

CLAYTONIA

Newsletter of the Arkansas Native Plant Society

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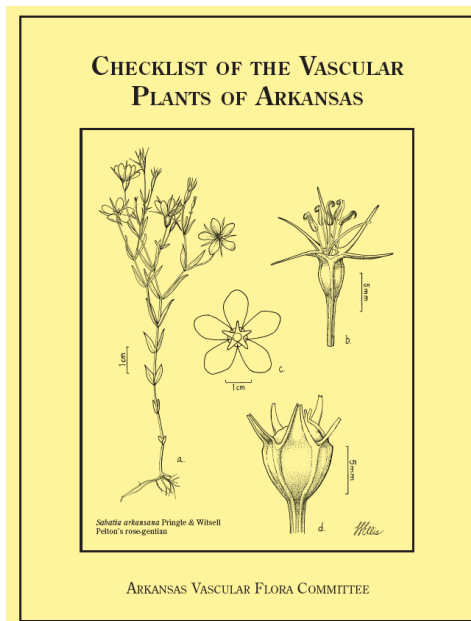
New Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Arkansas Available

After much anticipation, the new *Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Arkansas* will officially be available on September 11, 2006. The checklist, compiled by the Arkansas Flora Committee after an extensive inventory of more than 250,000 herbarium specimens from Arkansas, documents the 2,896 kinds of vascular plants known to occur outside of cultivation in Arkansas.

This work replaces the list appearing in the second edition of Dr. Ed Smith's *Atlas and Annotated List of the Vascular Plants of Arkansas*, which was published in 1988 and has long been out-of-print and unavailable. Smith's *Atlas*, while a great resource, is incomplete, based primarily on the collection at the U of A Herbarium at Fayetteville with data from only partial inventories at selected other in-state herbaria. This new checklist is the first based on a comprehensive inventory of all in-state herbaria, as well as the University of Louisiana at Monroe, where the extensive Arkansas collections of Dr. R. Dale Thomas and a number of his graduate students reside. Each name appearing in the checklist is vouchered by at least one herbarium specimen.

In addition to the inclusion of 427 plants not included in Smith's *Atlas*, the new checklist brings the Arkansas flora up to date with modern, accepted taxonomy and classification of plant families and genera. Also, the list is annotated to show whether or not each plant is native, invasive, endemic, or of conservation concern. It includes introductory material with a history of Arkansas botany and an appendix listing the state species of conservation concern with their state and global conservation status ranks. There is also a comprehensive index to names, including synonyms used in Ed Smith's *Atlas* and his *Keys to the Flora of Arkansas* (1994), as well as helpful tips for finding species that are in different families than those that people are used to.

Big taxonomic changes users will notice since Smith's books include: 1) the splitting up of the genus *Aster* into the following genera: *Symphyotrichum*, *Eurybia*, *Doellingeria*, and *Ionactis*, and 2) division of the Liliaceae (lily family) into 14 families: Agavaceae, Alliaceae, Amaryllidaceae, Asparagaceae, Colchicaceae, Hemerocallidaceae,



Hyacinthaceae, Hypoxidaceae, Liliaceae, Melanthiaceae, Nartheciaceae, Ruscaceae, Smilacaceae, and Themidaceae. Fortunately, all this is covered in the index so you'll be able to navigate these changes without a lot of hassle.

Funding and other support for the project (including field work in under-collected counties) was provided by the Arkansas Native Plant Society, the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage), the Ouachita National Forest, and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

This checklist lays the foundation for the upcoming *Atlas of the Vascular Plants of Arkansas*, which will provide county level distribution maps for each species on the checklist. Data collected from specimens examined for the checklist are being entered into a database which is being used to generate the county level distribution maps at the U of A Herbarium at Fayetteville.

Copies are available for \$22.50 postpaid from: Coordinating Office / Arkansas Vascular Flora Project / University of Arkansas Herbarium / Biomass Research Center 141 / University of Arkansas / Fayetteville, AR 72701 / ATTN: Johnnie L. Gentry. All shipments will be sent book rate via US Postal Service. Make checks payable to the University of Arkansas Herbarium for the AVF Checklist.

A DISCOUNTED RATE OF \$20.00 POSTAGE PAID WILL BE OFFERED TO ALL ANPS MEMBERS.—*Theo Witsell*

President's Greeting

As I write this, the hot wind blows across the Serengeti and a pack of wild dogs barely stirs amid the dry brush at noon time. No, wait. That's just my two dogs on the front lawn. Dry, dry, dry, and I don't just mean my humor.

Still, even in the grips of scattered drought in Arkansas, it is ever interesting to be observing the transition of the native landscape as it adapts to a changing climate, be it a short term fluctuation or a long term trend. Some species buck up and show their stuff under the added pressures of the shift to arid, while others reveal just how narrow is their hold on life in Arkansas. No doubt this is stressful for many to behold and contemplate, and there may not be "solutions" to the changes we are perceiving about us, but we *can* observe and make helpful notes that can benefit conservation and preservation in recording characteristics of our native species.

On a more human scale, it has been a blur of a year for me as president. How do Bush, Clinton and the rest ever get anything done in four year terms, much less a one year? In all seriousness, I guess it's not reasonable to expect some huge change in the ANPS in one officer's term, and we want sustainability and reliability along with progress, so we press on.

That brings me to an actionable point. Our Nominating Committee has done a fine job of securing a nominee for Treasurer and for Membership Chair, but as yet, we are still without a Vice-President nominee. I am disappointed to report that this has become a trend in the Society over the last several years. Many members may assume that a total membership of over 300 means that there is a large pool of potential workers in the Society, but that may be misleading. Of the total number, there are several institutional memberships, several out of state, and then several who are unable to attend the meetings. This leaves a smaller core of active members to do the work of advancing the worthy goals of the Society. That may mean moving up the ANPS in the priorities ranking, or considering rotating back in a former officer. My appeal is not a hand-wringing or an alarm, but from my experience over the last 20 years as a member, this is a growing concern in terms of viability. As an advocate for the causes of education, preservation, and conservation of Arkansas' native plants, I am not ashamed to ask for help in our endeavor. Please consider what you might be able to do to make the Society a more effective organization.

The Executive Board just met in early August for the third session of the year, and there are several ongoing activities to report:

- 1) The Society continues to work toward placing a copy of one of Carl Hunter's books in each of Arkansas' more than 200 public libraries. The cost will be over \$5,000 even with a generous discount off the cover price. As we work to find a possible corporate partner, we are again resuming our application for charitable status as a 501(c)3 organization for tax purposes. Of course, we don't want to rely solely on getting outside donations, but we simply don't have the means in our Operating Fund to underwrite this large project before year end. This may mean we are not able to complete this goal until sometime in 2007.
- 2) The Carl Amason Conservation Award to Mary Alice Beer is scheduled for presentation at a special gathering in late September. There is a separate article on this elsewhere within the *Claytonia*.
- 3) The creation of a bank of slide and/or a Powerpoint presentation for a Speakers Bureau on native plants is still underway, and we hope to have an example in hand at the Fall Meeting in Russellville.
- 4) Brent Baker has done great General Meeting preparation again and we are slated to meet at Dardanelle State Park Visitors Center at Russellville on October 20-22.
- 5) Unpaid memberships limit the Society's ability to fund Ecology camps, grant scholarships, print newsletters, fund special projects like The Flora of Arkansas, etc. If your address label on this newsletter has a '04 or '05 on it, please renew soon.
- 6) The annual plant auction is great fun and is our only primary fundraiser other than memberships. Please plan to bring seeds, plants, books, fresh persimmons, garden

paraphernalia, preserves, old spells used to kill wisteria, or whatever you think would sell. If you just can't find anything to donate, bring your pocketbook! It's a great cause and always great fun.

7) The Society is again printing color brochures to use in promoting new membership. There will be copies available at the Fall Meeting.

Finally, I want to thank the Society for giving me the opportunity to serve this year. It is always an honor to be associated with people who value botany, ecology, beauty, simplicity, complexity, folk history, and good company. I hope to see all of you at Dardanelle.

Jason Anders , ANPS President

A Personal Note From the President Elect

Hello! First of all, I want to thank everyone for a wonderful Spring Meeting in Mena! I really appreciate everyone who assisted, gave presentations, led hikes, and all those who attended probably one of the wettest meetings in ANPS history!!! Thanks so much for taking the rain in stride! (Speaking of rain...does anyone know where I can buy a drop?!!! I don't know about all of you, but the drought and heat have not been kind to plants at my house this summer!!)

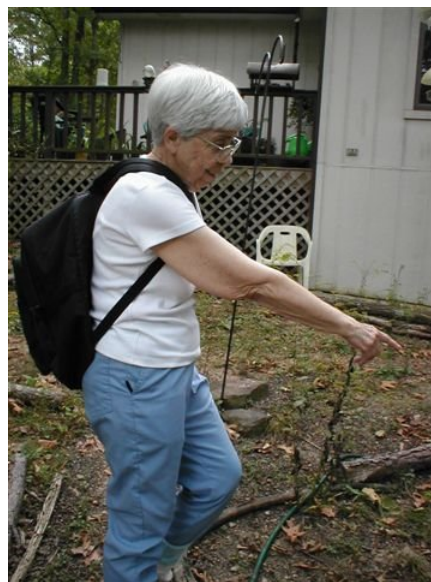
I also want to thank everyone for their compassion and sympathy when I received news of my grandmother's passing that Saturday evening. I also received numerous cards and notes from ANPS members the next week. They were all very lovely gestures. Thank you.

In regards ,to the Fall Meeting, we're meeting a little later in the year than we typically have been in the recent past. I received quite a few requests for a slightly later meeting and was originally aiming for early to mid-October. However, circumstances and conflicts pushed the meeting to the third weekend in October. I hope this is acceptable to the membership and we shall see how things go. Your feedback, as always, will be much appreciated. At least maybe it will be cooler (hard to imagine at the moment with the forecast for the next few days showing 100 plus degrees!!)

I look forward to seeing you all in Russellville!

Sincerely,
Brent Baker
ANPS President Elect

Carl Amason Conservation Award Given to Mary Alice Beer



Mary Alice points out an interesting plant behind her house at the Fall 2004 ANPS meeting. Photo by Clint Sowards.

The Awards and Scholarship Committee and the ANPS Board of Directors are pleased to announce that the 2006 Carl Amason Conservation Award is being given to Mary Alice Beer of Fairfield Bay, Arkansas. Mary Alice was chosen because of her longtime commitment to the conservation of native plants and their habitat, for her contributions to our scientific knowledge of the Flora of Arkansas, and for her public-mindedness and dedication to sharing her knowledge and love of the native flora, all of which she has done on

her own and on a volunteer basis. Among her accomplishments and contributions are the preservation and maintenance of the Terrace Glade Preserve in Fairfield Bay (Van Buren County), her monitoring of rare species in her area, and her collections of thousands of plant specimens for the U of A Herbarium at Fayetteville.

When Mary Alice first walked into what would eventually become the Terrace Glade Preserve, a three acre sandstone glade adjacent to a condominium complex in Fairfield Bay, it was so beautiful she thought she was trespassing in someone's flower garden. At the time, the glade was owned by Fairfield Bay and was being used as a dump for construction debris and other trash. Mary Alice got some "no dumping" signs erected and petitioned the Fairfield Bay Community Club to formally protect the glade. She then built and has continued to maintain a system of trails through the preserve, doing much of the work herself but occasionally hiring help at her own expense. She regularly visits the glade with her loppers, controlling invasive brush and vines and keeping the habitat suitable for the sun-loving glade and woodland species. She led an excellent field trip to the glades for the ANPS at the Fall 2004 meeting. In addition to her work at the Terrace Glade Preserve, Mary Alice has created (and maintains) a lengthy trail along a creek on common land behind her home called the "Beer Run Trail". She also maintains the Indian Rock and Lost Horse Canyon Trails in Fairfield Bay and helps out with the River Trail at Shirley.

Mary Alice began her plant collecting efforts for Dr. Ed Smith (now retired) of the U of A Herbarium at Fayetteville in 1988. For five years, she collected thousands of specimens from Cleburne Independence, Searcy, Stone, and Van Buren Counties which she pressed, dried, and sent to Dr. Smith along with locality and collection data. These specimens filled many gaps in our knowledge of the flora of these counties and are a valuable part of the permanent collection of the U of A Herbarium. Van Buren County, for example, went from 65th to 17th out of the 75 Arkansas Counties in the number of documented species as a result of her collecting. She still collects and has also sent detailed data on populations of species of conservation concern in her neck of the woods to the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. She has faithfully monitored the rarest of these species on an annual basis, reporting her counts back to the ANHC.

Well known in Fairfield Bay for her nature column “Come Walk With Me” in the weekly paper, and for never heading down a trail without her ever-present loppers, Mary Alice is a missionary for conservation. She is listed at the Chamber of Commerce as a contact for anyone interested in nature at Fairfield Bay. She has offered to take anyone on a hike anytime, anywhere in her area and has made a number of great friends in the process. She led several field trips at our Fall 2004 meeting at Greers Ferry and opened her home to everyone during that meeting.

She doesn't shy away from confrontation when necessary either; as is evident from her recent tangles with City Hall over plans to “enhance and beautify” the view from the dining room of the Country Club (at the expense of trees along her beloved Indian Rock Trail). These trees are close to her heart because she personally identified and tagged some of them and created a trail guide to interpret them. She is also active in the Audubon Society and is an active birder.

Mary Alice is a retired professional cellist who moved to Arkansas in the mid 1980s after contracting environmental illness and multiple chemical sensitivity, a condition she developed after being poisoned from an accident that occurred during the installation of cellulose insulation in her home in Iowa. Her doctors agreed that her only hope at leading a semi-normal life would be to move to an area with a clean environment away from major industries, automobile exhaust, or agricultural areas with high concentrations of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. Thus the relocation to Fairfield Bay. While her ability to travel and attend ANPS meetings is severely limited by her chemical sensitivity, she continues her work behind the scenes.

The Carl Amason Conservation Award carries with it a monetary award of \$1,000.00 to be used as the recipient sees fit. Mary Alice tells us that she will use the money to hire out some heavy work (large brush clearing and trail maintenance) at the Terrace Glade Preserve, among other things. If you are in the Fairfield Bay/Greers Ferry area, stop by and walk the Terrace Glade trails or give Mary Alice a call and let her know you appreciate her efforts. A brief award ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, September 30 at the Terrace Glade Preserve. Call Theo Witsell at 501.614.8465 for more information.

Scholarship Committee Announces Winners for 2006

The ANPS Scholarship Committee (Eric Sundell, George Johnson and Burnetta Hinterthuer) reviewed eight applications for scholarships this spring. Seven scholarships were awarded to students who are involved in studying Arkansas flora. The eighth applicant, a very impressive candidate with a very worthy project, was not awarded a scholarship as her studies were involved with rainforest flora which is out of the country. Our mission is to provide monies for work either inside the state of Arkansas or in surrounding states with similar ecosystems.

Recipients of the Delzie Demaree Research Grant were Brent Baker, who is finishing his Master's work at UCA with Dr. Don Culwell, and Robert McElderry, who is beginning his master's work at the University of Arkansas with Dr. Johnnie Gentry. Each was awarded \$500. Also working at the U of A Herbarium with Dr. Johnnie Gentry, graduate students Carey Minter and Marisa Williams were awarded \$250 each for their work on the invasive plants spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*) and beefsteak plant (*Perilla frutescens*), respectively. Jeremy Whisenhunt, who is beginning his Master's work at the University of Arkansas, was awarded a \$200 grant. He will be joining Carey in the spotted knapweed project.

Aileen Williams Scholarships in the amount of \$300 each were awarded to Rebecca Fry who is studying at UALR and Kerri McCabe who is a student at UCA.

We were very fortunate to have so many qualified applicants this year and hope that ANPS continues to be able to award scholarships for such important studies. If you wish to make donations to either of the scholarship funds, be sure to indicate this on your check or in a letter. Thank you for your support of Arkansas flora scholarship.—*Burnetta Hinterthuer*



Eastern columbine (Aquilegia canadensis) can be found in Arkansas on moist, rocky bluffs and outcrops in the Ozarks and Ouachitas. Photo by John Pelton.

PLANT OF THE ISSUE: OUACHITA BLAZING STAR



***Ouachita blazing star (Liatris compacta).* A species endemic to the Ouachitas and to Arkansas. Photo by John Pelton.**

Of the ten species of *Liatris* known to occur in Arkansas, there is one that is all our own. Known formally as *Liatris compacta* (Torr. & A. Gray) Rydb., it has been called by a number of common names, most notably the Ouachita Mountain blazing star or the Arkansas gayfeather. In the past, this species was treated in the Arkansas literature as *Liatris squarrosa* (L.) Michx. var. *compacta* Torr. & A. Gray, but was recently elevated to full species status (as *L. compacta*) in volume 21 of the *Flora of North America* series. It is our earliest blooming species of *Liatris*, typically beginning its flowering in May.

You can find *L. compacta* in the Ouachita Mountains of western Arkansas and nowhere else on Earth. It grows in rocky, open woodlands on ridgetops and slopes, and on glades and bluffs of sandstone, novaculite, or shale. It can be identified in the field by the following characters: 1) multiple stems (sometimes 20 or more), each typically a foot to 18 inches long, arising from a large woody corm which can be nearly as large as a fist, 2) purple flowers that occur in large heads, typically one (but sometimes several) at the end of each stem, and 3) leaves and stem that are smooth and hairless.

The recognition of *L. compacta* as its own species seems clearly appropriate. The other Arkansas species that was recognized as a variety of *L. squarrosa*, *L. hirsuta* Rydb. [formerly *L. squarrosa* (L.) Michx. var. *hirsuta* Rydb. ex Gaiser)], blooms later in the summer and has a number of obvious differences that can readily be seen with the

naked eye. But once you know you have a multi-stemmed plant with a single (or perhaps a few) flower heads near the tip, the following key should be all you need to tell if you have *L. compacta* or *L. hirsuta*:

- 1a.** plant hairy, at least in the inflorescence or on the margins of the leaves.....*L. hirsuta*
- 1b.** plant essentially hairless (except the lobes of the petals).....*L. compacta*

Another bonus of recognizing *L. compacta* at the species level is that now we don't have to worry about having two very different Arkansas species with nearly identical names: *Liatris squarrosa* and *Liatris squarrulosa*. That was confusing. True *L. squarrosa*, as it turns out, is not known from Arkansas.

Liatris compacta does well in the garden and is easy to grow from seed, which should be collected in the early fall. Seed will need to be sown in the fall or cold moist stratified for 60 days or so to break dormancy. Plants typically begin flowering the second year after being grown from seed. Clumps will grow in size each year and will live a long time. It does best in full to partial sun in poor, well-drained soil. It is very drought tolerant once established and provides a spectacular early color display. — *Theo Witsell*



This rocky, ridgetop glade and woodland on North Fork Pinnacle above the Winona Scenic Drive in the Ouachita National Forest is the typical habitat for Ouachita blazing star. Photo by John Pelton.

ARKANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY FALL 2006 MEETING

OCTOBER 20-22, 2006

Lake Dardanelle State Park Visitor Center
100 State Park Drive
Russellville, AR
479.967.5516

The Friday and Saturday Meetings will be held at the Lake Dardanelle State Park Visitor Center.

The following directions are from I-40. For those of you using Hwy 7 (from the north or south), you can use the I-40 crossing as a reference point and follow the directions below [or take Main Street (Hwy 64) from Hwy 7 (Arkansas Ave.) to intersection with Marina Road]:

Use I-40 Exit 81 [labeled START on the map below]. *From the west* (Ft. Smith), turn right (south) on Hwy 7 at the stoplight. For reference, Holiday Inn is immediately to your right. *From the east* (Little Rock), turn left off of the exit ramp onto the access road (Aspen Ln.). Follow to the stoplight at intersection with Hwy 7. Turn left (south) on Hwy 7 and cross I-40 to the stoplight. *Everyone* continue south on Hwy 7 (also called N Arkansas Ave.) less than 0.1 mile to next stoplight at intersection with Lake Front Drive (also called Hwy 326). Turn right on Lake Front Drive and drive 1.9 miles to stoplight at intersection with Parkway, Main Street, and Hwy 64. Go straight through stoplight onto Main Street and drive 0.2 miles to stoplight at intersection with Marina Road (also called Hwy 326). Turn right on Marina Road and drive 2.8 miles to the large Lake Dardanelle State

Park sign on the right [labeled END on the map below]. The Visitor Center is at the base of the hill on the shore of Lake Dardanelle.

Registration will be from 4:30 pm – 7 pm Friday. The Executive Board Meeting will convene at 5:30 pm.

The Annual Plant Auction will begin at 7:30 pm. A word about the auction for those new to ANPS and a reminder for others: The Annual Plant Auction is one of our major fundraisers, is held at the fall general meeting, and is supported by donations from members and guests. Such donations include plants, seeds, books, garden tools, botanical prints, carved wood items, homemade preserves/jellies, crafts, and a multitude of other items. This is always a fun and informative event! We had a very successful auction last year, so I challenge everyone to bring items, as well as checkbooks, and let's make this one even better!

Saturday hikes will be announced Friday night. The Saturday evening meeting will convene at 7 pm with a program followed by the Business Meeting.

Lodging information is provided below.

If you have questions or need assistance, contact:

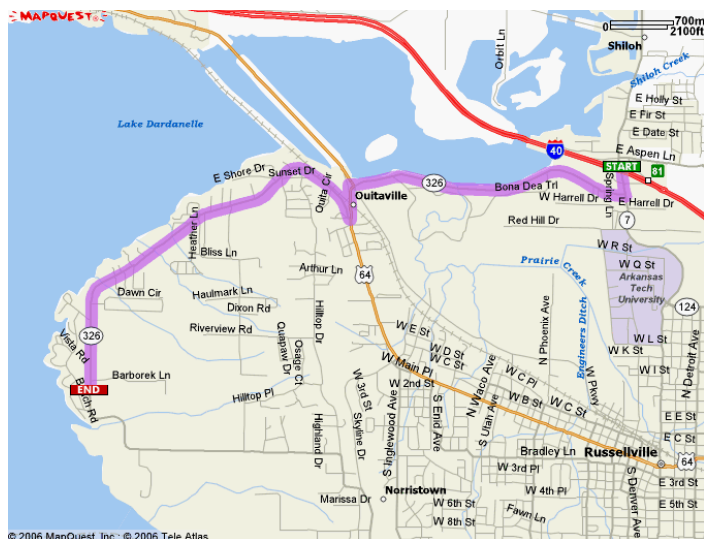
Brent Baker
btb2001@hotmail.com
479-970-9143

Lodging:

A full listing of Russellville Hotels/Motels can be found at <http://www.discoverrussellville.org/lodging.php>. A few of them are listed below:

Holiday Inn
Hwy 7 N and I-40 (2407 N Arkansas Ave.)
Russellville, AR 72802
479-968-4300; Toll free at: 1-800-465-4329

This hotel is on Hwy 7 right next to I-40 at Exit 81. We have 20 rooms reserved here at a discount rate of \$64.95 plus tax per night. This rate is for a single or double. You must mention ANPS to get this rate & **must reserve by October 6**. Pets are allowed with a \$10 fee. Cagle's Mill restaurant is adjacent to the hotel.



Fairfield Inn & Suites
120 East Harrell Drive
(just off Hwy 7 near I-40)
Russellville, AR 72802
479-967-9030

Hampton Inn
2304 N Arkansas Ave.
(on Hwy 7 near I-40)
Russellville, AR 72802
479-858-7199

Super 8 Motel
2404 N Arkansas Ave.
(on Hwy 7 near I-40)
Russellville, AR 72802
479-968-8898; Toll free at 1-800-800-8000

Motel 6
215 West Birch Street
(near Hwy 7 and I-40)
Russellville, AR 72802
479-968-3666

For those of you who like to camp, a few possibilities are listed below:

Lake Dardanelle State Park (Russellville Area)
100 State Park Drive off of Marina Road
(same location as Visitor Center)
Russellville, AR 72802
479-967-5516

Campsites ranging from \$15.50 to \$22.50 per night.

Lake Dardanelle State Park (Dardanelle Area)
Hwy 22 northwest of Dardanelle
Contact info. same as for Russellville

Mt. Nebo State Park
16728 West State Hwy 155
Dardanelle, AR 72834
479-229-3655

Campsites \$13.00 per night. Cabins also available (1-800-264-2458).

Old Post Road Park (Army Corp of Engineers)
1063 Lock and Dam Road
(on Arkansas River near Dardanelle Lock and Dam)
Russellville, AR 72802
479-968-7962

Campsites \$18.00 per night.

In Memory

Since the last issue of the Claytonia, we have received word that two long-time members of the Society have died.

Clementine (Clemmie) Winfrey Moore of Rudy died on March 2, 2006, at age 88. She was a pioneer of Arkansas botany, doing extensive work throughout the state locating and identifying all manner of plants and trees. She was a past president of the ANPS. She and her late husband, Dr. Dwight M. Moore, were pioneer members of the Arkansas Native Plant Society and developed the South Arkansas Arboretum in El Dorado, in addition to making many other important contributions to Arkansas botany.

Robert E. L. Bearden of Little Rock, long-time ANPS member and nature lover, died in August. His wife Ellen, also an ANPS member, died last year.



Featherfoil (Hottonia inflata) above and pinesap (Monotropa hypopithys) below. Photos by Craig Fraiser.



ARKANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SPRING 2006 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Rich Mountain Community College, Mena Arkansas.
April 29, 2006.

Jason opened the meeting and asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the fall meeting as published in *Claytonia*. No changes or comments were offered, the motion was made and carried unanimously.

Jason asked for the financial report. Barbara explained the format she used to keep financial records. Jason asked for a motion to accept the report. No changes or comments were offered, the motion was made and carried unanimously.

It was announced that the fall meeting will be in Russellville, 20, 21, & 22 of October. Details will be published in the next issue of *Claytonia*.

Jason announced that Linda Chambers has accepted the vice president office.

Jason reported progress on the Carl Hunter memorial project's goal of placing one Wildflower and one Tree book in each public library. He has been somewhat successful in obtaining corporate sponsorship for the project. Donations can be earmarked for the project and sent directly to the Treasurer.

The Scholarship & Awards committee announced their selections. From the Delzie Demaree Research Fund: Robert McEldery, UofA, \$500; Brent Baker, UCA, \$500; Marisa Williams, UofA, \$250; Carey Minter, UofA, \$250; and Jeremy Whisenhunt, UofA, \$200. From the Aileen McWilliam scholarship Fund: Rebecca Fry, UALR, \$300; and Kerri McCabe, UCA, \$300.

Jason discussed the Board decision to use the Amason award to honor Mary Alice Beer.

Eric announced that the Arkansas Flora project will publish a checklist in May. The checklist will eventually contain an atlas.

Eric announced his retirement from the Scholarship & Awards committee, and that Jason will be chairing that committee until a scheduled election is held.

Theo reported progress on the ANPS brochure project.

He asked the membership to approved awarding a lifetime membership to Michael Warriner for his work on the brochure and lifetime memberships to Suzanne & Ted Barnes for their continued work on the T-shirts.

Members were asked by a representative of the Ouachita Watch League to educate ourselves on the role of fire in forest management, and consider if the current forest management plan is making the best use of fire in the Ouachita Forest.

Dan Marsh offered to lead hikes that start later in the day and move at a slower pace for those members who might enjoy that.

It was announced that Mike Amason would welcome visitors.

Mike Vernon mentioned the native species at the Dardanelle State Park Visitor Center, and asked that members recognize Brent for the work he has done on the project. Brent reported the critical assistance offered by state personnel and the Pope County Master Gardeners. Mike mentioned a similar project at Mt Nebo.

Jason asked the members to approve changes to the bylaws that:

1. Delete all reference to the defunct Arkansas Conservation Coalition
2. Change Article 5 Section 1 to eliminate the offices of Historian and Communications/Publicity chairperson
3. Change Article 5 Section 4 to include the Communication/Publicity chairperson's role in the office of Vice President.
4. Change Article 5 Section 5 to include the role of archiving in the Secretary's function

All changes were agreed to with no dispute.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jude Jardine (ANPS Secretary)

Dr. Eric Sundell Retires

Longtime University of Arkansas at Monticello professor and ANPS Membership Chair, Dr. Eric Sundell, retired from the University this summer. With this turn of events, Eric has also passed the torch of ANPS Membership Chair to Maury Baker of Hot Springs Village. Please note the new address for membership renewals.



Eric auctions off a sweetbay magnolia at the Fall 2004 ANPS meeting. Photo by Clint Sowards.

Originally from New York City, he taught several courses at UAM including Regional Flora, a field taxonomy course that he developed. He has taught hundreds of students over the years, leading them on yearly trips to study the flora of the western U.S., the Smoky Mountains, and other places, as well as the local flora.

He did extensive inventory work with his classes at Warren Prairie Natural Area, an area of saline soil barrens in Drew and Bradley Counties known for its unique flora and many rare species. He also recently helped the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission with inventory efforts in the Pine Flatwoods Ecosystem of southern Arkansas, helping to identify significant areas and set priorities for conservation.

Eric is an expert on the milkweeds, and anyone who has seen his program on milkweed pollination and ecology knows that he is a gifted teacher and engages students and audiences alike. Many of his students have gone on to become conservation and natural resources professionals, armed with an understanding and appreciation of our rich flora. Eric has also led a number of workshops for the public on plant identification, written many articles for the *Claytonia*, served in ANPS officer positions, and led countless field trips.

He has been a very active member of the Arkansas Vascular Flora Committee since its inception in 2000. His work toward the goals of this committee has included identifying thousands of specimens of all sorts of plants from all over the state, helping to make the new checklist accurate and up to date. We thank Eric for his many years of dedicated service to the ANPS and to our knowledge of the Arkansas flora.

Eric and his wife Milanne plan to stay in Arkansas, so we trust that his retirement means that he will have more time to lead field trips for the ANPS!

New Members

The following new members have joined the ANPS since the last issue of *Claytonia*:

Jennifer Akin (Lonoke, AR)
William Dark (Rogers, AR)
Kerri McCabe (Conway, AR)
Jean Ann Moles (Benton, AR)
Anne Prichard (Fayetteville, AR)
Elizabeth Sartain (Little Rock, AR)
Rosanna Taylor (Clarksville, AR)
Susan Whatley (El Dorado, AR)
Gladys S. Whitney (Little Rock, AR)
Brent & Katie Williamson (El Dorado, AR)

We welcome these new members to the Society!



Prairie rose (*Rosa setigera*) is one of several species of rose native to Arkansas. It can be found in prairies, glades, open woodlands, and on bluffs in upland areas of the state. Its flowers are typically bright pink. Photo by John Pelton.

Upcoming Events

October 6-8 Audubon Arkansas Natural History Workshops (see announcements).

October 7 Natural State Expo. Little Rock Statehouse Convention Center (see announcements).

October 20-22 Arkansas Native Plant Society Fall Meeting in Russellville, Arkansas. See detailed info elsewhere in this issue.

November 11 Ozark Chapter ANPS (OCANPS) annual meeting/trip. Meet at Buffalo Lodge, ca. 4 miles west of Jasper and south of Hwy. 74, right before the Kyles Landing/Camp Orr road to the north, at noon. Bring a sack lunch and we will eat lunch, then hike the Buffalo River Trail from Ponca to Steel Creek (we will arrange for a shuttle) if the weather permits! Returning to the cabin, we will hold our business meeting, eat a potluck dinner, and have the plant auction. Following, those who wish can go into Jasper to watch the musical entertainment at Ozark Cafe where donations are taken for local charities. Those who wish can plan a hike for Sunday morning after breakfast. Please call Burnetta at 479-582-0317 for a total count. The lodge plus bunkhouse can hold up to 24 people. Since OCANPS pays for the deposit, we anticipate each individual will pay ca. \$20 for the night's stay.

Announcements

New Forest Service Wildflower Website— The Forest Service has produced a “Celebrating Wildflowers” website which gives information on wildflowers and activities relating to wildflowers all over the country. The website can be accessed at www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/. A link to this site will be posted on the ANPS website at www.anps.org.

Invasives Species Field Guide Needs Help from ANPS Members— Jude Jardine is still working on updates to the Invasive Species Field Guide. She needs good photos of a number of common exotic invasive plant species. For a list of images needed, please contact Jude at jkjardine@netscape.com or call 501.676.5535.

Audubon Arkansas Natural History Workshops— The Arkansas Audubon Society is also sponsoring adult natural history workshops in the fall at Ferncliff Presbyterian Camp just west of Little Rock. There will be two to three workshops, each running Friday noon to Sunday noon, Oct. 6-8, 2006. Dr. Eric Sundell will be teaching a tree identification workshop for beginners and intermediates. Dr. Jim Edson will be offering a

geology, rocks & minerals, and land forms workshop with evening activities on monarch butterflies (Jim is also the monarch coordinator for Arkansas and does a lot of butterfly banding, larvae raising, milkweed growing, and monarch watching work with school kids). There may be a third workshop on insects. Folks interested in attending should contact Barry Haas at bhaas@sbcglobal.net. Each workshop will have room for 12 participants and will include board and for folks from the hinterlands: motel-type rooms at Ferncliff. The food and accommodations are excellent.

Natural State Expo— The ANPS will have a booth at the first-ever Natural State Expo, to be held October 7th from 9 am to 4 pm at Governor's Hall #1 in the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. You can check out their website at www.naturalstateexpo.org. The focus of the event will be on sustainability and sustainable development, which they define as “*development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*”. This fits right in with our mission promoting the conservation of native plants. The ANPS will be one of more than 50 exhibitors at the expo, where attendees can shop for eco-friendly products and participate in discussions on sustainability topics such as food, water, shelter and energy. The expo will also include children's activities and educational opportunities. The entrance fee is \$1.00. Drop by the ANPS booth and say hello or call Theo Witsell at 501-614-8465 if you'd like to volunteer to staff the table for a while. For more info on the event itself, contact Katy Elliott at 501.837.7959 or email naturalstateexpo@yahoo.com.



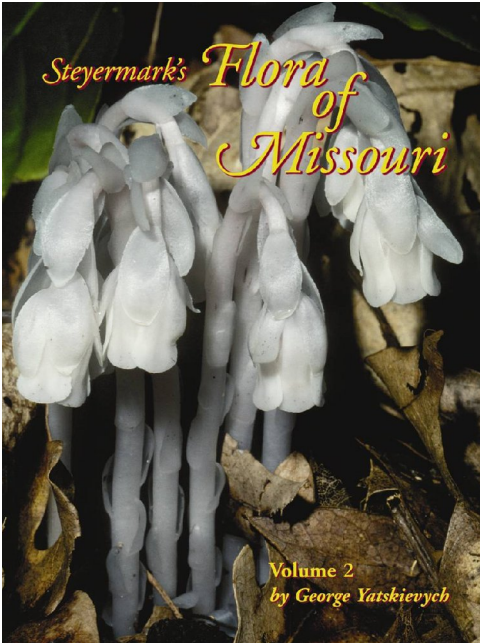
Lizard's tail (Saururus cernuus) is a common plant of wetlands throughout much of Arkansas. Photo by John Pelton.

BOOK REVIEWS

Steiermark's Flora of Missouri Volume II

By George Yatskievych

1181 pages. Hardback. \$48.00 plus \$8.88 s&h. Missouri Botanical Garden Press.



Julian Steiermark's *Flora of Missouri* has long been held up as the shining example of what a state floristic manual should be. Since I began my study of plants in the mid 1990s, Steiermark's book, already long out-of-print, was the standard against which all others were measured.

Aside from obvious availability problems (on the rare occasion that a copy

became available it was likely to fetch as much as \$300 on eBay), the original, first published in 1963, had become badly out-of-date. In the 43 years since, a lot has changed taxonomically and much important floristic work has been done in Missouri, documenting many species new to the state and expanding the known range and knowledge of many more. Steiermark's *Flora* clearly needed revision. To address this need, the *Flora of Missouri Project* was formed to expand and update Steiermark's *Flora*.

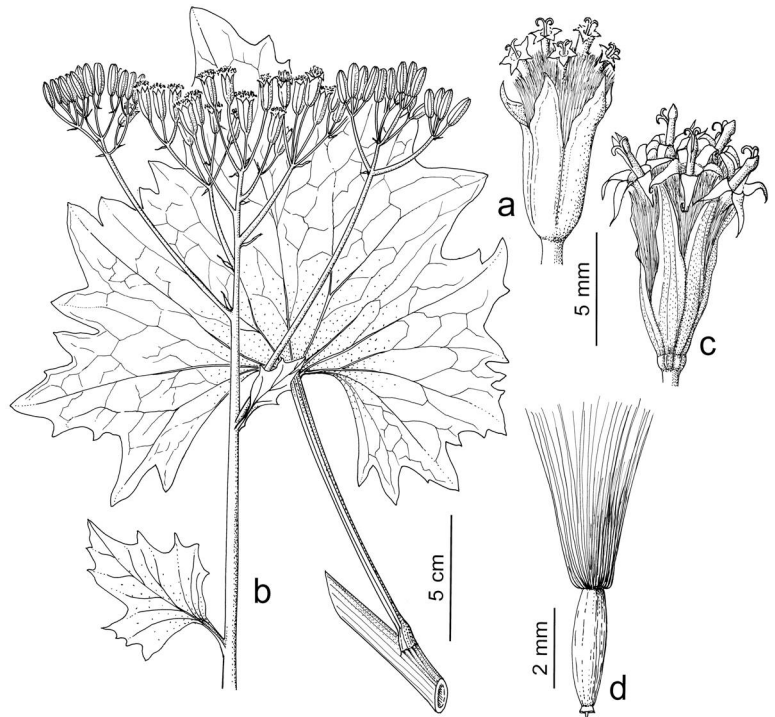
Updating Steiermark's single volume opus has turned into a three-volume project that is now in its 18th year. But good things come to those who wait. The quality of the product is a testament to the talent, time and resources that have gone into it. Volume I, published in 1999, treated the monocots, pteridophytes, and gymnosperms, leaving the dicots to be split among volumes II and III. Volume II treats the dicot families in alphabetical order, from the Acanthaceae (petunias and relatives) through the Mimosoideae and Caesalpinoideae subfamilies of the Fabaceae (legume family). Subfamily Faboideae will follow in Volume III.

The species accounts are among the most detailed of any floristic manual in North America, providing a detailed description of every part of each plant (a feature lacking in

Steiermark's original) as well as information on each species' blooming period, range (county maps showing the range within Missouri with written descriptions of the global range), habitat needs, varieties or forms described, synonymy, and more.

The revised edition features entirely new artwork and includes considerably more species illustrations than the original. 193 full page plates are included in volume II, each with 5 or 6 species illustrated by crisp, clear, well-reproduced technical line drawings (example below). Everything is easy to see and important features for identification are shown. Many of these illustrations are of significantly better quality than those in the original. For the most part, the illustrations, all of which are superb, are large enough to do the artwork justice and provide the reader with a good look at the important characteristics of each species. Incidentally, ANPS member Linda Ellis illustrated the entire Asteraceae (sunflower family) in beautiful and accurate detail. Unfortunately not every species in the manual is illustrated, though nearly all are.

The keys function very well. In addition to some casual use over the past month in the field, I recently sat down with some known specimens of asters and goldenrods (two difficult groups) from the Ozarks and Mississippi Alluvial Plain and ran them through the keys. I found the keys to be accurate and efficient and did not encounter any roadblocks or frustrating ambiguities (aside from those inherent in identifying asters and goldenrods). The Asteraceae (the largest family in the flora) is divided into and is arranged by Tribes, making it a little easier to digest and handle.



Sample illustration from *Steiermark's Flora of Missouri Volume II*. *Arnoglossum atriplicifolium* (pale Indian plantain). Art by Linda Ellis.

BOOK REVIEWS

The exclusion of the Subfamily Faboideae of the legumes from Volume II is perhaps the most frustrating thing about the book, leaving the user with access to a few, but out of luck for most species of the bean and pea family, eagerly awaiting the publication of the third and last volume in the series. Users will also occasionally be let down by a species that is not illustrated (though not very often). Last on the list of complaints is that there is no key to families in Volume II (it will appear for the entire group of dicots in Volume III). Considering the amount of time that passed between Volumes I and II, it would have been better to have the key to families in volume II with “(volume III)” listed after the names of those families that don’t appear in Volume II. Minor errors, inherent in a project as complex and exhaustive as this, will inevitably come to light (such as the accidental switching of Virginia sneezeweed [*Helenium virginicum*] and autumn sneezeweed [*H. autumnale*] in the key to *Helenium* on page 490).

To the Arkansas user, the book will be most useful for the Ozarks, Crowley’s Ridge, and the northern part of the Mississippi Alluvial Plain (Delta), where almost all species encountered also occur in Missouri. As the user travels south, they will find that the majority of the flora of the Arkansas Valley and Ouachita Mountains is still captured, with noticeable gaps starting to appear in the Gulf Coastal Plain.

This work is of the highest quality and George Yatskievych has done himself and the late Julian Steyermark proud with this excellent reference to the flora of Missouri and the region. The price is almost unbelievable. An enormous value for a book of this caliber and size. Volume I (introduction, ferns & fern allies, gymnosperms, and monocots) is still available as well. Copies are available from the MBG Press Orders / Missouri Botanical Garden / P.O. Box 299 / St. Louis, MO 63166-0299, or call 314.577.9534 or visit www.mbgpress.org.
—Review by Theo Witsell.

The Illustrated Flora of East Texas Volume I

**By George M. Diggs, Barney L. Lipscomb,
Monique D. Reed, and Robert J. O’Kennon**

1594 pages. Hardback. \$89.95 plus \$7.50 s&h. Botanical Research Institute of Texas Press.

Those of us interested in the flora of southwestern and southern Arkansas and the surrounding country have eagerly awaited the publication of a book like this for a long time. At last, it is here, a comprehensive reference for that rich and diverse “hole in the map” not previously covered by modern floristic manuals! This ecologically important region of Texas includes 3,660 kinds of vascular plants, which is more than 2/3 of the plants known from that entire state, in just 23% of the land area. It will take three large volumes to fully describe and

illustrate this rich flora and this monumental work is the first of those, covering the ferns and fern allies, gymnosperms, and monocots. A total of 1,060 plants are treated in great detail.

This book has the most in-depth and impressive introductory material I have ever seen in a flora, covering 300 pages. There are detailed sections loaded with color maps, photographs, and other illustrations. Topics covered include vegetation, ecology, geology, soils, climate, pre-settlement and early settlement conditions, floristic origins, conservation, and botanical history. Each of the major, floristically important ecoregions (blackland prairie, pineywoods, post oak savannah, and red river area) and two unique botanical areas (Caddo Lake and The Big Thicket) are given their own chapters and explored in great detail. There is even a nicely illustrated chapter on botanical art in East Texas.



A number of features were incorporated into this book to make it useful to non-specialists. Accurate line drawings are included for all species. Color photos are included for nearly 200 taxa (including a number of grasses and sedges, which are rarely represented in field guides). Taxonomic treatments of each species include information on whether a plant is native or introduced, invasive in natural settings, endemic, or commercially important. Also given are derivations of generic names and specific epithets (a really interesting and useful feature), characters helpful in family recognition in the field, notes on useful and toxic plants, and references to supporting literature.

There are detailed appendices on a number of topics including phylogeny (evolutionary relationships) at the family level, cladistics (a current controversy/approach in taxonomy), changes in scientific names, illustration sources, collecting herbarium specimens, endemic species, species of conservation concern, conservation organizations, books on native plants, suggested native ornamentals, sources to obtain

native plants, native plants important to wildlife, butterfly & moth host plant information, commercially important timber trees (with 2-page species accounts with range maps, color photos of wood, bark, & live plants), and botanically related internet resources. There is a lengthy, illustrated glossary, and a very impressive literature cited section with more than 4,000 references.

Throughout this work, it is clear that the authors have taken pains to make it usable by non-experts. While it is technically accurate and scientifically robust, it is not overly packed with baffling jargon and explains concepts well in common English. Another feature that I found useful is that the range maps provided for each species cover the distribution in the entire state of Texas, not just East Texas. This allows the user to see important distribution patterns within the state and infer them over a broader geographic area.

To test the keys, I sat down with a stack of specimens of known sedges and grasses from southwest Arkansas and keyed them out. I found the keys to be accurate and efficient to use. Fans of the taxonomic arrangement of the caric sedges (*Carex* spp.) according to Sections may be disappointed, as these are not presented in the keys nor in the arrangement of the species descriptions, though the Section of each species is given in the respective species accounts. Similarly, the grasses are not divided among the Tribes, but arranged alphabetically by scientific name. Tribes, however, are given in each genus description.

Aside from top-notch attention to accurate information and technical detail, this manual is absolutely beautiful. The introductory material is packed with photos, maps, and

paintings, many of them in full color. Layout is visually appealing and the book is easy to use. The amount of information presented is almost overwhelming, but it is packaged into discrete sections, providing an encyclopedic volume of pretty much everything one would ever want to know about the flora of the region. This book is large and heavy, not the sort of thing to carry into the field in your backpack (unless you are training for some athletic event).

The most frustrating thing I found with the book is the small size of the illustrations (typically about 2 by 3 inches). Details are sometimes obscured by the reduction to that small size. I also wonder if this volume shouldn't have been divided into two smaller volumes. The large size and weight make it a little difficult to maneuver the book. It's not a problem when sitting and reading it by itself, but something quickly noticed when keying out a stack of plant specimens using several manuals and switching between them on your work space. It is also a bit large for comfortable bedside reading. Confining it to one volume, however, no doubt keeps the cost down.

These minor complaints aside, this is an absolutely incredible reference. It has clearly raised the bar in terms of quality, comprehensiveness, and appearance in a floristic manual and is a bargain for the price, especially considering the cost of academic textbooks with a fraction of the information presented here. Copies are available from the Botanical Research Institute of Texas / 509 Pecan St. / Fort Worth, TX, 76102-4060, or call 817-332-4441. An order form can be accessed at http://www.brit.org/sida/PDF/ETF_PDFOrderForm.pdf. The Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas (a single volume) is still available as well.—*Review by Theo Witsell*

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The purpose of the Arkansas Native Plant Society is 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.

CLAYTONIA

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