Claytonia

Newsletter of the Akransas Native Plant Society

"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."

Spring 1984
Robert Wright, Editor
Department of Biology
UCA, Conway, AR 72032
450-3146

After an ominously dry June, the rains returned in July and August, keeping our state greener than ever and promising an abundance of autumn beauty. Please plan to enjoy some of it at the fall functions of ANPS

So that more places of natural beauty may be conserved in the state, see what you can do to move the U.S. House of Representatives to act on the Bethune Wilderness Bill. The Senate has passed a nearly identical measure, and this should open the way for House passage, but pressures of the election campaign are great. If passage does not occur, the measure will have to start over again in both houses of Congress. Let your congressman know your wishes now.

--The Editor

FALL GENERAL MEETING
In MONTICELLO October 12 and 13

Friday, October 12 at Western Sizzlin Banquet Room (Hwy 31 just north of Jct. 81 & 4)

6:30 P.M. Dinner at Western Sizzlin: go through line as usual and take food to back of restauraunt to banquet room.

7:30 P.M. Special presentation to Marie P. Locke, Pine Bluff, by Dr. Ed Smith, Curator of Herbarium, U. of A., Fayetteville, AR.

7.40 P.M. "Arkansas Forests: Bambi Meets Paul Bunyon", Dr. Jim Guldin, Dept. of Forest Resources, U. of A. at Monticello. Good forest management practices leave plenty of wildflowers still to be admired.

8:00 P.M. Business Meeting

Saturday, October 13

8:30 A.M. Meet for field trips in parking lot of Best Western Motel (Hwy 81 just north of Jct. 81 & 4).

Warren Prairie: easy hiking on prairie and adjacent woodlands; quite wet after heavy rains. Back for lunch.

Seven Devil's Swamp: baldcypress, tupelo gum, water locust, water elm; weather permitting. Back for lunch.

Mt. Tabor: rich woods above Panther Creek; crane-fly orchid (in fruit) and Virginia saxifrage (one of only two known sites in Arkansas, however, a spring bloomer); easy woodland hiking. Back for lunch.

1:00 P.M. Warren Prairie and Seven Devil's trips will be repeated.

1:30-4:00 Program at the Science Center, Biology Wing, University of Arkansas at Monticello campus.

1:30-2:00 Autographing party for Carl Hunter, author of Wildflower of Arkansas Copies of his book will be for sale.
Also on sale will be autographed copies of Mrs. Edith Huey's new book, Ozark Wildflowers III. Mrs. Huey cannot be present because of a major previous conflict.

FRUIT LAB: A demonstration of diversity in the plant kingdom. Fruits from all over North America are on display to be admired and a few eaten. Also a wildfower display, labelled, will be set up by Carl Amason specializing in the common species. If you have a favorite, but common wildfower and know its proper scientific name, please bring a stem.

2:00-2:15 Mary Ann Hunter, wife of Carl Hunter, will tell the story of how Carl's book got to be published.

2:15-2:30 Dr. Ed Smith, U. of A. Fayetteville: "How to Prepare Herbarium Specimens"

2:30-2:45 Freeman Thomas, Jacksonville, "Some Wild Plants for Food"

2:45-3:00 Dr. Jewel Moore, Retired Botanist, U.C.A., Conway, "Roadside Beautification"

3:00-3:15 Dr. Don Culwell, U.C.A., Conway, "Seed Gathering for Roadside Beautification"

3:15-3:30 Dr. Gary Tucker, Arkansas Tech University, Russellville, A topic of his own choosing.

5:30-6:00 Dinner at Western Sizzlin in the banquet room.

7:00 Meet for evening activities at UAM Science Center Auditorium.

Steve Orzell of Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission in Little Rock will give an illustrated talk on the rare and beautiful plants of Missouri fens, little known and unusual wetland habitats.

Following the fens, Carl Amason, ANPS's official Auctioneer, will lead (?) an auction of botanical items, living plants (wild & tame), paraphernalia, and much, much more. ANPS MEMBERS BRING CONTRIBUTION ITEMS TO BE AUCTIONED AND CARL AMASON WILL BRING THE MUCH, MUCH MORE. Proceeds from the auction go to ANPS's Aileen McWilliam Scholarship Fund.

Sunday, Oct. 14

9:00 Optional field trip for survivors of Amason's auction to Sugar Maple Bottoms, south of Hamburg, Arkansas. A unique wooded creek bottom with an unusual flora for southeast Arkansas. Meet again at parking lot of Best Western Motel.

Accomodations:

Best Western Inn, 367-6271
Highway 81, just north of jct. 81 & 4
Reserve in advance! single $30 plus 5% tax
double $34 plus 5% tax
add $5 for each extra person

UAM Dormitory space:
There will definitely be space for women and possibly space for men.
Single room, $5 Double, $4 per person
BRING YOUR OWN LINEN, BLANKETS, PILLOWS, TOWELS, ETC.
If interested, call Eric Sundell, 367-6811. If extension 65 does not answer, leave message at ext. 66, and he will return your call.
Spaces are limited; accomodation on first call first served basis; will not be able to confirm any rooms until 1st October.

FIELD TRIPS

The week end one day field trips in the various areas of the state have proved to be one of the most popular events of the Arkansas Native Plant Society. Neither weather, good, bad or indifferent; commitments, previous or unannounced; or season, too early or too late, have diminished the prospect of seeing a new plant or many old favorites and happy fellowship or the possibility of getting the perfect picture, or a finding a delicious mushroom, or picking a prospect for the pot in the form of some weed for greens or salad or some fruit or berry for jelly.

Carl Amason will lead a field trip about the Calion area on Saturday, 17 November, 1984. Meet at his house at 9:30 AM and be ready for the works. Bring your own lunch, as usual.

RESEARCH NOTES

Dr. Don Culwell is working on a project to restore native wildflowers to Arkansas roadsides. Supported by a grant from the Arkansas State Highway Department, the study will focus initially on the western portion of I-40. Wendy Welch, a member of the Environmental section of ASHD, will assist with the study as the thesis portion of her Masters Degree at UCA. Don and Wendy have been busy collecting seed, surveying the highway for appropriate sites, and planning strategies for sowing the seed. The study is expected to continue for several years, and result in recommendations on the best varieties and cultural practices for Arkansas highway roadsides.

Neviusia alabamensis, Alabama snow wreath, one of the rare Arkansas plants monitored by ANPS members for the Natural Heritage Commission, is the subject of a study by Dr. Robert Wright and Dr. John Peck, colleagues at UCA. Together with two graduate students,they intend to learn about the population genetics of this species. Is it possible, for example, that the three tiny populations in the state have diverged genetically and are now locally adapted each to its microhabitat? Supported by a UCA faculty grant, Wright and Peck will use such divergent methods as cultivation in a common garden, and electrophoretic analysis of proteins, to characterize each population.

SEEDS - SEEDS - SEEDS

Please collect these seeds in quantity for me if you can: Little Bluestem, Big Bluestem, Indiagrass (Sorhastrum nutans), Switchgrass (Panicum virgatum). I'm working under a contract with the state highway department to find ways to plant native forbs and grasses on highway right of ways. This summer has yielded many seeds but I fear I'll be short on these grasses. I can use only local Arkansas seeds and wish you could help me gather mature seed. Collect it and simply spread it out to dry well in the sun before sending it to me. Thanks a lot!

Don Culwell, Biology Dept., UCA,
Conway, Arkansas 72032

HELP WANTED

Please help your outgoing historian to get all pictures and newspaper clippings of the Arkansas Native Plant Society people in the scrapbook. Do send them to me. Thanks!

Jewel Moore, 222 Ash, Conway, Arkansas 72032

MINUTES OF THE SPRING MEETING

April 13, 1984

Holiday Inn Dining Room
Conway, Arkansas

The meeting was called to order by the president, Lana Cook, at 9:06 P.M. The minutes as printed in the Claytonia were approved. The treasurer's report gave a balance of $1,911.59 in the operating fund, and $2,389.77 in the McWilliam Fund. There are 210 paid members.

Randy Johnson, the Society's representative to the Arkansas Conservation Coalition, reported on the activities of the Coalition. At a hearing of the U.S. Public Lands and Waters Subcommittee, held in Little Rock on February 15, 1984, chaired by Senator Bumpers and attended by more than 150 persons, the Bumpers/Pryor Wilderness Proposal was discussed. On behalf of the ANPS Randy made a statement in favor of the Proposal. During further discussion, the overwhelming majority testified for the proposal. It will soon be screened by the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee in Washington.

In response to a question from the floor, "How will we as members of the Native Plant Society know when to show our support?", Randy replied: "You will have to watch the newspapers and the media for information, since quick action is often needed."

Randy also mentioned that the Coalition had two further goals for 1984: 1) Restructuring of the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission to give more representation on the Commission of a wider cross-section of the public including environmental groups, and 2) enactment of a Water Code to manage and safeguard the state's water.

Randy asked the membership to approve the appointment of Dr. Jim Peck to be an alternate representative to the Coalition. The motion to do so, by Florence Mallard, seconded by Don Culwell, carried by acclaim.

Carl Amason suggested that members provide seeds and plants to parks and to others requesting them. Carl reviewed the interim field trips between the past fall and this spring meeting. He suggested that we keep a personal list of new wild flowers as we see them.

Marion Molnar moved, Schuyler Christian seconded, and the motion carried that the president appoint a committee to study changes and make recommendations for revision of the by-laws. Lana said the committee would be announced the following night.

The president appointed to the nominating committe the following: Bill Shepherd, chairman; Bob Boggan and Carl Hunter, to fill the offices of vice president, secretary, treasurer, editor, and historian. The secretary handed to Bill Shepherd the list of suggested names for the offices submitted by the membership. The secretary also handed to Carl Amason a list of suggestions for programs and field trips from the same source.

Carl Hunter announced that the book, Arkansas Wild Flowers, will be coming out this summer. It will have 484 plates and 300 pages.

The meeting adjourned at about 10:00 P.M.

Highlights of the weekend were: 1) hikes through the Jewel Moore Nature Reserve, the area prairies, and the area woodlands; 2) wild foods with generous samples by Kat and Joe Dean; 3) a panel discussion by Bob Irving, Bill Shepherd, and Joe Rice about all factors (political, economic, conservation, etc.) associated with the extending of the wilderness areas of Arkansas.

Submitted by Marion D. Molnar, secretary

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