How the Arkansas Native Plant Society came into being--

The ABCD(Arkansas Biological Curriculum Development) meeting held on University of Central Arkansas campus, November 16,17,1979, was called to discuss endangered plants and animals, as well as other curriculum matters of concern to biologists. Dr. Gary Tucker led the discussion on endangered plants.It was agreed that an organization to study the plants of the state would be helpful--both endangered and native plants.Dr. Don Culwell, UCA, was selected to convene a group to pursue the formation of such an organization.(Present at this meeting: Gary Tucker, Don Culwell, Jewel Moore of UCA,Leon Richards of Arkansas State University, Ron Doran of Harding, Gwen Barber of Mulberry, Richard Davis of Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission.)

The first meeting of the steering committee was held in Little Rock, at the home of Richard Davis, on Dec.15, 1979. Results of the discussion dealing with the purposes and goals of such an organization and some methods by which these could be accomplished resulted in this statement: The Arkansas Native Plant Society will be organized in order to (1) promote appreciation and public interest in native plants of Arkansas through programs and field trips designed for the excnange of information and ideas, and (2) improve the knowledge of native plant understanding through identification, distributional documentation, and ecological analysis. Plans were tentatively made for a field trip to Big Creek Natural area, near Heber Springs, for an organizational outing, in May, 1980. Letters are to be sent to people throughout the state who might have an interest in such an organization.

At the second meeting of the steering committee, March 1, 1980, at the University of Central Arkansas, the following set of acting officers were selected for the Arkansas Native Plant Society: Don Culwell, acting president; Richard Davis,acting secretary-treasurer; Robert Wright, acting editor of newsletter. Publicity about the Big Creek meeting, May 30,31, 1980, was planned. Plans for the meeting and its field trips were discussed. Present: Tom Clark of Hendrix; Art Johnson of Hendrix; Jewel Moore of University of Central Arkansas; Dan Marsh of Henderson State University; Richard Davis and Bill Shepherd of Arkansas Natural History Commission; Gary Tucker of Arkansas Technological University,Gwen Barber of Mulberry, Don Culwell of University of Central Arkansas.

At the third meeting of the steering committee, March 28, 1980, during the Arkansas Academy of Science meeting at Arkansas State University, finalized plans for the Big Creek meeting at Heber Springs were shared. Gwen Barber was selected acting vice-president to complete the list of acting officers. Plans for the fall meeting in Mena were discussed. Report from the Constitution Committee (Robert Wright, Jewel Moore, Art Johnson, and Tom Clark) indicated that it would be ready for the meetings.

The Arkansas Native Plant Society came officially into being on Sept.20, 1980 in Mena, with the adoption of by-laws, and election of officers. It was decided that charter membership would be available for all who joined during 1980; there were 110 chart members.The mean for 1981 and 1982 was 116. There were 191 members in 1983 and 197 in 1984. Officers have been: president--vice-president--secretary--treasurer--editor-historian

(acting)1980: Don Culwell--Gwen Barber--Richard Davis--Richard Davis-Robert Wright

1981: Don Culwell--Randy Johnson--Debbie Qualls-Don Peach-Robert Wright--Freeman Thomas

1982: Randy Johnson--Freeman Thomas--Lana Cook--Don Peach--Robert Wright--Jewel Moore

1983: Freeman Thomas--Lana Cook--Marion Molnar--George Molnar--Robert Wright--Jewel Moore

1984: Lana Cook--Carl Amason--Marion Molnar--George Molnar--Robert Wright--Jewel Moore

Following is a summary of the programs and workshops at the general meetings: field trip leaders:

Heber Springs--May 30,31, 1980:
What the Arkansas Native Plant Society can become--Gary Tucker
Background on Big Creek Natural Area--Bill Shepherd — Bill Shepherd
Update on Arkansas Native Plant Society formation--Don Culwell

Mena--Sept.19,20,1980
Slide program on Rock Garden plants--Don Peach — Lana Cook
Russellville,April 24,25,1981 — Freeman Thomas
Workshop of monitoring local plant populations & communities-- Gary Tucker

Hot Springs,Oct.9,10,1981
Places to enjoy plants in Hot Springs--Earl Adams — Dan Marsh
I was there--slides by ANPS members — Gail Patton
Protected and non-protected rare plants in Arkansas-Bill Shepherd — Dwight Moore
Workshops: Ecological monitoring of rare plants--Robert Wright
Barking up the wrong tree?(keying)-Freeman Thomas

Jacksonville, May 7,8,1982
A history of plants in Art--Dr. Loyd Benjamin — Carl Amason
Prairie Ecology(at Roth Prairie)--Bob Irving — Freeman Thomas
Listen to the earth--Richard Bauldauf — Bob Irving

Mountain View,Sept.10-12,1982 — Randy Johnson
Ozark Wildflowers and their habitats--Edith Huey — Don Culwell
The Wonderful world of mushrooms--Jay Justice — Edith Huey
Auction was held for Aileen McWilliam Fund — Freeman Thomas

Mena--Apr.22,23,1983
The little plants and some Arkansas ferns--Jewel Moore
The Editor speaks--Robert Wright
The Director(of Arkansas Nature Conservancy) speaks--Kay Arnold
Members of ANPS slides — Lana Cook
Seeds and fruits--Lana Cook — Freeman Thomas
Workshops: How to set up & use a herbarium--Eric Sundell
The Arkansas ferns and some little plants-Jewel Moore
Nature Photography--Randy Johnson

El Dorado--Oct.7-9,1983
Cooking with & usingwild & cultivated herbs--Mary Wortham
Highway roadsides--Bill Rishardson
Inaugurating a roadside wildflower program in Arkansas--E.Hampton Roy
Workshops: How to know the ferns:James Peck — Carl Amason
How to use plant keys-Robert Wright — Freeman Thomas
Photographing wildflowers--Neal Killior — Randy Johnson
Auction for Aileen McWilliam Fund

Conway--Apr.13,14,1984
Those marvellous Milkweeds--Eric Sundell — Robert Wright
What ANPS means to me by various ANPS members — Bob Kirkwood
Arkansas Wilderness: Bill Shepherd,Bob Irving,Joe Rice — Jewel Moore
Workshops:How to propagate native woody plants non-destructively--Mick Terry
Wild edible plants--Joe & Cat Dean — Don Culwell
Keying plants with the big book(Steyermark)--Don Culwell

Monticello--Oct.12,13,1984 --also auction for Aileen McWilliam fund.
Special presentation to Marie P.Locke--Ed Smith
Arkansas Forests:Bambi meets Paul Bunyun--Jim Guldin — Eric Sundell
Missouri Fens--Steve Orzell
Autographing party for Carl Hunter: Wildflowers of Arkansas
Workshops:How to prepare herbarium specimens:Ed Smith;About Carl's book: Msry Ann Hunter;Wild plants for food:Freeman Thomas;Roadside Baautification: Jewel Moore; Seed collecting by Don Culwell; and one by Gary Tucker.

Some of the activities of the Arkansas Native Plant Society are as follows:

1) Members planned to monitor particular rare species, to aid state agencies charged with identifying and preserving endangered plants, and to coordinate the work for the entire state.

2)The Arkansas Native Plant Society has been active in conservation issues--through membership in the Arkansas Environmental Conservation Coalition (Feb.23,1981) and later through membership in the Arkansas Conservation Coalition(Dec.1981).The president, speaking for the members, and the members themselves have written key people that are concerned about environmental issues(such as bills dealing with membership on Pollution Control and Ecology Commission, at the state level, and bill for Arkansas Wilderness areas at the national level.)

3) Checklists of plants to see on field trips at general meetings(Mena, Russellville) and on other field trips (Baker Prairie) have been made available for members.

4) Two charter members--Delzie Demaree and Dwight Moore--were honored for their long-time contribution to botanical teaching and research in the state (at Hot Springs meeting).

5) Members reported rare and unusual plants to Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission and adopted rare plants and communities for monitoring.

6) The Arkansas Native Plant Society has established a research fund to honor the memory of a charter member, Aileen McWilliam who died June 27,1982. Each fall meeting there is held an auction to add to this fund.

7) Members are becoming interested in wildflowers along the Arkansas highways; some are involved in on-going research along that line; others have helped the Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs to put on workshops on that topic.

8) Various workshops and field trips have been presented by members of ANPS and these have been open to the general public.

9)At least one member of ANPS regularly publishes articles on Arkansas plants in the newspaper.

10. Two members have recent publications on Arkansas plants: Edith Huey has just puslished Ozark Wildflowers III and Carl Hunter's Wildflowers of Arkansas is now available.

Field trips of Arkansas Native Plant Society

May 30,31,1980--Heber Springs(Big Creek Natural Area)
Sept.19,20,1980--general meeting at Mena
Dec.4,1980--Poisonous & Medicinal plants--Heber Springs--Joe Dean
Dec.6,1980--Devil's Hollow hike--Mulberry--Gwen Barber
Jan.17,1981--Winter twig identification--Russellville--Gary Tucker
Jan.31,1981--Twigs of the winter woods--Morgan--Tom Clark
Feb.22,1981--Ferns & Mosses--Heber Springs--Jewel Moore
Mar.14,1981--Identifying lawn wildflowers--Conway--Don Culwell
Apr.18,1981--Spring flora of Crowley's Ridge--Wynne--Larry Lowman
April 24,25,1981--general meeting at Russellville
May 16,1981--Edible & Medicinal Wild Plants--Roland--Freeman Thomas
Apr.11,1981--Trilliums at Mtn.Fork River Arboretum--Mena-Aileen McWilliam
May 9, 1981--Bower Hollow walk--Cass--Gwen Barber
May 23,1981--Photography workshop--Jacksonville--Neal Killion
June 20,1981-Baker Prairie walk--Harrison--Burnetta Hintertheur
July 18,1981-Tree identification--Jacksonville--Freeman Thomas
July 18, 1981-Fern study fieldtrip--Hatton--Lana Cook & Jewel Moore
Oct.9,10,1981--General meeting at Hot Springs
Sept.19,1981-Wild edible plants workshop--Mena--Freeman Thomas
Oct.3,10,17,24,1981--Fall rambles--Roland(Pinnacle Mtn.State Park)
Nov.7,1981--Identifying wild & edible mushrooms--Pinnacle M.S.P.-Jay Justice
Dec.5,1981--Devil's Hollow hike--Mulberry--Gwen Barber
Jan.16,1982--Winter twig identification--Russellville-Gary Tucker
Jan.31,1982--Twigs of the winter woods--Conway--Tom Clark
May 7,8,1982--general meeting at Jacksonville(prairie field trips:Roth P.
Apr.10,1982--Along Cossatot River--Mena--Lana Cook
Apr.24,1982--Spring flowers--Mena--Lana Cook
May 15,1982--Bower Hollow Orchid walk--Cass--Gwen Barber
May 22,1982--Wild edible plants workshop--Mena--Freeman Thomas
June 6, 1982--Interesting & unusual flora--Calion--Carl Amason
July 10,1982--Nature Photography workshop--Rolsnd--Randy Johnson
Sept.10-12,1982--general meeting in Mountain View
Aug.14,1982--Rich Mountain trip--Mena--Lana Cook
Aug.28,1982--Another field trip--Mena--Lana Cook
Oct.3,1982--Outing near Calion--Carl Amason
Oct. 23, 1982--Mushroom identification--Roland(PMSP)--Jay Justice
Feb.5,1983--Workshop with wild foods--PMST(Roland)--Freeman Thomas
Feb.26,1983--Workshop:keying wild flowers--Conway--Jewel Moore
Mar.19,1983--Cove Creek Natural Area--Conway--Robert Wright
Apr.16,1983--Lower Cossatot River--Lockesburg--Albert Higginbottom
Apr.22,23,1983--general meeting at Mena
May 14,1983--Tupelo gum swamp--Jacksonville--Freeman Thomas
May 21,1983--Chalk Bluff--Piggott--Kay Cargill
Oct.1,1983--Cooking & using wild foods--Roland (PMSP)-Freeman Thomas
Oct.7-9,1983--general meeting at El Dorado
Nov.5,1983--Seeds & berries in southern Arkansas--Calion--Carl Amason
Mar.17, 1984--Country around Calion--Calion--Carl Amason
Mar.29,Apr.1,1984--Pinnacle Mountain hikes--Roland--Randy Johnson
Apr.7,1984--Independence County Countryside--Batesville--Veryl Board
Apr.13,14,1984--general meeting at Conway
Apr.28,1984--Roasting ear creek--Mountain View--Freeman Thomas
June 9, 1984--Early summer in Calion--Calion--Carl Amason
Oct.12,13,1984--general meeting at Monticello
Nov. 17,1984--The Calion area--Calion--Carl Amason

This report was given to the members of ANPS at the meeting in Monticello, in October,1984, by the historian, Jewel Moore.