

Claytonia



NEWSLETTER OF THE ARKANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
FALL 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.

FALL MEETING

Where: Forrest City, AR
When: September 25-27, 1992
Schedule:

Friday, September 25th

4:00	Executive Board Meeting
4:00-6:00	Registration, Banquet Room, Holiday Inn Exit No. 1, I-40 & Highway 1. Registration fee, $2.00
6:00-7:00	Dinner -- Seafood buffet, Holiday Inn, $11.75
7:00	Programs Report on Arkansas Conservation Coalition -- Dr. Robert Wright "The Crowley's Ridge Story" -- Larry P. Lowman, naturalist and native plant authority, owner of Ridgecrest Nursery "Natives Useful for Landscaping" -- Larry P. Lowman

Saturday, September 26th

8:00 a.m. Field Trips -- meet in Holiday Inn parking lot.

1. Hike in Village Creek Park with naturalist, nurseryman Larry P. Lowman to see the state champion Butternut (Juglans cinerea), Hop Hornbean (Ostrya virginiana) and Red Buckeye (Aesculus pavia) trees.
2. Hike on Crowleys Ridge with botanist Larry Wilson to see the rare climbing Magnolia (Schisandra glabra), Cucumber Magnolia (Magnolia acuminata), and Goatsbeard (Aruncus dioicus). Rough terrain -- hiking boots strongly recommended.
3. To be announced -- Dr. Leon Richards, ASU, Jonesboro, AR

12:00 Lunch -- your choice
1:30 p.m. Field Trips repeated

6:00-7:00 Dinner -- Regular buffet, Holiday Inn, $7.75
7:00 Business Meeting
7:45 Auction -- Aileen McWilliams
Be sure to bring your donations for the auction!

Sunday, September 27th
8:15 a.m. Tour of Ridgecrest Nursery, Highway 64, Wynne, AR
Follow Highway 1 to Wynne, turn right on 64. Nursery is on the right on 64.

Accommodations:

Holiday Inn I-40 & Highway No. 1 Ph. 633-6300	Single or double, $43.00 Fixed rate for group Register as ANPS member for rate.
Colony Inn Motel I-40 & Highway 1 South Ph. 633-0870	Double, $45.99
Camping: Village Creek State Park Ph. 238-9406 Reservations only: 1-800-264-2467	 W/E $12.00/day Overflow areas $6.00/day Cabins $60.00 - $70.00/day

ANPS FALL 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.

October 17 - Oxley, Arkansas, 10:00 a.m.
Leaders: Edith & Harry Bartholomew, phone 585-2591
Where: Edith & Harry's new rustic home away from home in a beautiful hardwood forest. Bring sack lunch. Drinks will be provided. Meet in front of the Oxley fire station across from Baptist Church on Highway 66 at 10:00 a.m.

October 24 - Calion, Arkansas, 9:30 a.m.
Leader: Carl Amason, phone 748-2362
Meet at Carl's to see late fall blooming composites and other fall blooming plants. Bring sack lunch and drink. Turn left off Highway 167 at Staples Store, go to County Rd. 44 (about .5 mile), turn right, and go south 1.25 miles to Carl's house.

November 7 -- Devil's Den State Park, Washington Co., near Winslow
Leaders: Jean Crone and naturalist Wallace Keck, phone 634-7111
Meet at the Visitor's Center at 10:00 a.m. Bring sack lunch and drink. Fall color should be great.

January 16 -- Burns Park, North Little Rock, AR
Leader: Arkansas State Forestry Department, phone 664-2531
Learn to identify a tree in its winter attire on this field trip with a member of the Arkansas State Forestry Department. Bring sack lunch and drink. Tree book would be helpful. Take Burns Park (Exit #150) off I-40. Take Burns Park exit (#150) off I-40. Go towards golf course. About 100 yards before golf course, turn right on Joe Poch Road. Follow Joe Poch Road to covered bridge.

MINUTES OF THE SPRING BUSINESS MEETING -- Betty Speairs, Secretary

The business meeting of the ANPS Spring Meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Richard K. Speairs, Jr., at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 11, 1992, at the Western Sizzlin' Restaurant in Monticello.

Carl Amason moved, and Catherine Hamilton seconded, that the minutes of the Fall meeting in Batesville be dispensed with since they had been published in the Claytonia. Motion carried.

Chad Gray, treasurer, reported that our account is now in Citizens First Bank since the Resolution Trust Company took over the previous bank. The total in all accounts is $17,207.97. The amounts in the various accounts are:

Aileen McWilliam	6334.00
Delzie Demaree	3715.04
Dwight Moore	1841.21
Operating Fund (CD)	2597.26
Checking Account	2687.46

The current membership is 278. There are 72 registered at this meeting.

Lois Wilson, vice-president, reported that the fall meeting will be held September 25-27, with headquarters at the Holiday Inn in Forrest City. Larry Lowman of Ridgecrest Nursery in Wynne will present the Friday night program on native plants and the history of Crowley's Ridge. Field trips are planned for Saturday.

The president appointed a nominating committee consisting of Sue Clark, Chairman, Carl Amason, and Dr. Don Culwell, all past presidents of the ANPS. Officers to be elected at the fall meeting are vice-president, treasurer, and editor.

The scholarship committee, consisting of Dr. Eric Sundell of the University of Arkansas at Monticello, Chairman, Dr. Henry Robison of Southern Arkansas University, and Susan Hooks, Research Botanist with the U.S. Forest Service, announced that three scholarships and one research grant had been awarded. Recipients are: Elizabeth Getz (UCA), Jennifer Marsole (UCA), and Jennifer Messer (UCA) -- all $500 scholarships; and James McLellan (UAF) the Delzie Demaree Research Grant, $500.

The president thanked the local arrangements committee, Dr. Eric Sundell, Chairman, and all who helped with the meeting. The personnel from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Mark Hooks and Levi Davis, and Neva Boatwright of Cave Creek State Park, will be officially thanked.

Tommy Dunn moved, seconded by Carl Amason, that twenty-five dollars be sent to the Ouachita Watch League, known as OWL. Motion carried.

Jason Anders volunteered to serve on a committee to publicize the ANPS on college campuses.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

FALL ELECTIONS

The following slate has been provided by the nominating committee. Other nominations will be accepted and voting will take place at the Fall General Meeting.

For Vice President	-	Carl Slaughter
For Treasurer	-	Sue Clark
For Editor	-	Ron Doran

PRESERVATION OF SEVEN DEVILS SWAMP -- Eric Sundell

ANPS members who enjoyed the trip to Seven Devils Swamp at the Spring Meeting in Monticello may want to write letters to some or all of the Powers That Be to express their conviction that the area is unique and splendid enough for preservation. Levi Davis of Arkansas Game and Fish, who led the boat trip on Seven Devils suggests letters to the following:

Mr. Steve Wilson, Director
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission
#2 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, AR 72205

The Arkansas Nature Conservancy
300 Spring Building
Suite 717
Little Rock, AR 72201

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
The Heritage Center
Suite 200
225 East Markham
Little Rock, AR 72201

U.S. and state senators and congressmen are also recommended. Copies of letters can be sent to Levi Davis for his information, at Arkansas Game and Fish, 104 N. Hyatt, Monticello, AR 71655.

Most of the land seen on the Seven Devils trip is part of about 4000 acres owned by Georgia Pacific. The land has been for sale for at least four years. Price is negotiable. The state of Arkansas needs to begin those negotiations through one of its agencies.

SPRING FIELD TRIP REPORTS -- Lois Wilson

On May 2nd approximately 45 ANPS members and guests enjoyed a field trip to the Railroad Prairie with Carl Hunter as the leader. Indian Paintbrush, orchids, and Yellow Star grass were some of the spring blooming prairie plants observed.

There were approximately 35 ANPS members and guests on Bean Mountain in Newton County for a field trip May 16th with Tina Marie Wilcox, Herb Culver, and Kent Bomar. We were thrilled to see the rare French's Shooting Star, Arkansas Alumroot, Black Cohosh, and other mountain species.

Approximately 21 ANPS members and guests attended the Black Fork Wilderness Area field trip. Putty Root orchid, Streptanthus, and a wild cherry 91" in circumference were found on the hike.

A TRIP TO TRASKWOOD, SALINE COUNTY -- Carl Amason

For some time, John Pelton had wanted me to come to see the grass-pink orchids near Traskwood. He had offered to come and get me and return me home, but I thought that would be entirely too much of an obligation so I took courage to drive there to see for myself his orchid patch. I was overwhelmed. I had thought an hour or two and I would be returning home, but I spent the day.

John said that he would meet me at McDade's store, at the railroad in Traskwood at 10:00 a.m. He was there waiting and said that Marie Locke, Ernie Wallis, and Grace Hancock would also be in the group. That delighted me and he had hardly said as much when they arrived and we loaded up in John's van and headed south. I was surprised to see that the entire western half of Grant County and the pocket of Saline County in which we were tripping, all looked like the piney woods of south Calhoun County -- level, poorly drained, adjacent to the flood plains of a nearby river. We turned onto a dirt county road at the edge of Traskwood and stopped at a well-kept farmhouse and yard to admire a long bed of Iris virginica, past its peak but still with some typical flowers. George Sinclair and his wife recognized John's van in passing and stopped to talk. It was George Sinclair who had found the patch of grass-pink orchids and brought the area to John's attention. Meanwhile the farmhouse owner came out, a young man named Beck whose grandfather had established the place we were admiring.

Of course, time flies when one is having a wonderful field trip and we continued our way. The pine trees became larger and denser, the undergrowth more substantial. We came under a big electrical transmission line, going more or less in east-west direction. John paused here and said that Platanthera ciliaris (yellow-fringed orchid) plants grew by the thousands in these woods and also in the area where we were going. A rare plant, which I thought sounded like Sabatia gentianoides also grew here. We turned onto a less travelled dirt road and here we turned more or less west. We stopped at a small turn-off by the road to admire in the edge of the woods a tall Baptista alba (white false indigo) and a low, almost creeping Rhododendron viscosum, which until recently has been called Rhododendrum oblongifolium (some books call it the Texas azalea). Of course, Ernie Wallis was taking photographs, Marie Locke was collecting herbarium specimens, and Grace Hancock was bird watching. John was talking and so was I. We left, forded Brushy Creek, soon came to the Union Pacific tracks -- the old Missouri Pacific -- and immediately in front was an area that looked like a clear cut that had been bulldozed and burned, perhaps an area of 25 acres, bounded by the railroad in a northeast to southeast direction on the east, the big electrical transmission lines on the south, a slight gravel ridge and Hot Spring County line on the west, and more woods at least a quarter of a mile on the north; we never made it to the north side. The westerly road that we were traveling on forked about 250 feet from the Hot Spring County line, where there was a poor specimen of an oak tree (I don't even recall what kind, as more interesting plants were around). We parked in the shade of the little tree, and we all went "wild." Perhaps the most conspicuous flowering plant was the Calopogon tuberosus, from a rose to fuschia, all shades of pink (hot and cool) to white. These were the grass-pink orchids, the attraction of the day. Platanthera ciliaris plants were not blooming but they were common. The previous day, John had taken Don Crank there to see the ferns. Together they found among the cinnamon ferns were Osmunda cinnamonea forma frondosa and among the royal ferns Osmunda regalis forma anomala. Both of these forms of Osmunda are characterized by having fertile and infertile pinnae together -- in other words, leaves

mixed with spore-bearing parts. Interestingly, in Carl Taylor's book, Arkansas Ferns and Fern Allies, he states that Osmunda cinnamonea f. frondosa was collected by E. J. Palmer on 27 May 1926 from a sandy open woods near Malvern, Hot Spring County. This site is only yards from the Hot Spring County line, near Malvern. Among the club mosses, two species can be distinguished at this early point in the growing season -- Lycopodium appressum and L. alopecuroides. On the uphill dry sunny slope was a colony of Echinacea pallida (pale cone flower) and further down on the upper edge of a wet spot were flowering and green-fruited Chamaelirium luteum, an uncommon member of the lily family with common names of "devil's bit" and "fairy wand." I don't know how or why such names were ever thought up, let alone got established. That is true of the scientific names also in many cases. Drosera were everywhere. These are the sundews, which are getting to be a field mark characteristic of the Coastal Plain. A knoll, and scattered about were many stressed flowering shrubs and noted were Rhododendron viscosium and two he-huckleberries (the fruits are dry capsules and inedible) Lyonia mariana with pinkish white blooms and L. ligustrina with greenish flowers. Ceanothus americanus (New Jersey tea) was attractive, and down by the railroad track is a clump of some quite rare willow. The area is unique and brings up the next discussion.

John has taken so many botanists, college professors, and native plant enthusiasts to this area and all agree to its uniqueness. The property belongs to International Paper (IP). IP also owns the property near Pine Bluff where the rose pogonia orchid occurs. The Native Plant Society should help John establish and preserve the area, maybe with the cooperation of the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commision or the Arkansas Nature Conservancy. Don Crank has taken Dr. Dan Marsh of Henderson State University of Arkadelphia, Dr. Eric Sundell of the University of Arkansas at Monticello to see it, and it has been seen by Dr. Dale Thomas of Northeast Louisiana University of Monroe. There are many other plants that are waiting to be cataloged from this area -- one doesn't find everything in one or two flowering weekend visits. Another interesting thing is that it is a very characteristic Coastal Plain site on the very edge of its range. It is central to the cluster of colleges, universities, and schools of Central Arkansas. The Arkansas Native Plant Society should be a leader in getting this unique place preserved.

A FLOWER TALE -- Betty Grabbe

He watched her whirl gracefully among the meadow flowers, her nimble feet barely grazing the ground. Sunlight misted her hair in gold, entrancing him. She was Solidago, fairest maiden in the kingdom, and he would have her for his own.

She felt his intense gaze and fear weakened her. He was Ambrosia, nephew of the King, and he was evil. It was rumored that his diabolical powers were growing stronger and that he might be able to overthrow the kindly rule of his uncle.

Just this morning, Ambrosia had stopped her as she hurried to prayers, pressuring her for an answer to his proposal. His dark eyes bored into her soul, seeking the answer that he wished to hear. Pulling from his grasp, she had almost stumbled in her haste to be away.

And now she was in the meadow, dancing in sunlight, trying to pretend that he didn't watch her with hungry eyes and impatient heart.

A sudden breeze lifted and swirled her hair, soft as the hand brushing her arm. She tensed, then relaxed to see the large man standing beside her. Vernonia was here, his smile gentle, his love steadfast. Strong as iron, he would protect her.

Jealousy stabbed Ambrosia, as he watched the couple exchange loving glances. Hate congealed his blood, freezing his soul. His eyes darkly targeted the man who had stolen his prize.

Rage burned Ambrosia as he stalked across the meadow and accosted Vernonia. "You will never have Solidago," he hissed, his fingers curling into claws.

Vernonia whirled toward the raspy voice, his mighty arms lifted to defend. "Be gone, Ambrosia," he warned. "Solidago is mine."

But the man with iron strength was helpless against glittering eyes freezing him in their wicked spell. Air whirled ... shifted. Vernonia disappeared. Only a tall plant remained, nondescript except for its loose clusters of purple flowers.

Solidago stared in horror at the spot where Vernonia had stood. "You are evil," she whispered hoarsely to Ambrosia. "Stay away from me. I will never be yours."

Ambrosia caught her arm, each word pounding in rhythm to his pulsating brain. "You will never belong to anyone else. You have a choice. Marry me or you will join Vernonia."

Jerking free, Solidago stood bravely before him. "If I married you, my soul would die. I will gladly join Vernonia."

"So be it," Ambrosia said, his voice sliding over her like cold silk. Sorrow dulled his eyes as he assessed her. "I cannot bear to destroy one so lovely, so I will make your golden hair into a flower. You will grace the meadow where I can look upon you from my castle window. When the wind causes you to sway back and forth, I will be reminded of how you dance."

As Ambrosia's words ended, Solidago was transformed. Clothed in gold, her form tall and straight, Solidago stood in silent splendor with roots anchored deep into the meadow soil.

On angry feet, the King approached. "Ambrosia," he demanded. "What have you done?"

Staring in horror at the tall purple blossoms of Vernonia and the golden ones of Solidago, the King declared, "You have shown that you are not fit to rule the people. My kingdom will never be yours."

"So, Uncle," sneered Ambrosia. "You come at last. Too late to undo my deed, but perhaps you can join Solidago and Vernonia." Eyes glittering, Ambrosia turned his evil power on the King.

"Foolish nephew, to believe that your powers can exceed mine," the King chided, his eyes deadly as they pinned Ambrosia.

"I cannot undo your evil deed, but I can alter it. From this day forth, Solidago shall be known as Goldenrod. She will have medicinal powers, and when my people see her, they will be reminded that her name implies strength and healing."

"As for Vernonia, the man of iron strength will be called Ironweed. He shall stand forever with Goldenrod, his purple blooms complementing her golden ones."

"And now for you, nephew. For your folly this day, you shall join these two, yet be set apart. You, Ambrosia, will be scorned and hated, forever cursed. You, evil nephew, will be known as Ragweed."

So saying, the King wielded his mighty power on his quivering nephew, reducing him to a ragtag weed, still scorned today by all who come near him.

SEED EXCHANGE -- APRIL 1993 -- Lois Wilson

Hopefully some of you will join in the fun of collecting and exchanging seed at the first annual seed exchange for ANPS members, which will begin with the Spring meeting in April of 1993.

There is something immensely satisfying and rewarding about raising your own plants from seed. You will learn from your failures and be encouraged by each success. It is also an excellent way to increase the population of some rapidly dwindling species.

One basic and very important rule to remember when determining when a seed is mature and ready for collection is to look for a change in the fruiting structure that holds the seeds. Berries, pods, and capsules usually expand in size and change from a lighter to a darker color. The seeds themselves usually turn to a darker color unless they are covered with pulp. Pulp seeds turn to another color at maturity, e.g., green to red. As you acquire more experience each season you will be able to recognize the characteristics of each species.

Methods of storing seed are very important. Seeds that have pulp, such as Magnolia or Jack-in-the-Pulpit, should not be allowed to dry with the pulp on. They should be stored "CM" -- or cold moist -- in a plastic bag containing damp, unmilled spaghnum moss or damp sand in the refrigerator and the pulp removed before planting.

Other types of dry seed should be cleaned and air dried for about a week, labeled, and stored "CD" -- or cold dry -- in a plastic bag in the refrigerator. They will keep indefinitely this way.

All seeds brought for the exchange should be labeled with the name of the plant, state and county, date of collection, and your name. Preferably, the seeds should be native.

An excellent reference is How to Raise and Propagate Wildflowers by Harry Phillips, available from Holland Wildflower Farm and some bookstores. An excellent book for woody plant propagation is the U.S. Forest Service book, Seeds of Woody Plants in North America, available from Timber Press.

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.