

OZARK CHAPTER ARKANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Hello everyone. Well, we haven't had much of a winter yet; most of us are glad not to have to negotiate snowy/icy roads and walkways. I think we are all wondering how this mild weather will affect the natural world. We are happy to have some new hikes scheduled for this spring. I am including hikes that will be announced in the Claytonia for ANPS as well. Brent Baker, our President, is leading four this year. If any of you have a great location in mind, please contact me so that we can make arrangements for future hikes. We are always looking for new country and wildflowers to explore. I hope that you will get an opportunity to join us for field trips this year.

Schedule for OCANPS Spring/Summer 2012:

April 1st, 2012, 10 a.m. (Sunday): Hike to Fern Gully near Mountainburg, AR. Bob Morgan will lead us. We will meet at Mountainburg School parking lot at 10 a.m. The drive to the site is 30 miles from Mountainburg to Fern, AR. Bob describes it as a bushwhack and is moderately strenuous so wear good hiking shoes, bring a walking stick, water and something for lunch. Contact Bob at randsmorgan@yahoo.com for further information and to let him know how many to expect.

April 7th, 2012, 10 a.m. (Saturday): Explore the Buffalo River Trail from Ozark Campground to the Cedar Grove at Erbie. We will meet at the Ozark Campground at 10:00 a.m. If coming from Harrison or the north on Hwy. 7, the turnoff to Ozark Campground is approximately 1.1 mile from the Pruitt Ranger Station. The campground is ca. 1 mile down a gravel road. If coming up Hwy. 7 from the south, it is ca. 4.5 miles north of Jasper. You will pass the Erbie turnoff and continue for about a half-mile to the campground gravel road to your left. If you reach Pruitt, you have gone 1.1 mile too far. The trail is mildly to moderately strenuous. Wear good shoes, bring a lunch and water. Contact rickhint@gmail.com for further information and to let him know you plan to attend.

May 12th – 10 a.m. (Saturday) Cole Fork, Sylamore Forest. Meet at the intersection of Hwy 14 and Hwy 341 (south end of Push Mountain Road) just a few miles east of Big Flat if coming from the west; if coming from the east (Allison and Mountain View) the intersection will be west of Fifty-Six. Bring lunch, but there will be options for supper in Big Flat or Mountain View. Call Jackie Leatherman 424-5101 for information. There will be a limit to the number of people, so be sure and call if you wish to go.

May 13th – 10 a.m. (Sunday) Compton Gardens/Crystal Bridges, Bentonville, AR Meet at the Compton Garden parking lot at 10 a.m. Burnetta Hinterthuer will lead the hike on the Compton Garden trails that will join up with the Crystal Bridges trail. Those who wish may tour the Crystal Bridges Museum of Art after the botanical walk. Contact Burnetta at burhint@sbcglobal.net for more information or to reserve a spot.

Hikes Scheduled for ANPS Spring/Summer 2012:

March 31, 2012 (Saturday): Field Trip to Cove Creek Natural Area. 9:30 A.M.

Suffering severe, winter-induced cabin fever? Then join Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission botanist Brent Baker for a refreshing early spring plant walk along the newly established trails at Cove Creek Natural Area in northwestern Faulkner County. Stroll through extensive cedar glades to a steep sandstone bluff overlooking Cove Creek just above its confluence with Cadron Creek. Here participants will see the rare Ozark spring-beauty (*Claytonia ozarkensis*), described new to science in 2006, blooming among the cracks and crevices of the bluff. Hikers will then follow the trail south along the creek, enjoying several additional overlook spurs along the way, to a rich riparian forest with multitudes of wildflowers breaking winter dormancy.

Directions: From the junction of AR State Highways 25 and 285 in Wooster (north of Conway), travel north on AR State Highway 285 approximately 6.2 miles to intersection with Mallet Town Road. Turn left (west) onto Mallet Town Road and travel approximately 1.5 miles. Turn right (north) onto Town Circle Road. Go approximately 0.35 mile to JD Road and turn right (east). Follow JD Road straight to the Natural Area parking at end of road (about 0.25 mile). For a map or more information about Cove Creek Natural Area, visit www.naturalheritage.com and click on the “Natural Areas” tab at the top of the page and then “Find a Natural Area.”

The trail is about 1.5 mile, easy and the walk will conclude around lunchtime. For questions, please contact Brent at 479.970.9143 or brent@arkansasheritage.org.

April 21, 2012 (Saturday): Field Trip to Meadow Creek / Middle Fork Little Red River. 9:00 A.M. at the designated caravan meeting site (9:45 A.M. at Meadow Creek)

Mike Oglesby and Lee Cowan invite Arkansas Native Plant Society members to tour their property nestled in a valley of the Boston Mountains in southwestern Stone County at the confluence of Meadow Creek and the Middle Fork of the Little Red River. Participants will see Mike and Lee’s home vineyard, Meadow Creek Vineyard, on a terrace of Meadow Creek, overlooked by steep sandstone bluffs. Spring wildflowers abound on the terraces of Meadow Creek and the Middle Fork as well as the rich lower slopes of the adjacent mountains. Hikers may also have the opportunity to visit

properties of a few of Mike and Lee's neighbors, including the Meadowcreek, Inc. property, 1600 acres devoted to sustainable education, recreation and wildlife preservation.

This hike may vary from easy to moderately difficult depending on the interest of the group. It will also be partly "off-trail" so wear appropriate clothing and shoes. Bug spray is also advisable. Bring a lunch and plenty of water. Please sign up for this trip by April 16 by contacting Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission botanist Brent Baker (trip leader) at 479.970.9143 or brent@arkansasheritage.org. Complete directions will be provided upon signing up. There will be a designated meeting area in a nearby town and then a caravan to Meadow Creek. Please note: this trip is dependent on weather, as streams in the area are subject to flash flooding and low-water bridges are not passable at times of high water.

May 19, 2012 (Saturday): Field Trip to South Fork Nature Center. 10:00 A.M.

Join Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission botanist Brent Baker for a plant walk along the newly established trails at South Fork Nature Center, situated on a peninsula of Greers Ferry Lake at the confluence of the South Fork of the Little Red River in east-central Van Buren County. After a tour of the Riddle Cabin, a century-old log cabin relocated to the site and which was the birth home of folklorist Almeda Riddle, participants will stroll along a trail system through many of the different habitats on the property. The trails wind their way through glades, spring runs, atop sandstone bluffs, through oak-hickory forest, pine-hardwood forest, pine forest, near an upland depression wetland, and to a bedrock-bottom stream that flows into the lake via a seasonal waterfall. Several portions of the trail system also offer wonderful views of the lake.

Directions: From the junction of U.S. Highway 65 and AR State Highways 9 and 330 in Choctaw, south of Clinton, travel approximately 3.7 miles east on AR State Highway 330 toward Greers Ferry Lake to Klondike Road. Turn left (north) on Klondike Road and travel approximately 1 mile to a point where Klondike Road turns sharply to the right (east). Instead of following to the right, continue straight north (this is Bachelor Road, but sign may not be present) and travel 0.5 mile down into a stream valley, over a small bridge, and then up to the top of the hill to the black iron gate on the right. Turn right and travel approximately 0.4 mile through the gate, past two homes on the left, to the first dirt road on the left. Take the left turn and travel about 0.15 mile to the log cabin.

For a map or more information about South Fork Nature Center, visit www.southforknaturecenter.org. On the website, you can also check out a list (by clicking on the "Reports" tab) of the plants documented from South Fork property, as well as descriptions of the habitats present on the site.

Join us for the morning, OR bring a lunch and continue the walk during the afternoon. For questions, please contact Brent at 479.970.9143 or brent@arkansasheritage.org

Kings' River Falls Hike August 28, 2011

While driving Hwy. 16, I noticed white flowers blooming along the highway but couldn't get a really good view of them. Going slow on the gravel road, I realized that they were *Euphorbia corollata*, putting on a really big show, one of the best displays I have ever seen that species make.

When we arrived at the parking place, there was a crowd already! It was hard to believe that that many people wanted to come out on an August hot day to explore Kings' River Falls. It could be that we had just been inside too long this summer, waiting out the 100 degrees heat. Linda Ellis arrived and behind her, another three carloads of people. This was the best turnout in a long time and it was great to see new faces and meet new plant lovers.

At first, we hiked up river past the Benton School, finding *Hypericum drummondii*, and *Triphora trianthophora*, the little Three Birds Orchid. In fact, there was a fairly large population scattered within the low area. Seeds of Jack in the Pulpit, *Arisaema triphyllum*, were also found along the walking trail. There was a bluff with lots of ferns, mosses, and liverworts, plus Arkansas alumroot (*Heuchera villosa* var. *arkansana*) shaded by the small trees that lined the road. Once in the creek we found red alder, ninebark, spring witch hazel, plus late summer gravelbar lovers, *Gratiola virginiana* and *Mimulus alatus*.

After we ate lunch on the school porch, we moved down river to the Falls. The sign stated the trail was one half mile long; it seemed a longer, but it was unique in that large boulders were placed along part of the trail to provide a flat, and/or sloped, surface on which to walk; the rest of the trail was sandy and rocky. *Onoclea sensibilis*, sensitive fern, was growing in the sand along the trail. We also saw *Clitoria mariana*, *Liatris aspera* and on the bank, *Osmunda regalis*, a large population right along the trail. Rick Noyes also pointed out a small spikesedge, *Kyllinga* sp. which I had never noticed before, though I have probably seen it.

Most of the hikers took advantage of the pool under the falls to take a cool dip; others put their feet in the water to cool off. It was a great day to be outdoors.

Attendees included but this list is not inclusive: Steven and Denise Campbell, Francesca Garcia, Scott and Donna Thompson from Eureka Springs; Mary and Frank Reuter from Berryville, Dr. Rick Noyes, UCA, Conway; Tekuya Zemba from Yokahama, Japan; Mary Ann Kiessig and Les Brandt, Forum, AR; Stephen Marquardt, Winslow; Dianne Henry, Cheryl Lavers, David Oakley, Edwin Miller, Cindy and Tom Rinkus.; Joan Reynolds, Rogers; Linda Ellis, Reed Spring, Missouri; Joe Neal, Steve Smith, Steve Holst, Burnetta Hinterthuer, Fayetteville. This is the short list! There were people from Jonesboro, AR, and Little Rock, AR as well. If I left anyone out, I apologize.

Fall Retreat, Harmony Mountain, November 11th, 2011

Twenty of us met for the fall retreat at Harmony Mountain this past fall. Attending the meeting were Brent Baker, Laura Villejas, Mary Reuter, Frank Reuter, Mary Ann King, Gene Ford, Sharon and Bob Morgan, Barbara Boland, Roger Henry, Betty Bowen, Kathleen Wittmann, Ginny Masullo, Steve Smith, Cat Donnelly, Steve Donnelly, Rick Hinterthuer, Pat Smith, Jim Dudley, Kelly Holst, Steve Holst, and Burnetta Hinterthuer. We had to rent another cabin in order to house everyone. During the auction Friday night, we raised over \$300 for the OCANPS treasury. During the Business Meeting, we elected officers. During the business leader Brent Baker agreed to remain President for the coming year, Laura Villejas agreed to act as Vice President, Mary Reuter agreed to remain Treasurer as she has for so many years, and I agreed to remain Newsletter Editor and Activities Overseer. We also voted to donate \$100 to the Halberg Ecology Camp as we have done for the past several years.

On Saturday, we hiked Alum Cove and were amazed at all of the down, dead wood following the ice storm of 2009. The trail still provided a beautiful hike. In the afternoon, a trip over the mountain through Walnut to Haw Creek Falls Campground afforded some excitement. One potential crossing was no longer open, so we backtracked just a bit and ended up on the highway near the Haw Creek Falls turnoff. It would have been a faster and easier route there, but it was truly beautiful to see the steep slopes and their colorful displays. And, as everyone knows, we like to go slow in order to see more, whether wildflowers, fall trees in full color, birds, mammals, or geological formations. That night we made it back to Harmony Mountain to share another great potluck dinner. Some members drove into Jasper to hear the musical performance at Ozark Café. At the Friday meeting, we also voted to reserve Harmony Mountain for the Fall Retreat in 2012 which will be on November 2nd-4th.

OCANPS Dues:

If you have not yet paid your dues for OCANPS membership, you may mail a check for \$5 to: Mary Reuter, 121 CR 432, Berryville, AR 72616.