

MISSISSIPPI NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

MARCH 1986



TISHOMINGO FIELD TRIP

Remember: The reservation deadline for the Tishomingo Field Trip is 1 April. If you did not receive a registration form, please contact Steve Timme at Mississippi State University as soon as possible. Reservations are to be sent to Travis Salley. Below is a tentative schedule of events for the weekend of April 11, 12 & 13.

April 11 (Friday):

7-10 p.m. - Get acquainted party.....Lodge Building
Light refreshments will be available and possible slide presentations for those interested.

April 12 (Saturday):

6 a.m. - Nature walks (birding, etc.)....Meet at Cafeteria Building
8 a.m. - Breakfast.....Cafeteria Building
9 a.m. - Field Trips Start.....Meet at Cafeteria Building
11:45 a.m. - All field trips should plan to arrive at the
Cafeteria Building.
12:00 p.m. - Lunch.....Cafeteria Building
1:30 p.m. - Field Trips Resume.....Meet at Cafeteria Building
4:00 p.m. - All field trips should plan to arrive at the
Cafeteria Building.
5:00 p.m. - Supper.....Cafeteria Building
6:00 p.m. - Programs begin.....Cafeteria Building
6:00 p.m. - "Medicinal Plants in Mississippi" Steve L. Timme
7:00 p.m. - "Landscaping With Native Plants" Felder Rushing

April 13 (Sunday):

6:00 a.m. - Nature walks (birding, etc.)..Meet at Cafeteria Building
8:00 a.m. - Breakfast.....Cafeteria Building
9:00 a.m. - Field Trips.....Meet at Cafeteria Building
11:00 a.m. - Field Trips End, depart by noon from cabins.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING RAINGEAR!!

Field Trip Leaders: Dr. Sidney McDaniel
Tim Smith
Dr. Steve Timme

* * A field trip to the COVE (see December 1985 newsletter) is scheduled for Saturday, 19 April. Anyone interested meet at Tomnolen or Springhill (west of Bellfountaine on state hiway 404) at 9:00 a.m. The tentative trip leader is Dr. Wilma Mitchell (Corps of Engineers). For further information, contact Travis Salley at 601-843-2330.

A DELTA FIELD TRIP

Tim Smith

Mississippi State University

On a recent mild, late winter day a number of Mississippi botanists and native plant enthusiasts converged on a Sunflower County site to view a rare shrub in flower. Lindera melissaefolium (swamp spice bush) is closely related to the more common spice bush, Lindera benzoin. Swamp spice bush was known from only one site in the state, in Sharkey County, until its discovery last year by Wayne Morris near the Sunflower River in northwestern Sunflower County. Accompanying Wayne on a return trip to the site were Dr. Sidney McDaniel, Dr. Robert Stewart, Dr. Jim Wiseman, Tim Smith, Cary Norquist, Travis Salley, and Ken Gordon. Both staminate (male) and pistillate (female) yellow-flowered colonies were located in two brakes (wooded

remnants of formerly more extensively forested Delta bottomland). A third brake nearby was investigated and also found to contain flowering colonies of Lindera melissaefolium. Other species of interest in the brakes included Populus heterophylla (swamp cottonwood), Prunus hortulana (hortulan plum), and Gleditsia aquatica (water locust). The spring-like weather, the sight of a rare native plant in flower, and the fellowship with one's associates combined to produce a rewarding day in the field for all participants.

Just a reminder, that it is time to renew your membership for 1986, if you have not already done so.

Travis Salley, Sec.-Treas.
202 N. Andrews
Cleveland, MS 38732

Name _____

Address _____

Renewal for 1986 - \$ _____

Individual membership is \$5.00
Family membership is \$7.50
Student membership is \$2.50

THE FLORA OF MISSISSIPPI _____ AGAIN

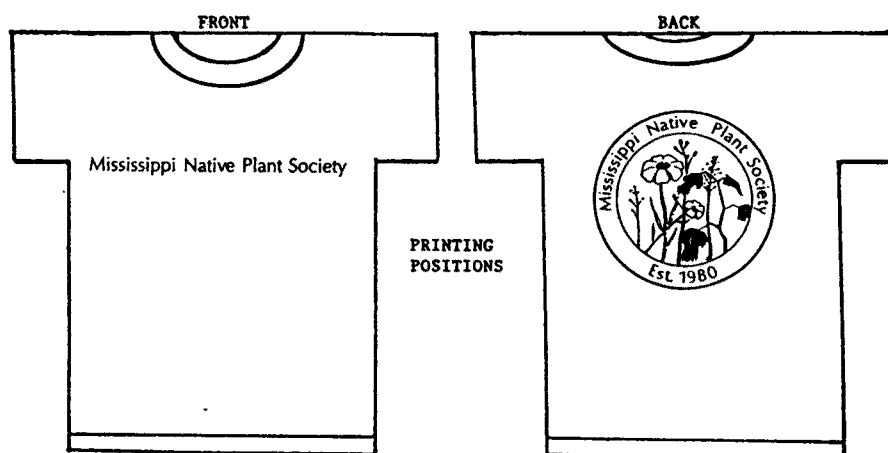
After discussion with various readers of the newsletter, it was realized that the earlier notice concerning the Flora of Mississippi was not totally understood. As indicated in the last newsletter, the Flora of Mississippi will be a manual of the plants of Mississippi with keys, descriptions, and hopefully 2000+ illustrations. The Crosby Arboretum has agreed to underwrite the actual publication costs, but the cost of preparing the illustrations is not covered. We are managing to get illustrations done through related or even unrelated projects, but the total cost of the illustrations alone will be in excess of \$24,000. Thus without risking bankruptcy it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to have the desired number of illustrations without outside support. Those persons or groups interested in supporting the Flora of Mississippi project are urged to send their tax-deductible donations to Institute for Botanical Exploration, Box EN, Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762.

Mississippi Native Plant Society

T-SHIRTS

The Mississippi Native Plant Society now has T-Shirts available. The shirts are bright yellow with dark green lettering and logo. The cost per shirt is \$5.50. If you want the shirts mailed to you, please add \$1.00 (\$6.50) to cover shipping costs. Make checks payable to the Mississippi Native Plant Society and send orders to Dr. Steve Timme, Department of Biological Sciences, P.O. Box GY, Mississippi State, MS 39762. Please allow several weeks for delivery. Printing by Dux D'Lux, Starkville.

Below is an example of the MNPS T-Shirts.



Sizes includes adults XL, L, M, and S, and childrens sizes. The T-Shirts are made of 50% cotton and 50% polyester.

** If you plan to attend the Tishomingo field trip and would like a T-Shirt, send \$5.50 per shirt and they will be delivered at Tishomingo.

MNPS 1985 Financial Report

Balance (Jan. 1985)	\$1095.90
Deposits	731.00
Expenses	547.05
Balance (Dec. 1985)	1279.84
(IBE Holding)	31.72
NET BALANCE	1311.56

Thoughts on the Mississippi Native Plant Society

What is the purpose of the Mississippi Native Plant Society? According to Article II of the MNPS constitution, the purposes of the Society are the following:

- A. To gather and disseminate knowledge about the native and naturalized species of plants in Mississippi.
- B. To work for the preservation of individual speices of native plants and their respective habitats in such manner as the Society shall deem appropriate.
- C. To educate all people concerning the native and naturalized plant species of Mississippi including their esthetic importance, their ecology, and their protection.
- D. To promote fellowship among all persons interested in the understanding and appreciation of the native and naturalized species of plants found within the bounds of the state of Mississippi.
- E. To undertake any other activities that the members of the Society shall deem consistent with the overall purpose of the Society.

In the short time I've been associated with the MNPS, all the Society has accomplished is conducting field trips several times a year. These have certainly been educational in terms of species observations, but have not fulfilled the ideas and goals of the writers of the constitution. The Society has become stagnant and has locked itself into field trips only. The native plant societies of surrounding states are active in conducting public field trips, holding organized meetinigs with speakers, conducting various types of workshops, and working with federal and state conservation programs. If the constitution is to be upheld, I believe it is time for the Mississippi Native Plant Society to move forward and begin fulfilling its purposes.

The Society should be working with federal and state organizations in the identification, location, and preservation of threatened or endangered species. I frequently receive information concerning a particular species or a location where it may occur. This type of information may be valuable to those working toward the preservation of certain plants, and should be developed by the Society to assist federal and state authorities.

I do not believe that the Society has made a real attempt to educate "all" people concerning the vegetation in the state. The MNPS should hold workshops, special programs, and discussions (slide presentations, seminars, etc.) to educate people. As an example, the Society could work with other state organizations, e.g. the Mississippi Academy of Sciences, and distribute information pertaining to the MNPS and the state's flora.

The Society should increase their fellowship among people interested in Mississippi's flora. We seem to simply have a field trip and then disperse. As a group, we should gather not only for fellowship, but also for getting any questions answered, comparing notes, and discussing future trips or meetings.

The main source of gathering and disseminating knowledge of Mississippi's flora is through the Society's newsletter. As editor, I have received little information and few from outside of Mississippi State University. Those who have contributed were well appreciated. As an example, in the December 1985 issue I requested information for the NEWS and NOTES section. Since that issue, I have not received one iota of information. Have no students graduated? Have no members taken new jobs or projects? Has no one sighted interesting plants? There are a good number of professional and non-

professional botanists in the state. Surely, these people are doing something that could be included in the newsletter.

Discussions with the current president have given the promise of some change in the Society's attitude. It will take an active and determined leader to move the MNPS forward beyond field trips. If we are to educate Mississippians on the state's flora, we must first be concerned enough ourselves to develop and execute the purposes of the Mississippi Native Plant Society.

Dr. Steve L. Timme
Mississippi State University

**The above comments are those of the author only.

MNPS encourages members to invite relatives and friends to share our interest in our native plants. PLEASE help us maintain plant populations by refraining from collecting on organized field trips.

LOGO

The Mississippi Native Plant Society has adopted a logo (front cover) designed by Mary Norman Brown. Again, MNPS congratulates her. The original was professionally reworked by Mark Kitchens, an art student at Mississippi State University.

NEWS AND NOTES

Keith Clancy will graduate in May with a Master's degree in biological science from Mississippi State University. His future plans are indefinite at this time.

Ginger Morgan will graduate in May with a Bachelor's degree in biological science from Mississippi State University. She plans to attend graduate school at another institution.

Dr. Steve Timme will return to Peru in May to continue reserch on the Hepaticae (liverworts). He will be presenting a talk on mosses and liverworts at the Crosby Arboretum, Saturday, March 22 beginning at 8:30 a.m. Contact Chris Wells at 798-6961.

Please send information for NEWS and NOTES to Dr. Steve Timme, Department of Biological Sciences, P. O. Drawer GY, Mississippi State, MS 39762.



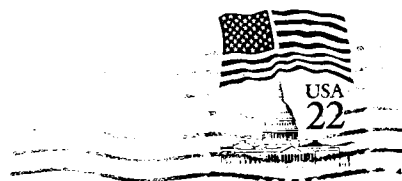
Camass

(Zigadenus glaberrimus Michx.)

Illustration by Anna Asquith.

Plants to 5 feet tall. Leaves to 20 inches long. Flowers whitish to yellow tinged with reddish color. Petals with 2 greenish glands marked with purple spots. Possibly toxic. Habitat: Pineland bogs of southern Mississippi. Blooms: August to September.

Steve L. Timme, editor
Mississippi Native Plant Society
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P. O. Drawer GY
Mississippi State, MS 39762



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