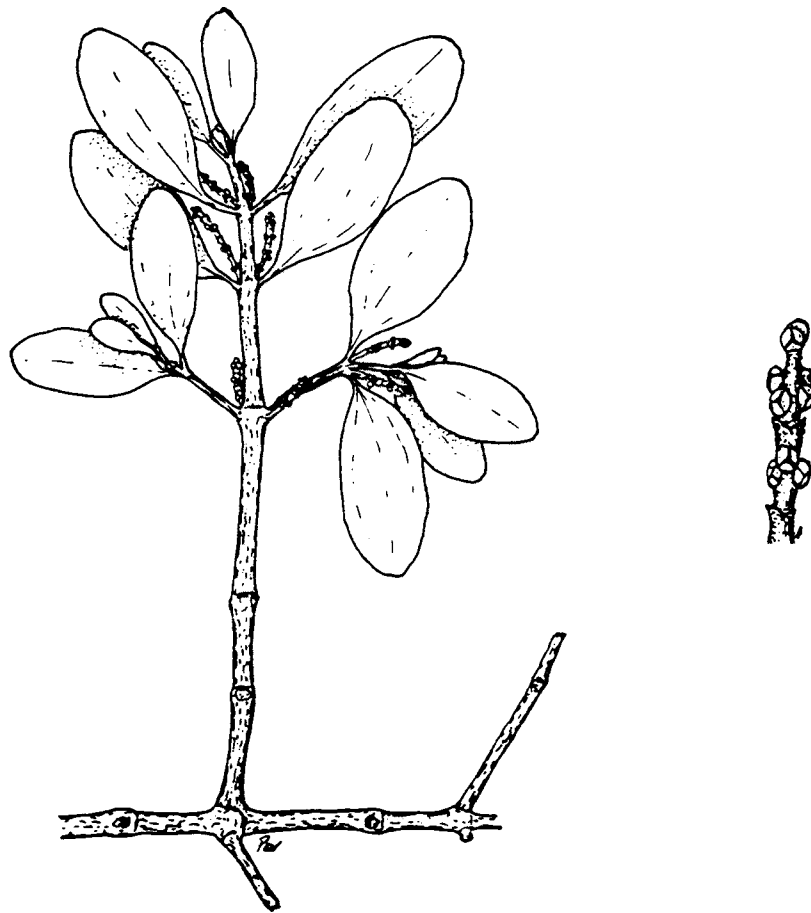

MISSISSIPPI NATIVE
PLANT SOCIETY
DECEMBER 1988



MISTLETOE
Phoradendron serotinum

SUMMER SEMINAR

Saturday, August 20, 1988, Jackson

Felder Rushing started off the afternoon meeting with the usual introductions, his down-home philosophy, and general entertainment for the record 130 individuals that turned out for the meeting. He talked about over-used, formal, and non-native landscaping: lollipops (Bradford pear trees), snakes (trimmed evergreen hedges), and practical cures for those who have inherited these designs. He also talked about recent introductions and selections of native perennials, and the use of a selective herbicide (Fusilade) to control grassy weeds. Among native species mentioned were Boltonia (an aster cultivar, more compact than the roadside species), Amsonia (beautiful azure blue flowers), ironweed (Vernonia), and Verbena rigida "polaris" (better than the standard). Oenothera fruticosa ("sundrops") was named flower of the year for 1989.

John Allen Smith, of Homochitto Outdoors, talked briefly about his experiences with the National Wildflower Research Center (Austin, TX), the US Forest Service, and wildflower seeds. His talk was mainly about how to buy wildflower seeds, particularly wildflower mixes.

Chris Wells talked about current programs at the Crosby Arboretum. Ed Blake, a Landscape Architect and Director of the Crosby Arboretum, had a 2-projector slide show on the patterns of wildflowers created by the forces of nature. He talked about the principles and elements of wildflower design. He suggested that we take our lessons from nature: planting in drifts and clumps, and banding patterns, much like the patterns produced by the natural process of fire, soil moisture, and the region's various ecological relationships. Designing our gardens to reflect the lines, forms, colors and texture of nature gives us a "sense of place"—a sense that we are a part a larger whole, the surrounding natural landscape.

After the meeting, some of us gathered at Mynelle Gardens for a ceremony to mark the beginning of the MNPS Wildflower Garden. Felder and others took turns planting a Boltonia, Asarum, and a few other plants we received as a donation from Tom Dodd's Nursery in Mobile.

Joe McGee sold some cardinal plants that he had grown from seed (netting \$43 for MNPS). John Allen Smith contributed proceeds of the sale of his supply of "1988 Mississippi Wildflowers" calender. And we signed up 20 new members. Thanks, all of you.- Vic Rudis

MID-SOUTH NATIVE PLANT CONFERENCE

October 28-30, 1988, Memphis, TN

For those of you who did not get a chance to participate in this the first native plant conference outside Cullowhee, NC, here are a few details:

There were over 265 persons in attendance, ranging from housewives, to nurseymen, university professors, landscape architects, and hobbyists. We compared notes on our "favorite" native plants, experiences with growth and propagation, and knowledge of new cultivars. The conference made me realize just how wide the concept of "native plants" has spread. People came from Illinois, Georgia, Missouri, Louisiana, and, of course, Tennessee. And there were quite a few in attendance from Mississippi, including Travis Salley and Felder Rushing.

Lichterman Nature Center is a 65 acre preserve, with a 10 acre lake and assorted nature trails (part of the Memphis museum system). The interpretive center, built in 1928 by C. Sanders (of Piggly Wiggly fame), was the focus for one evening's social activities. The Nature Center offers plants for sale, principally in March and October, and carries small woody plant seedlings with prices to match, and an assortment of hard-to-find perennials.

Trees by Touliatos is located near the airport, just south of town, and specializes in native plants for the Midsouth. One of our field trips during the conferences was to tour his extensive operation. He has a wide variety of natives, and good-sized trees and shrubs, not just seedlings. If you are not inclined to travel to Memphis to pick your hard-to-find native plant, ask your local garden center to give Touliatos a call (he sells wholesale, too).- Vic Rudis

TISHOMINGO FIELD TRIP 1989

A field trip is scheduled at Tishomingo State Park for the week-end of April 21. The event will be co-hosted by the MNPS and the Alabama Wildflower Society. Reservation forms will be mailed out shortly after the first of the year. Other details and a reminder will be included in the next newsletter. Plan to attend. This should be an outstanding event.-SM

OCTOBER FIELD TRIP

Northern Jasper County was the site of the October 22 field trip, the last of the 1988 season. Although only five MNPS members met in Newton that morning, the weather was beyond perfect. In fact, the weather was as fine as one could ever ask for anywhere. Although herbaceous plants were just about through for the year, trees and other woody plants furnished ample material for discussion and observation. Habitats varied from bottom-land hardwoods to sandy scrub on high, for Mississippi, hills. A particularly noteworthy tree was Oglethorpe oak (Quercus oglethorpensis) only found in Mississippi the last few years. A picnic lunch near a country church on one of the high hills concluded the activities of the day.-SM

BOOK REVIEW

When I opened Wilbur and Marion Duncan's *Trees of the Southeastern United States* (1988, University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA 30602), it was immediately apparent that the book was a departure from the usual field guides and floristic manuals. The book is a handy size, the color plates show good color separation and resolution, the type, though small, is crisp and easy to read.

The book takes a markedly different organizational approach from previous standard botanical references. Gone is any semblance of phylogenetic relationships (presumed evolutionary relatedness) above the family level. Many families are split into widely separated portions of the book. For example, legumes are split into at least two different groups (separated by compound versus simple leaves) as are the hollies (evergreen versus deciduous leaves). At first, this separation is quite awkward, especially for casually browsing through a family. But, after an hour or so of use, I found the organization easy to handle and logical, given the structure of the botanical keys.

To test the keys, I challenged the book with various woody plants of our area. I had problems with Ilex longipes (probably because differences between it and Ilex decidua are not very great) and Ilex glabra. If I had read the introduction before trying the keys, I would have known that the book does not treat plants such as Ilex glabra that are under 13 feet tall and 3 inches DBH. In comparison with other keys, these keys performed well for these plants.

The Duncans make no apologies for their botanically detailed and

accurate plant descriptions. They provide ample descriptive drawings and six pages of terms defined in the glossary in the first part of the book. The introductory material (pages one through twenty-one) is worth reading both for its informational content and to prove that technically accurate writing can be enjoyably read.

I have tried quite hard to find problems with the book. I do not like the page numbers floating from upper to lower corners. Keep them all in one place or the other. I do not like the color plates all in one place. I know it is cheaper to print them this way, but I dislike having to flip from one set of pages to another. The plates are beautiful, accurate, and have scientific names as captions with a scale indication (a rarity in most works). However, for the sake of the vast majority of users, there should also be common names in the captions with the scientific names. The most serious problem that I found with the plates was the numbering system. There is no way to go from the picture with a scientific name to a description except through the index. The distribution maps associated with most species are informative, though a few errors of omission for Mississippi were noted.

I like this book and will use it in my work. Anybody who has an interest in the woody plants of Mississippi and the region should own this book. The organizational problems that I note in this review are my own opinions, not error by the authors.-Chris Wells

FUTURE BOOKS

Wildflowers of Mississippi will be available in August, 1989, at a price of \$35.00 (hardback only). Individuals who wish to preorder may contact S.L. Timme at the Department of Biology, P. O. Box 5181, University of North Alabama, Florence, AL 35632-0001 or call 205-760-4435. They may also contact the University Press of Mississippi, 3825 Ridgewood Rd., Jackson, MS 39211 (601-982-6205). The book contains over 500 color plates and some 60 illustrations.

The Flora of Mississippi project is still slated for completion in 1991. Approximately 20% of the text and over 500 line drawings are completed. Next year (1989) should put the project over the half-way mark. The editor and chief author will "retire" early, if necessary in 1990 to insure completion on schedule. Price of the 1000+ page book should be reasonable, less than \$40.00, if costs do not rise substantially in the future. For future information individuals may write IBE, Box EN, Miss. State, MS 39762.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER:

- Have you seen the July/August issue of LOUISIANA CONSERVATIONIST? This issue is their calendar issue, which contains, among hunting and fishing and birdwatching records, the seasonal observations of flowering and fruiting periods for some of the Mid-South's prominent native plants. (Contact the Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, P. O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898 for price information.)
- Sorry for any delays in processing your memberships. "Spare time" is very limited these days. We have a new addition to the family, Jonathan Frederick Rudis, born 8-13-88 (Jeffrey, age 6, also welcomes his new brother.) Also I've been recruited to teach Forest Recreation Management at Mississippi State University this semester-especially time-consuming when I haven't taught courses in 9 years.
- Anyone wanting to contribute to the newsletter is welcome to do so. We need your stories, anecdotes, and suggestions for articles. Send all articles to Sidney McDaniel, Box EN, Miss. State, MS 39762.
- Some members I talked with recently have suggested that we notify everyone a week in advance of scheduled field trips. Field trip notices are traditionally placed in the newsletter. It is generally considered up to the individual to mark calendars for the upcoming events. If the membership at large wants this service, we will respond as desired. (Postage for notices runs about \$60 for the current membership. There are added costs for mailing labels, cardstock, and labor.)
- Our treasure chest is up over \$3000. Our operating budget came to about \$700 this year, with projected costs of around \$500. How should we spend the projected \$200 surplus. Surely there are some worthy causes out there. We need to stimulate native plant uses, research, and public education in caring for native plants and natural habitats. Send your suggestions to MNPS, P.O. Box 2151, Starkville, MS 39759.
- The growing season of 1989 is rapidly approaching. Only one field trip as yet has been scheduled. Please let us hear from you with suggestions as to locations and times. Attendance at many of the 1988 trips was disappointing. Let us hope we can have a better turnout this coming year.

SOURCES FOR NATIVE PLANTS

Includes those uncommon in the traditional nursery trade, derived from the Mid-South Conference and elsewhere.

1. Dello Nursery
11034 Highway 64
Arlington, TN 38002
901-867-3511
retail/wholesale
2. Dixon Gallery and Garden
4339 Park Avenue
Memphis, TN 38117
901-761-5250
retail
3. Lichterman Nature Center
5992 Quince Road
Memphis, TN 38119
901-767-7322
retail/seasonal sales/small plants
4. Ridgecrest Nursery
US Hwy 64 East, Rt 3, Box 241
Wynne, Arkansas 72396
501-238-3762
retail/small and large sizes
5. Trees by Touliatos
2020 Brooks Road
Memphis, TN 38116
901-346-8054
retail/wholesale, wide selection
6. Taylored Lawns and Gardens
3758 Dunn
Memphis, TN 38111
901-743-4518
wholesale perennials only
7. Woodlanders, Inc.
1128 Colleton Avenue
Aiken, SC 29801
803-648-7522
mail-order/small plants/widest variety anywhere
8. Phillips Garden Center
Academy Road
Starkville, MS 39759
601-323-3855
retail/ltd selection of native woody shrubs and perennials
9. Boardtown Garden Center
404 Hwy 82 West
Starkville, MS 29759
601-323-9620
retail/ltd selection of native azaleas, shrubs and perennials
10. Homochitto Outdoors
c/o John Allen Smith
Box 630
Meadville, MS 39653
601-384-2915
seeds/seed mixes/calendars
11. Flowerplace Plant Farm
P. O. Box 4865
Meridian, MS 39304
601-482-5686
mail-roder/retail/perennial flowers

12. Tom Dodd Nurseries, Inc.
P. O. Drawer 45
Semmes, AL 36575
wholesale/trees and shrubs
13. Bill Dodd's Rare Plants
P. O. Drawer 377
Semmes, AL 36575
retail/trees and shrubs
13. Natives Nurseries
P. O. Box 2355
Covington, LA 70434
14. Cenla Pride
301 Jackson Street, Suite 304
Alexandra, LA 71301
15. Green Horizons
500 Thompson Drive
Kerrville, TX 78028
16. Native Nurseries
1661 Centerville Road
Tallahassee, FL 32308
17. Natural Gardens
113 Jasper Lane
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
18. Wildseed, Inc.
16810 Barker Springs, Suite 218
Houston, TX 77084
19. The New England Wildflower Society
Garden in the Woods
Hemenway Road
Framingham, MA 01710
Send a selfaddressed, stamped envelope (0.45) for
seed list. Orders must be received in March. Sales
close by March 15.

