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Summer
2000



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Newsletter of the Arkansas Native Plant Society

President's Message

On May 19, 2000, ANPS member Dr. Johnnie Gentry hosted a "coming out party" – the official kick-off of the Arkansas Vascular Flora Project. The Flora Project is a compilation of information on all the native vascular species of our state – including confirmed ranges, identification keys, and illustrations and/or photographs of typical plants or specific features of a plant to assist in identification. Over the expected eight to ten years for completion of the project, teams will also be in the field collecting herbarium specimens.

Dr. Gentry has assembled an impressive committee of botanists from colleges and universities across the state and even into Louisiana. On the above date, Dr. Gentry and his committee members heard presentations by other botanists who had worked on similar projects in Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. A "User's Panel" of representatives from the ANPS, Arkansas Nature Conservancy, and the Department of Natural Heritage discussed ideas on how the Flora could be developed for maximal benefit as well as thoughts on what the different user groups could offer as assistance in furthering the program. The final presentation was from botanists at the Missouri Botanical Garden who discussed the massive project directed there – The Vascular Flora of North America. Dr. Gentry closed the day giving a charge to each participant, guest, and observer to tell at least twenty people about the project and what it will mean to us in the future.

I'm pleased to have been asked to represent the ANPS there – and pleased to have been able to report to the committee that we remain committed in spirit to the project and will probably to continue our financial support as our means will allow (not to neglect other worthy applicants for our scholarships and awards). This is a great project to celebrate here on the twentieth anniversary of our founding. More on the Vascular Project will be discussed at the fall meeting late in September at Heber Springs. I hope to see you there.

Happy Summer in Arkansas!
John Simpson

**BOOK YOUR ROOM FOR THE FALL MEETING
NOW WHILE THEY ARE STILL AVAILABLE.**

ANPS FALL MEETING -- HEBER SPRINGS, AR**Friday, September 29**

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. **Registration**, sign up for field trips.

Holiday Inn Express Convention Center

Hwy 25 N, Heber Springs

6:00 p.m. dinner on your own

7:00 until..... **Auction!**

Be sure to bring your donations of plants, seeds, bulbs, books, etc. This is one of our major fund raising projects to support our scholarships/grants.

Saturday, September 30,

9:00 a.m. Meet in the Holiday Inn parking lot for field trips. If you plan to go to the Big Creek Natural Area, you should bring lunch and something to drink. There are two trails at this location, so we will probably not be returning to Heber Springs prior to the dinner hour. The area is primitive and there is limited parking. Expect to see fantastic scenery, exquisite fall colors, and yes even lovely fall flowers.



Other trips will be planned if needed. Please be sure to sign up for the trips when you register.

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

7:30 p.m. **General Meeting**

Meet at the Carl Garner Visitor Center for Greer's Ferry Lake -near dam (Hwy 25 N)
Program to be announced later.

**Sunday, October 1**

9:00 a.m. Meet in the Holiday Inn parking lot for field trips.

Destination to be announced later.

Accommodations

We can get the Convention Center at the Holiday Inn Express free, if we fill twenty rooms. All rooms will be \$49. Please mention the ANPS when reserving your room.

Lodging: Holiday Inn Express

(501) 362-1000 **\$49.00**

3450 Hwy 25 N

Colonial Motor Inn

(501) 362-5846 \$ 54.00/ \$ 29.00

2949 Hwy 25 N

Lake & Riverside Inn

(501) 362-3161 \$ 50.00/\$ 40.00

2322 Hwy 25 N

Restaurants

All of these are located on Highway 25 N.

Circle H Steak House

McPhearsons

Brother's Bar-B-Q

China Delight

Luigis

and fast food (McDonald's etc.....)

Annette Holder is working on a display for the 20th anniversary celebration. If anyone has any anecdotes, pictures, clippings, etc... please send them to her ASAP.

3506 Lakewood Dr.

Jonesboro, AR 72404

e-mail: aholder@nettleton.crsc.k12.ar.us



Fall Field Trip

Saturday, October 21.

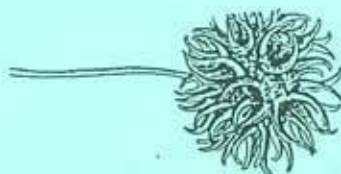
NE Arkansas

Trip to see the *Lindera melissifolia* (pondberry) populations under state management on the Missouri border in northeast Arkansas and adjacent Missouri. We'll see the plant in fruit, observe how it grows in single-sex clones, and learn about conservation strategies of the Natural Heritage Department and the comparable agency in Missouri.

Meet in Success, Arkansas, **11:00 a.m.**, at the intersection of highways 211 and 328, about 10 miles west-northwest of Corning.

Bring your own food and drink.

Contact: Robert Wright 501-771-0717
compubar@aristotle.net



Some Notes on *Iris cristata*

By Carl Amason

One of the most charming woodland flowers in Arkansas is *Iris cristata* and it is unmistakably an Iris though some may mistake it for an orchid of some sort. It seldom comes down on the Coastal Plain but prefers to stay in the rocky Ouachita and Ozark Mountain areas where it is abundant in the moist woodlands adjacent to flowing streams where it doesn't stay flooded but the soil doesn't dry out and there is a consistent source of moisture especially in the growing and blooming season. Its natural range is widespread and is found growing all across the southeast into southeastern Missouri across central Arkansas into eastern Oklahoma. It may be found in acid to neutral soils and it seems to like to live around rocks as long as it never dries out.

In early spring the leaves grown in a typical iris fan shape and the buds emerge from the developing leaves. When it blooms it has three longer sepals (that look like petals) that have darker bluish or purplish markings around the crests where there are white bands that go into yellow where the true purplish or blue petals, which are erect, are found. The sepals have the characteristic crest, which gives it the scientific name of *cristata*, a feature that is unique among the world's species of irises of which only a few have crests; the others only have a contrasting colored stripe or signal which is typical of wetland irises and a bearded feature which is typical of the bearded or German irises which prefer lime or sweet dry soil. Crests are uncommon among irises but are fairly common in nature; especially among birds. Chickens – especially roosters—have a crest on their heads. Another iris feature is the almost succulent petal-like styles that lay upon the sepals and cover the stamens and pistil.

This is one of the more choice wildflowers that grow in America and the European gardeners find *Iris cristata* to be

very accommodating as it does well in cultivation where a low growing perennial is desirable. It grows from rhizomes that radiates in runners that arise from a knot and also has knots where the foliage and flowers grow. It is a desirable rock garden plant and is easily grown from the rooted cuttings when it flowers and is not permitted to dry completely or rot from over-watering.

Its color is one of which some discussions declare it to be blue or purple. Most people declare it to be lilac, or orchid, or some other color that has boot blue and purple pigments. Blue color in nature is not common but when the flower is placed by something blue, it looks purplish and when placed by something purple the color seems bluer; it isn't a spectrum color. However, there is a pure white form with yellow throat markings that is not common in the wild or in cultivation but it is just as easily grown – or almost so. After flowering the foliage continues to grow and can get to ten or maybe twelve inches long but it is usually shorter. It goes dormant during the growing season.

This iris is a delight to see in bloom and in nature. A colony may arise from a single rhizome. There is some variation in size --not much--and color – again not much except the white form. It is commercially available in several slight color variations but all are lovely. To see them in the wild is one of the joys of seeing wildflowers so do not pick the flowers – let them go to seed and hopefully there will always be some wild *Iris cristata*.



SILENE



Some Notes on *Silene Virginiana*

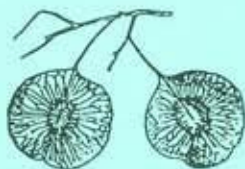
By Carl Amason

There are very few spectrum red flowers that are native to Arkansas and *Silene virginiana* is one of them. It is found in the mountains of central Arkansas, to the east, and to the north into Canada. It is quite hardy but does not come down on the Coastal Plain as a common wildflower, but there are a few scattered occurrences. Where it does grow it is rocky or well drained and often it is found on disturbed areas, especially near roadsides where it is frequently photographed. They grow on the tops of Rich Mountain and Mt. Magazine where they delight early summer visitors. To one most knowledgeable about wildflowers their first encounter with *Silene virginiana* is a feeling of mixed reaction: of delight, belief and disbelief. These late spring red flowers catch even the eyes of men who know little about wildflowers. Some common names include Fire Pink, and Catchfly. Of course red flowers usually incorporate "fire" into common names and pinks are an old English name for members of Caryophyllaceae (Pink Family) that includes carnations or *Dianthus* as well as

Silene. The "pink" name seems to have nothing to do with color.

Silene virginiana, named for the original site of the state of Virginia and *Silene* a name that includes species found across North America, Europe and Asia. It is usually found in light woodlands of deciduous trees and the edges of woods and roadsides where it grows sprawling from a center or 5 or 6 stems up to six inches tall and over a foot across, or from a clump that grows upright over 12 inches tall. The plant blooms for several weeks on the sticky stems (source of the common name catchfly) with bright red petals about 1 ½ to 2 inches long with notched ends, in an arrangement of a rimless spoked circle. As lovely as they are some flowers are badly affected with a mold whereas nearby flowers are not affected. They grow from a fairly short-lived perennial root system and maintain their wild populations through seed production. They are easily grown from seed but they also seem to be selective in where they grow. In the juvenile and winter growth they make a rosette of leaves that are widest at the ends and on the stems are always opposite. In or out of bloom it is a very distinctive wildflower but the red flowers are a delight to see. Perhaps they are a favorite of hummingbirds but hummingbirds seem to prefer other red flowers greater.

Among Arkansas wildflowers there are several other *Silene* species mostly white with a few other established red exotic species. It is well represented in the flora of the Southeast but some of them do not cross the Mississippi River. As a surprise to many the exotic *Saponaria officinalis* (Bouncing Bet) and the many chickweeds are also related genera.



Haynesville Louisiana Celebration of Butterflies

The second annual Haynesville Celebration of Butterflies will be in Haynesville on September 16-18, 2000 at the Claiborne Parish Fairgrounds. The admission of \$3 for adults and \$2 for ages 5-18 is good for both days. Dr. Gary Noel Ross will be an active consultant and lecturer. Haynesville is about 30 minutes due south of Magnolia, Arkansas and is located just over the state border. There will be birding field trips, programs on gardening for butterflies, both the caterpillar stage and of course the adult stage which is enjoyed by almost everyone. There will be field trips to see butterflies in their natural elements and there will be a butterfly conservatory that is an enclosure of netting with many living species of butterflies and many blooming plants for nectar sources. There will be an emphasis on the conservation of butterflies and the cultivation of food plants for the homeowner or butterfly enthusiasts to consider bringing these winged beauties up close. There is a lot of symbolism, mythology, spirituality and magic to these special insects. There will be flower walks with special mention of the needs of the caterpillar and adult stages.

Jessie and Richard Johnson of Caroline Dorman Nature Preserve will also have a program, as will insect collectors with their collections. There is so much to know about butterflies and their needs that this celebration has been described as a classroom for learning about nature. There will be plenty of food vendors, arts and crafts, and of course plants. The festival is sponsored by several educational agencies in Louisiana and Arkansas. For more information contact Mrs. Loice Kendrick, 1937 Bailey Avenue Haynesville, LA 71038, or e-mail at loicekendrick@excite.com



A COUNTRY HARVEST OF HERBS

Join the Herbin' League in the BARN for a full day workshop sponsored by PINNACLE VISTA LODGE
Saturday, Sept. 30, 2000 8:30 - 3:00
featuring:

SUSAN BELSINGER co-author of 12 cookbooks; food writer and photographer whose articles and photos have appeared in many national magazines.

You've seen her on Good Morning America.-- now come and meet her in person - buy a book and get it autographed!

THE HERBIN' LEAGUE Arkansas' favorite herbal duo - Marion Spear and Tina Marie Wilcox - return to Little Rock for more cookin' & singin'.... they may bring the "granny women" too. Whether these two are making music, gardens, or herbal accessories, FUN IS WHAT THEY ARE!

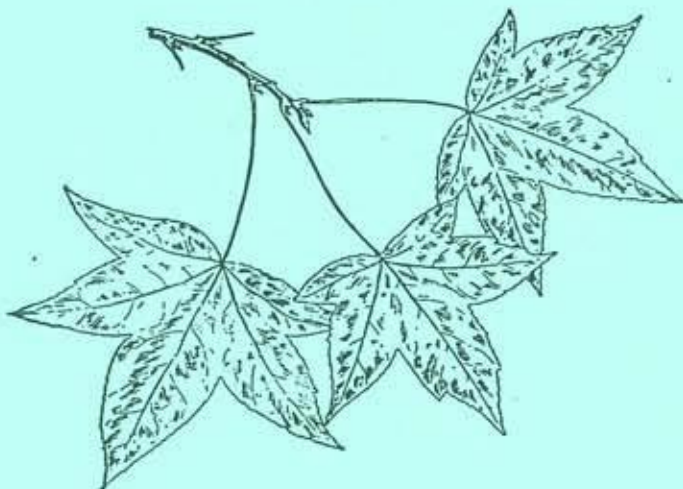
SCHEDULE *****

8:30 - 9:00 Continental Breakfast
9:00 - Noon Hands on Workshop
Noon - 1:30 Lunch, herbal shopping and tour of grounds
1:30 - 3:00 Hands on Workshop
Participants will be rolling in dough and stuffed with useful information about pasta... plus all aspects of growing and using culinary herbs. The afternoon will be filled with fragrant oils derived from beneficial plants
\$50.00 per person.....

LIMITED SPACE

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or charge to your Visa or Mastercard



Editor's Ramblin' Notes

As I write this at the height of summer I am sitting in our bay window overlooking what looks like a late fall wood lot. The oaks, hickories, black gums and wild black cherries are yellow or brown and have lost a high percentage of their foliage. If you can stand to walk out there in the 100° F plus temperatures the grass crackles under your feet. I am about to become depressed! Can you get cabin fever in the summer? I am definitely ready for the rains and the cooler temperatures of fall!

Searcy has finished another section of the bike/hike trail that makes a big loop around town and I am really anxious to try it out. I am also ready to take my students on a field trip but not with heat indexes in the danger range.

Before school started we made an extended road trip to New England. All of the northeast states seemed to have had a cool wet summer and it was lush green. The summer wildflowers were abundant and it seems like the New Englanders seemed to be trying to outdo one another with their personal flower gardens. All the towns and villages seemed to be ablaze with color. I think we are finally catching up with the Europeans in our appreciation of what flowers can do for the landscape.

We took US 20 from Boston to Tanglewood instead of the Mass Pike and took our time to "smell the roses" and visit a few antique shops along the way. It was truly a delight. It was also refreshing to have to pull the blankets up around us to keep warm while we watched and listened to Van Cliburn and the Boston Symphony out under the stars on the beautiful grounds of Tanglewood.

From Tanglewood in the Berkshires we went up through some of the verdant Green Mountains of Vermont – wow, is that ever a multiple redundant statement. From there we drove up through the White Mountains of New Hampshire. They weren't white -- but

come winter they definitely will be. We really lucked out because it was one of those few crystal clear, low humidity, days that are rare in summer and you could even see the top of Mt. Washington the tallest mountain in the northeast. Walking the trails you knew you weren't in Arkansas even with your eyes shut due to that unique wonderful aroma wafting from the balsam firs.

From there we took a leisurely drive across Maine to Acadia National Park. Going to Newport, RI to see the Breakers and some other architectural gems and to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston to see the Van Gogh exhibit was my wife's request for the trip. Going to the concert at Tanglewood was my daughter's request. Going to the mountains was my request but going to Acadia was on the each of our lists. It is a wonderfully diverse place with mountains, rocky and sandy ocean shores, quiet lakes, and trails that run the gamut of strenuousness. Along with the diversity of habitats comes a diversity of animal and plant life. I am truly thankful to our national park system for preserving this and other gems of nature.

All good things must come to an end and it was back to Arkansas. Pennsylvania's interstate mediums were aburst with poppies and other wildflowers. Ohio's dull flat topography between Columbus and Cincinnati was enlivened with roadside plantings of giant sunflowers. I didn't see much of significance after that except the inside of my eyelids.

When we got home it was 106 not including the heat index. And after almost three weeks of 70-degree weather it was like walking into a giant oven when we got out of the car -- and it hasn't cooled down much since.

Hopefully it will have cooled down by the end of September for our annual fall meeting. I am ready to get out and see the wonders of Arkansas. The Big Creek area is not as spectacular as Acadia but it has its

own beautiful bluffs and meandering creek and unlike Acadia there won't be thousands of people around. You might even luck out like Robert Wright and I did the last time the ANPS met at Heber Springs (can it be 20 years?) and be so intent at looking at things that you get left behind at Big Creek Natural Area without a vehicle.



SEARCHING FOR DWARF SPIDERWORT

By John Pelton

The search for *Tradescantia longipes*, Dwarf Spiderwort has been centered in the Ouachita Mountain area, primarily because Dr. Ed Smith's Atlas of Arkansas Flora reported Montgomery County as a location for it.

The search was rewarded by finding a small group around some cedar trees at Fulton Glade in 1999, in northern Montgomery County. Later in 1999 Frances and I were taking a short three-day vacation in the western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma Ouachita Mountains. We like to leave Saline County via Winona Scenic Auto tour on Forest Road 132 and across scenic Highway 7 onto Forest Road 11, then follow 11 through northern Garland County into Yell County and then south on Highway 27 to Mt. Ida. I noticed some *Tradescantia* species along Forest Road 11, but they were beyond certain identification so the search began the last week of March 2000.

Rae McKim had reported at our Ferndale 4H Center workshop that there were

probably *Tradescantia longipes* on their place at Crystal Hill Community three miles west of Ouachita on Highway 88.

The search was coming together in an area from Fulton Glade, northwest of Mt. Ida to the Cedar Fouch Recreation Area just west of Navy Landing on Lake Ouachita.

I found good populations at the following sites: Mazarn Shale Glades, Highway 11 between Highway 7 and 27.

There were hundreds of plants at these sites: Cedar Fouch Recreation Area on Lake Ouachita, Fulton Glade area, a wooded slope on the Irons Fork Recreation Area road, Rae McKim's yard and pasture.

Fulton Glade is the west end of the area surveyed. The *T. longipes* was near populations of *Tradescantia hirsuticaulis* and *Tradescantia ohioensis*. Cedar Fouch Recreation Area in Garland County is the eastern end of the surveyed area. The *T. longipes* population was mixed with a few *T. hirsuticaulis*, which I had also found on Cedar Fouch Road on the way to the recreation area.

Summary: The parameters seem to be at the ends of Mazarn shale outcrops in Montgomery, Garland and Yell Counties centered in the Iron Fork and Ouachita River and Lake drainage, and from Fulton Glade to Cedar Fouch Recreation Area.

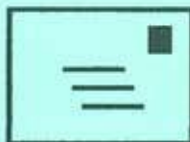
The other county Dr. Smith reports *T. longipes* is Pope County.

Dr. Tucker suggested I check out a *T. hirsuticaulis* area north of I-40 between Highway 7 and Highway 333 north from London.

There is a large sandstone outcrop which we can assume are northern parameters for *T. hirsuticaulis* in Arkansas. There is a very healthy population of *T. hirsuticaulis* on this area, but I didn't find *T. longipes*.

So three weeks of searching has resulted in at least pinpointing known and available sites where we can visit from the last week of March through April to see an Arkansas population of Dwarf Spiderwort.

The Golden Ocean - Patrick O'Brian



800-123-5663
Wiley Haller

1999-2000 ANPS OFFICERS

Please check your mailing label!
If your mailing label has a 99 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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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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