

Ozarks Chapter ANPS News, Fall 2016

The rains held off in the early part of the summer and we were able to explore new sites and monitor places of interest from former hikes. This fall, we have scheduled a hike, a seed collection day, and the annual Harmony Mountain retreat.

Field Trip Reports for Spring/Summer 2016:

Withrow Springs

By Linda S. Ellis April 16, 2016

Each year, as Spring comes around once again, we plant enthusiasts have to decide where and when to go to see species of interest. I decided that I would start instigating field trips to all the public springs and/or waterfalls in northwest Arkansas. With this goal in mind, the first trip of the year on April 9th was to Withrow Spring State Park. Located about 5 miles north of Huntsville, the spring water flows into War Eagle creek through a limestone valley that is very scenic and full of spring ephemerals.

We met at the ranger station and made the acquaintance of Adam, the park supervisor. He was glad to have us identify some of the plants near the station. The group then went to the Dogwood trail head and made our usual pace of about 20 feet an hour. One of the first species we spied was a nice stand of Ozark wake robin (*Trillium pusillum*) which is white-flowered when it opens but becomes rose-colored with age.



As we proceeded up the trail we found Robin's plantain, not a plantain but a fleabane daisy (*Erigeron pulchellus*) hound's tongue or gypsy flower (*Cynoglossum officinale*) and quite a bit of sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) in flower.



Callitriche heterophylla, water starwort

We left the Dogwood trail for Withrow Spring itself. The spring is named after Richard Withrow who established the first grist mill in the area. Although all traces of the mill are gone, there is a history sign at the spring. Besides some common aquatics like water cress (*Nasturtium officinale*) we found a tiny aquatic called water starwort (*Callitriche heterophylla*) which was new to me. We enjoyed a fine spring day in the company of friends and flowers and that's as good as it gets.

Return to Wilson Springs Preserve, May 21, 2016

Sid Barrow and Burnetta Hinterthuer

On Saturday, May 21st, Burnetta Hinterthuer, with the Ozarks Chapter Arkansas Native Plant Society (ANPS) and Sim Barrow, with the Northwest Arkansas Land Trust led a botany-themed hike through Wilson Springs Preserve, Fayetteville's largest wet-prairie remnant. The preserve has been undergoing restoration over the last few years, and Burnetta has been documenting the return of native species, many of which are of special concern. Joining us were Steve Patterson of Poteau, OK, Don Mills of Eureka Springs, and Eloise Johnston from Fort Smith, AR joined us on the hike.

Wilson's Spring harbors one of the largest populations of native sedges in northwest Arkansas following the removal of introduced invasive species and green ash removal in the restoration process started in 2012. The openings allowed light on the woodland floor and the seed bank able to express itself responded with tall grass prairie species of wildflowers, grasses, and sedges. Thirty *Carex* species have been reported since the clearing.

Many obligate wetland species were found at this year's hike, including *Carex opaca*, *Carex davisii*, both of which are tracked species, along with other sedges such as *Carex frankii*, *C. squarrosa*, *C. vulpinoidea*,

Juncus antheratus, and a large bulrush, either *Scirpus gerogianus* or *atrovirens* according to Theo Witsell. The plant lacked mature fruit for a definite identification. Other notable plants included *Iris virginica*, *Amorpha fruticosa* and *Asclepias hirtella*, tall green milkweed. Watercress, *Nasturtium officinale* and broadleaf arrowhead, *Sagittata latifolia*, were found in the stream, along with the rare stream darter. The beaver pond had a large population of spatterdock, *Nuphar lutea* almost in bloom. Other interesting finds included two banded water snakes, box turtles, and several fascinating fungi. Joe Neal said he has observed about 150 species of birds in Wilson's Spring throughout the years. He mentioned that the sedge wren requires this habitat for survival. Not that long ago, it was once 300 acres and is now 120 acres. It is an important remnant of the mesic tall grass prairie ecosystem that was once part of thousands of acres in Northwest Arkansas. The hike was enjoyed by all, and everyone learned something new.



Steve Patterson, Don Mills, Burnetta Hinterthuer, Eloise Johnston at Wilson Springs Preserve with wild indigo bush to the left.



Iris virginica, Southern blue flag found in several populations

Williams Woods Nature Preserve, May 11, 2016

By Bob Morgan, Sid Vogelpohl and Burnetta Hinterthuer

Bob Morgan lead the OCANPS members on a hike to Williams Woods Nature Preserve. Attending were Jeanne Neath, Rick Woods, Steve Holst, Sharon Morgan, Bob Morgan, Sid Vogelpohl, Kristin Musgnug, Rebecca Bryant, and Burnetta Hinterthuer. Williams Woods Nature Preserve is a tract of wooded land owned by the Ozark Highland Trail Association. The preserve is located on a mountain overlooking St. Paul, Arkansas in Madison County. The property contains 563 acres and includes an original hand-hewn log home, several out buildings, ponds, a field or two, and a beautiful mountain covered with a lush hardwood forest of towering trees. The property is open to visitation by members of the Ozark Highland Trail Association and their guests at their own risk.

The preserve is named for Ms. Alpha (Alphie) Williams. Alphie moved onto the property with her family in 1911 at the age of eight. She was the only girl of eight siblings. Some time after that, Alphie's parents separated. Alphie stayed on with her mother and her surviving 2 brothers (five of the brothers died as infants) on their original 20-acre plot. The home on the property was built in 1937 from hand-hewn logs harvested from the property in 1935. The house is now on the national register of historic places.

We walked the old trail west through the forest and observed Christmas fern, ebony spleenwort, and rattlesnake fern, understory trees of Carolina buckthorn, *Frangula caroliniana*; pawpaw, *Arisaema triloba*; deer berry, *Vaccinium stamineum*, and spicebush to name a few. Along the wooded trail were wildflowers in bloom including Ohio spiderwort, *Tradescantia ohioensis*; crested iris, *Iris cristata*; *Krigia biflora*, false dandelion; *Prenanthes altissimum*, wild lettuce; wild anise, *Osmorhiza longistylis*; false dandelion, *Krigia biflora*; wild ginger, *Asarum canadense*; *Monarda fistulosa*, bergamot; *Hypericum*

hypericoides, *St. Andrew's cross*; *Arisaena triphyllum*, Jack in the Pulpit; *Arisaema dracontium*, Green dragon; and mayapple, *Podophyllum peltatum*, plus 25 more species of herbaceous wildflowers. Grasses were also common and we saw *Diarrhena americana*, beakgrass; inland sea oats, *Chasmanthium latifolium*; nimblewill, *Muhlenbergii schreberi* and Bosc's rosette grass, *Dichantheium boscii*. We walked along an old road through the forest and found a large sugar maple, *Acer saccharum* var. *saccharum*. Without any equipment, we estimated the bigness index for the tree at about the bigness index for the champion tree in Arkansas. Bob said that he thought the former champion tree had fallen. We will need to follow up on this with the Arkansas Forestry Commission. The photo below shows everyone standing at the base of the tree.

Rain was threatening so we hiked uphill to the old cabin porch for lunch. Along the roadside, we startled a wild turkey sitting on her nest. After she flew off, we counted a dozen eggs in the neat nest. After lunch, we hiked at the base of a bluff and found more wildflowers. This was an interesting place to visit and it would be a good idea to explore more of this 573 acres.



Williams Woods, May 22, 2016 Jeanne Neath, Kristen Musgnug, Rick Woods, Rebecca Bryant, Steve Holst, Sid Vogelpohl, Sharon Morgan, and leader Bob Morgan at base of the sugar maple tree.

Foundation Farm, May 12, 2016, Burnetta Hinterthuer

Patrice Gros founded Foundation Farm in 2006 as a USDA (US Dept. of Agriculture) certified organic farm, following 10 years of experimentation in various forms of organic vegetables and different growing methods. The farm is located north of Eureka Springs, just south of the Missouri border. Jim Dudley, President of OCANPS, had talked with Patrice about providing a tour of the farm for OCANPS this spring. At the end of the tour, we would eat have a meal made from the fresh produce produced on the farm.

Burnetta gave a talk on “Why I Like Plants” to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Eureka Springs emphasizing the fact that we cannot exist without them and discussing the start of the Farmer’s Market movement in the United States, realizing the idea has been around a long time. Steve Holst, Kelly Holst, Amy Wilson, Paula DuPont, Laura Villejas, and Burnetta. Others from the Eureka Unitarian Universalist Fellowship joined us for the tour and meal as well. Patrice talked about the methods he used in developing the garden soil and the no-till process of planting seed. We visited several garden areas and a greenhouse to see the process firsthand. The meal was healthy and tasty greens from the garden with Farmer’s Market bread and we enjoyed visiting with everyone. It was inspiring to hear of the way in which Patrice has built up the soil over the years and is now very successful in providing tons of produce for the Eureka Springs Farmer’s Market as well as restaurants in the area. Patrice uses volunteers for various projects and one can certainly learn a lot by just listening to him talk about his garden. If you haven’t toured an organic farm, I recommend it as a possible field trip for you can pick up many pointers for use in your own garden.

ANPS and OCANPS Field Trip to Ninestone Land Trust, Inc. Saturday, June 4, 2016 hosted by Judy Griffith & Don Matt

Although many potential attendees turned back due to torrential rains within just 1 mile of Ninestone, we had only light sprinkles here and gradual clearing by lunchtime and full sun by 2 in the afternoon. The intrepid plant enthusiasts and photographers who braved the forecast and drove through downpours to get to Ninestone included:

Burnetta Hinterthuer, botanist; Steven Foster, botanist; Stacey Davis with her children Elizabeth and Jack; Quintin Welch; David Chapman; Joe Neal; Joan Reynolds; Don, Jane, and Emma Steinkraus; and Gary Milczarek.

In late May and early June we focus our field trips on the sandstone glades that are now in their sixth year of restoration at Ninestone, including their second controlled burn in January 2016. The night before the field trip, the glades were refreshed with 3/4 inch of rain, so they were resplendent with wildflowers that have increased as a result of removing cedars, controlling introduced invasives, and burning. Barbara's Buttons (*Marshallia caespitosa*) is a tracked plant that blooms at this time along the edges of the bluff beside Hairy blazing-star (*Liatris hirsuta*). Bringing color to lichen and cryptobiotic soil crust on sandstone ripple rock and the balds were Lance-leaf Tickseed (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), Ohio spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohioensis*), Prickly-pear (*Opuntia cespitosa*), Western Prickly-pear (*Opuntia macrorhiza*), Fame Flower (*Phemeranthus calycinus*), Widow's cross (*Sedum pulchellum*), Sandwort (*Arenaria serpyllifolia*), tracked Tall Pink glade Onion (*Allium canadense* var. *lavendulare*), Sampson's Snakeroot (*Orbexilum pedunculatum*), Venus'-Looking-glass (*Triodanis perfoliata* subsp. *biflora*), and fragrant Arkansas Calamint (*Clinopodium arkansanum*), along with numerous emerging native warm season grasses and sedges.

In spring 2016 Ninestone applied to the Arkansas Native Plant Society for a grant to assist with continued development of our Native Plant Gardens, an ongoing project that provides incentive to visitors to encourage native plants on their own land. Original plantings in 1994 were Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), Northern Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pedatum*), Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), Wild Hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*), Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*), Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium reptans*), and Black Cohosh (*Actea racemosa*), etc. Newer trees, shrubs, and vines from native plant nurseries include Musclewood (*Carpinus caroliniana*), Leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*), Witch-Alder (*Fothergilla major*), Fringe-Tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*), American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), Red Buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*), and Trumpet Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*).

Our work at Ninestone intends not only to protect and restore this land and its native inhabitants, but also to educate our visitors about the connection between biodiversity and natural communities. As invasives are controlled with fire and other methods in our sandstone glades and savannah, the regeneration of native plant species becomes more evident. As more natives are added to the gardens, those who visit can learn about nurseries where native plants are available, and become inspired to replace invasives with natives in their own landscapes. We help visitors understand that as habitats in the natural world are changed by development the precious native communities of flora and fauna that have evolved over untold millennia are fragmented and destroyed. The ecology and the food chain that once supported native plants, butterflies, bees, insects, herps, and birds is replaced with introduced invasive plants that compete with native plant species, further reducing the food available to wildlife including threatened pollinators, and declining bird species that must feed insects to their young. Native plants provide more food for insect-dependent wildlife, such as many birds, small mammals and amphibians.

Thanks to funds Ninestone received from from the ANPS grant, naturally occurring Purple Milkweed (*Asclepias purpurascens*), plus new plantings of Rattlesnake-master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), Ox-eye Sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*), Compass Plant (*Silphium laciniatum*), Gray-head Coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*), Prairie Dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*), Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa* subsp. *interior*), and a Yellowwood tree (*Cladrastis lutea*), are all now fenced to prevent deer from eating leaves, or flowers and potential seeds. This spring, emerging in the savannah after the

planting of seeds collected on-site or locally, are River-oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*), Arkansas Ironweed (*Vernonia arkansana*), Passionflower (*Passiflora incarnata*), Yellow Ironweed (*Verbesina alternifolia*), Frostweed (*Verbesina virginica*), and Wild Senna (*Senna marilandica*). New to the original backyard gardens are Downy Tickseed (*Coreopsis pubescens*), Culver's Root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*), Vernal witch-hazel (*Hamamelis vernalis*), American Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), and a few more native shrubs. ANPS monies have also provided watering supplies and some native plants from nurseries.

Attendee Joe Neal summed up his appreciation of the field trip. "A genuine Ozark glade exploded into bloom this afternoon at 2:31 PM. Source of ignition: deep red Fame Flowers, by the hundreds, or maybe by the thousands, across sandstone glades at Ninestone Land Trust in Carroll County. And there had already been a fantastic show of pink -- a wild glade onion covering whole expanses of ripple-marked sandstone -- *Allium canadense* var. *lavendulare* - Tall Pink Glade Onion, listed as an S2 for Arkansas, which means that in Arkansas it is at a high risk of extirpation because of restricted range, etc. Glade restoration work at Ninestone has had a dramatically positive impact on it there. Who would believe we were in Arkansas and not in some expensive-to-get-there remote, tropical paradise where impossible is possible? Who would believe this beating heart of the real Ozarks who has not been astounded by presence of so much remarkable life? Welcome to the real Ozarks, the part that has been here for thousands of years, making the Earth a better place, one glade flower by one glade flower."

In Pursuit of Waterfalls: An Ozarks Chapter Field Trip - Linda S. Ellis

Having decided to visit all the public waterfalls and springs in northwest Arkansas, the next field trip was on June 11th, 2016 to High Bank Twin Falls on the Mulberry river. I had never been on the Mulberry and although it was placid on the day of the trip, from the look of past flood debris overhead in the trees, this river earns its standing as Class II/III.

The Ozarks chapter members visited the falls located near the access of the same name. We crossed highway 215 and took the trail toward the falls at our usual botanist's pace through deep woods and past feeder streams. One of the first plants we encountered was an invasive species that was new to me called a Japanese bitter orange or trifoliolate orange (*Citrus trifoliata*) in the *Rutaceae* family (also under the name of *Poncirus trifoliata*).

The steep bluffs and wooded streams were very dramatic along the trail and we saw several species associated with this habitat like southern maiden hair fern (*Adiantum capillus-veneris*) and Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) along side wild hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*) and mountain houstonia (*Hedyotis purpurea*).



Although the falls were not running very heavily, there was more than enough plant species to keep us all interested until we returned to go to the Redding campgrounds restaurant and a well-deserved cold drink and lunch.



Fall Hikes:

August 8th, 10 AM Where: 13602 Sugar Mountain Road, West Fork, AR

Stephen Marquardt will guide us to a population of crane fly orchids on his property south of West Fork. Last year, we also were able to photograph three-bird orchids in the same vicinity on the same day. From the town of West Fork, drive South on Hwy 71. It is about five minutes to the old iron bridge and Woolsey Cemetery. Across from them, take LEFT on WC 156, drive about 3 miles. You will see a mailbox with the number 13608, which will seem out of sequence. Keep going until you see the mailbox with the 13602 address, turn left into driveway and continue to log cabin. Notify Burnetta if you are attending and for further instructions at 479-430-0260 or e-mail her at wbhint@gmail.com

September 23rd – 25th ANPS Fall Meeting, Ouachita Room, Rich Mountain Community College, Mena AR. A block of rooms has been reserved at the [Sun Country Inn](#) (\$84.95 + tax per night). All rooms are reserved under “Arkansas Native Plant Society”. **Reservations must be made before August 23th to guarantee room availability at this rate.** More details are available at the ANPS web site and will be coming out in the Fall [Claytonia](#). Registration is at the Ouachita Room starting at 5:00 p.m. on Friday the 23rd. A five-dollar registration fee is required. At that time, you can sign up for field trips on Saturday and Sunday; you do not want to miss the plant auction on Friday night.

October 1st 10 a.m. – Tall Grass Prairie Seed Collection day on Gentry Prairie, Gentry, AR. We will meet to see the prairie in sunflowers and grasses and to collect seed. Bring clippers if you have them. We will have paper bags and give some basic instructions on how to collect the seed. The seed will be used in restoration and conservation sites in Northwest Arkansas. Location: Benton County, near Siloam Springs, AR. After collecting seed on the prairie, those who wish may do a roadside tallgrass prairie tour of Benton County with Joe Neal. We may also visit some individual gardens to collect seed. Contact Burnetta if you are interested in either of these activities at wbhint@gmail.com

November 4th – 6th Annual OCANPS Harmony Mountain Retreat. On Friday night, we have a plant auction following a potluck. Bring a dish to share as we get together to review the year behind us and plan the year ahead. We will elect officers and plan the hikes for the coming year. On Saturday and Sunday, we will have hike some place in the surrounding area. Contact Burnetta for further information at 479-430-0260 or wbhint@gmail.com

Dues:

Dues (\$15/year) for Arkansas Native Plant Society should be mailed to:

Don Ford, Treasurer
4017 Bluebird Lane
Little Rock, AR 72210

Ozarks Chapter dues (\$5/year) should be mailed to:

Mary Reuter
121 CR 432

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72616