Greetings to you all. It's hard to believe it is already late spring, and even here in NW Arkansas the wildflowers have been blooming for weeks. In fact, it seems like we have an exceptional flowering this year, and I hope the same has been true all over the state.

Ron Doran has done his usual excellent job with the *Claytonia*; our nominating committee (Don Crank, Jim Peck, and Don Culwell) have candidates to submit for consideration for election at our fall meeting; John Simpson has spearheaded preparations for the spring meeting and kept up with field trips and other activities; Annette Holder and the Awards committee have been at work and have nominees to submit to the Board. A president's job could hardly be easier! My thanks to all of these and our other officers and Board members for their fine work.

Our spring meeting will be at Grandview Prairie, down near the southwest corner of the state. I'm not very familiar with this region, so I'm excited at the chance to see more of the flora. This should be a good meeting and I hope you will all plan to attend.

Steve Marak
SPRING MEETING
SCHEDULE

Friday, May 21

Registration:
4:00- 6:00 Super 8 Motel Meeting Room

Dinner: on your own
7:00 General Meeting
Speaker Linda Knighten of the Arkansas Game
and Fish Commission will discuss the Grandview
Prairie and what we'll be seeing on the outings
Saturday.

We will attempt to have a time after the meeting
for anyone to show personal slides of interest to
the group (no trips to Disneyland please!)

Executive Board meeting following

Saturday, May 22

Breakfast: on your own
8:30 and 1:00- Outings to Grandview Prairie
near Columbus
Meet at Super 8 Motel for carpooling
Lunch: on your own- may go back to Hope or bring
a lunch to eat at the prairie

Dinner: on your own
7:15 PM General business meeting followed by
presentation by Linda Westergard of the Keep
Arkansas Beautiful Commission

Sunday May 23

Outing to Nature Conservancy prairie to be led by
Scott Simon

Spring prairie wildflowers will hopefully be close to
their peak-- we are fortunate to have Linda and
Scott to lead the outings.
Don't miss this chance to see two prairies, which
are now protected and will be managed to maintain
the prairie plants and wildlife.

Accommodations

Super 8 Motel
Rates are $28.88 single and $32.88 double- each
plus tax.
1-30(Exit 30)& Hwy 4
Phone - 870-777-8601

Best Western Inn
Single $45 and double $55 plus tax.
1-30 & Hwy 4 N (US 278)
Phone - 870-777-9222
Fax - 870-777-9077
Toll Free Reservations - 1-800-429-4494

Days Inn
1500 North Hervey
Phone - 870-722-1904
Fax - 870-777-1911
Toll Free Reservations - 1-800-DAYS INN

Economy Inn & Suites
2205 North Hazel
I-30 & Hwy 29 N
Phone - 870-777-4676

Holiday Inn Express
2600 North Hervey
I-30 & Hwy 4 (US 278)
Single or double at corporate rate of $54.90
which includes a breakfast bar
Phone - 870-722-6262
Fax - 870-722-1922
Toll Free Reservations - 1-800-HOLIDAY

Hope Village Inn & RV Park
2611 North Hazel
I-30 & Hwy 29 N - Exit 31
Phone - 870-777-4665

Quality Inn
I-30 & Hwy 29
Phone - 870-777-0777
Toll Free Reservations - 1-800-228-5151
Spring Field Trips

On most of the trips it will be advisable to bring plenty of liquids and a sac lunch.

May 1: Mt. Magazine
Outing to be led by our orchid specialist Dr. Carl Slaughter (expect showy orchis and much more)
Meet at the Greenfield use area on the top of the mountain at 10:00 AM.

May 8: Boston Mountains
(depending on the weather)
John Logan with the Arkansas Heritage Commission
Has asked for volunteers to help survey for small
headed pipewort habitat in the Boston Mountains.
Call Burnettta Hinterthuer, President of the Ozark
Chapter to become involved in this. 501-582-0467

May 15: Sylamore District
This is an Ozark Chapter outing 'ed by Karen Tinkle.
Meet at the Mt. View ranger station on Hwy. 14.
Hope to see showy lady slipper and other Stone
County rarities.

May 15: West Arkansas
Outing to be led by Bruce and Lana Ewing. Will
feature the Cossatot State Park. Meet at the
parking lot on the west side of the bridge over the
Cossatot River on Hwy. 4 at 10:00

June 5: Possum Trot
Ozark Chapter outing led by Don Mills. Meet in Nail
at the church at 10:00. Be prepared for TCKS
CHIGGERS & SNAKES. May be hot and steamy;
and there is a lot of undergrowth.

June 12: Brady Mountain Area
Ouachita Chapter outing to western Garland County
to feature false bugbane in flower and also a wet
glade. Meet at the junction of Highway 270
and Brady Mountain Road at 10:00 AM.
Conservancy Field Trips

April 24 Dry Forks Glades Natural Area*
Dedication and field trip.
80-acre natural area located outside of Benton.

May 8 Cache River *
Boating with catfish lunch.
Bring your own boat or $20. Explore the wetlands and do some birding. "May is a hot time for migrants!"

June 12 Columbus Prairie Natural Area *
Dedication of 80 Acres of high quality blackland prairie, savanna, and woodland in Hempstead County. Over 150 prairie and woodland plant species have been recorded from the tract.

June 22 Summer Mushroom Foray*
Mushroom hunting at Camp Robinson with expert Jay Justice, President of the Arkansas Mycological Society. There may be a tasting party if enough specimens are found. Handouts will be provided. Fee= $10.

June 26 Presson-Oglesby Preserve*
Another dedication. This time of 155 acres of high quality tallgrass prairie in Franklin County. A representative portion of the once extensive Cherokee prairies of west-central Arkansas

ANPS ELECTIONS

The nominating committee, which is composed of Don Crank, Don Culwell and Jim Peck, present the following nominees for your consideration. These nominees will be voted on at the fall meeting for the stated offices. If you are interested in being nominated for one of the offices, please notify a member of the nominating committee. Nomination will also be accepted from the floor.
EPA MEETING

By John Simpson

On the afternoon of March first, thirteen invited guests met with the regional director of the Environmental Protection Agency, Greg Cook and his assistant. After introductions, (I apologize in advance for any name mis-spellings in this report) Mr. Cook asked each of us to voice concerns we might have about environmental issues in Arkansas of possible interest to his agency — that the agency might need to address and correct.

Leslie Spraggins of the Arkansas Field Office of the Nature Conservancy began the discussion supported by Nancy Delmar, director of that office, and Alan Perkins, Conservancy board member and environmental attorney. Mrs. Spraggins noted and reviewed the three Arkansas areas of greatest concern to the Conservancy -- Northwest Arkansas with its vulnerable cave populations, Spring River with its exceptional biodiversity, and the Big Woods area in eastern Arkansas with its key location in the green north/south corridor in mid-America.

John Gray, representing the Arkansas Wildlife Federation with environmental consultant John Golsing, reviewed the time and effort that organization spent trying to help direct a proposed new bridge across the Mississippi to the area of least environmental impact.

Bill Beyer and Dr. Curtis Merrill representing the Bayou Bartholemew Alliance discussed issues of concern relating primarily to water flow and its effects on wildlife in the bayou area.

Gary Tucker reviewed his position in the commercial environmental consulting field. Several representatives of a developing land trust in Pulaski County reviewed their concerns over a proposed new road to Maumelle, which would require extensive elevated roadbed construction through environmentally sensitive areas.

Dr. Joe Nix of the Ross Foundation reviewed studies on mercury contamination of ground water in south Arkansas. He urged the EPA to accept findings that this "contamination" is a natural phenomenon -- and not to spend precious dollars repeating these studies.

I briefly discussed the difficulties in getting individual species designated as endangered. Such listing could result in the EPA assisting in assuring habitat preservation. Also mentioned was the environmental responsibility of corporations whose stock is publicly traded -- as these corporations are major landowners in Arkansas.

Carl Hunter then eloquently spoke to the issue of keeping environmental decisions based on science and not politics.

Mr. Cook then closed the meeting with a discussion on the evolving concept of "Smart Growth Development" -- helping control sprawl. This concept is not federally mandated now but there may be grant money available to support it. He discussed "Better America Bonds" which would be issued to municipalities to assist habitat preservation, water projects, etc. It was noted that this has not passed congress yet and is still subject to major revision and even possible rejection.

Carl and I were glad to be able to represent the Arkansas Native Plant Society at the meeting and glad to be asked to "have a seat at the table." Hopefully Mr. Cook will be able to better serve us all with the concerns brought out at this meeting.
Salt and Pepper
Field Trip Report
Feb. 27, 1999
By John Pelton

Members of ANPS and Ouachita Chapter met at the
Owensville Baptist Church on Hwy. 5 midway
between Benton and Hot Springs, for a field trip
featuring *Eriogena bulbosa* — Harbinger of Spring,
Salt and Pepper, Apiaceae - Carrot family. The
plants start to flower 2-3 inches above the ground.
Mature plants can reach to 8 inches. Flowers open
the spring woodland flowering season January–
April. Tiny white flowers in small simple umbels.
Red maturing to purple and black anthers show
prominently. Leaves are divided, fernlike, usually
show during late bloom. Root: a small ball-shaped
tuber. Normally the plants are at the foot of a
moist north-facing slope. They are also found on
rich alluvial soil of flood plains. The botanical name
is from the Greek *Eriogena*, meaning early born, and
Latin *bulbosa* in reference to the tuberous roots.
The population we visited is by far the largest I’ve
seen in Arkansas: in fact the only site I know of in
the Ouachita area. Other sites -- Roasting Ear
Creek, Stone County and Lock 2 Road in
Independence County. If you know of other sites
report them to the Ouachita Chapter Secretary,
Bob Byers.

Our next site was the Narrows, a thrust fault
beyond compare. False rue anemone, round lobed
hepatica, rose verbena, hispid buttercup, bloodroot
yellow trout lily, to name a few where found there.

Our members seemed to enjoy this late winter
afternoon seeing the early bloomers. The weather
was predicted to be stormy but we were lucky. We
heard some thunder in the area and had one light
shower.

Members attending were: Yvonne Backer, Steve
Burgess, Bob Byers, Fred Greenwood, Carl Hunter,
Linda Langford, Marion Moriarty, Judy Rosenthal,
and John Pelton.

Saline & Montgomery
Field Trip Report
April 10, 1999
By Ron Doran

Nine ANPS members and guests met the field trip
leader John Pelton at the old deserted Colonial
Nursing Home on Highway 5 (not far from the east
gate to Hot Springs Village). Those that braved
the predicted storms were Jack and
Leta Clark, Rocky and Patsy Ford, Virginia
Alexander and Jewel Moore from Conway, Erna
Hasselbrook and Elsie Murphy from Hot Springs, Carl
Slaughter from Petit Jean Mt., and Ron Doran from
Searcy.

We left just a little bit after 10 AM and headed up
Goose Pond Road to a site along the Middle Fork of
the Saline River. One of John’s major objectives
was to inventory the yellow lady-slipper populations
located on Weyerhauser property. We did see that
spectacular plant, 81 of them to be exact with 20
of them either in bud or in full flower. The lady’s
were not alone. Among the other wildflowers in full
bloom in the same location were wild ginger, May
apple, Sweet William, wild geranium, four of the
worts; bellwort, lousewort, spiderwort and golden ragworts, also seen were crested iris, alumroot and a grape fern. Other interesting wildflowers found there, but either past or not yet blooming, were wild comfrey, trout lilies and false hellebore. By the time we got through exploring that site it was close to 11:30.

We then went back to the nursing home where the Fords had to leave our group because of company coming. The rest of the plant explorers then stopped at a convenient store to "de-tank and to re-tank" and then went on to the thrust faults along Narrows Road south of Crow. There we stopped for a short time to see the delicate red/yellow columbines growing out of the crevices - how can such a delicate looking plant grow in what seems to be such a stressful environment? At the top of the thrust we were able to see (with binoculars) shooting stars. Other blooming plants we saw on or near the thrust fault included crossvine, bladder-nut, green violets, and alumroot.

From there we took some back roads — John really knows his way around! — until we got on the Hot Springs bypass and onto US 270 going west out of Hot Springs. On the corner of McClendon Road and US 70 John showed us a nice patch of the hairy spiderwort (Tradescantia hirsuticaulis). Once we got just past the Crystal Springs area the vanload that was with John stopped to see the silverbell trees that were in full bloom and waited for the rest of the group to catch up. While there we were able to see a mixture of bright red fire pinks, golden ragwort, blue phlox, and birdsfoot violets with the background highlighted with dogwood. Speaking of dogwoods, they were breath taking all along highway 270 west of Hot Springs!!! Do get out that way if you can before the grand show is over. Several of our group thought that they had never seen them so spectacular. Someone even remarked that we were traveling through dogwood heaven. After waiting 10 to 15 minutes the other cars never did show up so we went on, thinking they had decided not to continue on with us. (It was about 1:30 by then and we hadn't stopped for lunch yet.) A bag of chips and some apple slices were shared on the way to Montgomery County.

When we got to the Caddo River site, just out of Black Springs, we were glad we held off eating lunch. John took us to a small knoll above the banks of the Caddo that was carpeted with multi-shades of spiderwort. An artist’s palette of white, blues, lavenders and rose spread out around us; reminding me of an impressionist painting. We sat there in awe as we consumed our long awaited repast — It was worth the wait! After spending time just taking in the beautiful site (with a few rain sprinkles) we went down to the edge of the stream to see what John calls Caddo waterleaf — the rare and only recently discovered Hydrophyllum brownii. Unfortunately it was not yet in flower. We did add Jacob's ladder, yellow and white violets, Solomon’s seal, false indigo, and white spiderworts to our day’s list of plants in bloom.

We were not finished seeing unusual plants yet though. From there we went back up through Mt. Ida and then west to Fulton’s glade. In the slate of the glade we saw the spiderwort Tradescantia longipes, the pretty little violet collinsia, lots of corn salad and plants of the Ouachita blue-star, umbrella plant, threadleaf coreopsis and the stonecrop called widow’s cross. [The collinsia find may be a county record for the plant, at least it is not recorded in Montgomery County in Smith's Atlas.]

As we traveled back to Saline county we were again amazed by the forest full of dogwoods and the roads lined here and there with phacelia and bird’s foot violets. By the time we got back to our original meeting place it was 5:30. Tired but inspired!

Thanks to John Pelton for an educational and delightful trip.
When Is Pin Oak Not a Pin Oak?

BY RON DORAN

Not long ago I received a letter from one of our members who made a request that the common names be given for the plants discussed in the Claytonia.

Generally, those with some scientific training don’t use scientific names to be pedantic but to be sure that everyone, no matter where they live, knows what plant we are talking about. Scientific names are meant to be universal, common names often mean different things depending on where you are from. For example, coming from West Virginia I knew pine oak as an oak with several lobes, each of which came to a sharp extended point. When I made reference to not seeing pine oak in the woods around Searcy one of my students said that there were quite a few in the woods behind his house. I asked him to bring me a specimen for our herbarium. His pin oak was an oak all right — he also brought the acorns — but it had long narrow leaves without lobes. My plant taxonomy professor in South Carolina had taught me its common name as willow oak. Many of the native people in this area do call the willow oak, pine oak or maybe it is calling the pine oak, willow oak? The oak with the slender leaves is Quercus prinus while the one with several lobes is Quercus palustris no matter where you learned your trees.

The current botany text that I use mentions that the broad-leafed plantain (Plantago major) has 45 common English names, 75 Dutch, 106 German, and 11 French names and who knows how many common names in other languages.

Another reason we use scientific names is that the same common name is often used to refer to many complete different species. I read somewhere that the common name buttercup is used in reference to a dozen or more different species though they are all yellow. Unfortunately, most plant identification books don’t list all the common names for each species so that you may have to use several different books if trying to find a scientific name knowing the common one and vice versa.

I would like the writer of the letter to be aware that we will try to give at least one common name for things when we give the scientific ones but that there are many plants, especially those in the rare and endangered category that don’t have common names. One of the reasons some plants don’t have common names is that they aren’t common enough to be seen by many folks and thus are not in the every day language. There will be a scientific name for it unless the plant has never been found before, which is possible but not probable in Arkansas.

By the way, if you have plant related questions I am sure that someone in our society of over 400 members is apt to know the answer. Send those questions to the editor or bring them to a meeting. We will be glad to help if we can.
FALL MEETING
The fall meeting place is still undecided at press time. If you have a suggestion let John Simpson know.

Roadside Use of Native Plants
A handbook reference for those who restore, design, or manage native plants, is being published by the Federal Highway Administration and will be available during the spring of 1999. The handbook contains primers on roadside restoration and management concepts; and for each of the 50 States: native plant species lists and other resources, and valuable appendices. The State by State information is provided as a starting point in decision-making. Within each State, expertise with local flora will be necessary. This handbook is aimed at preserving the native remnants that still exist and restoring natural heritage where necessary. Order forms to obtain your free copy will be available at the Spring Meeting in Hope or the editor can send you the forms via Email or snail mail.

This Cup
A book authored by ANPS member Carl Hunter is at the Little Rock area bookstores now. "Much of it takes place in Arkansas. It was designed to be a clean, uplifting story and a true account of the King Arthur legends." Carl says he will bring some books to Hope to sell at wholesale ($5.00) but then he will have to go to retail ($8.00) to keep peace with the bookstores. [Editors note— Carl sent me a copy and it is a good read. He has an interesting way of tying semi-autobiographical information in with information about the Arthurian legends. You will have to ask him how much of it is autobiographical.]

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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.

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