



AWS BLANCHE DEAN OUTING

The Dean'ers visited the Shoal Creek Park in Montevallo on Saturday, October 30, 2021. In spite of a chilly, misty morning, about ten brave souls arrived and made the trek. Apparent from the beginning was the sight of numerous American sycamores lining the moist creek banks. Various oaks were also seen as were sweetgums, box elder maples, a wild persimmon, etc. One of the more awakening sights was a colorful Japanese honeysuckle bloom in the waning days of October! (Abundant precipitation, climate change, or Halloween?) Among the presenting wildflowers were:

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| Aster species | white |
| Baccharis halmifolia | Groundsel Tree |
| Callicarpa americana | Beautyberry |
| Conoclinium coelestinum | Mistflower |
| Euonymus americanus | Hearts a'bustin |
| Eupatorium serotinum | Late flowering thoroughwort |
| Heliotropium indicum | Indian Heliotrope |
| Opuntia humifosa | Prickly Pear |
| Phytolacca americana | Pokeweed |
| Plantago lanceolate | Narrow-leaf Plantain |
| Polygonum pennsylvanicum | Pennsylvania Smartweed |
| Rumex crispus | Curly Dock |
| Senna marilandica | American Senna |
| Solidago sp. | Goldenrod |
| Thalictrum sp. | Rue |
| Verbesina virginica | Frostweed |
| Vernonia gigantea | Tall Ironweed |

(Thanks to Susan Hammack for getting up the species list!)

We tentatively plan to visit a private garden setting in Hueytown in the early spring. Also, during the course of next year, we hope to have a couple or more programs with speakers on various nature topics.

In the meantime, enjoy the wonders of Christmas and the winter to follow. Remember family and friends.

