

CLAYTONIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARKANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY Fall 1996

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Bob Clearwater 

Serving the Society membership for 1996 has been a 'mixed bag.' To have only two Executive Board Meetings, usually in the Jan.-Feb. and July-Aug. time frame and a brief meeting during each general meeting doesn't afford the time for your Board to make much progress. It may be difficult to find a willing member to serve as President for two years, as the treasurer and secretary do, but I feel there is a valid need for our Presidents to serve two years.

Some thoughts to pass on for active support of the members:

1) The Society needs more volunteers to do field trips. If interested contact the President-elect.

2) Why does our Native Plant Society exist? Do we simply maintain a status quo: or, do we make changes for the betterment by giving some new directions for the Society to progress?

3) Do we speak up for the ANPS in our locale? We have some members who are able and willing to do slide shows of Arkansas wildflowers. And they will travel reasonable distances.

4) Are we really living up to the purposes we proclaim to be our mission?

5) Do we have an active ongoing mission of rescuing "sensitive native plants" when we know ahead of time that their habitat home is to be bulldozed?

I have been asking myself these questions for some time, and many more I might add.

There are some new plans and ideas for programs, speakers, and work shops being advanced for consideration and implementation.

You may hear more at the Fall Meeting.

We have a Society of nearly 400 members with the potential to be more actively pursuing its purposes: the preservation, conservation and public education of the native flora in the "Natural State."

Almost 150 years ago, on April 10, 1853, when wildflowers were graciously more abundant everywhere, Henry David Thoreau wrote in his Journal, "When a farmer cleans out his ditches, I mourn the loss of many a flower which he calls a weed."



Fall Meeting

September 27-29

All Saints Episcopal Church (Friday)

Holiday Inn (Saturday)

Russellville

Host: Gary Tucker

Directions: From downtown Russellville take Main Street (Highway 64) west to Phoenix street. Turn left on Phoenix and go south five blocks to All Saints Episcopal Church at 501 South Phoenix. The Friday evening meeting will be in the fellowship hall located behind the church. The Holiday Inn is located at I-40 and Highway 7 North.

Schedule:

Friday, September 27

4:00 - 6:00 Registration, Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall.

Dinner on your own - see following list.

7:00 Announcement of field trips and other weekend activities followed by the annual auction and program.

Saturday September 28

Breakfast

- 8:30 Morning field trips, meet at Tucker Coliseum.
 1:30 Afternoon field trips, meet at Tucker Coliseum.
 6:30 Dinner - On your own.
 7:30 Business meeting followed by a program - at the Holiday Inn.

Sunday, September 29

Breakfast

- 8:30 Trip to Mary Ann King's Pine Ridge Gardens, near London, AR.

Accommodations

Make reservations as soon as possible at one of the following motels to ensure having a room.

Best Western Inn, 967-1000, or toll free reservations at 1-800-528-1234.

Budget Inn, 968-4400.

Holiday Inn, 968-4300.

(The above three are on Highway 7 N just south of I-40 at Exit 81.)

Comfort Inn 967-7500. Just south of I-40 at Exit 84.

Restaurants

[These are just a few of the many choices.]

Highway 7 N:

Cagle's Mill at the Holiday Inn

New China - buffet lunch and dinner.

Whattaburger - lunch and dinner.

Highway 64 East:

La Huerta (Mexican food); lunch and dinner.

Old South - breakfast, lunch, dinner.

Ryan's - Lunch and dinner.

Other locations:

Madame Wu's (Chinese); lunch and dinner.

Highway 7 South

Shoney's, Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

2320 N Arkansas - near Holiday Inn.

Stoby's Depot and Dining Car

405 West D

Thai Cuisine (Thai food) Lunch and dinner.

113 East D

Romedi's on the River - Diner only with Italian and Southern menus; private club with \$5 membership card required of one member in dinner party.

115 South Front, Dardanelle

Some Comments on ANPS Auctions by Carl Amason
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The Arkansas Native Plant Society was formally organized at a meeting in Mena in the Fall of 1980. *[Editor's note: An organizational meeting was held in Heber Springs earlier in the Spring which I'll always remember. Our first society field trip was to the Big Creek Natural Area. Those present at the meeting had carpooled to the site since the parking is very limited there. Robert Wright and your editor got so engrossed in examining some plants that we got separated from the rest. When we got back to the parking lot we had a big surprise - there wasn't a car there!! We had an enjoyable extended field trip walking another mile or so until we could find a farm house with a telephone.]*

There were perhaps 50 people in attendance and most of the meeting was spent hammering out the constitution and by-laws - and hammer away they did. The original annual dues were only \$5. And from the beginning plans were to stress education, preservation and conservation of the native plants of the state -- three noble endeavors that takes leadership, teaching abilities, appreciation of wildflowers, skills in handling sympathetic and unsympathetic people, and money. There are a lot of leaders, skillful people, teachers and followers among the original members. The dues were low the aims were high and such matters have given us growing pains until this day. And sometime, somehow, some place, someone came up with the idea of an auction. So the first few years members made jellies, bird houses, grew gourds, potted a few plants and packaged seeds. The auctions brought in a few hundred dollars but the scholarships and awards went sparingly, only one per year with perhaps only \$50, which inched up to \$100 to today's schedules of awardings. Meanwhile field trips were stressed as important educational, presentational and conservational features and the CLAYTONIA was the thread that held the society together. But money. We needed more money for awards. So the auction was held but who would be the auctioneer? Somehow this exercise in trying to make money reminds me of the story of the rats

who held a meeting and voted to bell the cat. But which rat would put the bell on the cat? I suppose that was my feeling when I offered to be the auctioneer. I had never done such a thing before in my life. I seldom go to auctions, and only when I am dragged along. Somehow the members forgave my absent-mindedness -- I forget the bids and who bided -- and the auction was considered to have been a success. In my endeavor to sell things, I encourage people to laugh with and at me -- after all I can't think of better person to laugh at as there is so much to laugh about the person! Anyway, the stakes of awards and scholarships have risen in recent years, thanks much to the auction and its fellowship.

Perhaps the greatest thing to happen to the society is Carl Hunter and his books. What a great uplift they brought. His wildflower book is now a standard college textbook in the state's educational institutions. And the **CLAYTONIA**? It is the thread that holds the society together thanks to Ron Doran.

So the auctions have been successful in promoting educational, preservational and conservational issues. And we are experiencing growing pains today.

And more about the auction. What sells at an auction? The membership of the society is favorable to any material that features plants: photographs, seeds, potted plants, walking canes, and birdhouses and bird feeders are popular items. Structures made by Bruce Ewing are unique. Jellies made by Lana Ewing, and Cat Dean are interesting as well as delicious. It is easier to sell one or few of a kind rather than a lot of the same thing. Hence when there are a dozen iris rhizomes, they are usually sold at a fair price and then many are given a chance to grow very lovely native plant. A wilted potted plant is difficult to sell and while seeds sell well in small numbers of lots, cuttings go a-begging. So come with your wares for the auction, laugh at the auctioneer, and go home happy with your purchases and experiences.



Spring 96 General Business Meeting Minutes by Gail Carlson, Secretary

Saturday May 11, 4-H Center, Ferndale

President Clearwater opened the meeting at 7:30 P.M. Dr. Jewel Moore brought to the meeting a display of Jennifer Switzer's research project. Also a note of thanks to the Society for the research grant provided to her by the Society. Pres. Clearwater requested that the display be passed around. He further commented that this is the first time he had seen any results of a research project by the recipient of the Society's funding and he said this is the way recipient's might show their gratitude to the society.

The president thanked Carl and MaryAnn Hunter for hosting the Spring meeting. He also thanked MaryAnn Hunter, Frances Pelton, Catherine Hepinstall, Gail Carlson and Don Crank in helping with registration and meal tickets. The president then presented Don Crank a gift from the Society for hosting the 1995 fall meeting in Hot Springs, AR.

Pres. Clearwater asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the 1995 Fall general meeting minutes as it is recorded in the *Claytonia*. A motion was made by Carl Amason to accept the minutes as recorded in the *Claytonia*. Kathleen Peek seconded. Motion carried.

The President read an excerpt from the February 1996 Executive Board Meeting concerning the increase in membership dues as follows: Regular membership \$15.00; Supporting \$20.00, Contributing \$30.00. Two new categories were added: Student membership \$10.00; and Family membership \$25.00. Carl Amason made a motion to accept the new dues. Phyllis Bartlow, seconded. Motion carried. Life membership to be discussed at a later time.

John Pelton explained briefly the reasons for the increase in membership dues and requested that the new dues be published in the *Claytonia* and in the new Directory.

The President asked the membership for recommendations for new ideas to benefit the good of the society, no response. It was suggested by the Pres. that John Pelton and Carl Hunter get together to discuss the ANPS future.

Continued next page.

Minutes continued.

John Pelton gave a brief explanation of Sunday's Field trip to Crystal Springs. He commended Carl and MaryAnn Hunter for an outstanding job in hosting our spring meeting. He presented them a gift from the Society.

John then read the list of seven students who are the recipient's of the Dwight Moore, Delzie DeMaree and Aileen McWilliams awards which totaled more than \$3500.00.

John then read his letter written to the President concerning restructure of the Memorial funds. John then made a motion asking the Society to accept his recommendations. Bill Shepherd seconded. Don Crank offered to accept John's recommendations by an amendment whereby the second paragraph would be deleted. Dr. Peck wanted to know what was the difference between "keep and delete". The chair was unable to answer his question at that time. Then the Chair explained the basic reason for putting all segregated funds in a "united" or "single fund" while continuing to honor the three memorialized persons listed in the directory. Currently, the segregated funds are in some banks' saving account probably drawing less than 2% APR. By combining the three segregated funds into a single "unity" fund, there would be enough total dollars to invest in CD's which should maximize the interest on these collective funds.

The floor asked for a vote on Don's amendment. The Chair called for a voice vote. The chair ruled that "no" was paramount. Amendment defeated. Then Steve Marak made a motion to table Mr. Pelton's motion until the Fall meeting. Kathleen Peek seconded. The Chair asked for a show of hands to table: 22 voted to table, 3 voted not to table. Chair ruled the motion tabled: and he went on to explain that the assembled members did constitute a quorum and that he would act on the affairs of the Society. After Carl Slaughter, Liz Getz and John Simpson made comments, Dr. Jewel Moore then brought up from the table John Pelton's motion. She stated that moneys in the accounts or the three memorial funds should be invested in a more profitable way.

The chair then recognized Carl Hunter who made the following motion amendment to John's motion. Mr. Hunter's amendment was to go ahead and have a single Memorial fund but retain the current Memorial awards as printed on page 34 in the 1996-97 directory. There being no further discussion the Chair called for a hand vote on Carl's amendment. The amendment carried with four votes against.

With this business completed, President Clearwater requested a motion to adjourn. Motion made, seconded and carried.

Treasurer's Report July 27, 1996 by Sue Clark, Treasurer

Operating Account

Balance 4-25-96	\$6961.29
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Deposits:

Registration Spring meeting:	\$1880.00
Memberships	350.00
T-shirts	84.00
Bumper stickers	60.00
Scholarships:	
withdrawn from DeMaree	2000.00
withdrawn from McWilliam	1500.00
Carl Hunter book transfer	15.00
Interest	41.36
total deposits	\$5930.36

Expenses:

Spring meeting	\$1781.51
Trophy for outgoing Pres.	13.80
Printing of Directory	656.04
Scholarships	3500.00
Carl Hunter book transfer	15.00
Spring Claytonia	307.00
4-H deposit	50.00
total expenses	(\$6323.35)

Balance 7-26-96	\$6568.30
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CD -1st Commercial [5%]	
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Balance 7-26-96	\$3126.33
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Scholarship Funds

Dwight Moore	
Balance 4-25-96	2487.28

Deposits:

Memberships	\$20.00
Interest	14.12

Balance 7-26-96	\$2521.40
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Treasurers report continued.

Aileen McWilliam

Balance 4-25-96 \$7475.28

Deposits:

Interest \$38.37

Expenses:

3 Scholarships @ \$500.00 each
(\$1500.00)

Balance 7-26-96 \$6014.15

Delzie DeMaree

Balance 4-25-96 \$5000.49

Deposits:

Membership \$210.00

Interest 24.08

Expenses:

4 scholarships @ \$500.00 each
(\$2000.00)

Balance 7-26-96 \$3234.57

Total ANPS Funds 4-25-96 \$24889.10

Total ANPS Funds 7-26-96 \$21464.75

News and Ideas by John Pelton -President Elect

Good News! By telephone survey we have enough members committed to join the Ouachita Chapter of the ANPS to form the chapter and apply for approval by the Executive Board at the Fall meeting.

If you want to join this Chapter contact a member of the organizing committee, Dr. John Simpson, Bob Clearwater, Christine Frisbee, Paula Wallace, or John Pelton. We will ask President Clearwater to assist us at our organizational meeting to be held at Buffy's Cafeteria in Hot Springs at a later date. Our organizing committee will contact you about the time and date.

We will have two additional issues of our newsletter, the *Claytonia*, in 1997. With the Executive's boards approval, the new issues will focus primarily on field trips our members have made or will make in the future. These issues will also be an opportunity for educational and informational articles, questions to and answers from our experts.

.....We hope to have a workshop in the Fall to discuss how we can carry out our mission to educate, conserve, and preserve our

natural heritage into the future. If you have any ideas about this, please write them out and mail or hand them to any Executive Board member. A coordinator for the workshop will enlist leaders for each section and invite contributing guests.

This might be a typical idea: Let's allow elementary and high school biology teachers to join the Society dues-free for a two year trial membership. What? Apprentice members? YES! Plus we can provide them with a Carl Hunter softback, and plenty of slides to show their students. We are talking about education here!

This workshop will be for **all** members.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

An April 1996 Field Trip in the Ouachitas

by John Pelton

Imagine ten grown people dashing through the Ouachitas on a Saturday late in April looking at sites most had not seen before. A power line right-of-way looked as if it had been planted by the Mormon gardener at the Mormon Center in Salt Lake City: A mix of Fire Pink, Monarda, Phlox, Rose Verbena, Prairie Parsley and Phacelia; also just enough native grasses to enhance the setting. We went into the woods and seeps to see the Spiderwort, False Hellebore, Lady Slippers, Wood Orchids, Whorled Pogonia, and ferns. We later found Lily-leaf Twayblade there also.

We (John Simpson, Sterling Hankins, Penny Robbins, Ruth Brown, Paula Wallace, Carl and MaryAnn Hunter, George and Lily Sinclair, and John Pelton) left western Saline County and went to Burl's for lunch, then on to Montgomery County and the National Forest. There we saw Arkansas Cabbage, Spiderwort, Fire Pink, a small white violet, Birdsfoot Violets, May Apples, Phlox, etc. But the stars of this trip were the Kentucky Lady Slippers. We found one clump with three doubles (a plant with two flowers blooming). This area has an estimated three hundred plus Kentucky Lady Slipper plants.

We met Carl and Jannene Slaughter just as we were ready to leave the site -- they were on the way to Mt. Ida for a quail dinner and had stopped by to photograph the Lady Slippers.

continued next page

Prothonotary Warbler made himself audible and visible as he fluttered from bush to bush along the creek banks. In the distant Overcup Oaks, Orchard Orioles were proclaiming their territories. White-eyed Vireos were scolding and singing in the bushes nearby. We soon left for a small swag where Red-cockaded Woodpeckers had been nesting but we saw none there but did see a roving Great Crested Flycatcher with his wild calls approach a nest hole in a pine tree and when he looked inside, something startled him away. Next was a short drive to a recently burned woodland, and sure enough we saw the woodpeckers we were seeking; at times as many as five were leap-frogging up the trunk of one of the pine trees. About our feet were some Scutellaria integrifolia in full bloom. From this area we went on to the Shallow Lake boat ramp, and we walked the sand spit along the boat canal as far as we could. At the beginning there were several Crataegus opaca with bright red fruit, some on the tree and some on the ground; there were enough Mayhaws to sample the sweet-tart flavor, which makes it one of the most sought after fruit for making jelly in its natural range. They are small cherry-sized fragrant little apples with a core of five hard seeds. Yellow-billed Cuckoos and Orchard Orioles were common as well as Red-winged Blackbirds. Some Wood Ducks flew overhead with their distinctive "squell" calls. And at this time Common Egrets were flying around. In this area two blooming Asclepias perennis were found, and photographed. This Milkweed is a beautiful plant, often as a clump about a foot tall and as wide containing clusters of typical Milkweed flowers that are pinky-white. It is common in lowland areas but is one of the best of all Milkweeds to grow in the garden -- except for the Orange Butterfly Weed.

Saturday morning was a repeat of the Friday's trip but there was a different group of participants which included some of the old South Arkansas Audubon Society and more of the ANPS members. We stopped at many of the same places, enjoyed the wildflowers, which were few in most places, and many of the same birds but the Red-cockaded Woodpeckers made a spectacular show with five or perhaps six at one time on the same tree, giving their constant calls all

the while. Next we stopped at a large flowering colony of Apocynum cannabinum, the Indian Hemp or Hemp Dogbane. This was a very important source of fiber for the American Indians, hence the common name hemp pops up and the Marijuana plant, also a source of the original hemp fiber is Cannabis sativa and none other than Linneaus gave the scientific name to our native Indian Hemp and it is apparent where he got the specific name of cannabinum. It is a vigorous stoloniferous plant which readily makes a colony of stems growing up to thirty inches tall with clusters of tiny whitish flowers among the opposite leaves which are 3 or 4 inches long with a white midrib. The stems are reddish brown and it has milky sap. The blooms produce long slender seed pods in pairs, which places the species in Apocynaceae (Dogbane family) with Amsonia, and another plant which we encountered on these field trips, Trachelospermum difforme, the Climbing Dogbane Vine, which is common in the bottomlands nearly statewide. So the Asclepidaceae (Milkweed family) is not the only family group that has a milky sap. One of the field trippers, Bob Gamble, said that even in modern times some of the farmers of Eastern Tennessee make some cordage from Indian Hemp.

We left the refuge and drove through the town of Felsenthal to a picnic area built by the Corps of Engineers in connection with Lock and Dam #6 on the Ouachita River. During the lunch hour we discussed plants and birds -- and people. Two species of birds that were seen by one or two but not the entire group were the Wild Turkey and the Mississippi Kite. Some of the members broke away after lunch but some continued to a parking area and boat ramp near the dam. Bluebirds were there and in a nearby weedy area everyone got a good look at a persistently singing male Dickcissel.

Dr. Peck's Pick of Fern Books

Growing Ferns as Garden, House and Landscape Plants.

Ferrenica, V. 1993. **Wildflowers in your garden a gardeners guide**. \$35.00 Regina Ryan Book,

Random House ISBN 0-679-41453 [Chapter 4, pp.37-42, "A Fern Garden" provides factors involved in selection and design of fern beds; pp.95 "Stalwart Ferns" provides a discussion of the hardiest ferns.]

Foster, F.G. 1976. **Ferns to know and grow**. 2nd rev. ed. Hawthorn Books. \$5.95
ISBN 0-8015-2600-0 [A must have book that discusses glasshouse, houseplant, and garden/landscape species; cultivation methods.]

Hoshizaki, B. J. 1975. **Fern growers manual**. Knoph. \$15.00 ISBN 0-394-49687-6 [A must-have book with particular reference on greenhouse ferns; now being revised by BJH and Robbin Moran, UALR]

Mickel, J.T. 1979. **The home gardener's book of ferns**. Holt. Paperback \$7.95 ISBN 0-03-45741-6 [A good and serviceable book to use as an introduction to growing ferns from spores; but quickly outgrown.]

Mickel, J.T. 1994. **Ferns for American gardens**. Macmillan. \$60.00 ISBN 0-02-584491-1 [Quite possibly the best book ever written on gardening and growing ferns; if you only have one book this is it; heavily documented with photographs of hardy ferns; discusses the cultivars and exotics that have worked well in American gardens.]

Wasowski, S. 1994. **Gardening with native plants of the south**. Taylor Publishing Co., Dallas, TX. \$29.95 ISBN 0-87833-802-0 [Chapter 10, pp.118-125, "Ferns" provides a dozen hardy ferns that will establish and enhance a landscape or garden; also discusses layout, design, and selection factors.]

Help !

Do you know of other books that are helpful to those of us interested in ferns as landscape, garden, or house plants? Write them down and let me know. Let's expand this list.

- Please let me know of ferns that you have seen under cultivation in Arkansas. name (scientific or common), conditions and locations are helpful.
- Do you have or can you take photographs (slides) of fern gardening or landscaping in Arkansas.

- If you know of good gardens or scenic fern areas, let me know.

Dr. James Peck
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University of Arkansas at Little Rock
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Little Rock, AR 72204
1-501-569-8515
Fax 569-3271

Editor's End Notes

It has been a dry dry summer in this part of Arkansas. All the summer storms seemed to bypass Searcy. When I left the first part of August for the cool Maine woods my 18 acres of mostly woods were toast crisp -- practically all the Elms and many of the Oaks had already shed their leaves. I hadn't had to mow since sometime in June -- and I enjoy mowing. When I got back in time for our pre-semester faculty conference I still didn't have to mow.

My front field is essentially a dry glade with outcroppings of sandstone bed rock. It is always pretty in the Spring with Delphiniums and Coreopsis contrasting blue against gold. I don't usually pay much attention to that field this time of the year because it's just the bland tans and pale greens of dehydrated plants. Walking to check my mailbox at the end of our driveway my eye was caught by specks of bright pink on one of those outcroppings. Looking closely, I discovered a group of beautiful tiny flowering plants with succulent leaves that I hadn't seen in the 11 years we have lived on the property. The plant keyed out to Talinum parviflorum (Fame Flower or Rock Pink). Smith's *Keys to the Flora* says the flower only opens about 5:30 P.M.

I don't know why I haven't seen it before. Perhaps it was because the dry summer stunted the growth of some of the other plants that usually surrounded them and hid them from me. Maybe it was because I waited till after supper to check the mail instead of getting it after school at 3:15.

It just goes to show you that even an experienced plant hunter has a lot to learn about the native plants of Arkansas. Keep looking -- you never can tell when you might make a discovery!

Membership Information

Have you looked at the number in the upper right hand corner of your address label?

If the number is 96 or LF you are helping ANPS reach its goals. If your number is lower then 96 you are riding on the coattails of the rest of the members and this may be your last issue of *Claytonia*.. You can pay at the Fall Meeting or send your dues:

\$15 Regular

\$20 Supporting

\$30 Contributing

\$10 Student

\$25 Family

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

Send changes of name, address or telephone numbers to:

Eric Sundell, Membership ANPS
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Claytonia

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ANPS OFFICERS

President.....Bob Clearwater
President Elect.....John Pelton
Vice President.....Don Crank
SecretaryGail Carlson
Treasurer.....Sue Clark
Membership Chairman.....Eric Sundell
Historian.....Jewel Moore
Editor..... Ron Doran

This years nominating committee:

Greg Robertson, Chairman

Kathy Daniel

Vickie Robertson

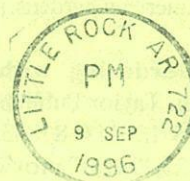
Present the following nominees for the 96-97 year:

Vice President.....Joe Stuckey

Secretary.....Cathy Marak

Treasurer.....Jason Anders

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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