



CLAYTONIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARKANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Winter 1998/1999

Vol. 19 No. 4

Winter and Spring Field Trips

Feb.27 ** Saline County. Expect harbinger of spring and other "early birds".
Meet at Owensville Baptist Church on Highway 5 (between Hot Springs and Benton) at 1:00PM.

March 13 ** Calion - Meet at Carl Amason's for early spring outing.

Directions: Those coming from the north, Follow US 167 when the concrete of the river bridge (Ouachita River) changes to blacktop go 0.9 mile to the intersection of Calion's Main Street which does not go across 167, turn left and then go 0.5 mile cross the old railroad ramp, turn right onto Hoover Street between two cyclone fences, go one block, STOP sign, turn right on Ward Street which curves and crosses the end of Calion Lake, go 0.5 mile when Ward becomes a county road, then 0.8 mile to Carl's place on the right. There are no house on the left but three houses on the right. From El Dorado, go 2.5 miles past AR 335 to Calion's Main Street. There is a small closed brick building on the north side of the intersection, only woods on south side
Meet at 9:00 AM.

March 20 ** The Ouachita's. Day trip .

It is recommend that you bring waders for shallow creek crossing.

Meet at Harvest Food at corner of Malvern Ave. and Grand Ave. in Hot Springs at 10:00 AM.
Expect Ozark trillium and round-lobed hepatica and much more

April 3 ** Calion - Duex See what's new. Meet at Carl Amason's at 9:00 AM see directions above.

April 10 ** Saline County etc.

Start with inventory project for large ladies' slippers in Saline County then onto Garland and Montgomery Counties to include Buttermilk Springs and it's exciting plants.

Meet at the old deserted Colonial Nursing Home on Highway 5 (between Hot Springs and Benton) at 10:00 AM.

May 1 ** Mount Magazine

Outing to be led by our orchid specialist Dr. Carl Slaughter(expect showy orchis and much more!)
Meet at the Greenfield use area on top of the mountain at 10:00 AM

May 15 ** West Arkansas

Outing to be led by Bruce and Lana Ewing. Will feature the Cossatot State Park.
Meet at the parking lot on west side of bridge over the Cossatot River on Highway 4 at 10:00 AM.

**MARK
YOUR
CALENDARS**



**May 21-23
SPRING MEETING
GRANDVIEW PRAIRIE near HOPE**

FIELD TRIP REPORT
CALION, ARKANSAS
24 OCTOBER 1998
by Carl Amason

The effect of the long warm dry summer was evident by the show of late flowers; there were precious few and far between. In spite of cooler and more pleasant weather, the dry effect prevailed on our Saturday field trip. An outstanding attendee was Dr. Johnnie Gentry of Fayetteville, Arkansas who is replacing Dr. Edwin B. Smith at the University of Arkansas. Dr. Gentry is a very much trained advanced botanist but appreciates all forms of plant life and as such his work in Arkansas will be far ranging and there should be more additions to the *Flora of Arkansas* as published by Smith. Two plants growing here on the place that were shown to Dr. Gentry were the hardly showy *Acanthospermum australe*, a plant that is becoming rare in past years, that doesn't belong in North America but in Paraguay, South America, and *Micranthemum umbrosum*. This little field trip occurred before the crowd arrived but specimens of both species were collected.

Bob and Sandra Gamble came early and always contribute remarks that add to the field trip. Mary and John Macchietto arrived from Hot Springs, Chris Doffitt, an advanced student of Dr. Dale Thomas, came from Monroe, Louisiana and then some of the Camden delegation began to arrive; Will Daniel, followed later by his mother and sister Kathy and Kate Daniel, Glenda Jones and Jason Anders, all of which completed our group.

And away we went, mostly along the mowed roadside where a few surviving



mowed plants had ventured to put up some flowering stems in spite of dry conditions. Seen and compared where *Helianthus angustifolius* and *Bidens aristosa*, both yellow composites that bloom in late summer and early fall. A common name of the *Helianthus* is narrow-leaved sunflower (an exact translation of the Latin scientific name) and it is one of the loveliest yellow flowers of the season. It has dark fertile center flowers surrounded by infertile ray flowers. The *Bidens* is known as showy Spanish needle or tickseed sunflower – the common name given in Smith's atlas or most often as ditch daisy. It blooms in late summer (late August or early September) and in moist rainfall season, entire roadsides are in bloom -- if the road mowing crews don't mow them down. It is a true type of daisy so it closes up at night time. It also has infertile ray flowers that surround a yellowish cluster of fertile flowers that produce the pronged seeds of the Spanish needle. It is an annual and grows in sunny moist ditches and is a good bee plant as well as a butterfly attractant. The narrow-leaved sunflower is a short lived perennial and is very worthy of garden conditions.

[continued on next page]

Others blooming were: *Gaillardia aestivalis* var *flavovirens* the perennial yellow blanket flower which is common on dry roadsides ; *Liatris elegans* the white flowered blazing star that has lavender bracts , giving a light purple or lavender flowering effect; and the common acid soil loving *Lobelia purperula*.

As we approached the roadside sight of the *Acanthospermum* I insisted to Chris Doffitt to take a twig of one of the plants for a herbarium specimen for Northeastern Louisiana University but first tell Dr Thomas that he "found it somewhere near Monroe". It took only a question or two and Dr. Thomas was onto the conspiracy.

Later, of all the hollies on the place only *Ilex decidua* var *longipes* or *Ilex longipes* had red fruit and only one seven foot shrub had about five of them, on long pedicles that superficially made them look like small cherries. The field trip was a mixture of fellowship, a learning experience, a lesson in appreciation of the wildflowers and hopefully , what can be done with a few seeds and how to grow some wildflowers without digging them up from their natural location.



TV WORTH WATCHING

We have two TV's in our house but they are rarely turned on except for the news. I did get somewhat bored one evening when I ran out of reading material and tests to grade - that in itself is a rare event. Anyway, I was giving the remote a little workout between the four stations that we get fairly well and happened to catch the tail end of a video on AETN which had ANPS members Mina Marsh and Bill Shepherd in it. What part I saw was excellent. I was going to contact the station to see if they were going to show it again when Bill e-mailed me the information below. You will want to see this program!!!

If you missed the first broadcast of the video *Arkansas' Natural Heritage* or want to see it again it is going to be broadcast on AETN at 7PM on Thursday, February 25, and at the same time on March 25.



**SOME NOTES ON
Cynoglossum virginianum,
by Carl Amason**

A fairly common and distinct wildflower of the eastern United States is *Cynoglossum virginianum* which is found in the woodlands as far west as Missouri, eastern Oklahoma and eastern Texas back across to northern Florida and up into the Northeastern states. It is named for the state of Virginia where it was probably first found by scientists of their day. Interestingly the name is from the Greek and has been translated into dog's or hound's tongue the latter of which is one of its common names. Other common names are wild comfrey or wild forget-me-not or some combination of for-get-me not as all these plants are in the Borage family, a family known for useful home remedies, dyes, and garden plants. But our native subject is sometimes described as weedy, or little known, or often just ignored. There seems to be no published use of the plant except it is a pleasing wildflower when seen.

It doesn't seem to be demanding in its soil type, only well drained woods. In Arkansas, it is found in all of the state except on the Delta or Grand Prairie but is known all of the length of Crowley's Ridge. *Cynoglossum virginianaum* plants are perennials, coming up from the forest litter before the deciduous trees

leaf into shade. It quickly develops a rosette of radiating leaves, up to at least a foot long and several inches wide. The leaves are fuzzy medium green and from the middle arises a stem which has smaller leaves and has a cyme of buds that open in a spiral pattern of several small steely blue flowers (about the same color as some of the Amsonia species). The flowers open into five petaled corollas, perhaps a half inch across, about twelve to twenty-four inches above the ground. Only four to five flowers are opened at a time but the blooming period lasts for a few weeks and the seeds quickly develop into little burrs that will get onto trousers, socks, and dog fur. These burrs are not an uncomfortable or painful thing nor are they numerous enough to be a real nuisance. In fact, seeing the plant in bloom is one of the pleasures of woodland strolls. Growing the seeds to flowering plants is a challenge to the casual grower because the seeds are erratic in germinating and as a perennial several years are needed for flowering plants to develop, and the plants go dormant in summer.

Since it is not one of the more flashy wildflowers, its modesty keeps it from being well known in spite of its charm. Many people have never seen the plant and unfortunately some people don't know that it exists. It is a wonderful plant to grow in a wildflower woodlands where the ground is on a slope. It is easily grown as it maintains itself and it comes up year after year, giving its flowers as a pleasing tribute but in looking at established plants there seems to be very little establishment of seedlings. It is apparently free from diseases and insects and doesn't seem to suffer from the browsing of white-tail deer. Apparently it will outlive the person who grows it from seed and sees it bloom.



SPECIAL FOREST PRODUCTS AND YOU BY WAYNE OWEN

What are they? Special Forest Products (SFPs) are known by many names. From the Forest Service's perspective, they are those things you might take from the woods that are not part of their well established programs. Special Forest Products do not include things like timber, firewood, Christmas trees, rocks or minerals, or forage for livestock. SFPs are things like berries, moss, pinecones, medicinal herbs, grapevines, live plants, herbarium specimens, and just about anything else that comes from plants.

The collection of SFPs for private use and commercial resale is increasing dramatically and national forest lands are being especially hard-hit. We've all seen the proliferation of herbal health supplements and a trip to your favorite craft store will highlight the popularity and range of SFPs available to the consumer. On the down side of the SFP issue, just about everybody has seen a

favorite patch of coneflowers disappear, an old patch of lady-slipper orchids eradicated, a hidden moss bed laden with partridge berry stripped, or a seep full of cinnamon ferns devastated. The Forest Service, in order to devise means of assuring the future survival of all those species that fall into the SFP category, has embarked on a process to assess who uses SFPs and how they use them.

The Forest Service realizes that there is rarely any harm in a family going out to pick dewberries for jam, collecting a few pine cones for a holiday wreath, or picking up a decorative piece of heartwood for a home garden. These, and other, low-intensity, private uses are part of a great tradition and an important avenue by which we experience the natural world and pass our traditions and values along to our children. The Forest Service is more concerned about people who remove quantities of SFP for private profit. It is important that any such removal be done in a way that is ecologically sustainable and not injurious to the health of the forest. The Forest Service is not necessarily opposed to the commercial extraction of SFPs. Conversely, there is no guarantee that it will allow such collections. If it does, there are several issues to resolve. Chief among those issues is the cost of a SFP program. When the Forest Service sells timber, the timber purchaser pays for the preparation of the timber sale; the environmental analysis before hand and the clean-up after the sale. If the Forest Service decides to allow the collection of Special Forest Products, someone is going to have to pay for the administration of the permit process. The options are that either you pay for it via your tax

dollars, or that the people making money from SFPs pay for it.

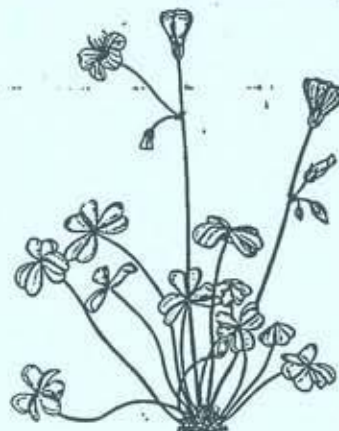
This issue of Claytonia contains a SFP survey. Please take the time to fill it out and return it. Your anonymity is assured. Remember that the Forest Service's SFP policy, what ever it ends up being, will apply only to national forest lands. This is your best chance to tell the Forest Service what you think. All options are currently being considered so your input will help frame the issues in a way consistent with the goals of the Arkansas Native Plant Society.

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OXALIS VIOLACEAE
OR VIOLET WOOD SORREL
BY CARL AMASON

The genus oxalis is found in one form or another all over the world where some kind of flowering plants are growing wild. This excludes the polar regions but includes temperate, semi-temperate, and tropical areas wherein are woods, plains, mountains, deserts, and places with heavy rains. Many are weedy, some are sources of food and some are beautiful to see and have become horticultural subjects. In Arkansas, of the five or so species that are considered part of the flora, most are fibrous rooted yellow flowered weeds, one is an escaped exotic cultivated plant (*Oxalis rubra*) from South America, and one is a bulbous glabrous plant found statewide in almost all types of soil and situations except in flooded river plains. This is *Oxalis violaceae* or violet wood sorrel. The true sorrels are *Rumex*, a broad leafed perennial or sometimes

annuals with a sour lemony flavor, the only thing that can be classed as common with the wood-sorrels. There is not a one of us as children who has plucked a leaf or stem of wood sorrel and gently sampled the pleasantly sour-lemon flavor. Such is the trademark flavor of oxalic acid in dilute or salt form but beware of pure oxalic acid! *Oxalis violacea* is a common woodland bulb of perennial status. It is found in sunny and shady spots, really never invasive in nature, and each tiny bulb sends up several triparted leaflets at the end of a petiole from one to five inches tall. The leaves frequently have some maroon markings or design and the pinkish purple flowers are borne on leafless scapes about the same height but several five petaled flowers can be in bloom or bud on the tip of the scapes. Blooming lasts several days of the early to mid spring season and when there is a clump of leaves or flowers, the clump is a beautiful sight. And such beauty is appreciated even by unlearned men, who frequently pluck a leaf and sample it. And such beauty is frequently brought into cultivation, especially in rock gardens where the small size of the flowering plant is extraordinarily admired in such surroundings. In the garden, like in the woods or sunny edges, it is not a problem of getting out of bounds. While some species of *Oxalis* or its family relatives are used for food, this is one admired for its beauty, only too fleeting. It has no insect enemies or diseases and survives in woods or gardens for years.

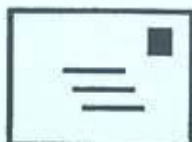


In Searcy the claytonias have been blooming for weeks and the white and blue bluets are now coloring the lawn. The butter-yellow daffodils are trumpeting that spring is not that far off. If you have something you would like included in the spring *Claytonia* please get the information to me as soon as you can. It really helps to be able to do a little at a time. Sending your info by e-mail is the most convenient for me but snail mail is fine if your not hooked on to the web yet. I want to give special thanks to Carl Amason. He always comes through with articles of interest. .



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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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