Welcome to the first Summer Issue of the Claytonia!

Going to four issues per year will allow the ANPS to keep you better informed about the activities of the society and will also permit the ANPS to better achieve its educational goals. Publishing four issue per year also adds to the cost of operating the society and is one of the reasons for the increase in dues this year. Society funds are also used to provide research awards and scholarships and to do conservation work — such as prescribed burnings to maintain prairie wildflowers in the state.

Throughout this issue you will see various illustrations. Can you tell what they are? Answers will be in the next issue.

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ANPS MEETINGS

Board Meeting
Pinnacle Mt. State Park
When: Saturday, June 14.
Time: 11:00 - 2:00
Bring a lunch.

Fall General Meeting
Glenwood, Arkansas
Riverwood Motel
When: September 26-28.
MARK THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR!
Details will come later.

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ANPS AWARDS

Two cash awards were presented at the Spring General Meeting.
David L. McDaniel of Donaldson received a Delzie Demaree Botanical Research Award of $1500 for his research on populations of *Parnassia asarifolia* in Arkansas. He rediscovered the plant which has not been found in Arkansas since 1926. He presented a report on the progress of his work to the Arkansas Academy of Science meeting held in Monticello in April. He also presented an excellent report with colored slides at the Spring Meeting of the ANPS.

The report reported on his work in progress of floristic inventories in the *Parnassia asarifolia* communities in comparison with *Parnassia grandifolia* communities. *P. grandifolia* is familiar to Arkansas wildflower lovers as “Grass of Parnassus”, an autumn blooming, beautiful white flower often seen in wet, rocky limestone areas.

Julia D. Spears, a student at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, was awarded an Aileen McWilliam Scholarship of $500 in recognition of her excellent work in botany.

Field Notes
by John Pelton, President ANPS
May 1, 1997

The year in the field began early for me, for I was determined to learn more about our early blooming flowers, trees, and vines.

I located a site for Harbinger of Spring (*Erigenia bulbosa*) in Garland County along the South Fork of the Saline River. The plants begin to bloom in mid-February. As I watched and photographed these plants it wasn’t long until the surrounding areas was covered by Rue Anemone (*Thalictrum thalictroides*); Toothwort (*Dentaria laciniata*); Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*);

Yellow Trout Lily (*Erythronium rostratum*); and Wood Violet (*Viola palmata var. palmata*). Later I visited the site and observed Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ernestiana*); Jacob’s Ladder (*Polemonium reptans*); Sweet William (*Phlox divaricata*); and Golden Ragwort (*Senecio aureus*). On the trip to this site I observed Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis vernalis* and *H. macrophylla*), Alder (*Alnus serrulata*); Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*); Red Maple (*Acer rubrum var. rubrum*); Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*) and Bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*) all flowering.

This was an exciting time for a photographer. WOW! I love the beauty of it all and my curiosity has been satisfied. I’ve been blessed richly by indulging by indulging myself in the natural heritage of early spring.
**Plant Notes**

*Claytonia virginica*

by Carl Amason

One of the most common and prettiest of Arkansas wildflowers is *Claytonia virginica*. It is, according to Dr. Ed Smith, found in every county in Arkansas - and beyond. It grows in open woodlands and sunny grassy areas and is especially fond, here in South Arkansas to crawfishy areas but it is also found in dry sandy soils where it just as often covers the ground with white or white veined with pink flowers. Where it grows well enough to be a mass of white or pinkish flowers it is lovely. It blooms early and is usually described as looking like snow. Its early flowering time and low stature has earned it the common name of Spring Beauty. It usually doesn’t fall prey to the lawn mower, however, most of the seeds are cut before they develop but enough seed pods do escape mowing so new plants are always growing on. It is a perennial plant, coming from an underground corm which will persist for years. [One of the items of American Indian food lore that has survived is that the corms were an important source of food for them.] For the people who want a “snow covered” lawn of Spring Beauty wildflowers will find it an easy plant to transplant. And it comes readily from seeds which take 2-3 years to develop into flowering plants. It seems that those who usually admire the flowers don’t have them as a lawn weed; those who don’t like them usually have a lot of them growing in their lawns. Frankly, I think they are highly desirable and their growth soon gives way to dormant underground corms. Here in Union County, they are at home in downtown El Dorado, particularly the lawn of the First Presbyterian Church, which is on the ridge divide that drains north into the Smackover Creek Basin and the streams that drain south in the Loutre Creek Basin, both of which drain into the Ouachita River. Some yards in Calion, which was originally in the flood plain of the Ouachita River is very pretty in flower in February and March with masses of flowers.

I do not know who named the newsletter of the ANPS *Claytonia*. I have nothing but praise for the use of the name.

As usual I quote from Dr., Ed Smith’s *Atlas* : “Arkansas material of this species belonging to Race II that differ in flavoid chemistry from races east and north of the state (Doyle 1984)”. Dr. Smith goes on to say that the Spring Beauty has the greatest variations in chromosome number of any species he knows, from $2n=12$ up to ca. 191. Carl Hunter mentioned that it was blooming 5 February 1984, in Little Rock after a severe winter.

The books on Arkansas wildflowers mention two native species of *Claytonia*. *C. virginica* is common, *C. caroliniana* is a rare Ozark wildflower with much wider leaves. In its native range in the southeastern United States, *C. caroliniana* is found on the higher mountains.

Spring Beauties are a close relative of portulaca and purslane in our general area. In the Northwest you find the related genus *Lewisia*. It is named for Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, sent west by President Thomas Jefferson. *Lewissetas* are among the most sought after American wildflowers in Europe. It also has some edible corms which sustained the Lewis and Clark Expedition through the Bitterroot Mountains. Bitterroot being the common name of *Lewisia*.

Illustration is not *Claytonia*
Ranunculaceae,
Buttercup Family
A PLANT FAMILY SKETCH
by Gary E. Tucker

My favorite family of all the spring flowering families is the Buttercup Family, Ranunculaceae [rah-nun-kew-LAY-see-ee], which derives both its botanical and common names from the genus Ranunculus [rah-NUN-kew-luss], also known as buttercup.

The Buttercup Family is centered in the world’s cool temperate regions. Approximately 1,000 species are placed in about 50 genera. Numerous ornamentals belong to the family, and many are taxonomically placed in small splinter genera, e.g., Consolida [con-SAW-lih-dah] is separated from the related Delphinium [del-FIN-ee-um].

Smith’s Keys to the Flora of Arkansas includes 14 genera for the state, and a total of 53 species and subspecific taxa are treated in his generic keys to the Ranunculaceae.

Most genera in the family in Arkansas are dominated by species that are herbaceous perennials. Numerous annuals, e.g., Mysurus [my-oh-SOO-russ] and many Ranunculus, and weakly woody vines, e.g., Clematis [KLEM-ah-tiss] also belong to the family. Not found in Arkansas but native to bordering states from Tennessee to Texas, the woody shrub Xanthorhiza [zan-thoh-RY-zah] is a good subject for a shaded streamside garden.

Buttercup Family members’ leaves vary greatly, with most having palmately-lobed blades and a leaf stalk with a prominently sheathing base. Some are true compound leaves. When I taught botany at the university, students tussled at telling highly dissected leaves from truly compound leaves in this family. Leaf variations are endless, and often I was of little help. Some species of Ranunculus, e.g., R. laxicaulis [lax-ih-CAW-liss], have long narrow entire leaves. Leaves of other species, e.g., R. harveyi [HAR-vee-eye], are almost round in outline. Aquatic Ranunculus species, e.g., R. longirostris [lon-jih-RAW-striss], often have highly dissected leaves composed of threadlike subdivisions. Leaves are usually basal, e.g., Hepatica [neh-PAT-ih-kuh], or more commonly a combination of basal leaves and stem leaves. A few species have opposite or whorled leaves, e.g., Anemone [ah-NEM-uh-nee] and Clematis.

Buttercup Family flowers usually are bisexual (male and female parts in the same flower), and have radial symmetry (flowers with an overall starlike outline) and manyness, i.e., more than 10, in at some of the flower parts. Strongly bilateral flowers occur in the genus Delphinium. Most species of the genus Thalictrum [thah-LICK-trum] have mostly nonshowy and rather insignificant unisexual flowers. Many genera in the family have 5 sepals and 5 petals, but other numbers occur. In some species, true petals are absent and the large colored sepals take on a petal-like appearance, e.g., Isopyrum [eye-soh-PY-rum]. Stamens are typically many, i.e., an indefinite number greater than 10, and spirally arranged along the length of the elongate floral axis. Also, the pistil number is typically many, and the unfused single-carpedel pistils are spirally arranged on the elongate floral axis.

To understand flower structure in this family, get a flowering plant of almost any species of Ranunculus late enough in the season to find both young flowers and well-developed fruits. By looking at and learning to recognize the characters of a few “typical” species of the family, you will develop a family concept for this very important plant family.
Field Trip Report

An Account of the Field trip on 1 March 1997 near Calion, Union County.

by Carl Amason

For some days a late winter rain had fallen and the ground was saturated with water, so much so, getting stuck at Carl’s place turned into a real problem. Fortunately the sun came out, the day was cool but mild and sunny. The redbuds were in full bloom as well as many cultivars of early Oriental magnolias, wild violets, many daffodils, and Vaccinium elliottii were in full bloom. George and Lillie Sinclair were among the first to arrive so they had gotten up early and drove from Marshall. Frances Smith and Winnie Dawson came from Malvern. Winnie is a delightful person who has dual citizenship in the United States and Canada, where she lives in the summer season. Nell and Henry Ambrose arrived from Little Rock, Jason Anders came from Camden -- all places that suffered some storm damage in the afternoon as we were having a pleasant tour of things growing or in bloom. Bob and Sandra Gamble were perennial field trippers from El Dorado, and so is Lynn Engor.

Some elements of spring come early in south Arkansas and there is much to see and enjoy during the warmer days. The winter grape fern Botrychium lunarioides was sending up its spore fronds and close by little adder’s tongue ferns. Ophioglossum crotalophoroides were in prime condition. The native red maple (Acer rubrum) and winged elm (Ulmus alata) had already bloomed and were developing seeds. Generally, it was a good day locally to see wildflowers and other woody plants in flower or fruits.

Lunches were eaten outside under a back porch were the early daffodils could be seen and smelled in bloom. Of course, food tastes so good on a field trip and as usual time flies when one is having a good time. The field trippers had had a full morning and noon and the long trip home was before them. This was the day that Arkadelphia, parts of Saline and Pulaski Counties were blown away. Those who returned had some storm damage to observe on their way but everyone returned home safely and soundly and found that the storm had hit other places beside their homes.

Early spring can be a most beautiful season but it can bring its storms, floods, and other violent weather. It can also bring moments of pleasure and joy in the form of learning the natural elements and the discovery of things in bloom.

Summer Field Trips

[These are repeats from the Spring Claytonia]

June 7: Calion:
Leader: Carl Amason, 501-748-2362.
Meet at Carl’s house at 9:30. Take Highway 67 to Calion, turn at Staples Store go to county road 44 (about 0.5 miles) turn right and go south about 1.25 miles to Carl’s house. Bring Lunch and a drink. There are a lot of things out in June you won’t see in March. Even if you have been to Carl’s before you are sure to see interesting things you didn’t see before pointed out in a way that is uniquely Carl.

July 19: Dry Creek Wilderness Area:
Leader: Don Crank, 501-623-1035.
Montgomery/Scott County. Meet at the Booneville Post Office at 9:30. We will go “to find something” and report to the Forest Service our findings rather than “to go see something that has already been found”. The area is about 1900 feet elevation of some of the area is inside, some outside, the wilderness area. It is a hilltop area with sparse vegetation --- hopefully a Cedar glade area. If it is a “bust”, we’ll go to the Buffalo Road area (Needmore, AR) which is a Red-cockaded Woodpecker area and has lots of flowering plants. Then, time permitting, maybe to Mill Creek Recreation Area (an area used for springtime flower walks by the Waldron Ranger District (USNF) or might go to Buck Knob for a down-hill two mile walk that was suggested by the Forest Service personnel. This area requires us to shuttle cars and the Forest Service would appreciated knowing what we find. Some wet areas -- Umbrella Magnolia, ferns, etc. Trek ends along Rock Creek east of Mill Creek Recreation Area. Hwy. 270 east of Y City.
Memorials

Albert and Tomiline Higgenbottom
Earlier this year ANPS lost two long term members. Albert went first after a long illness, then in a few weeks Tomiline fell asleep and did not awaken. Even after Albert was in the nursing home, Tomiline went to visit every day and quite often they would follow their custom of driving around to visit friends and to look at and enjoy wildflowers. After years of working for Dierk’s Lumber Co. and then Weyerhaeuser, Albert knew what was in the forest and when to see it at its best. Many ANPS members have enjoyed being on field trips with Albert when he shared his great love for and knowledge of nature and native plants. Tomiline attended many of the evening meetings and programs of ANPS but enjoyed looking for antiques instead of going on the field trips. They are survived by three children, Carol, Nancy Price, and A.J. and other relatives including his sister Penny Robbins. Those who knew Albert and Tomiline were doubly blest. They were both warm, loving people who enjoyed life and each other. These good and faithful stewards will be greatly missed.

by Lana Ewing

Donations to the society have been made in their honor by:
Allied Bruce-Terminix
Shiela Johnson
Higgenbottom
Joe and Kay Mannon
Red River Astronomy Club
Roger Wilcher
Bank of Delight
Faculty of Mena High School
Mrs. Albert Austin
Delta Kappa Gamma
Mr. & Mrs. Sorenson
Penelope Robbins
Mrs. Thomas Parker
Carl Amason
Walter and Shirley Brotherton
Ralph & Jane Thomas

Mary Jane Hunter
Another long term member who is no longer with us is Mary Jane the beloved wife of Carl Hunter. Most of us remember the excellent Spring General Meeting hosted by Carl and Mary Jane in Ferndale just a year ago. Mary Jane will also be greatly missed.

The following have made contributions to the society in her honor:
Elsie Stebbins
William Shepherd
Lance Peacock
Alfred & Marilyn Hecht
Carl Amason

Marie Locke
Marie Locke like Albert Higgenbottom has been with the society since its beginning year 1980. Marie was an avid plant collector and is responsible for much of what is known about the flora of Jefferson County. Dr. Smith has a whole paragraph acknowledging her in his Atlas. With her passing the society has lost a true wildflower enthusiast.

Donations in her honor have come from the following:
William Shepherd
Carl Amason
President Bob Clearwater opened the general meeting at 7:40 p.m. He thanked Gary Tucker for a wonderful job as host and for the great field trips. Richard Speairs especially liked the detailed hand out sheets. Bob acknowledged Linda Ellis from Springfield, MO, Glen Milker form Alexander, LA, and Ralph Lindgren form Joplin, MO for traveling from other states to attend our ANPS meeting.

Treasurer Sue Clark provided the plaque to be presented to Greg Robertson, Past President, who was not able to attend. The chair held up the plaque for others to see and gave it to Jason Anders to deliver to Greg. A question was asked if we should continue to give out plaques in lieu of something different. Dr. Slaughter thinks awards should be given out.

The Chair explained the reasons for an increase in membership dues and life memberships. John Pelton made a motion to accept the increase in dues and Joe Stuckey seconded. It was then opened for discussion. 29 were in favor of the increase. Steve Marek indicated dues are in line with other organizations. Dr. Speairs indicated it should be published in the next Claytonia. Liz Gets stated that it was published in the Claytonia. John Pelton made a motion that the new increase begin in 1997 and Carl Slaughter seconded. Motion carried.

A discussion began regarding the present brochure and if it should be changed? Carl Hunter indicated he preferred the present one because of its low price. Pres. Clearwater then explained the increase in registration dues form $2 to $3. He indicated that the board voted unanimous in July and does not require a general membership vote.

The President announced an open forum and asked for thoughts, suggestions and ideas for plans and projects to benefit our society: such as workshops on sensitive plant rescue. Mary Ann King indicated we need more publicity regarding ANPS. Carl Amason indicated we need to work more closely with the Arkansas Heritage Commission, The Nature Conservancy and Arboretums. He also spoke of the four reasons for our society: preservation, conservation, study of wild plants, and education. John Pelton spoke about organizing chapters. Bob Clearwater gave an update on the Ozark Chapter and how it has grown to 45 members. He suggested putting in the Claytonia what the Ozark Chapter has achieved in its first year. The Chair spoke about a packet he received from Pinnacle Mountain State Park regarding the new arboretum project. The Chair recognized Ralph Lindgren from Joplin, MO. Ralph stated that Wal-Mart contributes to organizations involved in conservation efforts. Liz Gets, thinks we need more educational material to give out. The Chair held up the brochure form the Missouri Botanical Society. Joe Stuckey indicated we needed an “eye catching” brochure. Mr. Hubbard also discussed having an different brochure and talked about Master Gardeners. Jason Anders talked about an educational meeting on goals and ideas he had attended with Carl Amason. Liz Gets indicated we could have two or three seminars going on at the same time. Laura McNenny suggested having seed bank’s and involving schools and children. Joe Logan talked about plant salvage. Kristin Hubbard suggested having informed speakers to speak to lay people and having general information to give to the public. Eric Sundell also spoke about the rescuing of plants. It was also suggested that Carl hunter design a new color brochure. Eric Sundell indicated that this could be done through the University of Arkansas, Monticello. The Chair recognized Glen Milker who suggested more field trips. Joe Dean indicated he had written articles for the Heber Springs newspaper about the ANPS. More publicity about he ANPS should be given to the local newspapers.

President Clearwater thanked everyone for their suggestions and then presented our new officers for 1997: John Pelton, President; Don Crank, President elect; Joe Stuckey, Vice President; Kathy Marek, Secretary; Jason Anders, Treasurer. Carl Amason made a motion to accept our new officers, Dr. Slaughter, seconded. Motion carried.
Sue Clark read the treasurer’s report and indicated $952 was taken in at the fall auction.

John Pelton made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report Dr. Henry Robison seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes of the spring meeting are in the **Claytonia**. Motion to accept the minutes made by Carl Amason and seconded by Carl hunter with a correction. Mr. Hunter stated that the words in his motion were a single bank account, not a single fund. The chair accepted the correction and assured Carl that there would be a correction of the words in his motion.

Gary Tucker gave out maps for Sunday’s field trip to Mary Ann Kings place. Carl Amason indicated his appreciation to our host Gary Tucker. Don Crank said our Spring meeting dates are April 18, 19, 20. Jason Anders spoke briefly about our T-shirts.

The Chair then asked for a motion to adjourn. John Pelton made the motion and Carl Amason, seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Carlson, Secretary

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### Arkansas Native Plant Society Treasurer’s Report -- Jason Anders

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**Total Operating Funds** $ 12,241.39

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Grand Total ...........$ 23,945.39
EDITOR'S END NOTES

Getting this issue together has been a special challenge for me. The weather has been really ideal for getting outside and there are plants out there just waiting for me to come take a look! Being a college biology teacher with labs doesn’t give me too many daylight hours to be outdoors. My explorations have been limited to about three hours per week, weather permitting, with my plant taxonomy class. I don’t take them to the places where the rarer things are because I know I might find one of those rare things in their collections. I tell them that if they see only one or a few of a particular species around not to collect it. I also show them some slides and photos of the rare things not to collect and tell them they will be penalized if they submit one of those. Anyway -- I regress -- I’d rather be out there right now - than in here at my computer typing this. But, I keep thinking, as soon as I get this done, and get finals out of the way then I’ll have time to get outside!

I want to mention something that has really disturbed me and that is the increased amount of dumping I have seen on field trips. When I teach plant taxonomy, (which is not very often because it is an on demand course and it takes eight to make a class), I take my students to some places that I don’t get to very often. One place in particular is a bluff east of Romance with a beautiful overview of Des Arc Bayou, at least it used to be beautiful. It’s one of the few places in White County where there are Shooting Stars, and Red Columbines. In the four years since I was there last it has turned into a major dumping ground, with not only whole plastic bags of household trash but even an entire automobile pushed over the edge. It about drove me over the edge! Then we went to a place called Dripping Springs which is in extreme south-east Cleburne County and walked along an old railroad right of way, which used to be a wonderful trail through the woods above the Little Red River. That trip turned into a grand tour of trash also! What can we do about this? Is this occurring all over the state or is it just due to a local lack of enforcement of dumping laws? One of my out of state students said “Well it is the natural state, and Arkansans are just doing the natural thing.” Is it natural for people to foul their nests? Well, out of sight out of mind I guess. It is obvious that those who are doing this don’t spend much time outdoors enjoying what nature has to offer. Well enough of my preaching to the choir.

I want to give a special thanks to all those who have submitted articles for this first summer issue. This is the first time I have actually had too many articles for our 10 page limit. If your article didn’t appear in this issue look for it in the fall issue. Keep those articles coming! Field trip leaders please send us a trip report. Members especially would like to know what you have found that is unusual. Chapters we would like to hear about what you are doing. It would be really nice to have some non-copyrighted illustrations to include. Are there any budding artist out there?

Ron Doran, Editor

Arkansas Native Plant Membership Application

Membership Categories:

___$10..... Student
___$15..... Regular
___$20..... Supporting
___$25..... Family Membership
___$30..... Contributing
___$150..... Lifetime Membership (55 and over)
___$300..... Lifetime Membership (under 55)
___New Member
___Renewal
___Address Change

Name __________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________
Street or Box _______________________________________
City ____________________________________________
State............. Zip __________________________

Telephone:________-________-________
E-Mail address __________________________

Please cut and send this form along with any dues to the membership chairman listed on the other side. Thanks.
Arkansas Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 250250
Little Rock, AR 72225

Our apologies to all those who had their dues returned. There was a short term problem with the official address. The problem has now been resolved. The above address is only for general correspondence with the society.

The ANPS has decided not to use that address for memberships since we have a membership chairman who lives in Monticello. Articles for the *Claytonia* should be sent to the Editor. Please don't send changes of address or dues to Searcy or Little Rock.

If your mailing label has a 96 or earlier it is time to renew!

Please send applications for membership, changes of name, address, e-mail address or telephone numbers to:

Eric Sundell, Membership ANPS
Division of Mathematics and Sciences
University of Arkansas
Monticello, AR 71655

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.

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*Claytonia*

Ron Doran, Editor
900 E. Center
Box 846 Harding University
Searcy, AR 72149-0001

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Newsletter of the Arkansas Native Plant Society Summer 1997