News Release

Contact: Robert Wright
329-2931 x240

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY FORMED

Approximately 50 charter members created the Arkansas Native Plant Society (ANPS) in Heber Springs, May 30 and 31. The statewide group is dedicated to understanding and conserving the native flora of Arkansas.

Comprised of both amateur and professional botanists, the group hiked in Big Creek Natural Area. Several wildflower species were seen for the first time in the area administered by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission.

Later, meeting at the Stockholm Restaurant in Heber Springs, members reviewed goals and plans. Gary Tucker, spokesman for the group, stated that activities will center on improving botanical knowledge and educating the public.

A September field trip in the Mena area was planned. Winter meetings will include public workshops on identifying wildflowers, nature photography, and gardening with native plants.

Dick Spears, a charter member from Ouachita Biological Station near Mena stated, "ANPS has great potential for serving our state through protecting and promoting a key asset, wildflowers." Jewel Moore of Conway observed, "This is a society of true native plant lovers."

Members of the wildflower study group of First United Methodist Church and the local chapter of the National Audubon Society, both in Heber Springs, were co-hosts for the meeting.

Anyone interested in future activities should contact the acting president, Don Culwell, Department of Biology, University of Central Arkansas, Conway 72032; or Richard Davis, acting secretary, Arkansas Natural Heritage Foundation, Main and Markham, Little Rock 72201.