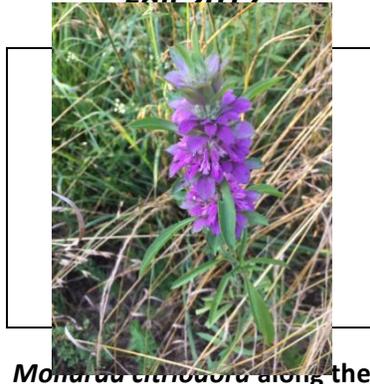


Ozarks Chapter Arkansas Native Plant Society

Fall 2017



***Monarda tinctoria* along the**

Botanical Garden section of Lake Fayetteville Trail

I hope that you all had a healthy happy summer. It was hard at times to decide which season it really was at any particular point, but it was interesting. Rain throughout the summer reminded me of the summer of 2015 with the landscape remaining green into August.

On May 9, 2017, Vernon Human, an exceptional naturalist and a wonderful human being as well, died in California after moving from the Gaither Community near Harrison to California in order to be closer to family. He and his wife Virginia Harrington accompanied us on many field trips and events and we always enjoyed having them. On field trips he regaled us with his vast knowledge of ecology and a great sense of humor. For several years he contributed to the OCANPS Newsletter with articles on native plants. In 2004, his book *A Naturalist at Play* was published by the Lompoc Valley Botanic and Horticultural Society with assistance of King Enterprises. From his essay "A Christmas Salad" he wrote, "The truth is as ancient as time – the real joys in life, the deep happiness and abiding satisfactions, derive from simple things that we ourselves do. Some persons are affronted when I describe myself as the luckiest and happiest man in the world. They are so convinced that happiness is possible only to the wealthiest one percent that it has ceased to be an option in their planning. Naturally they are indignant that I should pretend to it, for none believes that I have found it, as if it had ever been lost." Our sincerest condolences to his family. I am so glad that I got to go on those hikes with him.

Reports on Summer Hikes:

OCANPS members Ginny Masullo, Deb Bartholomew, Laurie Scott and Burnetta Hinterthuer lead hikes for the International Association of Management, Spirituality and Religion (IAMSR) Conference sponsored by the University of Arkansas Walton School of Business. Ginny and Deb led the Devil's Den hike while Burnetta and Laurie walked Woolsey Prairie. Attendees had signed up for outdoor activities that would bring them in contact with the natural environment of the Ozarks. Thanks to Ginny, Deb and Laurie. The attendees made donations to OCANPS.

Hiking and Haiku at Devils Den State Park, May 21, 2017

Ginny Masullo

Photos by Deb Bartholomew

One of the offerings for participants of the International Association of Management, Spirituality and Religion (IAMSRL) Conference included two hikes for interested parties. Four IAMSRL folks showed up at the Devils Den location. They were from as close as Little Rock and from as far away as South America.

The hike had been billed as Hike and Haiku; but, as leaders, Deb Bartholomew and I were unsure exactly how the hike had been portrayed. When three of the four had checked in, I asked the hikers what they expected. They all said "We just want to experience the Ozarks."

The Devil's Den trail complete with its oak-hickory hardwood forest, flowing rivulets, Lee Creek, waterfalls, caves, the largest crevice area in the United States, plus the May wildflowers provided a quintessential Ozark experience.

Once in the trail's natural amphitheater a late coming participant said "I thought this hike was going to include haiku." So, I explained the rudiments of Hike and Haiku, a program I have done for children and families at Devils Den. Basically, the poetic form of haiku is a fun and satisfying way to slow down and experience nature. Like any poetic form there are varying degrees of skill and nuances.

For the sake of Hike and Haiku Arkansas, however, only the basics are embraced. The main convention to be followed is that the nature poem must be three lines with seventeen syllables with lines of 5, 7 and 5 syllables.

It turned out this same hiker who asked about haiku was a haiku expert with a couple of haiku books under his belt. While he wrote over 15 haikus on the hike, everyone else also contributed at least one haiku.

Here's an example:

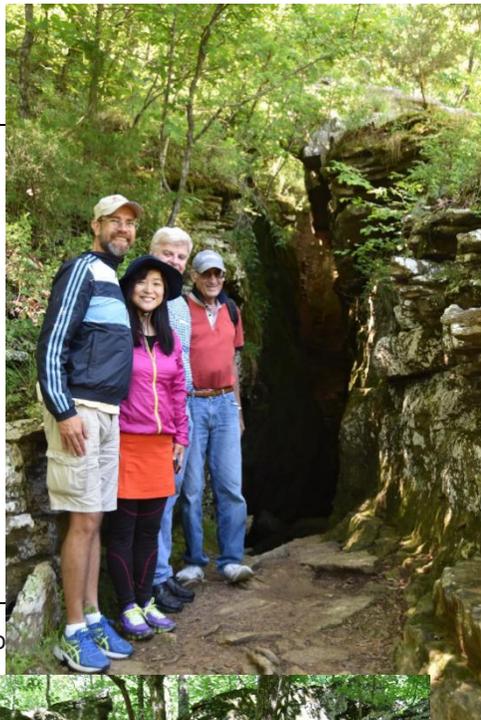
Jack in the Pulpit,
This preacher-less preacher
Tells us, "Be here now."

Crevice area

Devil's Den State Park includes caves and crevices associated with a unique sandstone crevice area that is the largest such area in the United States. The longest of these is Devil's Den Cave (550 feet). The presence of both sandstone and limestone caves at one park is quite rare. Since 2010, the Devil's Den Cave and Ice Box Cave have been closed. These closures are necessary as "a prevention to protect these caves and two others in the park as well as the bat species that inhabit them from the possibility of contamination from White-nose Syndrome. White nose syndrome is a fungus that has killed millions of hibernating bats in the eastern half of the United States and several Canadian provinces." Despite the cave closures the geology of Devils Den trail is spectacular

Wildflowers

The following wildflowers were observed: *Monarda fistulosa*, Bergamot; *Sanguinaria canadensis*, Bloodroot; *Phlox pilosa*, phlox *Cardamine concatenata*, Toothwort; *Asarum canadense*, Wild Ginger; *Trillium recurvatum*, Purple Trillium and *Arisaema triphyllum*, Jack in the Pulpit (with not much Jack) hence, the preacher-less preacher in the haiku example above.



Hikers at o



Ginny introducing the hikers to haiku

Wednesdays on the Greenway

Bob Morgan, Springdale

The Razorback Greenway extends from Bella Vista south through Bentonville, Rogers, Lowell, Springdale, and Fayetteville. The Greenway provides for recreation and transportation to over 400,000 residents of the second largest metropolitan area in Arkansas. Many tourists come to the area just to bicycle on this 37-mile-long trail. The trail provides a strip of nature through the massive urban area of Northwest Arkansas. In fact, in places along the trail it is possible to forget that you are walking or riding within a few hundred yards of thousands of homes, businesses, or factories. And, Northwest Arkansas is not finished. All of the cities in the region are aggressively pursuing plans to extend auxiliary trails connecting the Greenway to all parts of the region. Someday, the trail may even connect to the River Valley. Imagine being able to ride a bicycle, protected from traffic, from Bella Vista to Van Buren. Even more audacious, suppose the Arkansas River Trail being developed in Central Arkansas were to extend all the way from Arkansas Post to Van Buren.

But this article is not about extending trails across Arkansas. It is about the potential that the trail system provides for educating the public about native plants and unfortunately the impact of invasive

species. Last May, we started a series of “Urban Hikes,” Wednesday evenings. Whoever was available would meet at a pre-selected location on the Greenway, spend an hour or so exploring a quarter to half mile of trail, then retreat to a nearby restaurant to discuss.

Our first Wednesday hike was April 12. Six native plant enthusiasts met at Walker Park on the south side of Fayetteville. The Greenway starts just 0.2 miles south of Walker Park and runs along the riparian zone of Spout Spring Branch. We walked south toward the start of the trail. We were pleasantly surprised to see that the city was actively planting native plants along the riparian zone of Spout Spring Branch. However, when we crossed 15th street, the extent of dominance that invasive species exerted over the landscape emerged. The dominant species was Johnson Grass. In the book, [Surely Your Joking Mr. Feynman](#), Nobel laureate Richard Feynman uses a lot of ink describing the difference between knowing a fact, and understanding an issue. Many of his students could regurgitate facts, but when he twisted the question around, they didn’t show true understanding of physics. I guess I have had an intellectual idea of the fact that invasive plants were harmful. But until this trip, I didn’t have a true understanding of the impact. Even though this area had not been managed as pasture for years, Johnson Grass so dominated the landscape that few other species could compete. While the reach of trail was essentially attractive, it was not a healthy ecosystem. Nevertheless, Burnetta was able to show us a few species of interest and describe in detail the particulars of this or that plant. She explained that Johnson grass was introduced into the United States by a South Carolina governor named Johnson who thought it would be good for preventing soil erosion.

Our second Wednesday was to start at the Johnson Trailhead. However, after a quick inspection of available plants, we moved up to the NW Arkansas Mall Trailhead instead. There were five of us on this trip. We were pleasantly surprised once again. This was a woodland hillside too steep to be developed. Within a few feet of the trailhead, we started seeing trilliums and then Jack-in-the-Pulpit. This was also the first trip where we saw Japanese stiltgrass, an invasive species imported as packing material in shipments from East Asia.

Our next two hikes were in the Lake Fayetteville area. First going north from the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks, then going east from Veterans Park. We started picking up people. Nine joined us at the Botanical Garden including some of Burnetta’s former students and some interns at the Watershed Resource Conservation Center. At Veterans Park, we had approximately 15. There was very lively discussion at the local brew pub afterwards. At the end of May, we suspended our hikes until fall because of the increasing heat and complicated travel schedules.

Urban hiking may not provide all of the excitement of a trip to the Ozarks or Ouachitas. But opportunities for public education abound. We were able to reach out to people who either didn’t have a full day to devote to a nature hike, or didn’t know about our existence. And we did little publicity except for the OCANPS newsletter and ANPS *Claytonia*. I look forward to renewing our Wednesdays soon.



Hiking the Greenway Trail north of Botanical Garden

Fall Hikes and Annual Meeting:

West Fork of the White River at Brentwood, Arkansas:

Meet at the Brentwood Community Park on US Highway 71 (20 miles South of Fayetteville, AR) The Watershed Conservation Resource Center (WCRC) in partnership with Beaver Watershed Alliance will host the Arkansas Native Plant Society, for a native plant identification walk. The plant walk will take place along the Brentwood Stream Restoration site on the West Fork White River. We will meet at the Brentwood Community Park on US Highway 71 (20 miles south of Fayetteville) at 10:00 AM on Sunday, September 10th. (Or if you would like a ride from Fayetteville to the site, meet at the WCRC offices, 380 W. Rock Street, Fayetteville, at 9:20 AM) Drinks/water provided. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a sack lunch. For those interested, following the plant walk, there will be a tour of the stream and wetland restoration constructed in 2009. Bring waterproof boots or waders if you have them.

Clabber Creek Trail – On the trail again

September 13th, 6:30 p.m. Bob will continue leading the Wednesday night hikes along the Greenway Trail. Meet at Holt Middle School 2365 N Ruppel Rd, Fayetteville, AR 72704
Dinner and discussion to follow at a nearby restaurant.

The First Annual Eureka Springs Native Plant Garden Project's Native Plant Fair

September 30, 2017 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Eureka Springs Community Center

The Eureka Springs Native Plant Garden Project is presenting a Native Plant Fair on September 30th at the new Eureka Springs Community Center, located in the old high school just off Hwy. 62 across from Myrtle Mae's Restaurant in the Best Western Motel. It starts at 9:00 a.m. and runs until 2:00 p.m. Steven Foster, author of the Peterson Medicinal Plant Guide will introduce Theo Witsell, botanist with the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, and Scott Woodbury of the Shaw Nature Preserve who will talk about the use of native plants in landscaping. In addition to the speakers, there will also be a large native plant sale. Everyone is invited. Members of the Ozarks Chapter of ANPS will have a table with information about the Arkansas Native Plant Society and brochures, tee shirts with Arkansas native species depicted, and a signup sheet for people who would like to join the Ozarks Chapter for hikes planned for next year.

October 6 – 8th, Annual Fall Meeting of ANPS at Heber Springs, AR. See this link for full details. <https://anps.org/upcoming-events/2017-anps-fall-meeting-information/>

November 3 – 5, Annual Fall Meeting of OCANPS at Harmony Mountain. Friday night, we will have the potluck dinner and the plant auction. Bring plants, seed, plant books or other botanical crafts/foods to help raise money for our OCANPS Chapter. We use the money for donations to the Ozark Natural Science Center and the Audubon Halberg Ecology Camp at Camp Clearfork. On Saturday, we will take a hike in the area which will be announced on Friday night. Please call Burnetta if you plan to attend or for further information. This is always a time to get together, enjoy each others' company and cooking and make plans for the coming year. If you have further questions, please call me at 479-430-0260.

Membership Information:

The Ozarks Chapter is a chapter of the state Arkansas Native Plant Society. We formed in 1995 in order to offer Plant Society members hikes in the Ozarks region.

To join the Ozark Chapter of ANPS, send membership dues of \$10 to:

Mary Reuter

121 CR 432

Berryville, AR 72616

To join the state organization, ANPS, send membership dues of \$15 to:

Mike Burns

10145 Dogwood Lane

Dardanelle, AR 72834