

OCANPS NEWSLETTER SPRING 2015

Fall Meeting at Harmony Mountain

We had another great retreat at Harmony Mountain, November 7th – 9th. After the delicious potluck dinner Friday night, we had our annual plant auction and raised over \$300. On Saturday, we drove to Kyle's Landing and hiked up Indian Creek. We made it about halfway to the Needle; it was a great day for a hike. The weather was cool, not cold, and clear. We also were gratified to find three different tracked species on our hike: *Heuchera villosa* var. *arkansana*, Arkansas' alum root; *Silene ovata*, Blue Ridge catchfly; and *Hepatica nobilis*, round-lobed hepatica.

On Sunday morning, we held our annual business meeting. Amy Wilson was voted President for the coming year; Ginny Masullo will continue to serve as Vice-President; Mary Reuter will continue as Treasurer and Burnetta will continue as Secretary/Newsletter Editor. OCANPS dues will remain \$5.00/year for 2015. We voted to raise our annual contribution to the Halberg Ecology Camp at Camp Clearfork to \$300. The following are hikes/events planned for the spring/summer. We hope you can join us.

2015 Spring/Summer Hikes:

April 17-19th Annual Spring ANPS Meeting. Registration begins at 5:00 p.m. in the Science Building on the U of A Monticello campus.

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express, 146 Dearman Drive, Monticello AR 71655, 870-460-0100. Thirty five rooms (6 kings and 29 with two queens) will be available at a daily rate of \$80 plus 15% tax. Cutoff date for reservations is April 3. As with all Holiday Inn Express, free breakfast is provided. There is also a Hampton Inn nearby but we do not have special rates with them.

Meeting Location: On the campus of the University of Arkansas Monticello (in the Science building). **Field trips:** Will feature unique sites such as saline prairies; other sites typical of the Arkansas Delta and West Gulf Coastal Plain.

April 19th – Buffalo Point – 11:00 a.m. Meet at the Buffalo Point Ranger Station at the entrance to the park. Buffalo Point is located ca. 7 miles south of Yellville on Hwy. 14. Rick Hinterthuer will be the guide on the Indian Rockhouse Trail. He writes: “Indian creek is one of my favorite hikes in Arkansas featuring both a large variety of flowering plants and a similarly large array of geological features including caves, sinkholes, glory holes, sculptured dolomite bedrock and the second largest bluff shelter in the Ozarks. It is a 3 mile National Park loop trail of medium difficulty. The hike will take approximately four hours at a pace allowing time to stop, look and listen. Please bring your lunch and water. If anyone is interested in camping out that night or getting a cabin in the area for Sunday night, he will be willing to lead a hike to Bias Bend and Rush on Monday.” Contact Rick for more details at 501-940-0872.

April 25th – Lost Valley – 10:00 a.m. Meet in the Lost Valley parking lot. Burnetta will be leading a hike with college plant biology students. You are welcome to join us as we explore this botanically rich area. Bring water and a snack. Call Burnetta at 479-430-0260 for more details.

May 9th – Possum Trot, Nail, AR - 10:00 a.m. Meet at the parking lot at the Nail Church located across from the Nail General Store on Hwy. 16. We will carpool to the USFS property that is home to Possum Trot Hollow. Bring water, a sack lunch, as well as sturdy boots or shoes. This is a moderate to strenuous hike. The last time we hiked Possum Trot, it was difficult to negotiate the downed debris from the ice storm. We can always hike to the French’s shooting star population and bypass some of the debris if still a problem. Please call Burnetta at 479-430-0260 to let her know if you plan to join us. Don Mills has agreed to be our guide and he reassures me that he does have his GPS unit up and running.

May 16th – Crane fly orchid expedition – 10:00 a.m. Please meet at Stephen’s Ironworks shop at 360B North Centennial Ave, West Fork, AR 72774. It is east of old Hwy 71 at the McKnight Emergency Wrecker Service in West Fork. He will lead us to a population of crane fly orchids that he located last year. Though there are herbarium specimens of *Tipularia discolor* in the U of A Herbarium, no recent reports have been documented. We hope to change that! Bring a sack lunch, water, comfortable shoes, etc.

May 30th – ArkTex Wildlife Preserve and Tree Farm, Durham, AR – 8:00 a.m. Meet Bob Morgan and Jim Woodruff who will lead us on a hike of the Woodruff property. Jim and his wife Rhonda were named Watershed Stewards of the year by the Beaver Watershed Alliance. Take Hwy 16 to Durham, AR. The farm is located off Washington County Road 47 (*aka* Hazel Valley Road) and is approximately 3 miles past Terra Studios.

June 13th – 14th – BioBlitz at Ninestone, Carroll County. Time not yet determined. Judith Griffith and Don Matt will host a BioBlitz at Ninestone Land Trust. A BioBlitz is defined as an

intense period of biological surveying to record as many living [species](#) as possible within a designated area. Groups of scientists, naturalists, and volunteers conduct an intensive [field study](#) over a continuous time period (e.g., usually 24 hours). Those interested in attending are welcome to contact Judy Griffith at 9waterfall9@gmail.com for further information as it becomes available. Closer to the event it will be important that Judy and Don know how many people to expect.

June 27th 11:00 a.m. – Pine Ridge Gardens, London, AR

Mary Ann King will take us on a hike through the natural area surrounding the garden. Afterwards, we will tour the nursery and you will have an opportunity to purchase plants to take home to your garden. Mary Ann says we'll walk the field with Wild goose plum, Red buckeye, Butternut, Possumhaw, PawPaws, Cucumber magnolia, Bladdernut, Leatherwood, Spice bush, River cane, many oaks plus a huge Shumard oak, Black walnuts, Toothache tree, Redbuds, Green ash, Fringe trees, Box elder, Blue ash, Sycamores, Slippery elm & more. And another field near the nursery that sports a large yellowwood tree, sarvisberries, Kentucky coffee tree, Sloe plum, Soapberry, PawPaws, several kinds of Gooseberries, gray dogwood & more. Alabama Snowwreath is also found in both fields. Bring a sack lunch and water.

Directions are as follows:

Coming from Fayetteville *etc.* area, take 49 to 40, go to exit 74, go north on Hwy 333 for 1.5 miles. Turn left on Will Baker road (by cell tower) go two miles – see metal shop building on left – white house with green roof on right, turn right (north) on Sycamore Road – go .8 mile to gate (832 Sycamore Road)

From Harrison, Jasper *etc.*, follow Highway 7 south to #333 which is just north of Dover. Turn right on #333 – it is about 10 to 12 miles to Will Baker Road. Turn right on Will Baker Road (by cell tower) go two miles – see metal shop building on left – white house with green roof on right, turn right (north) on Sycamore Road – go .8 mile to gate (832 Sycamore Road) Contact Mary Ann at her cell phone # [479-531-5014](tel:479-531-5014) for further information, or if you need help navigating to Pine Ridge Gardens.

If you need to pay dues, please send a check for \$5.00 to:

Mary Reuter, 121 CR 432, Berryville, AR 72616

If you need to pay state ANPS dues, please send \$15.00 to: Don Ford, Treasurer,
4017 Bluebird Lane, Little Rock, AR 72210