Claytonia

Newsletter of the Arkansas 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."

Fall, 1983
Robert Wright, Editor
Department of Biology
UCA, Conway, AR 72032
450-3146

We're a bit late, folks, so we'll cut short the palaver and get right to business. The fall general meeting is scheduled for El Dorado on October 7-9. Other field trips are planned both before and after that. A central environmental issue requiring our attention is Congressman Bethune's wilderness bill.

--The Editor

WILDERNESS LEGISLATION

Earlier this year, Ed Bethune introduced in Congress an Arkansas Wilderness Bill supported by the Arkansas Conservation Coalition, of which ANPS is an affiliate. As you may know, it proposes to add 11 wilderness areas to the US Forest Service wilderness system in our state. Support of the Conservation Coalition represents broad-based backing for this carefully-thought-out proposal.

The US Forest Service has proposed a more modest plan providing for seven additions to the wilderness system, some of which are smaller than corresponding parts of Ed Bethune's bill. Forest industry and US Forest Service people have actively lobbied against the Bethune bill. In a letter on US Forest Service letterhead from a District Ranger, Richard A. Mills, are the following statements:

(1) "More than a third of the entire National Forest system is being held hostage by virtue of being classified for wilderness study areas, or by indecision and dispute over its use. This idle land does not contribute to the relief of unemployment, nor add to county, state and federal treasuries.
(2) Special interest groups are recommending additional wilderness and study areas. They disregard boundary lines, wilderness attributes and social and economic impacts. This is a costly alternative for an issue that has been examined twice already.
(3) Everyone agrees that a certain amount of wilderness is needed. The only views that present a problem are those on the extreme ends of the spectrum."

Congressman Bethune wrote immediately to the Chief of the US Forest Service R. Max Peterson in protest. Here are a few excerpts from his letter:

(1) "I am extremely distressed to learn of the blatant political activity in opposition to my wilderness proposal being conducted in Arkansas under the apparent auspices of the National Forest Service.

(2) While I have tried to be objective about your agency in the course of my wilderness study, I must in candor tell you that I am quickly coming to the opinion that the Forest Service has a hard mindset that it knows what's best for the people.

(3) All I am asking in my wilderness bill is that we set aside six percent of the National Forest lands in Arkansas so that roads will not be built, mines will not be dug, and trees will not be clearcut leaving large, barren holes in our forests. No one is trying to impose upon your discretion in the other 94 percent of the national forests which stretch across our state. The wilderness concept is simply a movement by the people asking that you leave some of our land in near the same condition as the Lord made it so that our children and our children's children will not ask what happened to the hardwoods and the pristine forest that causes us to claim: "Arkansas is a Natural".

(4) I trust that you will correct the errors that have been circulated on Forest Service letterhead by pointing out that other wilderness bills in other states have accommodated some in-holdings without condemnation; that the acreage mentioned in Ranger Mills' letter was grossly overstated; that you will make a clear statement that hunting, fishing, hiking, canoeing and other outdoor recreations will not be restricted within the wilderness area and that you will juxtapose whatever your statement in that regard suggests with the fact that the existing circumstances will continue in the remaining 94 percent of national forestlands in Arkansas.

(5) Mr. Peterson, I know of no issue that is more important to Arkansas. I hope from this point forward we can have a rational discussion of this issue and that the impulse to perpetuate hard mindsets can be constrained. If that is not possible, I'm afraid that many people will rightly conclude that the US Forest Service cannot see the forest for the trees."

Ed Bethune obviously needs no persuading to support his own bill, although he might like a word of encouragement. Other members of the Arkansas congressional delegation do need your urging to support the Conservation Coalition proposal. These include Senators David Pryor and Dale Bumpers, and Representatives Beryl Anthony, Bill Alexander, and John Paul Hammerschmidt:

The Honorable David Pryor
404 Russell Building
First & "C" Street, NE
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dale Bumpers
3229 Dirksen Building
First & "C" Street, NE
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Beryl Anthony, Jr.
213 Cannon Building
First & Independence, SE
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Alexander
201 Cannon Building
First & Independence, SE
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable J. P. Hammerschmidt
2207 Rayburn Building
Independence & S. Capitol, SW
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ed Bethune, Jr.
1535 Longworth Building
Independence & New Jersey Avenues, SE
Washington, DC 20515

FALL GENERAL MEETING

On October 7 we will gather in El Dorado for what our southern Arkansas friends promise will be a fabulous meeting. Here is the schedule:

Arkansas Native Plant Society Fall Meeting
El Dorado, October 7, 8, 9, 1983

Friday night, Oct. 7th: Kings Inn, junction of highways 167 and city 82.
- 6:30 p.m.: Dinner. Go through buffet line, eat in room reserved for ANPS
- 7:30 p.m.: "Cooking with and using wild and cultivated Herbs." Mary Wortham
- 8:20 p.m.: "Highway roadsides" Bill Richardson, Senior Environmental Scientist, Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department
- 9:00 p.m.: announcements and arrangements for field trips.

Saturday morning, Oct. 8th:
Breakfast on your own.
- 8:30 a.m.: Field Trips Meet at Kings Inn.
  Leaders: 1. Carl Amason
  2. Randy Johnson
  3. Freeman Thomas

Lunch on your own. Kings Inn can provide bag lunches upon request.

Saturday afternoon, Oct. 8th:
- 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.: Workshops at Kings Inn
  1. How to Know the Ferns
     Dr. James H. Peck
  2. How to use Plant Keys
     Dr. Robert Wright
  3. Photographing Wildflowers
     Edith Huey
- 4:00 p.m.: meeting of Executive Board
- 6:30 p.m.: Dinner. A private buffet will be served.
- 7:45 p.m.: Business Meeting
- 8:15 p.m.: Auction for the Aileen McWilliam Research Grant Fund
  Announcements

Sunday morning:
Breakfast on your own.
- 8:00 a.m.: Inaugurating a Roadside Wildflower Program in Arkansas. Kings Inn Dr. F. H. Roy
- 8:30 a.m.: Field Trips arranged by Carl Amason

ACCOMMODATIONS IN EL DORADO

Kings Inn, 1920 Junction City (convention rates available to ANPS members and guests)	862-5191	$33 - 40
El Dorado Inn, 3019 N. West Avenue (on Business 167)	862-6676	$20 - 28
Flamingo Inn, 420 S. West Avenue	862-4201	$23 - 36
Holiday Inn, 301 W. Hillsboro (US 82 near downtown)	862-6621	$36 - 45
Mini-Inn Motel, 518 S. Russell (next to Holiday Inn)	862-5163	$16 - 20
Pine Tree Motel, 1510 E. Hillsboro	863-5107	$16 - 26
Town House Motel, 421 S. West Avenue	862-1338	$18 - 23
Whitehall Motel, 840 W. Hillsboro	863-4136	$17 - 22

FALL FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, Oct. 1: Cooking and Using Wild Foods. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Pinnacle Mountain State Park. Freeman Thomas will give one of his popular and delicious demonstrations. Noon dinner furnished, afternoon field trip included. Cost $4. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, Nov. 5: Seeds and Berries in Southern Arkansas. 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Carl Amason's residence. Carl will take you to see some of the fruits of nature's season, along with late-blooming wild flowers. Meet at his house (white, trimmed in brown, 1½ miles South of Calion), and bring your own lunch.

ODDS AND ENDS

Elections. One office, that of Vice-President, needs to be filled at the El Dorado meeting. The nominating committee has selected Carl Amason. (The Vice-President automatically becomes President the following year.)

Aileen McWilliam Research Fund. The Executive Board is preparing suggested guidelines for both trusteeship and disbursement of the fund. An attorney, a representative of the Internal Revenue Service, and scholars are being consulted.

State Income Tax Check-off. If the state of Arkansas ends up owing you money back on your 1983 taxes, you will have the option of making a donation to conservation. By checking a box on your tax form, you may have the refund earmarked for conservation of non-game animals and plants. What an effortless way to save something worthwhile.

The Arkansas Native Plant Society

Minutes of the General Meeting

April 23, 1983

Son-Light Center, Mena, Arkansas

The meeting was called to order at 8 P.M. by the president, Freeman Thomas. He expressed words of welcome to the members and to the guests, and also words of thanks and appreciation to the Mena Nature Club for their kindness in hosting the meeting. He thanked Don Peach for the beautiful display of wild plants.

The president called for a reading of the minutes of the Fall Meeting at Mountain View on September 10-11, 1982. These had been prepared by the past secretary, Lana Cook, and were read by the current secretary, Marion Molnar. The minutes were approved as read by the membership.

The president then called for the treasurer's report by George Molnar. The latter did this by means of slide projections which are here reproduced and attached. They show summary data as of April 10, 1983. They include details and analysis of two budgets: 1) that of the regular operations of the Society, and 2) that of the special Aileen McWilliam Fund. In addition there is a review of the status of memberships of the four years of the Society's existence, and finally a map depiction of the geographical distribution of the current membership.

The balance on hand in the operations' budget was $1291.85. The membership was 191, an increment of 75 over the mean of 116 for the preceding two years (Figures 6 and 7). This great increase was due to the mailing in November and December of postal reminder cards to members in arrears. The effectiveness of this special communication (together with the resultant directory mailed in January) with a net gain of $321 in income pointed to two shortcomings in our current medium of communication, the newsletter issued twice yearly: 1) The interval between the summer and the next spring issue is so long (7-8 months) that a notice in July about payment of dues is forgotten before the new fiscal (calendar) year arrives. 2) There are too many miscellaneous items in the newsletter; the item about dues is therefore not prominent. Other native plant societies have more issues of the newsletter (e.g., that of West Virginia has five issues per year). The treasurer therefore recommended that reminder cards be used hereafter for collection of dues. Also, to maintain interest and effectiveness, the Society should issue, in addition to the spring and summer newsletters (devoted mainly to seasonal field excursions and workshops), a bulletin in the autumn on conservation problems and activities, and a bulletin in the winter on scientific studies by members and in the literature. Since all these publications would impose too great a burden on one editor, associate editors should be appointed, one for each of the publications.

The membership of 191 included some 11 living outside of Arkansas. The remaining 180 were unevenly distributed over the state (Figure 8). There are no members from the counties along the Mississippi River, and none from some large towns (Blytheville, West Memphis, Forrest City, Helena, Texarkana, Hope, Arkadelphia, Fort Smith, etc.). The majority of the members live in and satellited around Pulaski County. Planetary aggregations occur in Washington, Polk, and Union counties, and the remainder are scatterd like cosmic dust. The treasurer therefore recommended that a membership committee be appointed to proselytize the benighted. A secondary benefit would be a membership large enough to qualify for bulk mailing, and thereby a great savings in postage (5.2¢/item vs 20¢/ounce).

The Aileen McWilliam Fund totalled $1434.86. The auction at the previous Fall Meeting provided 25%, or $365. The Mena Nature Club donated $100. Twelve individuals donated 66%, or $940. Most of the donors were relatives or friends in the Mena area. For an annual earning of $1000, the principal would have to be $10,000. It would take over 20 years to raise this much by annual auctions. Also it seems that members feel they have made their contribution when they have purchased at an auction. Larger donations could be solicited by means of a costly professional fund raiser, or else by our using professional methods ourselves.

The president invited all members to submit suggestions and ideas for enhancing the activities of the Society. He announced the appointment of two committees with respect to the McWilliam fund:

1. To study methods of stewardship of the fund: Randy Johnson and George Molnar, and help from Kay Arnold of the Arkansas Nature Conservancy who is an attorney.

2. To study methods for disbursement of money: Jewel Moore, Lana Cook, and Leona Spence, chairman.

The president also appointed the following to a nominating committee for the office of vice-president: Jay Justice, Florence Mallard, and Randy Johnson, chairman.

The president called attention to the tupelo swamp field trip on May 14, followed by a prairie trip on May 15. The Fall Meeting will be in El Dorado in October with Carl Amason and Archalie Harman as the local committee for arrangements. Richard Spears suggested that the Louisiana Native Plant Society be invited to the Fall Meeting.

Jewel Moore called attention to the field trip to Chalk Bluffs near St. Frances to be led by Kay Cargill of Piggott. The State Audubon Society will meet April 30 in Jasper.

The final item of business was a report by Randy Johnson about the efforts for designating certain areas of national forest lands in Arkansas as wilderness areas. He called for letters of thanks from members to Congressman Ed Bethune for introducing a bill to

make the Flatside area in his district a wilderness area. Don Culwell suggested that, in order to inform all members not at this meeting, the Society send a special letter concerning this matter to all members. Florence Mallard noted that personal letters by each member to a legislator have the greatest impact.

Following a move by Don Culwell, the meeting adjorned at about 9 P.M. The members then participated in a hospitality hour hosted by members of the Mena Nature Club, who had laid out several tables of delicious pastries, jellies, cheeses, etc.

Additional Notes About the Spring Meeting

The admission fee of $2 was paid by 61 members and guests. Undoubtedly many more would have attended in better weather. Severe storms deterred many members, Indeed, Vice President Lana Cook had to preside until President Freeman Thomas could arrive on Saturday morning. Because of the rain and fog on Rich Mountain, Lana inverted the order of activites on Saturday by assigning the workshops to the morning and a field trip to the Cossatot River to the afternoon. The river had to be crossed at several places through fender high water over low water bridges. The weather, however, was perfect for the trip along the Talimena Drive on Sunday morning.

A final item. Bob Wright's scheduled talk at 8 P.M. on Friday was a cover for a surprise announcement, namely, that on the occasion of her impending retirement and in recognition of her many services to the University and to the science of botany, the University of Central Arkansas at Conway will henceforth call a grove of trees the Jewel E. Moore Arboretum.

Submitted by

Marion D. Molnar
Secretary

April 10, 1983

Brought forward	
Transferred from predecessor	$737.33
Dues & Registration, 9/11/82	444.00
Dues by mail	635.00
Donation	20.00
Interest on deposit, 5.25%	28.10
Total	$1864.43
Expenditures	572.58
Balance	$1291.85

Slide 1.

Expenditures

Supplies	$96.25
Claytonia	90.41
Membership	
Reminder Cards, 500	100.62
Membership " , "	100.62
Directory	
Printing, 250	153.08
Mailing, 158	31.60
Total	$572.58

Slide 2.

Cost of Each Member
1983

Reminder Card		
printing	$0.07	
mailing	.13	
	0.20	= 4% of dues
Membership Card		
printing	.07	
mailing	.13	
	0.20	= 4%
Directory		
printing + tax	.61	
mailing	.20	
	0.81	= 16%
Grand Total	$1.21	= 24% of dues

Slide 3.

Return on Investment in Reminder Cards, 1983

Cost
1st mailing, 169 cards
2nd " , 105 "
274 " x 20¢ = $54.8

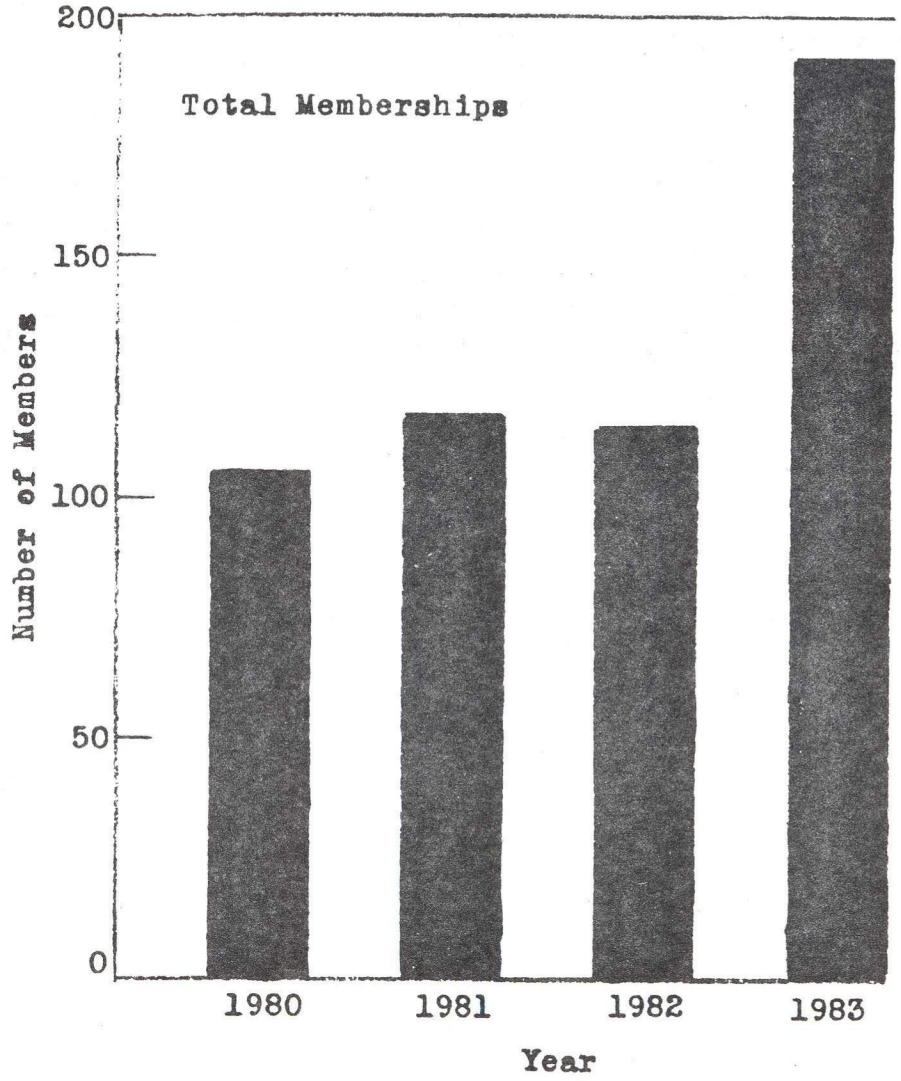
Membership, April 10, 1983	191
" , mean for 1981, 1982	116
Increment	75
	x $5
	$375.00
Cost	54.80
Net Gain	$321.20

Slide 4.

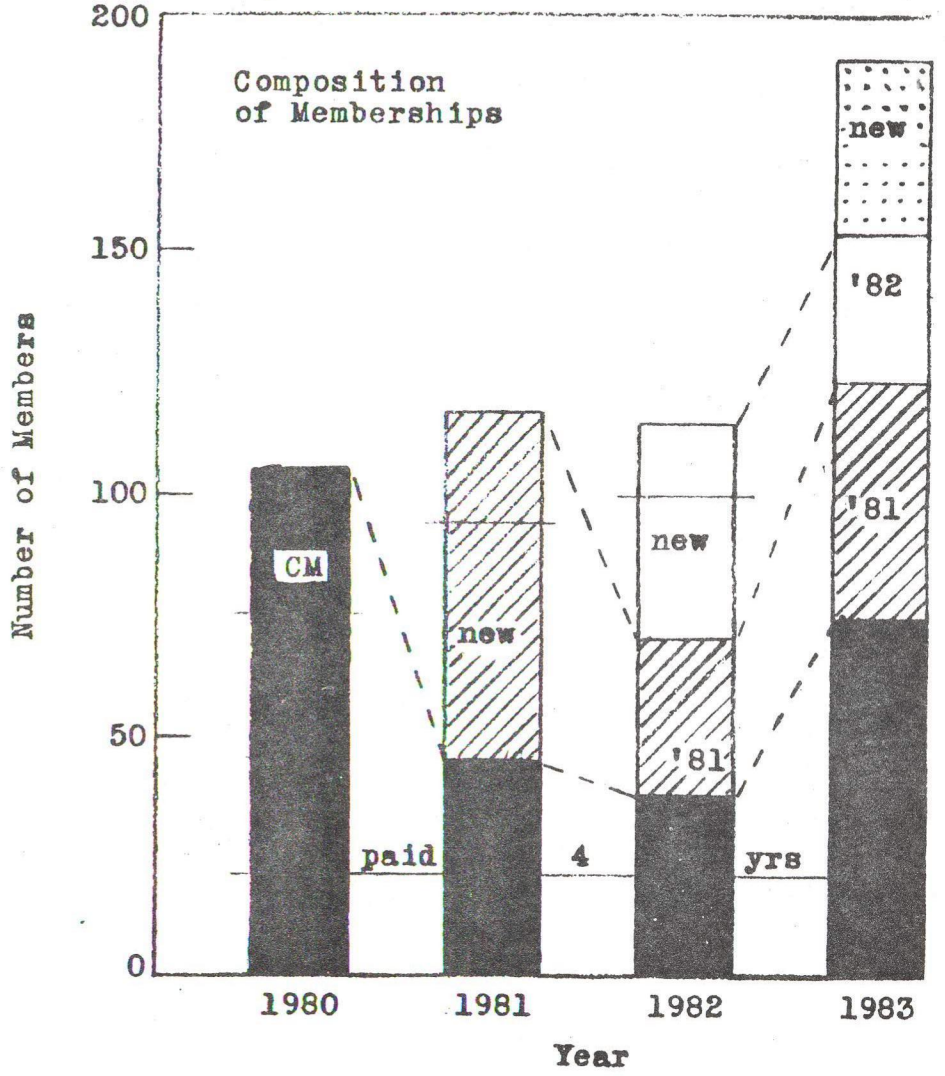
Aileen McWilliam
Botanical Scholarship Fund
April 10, 1983

Auction, Mt. View, 9/11/82	$365.10
Donations	
Individuals, ca. 12	940.00
Mena Nature Club	100.00
Interest on deposit, 5.5%	29.76
Total	$1434.86

Slide 5.



Slide 6.



Slide 7.



Geographical Distribution of ANPS Membership. April 10, 1983.

• = 1 member. ○ = 5 members. ● = 10 members.

Slide 8.