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NEWSLETTER OF THE ARKANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

FALL, 1986

President's Message...

We're looking forward to the fall meeting in Alma and Devil's Den--a corner of the state that is foreign territory to the Native Plant Society. Clemy Moore has arranged supper and evening activities at the Methodist Fellowship Hall as well as field trips to the Devil's Den and the bat caves (not for the nervous!). Remember the auction Saturday night and bring your invaluables--plants and seeds and anything else that strikes the fancy. We buy everything!! Carl Amason has agreed to serve as auctioneer for an unprecedented umpteenth time. He informs the membership that Asa Gray's vasculum--circa 1875--will be among the items up for bid. (Apparently, a vasculum circulating at past auctions and represented as that of the great Cambridge botanist has proven to be a forgery!)

We have talked to the Alma Chamber of Commerce as well as to the staff at Devil's Den State Park and ordered 58° nighttime lows and temperatures in the high 70's for the afternoons, clear skies, sugar maple and black gum turning, aster and witchhazel at their peak and 23 species of goldenrod in full bloom. So--said the mother skunk to her young-uns--"let us pray!" And Breck Campbell has sent me so many names of new members, I hope we'll meet some of them October 17, 18, and 19 at the meeting. See you at Alma.

P.S. If you're coming, please fill out the form at the end of the Newsletter and send it to Clemy Moore--today!

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Fall General Meeting

OCTOBER 17, 18, & 19
ALMA & DEVIL'S DEN STATE PARK

Registration & evening activities in Alma.
Saturday field trips to Devil's Den.
Sunday trips to Fern Holler and Lake Fort Smith

		Single	Double
MOTELS:	Ozark Plaza Motel. 632-4595.	$25	25
	Meadors Inn. 632-2241.	22	24/28/32
	Ozark Inn. 632-4501.	23	28

All motels at junction of I-40 & Hwy 71.

Friday, Oct. 17:

5:00 p.m. REGISTRATION: Ozark Plaza Motel
lobby-conference room: 5-6:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m. Dinner at the Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, Alma (maps available at registration).

7:30 p.m. Speaker:
Brent Daugherity, Naturalist and Ranger at Devil's Den State Park, will give a presentation on the natural history of the Devil's Den area, "Ozarks through the Seasons".

Saturday, Oct. 18:

7:00 a.m. Breakfast at Ozark Plaza Motel or on your own.

9:30 a.m. Meet at Visitor's Center, Devil's Den State Park --the park is a one hour drive northwest of Alma.

10:00 a.m. Field trips: (1) Devil's Den Trail
(2) Yellow Rock Trail
(3) Woody Plant Trail

12:30 p.m. Picnic lunch at park pavilion (bring a sack lunch --park restaurant closed --Ozark Plaza Restaurant will fix 'em)

2:00 p.m. Repeat of morning field trips.

5:00 p.m. Meeting of Executive Board, Methodist Fellowship Hall.

6:00 p.m. Dinner at Methodist Fellowship Hall, Alma.

7:00 p.m. **Short** Business Meeting (Election of Officers) & AUCTION:

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The Nominating Committee, consisting of Sue Clark (Chairman), Don Culwell, and Neal Killion met on Monday, April 28, 1986, and nominated the following:

for Vice-President (President Elect): Robert Wright
Treasurer: Fred Greenwood
Editor: Ron Doran

(Sue Clark will remain as Secretary and Lana Cook as Historian for one more year.)

AUCTION

Proceeds from the annual auction will again go to the Aileen McWilliam Scholarship Fund. BRING YOUR PLANTS, SEEDS, BOOKS, AND TREASURES TO BE AUCTIONED.

Sunday, Oct. 19.

7:30 a.m. Breakfast at Ozark Plaza Motel Restaurant or on your own.

8:30 a.m. Field trips to Fern Holler and Lake Fort Smith. Meet in front of restaurant.

ARE YOU COMING? SEND FORM AT END OF NEWSLETTER TO CLEMY MOORE TODAY!

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THANKS TO EDITH HUEY BARTHOLOMEW AND COMPANY
FOR A WONDERFUL SPRING MEETING
AT MOUNTAIN VIEW

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FIELD TRIP
Mark Your Calendars

November 15. Around the Calion (El Dorado) area with Carl Amason. Meet 9 a.m. at Carl's house in Calion (details at Alma). Bring a sack lunch.
Questions: call Carl at 748-2362, evenings.

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Dr. Robert H. Mohlenbrock will be offering week-long plant identification workshops in upland and lowland flora at Carbondale, Illinois, during late spring and summer of 1987. For information, contact Dr. Mohlenbrock, #1 Bird Song Drive, Rt. 6, Carbondale, Illinois 62901, or call 618-549-1884.

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3 Hundred 3-Birds

This was a good year for nodding pogonia (three bird orchid)! Edith and Harry Bartholomew found more than 300 plants in the Gunner Pool area the first week in September. Many had more than one blossom. By Sept. 7th, all the flowers were gone and it was difficult to find any of the plants.

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On behalf of ANPS, Sue Clark sent the following letter on May 7, 1986, to Mr. Henry Gray, Director of Highways and Transportation at the Arkansas State Highway Commission:

Dear Mr. Gray,

The Arkansas Native Plant Society at its meeting on April 12, 1986, voted unanimously to recommend the following, and wish you to know the Society's feelings on this.

The Arkansas Native Plant Society supports an effort toward highway beautification and recommends that the State consider a program which is being used in some other states which consists of:

(1) Regular mowing of one mower's width.
(2) A once-a-year mowing of the entire right-of-way in winter.
(3) No spraying of the right-of-way with herbicides.

Mr. Gray responded on May 16th.

Dear Ms. Clark:

Thank you for your letter of May 7, 1986 concerning your organization's recommendation for mowing of the State's highways.

Our Department does perform partial mowing as much as possible. However, due to safety and aesthetics, many areas have to be mowed more than one mower width. In urban areas it is necessary that we mow many of our rights of way full width whenever we mow.

We do try to mow our narrow rights of way full width, even in rural areas, at least once a year. However, there are some highway sections where conditions permit us to let the right of way grow back to its natural condition. Those areas are very aesthetic and cut the cost of roadside maintainance.

Our program of herbicide usage is a very controlled program that benefits the Department in savings of manhours required for maintainance activities and reduces the cost of multiple mowings each year.

Herbicides are limited to roadways which are suited to their use and are applied only by licensed applicators.

In addition, the Department is involved in a wildflower program where, if an organization provides wildflower seeds, we prepare a bed and plant the seed on our right of way. We also defer mowing in areas of good wildflower growth whenever possible, until the wildflowers have matured.

We hope this information will be of benefit to your organization. If we can be of assistance in the future, please advise.

Yours truly,
Henry Gray
Director of Highways
and Transportation.

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News from the Arkansas Coastal Plain

Saturday, 6 September 1986, was an unscheduled field trip of the Arkansas Native Plant Society and a great day for plant exploration for the Arkansas flora. At 9 a.m., Eric Sundell of Monticello with Melissa and Robin Hartrick of Hamburg, Jim and Carol Peck of Little Rock met with Archalie Harmon of El Dorado and Carl Amason of Calion at the intersection of U.S. 167 & Arkansas 4 in Hampton for a botanical trek in Calhoun County, specifically to study Lycopodium species found by Steve Orzell and Carl Amason in the summer of 1985.

The day was overcast and very little sunshine heated the air--there was no rain. First we drove in the University of Arkansas-Monticello van, Drs. Peck with their paraphernalia-laden car following, to the wet ditch southwest of Hampton where Lycopodium appressum is growing with another club-moss species. The ditch is well populated and apparently there is a hybrid swarm. This remark is unofficial (by Carl Amason) but later determination will come after extensive laboratory work. Carol Peck found what might be the prothallium stage, and on close scrutiny, quite a number of them turned up. Melissa Hartrick found colonies of pink sphagnum. Dr. Sundell found a jointtail grass reported in Smith's Atlas only from Ashley County. On a dry slope ahead were beautiful flowering plants of Liatris elegans. In the immediate area, other ferns were noted: Athyrium filix-femina (Southern lady fern), Osmunda cinnamomea (cinnamon fern), O. regalis (royal fern), and Woodwardia virginica (Virginia chain fern).

During the day, we visited at least five more stations of Lycopodium appressum, all more or less typical. One station, where it grew last year by the square yard, was badly burnt by the July-August drought. Here it grows as a ground cover with Eriocaulon decangulare (hat pins). At another place, also suffering from the dry summer, extensive pure sand washes from an abandonned gravel operation, yielded large mats of young L. appressum, and in some of the small pools of water were flocks of rather tame blue-winged teal.

And then to the last Calhoun County stop, the location of the reported Lycopodium carolinianum. Before the occupants of the van could disembark, Jim and Carol Peck had already found the colony--less than 2 feet by 3 feet in area--growing mixed with L. appressum for convenient comparison. Surely there is more of it in southern Arkansas--but where?

Then we headed south across the Ouachita River for a soda water break, and then on to Carl Amason's place to see the ferns which had obligingly come up in a disturbed area. One look, and Dr. Jim Peck pronounced them to be Thelypteris torresiana. There were seven or eight of them and one T. kunthii close by. T. kunthii is cultivated on the place, but the spore source of T. torresiana is a mystery.

Quickly we took in a hurried foray through Carl's place, looking at a fruiting Acer leucoderme (chalk bark maple), a flowering Camellia sinensis (the source of tea), and several more plants. Eric Sundell found a weed which has only been documented in Arkansas from Jim Guldin's backyard in Monticello--Fatoua villosa--looks like a nettle, smells like a fig. It was getting late and one roadside spot with a beautiful fruiting specimen of Erythrina herbacea was found. The Cherokee bean, mamou, or coral bean is magnificent in flower and fruit, and this one had opened seed pods, revealing the bright red beans. And then it was time to say goodbye.

As a postscript, the next day, Sunday, the wet ditch northeast of El Dorado, on the Champagnolle Road in Union County, was checked for Lycopodium carolinianum without success. L. appressum is plentiful in both ditches, and smiling among the grasses were several plants of Platanthera repens, the green-spider orchid.

Meanwhile, we await eagerly the determination of Dr. Jim Peck of the club-moss in the Calhoun County ditch--"Glory Ditch" they call it to this day--which will be another great story.

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WE NEED TO TELL THE METHODIST LADIES HOW MANY FOR DINNER FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS. Meals will run between 7 & 8 $$ each, the price including our use of the Fellowship Hall.

Name(s)_____

How many for Friday night?_____

How many for Saturday night?_____

How many sac-lunches should the
restaurant make for you for Saturday?_____

PLEASE CLIP THIS OR WRITE OUT YOUR OWN AND SEND IMMEDIATELY TO
CLEMY MOORE
ROUTE 1, BOX 32
RUDY, ARKANSAS 72952



Ark. Natural Heritage Dept.
225 East Markham
Suite 200 Heritage Center
Little Rock, AR 72201