

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 1981 Robert Wright, Editor Department of Biology UCA Conway, AR 72032 450-4146

The autumn season is fast approaching, and with it the feet of plant lovers grow restless. Here is the ANPS menu of activities through January. It's a collection of events ranging from gentle to strenuous, mostly in between. Surely there will be something to tempt your appetite for field tripping.

FALL GENERAL MEETING, HOT SPRINGS

On October 9 and 10 we will gather in Hot Springs under the general theme, WOODY VEGETATION. A series of meetings and field trips will culminate in a presentation from Bill Shepherd of the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. In order of occurrence, here are the events. All the indoor events will be at the Royal Vista Inn, 2204 Central near Oaklawn.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

5:30 p.m. Supply on your own. Seating space will be reserved at the Royal Vista.

7:00 p.m. Annual business meeting, ANPS. Election of Vice President. (Nominating committee has nominated Freeman Thomas.) Reports, discussion of field trip ideas.

7:30 p.m. "Places to enjoy plants in Hot Springs" by Earl Adams,

Chief Park Interpreter, Hot Springs National Park.

8:00 p.m. "I was there." Slides taken by members at previous ANPS activities. Members, you're each invited to bring up to 10 slides (labeled and with your name). Give them to Randy Johnson before the business meeting.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10. There will be two or three field trips going on at the same time. Select whichever ones you want. All trips leave from the Royal Vista parking lot.

9 to 12 a.m. "Trees of the Trap Mountains," with Dr. Dan Marsh Carpool to unique area of the Ouachita Mountains.

9 to 12 a.m. "Trees and Trails in Hot Springs National Park" with Park Aid Gail Patton.

9 to 12 a.m. "Trees and More" with Dr. Dwight Moore. A short and leisurely walk in Hot Springs National Park with the author of Trees of Arkansas.

12 to 1:30 p.m. Lunch on your own.

1:30 to 4 p.m. "Ecological Monitoring of Rare Plants" with Robert Wright. Follow-up of Spring meeting; standardized repeatable techniques for assessing rare plant populations.

1:30 to 4 p.m. "Barking up the Wrong Tree?" with Freeman Thomas. Tree identification using a scientific key and hand lense (bring vours).

5:30 p.m. Banquet at Royal Vista. \$5 per person, no reservations needed.

6:30 p.m. Illustrated lecture, "Protected and Non-protected Rare Plants in Arkansas" by William Shepherd, botanist with the Arkansas Natural Heritage Foundation.

ACCOMMODATIONS. Rooms are available at the Royal Vista Inn. Other nearby motels and hotels, ranging from \$35 to \$14 for singles, include (in descending order of price):

Holiday Inn, Hwy. 7 S. 525-1391

Travelier Motel, 45 E. Grand. 624-4681

Avanelle, Central and Grand. 321-1030

Royal Vista Inn, 2204 Central. 624-5551 Fountain Motel, 1622 Central. 624-1262

Romer Motel, 111 Prospect Ave. 623-6646

Best Motel, 638 Ouachita. 624-5736

Camping facilities abound, especially on Lake Ouachita, and include: Lake Catherine State Park, Hwy. 171 4 mi. from Hwy. 290. 844-4176. Lake Ouachita State Park, Hwy. 270 W., Hwy. 227, follow signs. 767-9366. Camp Lake Hamilton, Hwy. 7S. 525-8204.

Many thanks go to Nola Baber-Green for her help in locating the meeting place and accommodations, and for program ideas. You won't want to miss this one.

ACTIVITIES, SEPTEMBER-JANUARY

Attend any of these you wish, but be sure to call the leader ahead of time. Space is sometimes limited, and you would not want to be turned away disappointed. Remember to provide your own food and drink if an event extends over mealtime.

SEPTEMBER 19, Sat., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wild edible plants workshop, Mena, by Freeman Thomas. Slide lecture, plant specimens, cooking, literature, field excursion, tips on collecting. \$4 fee to cover cost of materials. Meet at S.W.E.P. Co. buildir across street from courthouse. Aileen McWilliam, 394-2746.

OCTOBER 9 and 10. Fall general meeting, Hot Springs.

OCTOBER 3, 10, 17, 24, Saturdays, 10-12 a.m. Fall rambles, Pinnacle Mountain State Park. Tree identification, past and present uses. Moderately strenuous 2 mile trail. Parties of 10 or more should reserve in advance. Meet at Visitor Center. 868-5806.

NOVEMBER 7, Saturday, 1-4:30 p.m. Identifying wild and edible mushrooms, Pinnacle Mountain State Park, by Jay Justice. Illustrated lecture, preserved specimens, books, field identification on park trails. Reservations not required. Meet at Visitor Center, 868-5806.

<u>DECEMBER 5</u>, Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. <u>Devil's Hollow Hike</u>, Mulberry. Strenuous walk, deep rugged canyon, no trail, some rock scrambling, steep climb. Walking fern, yellowwood, Boston Mountain flora. Meet in Mulberry at the Dairy Delight near intersection of Hwys. 64 and 215. Gwen Barber, 997-1369.

JANUARY 16, Saturday, 1-4:30 p.m. <u>Winter twig identification</u>, Russellville. Practice in identification by use of scientific key, microscope, hand lense. Meet on Arkansas Tech. campus, botany lab, McKeever Hall, 1 block north of student center. Gary Tucker, 968-7061.

JANUARY 31, Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Twigs of the Winter Woods, Conway. Unique keying system explained by the author of Winter Twigs of Arkansas. Tom Clark, 4501-377. (Ed. note: this trip is tentative; when you call Tom he can confirm and give location.)

SPRING MEETING BEARS FRUIT

Gary Tucker and his group deserve our thanks for organizing an effective program on monitoring rare plants at the Russellville meeting in April. Following the meeting, members and friends got to work. Jeff Rettig of the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission reports the following:

Last meeting's seminar on rare plants at Russellville has resulted in some very good plant finds for Arkansas. One ANPS member told us about some rare plants discovered by some of her very observant friends.

The first plant was the orchid Rose Pogonia (<u>Pogonia ophioglossoides</u>) from Jefferson County. It was collected in the state once before, in 1950 in Saline County by Dr. Dwight Moore. Three other special plants turned up at the site through extensive field investigations: Grass Pink (<u>Calapogon pulchellus</u>), a Yellow-eyed Grass (<u>Xyris sp.</u>), and the rare Crested Fringed Orchid (<u>Habenaria cristata</u>).

The second plant was the Catchfly Gentian ($\underline{\text{Eustoma exaltatum}}$) found near the Arkansas River. The species was first collected in 1948 by Dr. Moore but was reported as Bluebell Gentian ($\underline{\text{E. grandiflorum}}$). Upon further examination the 1948 collection turned out to be Catchfly Gentian too.

We've also had some leads on other special plants, but we're waiting on complete data for those. As it turned out, some keen-eyed people out in the field turned up locations for plants that haven't been seen in Arkansas for over thirty years!

We should add that several populations whose locations are known are now being monitored by society members. These include Alabama snow wreath, Neviusia alabamensis, near Conway. If you are monitoring rare plants other than those mentioned here, please let the editor know.

If you haven't yet gotten in on the rare plant project, here are highlights from the Russellville meeting.

Gary Tucker introduced the idea of adopting a pet plant, one that is easy to identify and practical to work with. Jeff Rettig distributed for Natural Heritage Commission a list of adoptable pet plants the Commission is anxious to have monitored. Gary and Gwen Barber emphasized the need to follow rare plant populations closely, using techniques that can be repeated.

Initial information about any pet plant includes correct identification, preservation of a voucher specimen, and a very specific description of the location. When monitoring the population by repeat visits, the size of the population must be recorded. This means counting or estimating the number of individuals, or measuring how much area is covered.

It is also important to record details of habitat such as slope direction, soil and soil moisture status, light, and seasonal changes. Associated species should be noted.

Jeff Rettig distributed copies of Plant Survey Forms used by Natural Heritage botanists, which provide for much of the above data. (Editor's note: Since estimating population size is tricky business, a future field trip will focus on techniques to do this.) Jeff, Gwen, Gary, and Richard Davis (Natural Heritage Commission) led a field tour to several small populations of unusual plants, where participants practiced assessing small populations. We learned the impact of local habitat variation, season, and pure change on observing herbaceous populations.

At the business session of the Spring meeting, members voted to approve a by-law permitting local chapters of ANPS. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$595.00. Legislative watching at both state and national levels was urged, and several specific ideas mentioned. Continued development of the Arkansas Environmental Conservation Coalition was reported by Randy Johnson, our representative.

ODDS AND FNDS

Carl Hunter, ANPS member, reports funding for his book <u>Wildflowers of Arkansas</u>. There are to be about 500 color prints, and Carl would like to hear from anyone having slides or prints which might be suitable. His address is 10524 Diamond, Little Rock, AR 72209.

Your newsletter is marked "dues payable" if you owe dues for 1981. Please send your \$5 to the treasurer, Don Peach, Route 1, Box 282, Mena, AR 71953.

Suggestions from <u>you members</u> for field trips will be very helpful in planning spring activities. Send them to Randy Johnson, Pinnacle Mountain State Park, Route 1, Box 36, Roland, AR 72135.

MEMBERSHIP BLANK

Membership in Arkansas Native Plant Society is open to anyone who supports the goals given at the start of this newsletter. Dues of \$5 should accompany your application, mailed to Don Peach, Treasurer, Route 1, Box 282, Mena, AR 71953.

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