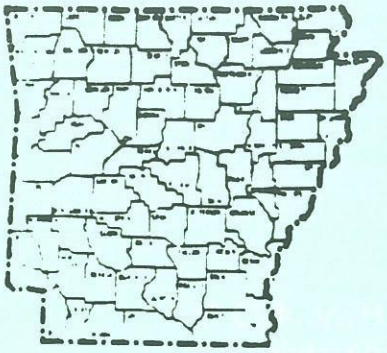


Claytonia



NEWSLETTER OF THE ARKANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SPRING 1992

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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK: DICK SPEAIRS

A highly successful Fall General Meeting was held at Batesville, September 27-29, 1991. Many thanks to local arrangers, Dr. Veryl Board along with Faye and Hail Bryant. The Friday night program and attendance were good. Field trips on Saturday, as well as the visit to Faye and Hail Bryant's home wildflower garden were memorable.

Thanks should go to Immediate Past President Sue Clark for getting the Society off to an auspicious first year of the second decade of the organization. Also, thanks to Editor Ron Doran for his efforts in the publishing of Claytonia. This twice-a-year publication helps the membership to maintain contact with one another and to learn interesting and informative insights into the flora of Arkansas. Appreciation should also be expressed to Dr. Eric Sundell for the capable job he has performed as Chairman of the Membership Committee and the Scholarship Committee. Membership growth continues for A.N.P.S. Have you encouraged your friends of like interest to join with us?

A detailed and fruitful winter meeting of the executive board was held at Sue Clark's lovely apartment in Little Rock on Saturday, January 25 with all nine members present. Local arrangements Chairman, Dr. Eric Sundell, described an exciting and interesting Spring General meeting -- details will be found elsewhere in this issue of Claytonia. Please make plans to attend.

Treasurer Chad Gray noted that the increase in dues (regular membership is $10.00, supporting membership is $15.00, and contributing membership is $25.00) has momentarily forestalled a budget crunch. I would like to encourage all members to consider making extra gifts and membership to the Society so that various scholarships and awards may be adequately funded. Such gifts are tax deductible.

Implementation of chapters of the Society as provided by Amendment No. 1 of the By-Laws might be undertaken by members in the Benton-Conway-Little Rock area as well as the Hot Springs-Hot Springs Village area. Give this idea some thought.

Make plans and reservations early to attend the Spring General Meeting and Field Trips at Monticello on the second weekend of April (10, 11, and 12).

SPRING MEETING

When: April 10, 11, 12
Where: Monticello
Schedule:

Friday, April 10

4:00-6:30	Registration, Banquet Room, Western Sizzlin, Hwy. 425 N
6:30-7:30	Dinner, Western Sizzlin Banquet Room, cafeteria style
7:30-9:15	Program
7:30 -	David Dussourd, University of Central Arkansas: "Ploy-Counterploy: Plant Defenses and the Hungry Herbivore"
8:30 -	Robert Wright, University of Central Arkansas: Report on Arkansas Conservation Coalition
9:30	Executive Board Meeting

Saturday, April 11

8:00	Field Trips -- meet in Best Western parking lot. Field trip destinations may change if spring flooding is heavy. Bring boots and expect some sloppy footing.
•	**Warren Prairie** with Bill Shepherd, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
•	**Saline River** with Jimmie Yeiser, Department of Forest Resources, University of Arkansas at Monticello
•	**Hungerrun Creek** with Eric Sundell, Department of Natural Sciences, UAM.
12:00-1:15	Lunch in Monticello: your choice!
1:30	Field Trips to same localities as above
6:00-7:00	Dinner at Western Sizzlin banquet room, cafeteria style
7:00	Business Meeting
8:00	Program Bill Summers, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis: "Native Orchids of Missouri"

Sunday, April 12

8:15	Field Trip to Cane Creek State Park, Star City, led by Neva Boatwright, Park Ranger; trip will leave from Best Western parking lot and reassemble at the Cane Creek State Park Visitor Information Center on Hwy. 293 east of Star City.

Council by 4/8 ??? on 10 to

Accommodations:

Best Western Motel Hwy. 425 N 367-6271	Single $37 + tax (1 double bed) Double $43 + tax (2 double beds) 70 units
Hiway Host Inn Jct. Hwys. 425 & 4 367-8555	Single $28.21 (1 queen-size bed) Double $33.64 (2 double beds) 1 suite $33.64 (1 king-size bed, kitchenette, sofa) 9 doubles, 12 singles (22 units)

A.N.P.S. SPRING FIELD TRIPS

All field trips are scheduled for Saturday unless specified. Please call the leader ahead of time to confirm your participation and check for last minute changes. Since plant protection and conservation are primary objectives of our organization, digging of plants on field trips is not permitted.

March 27th -- Union County

Joint field trip with the Arkansas Nature Conservancy. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the King's Inn in El Dorado, on the 167 By-pass on the southeast of town. A reception will be hosted by some local members of the Nature Conservancy, featuring coffee, biscuits, and homemade mayhaw jelly and high bush huckleberry jams. The field trip will begin at 9:30 a.m., as a caravan, to see several special places that are typical of the coastal plains. Everyone is to bring a sack lunch and drink, and wear clothing and shoes appropriate for gentle hiking. The Redbuds should be finishing their bloom period and the Dogwoods should be beginning. There will be a lot to see, hear (spring bird migration should be active), and learn. Spring comes earlier to south Arkansas than it does to central and northern Arkansas with its uplands and different soil types. The field trip will be led by ANPS member Carl Amason. Phone: 748-2362

May 2nd -- Railroad Prairie

Leader: Carl Hunter, phone 565-1061
Field trip to the Railroad Prairie to see Indian Paintbrush and other spring prairie wildflowers in bloom. Bring sack lunch and drink, or plan to eat at Craig's Barbecue. Meet at the Agriculture Museum at 921 East 4th in Stuttgart at 10:00 a.m.

May 9th -- Black Fork Wilderness Area

Leaders: Bruce and Lana Ewing, phone 394-4666
Rugged hike in a lush mountain area to see Putty Root, Adam-and-Eve Orchid in bloom. *Halesia carolina*, Silverbell trees, are also in this rich area. Hiking boots are recommended. Bring sack lunch and drink. Meet by the sign in the Walmart parking lot in Mena at 9:30 a.m.

May 16th -- Bean Mountain in the Ozark National Forest

Leaders: Tina Marie Wilcox and Kent Bomar and/or Herb Culver, phone 447-2248
This rich and diverse area includes a 1/2 acre grove of the beautiful *Magnolia tripetala*, Umbrella Magnolia, which should be in bloom, 10 species of orchids, and the rare Yellow Mandarin. Efforts are being made to have this area classified as a Research Natural Area. Hiking boots are recommended. Bring sack lunch and drink. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Nail store on Highway 16 in Nail, AR. If you are late, go west on 16 from the store about 1.5 miles. At the first stop sign on the north side of the road is Union Grove Road or Bean Mt. Road.

June 6th -- Carl Amason's famous Calion Trek

Leader: Carl Amason, phone 748-2362
The lovely *Alophia drummondii* should be in bloom, plus other late-spring blooming plants that only Carl seems to have. Bring sack lunch and drink. Meet at Carl's house at 9:30

a.m. Turn left off of highway 167 at Staples store, go to County Rd. 44 (about .5 miles), turn right and go south 1.25 miles to Carl's house. Bring sack lunch and drink.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE FIELD TRIP NEAR CALION,
UNION COUNTY ON 9 NOVEMBER 1991 -- by Carl Amason

Saturday morning of 9 November began fair, sunny, and a bit cool. The temperature since the first of November had been a series of hard freezes, one after the other, with temperatures as low as 20°F for one or two nights. Gone were the last lingering flowers of fall such as the common narrow-leafed sunflower and some of the goldenrods. Gone also were the very last blooms of the soapwort gentian (*Gentiana saponaria*) that I had under surveillance just to show the field trippers. I had trouble even finding the ruined flowers in the dead marshy plants and that was certainly nothing to show people anxious to see pristine wildflowers. The long dry summer that persisted to the last moment of October had caused the native witch hazels (*Hamamelis virginiana*) to set a precious few flowers, and even those had been blasted by the unseasonable early November freezes. Although it quickly seemed that this was not the time and place to have a field trip, there always seemed to be something that would come to the rescue. Not only did I get rescued; it will be one of those long-remembered days that makes field tripping exciting.

At the appointed time, people began to arrive. First were Gerald Cound and Nancy Brooks who somehow feared they might be lost in downtown Calion and had called for directions. Soon after, Barbara and Carl Slaughter (the intrepid photographer of native orchids) arrived. Then came Anne and Grady Beale from White Oak Lake, bringing with them a radiant excitement. Albert and Tomeline Higginbottom from Kirby brought their grandson, Michael Higginbottom, from Murfreesboro. And that was the morning crew. Here on the place, I was reduced to showing berries: red berries of American holly (*Ilex opaca*), yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*), and partridge berry (*Mitchella repens*). Of the many *Botrychium biternatum* plants, we passed one that had ripe spores and when it was gently thumped, tiny sulfur-yellow spores were released to the world. Only a few scattered yellow flowers were found on the witch-hazels. Some tiny evidence of the winter adder's-tongue ferns were to be seen but, as my brother says, good eyesight is necessary to see them well. That would be *Ophioglossum crotalophoroides*, which has a larger Latin name than the plant itself! Frankly, I am of the opinion that they are quite common, just rarely seen. The patches of *Tipularia discolor*, the crane-fly orchids, were evident now by their lovely sturdy foliage coming through the mulch of the woodlands but only a promise of flowering scapes in mid-summer if the rains come at the right time.

At this time we went back to the house to reassemble and go about a mile away to the Calion Lake residence of Charlie (Mrs.) and Marcus Finley, a couple who have been very good to me in my illness, and for years before. Charlie had previously been a member of the Arkansas Native Plant. Their daughter, Melissa Finley of Little Rock, is on the membership roster. But this was the deal: for years I had known of a late, almost winter-flowering *Spiranthes* (ladies-tresses orchid) that bloomed, one here, one there, on the mucky banks of Calion Lake. I always admired its heavy spike of immaculate white blooms, full in number on a four to five inch tip on a plant 15 to 24 inches tall. Marcus, who has a boat with a smooth motor, had assured me that there were many out in the lake -- on logs, bald-cypress trees, and stumps just out from his house -- and he could take two other than himself out into the lake to see the orchids. It was with a bit of fear and trepidation that I led the field trippers to the adventure. My fear was not for personal

safety, but that the recent cold freezes might have ruined the plants beyond recognition or reduced them to mere brown sentinels, discharging their minute seeds for future generations, thus disappointing eyes eager to see the promised orchids. But sometimes imagined problems are not problems at all. While Marcus took Barbara and Carl Slaughter in the boat first, I noticed one, two, and then four of the ladies-tresses orchids close to the water's edge in the Finley's yard. I was so relieved because two of them were just as fresh as orchids at their peak in Hawaii. Meanwhile, Charlie had opened her house to those waiting on the shore, and they definitely had a great surprise. Her vast collection of glassware, her lovely furniture, and her hot, spiced apple cider set my heart at ease --I felt no pain of anguish for failure on this field trip. Everyone got to make a safe round trip, probably about like going around a normal city block. There wasn't just one or two specimens here and there, but hundreds, some in the prime of bloom. And they were fragrant! That one field detail sets that species, or subspecies apart, and was the most determining single feature we used later to see just what we did see.

After everyone had a boat ride and viewing inside the Finley residence, we all returned happy, hungry, and curious to the house and our lunches. We arrived to find member Sadie Weatherford of El Dorado, who had gone and picked up my aunt, Mary Harris. Sadie had cooked a chocolate sheet cake, enough for everyone to enjoy a slice. We missed Archalie Harmon who has always come previously with her delicious pound cake. We also missed Leona Spence, of El Dorado, but both were on the sick list. Archalie had had her good eye operated on and she was in that position of being blind in one eye and couldn't see out of the other. Leona may have been out of town, under the care of her daughter as well as the doctor.

As Hollywood or TV shows would begin by saying, "Meanwhile back at the ranch" -- we were eating lunch, sampling chocolate cake, drinking soda waters, and just generally in a state of jubilation. I hauled out my two books on American wild orchids, both written, complete with photographs, by Carlyle A. Luer -- The Native Orchids of the United States and Canada, Excluding Florida and The Native Orchids of Florida. First, let me say that Dr. Luer is something of a "splitter," a botanical term opposed to "lumper," used to describe professional botanists. After long careful research in Dr. Luer's books, reading his "splitting" descriptions of time of year, range, habitat (in water on logs, trees, stumps, and muck), and fragrance (which smelled to me like Indian pipes, but Charlie Finley described as almond-like), Carl Slaughter, Albert Higginbottom and I concluded that we had found *Spiranthes odorata* in Calion Lake.

We all finished our lunch with gusto. Grady Beale was anxious to go deer hunting for the afternoon about White Oak Lake. Gerald Count, Nancy Brooks, Albert and Tomeline Higginbottom all had long distances to go and the days were so short. Soon I was left with Aunt Mary Harris, who had "never seen such enthusiasm before in her life over some wildflowers," and Sadie Weatherford who is a keen gardener in her backyard. They soon left, and I was left with the cake. I couldn't have been happier. It was a good field trip after all.

After everyone was gone, I pulled down my Smith's Atlas. Dr. Ed Smith is something of a "lumper" and he lists the orchid as *Spiranthes cernus* var *odorata*. There has been only one other report, by Steve Orzell, Edwin Bridges and Lance Peacock in Cleveland County. Dr. Smith has not seen the voucher specimen. I don't know what Steve Orzell did with his specimens but he apparently took them away with him when he left Arkansas. So I called Marcus Finley and told him that we needed some specimens

for mounting in the herbarium at the University of Arkansas as well as other places. So Sunday, 10 November, found the two of us out in the boat in an area close to his house. Most of the *Spiranthes* are growing in a semi-sunny area, on the south sides of trees, stumps and logs. One particular stump had about 6 stems in good bloom and about 10 stems well past their prime. These little boat trips would be a botanist's dream in the warmer season as there were many *Itea virginica* and at times even a misshapen loblolly pine. I would think gathering a season's growing material from out in the lake would be a wonderful project for some young botanist. But back to my story: we got about fifteen specimens, roots to flowers. I put them in a plastic bag and could hardly wait to call Dr. Eric Sundell at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. I forcibly asked when I could come over to Monticello, and explained the situation. He invited me over the next morning. I was on the school campus at 10:00 a.m., but it took me about fifteen minutes to find Dr. Sundell in his office. I showed him my treasures -- about 15 specimens of *Spiranthes*, complete with dirt and humus on the roots. I mounted one of the bright white flowers on a slide and looked at it through a high-powered microscope. After consulting a botanical tome, and looking back again into the microscope, Dr. Sundell said it looked like *Spiranthes cernua* var *odorata* to him. Another lumper! At any rate, I requested that he keep as many as he needed, send a specimen to Dr. Smith at the University of Arkansas, one to Ron Doran at Harding, one to Dr. Ken Peck, and one to Dr. Don Culwell. And by all means send one to Dr. Dale Thomas at Northeast Louisiana University at Monroe. We began to mount the specimens; Eric carefully washed the roots clean and all I did was to hold the blotter paper down. It was done so quickly and easily by Dr. Sundell. Over a noon meal together, we talked of the spring meeting to be held in Monticello. I promised to arrange some of my roadside "kills" of green bottles with named wildflower specimens, and promised to help with registration, field trips, and programs. I find this work to be very cheerful, satisfying, and rewarding as I always make a friend and learn something.

I think it was on one of the last days of the deer hunting season that I thought of a postal card from Bill Shepherd, asking "Did you realize that your field trip was on the opening day of deer season?" Bill, I can honestly say "No," and add that I really didn't know there was a deer season. I want to thank everyone who came for making it a successful field trip. They are fun. Hopefully my illness has become history and I can go on others' field trips. I don't know if Dr. Slaughter's pictures turned out well, or what Dr. Ed Smith has called the specimens.

MINUTES OF THE FALL 1991 MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

The Fall General Meeting of the Arkansas Native Plant Society met at the Ramada Inn in Batesville, Arkansas at 6:50 p.m. Saturday, September 28, 1991, with President Sue Clark presiding. There were 43 members in attendance.

The President announced that the minutes of the Spring Meeting had been published in the Claytonia. Dr. Veryl Board moved that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with. This was seconded by Carl Amason. The motion carried.

Chad Gray, Treasurer, announced that there are between 237 and 240 members. There were 76 registered at the meeting Friday night. He reported that the Aileen McWilliams Fund contains $5579, the Delzee Demaree Fund $3277, the Dwight Moore Fund $1684; the operating fund $3640, which included the C.Ds. The regular membership dues are $10. The supporting membership dues are $15, $5 of which goes

to the Dwight Moore Award Fund. The Contributing membership dues are $25, $15 of which goes to the Delzee Demaree Award Fund. The Aileen McWilliams Scholarship Fund is sustained by donations and by money raised at the annual auction. The monies in these accounts are now in Citizens First rather than Savers in Little Rock. It was moved by Edgar Schoenike and seconded by Carl Amason that the Treasurer's report be accepted. The motion passed.

Bruce Ewing announced that he will lead a field trip to the Black Fork Wilderness Area on December 7. Carl Amason of Calion announced that he will lead a field trip on Saturday, November 9 to see yellow lady slippers.

The President announced that there will be four mailouts each year. There will be two issues of the Claytonia, one in the fall and one in the spring, and two other communications with information about meetings and field trips.

Dr. Eric Sundell of the University of Arkansas at Monticello announced that the 1992 Spring meeting will be held on April 10 and 11 in Monticello for the first time since 1984. Members will stay at the Best Western Motel. The banquets and meeting on Friday and Saturday nights will be at the Western Sizzlin. Dr. Sundell described the different field trips planned.

Carl Amason invited the group to El Dorado for a Fall or Spring Meeting.

Carl Hunter, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, announced the following nominations: Vice-President, Lois Wilson; Secretary, Betty Speairs,; Historian, Joe Dean.

Chad Gray moved and Carl Amason seconded the motion that Lois Wilson be elected Vice-President by acclamation. Motion carried. Dr. Veryl Board moved and Tom Dunn seconded the motion that Betty Speairs be elected Secretary by acclamation. Motion carried. Dr. Veryl Board moved and Chad Gray seconded the motion that Joe Dean be elected Historian by acclamation. Motion carried.

Sue Clark, outgoing President, gave the gavel to the new President, Dr. Richard Speairs. Dr. Speairs introduced the Executive Board for the past year.

Dr. Eric Sundell, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, reported that the third member of the Committee, Dr. Gary Tucker, is now in California.

The new President announced the formation of the Hospitality Committee to provide refreshments at the Fall and Spring Meetings. It will be appointed by the local arrangements committee. A maximum of $50 will be provided for soft drinks and other refreshments. Dr. Speairs also announced that the dates for the Spring and Fall Meetings will be standardized to the second week in April and the last week in September when possible.

Dues expiration dates are posted on each address label of the Claytonia.

Joe Dean, Historian, suggested that prints of informal snapshots be given to him for the scrapbook.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. to prepare for the annual auction, which provides funds for the Aileen McWilliams Scholarship Fund.

--Betty Speairs, Secretary

SEED EXCHANGE

A seed exchange between members of the ANPS has been planned to begin with the 1993 Spring meeting. Seed collected for the exchange should be in small plastic bags, labeled with name of plant, source of collection, and your name. Seeds collected

will keep indefinitely if kept in the refrigerator. Preferably, seeds brought for the exchange should be native. How to Grow and Propagate Wild Flowers by Harry Phillips is an excellent book for those interested in learning how to collect seed. It can be ordered from Holland Wild Flower Farm or it may be available at some of the larger bookstores.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

All of us who have spent any time at all exploring the "Natural State" are aware of the many beautiful, sometimes spectacular plants, that grow here. One of the main purposes of the ANPS is to preserve those plants so that others, now and in the future, can share in that beauty. Many of those plants require very special habitats; therefore, the best way to preserve them is to preserve their habitats and leave them to the care of nature. Other plants do well in a variety of habitats and make welcome additions to our personal wildflower gardens. Please don't succumb to the temptation of digging plants from the wild. More often than not they won't survive. In addition, it may be unlawful.

There are ways you can get those plants for your garden legally and with a greater chance of success. How? Through the ANPS seed exchange or by purchasing nursery propagated plants. Lois Wilson, our Vice President, has provided us with the following list of plant sources. These places can also provide you with information on how to keep those plants alive.

SOURCES OF NURSERY PROPAGATED PLANTS

Holland Wildflower Farm
290 O'Neal Lane
Elkins, AR 72727
Plants, seeds, gifts
Catalog $1.50

Missouri Wildflowers
9814 Pleasant Hill Road
Jefferson City, MO 65109
Native perennials -- seeds & plants
Catalog $1.00

Woodlanders
1128 Colleton Avenue
Aiken, SC 29801
Rare & endangered plants
Catalog $1.00

Native Gardens
Route 1, Box 494
Greenback, TN 37742
Native plants & seeds
Catalog $1.00

Prairie Moon Nursery
Alan Wade
Route 3, Box 163
Winona, MN 55987
Native plants & seeds for Wetland-Prairie-Woodland
Catalog & cultural guide, $2.00

Holbrook Farm & Nursery
115 Lance Road
P.O. Box 368
Fletcher, NC 28732-0368
Perennials, wild flowers, woody plants & grasses
Catalog - free

Have you moved lately, or are you planning a move? Please send all address corrections to Eric Sundell: 114 Briarcliff, Monticello, AR 71655. Dues and information requests should be sent to ANPS, P.O. Box 250250, Little Rock, AR 72225. Only articles for the Claytonia should be sent to Ron Doran, Box 846, Harding University, Searcy, AR 72149-0001.