

CLAYTONIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARKANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Fall 1997

Vol. 18, No. 3



From the Presidents Desk

Welcome Don Crank as new President, Don will become President at the Fall meeting.

Our members reaching out to others will be one way to accomplish many of our goals in the mission of our Society for now and for the future. Example: One of our members from the Fayetteville area intends to give memberships to the Ozark Chapter as gifts to people who would enjoy being with this group. I really believe contacting our Natural Science teachers and sharing with them will, in fact, reach many young people who are inclined to study our native flora. Electing a publicity chairman at our fall meeting will also give us contacts with interested people all across the state. Steven and Cathy Marik are working up a page for the computer network. Everything we do from inviting someone to joining you on a field trip to giving local groups slide shows and giving interested people an invitation to join chapters and the state society will help people feel welcome.

We will need to suspend the five-year limit on the executive board to allow us to elect Dr. Sundell as our Membership Chairperson for a four-year term. Dr. Sundell has committed to serve if elected. As you know, Dr. Sundell has been an elected Executive Board member for several years as the chairperson of the Scholarship and Awards Committee.

I know many of our members have interesting experiences you can share with us. This might be the only way other members could get to know you and your experience. So take a few minutes and write up a report to Ron Doran our newsletter editor.

Thanks to all. Special thanks to the executive Board for 1997.

John Pelton , 1997 President

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Fall Meeting September 26-28, 1997

Riverwood Inn,
Highway 70 East
Glenwood, AR

Registration Friday
4:00-6:00 P.M.

The program is ready; the meeting room appears to be outstanding and Carl Amason is standing with his gavel poised, anticipating the Friday night auction. Beautiful areas (Winding Staircase, Collier Springs, Crystal Recreation Area, Camp Albert Pike, Little Missouri Falls, Buttermilk Springs, Caddo River, i.e.) await us. The field trip leaders (who so graciously will volunteer, I'm sure) will have flora, flora, flora to describe. The final winners of the areas that get to receive us will be announced Friday evening. At the encouragement of Dick Spears, Wellborn Jack, Jr. has agreed to be our speaker for Saturday night and will speak on "Wilderness Values in the Ouachita Mountains of Southwestern Arkansas."

Glenwood is having a festival (Sawmill Days and some craft shows, I understand) the same weekend as our meeting. Therefore, call and make your reservations as soon as you can do so. Twenty rooms have been reserved at the Riverwood Inn (1-800-829-4666) and these rooms will be held until September 20. Be certain to mention you are with ANPS when you call for reservations, or you may be told that no accommodations are available. The Riverwood Inn has a total of 26 rooms. If

ANPS members rent the 20 rooms that they are holding we will not have to pay the \$80 rental on our meeting room. Prices are \$45.95 for two and \$51.95 for a double. A continental breakfast is included. Please call them soon and make your reservation.

Other area accommodations:

Ouachita Mountain Inn (1-800-340-3205) 20 rooms, \$36 for one person \$51 for four. \$57 with Jacuzzi.

Lux Motel (1-870-356-3151) 10 rooms, single costs \$28 with \$4 for each additional person.

Caddo River Motel (1-870-356-3688) Single rooms for \$32.74, to cabins that sleep eight for \$74.21.

All listed motels are situated on U.S. 70 in Glenwood and are easy to find.

Camping can be found at Roving Ramblers in Bonnerdale and other facilities. Of course, the area lakes, parks, and forests have camping.

Schedule.

Friday, September 26

Registration.....4:00-6:00
Executive board meeting5:00
Dinner (On your own)
Meeting.....7:30
General Information followed by the famous Amason Auction.

Saturday, September 27

Morning field trips.....8:30
If you are interested in a floating field trip on the Caddo River contact Don Crank as soon as possible. P.O. Box 20116, Hot Springs, AR 71903
or call Don at (501)262-1571.

Afternoon field trips.....1:30
Dinner
Meeting.....7:30
Business meeting followed by speaker.

Sunday, September 28

Morning field trip.....8:30

And now some information about Mr. Jack. He will "share with others how over the last 40 years my experience of the earth and its community of life, there in those little mountains, has helped me understand what Thoreau had in mind when he wrote "In Wildness is the Preservation of the World." Mr. Jack is an "avid hiker, backpacker, canoeist, birder, plant and tree identifier and admirer (never met one I truly disliked)". Since the mid 60's, he has hiked the Ouachita Mountains, shared experiences with Aileen McWilliams, Alvis Owens, Russel Harper, Dick and Margeva, and others. Mr. Jack, Attorney-at-Law, has been active (professionally) in environmental issues. His professional credentials are too numerous to mention in this letter but will be provided at the meeting.

Bring your auction items, boots, walking staff, listening ear, and enthusiasm to Glenwood.

Thanks, Don Crank

Rare Find 🍷

by John Logan
Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

An amazing discovery was made at the spring Native Plant Society meeting when, on a Sunday field trip led by Bob Clearwater --an Arkansas location of *Lesquerella filiformis* was discovered. [Ed. Note - see page 5 for more details of that trip.] The sharp eyes of Bill Summers, of the Missouri Botanical Garden and an Arkansas Native Plant Society member, was the first to spy this unusual member of the mustard family. Commonly known as Missouri bladderpod, this species is identified by its yellow mustard flowers and

spherical, bladder-like seed pods. A Federally listed endangered species, this winter annual was previously known only from four counties in Missouri and one from a herbarium specimen from Washington county, Arkansas.

Missouri bladderpod is found on somewhat disturbed limestone glades. The new Arkansas location is an abandoned limestone quarry where Bob Clearwater had previously located celestial lily, *Nemastylis geminiflora*. Additional Missouri bladderpod was found in nearby pasture and along the highway. The total population probably numbers tens of thousands of plants. Other associated species include *Croton wildonowei*, *Astragalus distortus*, *Sedum pulchellum*, *Camassia scilloides*, *Comandra richardsiana*, *Quercus stellata*, *Q. muhlenbergia*, *Celtis tenuifolia*, and *Juniperus virginiana*.

Several plant society members took pictures of the bladderpod, celestial lily, and other species at the location..



Fall Field Trips

October 4, Grassy Lake,

Hempstead County

Meeting time: 9:30

Meet at the intersection of Highways US67 and ARK355 in Fulton, AR. Joe will need an exact head count. If you plan to attend, please contact him at least one week prior to the field trip date. See a unique virgin swamp, 4-500 year old cypress, alligators, waterfowl, eagles nests and more.

Leader: Joe Stuckey (870)779-1155.

October 18, The Grand Prairie

Meeting time: 9:30

Meet at Stuttgart High School which is on the south side of town on highway 79b Roth Prairie Natural Area - if it has been burned we'll try to schedule a replacement. Call for late changes.

Striplin Woods Natural area - Mature to old-growth forest on the slope from the Grand Prairie terrace to the White River bottoms. On the White River Refuge near St. Charles.

Arkansas Post Museum (not Arkansas Post National Memorial, but on the same road near Gillett) - the beginnings of prairie restoration at the museum. This will be just looking, but maybe you'll be interested in helping.

Trip leader Tom Foti. (501)324-9761

October 25, Franklin County Prairies

Meeting time: 9:30

Meet at the Charleston, AR, Post Office H.E. Flanagan Prairie Natural Area - a fine example of a tall grass prairie, and Cherokee Prairie Natural Area which covers 566 acres and has never been plowed and retains a full complement of native prairie grasses and wildflowers.

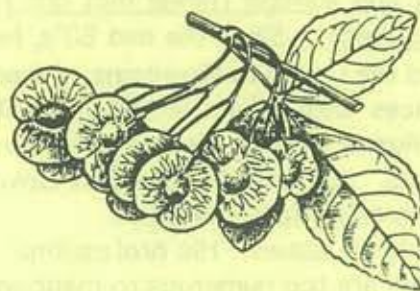
Contact: Don Crank (501)262-1571.

November 1, Calion, AR

Meeting time :9:30

Meet at Carl Amason's house. Take Highway 67 to Calion, turn at Staples Store go to County Road 44 (about 0.5 miles) turn right and go south about 1.25 miles to his house. Bring lunch and a drink. Carl always has something interesting to show and tell. He says he will have soapwort gentian among others.

Leader Carl Amason: (870) 748-2362



A Note from the President Elect Don Crank

We have an opportunity to be of some assistance to the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. If you live near one of the Natural Areas, would you be willing to "adopt" and visit the Area once a month for a year? Although some of us are not experts in plant identification, we can be of assistance in other ways. A simple reporting system can be devised for us to communicate our findings to the ANHC. This is not an official project of the ANPS, but perhaps it could be. Will you please let me know if you are willing to participate? I will have maps showing the locations of the Natural Areas available at the fall meeting. My telephone number (recording) is (501) 623-1035, residence (501)262-1571, e-mail dcrank@hsnp.com and snail mail, P.O. Box 20116, Hot Springs, AR 71903

Field Trip Reports

Near Hardy, Arkansas,
Sunday, April 20th, 1997
Spring Meeting
by Bob Clearwater field trip leader.

When I arrived at the church parking lot there were more people waiting to go than I had expected. Looking overhead at the nearly complete cloud cover, I mentioned to the 21 ANPS members that with the chill in the air and cloud cover we might have to look for other plant species until there was a climatic change to sunny and warm. Celestial lilies were the focus plant for the Sunday A.M. field trip, and they must have sunny skies to flower.

In thirty minutes we were at the site and surely enough, the Celestials were in full blue bud just waiting for the sun to pop out. We all ambled around the easement area and quarry area finding orange puccoon, green milkplant, Carolina anemones, Drummond's skullcaps, sandworts, woodland oxalis, rose verbena, buttercup spp., a mustard plant - identified as *Leavenworthia uniflora*. Some were checking out the widow cross plants as we all suddenly noticed that the sun had come out. As I was explaining flowering peculiarity of the celestial lilies to a couple, someone shouted to me, "Bob, we have a plant never before recorded in Arkansas!" We walked over to the spot where several had now congregated and looked down on some petite yellow flowering plants. Why they're bladderpods, I thought.

I don't know if it was Annete Holder or Oralee Price who first took serious note of the bladderpods. Bud lucky for all of us, that Bill Summers, a member who had come down to the Spring Meeting as the Pelton's guest, was with us for he immediately identified the flowering plants as Missouri bladderpods, *Lesquerella filiformis*.

Fortunately, John Logan was with us, and he was the one who mentioned that it was a new plant species for Arkansas. He collected a voucher specimen to take to the Natural

Heritage office for recording. Since there were over 20 persons on the trip and guess everyone did take special notice of the bladderpods, then one might say we were all co-discoverers of *Lesquerella filiformis*. If you would like to see it next April, please write to me or phone for directions.

P.S. Since writing the above, I have been informed by John Logan that DR. Ed Smith has a single record of a Missouri bladderpod from the Beaver Lake area near the Missouri border in the northwest corner of Arkansas.

[Ed. note.. See page 3 for additional information concerning the bladderpod discovery.]

Warren Prairie, May 24, 1997
by Eric Sundell field trip leader.

What a wonderful trip we had on Warren Prairie on a rainy Saturday morning! The original destination, Zach McClendon's hardwood bottoms and hunting camp, was canceled (like an upper level botany course) from low enrollment. We were an elite group --- three women joined me, a contingent from the Happy Hikers of Little Rock: Cynthia Crawford (a librarian at SEARK Technical College) and Debbie Miller (currently studying technical writing at ULAR) of Pine Bluff and Jeanne Whitsell (who teaches reading in the Little Rock public schools) of Little Rock. And I believe that the prairie put on such a show that they will be back for more.

We found two hours of cool and rainless weather from 10 till noon between the heavy showers. The glades were sparkling and, after a wet spring, lush and beautifully textured with grasses, sedges, and rushes, the setting for a rich variety of things in bloom. Of the rare plants, only creeping morning-glory, *Evolvulus sericeus*, was out, with a few little white flowers on the vine like bushes. It's a species of sandy and silty soils, glades and wet woods, from

California to Florida and south to Argentina, and Warren Prairie may be its northernmost outpost. Even at noon it held its charm on such a cool, cloudy day.

More than 400 species of flowering plants have been recorded from the Warren Prairie natural area of some 500 acres on the Drew-Bradley County line. We saw a fair sampling of them. Sundrops (*Oenothera linifolia*) were most abundant and followed us from glade to glade with nits and lice (*Hypericum drummondii*), water-willow (*Justica ovata*), and both forms of the wild onion (bulblets and flowers -- *Allium canadense* vars. *canadense* and *mobilen*). Large blue flowers of the low wild-petunia (*Ruellia humilis*) were mixed among the trailing stems of yellow puffs (*Neptunia lutea*). The first few-like mimosa puffballs of pure yellow were in full bloom and a glorious sight. *Neptunia* is one of three sensitive mimosoid legumes in the state and much the most elegant. We had a good time stroking the smooth plants! Powderpuff (*Mimosa strigillosa*) and be-shame plant or sensitive briar (*Shrankia nuttallii*) are Arkansas' other legumes that respond defensively to the touch of an intruder. Apparently a mechanism against insect predation. Be-shame plant a common roadside weed, is rare on the prairie but we found one plant in bloom tangled up with a yellow puff, perhaps dreaming of intergeneric hybrids and taxonomic monkey-wrenches.

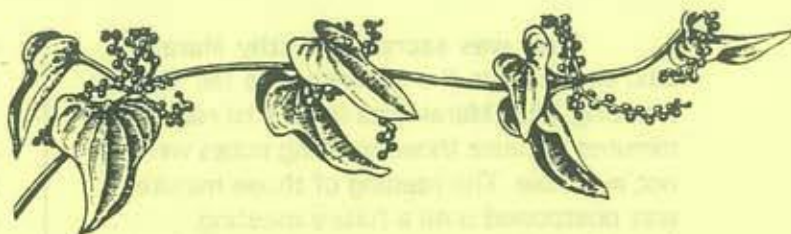
The prize for the showiest plants of the day went to the prickly-pear cacti (*Opuntia compressa*), whose large and glossy yellow flowers were at their peak. Green milkweeds (*Asclepias viridis*) were common and attractive, reclining in the other vegetation, some in bloom, each with a single massive umbel of those interesting yellow-green flowers, and others with fully developed, fat, inflated pods that would soon be drying to release more than a hundred plumed seeds apiece. Delicate white spires of the spring ladies tresses orchids (*Spiranthes vernalis*) were coming into

bloom and the marsh pink was spectacular but not at all abundant: the color is singular at this time of the year on the prairie, and the large pale pink flowers against a green background were as distinct as flares even at a distance. The prairie margins were in color, too. Arrowhead (*Sagittaria papillosa*) and spiderwort (*Tradescantia occidentalis*) bloomed in the marshes, skullcap (*Scutellaria integrifolia*) in the open woods.

The large, undisturbed interior glades of the Warren Prairie preserve are as pristine an environment as the Arkansas Coastal Plain has to offer. Loblolly pine and post oak, farkleberry and winged sumac dominate the mysterious mounds. Dwarf palmetto monopolizes the understory in some of the low woods, just like Florida. Palmetto, chittum wood, and three species of hawthorn (*Crataegus viridis*, *C. marshalli*, and *C. spathulata*, but not *C. opaca* or mayhaw) form small islands of woody vegetation typically among a few dead snags of pine out on the prairie glades. Abundant Carolina ash and buttonbush dominate the marshes. Warren Prairie is a preserve of enormous beauty, interest, mystery, and ecological diversity. A dozen plants are known or recorded in Arkansas only or principally from the site, and a few of those, for instance sawgrass (*Cladium jamaicense*!!!!!!) and white-topped sedge (*Dichromena colorata*, though documented by specimens, have disappeared from the site (and from the state as well).

At present we know of 417 vascular plant species occurring on the prairie 17-18% of the flora of the entire state, including 64 species of grasses, 36 sedges, 57 composites, 12 ferns (Debbie Miller added number 12 with her discovery of adder's tongue, *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, four orchids, two carnivorous plants (we saw sundew preparing to bloom), two parasites, a cactus and a palm! The lichens and bryophytes --reindeer moss and British soldiers, haircap moss and sphagnum-- have never been inventoried.

So come on down to the Coastal Plain and join us on the next Warren Prairie field trip! You might not get to taste *Oxalis violacea*, or smell *Hedeoma hispida*, but if something isn't going on, you get your money back!



Minutes of the Spring Meeting

The meeting was called to order by John Pelton.

Bill Summers from the Missouri Botanical Garden was introduced. He is working on the new Flora of Missouri book. This is a revision on Steyermark and is due out the end of 1997 or the first of 1998. The introductory volume will be on monocots. A second volume will follow. Mr. Summers brought several Orchids of Missouri books that are published by the Department of Conservation in Missouri and offered them for sale at \$5 per book.

President John Pelton opened the meeting. There being no announcements, he made a report of his activities on behalf of the membership. He had been trying to find ways the society can forward education, conservation, and preservation. John Beneke had presented a proposal for a summer intern with the Natural Heritage Commission to the executive board in January but that plan is not feasible at this time. The president met with the Natural Heritage Commission looking for other areas with which to assist. The president and a Natural Heritage Commission representative, Bill Shepherd, went to the forestry commission to look for areas in which the society could be of aid. The forestry commission was asked to help set up controlled burns, for the Nature Conservancy to help manage some natural area. These burns are a tremendous cost to the Nature Conservancy. The executive board has asked that the membership consider a board request to approve \$1000 a year for our conservation programs. These burns will be considered as a way to fulfill

this conservation program. Members are asked to consider if they would vote for this conservation mission. As a small organization we cannot do some of the larger projects we would like unless we join up with larger organizations.

Another area in which we can be of use as a conservation organization is the area of rare species or species of concern. Bill Shepherd distributed a list of species of concern in the state along with copies of forms for reporting sightings of such species, and also explained how to use the forms.

Over \$700 has been given in memorials to members who have died since the last meeting, of which \$225 was designated. Undesignated funds were put in the Delzie Demaree fund because several large awards have been given out of that fund recently.

The president asked that the membership consider a board request to put money from the fall auction into the Delzie Demaree fund for one year.

The president reported that the society was not able to consolidate all memorial funds last spring but we have put them all in one investment account and will keep separate accounting "in house."

The president reminded the society members that the executive committee was intended to be the working committee. January and June board meetings will be used to work on society goals, investigate areas of concern, and review reports of issues affecting the society.

The president then asked for reports from members of the executive committee.

First was secretary Cathy Marak who was to give the report of the fall '96 meeting. Mrs. Marak was unable to read the minutes because those meeting notes were not available. The reading of those minutes was postponed until a future meeting. Next, Don Crank gave a report on the field trips for this spring meeting. Don opened his report with the sentence, "The floaters looked worse when they came out of the water than they did when they went in." Don thanked Dr. Marsh for arranging the float trip. If there is interest and availability there may be a float trip on the Caddo River at the fall meeting.

Don announced a Sunday morning trip to see the celestial lily to be led by Bob Clearwater.

Bob Clearwater gave general directions and set the time for the trip.

A list of field trips for later this spring was discussed. These trips also appeared in the Claytonia.

Don Crank thanked other people who had lead field trips this spring: Jewel Moore, Lou Burra, and Carl Hunter. Don then mentioned people who would lead other trips this spring and early summer. Bruce and Lana Ewing to Black Fork; Eric Sundell to Mississippi bottomlands; Ruth McDonald to Thelson Falls Natural Area for the Red Cockaded Woodpecker; Carl Amason to Calion; Dan Larch to see herons; a trip to the Poteau National Forest.

The fall meeting will be held the last weekend in September (26-28) in Glenwood, Arkansas.

Eric Sundell gave a presentation on scholarships and awards. There were 4 applications for the Delzie Demaree and Aileen McWilliams awards. David McDaniel was awarded a \$1500 Delzie Demaree Scholarship. David is a senior at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

As had been discussed earlier by John Pelton the society will try to award fewer and larger awards. Last year seven awards were given for \$500 each. The executive board felt if fewer and larger

awards were given there would be more competitiveness.

The scholarship committee consists of Don Culwell, Mac Stewart, and Eric Sundell. A new chairman will soon be appointed as Eric is rotating off the committee.

Eric also gave a membership report. The society has slightly over 300 members. The earlier problem with the post office box that was used for renewals has been fixed; however, since Eric is the membership chair please send renewals (and any other membership concerns) to him at UA Monticello. The directory is a little later this year to ensure that people who renew their dues at the spring meeting will be included.

The Conservation Coalition member, Gary Tucker, was unable to attend the meeting.

Ron Doran was unable to attend the general business meeting. He will do 4 issues of Claytonia--2 issues preceding the biannual meetings to deal with issues pertaining to the meeting and two other issues with taxonomical articles, memorials, and other items. Please send these types of articles to Ron Doran.

Jason Anders gave the treasurers report. He expressed his appreciation to Sue Clark, former treasurer for her help. He apologized to anyone who had mail returned because of a mix up at the post office about the P.O. box. Carl Amason moved to approve the treasurer's report. Passed.

Several motions were brought for consideration to the membership from the executive board.

The first motion: To deposit undesignated memorial funds into the Delzie Demaree fund and to suspend the rules for this year so money raised at the fall auction be deposited to further the goals of the Delzie Demaree fund. Seconded by Thera Lou Adams. Passed.

Second motion: Each year the society will give \$1000 to a conservation organization for conservation and

preservation goals. Concerns were raised about which conservation organization should receive money. Carl Slaughter supported the need for burns. Amended by Carl Amason to: Each year the society will give \$1000 (as long as funds are available) to a conservation agency for conservation and preservation goals as long as the society is given credit for it's contribution. Other concerns were that the executive board and not the membership would have the say in what organization or project was supported by the money. The Chair assured the membership that the executive board will follow the wishes of the membership in this matter. Eric Sundell reported that all actions of the executive board are subject to approval by the membership. Each year the board will recommend an agency to give the money to but that choice will have to be approved by the membership. Seconded by Thera Lou Adams. Passed. Third motion: This year the \$1000 should go to the Nature Conservancy for a site in Clark County, AR. Seconded by Mr. Shenegy and others. Passed.

This concluded the business portion of the spring meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Marak



Upcoming Plant Events

Mid-South Native Plant Conference: Using Native Plants in Your Landscape.

Friday, October 24-Sunday, October 26.
Christian Brothers University
Memphis, Tennessee

Registration \$70 until Oct. 1, \$85 if received after that date. Includes Friday's gourmet dinner in the Gardens, snacks, Saturday lunch, and a T-shirt if you register by October 15.

Send checks payable to MSNPC to
MSNPC, LNC
5992 Quince Road
Memphis, TN 38119



Arkansas Native Plant Society Membership Application

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 _____

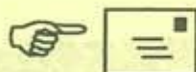
State..... Zip _____

Telephone: _____ - _____ - _____

E-Mail address _____

Please cut and send this form along with any dues to the membership chairman listed on the other side. Thanks..

Arkansas Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 250250
Little Rock, AR 72225



Please check your mailing label.

If your mailing label has a 96 or earlier it is time to renew! Life members have an L.

Please fill in the information on the bottom of page 9 and send with your renewals, applications for membership, changes of name, address, e-mail address or telephone numbers to:

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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.**



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