaf Purple Coneflower, it is found only in the Ozarks. Another variety of Wavy leaf Purple Coneflower occurs in the Ouachitas of Oklahoma (according to MacGregor and the PLANTS database) and into Texas (PLANTS database).

The Sanguin Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea sanguinea*) hopped across into Miller County from Texas. It grows in sandy roadside soils there. If you want a nice trip in June, visit Mammoth Springs and the surrounding roadsides, and watch for huge displays of Purple. You'll likely be looking

at Wavy leaf Coneflower. Pale purple flowered plants could be (you guessed it) Pale Purple Coneflower. Both species will hang on in fire-suppressed woodlands for a long time in low numbers. Like Bush's Purple Coneflower, they also occur in glades and other naturally open habitats.

A plant finding guide? Pale Purple Coneflower needs no introduction, it's so widespread, and I've given you enough info so you can find Wavy leaf Purple Coneflower along the highway (see above). Bush's Purple Coneflower is harder to find. At least one population grows at a park north of Lead Hill in Marion County. In Baxter County it can be found along the first gravel road a few miles south from Norfolk Dam's Paved road, southeast. It's also in a small prairie patch 1.6 miles due west of Mountain Home, south of the paved road in a very slowly developing subdivision. I'd be excited to relocate the site of a collection from "east of Mtn. Home" with no other specific site information available. This rare species needs protection; so don't dig up Arkansas plants if you find them. It's tracked by the Arkansas State Heritage Commission, and protected and listed on Forest Service lands (hence, no site information is given). Seed are available from a few commercial growers, so contact me if you get desperate and I'll put you in contact with them (hyatt@speedgate.net or Philip E. Hyatt, 211 Burma Road, Pineville, LA 71360).*****



Historical Brief

*The Importance of Being Earnest**

By Carl R. Slaughter

The Asiatic Day Flower, *Commelina communis*, is a flower that has two prominent blue petals and one small white to colorless petal that is inferior to and almost hidden by the shadow of the two erect petals. The story is told that Linnaeus, the father of modern botany, named this flower after three Dutch botanist brothers by the name of Commelyn. Two of the brothers worked hard, published their work and earnestly applied themselves to their tasks. They were compared, by Linnaeus, to the showy blue petals of the Asiatic Day Flower. The third brother, who Linnaeus felt had not earnestly applied himself because he had not published his work, was likened to the small white insignificant petal.

It is terrible to have and not share knowledge.

*"The Importance of Being Earnest" is an 1885 comedy by Oscar Wilde.



Editor's End Notes

Ah, Spring! For ANPS members what can beat a meandering stroll through the woods and across the fields to see nature breaking out of its winter dormancy ablaze with vibrant colors? If you look close you may even see things that have been there for years that you just haven't noticed before. We often equate "belly botany" with liverworts and mosses and other such "low life" but there are some flowering things down there too. Since I am a part of the Arkansas Vascular Flora Project (AVFP) I have taken to going slower and looking more closely on my hikes and I have already found five county records on my own 18 acre patch of fields and woods. Some of those plants have been difficult to identify because of the lack of a good illustrated set of keys for Arkansas. It is the goal of the AVFP to develop such a book and to obtain and maintain a better record of what plants actually exist in Arkansas. I think I can speak for the rest of ANPS and state that we are fully behind the project. If you would like to help consider attending the conference in May or contact any project member to see what you can do.

Thanks again to all those who submit articles for this your newsletter. If you have submitted something and it isn't included look in the next issue -- for postage reasons we limit each newsletter to 5 pages. For those with web access check out your website at www.anps.org. Articles and photos are welcome there too.

ARKANSAS VASCULAR FLORA CONFERENCE

Date: **May 19, 2000**

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Location: Continuing Education Center

University of Arkansas

2 East Center Street

Fayetteville, Arkansas

Pre-registration, required by May 12: General \$10.00; Students \$5.00

SPEAKERS

Ted Barkley Botanical Research Institute of Texas

George Diggs, Jr. Austin College

Tom Foti Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Johnnie Gentry University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Bill Shepherd Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Scott Simon The Nature Conservancy

John Simpson Arkansas Native Plant Society

Gary Tucker FTN Associates

Ron Tyrl Oklahoma State University

George Yatskievych Missouri Department of Conservation & Missouri Botanical Garden

James Zarucchi Missouri Botanical Garden

Mail in the registration form on the following page or contact the Division of Continuing Education at (501) 575-3604 or 1-800-952-1165, about registration and directions.

The Continuing Education Center is located in downtown Fayetteville, about one mile east of campus.

Contact Johnnie Gentry, Moderator, Arkansas Vascular Flora Conference, University of Arkansas Herbarium, University Museum, Fayetteville, AR 72701, telephone (501) 575-4372 or 575-7925, fax (501) 575-8766, about other Conference questions. www.uark.edu/~arkflora

Organized by the Arkansas Vascular Flora Committee

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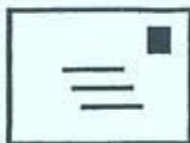
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Please fill in the information form on the opposite side of this page and send it with your renewals, applications for membership, changes of name, address, e-mail address or telephone numbers to the address given on the form: **[Not to the editor.]**

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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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