

CLAYTONIA

Newsletter of the Arkansas Native Plant Society

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Special
Feature

MaryAnn King receives Carl Amason Conservation Award, *Article and photo by Michael Weatherford*

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I'm just an ordinary guy, and I don't like to admit that I sometimes get all choked up and emotional. So let's just keep this between you and me. I get misty-eyed at weddings, any wedding, just to see people so much in love. I choked up while recently watching the movie "Call of the Wild" when Buck (the dog) left John Thornton (his master played by Harrison Ford) to go live in the Yukon wilderness with his new-found love. Yesterday when my neighbor mowed down the spring beauties that covered his lawn like snow I retreated to my room and, sobbing, curled up into a fetal position. And I got a familiar feeling, eyes welling up and a lump in my throat, at the Arkansas Native Plant Society fall meeting as Eric Sundell presented the Carl Amason Conservation Award to long-time member MaryAnn King. I'm sure I wasn't the only one. One much loved stalwart of our organization honoring another.

The award honors Carl Amason, who died in 2005, a man whose character and achievements reflected the best aspirations of ANPS membership. Like Carl, MaryAnn has done just about everything a member can do to support the Society. In the more than two decades that she has been a member, MaryAnn has attended just about every meeting, served as an officer in many roles including president, led field trips, shared plants, written articles for Society publications, and auctioned off a countless number of plants at the annual native plant auctions. And we don't want to forget that Pine Ridge Gardens, a native plant nursery which MaryAnn founded and has operated in Pope County since 1992, has donated thousands of dollars' worth of native



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plants to be sold in the auctions. Needless to say, she is the go-to person for anyone with questions about using native plants in their landscape.

In 2019 MaryAnn was named to the Arkansas Outdoor Hall of Fame by the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation. Check out this article for more information on the hall of fame and MaryAnn's other accomplishments: <https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2019/aug/18/pope-county-nursery-owner-named-arkansas-outdoor-h/>

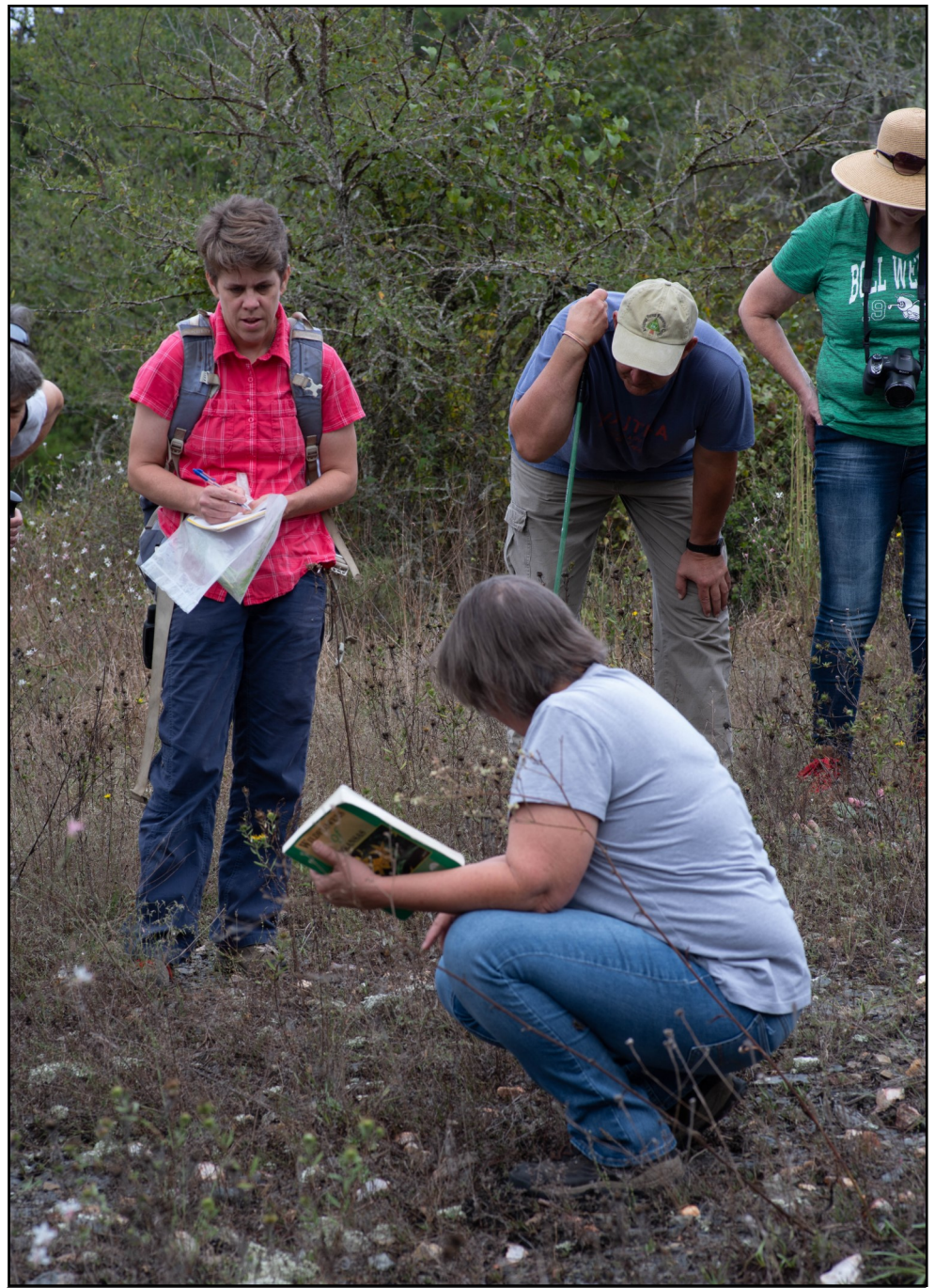
It's easy to see why we have a special place in our hearts for MaryAnn King. Congratulations, MaryAnn. Keep up the good work! We love you, love you, love you! Oh no, I'm getting choked up again.

Arkansas Native Plant Society Members,

First, I feel I should apologize for not standing up and thanking you all for the honor you gave by giving me the Carl Amason Conservation Award. I was so stunned to hear Eric make this announcement – all I've wanted to do is to make Arkansas native plants more readily available to folks and share the love of them with whoever would listen. I thank you all for this honor. It means much more than the AGF Foundation award I received earlier this year.

Many of you have helped me in sharing seed and plants & knowledge.

I love you all,
MaryAnn King



Above: Virginia McDaniel and Susan Hooks study plants to come up with a positive identification during Fall 2019 field trip. Photo by Michael Weatherford.

Below: A Pygmy rattlesnake made an appearance during one of the field trips . Photo by Michael Weatherford.



Governor's Mansion Champion Trees

by Karen Seale

On October 23, 2019, Eric Sundell led a group of native plant enthusiasts on a two-hour walk through of the grounds of the Arkansas Governor's Mansion with the primary focus the native trees. Eric and Karen Seale had scoped out the area on a warm day at the end of May to see if a tour of the grounds might be worthwhile. Although most of the landscaping comprised standard (and beautiful) exotic ornamentals, the shade trees were large and impressive natives and well worth an ANPS outing. Eric's experience in the past, when offering similar outings in central Arkansas, has been a gratifying response from ANPS members, and interestingly, in particular from folks who are not regulars at the annual meetings.

During that initial reconnoiter, Holly Wyman, the Mansion Grounds Horticulturist, joined us and provided insight on some of the features of the landscaping. For example, when P. Allen Smith helped redesign the grounds a few years ago, he suggested that the southeast quadrant be specifically designated the native plant section. All Karen did during that initial tour was tag along, listening to Eric and Holly speak Latin to one another. Toward the end of the walk, she gratefully and joyfully enjoyed the cool shade provided by a large magnolia tree in the northwest quadrant from which a marvelous wooden swing was hanging.

Holly followed up by arranging to make the grounds available for our group tour, carving out a time on the Mansion's busy calendar for us. The grounds are used frequently for state sponsored events such as teas, open houses, and dinners. As

luck would have it, she was able to reserve a date for our tour on the first beautiful fall day after what seemed an unending string of hot summer days.

For the October 23 event, there were 17 people in attendance. Several different organizations were represented as some of the attendees are "combination members" of the following groups: ANPS, Master Naturalists (Central Arkansas, Diamond Lakes, and Foothills chapters), Audubon Arkansas, Arkansas Audubon Society, and Wild Ones Central Arkansas. Each of the participants was provided a hard copy list of the scientific and common names of all the native trees on the property. Several attendees commented on how nice it was to have this information in hand. Star Reparetti shared: "One of the million things that I enjoyed (on the walk) was the quote by Liberty Hyde Bailey that Eric started with: 'To know the names of the forms of life is one of the keenest satisfactions.'" Several people commented that the species list enabled them to pay better attention to the other tidbits of information provided. Speaking of which, Mara Leveritt, noted, "I will always cherish the image of Daniel Boone piling his family into a sixty-foot canoe carved out of a yellow-poplar tree trunk to float the Ohio River. Don't we wish we could have gone along!" Another bit of helpful trivia that Star recalled was that the leaves of the Sweetbay, *Magnolia virginiana*, could be used in cooking just like the commercially available culinary bay leaves.

One of the most intriguing Arkansas natives on the mansion grounds is Stern's medlar, *Crataegus x canescens*, a large shrub with showy white flowers and bright red

fruit but sterile seeds. It is known only (in the wild) from a single grove of trees (Konecny Grove Natural Area) in the Grand Prairie region of Arkansas near Slovak in Prairie County—an Arkansas endemic. Genetic study has revealed that the plants are natural hybrids, most likely between a rare Arkansas native hawthorn, *Crataegus brachyacantha* (blueberry hawthorn) and a small eastern European tree, *Mespilus germanica* (the medlar). Medlars are cultivated in Europe for their edible fruit and were likely grown by early eastern European settlers of that region of the Grand Prairie.

Horticulturally, because they are sterile hybrids, they can't be grown from seed. Instead, they are "reproduced" either by grafting stems to *Crataegus* (hawthorn) roots (*Crataegus opaca*, mayhaw, often used) or by rooting the stems. I don't know how the mansion plant was produced. I think Holly said they planted their Stern's medlar this year for Arbor Day.

At the conclusion of the two-hour stroll, everyone reconvened at a local eatery not far from the Governor's Mansion, The Root Cafe. By that time, the lunch rush had abated somewhat so we didn't feel too guilty laying claim on the largest table (plus a smaller side table) to rehash what we had seen and to enjoy the company of like-minded, native plant loving peeps. A huge note of gratitude to Holly Wyman for arranging our access to the property and to Eric Sundell for his meticulous preparation and sharing his knowledge of all things native.

Here is an annotated list of the native trees of the Arkansas Governor's Mansion grounds:

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BEECH FAMILY, Fagaceae (All red oaks, a group endemic to North America.)

Cherrybark Oak, *Quercus pagoda*
Pin Oak, *Quercus palustris*
Shumard Oak, *Quercus shumardii*
Water Oak, *Quercus nigra*

CYPRESS FAMILY, Cupressaceae

Baldcypress, *Taxodium distichum* (The most distinctive of southern conifers. The longest-lived tree in eastern North America, 1,700+ years—a close cousin to giant sequoia and California redwood. Grown ornamentally as far north as southern Canada, but native north only to Cairo, Illinois.)

Redcedar, *Juniperus virginiana* (For nearly 100 years, supplied the world with pencil wood. Cedar waxwings take their name from fondness for redcedar “berries.”)

DOGWOOD FAMILY, Cornaceae

Dogwood, Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus florida*

ELM FAMILY, Ulmaceae

Cedar Elm, *Ulmus crassifolia* (An unusual elm, blooming in late summer and fall, not spring.)

Sugarberry, *Celtis laevigata* (The most common wild tree in Little Rock. Now classified in Hemp Family, Cannabaceae.)

HOLLY FAMILY, Aquifoliaceae

American Holly, *Ilex opaca* (Garden favorite with more than 1,000 named cultivars and hybrids.)

MAGNOLIA FAMILY, Magnoliaceae

Southern Magnolia, *Magnolia grandiflora* (An Arkansas volunteer but not a native. Created a sensation when introduced into Europe in the 18th century: no native European magnolias—Pleistocene glaciation wiped them out.)

Sweetbay, *Magnolia virginiana*

Yellow-Poplar, Tulip-Poplar, Tulip Tree, *Liriodendron tulipifera* (Tallest hardwood tree in North America, to 200 ft.)

MAPLE FAMILY, Aceraceae

Red Maple, *Acer rubrum*

PINE FAMILY, Pinaceae

Loblolly Pine, *Pinus taeda*

ROSE FAMILY, Rosaceae

Stern’s Medlar, *Crataegus x canescens*

TUPELO FAMILY, Nyssaceae

Black Gum, Pepperidge Tree, *Nyssa sylvatica*

WALNUT FAMILY, Juglandaceae

Black Hickory, *Carya texana*

Pecan, *Carya illinoensis* (“Discovered” by DeSoto in 1541 in swamps of eastern Arkansas.)

Governor’s Mansion field trip participants
led by Eric Sundell. Photo by Karen Seale.



Fall 2019 Meeting - Terre Noire Natural Area Trip Report

By Eric Hunt

Diana Soteropoulos and I led an enthusiastic group of Fall meeting participants to Terre Noire Natural Area on the morning of September 28, 2019. The late summer weather was still fairly warm (hot, even!) but Terre Noire is so rich in amazing plants and the terrain is so gentle and forgiving that we were able to enjoy the sights without too much heat stress!

The walk started along the road on the northern edge of the Natural Area adjacent to a restored pine savannah. On my first visit to Terre Noire in 2013 this spot was thick with planted pines, but in the years since, the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission has done extensive site restoration and removed most of the pines and reintroduced prescribed fire. The understory has responded well, with the native forbs and grasses flourishing. It was here we found our most exciting plant, a previously unknown population of showy goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*), just coming into full bloom. The seeds (and possibly small, struggling plants) had remained dormant and hidden in the pine plantation for decades, and once the pines were thinned, the goldenrod quickly returned to full glory. This is a goldenrod everyone should be growing in their native plant garden. The area was filled with other goldenrods, including tall (*S. altissima*) and common wrinkle-leaved (*S. rugosa*). Below the goldenrods was slender false foxglove (*Agalinis tenuifolia*), glowing in the sunlight with dark purple foliage and light purple flowers, each lasting only a day.

As we moved deeper into the natural area from the road, we started seeing the season's first sawtooth sunflowers (*Helianthus grosseserratus*) coming into bloom above our heads, along with seed heads of purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) at our knees. Other species noticed were marbleseed in full fruit (*Lithospermum bejariense*), Indiagrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), bushy bluestem (*Andropogon glomeratus*), silver plumegrass (*Saccharum alopecuroides*), Maryland senna (*Senna marilandica*), lanceleaf ragweed (*Ambrosia bidentata*), lanceleaf greenbrier (*Smilax smallii*), Carolina buckthorn (*Frangula caroliniana*), and Texas dutchman's pipe (*Aristolochia reticulata*).

We next stopped at a small prairie pocket where there were several beautiful native grasses including rough dropseed (*Sporobolus clandestinus*) and arrowfeather wiregrass (*Aristida purpurascens*) as well as the beautiful American bluehearts in great abundance (*Buchnera americana*).

The first half of the walk was over and we all got back in our cars and drove down the road a mile or so to the parking area for the blackland prairie.

Late summer on the prairie was beautiful. Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) waved in the breeze, looking almost like ocean swells if you squinted just so. We started seeing wildflowers among the grass: blazingstar (*Liatris squarrulosa*), the first ladies' tresses of the season (*Spiranthes cernua*), Missouri coneflower (*Rudbeckia missouriensis*), late boneset (*Eupatorium serotinum*), more slender false foxglove (*A. tenuifolia*), beeblossum

(*Oenothera gaura*), stiff-leaved goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*), compass plant (*Silphium laciniatum*), sawtooth sunflowers (*Helianthus grosseserratus*), American bluehearts (*B. americana*), and blanketflower just going to seed (*Gaillardia aestivalis*). Eventually we found the star of the show, Snow-on-the-prairie (*Euphorbia bicolor*), and it was incredible. It was growing so thick in places it really did look as though the prairie was covered in snow. Everyone just stopped and went silent and took in the beautiful scene.

We reached another woodland area with some oaks and hickories, where we found the uncommon nutmeg hickory (*Carya myristiciformis*) with frostweed (*Verbesina virginica*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) and heartleaf noseburn (*Tragia cordata*) underneath.

Everyone agreed the flowers had been beautiful, but the heat was now an annoyance and it was time to head back to the hotel to clean up for lunch before the afternoon's field trips!

Geophytes

By Nate Weston

It's almost that time of year again! As eager gardeners pore through seed catalogs and ponder this year's projects, the earliest of the spring bloomers are getting ready to emerge from their wintry slumber, poking their heads up once again for the sunlight necessary to complete their reproductive cycle. Some of the first plants to break their winter dormancy and emerge are the geophytes, the "earth-loving" plants. The term geophyte entered the botanical lexicon around 100 years or so ago, to describe plants which retreat under the soil when environmental conditions are unfavorable. These plants are the early birds, typically completing their entire reproductive cycle before most other plants have started to truly "wake up" from their winter dormancy. Living on the edge like this does offer

some new challenges: bitter cold, frosts, fires, floods, the occasional snow or ice storm, short growing window, and herbivores, ravenous from the dark winter months with limited forage, make for a tough ecological niche to fill, but the geophytes are incredibly adapted to meet these challenges and even thrive!

Many members of the Iridaceae, Liliaceae, and Orchidaceae families are geophytes. Irises, Daffodils, Tulips, Gladioli, Hyacinths, Orchids, Crocus, and countless more species have been popularized through for-

mal gardens and found throughout the world, but many such geophytes can be found in your nearby woods if you know where, and when, to look. An old professor once told me "the trick to finding something isn't looking for it, it's looking for where it lives." In that case he was talking about snakes and lizards, and while he was known for clambering up muddy stream banks with a snake in one hand and a snapping turtle in the other, fortunately plants don't



Prairie trillium (Trillium recurvatum). Photo by Nate Weston, taken March 24, 2019 at Bona Dea Sanctuary, Russellville, AR.

move quite as much as critters and are perhaps a little more predictable. Many geophytes in Arkansas can be found buried under leaves and preparing for the warm rays of early spring: trout lilies, mayapples, bloodroot, orchids, Solomon's seal, dutchman's breeches, trilliums, the humble spring beauty, and many others. Often, you'll find geophytes at the base of trees, nestled around the protective and cool offered by cobbles and boulders, or growing in abundance along the floodplain of small streams. An established population

of trout lilies can carpet a woodland floor, their dappled leaves and bright flowers making quite a sight!

These plants, commonly called "spring ephemerals" for their relatively short appearance in spring, patiently bide their time, preparing through the heat of summer and cold of winter, launching into a flurry of activity in the spring. Though appearing dormant and inactive in the spring, geophytes spend the cold months of January and February developing underground resource networks and an extensive bank in which to store them for later use. These banks usually take the form of a bulb, corm, crown, tuber, rhizome, or other storage organ and are packed with everything the geophyte needs to springboard into action when the conditions are right.

Geophytes have two growing phases: hypogeous and epigeous. The hypogeous, or "belowground" phase, occurs through fall and winter, when the geophyte sends out roots to collect nutrients and store them away for spring in its bank. At the same time, the geophyte is developing the structures—stems, leaves, and flowers—necessary for the next phase while safely tucked away belowground. The epigeous or "aboveground" phase occurs in spring when soils warm. At this point, these amazing plants launch into action, sending out leaves and flowers, often first seen as tiny, bundled stems poking up from the ground. Many geo-

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phytes, such as bloodroot and mayapple, keep their young foliage tightly bundled to avoid being damaged as they punch through soils compacted over winter. As temperatures rise and other plants begin to leaf out and take the available sunlight for themselves, the geophytes slowly fade back. However, being the thrifty survivalists they are, they first recover the energy in their leaves and store it back in the bank for next spring.

Geophytes are indicators of low disturbance and can be something of a barometer for the type and intensity of disturbance in an area. Soil disturbances such as plowing are catastrophic to these plants and can completely exterminate an entire community. The general abundance and diversity of geophytes can indicate a variety of ecological problems.

Many geophytes take up to eight years to flower, causing them to have a very limited capacity to recover from disturbances. One of the biggest challenges facing many species is the abundance of whitetail deer in the novel ecosystems of today. Without the historic “top-down” ecological pressures like wolves, bear, and hunting by Native Americans, populations of whitetail deer have exploded and, coincidentally, the proliferation of exotic plant species has had a catastrophic impact on most populations of geophytes. Many exotic plants, especially evergreen and semi-evergreen shrubs, directly compete with geophytes for the already limited sunlight. Intense browsing pressure by deer, often made ravenous by the dearth of forage material in the dense, brooding forests found near population centers, can also have a profound and immediate impact on populations of geophytes.

Many a native plant enthusiast or botanist has revisited a healthy population of Trilliums, only to find their stems snipped clean. Without alternative food sources like grasses and forbs, deer rely largely on mast feed to sustain them through winter. By the time spring comes around and geophytes begin their epigeous growth, starving deer greedily munch them as soon as they emerge. With increasing average temperatures, volatile weather, proliferation of invasive species, grazing by whitetail deer, feral hogs, theft, and the ever-increasing challenges of conservation in a novel landscape, the future for many geophytes is uncertain.

Keep your eyes open for these incredibly adapted wonders this spring and think of the challenges these incredible plants face and overcome on a yearly basis. You’ll have a whole new appreciation for these little wonders!

Letter to the Editor:

Quite a few years ago, the last time ANPS met in Jasper, Carl Amason gave me two potted Dwarf palmetto, *Sabal minor*, I assume. Carl said he didn’t see any reason why they wouldn’t survive here in the Ozarks. I planted one on our property in the floodplain of Webb Creek, but have never been able to find it again. The other I planted on the woods’ edge near our house in Erbie. It has survived for years with only a small partial leaf. Last year it made slightly more progress, as the photo shows.

I am happy to have this living memorial to Carl. While not an Ozark native, (neither am I) it is found in many southern Arkansas counties. Perhaps it will thrive as climate changes.

Pam Stewart

Dwarf palmetto, *Sabal minor*. Photo by Pam Stewart.



Buffalo River Trail, Pruitt to Ozark

By Nate Weston

The OCANPS held its Fall Retreat at Harmony Mountain near the town of Deer, and several members enjoyed a brisk walk along the Buffalo River. Attendees included Burnetta Hinterthuer, Sho Nagayama, Steve Holst, Eric, Angela, and their daughter Arrow Fuselier, Deb Bartholomew, Janice LaBrie, Ginny Masullo, Steve Smith, Laura Villejas, and Nate Weston. We started the hike at the Buffalo River Trailhead at Pruitt, where Burnetta showed us some Alabama snow wreath (*Neviusia alabamensis*). While the snow wreath wasn't in bloom, we were still impressed to see such a beautiful and uncommon plant so close to the trailhead. Unfortunately, common hibiscus (*Hibiscus syriacus*, the Rose-of-Sharon or althea of gardens) was also abundant. As we made our way along the terraces and benches of the trail, we saw white rattlesnake root (*Nabalus albus*), deerberry (*Vaccinium stamineum*), bluestem goldenrod (*Solidago caesia*), wreath goldenrod (*Solidago petiolaris*), downy ragged goldenrod (*Solidago nemoralis*), several asters including Drummond's aster (*Symphyotrichum drummondii*), and sharp-lobed hepatica (*Hepatica acutiloba*). Musclewood (*Carpinus caroliniana*) and American hop-hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*) were fruiting and in abundance here, offering great comparison for these two often-conflated species. A few leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*) were also seen here, Burnetta demonstrating the pliability of their green stems, the feature from which this species gets its name.

Though we were too late in the year to see the spring flowers, the north-

facing slopes above the trail are home to celandine poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*), wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*), tall bellwort (*Uvularia grandiflora*), Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), lady's slipper orchid (*Cypripedium sp.*), and puttyroot orchid (*Aplectrum hyemale*). Further down the trail we encountered some truly impressive common witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) in bloom, with the largest being well over 12 ft. in height and resembling more tree than shrub. Just west of an old foundation, we encountered a sizable grove of healthy Ozark chinquapins (*Castanea ozarkensis*) which looked magnificent with their golden foliage backdropped against the brown of the autumn woodlands. Once we realized they were the only tree with foliage attached, we were impressed at the number of seedlings and young trees present. The tallest one we encountered was nearly 30 ft. tall.

Past the chinquapin grove we forded a small stream and discovered a small population of agueweed (*Gentianella quinquefolia*) and a small glade area. By the time we reached the highest elevation on the trail, the moist, fertile slopes transitioned to dry, open woodland savanna with dense patches of grasses under a canopy of white oak and patches of sassafras. Stands of silver plumegrass (*Saccharum alopecuroides*) waved amongst the trees and a carpet of early lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium pallidum*) blanketed the ground, especially where sunlight was plentiful. Just before we started descending, we encountered a small population of strawberry bush (*Euonymus americanus*) in fruit and more puttyroot orchid.

As we descended the trail, gradually approaching the Jasper Campground, we began seeing more and more pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) trees and black tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*).

At many points the Buffalo River was visible from the trail, and the hike was exceptionally pleasant. This region is indisputably one of the most scenic locations in the United States, and the efforts amongst various conservation groups and individuals championing for the preservation of the vistas like those we saw on this hike are invaluable for future generations to appreciate these natural treasures.

Audubon Arkansas and four Audubon chapters have started the process to have the week of April 20, 2020, be proclaimed "Native Plant Week" at state and municipal levels. This is part of National Audubon's Plants for Birds campaign. Proclamations made across the country will act as a spark for more public support for native plant gardening, habitat management, and ordinances.

Audubon Arkansas will make the request of Governor Hutchinson. Audubon Society of Central Arkansas, Northwest Arkansas Audubon and Tex-Ark Audubon will work with their mayors, while Hot Springs Village Audubon turns to their Property Owners' Association.

Audubon would love to have support from our fellow native plant enthusiasts in Arkansas Native Plant Society, Arkansas Master Gardeners, and Wild Ones. This could include attending a city council meeting to show support for the proclamation, being at a signing ceremony, or promoting Native Plant Week in April.

If you want to know more, email Dan Scheiman at dan.scheiman@audubon.org.

Ross Foundation Field Trip Report

By Virginia McDaniel

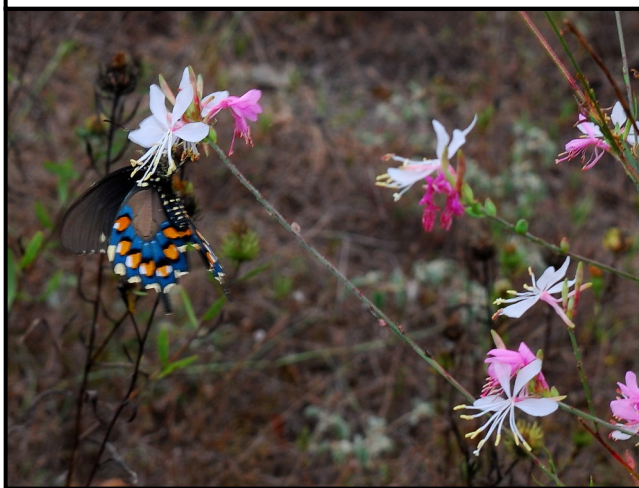
Along the western boundary of the West Gulf Coast Plain and the southeastern extent of the Ouachita Mountains is a linear band of uplifted igneous infused shale. On this unique geology grows a rare plant community that contains a host of rare plants including the federally threatened Missouri bladderpod (*Physaria filiformis*). This shale glade community continues parallel to Arkansas Highway 84 from Bismarck to Malvern. During the Fall ANPS meeting we had the opportunity to visit an intact, high quality shale glade that is being restored and conserved by the Ross Foundation.

The Ross Foundation was founded in 1967 by Ester Clark Ross and her daughter Jane Ross, for the purpose of managing timberlands for conservation and administering any revenue generated for philanthropic grants to people in Clark County. It began with 18,000 acres and over the years additions were made from various smaller tracts and a large contiguous tract of land from International Paper Company. Today the Ross Foundation manages over 60,000 acres of pine-hardwood forests and woodlands and unique shale glades. The Foundation works closely with Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission in their conservation management and restoration efforts.

Mark Karnes, Director of Operations for the Land Management staff of the Ross Foundation, led the group on a tour of the glades and woodlands with the botanical assistance of Susan Hooks and Virginia McDaniel.

He discussed the importance of fire in maintaining glade and woodland plant communities as well as the history of the foundation and the history of the land, even pointing out an old civil war era grave. His breadth of knowledge encouraged us to think about more than just plants for a brief time. But soon our magnetic urge to look at plants took over and we were thankful for Marks's knowledge of the hidden botanical treasures within the Foundation's boundaries.

Butterflies preparing for winter. Photo by Donna Hanke.



Despite the lateness of the season we were able to see a variety of glade-specific plants, some of them in flower. While the prized Missouri bladderpod was long gone, we did see *Grindelia lanceolata* (gumweed) with its gummy bracts; *Eriogonum longifolium* (umbrella plant), a distinctive plant with stems resembling the ribs of an umbrella; and the *Opuntia* sp. (prickly pear cactus), which is often abundant in glades. As we traveled through the glade and into the adjacent woodlands we saw *Hypericum drummondii* (nits and lice), *Diodia teres* (poorjoe), *Pemmeranthus* sp. (fame flower), *Leptopus phyllanthoides* (maiden bush, buckbrush), *Thelesperma filiformis*

(greenthread), and *Tricostema brachiatum* (flux weed, false pennyroyal). The area was alive with butterflies and insects and folks took the opportunity to take some photos.

We had great and varied discussions about glades and the species associated with them: why *Diodia teres* is called poorjoe and its association with dry, poor soils, like glades; the often obscure succulent basal leaves of fame flower that point outward; how the time of day a plant flowers helps in the identification of the species. Buckbrush is a small woody shrub in the Spurge Family (Euphorbiaceae) often found scattered around the edges of the glade. Susan said "There is some *Andrachne phyllanthoides*!" to which Virginia responded "No, it's now *Phyllanthopsis phyllanthoides*, Susan." But as we wrote this article we realized we were both wrong. The name has changed AGAIN to *Leptopus phyllanthoides*. Or maybe not. It's a hard job keeping up with the nomenclature.

In the afternoon auto tour Austin Klais and Virginia McDaniel saw a few additional species, including *Iva annua* (sump weed), *Brickellia eupatorioides* (false boneset), and *Persicaria lapathifolia* (curlytop knotweed) which was a county record! In addition, *Cornus foemina* (swamp dogwood) was found along a small stream, and *Aureolaria grandiflora* (large-flowered fox-glove), a partial root parasite which gets nutrients from the roots of trees, was also in the area.

The day was full of discussions of the Ross Foundation and its history and the unique plants found in the area. As usual the fall field trips have limited flowering species but include unique areas with a lot to tell. It was a great day!

Searching for Ozark Treasure: Collecting *Castanea ozarkensis* seeds for the Ozark Chinquapin Foundation

By Eric Fuselier

Formerly a dominant species in the Ozark forests, Ozark chinquapins (*Castanea ozarkensis*) are a drought tolerant hardwood tree that once inhabited the rocky upper slopes and ridge tops of the Ozark and Ouachita Mountains. It is even thought that Ozark chinquapins may have once made up 20% of the forest species found west of the Mississippi River. But this all changed in the 1960's when the chestnut blight fungus (*Cryphonectria parasitica*) eventually reached the Ozarks. Within a decade, the Ozark hills were littered with the dead, rot-resistant carcasses of what were once mighty Ozark chinquapin trees that had reached heights of up to 65 feet. Many of the older folks who grew up in the Ozarks enjoy reminiscing on the faded glory of this Ozark treasure, speaking fondly of the delicious nuts that were once plentiful throughout these hills.



The leaves of the Ozark chinquapin are simple and alternate, between 5.5" and 9.25" long, and with coarse, sharp teeth along their margins. When trees are young, the bark of Ozark chinquapins is smooth with silvery colored markings. However, after approximately 13 years they begin to develop broad flat ridges that run parallel to each other along the length of the trunk. The twigs are smooth and have white pores, and the leaf buds are egg-shaped, somewhat flattened, and dull-pointed.



Blooming from late May to early June after the threat of the last frost has passed, these monoecious trees are self-incompatible and require at least two trees for effective pollination. Pollinated by both wind and insects, by late-September or October the flowers have been transformed into prickly burs which contain the fully developed seeds inside. Because the trees continue to grow after they have flowered, clusters of 5-10 burs can be found about a foot away from the end of the branch. Each bur contains a single nut, although on rare occasions a bur may produce more than one nut.

Chestnut blight fungus (*Cryphonectria parasitica*) is a member of the Ascomycetes group of fungi—the same group causes Dutch elm disease and oak wilt. *C. parasitica* can infect any part of the

tree's trunk or limbs, gaining access into the tree's living bark tissues through wounds created by insects, or through splits and cracks in the bark at a branch node caused by constant sway and growth of the limb over time. Once the fungus penetrates the bark, the threadlike filaments begin spreading throughout the tree, and a raised or sunken canker is formed. Once the infection reaches the vascular cambium and functional xylem and phloem, the transportation of nutrients and water to areas both above and below the canker is severed. When this happens, growth is restricted, leaves turn brown and eventually die, and the stem/trunk above the canker dies. When the fungus prepares to reproduce, it erupts through the older portions of the canker as bright orange or yellow fruiting pimples called stromata, each about the size of a large pin head.

A mature Ozark chinquapin that has become infected may have one or many cankers deforming its bark. At first, the tree dies above the canker, killing the top completely. However, because the fungus does not affect the root system, the long-lived Ozark chinquapin can continue to produce new sprouts from their stumps for many years after the above-ground portion of the tree is killed. In fact, most of the Ozark chinquapins alive today exist as root suckers that re-sprout after the above-ground portion of the tree dies back down to the ground. These blight affected sprouts typically die back before becoming sexually mature, and thus the blight-affected trees produce little to no seeds and are unable to repopulate the species.

However, while rare, there are still

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large trees throughout the original range of the Ozark chinquapins that have not succumbed to the blight. Stephen Marquardt of Washington County came across two such trees more than a decade ago while wandering the remote roads of Washington County. Realizing that there was something special about these two trees in particular, Stephen contacted Steve Bost of the Ozark Chinquapin Foundation and confirmed that they were indeed Ozark chinquapins. Finding Ozark chinquapin trees of this size is rare—they typically only occur in remote areas such as the remote part of Washington County where these trees are found.

One Saturday in late September of 2019, ANPS Ozark Chapter president Eric Fuselier, along with Eric's wife Angela and daughter Arrow, met Stephen at his house before following him to the location of these trees in hopes of collecting any ripe nuts that may be there. After following Stephen across creeks and through a network of narrow, unmaintained forest roads, they finally arrived at the location of two mature Ozark chinquapin trees growing on the north slope of a hill in the Boston Mountains of southeastern Washington County. Upon their arrival it was apparent that the future survival of these trees is threatened by a large expanse of kudzu growing next to the two Ozark chinquapins. The kudzu has already started to grow up both of the trees, and in a few years it will likely engulf both trees, thus sealing

their fate in the absence of intervention.

Shortly after arriving at the site Eric and Stephen began collecting data on both trees. The diameter at breast height (DBH) of each of the trees was calculated based on a measurement of the circumference of the trunk at 4.5 feet above the ground. Results indicated that one tree had a DBH of 6.4 inches, the other a DBH of 8.3 inches. Additional measurements of the lengths and widths of the leaves were taken, along with photographs of the trunk, branches, leaves, stems, burs, and seeds to aid in securing a positive identification.



Approximately 50 nuts were collected altogether and were sorted by the tree they originated from. These nuts were eventually delivered to the Ozark Chinquapin Foundation, an organization founded in 2007 with a goal of restoring the Ozark Chinquapin back to the southern forests and woodlands by developing Ozark chinquapins that are blight resistant and then making the seed available to anyone willing to help re-

store the tree to its native forest range. For more information about the Ozark Chinquapin Foundation, you can visit their website at OzarkChinquapinMembership.org, or you can contact them by email at ozarkchinquapininfo@gmail.com.

Before reporting the location of Ozark chinquapins, it is important to be aware of some of the look-alikes with which they are often confused. Chinquapin oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*) has similar looking leaves and is the species that is most often confused with Ozark chinquapin. However, the tips of the teeth on the leaf margins of the chinquapin oak are rounded, rather than pointed as they

are on the Ozark chinquapin. In addition, chinquapin oaks produce acorns like the other oaks, rather than spiny burs produced by members of the chestnut genus *Castanea*.

Another lookalike, the Chinese chestnut (*Castanea mollissima*), has been planted throughout the Ozarks and is also often confused with Ozark chinquapin. However, the leaf margins of the Chinese chestnut are wavy, with pointed hooks on the end

of each "wave," whereas the Ozark chinquapin has coarse teeth along the margins of its leaves. A closer look will also reveal that the bark of Chinese chestnuts has irregular ridges, as opposed to the broad flat ridges arranged parallel to one another on the Ozark chinquapin. In addition, the bur of the Chinese chestnut will typically contain 2-3 nuts, as opposed to one nut per bur on the Ozark chinquapin.

Citizen Science Participation Requested - 'Project Invasives'

By Susan Hardin

At the end of last summer ANPS was invited to have a representative for a new committee, 'Project Invasives,' which will monitor invasive plants and insects in Arkansas. Austin Klais has volunteered to be our ANPS representative.

Mohammad M. Bataineh, Ph.D., UA Monticello, informed ANPS that the Forest Health Laboratory at UAM is overseeing this project that is partially funded by the McIntire-Stennis Program.

Existing social media and citizen science online/app platforms will be used. There is a web address for plants and another one for insects.

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/invasive-plants-of-the-natural-state>
and

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/invasive-insects-of-the-natural-state>

Dr. Bataineh further writes, "As part of this project, the Forest Health Laboratory will be verifying observations of substantial infestations and delineating infestations in reported areas. Compiled and verified records will be shared via

an online platform and will be accessible to contributing agencies.

Given that we are all stakeholders in reporting, monitoring, and managing invasive plants and insects within the state, we invite you to contribute and participate in our efforts."

Take a look at these websites and you can see that lots of folks are already contributing. We hope that ANPS folks will do the same.

Diana Souteropoulos led a trek through Terre Noire Blackland Prairie Natural Area during the Fall Meeting. Photo by Donna Hanke.



Devil's Eyebrow

Field Trip

By Laurie Scott

The morning of September 28, 2019 began cool and overcast, the perfect weather for a successful hike with interested students from Professor Kurtis Cecil's Plant Biology class, from NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC). Devil's Eyebrow Natural Area, an Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission property located in eastern Benton County, was our destination. Devil's Eyebrow is rich in diverse plant communities nestled amongst glades, bluffs, and rich hardwood forests.

Professor Cecil indicated that presenting students with hiking opportunities "would allow students to view plant communities in their native environment, and learn to enjoy the outdoors." As the morning dawned cool and overcast, we began the descent into Devil's Eyebrow. While discussing the surrounding forest dominated by oak and hickory, students enjoyed finding and learning about a pawpaw patch. Many students were unfamiliar with this popular Ozark native, and finding a Pawpaw patch is always a treat!

Along the trail students learned about many different woodland and glade plants, while also helping with a small amount of seed collection. Permitted seed collection can be an important teaching tool. Beyond explaining the importance of ecotype seed preservation, many morphological differences in native flora can be examined from a seed head, particularly on the trail.

As our group hiked farther into Dev-

il's Eyebrow, the trail became increasingly wet due to seasonal rains in the days leading up to the hike. The terrain is rated as strenuous, but these hikers persevered. The question of the day became, "When are we getting to the bluffs?" It seemed as if they were just around the corner. Continuing to hike through beautiful vistas of limestone outcroppings allowed students to begin to feel the element of time moving backwards, as we continued the descent in the lowest section of the trail.

Professor Cecil holds a Master's degree in botany with focus on bryophytes, the study of non-vascular plants, such as mosses and liverworts. Mother Nature provided Professor Cecil with a beautiful example of *Marchantia polymorpha*, a liverwort common worldwide.

The soothing drip of water seeping from rocks high above and trickling over rocks at our feet, slowly lulled the group into quiet conversation and wrapped everyone in the earthen smells of the loamy forest floor. Rounding a bend in the trail, nearing our destination, students engaged in their environment were eager to learn about spotted jewelweed. After learning about the unique properties of this plant, they helped collect a few seeds in a unique and engaging manner. Students covered the seeds with small bags and gently released the seed pod. Energy stored in specialized tissues was released and the seed pods exploded on contact. This novel seed dispersal mechanism is a lot of fun. These seeds, collected by permit and obtained in sustainable quantities, will be returned to NWACC to be grown into larger populations. Ecotype seed preservation is a goal of the environmen-

tal science division, and students are given the opportunity to participate in seed collection, processing, stratification, germination and growing of multiple native plant species on the Bentonville, Arkansas, campus.

Native plants provide a multitude of ecological services, such as filtering water and, the liverworts included, helping to hold soil and prevent erosion. In some damaged ecosystems, liverworts are some of the first plant life to return to scarred, damp soils, contributing to soil stabilization. The organisms within Devil's Eyebrow depend on diverse ecosystems such as this in order to not only survive, but thrive and perform ecosystem services as they have for millennia.

When the destination is a large outcrop of limestone, it is necessary to include a mini-lecture on the geology of the Ozarks. Ryan Holland, an Arkansas Master Naturalist, brought the presence of an ancient inland sea to life, discussing the necessity of these natural resources to our ancestors and the importance of preserving them for our future generations. Students were full of enthusiasm for this new place to bring friends and roam. They were grateful for the opportunity to be led, taught, and shown the significance of a natural area with which many were unfamiliar. Professor Cecil, Ryan, and I are grateful for these students, their enthusiasm, their gracious attitudes, and infectious excitement. That is what makes leading students worth it every, single, day.

Time Traveling With Theo Witsell

By Becky and Susan Hardin



Theo talked about the flocks of screaming parrots greedily feeding on the buttonwood (sycamore) and cottonwood seeds. These par-

He explained that the rare saline grasslands still exist because of the continued use of prescribed burns, an important practice initially used by

the native Americans and a requirement for many plants to survive and flourish.

Theo ended his presentation by stressing that there are no protected remnants where Nuttall spent his time 200 years ago. Biologically unique areas, age-old ecosystems, are being sold by the

How good was Theo Witsell on a Saturday night at a Fall ANPS Meeting in Arkadelphia for his premiere presentation, 'Following Nuttall'.

He was so good that four nights later a dozen or more ANPS members returned to the Clinton School to hear our same featured speaker. We wanted to hear and see this program once more, so that's how good he was!

Same as Arkadelphia, it was a capacity audience, and Clinton School staffers and volunteers frantically searched for more chairs to put up on the upstairs overlook since the main level was jam packed.

In both presentations, Theo's aim was to "provide a detailed interpretation of Nuttall's natural history observations, and discuss changes in the landscape since his trip, specifically as they relate to the ecological and biological diversity."

At our ANPS Fall Meeting, Theo introduced us to this no nonsense guy with stories and photos taken from his 1819 journal as he traveled through the Arkansas Territory.

rots were the Carolina parakeet, declared extinct over 100 years ago.

It was a sobering reality to learn that millions of acres of vast prairie, open savannah and delta had been cleared for agriculture. Only scraps remain today.

We saw maps of the Arkansas River then and now, with an overlay of what must have been the river's channel before oxbow lakes overtook various areas.

Theo provided drawings of a species that Nuttall described, and attendees will look at *Monarda russeliana* (Russell's bee balm) with new appreciation, as we now know it was named in fond memory of Nuttall's lost companion and friend, Dr. Thomas Russell.

"One of the most amazing areas in Arkansas" is how Theo describes the natural area of Ft Chaffee. "The surface-cleared areas can have a blown-up tank sitting in the middle of the rarest plants."

square foot on the south side of Ft. Smith, and, Witsell continued, "if we don't protect them now, they will be destroyed, probably gone in the next 30-40 years."

To leave you with a cliff hanger, midway through his presentation Theo said, "I'm going to find it again," referring to his 1996 discovery of the huge stack of rocks somewhere on the high bluffs of Petit Jean Mountain, a discovery that gave Theo a few heart stopping seconds when the rocks moved beneath his foot.

It was later that we read Nuttall's description: "Towards the southern extremity of the ridge which I ascended, there are several enormous masses of rocks so nicely balanced as almost to appear the work of art; one of them, like the druidical monuments of England, rocked backwards and forwards on the slightest touch."

Is it possible that Theo encountered the same natural phenomenon 177 years later?

WILL Theo return to find that same rock??

To be continued.....

A Winter Botany Walk— Because “Brown is a Color”

By Jennifer Ogle

Piet Oudolf, influential Dutch garden designer and author who designed Manhattan’s High Line Park, often reminds clients that “brown is also a color” when recommending plants that may not be very showy in spring and summer but provide interesting structure and texture beginning in fall and continuing well into winter. His words were on my mind as I drove south from Fayetteville on a recent January morning to lead a botany walk with Eric Hunt and Lissa Morrison on Lissa’s 100-acre forested property in Madison County. ANPS usually does these botany walks during the spring, summer, and early fall, searching for plants in full flower or with showy fruits (and for good reason: they’re beautiful!), but the purpose of this trip was to focus on the great amount of beauty and variation that can be seen in a dormant winter forest; to not only appreciate the many shades of brown but also to see the gray, burnt orange, dark red, black, and even white that become evident when you look more closely at bark, winter buds, leaf scars, and fallen leaves. And as a seasoned horticulturist, avid native plant gardener, and tireless proselytizer of the many benefits of using natives in landscaping, I know Lissa had another purpose in mind for this walk: to share with everyone the winter beauty of her extensive native gardens and to encourage us to plant more of these types of natives in our own gardens when we returned home.

After the 20 or so people who came out to walk with us gathered, we started the tour with a brief talk on the basics of identifying trees in winter (“Leaves leave a scar when they

fall in the fall!”). At the conclusion of the five-minute crash course that included visual aids Linda Ellis had drawn for an upcoming field guide to woody plants, we set off on the garden paths and forest roads to practice what we’d learned.

The first plants Lissa pointed out were the mountain azalea (*Rhododendron prinophyllum*) shrubs which grow wild along the road to her house and throughout much of the mesic upland forests in the area. This is the same azalea that occurs along the trail and streambanks at Kings River Falls Natural Area, just a few miles from Lissa’s place. If we had been on this tour in late April to early May, we would have quickly identified the plants by their large clusters of beautiful pink flowers that fill the air with a pleasant clove-like odor. But since it was winter, we focused on other clues like the spreading branches, scaly dark gray bark, and loose clusters of reddish brown, glandular-hairy capsules that remain on the ends of branches long after they open and disperse their seeds.

We walked along a meandering garden path around the house and noted two deciduous hollies (*Ilex decidua*) that Lissa had planted on either side, with their multiple trunks, gray bark and distinctive spur shoots. Each time we walked up to a new plant, I asked the group if it had an opposite, alternate, or whorled leaf arrangement. This is one of the first characters I was taught to look for when I need to identify a new tree or shrub, because determining leaf arrangement helps quickly narrow down the number of species choices. Speaking of whorled leaf arrangement, we next passed a button-



Jennifer Ogle points out the distinctive spur shoots on a deciduous holly shrub. Photo by Eric Hunt.

bush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) shrub Lissa had planted and saw that it bore mostly opposite leaf scars but also a few in whorls of three around the stem, which was grayish brown with prominent pale lenticels. If allowed to reach its full height, buttonbush can take up a lot of space at 12 feet tall and 8 feet wide with its long, arching branches. But as one of Lissa’s “well-behaved natives,” it didn’t mind being pruned to about 4 feet tall and was residing happily next to an American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), another winter-showy shrub with its magenta drupes in clusters along loosely spreading stems.

Lissa took us by another large, fenced garden that was full of native perennials, vines and shrubs. She had cut most of the perennials down to around knee height and explained that after the plants have gone dormant and their seeds have been eaten by mammals and birds, it’s fine to cut them to about 18 inches tall, as overwintering insects generally stay on or in the lower stems. This is good news for gardeners who want to use natives but who prefer a neat-looking garden in winter. As we exited the garden, we passed a large

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Alan Ostner, Lissa, Jennifer, and Sophie Stephenson stand under 150-year-old white oak tree on Lissa's property. Photo by Eric Hunt.

of Arkansas, can be tough to tell apart so it's useful to know a few characteristics of Arkansas' two groups to quickly narrow down the number of choices by roughly half. Using Linda Ellis's illustrations as a visual aid once again, we showed everyone three differences between the red oak group and the white oak group. Members of the red oak group have dark, thick, deeply furrowed bark; bristles at the ends of the leaf lobes (or if the leaf is unlobed, then usually with a single bristle at the tip); and acorns that grow on the previous year's branches. White oaks, on the other hand, have lighter, thinner, sometimes flaky bark; leaves without bristles at the tips of their lobes; and acorns that grow on the branches of the current year. Using this basic knowledge, we determined we were standing close to one of the red oaks. We looked up higher on the trunk and saw the bark had developed alternating vertical lines of light gray and dark gray, and this told us we were looking at a northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*). The other tree had whitish, very flaky bark, and after we saw that the fallen leaves had deep, finger-like lobes without bristles, determined it was a white oak (*Quercus alba*).

We saw many more native trees and shrubs as we walked through

the woods and back to Lissa's house, including a common witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) with last year's capsules persisting in clusters, a large red maple (*Acer rubrum* var. *rubrum*) with its groups of dark red buds at the nodes of the stems, mockernut hickory (*Carya tomentosa*) bearing giant, buff-colored, hairy terminal buds, several large black cherries (*Prunus serotina*) showing off silvery-black bark, and Carolina buckthorn (*Frangula carolinianus*) with reddish brown buds at the nodes of slender branches. We also saw sugar maple (*Acer saccharum* var. *saccharum*), chinquapin oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*), hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.), ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius* var. *intermedius*), and several others. But the highlight of the walk was a beautiful, sprawling, 150-year-old white oak tree growing in an open meadow at the top of the mountain.

When we returned to the house several people accepted Lissa's invitation to eat lunch and warm up by the wood stove. She also invited us to come back for another walk in the spring, when the mountain azaleas are in full flower. I feel confident that, as willing as everyone was to appreciate the various shades of brown we saw during our winter walk, we'll be even happier to embrace pink this spring.

Dutchman's pipe (*Isotrema tomentosa*) and noted its attractive, densely pubescent stems twining and vining around the fence.

We left the path, took an old logging road into the forest, and saw two oak trees growing near each other that were obviously not the same species—one had whitish, flaky bark and the other had bark that was dark gray and deeply furrowed. The oaks, with 28 native species reported in the *Atlas of the Vascular Plants*



The group stops for a photo-op in front of Lissa's pond before heading into the woods. Photo by John Shultz.

Fall 2019 Meeting Minutes

ANPS Business Meeting Minutes September 28, 2019 Parks & Recreation Building Feaster Park 2555 Twin River Drive Arkadelphia, AR 71923

The Arkansas Native Plant Society held its Fall 2019 Business Meeting on Saturday, September 28, 2019, at 6:00 PM at the Parks and Recreation Building, Feaster Park, Arkadelphia, AR.

President Donna Hanke called the meeting to order. The Saturday field trips went really well. Donna thanked the field trip leaders for leading the various hiking groups.

Donna Hanke reported that the ANPS Spring meeting will be held in Bentonville, AR May 15-17, 2020.

The minutes of the Spring business meeting and the financial report were published in Claytonia. Rae Grasso moved that we accept the minutes of the Spring Business Meeting as published and Jennifer Ogle seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Donna Hanke said that two members had been nominated to serve on the Board and those nominations needed to be approved by the membership. The Board recommended to the membership that Margaret Lincourt continue to serve as Secretary for 2020-2021. The Board also recommended Eric Fuselier to serve as Vice President for 2020. Eric is an environmental scientist and President of Ozark Chapter of ANPS. Isaac Ogle moved that we approve Margaret Lincourt as Secretary and Eric Fuselier as Vice President. Alan Ostner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Donna Hanke said that the Drew County Master Gardeners' grant request had been approved for \$500.

Donna Hanke asked Diana Soteropoulos to tell the members about the grant request submitted by Arkansas State University for the purpose of imaging

herbaria at Henderson State University. Travis Marsico and George Johnson received grant in 2014 to image the eight herbaria collections in Arkansas containing over 200,000 specimens. The last remaining collection is located at Henderson State University. Diana and Travis were now trying to finish the project and they requested \$1500 for the project. Diane said that the \$1,500 would cover a part-time student supported by Henderson State through December. The student will not completely finish the imaging by December but work will continue with other work study funds next year. The Board recommended that ANPS award Arkansas State University \$1500 to continue work on the project. Ann Gordon moved that we approve the grant request from Arkansas State University for \$1500. Sarah Geurtz seconded. The motion passed.

Donna Hanke asked Jennifer Ogle to tell the members about the grant request from the City of Fayetteville for the Spring Street Parking Deck Native Plant Pollinator Raingarden. The Board recommended that members award the City of Fayetteville \$1500 for the parking deck pollinator garden project. Jennifer said that the grant application was for \$5000. The City was going to remove the current plantings and replace them with a Native Plant Pollinator Raingarden located in a very large, highly visible, high traffic area. Jennifer explained that the grant request included the removal of loblolly pines as well as replanting the area as a pollinator raingarden. The City of Fayetteville will maintain the garden. The cost of the plants is estimated at more than \$3,000. The Board supported an award of \$1500 with all of that money going toward the purchase of plants and not for plant/tree removal or site remediation. There will be a sign acknowledging the ANPS grant support at the site. The award will be

paid upon receipt of invoices for the purchase of the plants. Jack Stewart moved that we approve the grant. Virginia McDaniel seconded. The motion was approved.

Donna Hanke reported that Mary Ann King was awarded the Carl Amason Conservation Award and a monetary award of \$1000 on Friday evening, September 27th, to recognize her outstanding efforts to help all of us conserve and enjoy native plants. Jane Doty moved that we approve the award. Becky Hardin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Jennifer Ogle announced that field trip members harvested seed from eight rows of pale purple cone flower on the Saturday morning field trip to Malcolm Farm. Jennifer said it was heartening to see such enthusiasm for the seed project.

Donna Hanke asked Austin Klais to describe the Drew County Master Gardeners grant request. The Board approved the grant for \$500. Austin described the project that involved the City of Monticello (and enthusiastically supported by the mayor,) Drew County Master Gardeners, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and Quail Forever. The proposal was to create native plant pollinator gardens at two locations: one in a city park and the other in a sports complex. The gardens will require minimal maintenance once established.

Donna Hanke reported that she received very positive feedback from partially funded grant requests. Grant recipients are very happy with the support provided by ANPS.

Eric Sundell asked if we had an idea of how well we had done with the previous days' receipts. Kate reported that we took in \$2787 for dues, plant sales and registrations.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Lincourt, Secretary

2020 Spring Treasurer's Report

2020 Spring Treasurer's Report					Proposed 2020 Budget
			Jan - Mar 6, 2020		
			Start	→ \$26,382.09	
	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Actual as of Mar 6		
<u>INCOME</u>					
Membership Dues	\$5,030.00	\$5,850.00	\$695.00		\$4,500.00
Meeting Registration	\$1,475.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00		\$1,200.00
Plant/Silent Auction	\$2,307.00	\$2,550.00	\$0.00		\$2,500.00
T-Shirt, Hat, Book Sales	\$1,093.00	\$1,051.50	\$0.00		\$800.00
Contributions	\$868.51	\$1,472.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
TOTAL	\$10,773.51	\$12,423.50	\$695.00	→	\$695.00
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>					
ANPS.Org (website expenses)	-\$162.80	-\$99.00	\$0.00		-\$150.00
AR Flower & Garden	\$0.00	-\$75.00	\$0.00		-\$100.00
Claytonia (Print & Distribute 2 Issues)	-\$1,738.37	-\$2,038.57	\$0.00		-\$2,000.00
Directory (Print and Distribute)	\$0.00	-\$1,058.52	-\$1,136.75	*	-\$1,100.00
Memorial Awards (Awards/Scholarships)	-\$4,400.00	-\$3,000.00	\$0.00		-\$2,000.00
Grants/Support to Public Gardens	-\$589.28	-\$2,321.75	-\$170.00	*	-\$1,000.00
Meeting expenses (space, copies, speaker, etc.)	-\$974.87	-\$922.93	\$0.00		-\$1,000.00
Ecology Camp	-\$500.00	-\$500.00	\$0.00		-\$500.00
Bulk Mail	-\$225.00	-\$225.00	-\$235.00		-\$230.00
Supplies/postage/miscellaneous (Brochures)	-\$13.81	-\$11.34	-\$7.56		-\$300.00
T-shirts/Hats	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		-\$500.00
TOTAL	-\$8,604.13	-\$10,252.11	-\$1,549.31	→	-\$1,549.31
			Total as of Mar 6, 2020	→	\$25,527.78

*In 2018, we moved the directory printing from December to January (expenses now post at the beginning of each year)
 There are open grants to the Drew County Master Gardeners, City of Fayetteville, SoMa, and Mid America (\$3,599.69)

Respectfully submitted by Kate Lincourt, Treasurer

Remember to check out the full-color version of the Claytonia by going to the ANPS website, <http://anps.org/newsletters/>.

New Members (March 16 - July 29, 2019)

Simcha Bar-David (Hackett, AR)

Richard Boss (Jonesboro, AR)

Angela Danovi (Lowell, AR)

David Evans (Jacksonville, AR)

Caroline Geer (Siloam Springs, AR)

Jane Harkey (Little Rock, AR)

Deb and Michael Jolly (Mountain View, AR)

Lula Lynch (Hot Springs, AR)

John May (Maumelle, AR)

Scott Miskiel (Holiday Island, AR)

Leigh Moravec (Greenbrier, AR)

Vickie Burton Morphis (Berryville, AR)

Judy Nowak (Hot Springs Village, AR)

Leslie Peacock (Little Rock, AR)

Joan Philip (Fayetteville, AR)

Anna Riggs (Little Rock, AR)

Harvey Smith (Fayetteville, AR)

Jan Stannard (Roland, AR)

Susan Stewart (Glenwood, AR)

Jonas Ward (Fayetteville, AR)

Story Matkin-Rawn & John Hairston (Little Rock, AR)

New Lifetime Members

Brian Alexander (Little Rock, AR)

Austin Klais (Leola, AR)

Margaret Lincourt (Little Rock, AR)

Pat and Sandy Morris (Little Rock, AR)

Lissa Morrison (Kingston, AR)

William Randel (Hot Springs, AR)

Lynn Risser (Fayetteville, AR)

Michelle Wisdom (Fayetteville, AR)

Mike and Faith Shah (Eureka Springs, AR)

Joe Wankum (Conway, AR)

*****CALL TO ACTION*****

When I began working as a biologist with the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission in 1990, one of my earliest discoveries was the first identified savanna community in the state. It covered the entire south side of Turkey Mountain within the Lower Buffalo Wilderness of the Buffalo National River (BNR). The area was brushy and degraded due to fire suppression. However, BNR reintroduced fire to the area and two prescribed burns later it was the finest looking savanna I had seen in the Ozarks either in Missouri or Arkansas. Except for the river itself, the Turkey Mountain Savanna is the most important natural community within the BNR.

I went back to the Lower Buffalo Wilderness in the autumn of 2019 intending to see how the savanna was doing. To say I was disappointed with what I found would be an understatement. The savanna does not appear to have been burned for several years. The brush and small trees are re-invading.

I have spoken with people at BNR. They would like to burn the savanna, but they seem to have gotten little support for the burn program in this area. So I'm asking you to write or email the BNR office and tell them it's important that they conduct prescribed burns at Turkey Mountain Savanna.

Letters may be sent to:

Mr. Mark Foust, Superintendent

Buffalo National River

402 N. Walnut, Suite 136

Harrison, AR 72601

Emails may be sent to: www.nps.gov/buff/contacts.htm

Thanks for helping to protect this valuable plant community.

John Logan,

Master of Science in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Iowa State

ANPS Spring Meeting Cancellation!

Due to the current situation with COVID-19, the Board of Directors has voted to cancel the planned May 15-17, 2020 ANPS Spring Meeting that was to be held in Cave Springs, Arkansas. While we will miss gathering together with botany-minded friends from across the state, we do not feel that it is worth the risk to ANPS members health to meet at this time.

Additionally, all field trips schedule from now through June 1, 2020 have also been cancelled. Please check the ANPS website, <https://anps.org>, for availability of any field trips after June 1, 2020.

Everyone stay safe and don't go out any more than you need to.

Co-Presidents,
Becky and Susan Hardin



**Save the Date! ANPS Fall Meeting:
Stuttgart, September 18-20, 2020**

2019 Fall Meeting in Arkadelphia

Photos by Michael Weatherford





ANPS MEMBERSHIP FORM

www.anps.org

Membership Categories

- \$ 10 Student
- \$ 15 Individual
- \$ 20 Supporting
- \$ 25 Family
- \$ 30 Contributing
- \$150 Lifetime (age 55+)
- \$300 Lifetime (under age 55)

Application Purpose

- New Member
- Renewal
- Address Change

- Opt out of receiving a paper copy of the *Claytonia* newsletter**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Please mail this completed form with a check made payable to the Arkansas Native Plant Society to:

Katherine Lincourt, Treasurer
2625 Charter Oak Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72227

For other membership questions, please contact:

Virginia McDaniel, Membership Officer
anps.membership@gmail.com
(828) 545-2062

The Arkansas Native Plant Society is a non-profit organization.



Claytonia

Spring 2019
Newsletter

Your dues status is on your mailing label.

On the mailing label there will be a number, for example, "19", and this indicates that your dues are paid through 2019. (Life members will have an "LF" on their label).

To renew your membership, please fill in the application for membership, changes of name, address, e-mail or telephone number and mail your dues to the Treasurer:

Katherine Lincourt, Treasurer
2625 Charter Oak Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72227

President	
Susan Harden (501) 584-8455 whizcats@sbcglobal.net Becky Hardin (501) 584-8545 rhardin@att.net	
Presidents-Elect Austin Klais atmklais@gmail.com (501) 425-1985	Nominating Committee Chair Donna Hanke djhanke@centurylink.net (479) 967-5717
Vice President Eric Fuselier Eric.Fuselier@craftontull.com 501-231-7455	Memorial Awards Officer Jennifer Ogle ranunculus73@gmail.com (479) 957-6859
Secretary Margaret Lincourt margaret@usscanman.com (501) 786-3318	Publisher Mike Burns anps.membership@gmail.com (479) 229-2185
Treasurer Katherine Lincourt klicourt@gmail.com (501) 454-7790	Editor Betty Owen pjmbowen@gmail.com (501) 472-6920
Membership Officer Virginia McDaniel virginiamcd31@yahoo.com (828) 545-2062	Internet/Social Media Officer Eric Hunt anps.web@gmail.com

President's Message

So...the Hardin sisters were tasked with writing their first Presidents' message and were not sure what that message would be, but after sitting and talking, we think that there are so many good things about ANPS that ALL of us need to crow a bit about this enjoyable group to which we belong.

First, bragging rights go to our sturdy field trip leaders who readily volunteer and are out ready to go early in the morning or on hot afternoons. They're smart, enthusiastic and do a marvelous job to educate and make it fun all the while. Last year, despite floods in the spring then a flash drought in the fall with unseasonably hot and dry weather, our field trip leaders made a go of it and excelled.

Other reasons to crow are our officers both past and present, and to the caring many who continue to contribute to keep ANPS up and going. Thanks to all who've done their part to make ANPS such a viable group, and what's more, we're a growing group! This year when the directory was printed there were so many additional members that listings by towns had to be omitted, but hopefully this helpful section will return in the future. Welcome new members—we're very happy to have you with us!

We're very pleased with two new initiatives involving ANPS. The first is a citizen science project that was begun in the summer of 2019, Project Invasives. This is an ongoing project conducted by Forest Health Laboratory at UA Monticello that compiles invasive plant and insect observations/records throughout the state. Austin Klais, President-Elect, represents ANPS with this new project.

The ANPS Education Committee is the second initiative. Composed of conservation-minded professionals in NW Arkansas, this group of about six plans to target and guide regional decision makers and the people who shape urban landscapes with the use of native plants. This will begin in NW Ark. and eventually expand throughout the entire state.

Finally, we're proud that ANPS is promoting sustainability and awareness of conservation issues not only during our meetings, but hopefully, in our daily lives. For a start, we are pushing to phase out single-use plastics, containers, bags, straws, and also the use of styrofoam. Many things can no longer be recycled and if not readily biodegradable, these plastic items remain in the landfill or wherever for decades. So, not only are we concerned with the conservation of our native plants, but also the conservation of our environment.

This marks the beginning of year 40 for ANPS and we feel confident that our group continues to meet the objectives as stated in the ANPS Bylaws: to conserve, study, enjoy, educate and publish related information that promotes Arkansas native plants.

Sharing the enthusiasm for our native plants,
Susan and Becky Hardin

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ARKANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Membership, Virginia McDaniel
833 Bellaire Drive
Hot Springs, AR 71901

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