

State Officers

President

Alice Robertson

arobertson40@knology.com

Vice-President

Anne Kitchens

anne.kitchens@compassbank.com

Treasurer

Margie Anderton

margmick2711.com

Secretary

Brian Finzel

finzelflowers@knology.net

Newsletter Editor

Rosemary Blethen

5242 CR 220

Knoxville, AL 35469

rgblethen@yahoo.com

Scholarship Chair

Ginny Lusk

ginnyl@bellsouth.net

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Danger Live AMMO!

Spring Newsletter

Volume 40, Issue I

Report on Fall 2009 Meeting

The fall meeting of AWS was well-attended and certainly enjoyed. On Friday night members met in a hospitality room to dine on mountains of sandwiches, crackers & cheese, and Violet's cookies.

Early Saturday morning after a change of changed plans, we did indeed go to the Mountain Long Leaf Refuge. It was feared that the road would be difficult, perhaps even washed out from the torrential rains of previous days and weeks. But, a check showed we could probably navigate the steep, winding, gravel road.

At the summit and trailhead we were briefed on the upcoming hike. We were told to "stay to the right of the trail" because there could be unexploded ordinance to the left. Off we set on a beautiful, blue-sky day to explore. We sighted a number of fall blooming plants, including the one on the back of this newsletter. Most of us did confess however, that we saw more long-leaf pines along the road on the drive up than on the 1.5 mile hike!

Along the drive down we stopped at a nice off-road area with a small

waterfall, picnic area, and chimney remains of a former mill building.

After a lunch at the picnic grounds of the Anniston Museum of Natural History we went on a nature walk through the wildflower garden and along a trail up and down through the woods.

In the evening we convened at the City Meeting Center in downtown Anniston for our meal and program. Both were exceptionally pleasing. The meal was catered by Classic on Nobel and was excellent. The program was presented by Dan Spaulding and was extremely entertaining as he brought live props for his wildlife talk (see pictures on page 4).

After a nights rest we met at the Anniston Museum of Natural History for a walk through the gardens led by Hayes Jackson. He is responsible for many of the plantings especially the ginger lilies he brought back from Thailand. He showed us many interesting plants and provided so much information about each. Many of the "tropicals" we think are not cold hardy have thrived in his garden (except for the damage from a recent storm) and especially at the Museum. We were able to gather seeds and "pups" to try and grow ourselves.

Spring Trip to Dauphin Island March 12-14, 2010

Dauphin Island is a town in Mobile County, Alabama located on a barrier island also named Dauphin Island. The Island is home to Fort Gaines, The Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Estuarium Public Aquarium as well as many other places to visit. There are several bird sanctuaries, the main one being the 164-acre Audubon Bird Sanctuary. The island is the first landfall encountered by many birds as they migrate north from South America.

In 1519, the Spanish explorer, Alonzo Pineda was the first documented European to visit and map the island. In 1699, the island's French history began with the explorers, Pierre Le Moyne and Sieur D'Iberville. They set up a port and the island served as a major trading depot.

On the eastern tip of the island, Fort Gaines was built between 1821 and 1848. It was occupied by confederate forces in 1861 and captured by federal troops during the Battle of Mobile Bay. U.S. Admiral David Farragut, just a few hundred yards from Dauphin Island's shore spoke the famous words "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead".

For a good history of Dauphin Island go to the following web site:

<http://www.difoundation.org/history.htm>

Directions to Sea Lab:

Take I-65 South to I-10 West. On I-10 take exit 17-A, Hwy 193 leading through an industrial area. After 3 red lights, railroad tracks and a bridge, at 3-way stop turn left (Hwy 193), then at 4-way stop turn right (Hwy 193). Continue to Dauphin Island. Once on the island when you come to a 3-way stop, go left. Travel Approx. 2.5 miles, passing boat ramps on the left and campground on the right. Look for Agassiz Street, take next driveway on right into Sea Lab campus. The administration building is on the left. Register here before driving to the dorms.

Accommodations at Sea Lab Dormitory:

Rates will be \$20.00 per person/per night. We will have an entire dorm with 43 rooms and space for 86 people. You must contact Anne Kitchens (c-256-714-1607:h-256-881-9058) for reservations.

You need to bring the following since it is a dorm room: linens for a twin bed, pillows, bath towels, hair dryer and any other necessities. Check in is from 4 to 10 PM Friday.

There will be a hospitality room with appetizers and drinks available in the dorm. Anyone wishing to bring appetizers or drinks, please contact Alice Robertson at (h)256-325-4733 or at work (M-F) at 1-800-884-9512. Dinner will be on your own with several seafood and other restaurants nearby.

Breakfast and the banquet dinner at the Dorm are by reservation: breakfast for each day is \$6 and the cost for the banquet is \$11.

ALL MONIES for the dorm, breakfast and dinners **MUST** be sent to Margie Anderton, 271 County Rd. 68, Killen, AL, 35645 **BEFORE** March 1, 2010. The total for 2 days in the dorm, breakfasts, and banquet is \$63 each person.

Saturday's activities will begin with a meeting after breakfast to divide into two groups and discuss the field trip schedule. Each group will alternate visiting the same areas, with a communal picnic at Cadillac Square. We will visit the shell mounds, Audubon park, the phytoplankton lab and the salt marsh or dune areas.

The evening meal will be at 5:30 with program speakers to be Brian Jones, Chief Aquarist at the Estuarium and Dr. Lee Stanton, Asst. Professor of Environmental Sciences at the University of West Alabama. The program will conclude with a trip through the Sea Lab/Estuarium.

On Sunday after breakfast there will be optional trips such as to the west end of the Island or to Fort Gaines.

Spring in Tennessee April 9-11, 2010

www.ocoee whitewater inn.com www.blackbearcove.com

After several years, the AWS will return to East Tennessee for an early wildflower adventure. This trip to the southern Blue Ridge hosted by Leon and Pat Bates will provide ASW members with a glimpse of familiar plants and animals in a mountainous region.

Event headquarters will be at the Whitewater Inn located at the intersection of US 64 and US 411 at Ocoee. Contact the Whitewater Inn for reservations (1-888-716-2633). Rates for non-smoking rooms with two queen beds are \$85.99 plus tax (\$10 each additional person). Make reservations for this meeting one month prior to the date if possible; however April is a relatively slow month, so reservations may be available later. A continental breakfast is available at the Whitewater plus other restaurants are nearby.

An alternate lodging site is the Black Bear Cove Resort at 866-438-2633. Accommodations are more upscale, but they do not serve breakfast and no eating establishments are nearby. There is camping at the resort.

Registration for members begins at 4PM Friday in the motel conference room. Members who arrive on Friday are welcomed to Pat and Leon's house in Laurelwood for heavy hors d'oeuvres.

Directions:

From Chattanooga take I-75 North to Exit 20 (Cleveland). Turn right onto APD 40 bypass. Follow APD 40 bypass and exit to Cherokee National Forest at Hwy 64 East. Follow Hwy 64 for approximately 8 miles to intersection with Hwy 411. The Whitewater Inn (120 Whitewater Drive) is on the left opposite McDonald's.

Dinner/Meeting:

The site for the dinner and program is Black Bear Cove Resort located approximately 11.2 miles north of the Whitewater on US 411. Turn right onto TN 30 just past the start of four-lane US 411. Turn left in approximately 0.3 miles. Dinner includes one meat, three sides, and dessert with salad, rolls, and drink. The cost is \$15 and should be sent to Margie Anderton, 271 County

Road 68, Killen, AL 35645 as soon as possible (there is a deadline of one month ahead).

NOTE: If you send monies to Margie for both trips at once, please designate what amounts apply to each trip.

Trips:

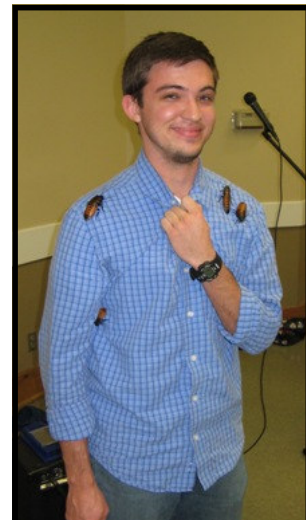
On Saturday, we will trek along the banks of the scenic Hiwassee River and view wildflowers in adjacent cove hardwood forests. We will begin our trip at the Hiwassee/Ocoee Scenic River State Park nature trail, and then we will travel to a nearby USFS picnic area for lunch. (Be sure to bring a lunch). After lunch, we will travel upstream to the Childer's Creek Trailhead of the John Muir Trail. Here we will walk in the footsteps John Muir made in 1867 when he explored this area and described the Hiwassee as having "forest walls vine-draped and flowery as Eden". This riparian habitat also supports colonies of the threatened and endangered Ruth's Golden Aster. **Note:** these trail sections are relatively level and were designed to accommodate senior citizens.

After returning to the Trailhead, wildflower members and friends will have the option of returning to the Inn or taking a scenic side-trip upriver via auto to the upper Hiwassee. We will return to the Black Bear Cove Resort in time for the dinner and program at 6PM.

On Sunday, we will travel east on Hwy 64 along the Ocoee River and Parksville Lake to the Cherokee National Forest and turn left on FS 77 just past the Ocoee District Ranger Station on the way to the Chilhowee Recreation Area at McCamy Lake. The "CCC" Boys built this small lake in the 30's and added several connecting trails. A round trip of approximately 3 miles to Benton Falls will provide a chance to view a 65 foot waterfall plus wildflowers within numerous forest habitats. Alternative short trails will be available. Bring lunch and a \$3 user fee per car for this USFS recreation site.

For those interested a Sunday afternoon trip is available.

PIX from the Fall Meeting in Anniston



Additional Pictures in Emailed Newsletters and on the Web

In Memoriam: Bill Brock and Jane Rosborough

Bill Brock, a former member of AWS, passed away Oct. 9, 2009 of pancreatic cancer. He and his wife, Linda, have been faithful active members since 1975. We have visited their garden in Gardendale, Al several times.

On November 5, 2009, the Blount County Wildflower Society met at the beautiful Cullman Wildflower Garden at Sportsman's Lake. Jerry Jones, president, set out two native azaleas in memory of Bill Brock. Some of us had worked with Bill at that garden and others were fortunate to visit the Brocks' garden in Gardendale a few years back. We share memories with many of you of his spirit of kindness and generosity.



Sadly, the Tuscaloosa Chapter of AWS lost a long time and very active member, Jane Hybart Rosborough on January 30, 2010. Jane held a state or chapter office on a number of occasions. She will be remembered for the wildflower brochure which is still in print. The following is an excerpt from the September 1989 newsletter.

UPDATE ON ALABAMA WILDFLOWER BROCHURE By Jane Rosborough

I am happy to report that we received the grant from the Bureau of Tourism & Travel to help reprint 10,000 copies of our brochure "Alabama Wildflowers". The Bureau gave us a grant in '85 to print the original copies and has been enthusiastic about the brochure ever since. They report that the brochures are well received at the Welcome Centers and they use them for special promotions. Just recently they mentioned the abundance of wildflowers found in Alabama in one of their ads promoting tourism in Alabama and received many requests for the brochure.

Since this is a matching grant, the chapters responded to an appeal for donations for our part of the amount. Each chapter will receive brochures and I have asked each president to appoint a member to coordinate the distribution of the brochures. It would be great to have copies in each school and public library in the state and to be able to distribute more of them to our schools.

Membership in the Alabama Wildflower Society

If you would like to become a state member, dues are: Individual \$8.00 Family \$12.00

Dues for a local chapter are not included in this amount. You may renew both local and state dues through your local chapter.

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

Your name _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone No. _____ E-mail _____

New ☐

Renewal ☐

This semi-evergreen, highly aromatic shrubby member of the mint family is not well-distributed. It can thrive in poorer or drier soils or in wooded areas like the longleaf pine refuge visited in Anniston. It is found in several scattered counties in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, and South and North Carolina. It is classified as endangered in Florida. The fall bloom is eye-catching and has led to the cultivation of some particularly vigorous and floriferous varieties and their availability in the trade. One such is Barbour Belle propagated from stock collected in Barbour County, AL. It is touted to be especially hardy and delightful in bloom. If interested it is available from Plant Delights Nursery located in North Carolina. Their web site is: <http://www.plantdelights.com/>



Pix by Brian Finzel

For members interested in reaching Caroline Dean:

Her email address is deancar@auburn.edu

You can reach her web site at: <http://www.auburn.edu/~deancar/>

Recipients of scholarships for 2009-2010 are:

Lindsey Leverett, Jacksonville, AL

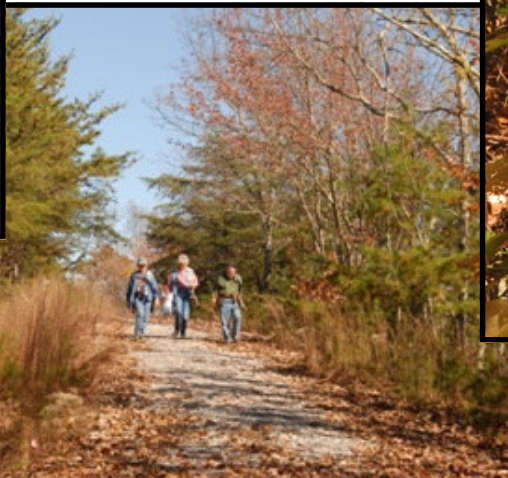
Tom Diggs, Birmingham, AL

Julia Price, Birmingham, AL

Michelle Maciejewski, Birmingham, AL

Induction of Mary Ivy Burks into the Alabama Hall of Fame at Judson College will take place on March 4, 2010.

Mary Ivy Burks (1920-2007) was a leading force behind the founding of the Alabama Conservancy (now the Alabama Environmental Council), the state's first independent environmental organization. She served as its first president, its first executive director, and chair of its wilderness committee during the years when the group successfully advocated for the creation of the Sipsey Wilderness Area in north Alabama's William B. Bankhead National Forest. She helped lead a national effort known as the eastern wilderness movement, and became a respected expert on land preservation and forestry issues. She was a member of AWS as well.



Bottom four pix by
Brian Finzel

