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Fall Newsletter 2011

Volume 41, Issue II

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY Spring Meeting April 8-10, 2011

On the warm and muggy evening of April 8 about 50 people gathered at the University of Alabama Arboretum pavilion to enjoy barbeque pork and all the fixins plus birthday cake. Hosted by the George Wood Chapter of Tuscaloosa, AWS members celebrated the 40th birthday of the Alabama Wildflower Society which was formed at that location by a group interested in furthering the enjoyment of nature and native plants of Alabama.

Saturday morning began with a drive to Tanglewood in Hale County. This land was donated to the U of A to be used in research. If you don't already know, George Wood planted many different examples of hollies and magnolias beginning in the 1970's. They are now very large and beautiful in their season. From Tanglewood, we traveled to Augusta Robinson's farm for more nature walks and to enjoy her and her family's hospitality.

The evening banquet was a catered event at Covenant Presbyterian Church with a program by Dr. John Clark, biologist at the U of A. He talked about his work in the tropics and showed many beautiful flower and hummingbird pictures.

Two of our members were presented with plaques denoting them as lifetime members in the Alabama Wildflower Society. (More later in the newsletter)

Sunday morning meeting attendees and a number of local George Wood Chapter members were treated to brunch at Nancy and Richard Cobb's log cabin. There was food galore and beautiful weather to enjoy the gardens. And enjoy the yard and gardens we hope you did because they will never be the same. (More later in the newsletter)

From brunch, a large number conveyed to Bibb county to the glades. There they enjoyed a walk and talk by the guru of the glades, Jim Allison.



More Pictures from the Birthday Party in Tuscaloosa



Caroline and one of our scholarship winners

At the Arboretum BBQ and Birthday Party



Tour of Tanglewood in Hale County



Augusta's Potato Boat



At the Glades in Bibb County



Pix by Al Blethen & Melba Hollingsworth

## Spring Meeting Pictures

Pix by Al Blethen & Melba Hollingsworth



Pix at UA  
Arboretum



Bibb County Glades



## Fall Meeting November 4-6, 2011

The fall meeting of AWS will be in Birmingham the weekend of November 4-6, 2011 in conjunction with the Central South Native Plant Conference which starts on Friday, November 4. As part of our sponsorship of this conference, our members can attend the conference for the discounted rate of \$100.00. To receive this discount, please use Code: **0945B** on your registration form. For full information on the conference, please go to <http://www.bbgardens.org/central-south.php>.

Motel accommodations will be at the newly renovated Roadway Inn on Oxmoor Road which is approximately five miles from the gardens. Rates are \$39.95 (plus tax) and this includes a continental breakfast. We have 20 rooms available. Their phone number is 205-942-2041.

Saturday night dinner will be catered by Jim & Nick's Barbeque. The price for dinner will be \$11.00. Please send your reservations and money to Margie Anderton, 271 County Road 68, Killen, AL 35645 (Cell 256-710-5851). Their catering facility is directly behind the motel so we can just walk with no crossing of a busy street.

Our speaker will be Mr. Bob Sargent. Bob, along with his wife Martha, are nationally known bird banders specializing in the study of hummingbirds. Their book *Ruby-throated Hummingbird* was published by Stackpole Books. The PowerPoint program presentation will cover hummingbird migration, breeding, nest building, hummingbird eggs, all species of hummingbirds and other topics. Don't miss this opportunity to meet the Sargents in person. Visit their website at:

<http://www.hummingbirdsplus.org>.

On Sunday morning we will travel to Aldridge Gardens to visit from 9:00 am until lunch. Lunch will be at the gardens. We will leave the hotel at 8:30 a.m.

### Directions to the Roadway Inn on Oxmoor Road

From Huntsville, take I-65 South to Birmingham to the first Oxmoor Road exit. Turn right and the motel is approximately ¼ mile on the right.

From South Alabama, take I-65 North to Birmingham to the first Oxmoor Road exit. Turn left and the motel is approximately ¼ mile on the right.

## 2011 Central South Native Plant Conference

Friday and Saturday, November 4 and 5  
Birmingham Botanical Gardens  
Native Plants – The Bigger Picture  
*How Native Plants Complete the Puzzle*

In addition to discussing many wonderful native plants and their related topics, this conference will focus on the numerous important roles they play in our ecosystems and how we can help keep those systems intact. We will address the interrelationships of native plants to the myriad of life forms... birds, bees, butterflies, bugs – and humans!

### Friday, November 4

7:30-8:30 a.m. **Registration and coffee**

8:30-8:45 a.m. **Fred Spicer, executive director, welcome guests**

8:45-9:45 a.m. **Speaker - Doug Tallamy**  
*Changing the Landscaping Paradigm with Native Plants*

9:45-10 a.m. **Break**

10-11 a.m. **Speaker - Henry Hughes**  
*Preserving the Legacy of our Native Trees in Public Parks*

11-Noon **Speaker - Dan Long**  
*Social Climbers- Native Vines That Won't Ruin Your Garden Party*

Noon-1:15 p.m. **Lunch**

1:15-2:15 p.m. **Speaker - Rick Lewandowski**  
*Integrating Layers to Enrich the Garden Experience*

2:15-3:15 p.m. **Speaker - Gil Nelson**  
*Best Native Plants for Southern Gardens: Reflecting Nature as Inspiration for Garden Design.*

3:15-3:30 p.m. **Break**

3:30-4:30 p.m. **Panel Discussion & Questions**

### Saturday, November 5

7-8 a.m. **Early Morning Birding with Greg Harber**

7:30-8:30 a.m. **Coffee**

8:30-9:30 a.m. **Breakouts**

1. *Bees and Relationships with Sallie Lee*
2. *For the Birds: Providing Food the Natural Way with Greg Harber*
3. *Viburnums and Dogwoods: Ten Excellent Native Species for Southern Gardens with Gil Nelson*
4. *Exploring the Allure of Native Azaleas with Rick Lewandowski*
5. *Propagating Native Plants that Benefit Wildlife with Jan Midgely*

9:30 – 9:45 a.m. **Break**

9:45-10:45 a.m. **Breakouts**

1. *Growing Native Trees from Seed – Oaks, Hickories and Others with Henry Hughes*
2. *Butterflies and Native Plants: Close-up Looks at the Big Picture with Sara Bright & Paulette Ogard*
3. *Plant Exploration: More than a Walk in the Woods with Fred Spicer*
4. *Edible Natives with Tony Glover*
5. *Best Native Ferns for the Southeast with Eleanor Craig*

10:45-11 a.m. **Break**

11-Noon **Breakouts**

1. *Exploring the Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance with Robert Boyd, Dee Smith and Patrick Thompson*
2. *For the Birds: Providing Food the Natural Way with Greg Harber*
3. *Got Bugs? Insects that Help our Native Plants with Ken Creel*
4. *Embrace the Rocks in Your Landscapes with Michelle Reynolds & Arnie Rutkis*
5. *The Effect of Invasive Plants on our Native Flora with Loretta Lynne Weninegar*

Noon-1 p.m. **Lunch**

1 p.m. **Field Trips & Workshops**

*The Regional Ecology of Mosses with Paul Davison*

*Forest Ecology with Henry Hughes*

*Hikin' for Lichens – Our Important Lower Plant Forms with Carl Sloan*

*Never Enough Natives!– An In-depth Look at the Native Plant Collections of Birmingham Botanical Gardens with John Manion*

*Pruning: Be Not Afraid! with Fred Spicer*

*Saving a Swamp with Mike Hardig*

*Native Plants in an Urban Oasis with Lea Ann Mack-Nally*

*Natives in Community Design with Rip Weaver*

For more detailed information visit the Birmingham Botanical Gardens website and find the plant conference link.

### Things Will Never Be the Same

As we re-grouped after the state meeting in Tuscaloosa and made plans for the next meeting in Blount County, we experienced tornado damage on April 15 in several counties. Augusta reported some damage around the ponds. Several local members had significant damage to their yards and houses. As we tried to help or console them, April 27 came with a fury.

Because so much of the state was involved, many AWS members personally suffered damage to their own or family and friend's property. The first few days after the tornado destruction in Tuscaloosa we were all in shock but having to cope.

Covenant Presbyterian Church where we had our banquet just weeks before was severely damaged and only the fellowship hall where we ate is usable right now. Probably the most devastating is Nancy & Richard's place. It is certainly not the heavily wooded area it was the day of our brunch. With a lot of volunteer help, the trees have been somewhat cleared, but there is certainly a lot of sun now! Nancy hopes to have a rose garden and some other sunny plants that would not grow in the previous heavy shade.

### Lifetime Members Honored

At the banquet in Tuscaloosa two AWS long-time members were honored with a plaque to indicate their being name Lifetime Members of AWS.

Ginny Lusk has served as the scholarship chairman for many years. She has coordinated the collection of applications and selection of the scholarship recipients each year. Ginny had been named a lifetime member earlier and received her plaque at the meeting.

Joan Rollins from the George Wood Chapter in Tuscaloosa was honored for her long-term participation and as a charter member of both the Alabama Wildflower Society (state organization) and the George Wood Chapter of AWS (Tuscaloosa chapter).

These two were present along with Caroline previously named a Lifetime Member.



### Membership in the Alabama Wildflower Society

If you would like to become a member, dues are: Individual \$8.00 Family \$12.00  
(local dues not included in this amount)

Your check should be made payable to the ALABAMA WILDFLOWER SOCIETY and mailed to:  
Margie Anderton, 271 County Rd. 68, Killen, AL 35645

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Please supply your email address if you have one. It makes contacting each other easier. Supplying your email does not automatically put you on the email newsletter list.

I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL.  YES

## *Styrax grandifolius*—Bigleaf Snowbell

This somewhat small tree (usually shrub-like) is a member of the snowbell or Storax family. Of 150 species worldwide, there are 6 native tree and 3 native shrub species in North America. Members of the genus *Halesia* (silverbells) are familiar and favorites of many. The bigleaf snowbell is named for the European *Styrax* (Storax) that is the source of the resin storax used in making incense.

Although the snowbells are commonly found in damp areas, they can be grown as garden specimens. The flowers, which are about 1 inch long, hang along short twigs in spring. When the snowbell finally reaches flowering stage, which may take several years, it gives a pleasant spring show.



Pix by Al Blethen

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