

Alabama Wildflower Society Blanche Dean Chapter

April 2016

Monday April 4 at 7 pm at the BBG

Meet Mark Bailey, Conservationist & Co-Author of "Turtles of Alabama"

According to biologist Mark Bailey, Alabama can boast yet one more example of incredible biodiversity – when it comes to turtles, we have more species than any other state! On April 4, he will discuss the distribution and conservation of both common and rare turtles as they appear in various counties in Alabama. Mark and his wife Karan founded the environmental consulting firm **Conservation Southeast, Inc.** in 1998. For the past 18 years they have been advising a wide variety of clients who wish to conserve native habitats and the species they support. Mark also served as zoologist for **The Nature Conservancy's** "Alabama's Natural Heritage Program" from 1989 to 1997. "**Turtles of Alabama**", is part of the University of Alabama's **Gosse Nature Series** and can be ordered from the University of Alabama Press or from Amazon.com.



**Don't forget the BBG plant sale April 15 - 17 at Brookwood Village.
Let's support the Gardens!**

Congratulations, Yohance !

Yohance Owens, who spoke to the Blanche Dean chapter last year about his work as Executive Director of the Village Creek Human and Environmental Justice Society, has recently been selected a **2016 Champion of Sustainability** by **My Green Birmingham** an online guide to environmentally sensitive living in Birmingham. The publication named Yohance as "one of those working hard to create sustainable solutions to our future."



It's not too late to register for the remainder of Dr. Ellen McLaughlin's natural history courses at Samford University. To register, email Dr. McLaughlin at ewmclaug@samford.edu or telephone her at (205)595-0806 home phone. (You can come without registering, but registering will ensure that she has enough syllabi for everyone.) **Both courses are free of charge!**

- **THE TREE** as a habitat for other organisms (such as birds, insects, mosses, lichens.) Features a field trip to collect specimens and observation under a microscope.

Saturday, APRIL 9, 2016. 9 - 1 pm.

- **SPRING WILDFLOWERS.** A favorite offered every Spring. Learn how to identify wildflowers in the field, observe them under a microscope, & preserve them with a plant press.

Saturday, APRIL 16, 9 - 1 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, April 3, 1:00 PM -- First Sunday of the Month Hike "Wildflowers at Turkey Creek," see below.

Monday, April 4, 7 PM -- Blanche Dean Chapter Meeting, BBG, to hear Mark Bailey on "Turtles of Alabama".

April 8-10 -- State AWS meets in Florence. *Details p. 3.*

Sunday, April 10 -- Kim Waites will lead an Evening Hike at Ruffner Mtn.

April 15-17 -- Birmingham Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale.

April 22-24 -- State AWS meets in Andalusia. *Details p. 4.*

Saturday April 30, 10 AM -- Tour of the Kaul Wildflower Garden & the Woodlands at the BBG led by Susan Hammack for members of the Tuscaloosa-West Alabama Chapter. **Blanche Dean members are invited!** Meet in the entry plaza. Bring a sack lunch if you would like to join the group for lunch. Additional tours of the BBG after lunch for those who can stay. Phone or text 205-527-3328 for more information.

Monday, May 2, 7 PM -- Blanche Dean Chapter meeting, BBG. Dee Morrison will speak.

Saturday, May 5 - 7 -- Aldridge Garden plant sale

Wednesday May 18 -- 4 PM Fern Society presents Dr. Carl Taylor, "Case of the Promiscuous Quillwort" AWS invited.

Saturday, June 4 Hike to Ruffner Mtn. to see blooming *Manfreda virginica*.



**Wildflowers at Turkey Creek
Sunday April 3 at 1 PM**



Our First Sunday of the Month hike will be to Turkey Creek's *Thompson Trace Trail* with Karen Hutchinson. The spring wildflowers there are beautiful! We will start at the **Exit Gate parking area**. It is an easy trail 1.4 miles, ending at the falls. We will take a short break at the falls and then return to the cars via the main road or by Hanby Hollow. Both about one mile. Don't forget water, sturdy shoes and a hiking stick if you wish. Hope to see you there.



**Florence April 8 - 10
Driving Directions
& Reminders !**

- * PLEASE PRINT THIS PAGE & BRING IT WITH YOU – it won't be available in Florence!
- * Remember your sack lunch when you leave the motel Saturday morning.
- * If you are touring Maria's Garden on Friday, please email or call Margie Anderton now margmick271@aol.com. # 256-710-5851, as parking is limited where we will be going.
- * If you would like a meal from Pop's BarBQue on Saturday night, mail your check now to Margie Anderton, 271 County Rd 68, Killen, Al 35645.
- * **Reminder: The Comfort Suites Motel is 1 block off Hwy 72 at 140 Matthew Paul Court.**

FRIDAY AFTERNOON**Maria Wall's Garden, 114 Margaret Cove**

Exit motel to Left on Hwy 72 I. Go through 3 red lights, turn right at 4th red light (beside Fred's), and meet up in Fred's parking lot to carpool/caravan. To leave Maria's, turn left out of Margaret Cove, left at end of Taylor, and right on Harris, which takes you back out to Hwy 72.

If you plan on coming on Friday please email me, margmick271@aol.com as there is limited parking there. Also, note: it is a rather strenuous walk on a bluff along the river, but there is a section that is easy, so almost anyone can make it. No plans for Friday night but there are several restaurants within a block of motel.

SATURDAY MORNING**Irene Fowler's, 106 Gillis Drive, Lexington**

Plan to start at 8:00 AM. **Don't forget your picnic lunch!** Exit the motel to AL Hwy 72. Turn left (East) and go across Shoal Creek. Turn left on Al Hwy 43(north). Go 2.7 miles and turn right on County Rd 33. Go 1 mile, turn right on County Rd 33. Go 1 mile and turn left on County Rd 174. Finally -- go .6 miles and turn left on Gillis Dr. The Fowler home is 50 feet on right at **106 Gillis Drive**. Park along road.

SATURDAY NOON**lunch & tour, Margie Anderton's, 271 Co. Rd 68**

From the Fowler's house, go right out of Gillis Drive, then take another right at end of road. Go left at end of this rd. Go back out to Hwy 43. Drive south down Hwy 43 to Hwy 72 and turn left (East). Go through red light. Go 1.2 miles and turn left County Rd 71. Go straight through the 4-way stop. Travel ¼ mile turn right at Antioch C of C. County Rd 69, go 500 ft turn right on County Rd 68 at 271 County Rd 68. Third driveway to left.. Park in field on left after turning in driveway.

SATURDAY NIGHT**meal & program**

Meet at St. James Methodist Church at 6:00 PM for meal and program given by the American Chestnut Foundation on the restoration of our native chestnut trees. Meal will be provided by Pop's Bar-B-Q for a cost of \$12 per person. Mail check to Margie Anderton, 271 County Rd 68, Killen, AL 35645.

SUNDAY MORNING**Hike the Tennessee Valley Reservation**

Exit motel to Hwy 72, turn right(west) and turn left at red light, Cox Creek Blvd. Keep straight on this rd, across Wilson Dam, go through 2 red lights, under bridge overpass, about 1 mile turn right at big Native Plant Garden Sign. Park in parking lot. Bathrooms are available! We will hike the First Quarters Trail and then walk through the Whitey Hall Memorial Native Plant Garden. Picnic in pavilion at garden with drinks provided.

Andalusia April 22 - 24

Our trip to the Solon Dixon Forestry Educational Center will start at 4 p.m. on Friday the 22nd and close at 12 noon Sunday, April 22. **Address is 12130 Dixon Center Rd, Andalusia, AL 36420.** Our guide and speaker is The John D. Freeman Herbarium Collections



Manager from the Auburn University Museum of Natural History, Mr. Curtis Hansen. The Dixon Center is located in the middle of 5,350 acres of working forest. There are four walking trails, clear water springs and streams, and 4 miles of Conecuh River frontage. We will see native azaleas, mountain laurel, and atamasco lilies. If any of you have a truck/SUV or high-clearance vehicle, please

The per person cost is \$128.30 which includes taxes, hotel room, wireless internet, the banquet on Saturday evening, and all meals beginning with dinner on Friday through lunch on Sunday. **You can reserve a room now by calling 334-222-7779 or sending an email to Teresa Cannon at cannotj@auburn.edu.**

Notice! ARA hiring an Alliance Coordinator

The Alabama Rivers Alliance seeks a full-time Alliance Coordinator to provide leadership and support for Alabama's alliance of local watershed protection and community partner organizations. The ideal candidate will bring to the position passion, knowledge and experience in a number of the following areas: state water/environmental policy/science, grassroots organizing, organizational development, and advocacy campaign planning. **Estimated Started Date: May 16th, 2016.** For more information about this position and to apply, please visit their website alabamarivers.org.

ALABAMA WILDFLOWER SOCIETY - BLANCH DEAN CHAPTER

Minutes of March 7, 2016

Linda Sherk, our president, welcomed 1 visitor, 7 new members, and 22 members who gathered by 6:30 p.m. at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens for our March, 2016 Annual Pot Luck dinner and meeting. The food was delicious, y'all! Thank you!

Patrick Daniel grew some native plants and had them on hand to reward those of us who paid our dues. Our choice of Georgia Aster, Cardinal Flower, or Mouse-Eared Coreopsis was available for us to take on our way out of the meeting. The Georgia Aster (*Symphyotrichum geogianum* also known as *Aster georgianus*) produces lavender disc flowers and enjoys a sunny location. The sun-loving Mouse-Earred Coreopsis or Tickseed blooms in spring. Cardinal Flower prefers dappled shade. Thank you, Patrick for these wonderful gifts!

Those present were Chris Boles, Debbie Corn, Jim Crim, Mary Jane Curry, Patrick Daniel, Verna Gates, Ida Gleaton, Alicia and Ken Hall, Susan Hammack, our speaker, Lida Hill, Carol Hunt, Ann Katholi, Ellen McLaughlin, Rhonda Miles, Carol Ogle, Anne Parrish, Debbie Pezzillo, Sally Price, Belle Proser, Susan Putnam, Preston Rowe, Marty Schulman, Linda Sherk, Gail Snyder, Kathleen and John Stack, Chris Underwood, Kim Waites, and Linda Xia.

Linda told us how our treasurer, Maryalys Griffis, had suffered a broken hip after being displaced from her apartment in the fire that consumed her Southside building. Maryalys now resides at St. Martin in the Pines Rehabilitation Center in Irondale.

Ida Gleaton has agreed to take on the job of treasurer. Ida reported a balance of \$626.47 before dues collected this evening have been entered.

Our state president, Susan Hammack, encouraged everyone to join the state AWS. She asked Debbie Pezzillo, our state vice-president to announce the upcoming state meetings on April 8-10 in Florence and on April 22-24 at the Solon-Dixon Forestry Educational Center in Andalusia. Details can be found online at alwildflowers.org and in the latest BD-AWS newsletter.

Linda made announcements regarding upcoming field trips. The Saturday, March 12 trip to Nocalula Falls led by Darryl Patton has been changed. It will take place instead at DeSoto State Park. Meeting time there is still 1PM to 1:15PM. He has asked us to call his cell or text his phone when we get there. His number is 256-504-1603 for anyone who doesn't caravan with us. We will leave by caravan from Lowe's in Trussville at 11PM.

There is a Sunday, March 13 field trip led by Linda to the McKinley Farm in West Blockton along Tannehill Creek at 2:00 P. M. This field trip is sponsored by the Bibb County Citizens for Wildflowers. To caravan, please meet at 1:00 P. M. at Babies R Us.

The minutes of our last meeting of November 2, 2015 were approved as printed in the newsletter of February, 2016.

By unanimous vote, the Blanche Dean Chapter of the Alabama Wildflower Society added its name to a bill sponsored by the Native Plant Conservation Campaign of San Francisco to

- increase training, hiring and placement of plant scientists in Federal agencies,
- promote a preference for the use of locally appropriate native plant materials in Federal land management and other activities,
- increase demand for – and therefore supply of - locally appropriate native plant materials, and
- create new Federal programs to conserve rare plants and prevent their listing and extinction.

Linda informed us that a copy of the BD-AWS by-laws have been printed and can be picked up on our way out.

The Tuscaloosa Chapter of the AWS has asked our member and state president, Susan Hammack to lead a wildflower walk on Saturday, April 30 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. We will meet at the fountain at 10:00 A. M.

Dr. Ellen McLaughlin, retired professor of biology at Samford University, will teach some courses in natural history this spring. A handout with details is available for pick-up on the way out of our meeting. Completion of all three courses will certify participants in the natural history rewards program. Lida Hill, tonight's speaker, Marty Schulman, and Carol Ogle have all completed requirements for this award. She presented Lida Hill with her award, a book, Wildflowers of Tennessee.

Linda also announced a field trip in partnership with our sister club in Huntsville on March 19 with Brian Fintzel. Details are available in the February newsletter.

Linda introduced our speaker, Lida Hill who has published a book, Journal of a Cottage Garden. In her presentation entitled "A Passion for Native Plants: a Journey and a Journal", Lida shared with us the events in her life that led her to develop both her artistic talent and her love of native plants. Her book is beautifully illustrated and includes comments from the notable personalities of Doug Tallamy, Dan Spaulding, Edward Aldridge, and Henry Hughes. She noted that with the production of this book the world inside herself has grown and concludes that "each of us has more talent and goodness than we can ever get in touch with." Her book is available for \$20. It is printed on special recycled paper and was printed in the USA.

The time of our next meeting is **Monday, April 4** at the BBG @ 7PM. Mark Bailey, one of the three authors of the *Turtles of Alabama* will be our speaker. Mark is the owner, director and senior biologist with Conservation Southeast, Inc., a resource management firm specializing in native habitats and species of the southeastern United States.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie K. Pezzillo,
Secretary BD-AWS

visit us on facebook
www.alabamawildflower.org

President - Linda Sherk
Vice President of Programs - Marty Schulman
Treasurer - Ida Gleaton
Secretary - Debbie Pezzillo
Newsletter - Chris Underwood
Web Site - Karen Hutchinson



Annual dues support the cost of our frequent gatherings, the speakers at the meetings, our field trips and the newsletter. Although membership dues are accepted throughout the year monies are formally collected at the annual pot luck meeting in March.

If you would like to pay your dues, please make your check payable to

Blanche Dean Chapter – AWS and send it to our treasurer:

Ida Gleaton - 3201 Argonne Forest Lane - Duncanville AL 35456

Individual Membership is \$10; Family Membership is \$15.

Thanks for supporting our society with your membership.

