

ALABAMA WILDFLOWER SOCIETY BLANCHE DEAN CHAPTER

MARCH 2013

ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER MARCH 4TH AT 6:30

Our annual dinner will be at 6:30, in the Ireland Room—2nd floor @ BBG, Mon March 4th 2013.

The program will be concerning the history and description of the Audubon Mountain Workshop & how we can participate.

***Bring a dish and join us for dinner
at 6:30.***

We are excited to say our speaker will be Suzanne Langely, Executive Director of the Birmingham Audubon Society (BAS). She will be talking about their Audubon Mountain Workshop.

The BAS is a 1200 member nonprofit organization focused on bird conservation and the habitat on which they depend. Audubon Mountain Workshop is in it's 36th Year and we look forward to this year's event.

~ May 9-12, 2013 ~ Mentone, Alabama

"A consortium of educators and students gather each spring....this activity has attracted naturalists who are intrigued by the concept of 'outdoor' education," Dr. Dan Holliman wrote in the April 1984 issue of the Journal of the Alabama Sciences. With the urging of Birmingham Audubon members, Dan Holliman agreed to direct the first Audubon Mountain Workshop in 1978. These members had participated in Blanche Dean's three-day Nature Workshops around North Alabama exploring a blend of local fauna, flora and geography of each unique area. Blanche Dean, an inspirational science teacher at Woodlawn High School, began the Workshops in the early 1950s and continued to make significant contributions to outdoor education until her death in 1974.



"Blanche and Dan" will be honored during the 2013 Workshop with a display in The Lodge. A scholarship has also been established in memory of Dan Holliman. The scholarship will be awarded to a Birmingham-Southern student where Dr. Holliman taught.

For more info:

<http://www.birminghamaudubon.org/birdingfldtrips/audmtnrk>



Our March 4 speaker
will be

Suzanne Langely,
Executive Director of
the Birmingham
Audubon Society.

Mark Your Calendar!

March 16:

Sharon Leader's in Oneonta
(back up date April20)

March 23:

AWS Trip to Buck's Pocket

March 30:

field trip to the Sipsey
Wilderness

April 1:

meeting at BBG, 7pm

April 9:

El Paso Wildflower
Preserve in Homewood

April 13:

AWS trip to New Market
(Mt Fork area) or Almond
Rock Outcrop

April 27:

Cloudland Canyon in GA

May 15:

Fern Society Lecture

May 25:

AWS trip to Old Cawhaba

July 13:

AWS New Annual Lecture

Oct. 12:

AWS Trip Bon Secur and
Gulf State Park

Nov 1:

CSNPC

FIELD TRIP TO ONEONTA MARCH 16

REMEMBER THE
CERTIFICATION IN
NATIVE PLANT
STUDIES IS
ONGOING...SEE
BBG WEBSITE FOR
MORE
INFORMATION
www.bbgardens.org

On March 16, 2013 , Mark and Sharon Leader have invited us to return to their property in Oneonta to hike and see early spring wildflowers. Below are the directions, everyone who wishes can meet me at Lowes in Trussville at 9AM. Bring a picnic lunch, water or your choice of drink. Wear appropriate clothing for hiking and bring a walking stick. Hike should be of moderate difficulty.

Any questions, call Linda Sherk 205-416-1643.

Directions to

Mark and Sharon Leader's place:

2353 Tugalo Road—Oneonta, AL 35121

205-589-2513

From Birmingham two alternatives:

Option 1

Take I-59 North towards Gadsden. Take exit 166, the Ashville/Oneonta exit.

At end of exit ramp turn left onto Hwy 231 North. Go about 15 miles to the intersection of 231 and Hwy 75 north (2nd traffic light in Oneonta).

Turn right onto 75 north. Pass Wal-Mart and the new bridge construction.

Turn right onto County Road 42.

Go about 5 miles and turn right onto Tugalo Road on the left. (There are mobile homes on three of the corners and the road to the right is Dugan. Go less than ½ -mile on Tugalo and you'll see on the right a mobile home with chickens in the front yard; our driveway is just past the mobile home on the right. There are gate posts made from railroad ties and a mailbox with our name and house number. Our driveway veers off to the left through the gateposts.

Option 2. This is the shortest, quickest route from Birmingham.

Take I-59 N towards Gadsden. Take the Tallapoosa Street exit and merge onto Hwy 79 North.

Stay on 79 through Tarrant (about 9 miles).

Turn right onto AL-151/Co.Rd.151 North, which becomes Hwy. 75 North.

Continue north on 75 for about 28 miles, going through Oneonta.

Turn right onto County Road 42.

Go just over 5 miles and turn right onto Tugalo Road on your left. Go about ¼ mile and turn right into our driveway.

Google shows another shortcut: on Hwy 42, rather than going all the way to Tugalo Road, you'll pass 4 large chicken houses on your left. Take the first left onto a little dirt road called Allred Road. It's only about a block long; at the end of the road, turn right onto Tugalo. Our house will be on your left. You'll pass the house before you reach our driveway on the left.

El Paso Wildflower Preserve in Homewood, AL— trail is officially open to the public but access is granted through the Freshwater Land Trust by appointment. We are fortunate to have this opportunity as a group to tour hike the preserve.



A can't miss
field trip!

EL PASO WILDFLOWER PRESERVE IN HOMEWOOD

APRIL 9, 2013 —A great field trip this year will be the El Paso Wildflower Preserve in Homewood, AL. We will meet in the Walmart parking lot on Lakeshore Parkway in the Wildwood shopping area. Meet at 9:30AM in the corner of the park-

ing lot closest to Lakeshore Parkway. Parking is limited, so we need to car pool. This is a moderate hike downhill and then back up hill. Bring water, hiking boots, walking sticks. Half day hike. Group will go out to lunch afterwards.

AWS-Blanche Dean Chapter-Minutes of November 5, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Linda Sherk shortly after 7:00p.m. at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Treasurer Maryalys Griffis reported that there was \$1080.99 in the chapter's holdings. Other notes of interest were: 1) Former President Verna Gates strongly encouraged a positive vote for the Forever Wild Program amendment in the upcoming state election (it later passed by a 75% margin!); 2) John Manion, BBG curator, announced that the Central States' Native Plant Conference will be held at the BBG in November of next year; 3) A fall color trip to High Falls in Marshall County, to be led by Michelle Reynolds, is scheduled for 11-17; & 4) Marty Schulman is exploring the feasibility of our having a joint meeting with the local Paleontological Society; they currently meet at the same time as we at the nearby B'ham Zoo.

Our prestigious speaker for tonight was Beth Maynor Young, an accomplished conservation photographer. In 1990, she founded Cahaba River Publishing, a conservation-minded firm that supports her life's passion- nature and landscape photography. She also was recently licensed as a real estate salesperson (with an environmental bent). Her focus tonight was upon discussion of her recent publication "Longleaf, Far as the Eye Can See".

Ms. Young's prior publication was "Headwaters, a Journey of Alabama Rivers". "Longleaf" had its genesis, with action, in 2005. Co-authors are B. Finch, R. Johnson, and J. Hall. Acknowledgement was also rendered to Bill Wright.

Longleaf pine, centuries ago, covered a swath of land in the size of some 90 million acres from Virginia to Texas. It was maintained by the natural action of fire. The flora ecosystem included ferns, pitcher plants, Indian grass, wiregrass, etc. Fauna within the circle were gopher tortoises, cockaded woodpeckers, indigo, and other, snakes, quail, fox squirrels (ferocious lovers of the cone seeds), etc.

Longleaves have a very long taproot. They are hardily drought-resistant. They grow to be 100 ft.-120 ft. in height and are relatively fireproof after 15 feet. Their primary enemies are storms and lightning strikes. Barring hits such as these, they tend to be quite long-lived.

Although not decimated but vastly reduced by the advance of man's search for resources, shelter, and settlement, the species is making a notable comeback. More and more are being planted. Beautiful stands are locally witnessed in the Oakmulgee District of the Talladega National Forest, and to our south in the Thomasville area. There is very healthy growth along the Florida state line. They tend to thrive on sections of military bases secondary to fires initiated by war games.

Tonight's presentation was both entertaining and informational. Such must have been anticipated as the attendance was beyond the norm.

The meeting adjourned shortly before 8:00 p.m. We will reconvene on March 4, 2013 when Pot Luck dining will predominate.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles E. Gleaton, Recorder

CLOUDLAND CANYON TRIP SAT. APRIL 27

Meet at Lowes in Trussville on Hwy 11 at 7:30AM on Sat.
April 27.

Cloudland Canyon near Trenton, GA

Address: Rising Fawn, GA 30738

Reservations: 800-864-7275

<http://www.gastateparks.org/CloudlandCanyon>

You can either camp in the Walk-in Campground (\$20/nite), or rent a cabin (\$135/nite).

Hike on Friday for those coming early: West Rim Trail or Waterfall Trail - We will meet at 1pm at the Interpretive Center inside the Park (see park website for directions)

Saturday: Stitton Gulch Trail - 1 mile plus, out/back starts very easy and increases to moderate. We will meet in the parking lot at the trail turn-around at the base of the mountain in Trenton at 10am.

Directions to Stitton Gulch Trail Parking:

Take I-59 Exit #11 East toward Trenton.

Turn right on South Main St. Go a couple of blocks.

Turn left on Lafayette St. Go a couple of blocks.

Turn left on Canyon Park Drive

Turn left on County Highway 187.

Parking will be on left at curve. Parking \$5 per car.

visit us on facebook

President - Linda Sherk
 Vice President of programs - Marty Schulman
 Vice President of field trips, Michelle Reynolds
 Treasurer - Maryalys Griffis
 Recorder—Charles Gleaton
 Editor/Web Site - Karen Hutchinson



REMEMBER
 TO PAY
 YOUR
 DUES
 PLEASE!

**ALABAMA
 WILDFLOWER SOCIETY
 (STATE)**

Saturday, March 23rd
 Buttahatchee Bluffs,
 Lamar County

On this trip, we will visit unique Pottsville sandstone formations where the Eastern Hemlock makes its southwestern limit. We will also see a wide variety of typical spring wildflowers and ferns. Hiking difficulty will be moderate. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Saturday, Apr 13th
 Old Mountain Fork Road,
 Madison County

For this trip, we will be walking casually down an old public dirt road that has now since been closed and privatized. The land owner has graciously agreed to allow this. (Thank you Anne Kitchens!) While walking, we will encounter slopes and creek banks along the roadside which harbor a very rich assemblage of wildflowers. Alabama Snow Wreath will be seen on this trip! The hike will not be difficult but will potentially be long as much as 2-3 miles or more. You may wish to wear foot gear that can get wet. After lunch, we will visit the Huntsville Botanical Garden.

Saturday, May 25th
 Old Cahawba, Dallas County

Join us in Old Cahawba for wildflowering mixed in with an Alabama History lesson. We will take a walking and riding tour of Old Cahawba with tour guides. While there, we will see the ruins of the old capitol city, as well as, the remaining pass-along plants from that time. Don't forget to bring your picnic lunch. After lunch we will be wildflowering on the Old Cahawba Prairie Forever Wild Tract.

DeSoto State Park's latest new endeavor ...the Civilian Conservation Corps Museum!

As some of you may know, DSP received a tourism grant in 2011 that has made the dream of a CCC museum come true. Since then DSP staff has been hard at work; renovating the historic building, performing research, and preparing displays & interpretive materials. The museum has come a long way in just a year, and we are now planning a dedication of the museum for Friday, **March 22, 2013, at 1:00 pm**. The staff of DeSoto State Park cordially invites you to attend the dedication, and be the first to see inside the museum.

DeSoto State Park 7104 DeSoto Parkway NE Fort Payne, AL 35967 256.997.5025
 www.AlaPark.com/DeSotoResort/ Look for us on Facebook

**The Blanche Dean Chapter of the
 Alabama Wildflower Society**
 Encompasses the Greater Birmingham Area.

To contact us with questions about our society...please email us at:
 membership@alabamawildflower.org

Name Telephone
 Address
 City State Zip
 E-mail Yes I prefer email newsletters
Dues: Individual = \$10.00 per year or Family = \$15.00 per year

Make check payable to :
 Blanche Dean Chapter-AWS (mail or deliver it with this form)
 c/o Maryalys Griffis-2021 10th Avenue South - Apt. 720-Birmingham, AL35205

*The Blanche Dean Chapter would like to offer you the
 option to join our state organization.*

The Alabama Wildflower Society is a statewide organization of native plant enthusiasts. Membership is open to anyone interested in Alabama's native plants.

Dues: Individual = \$ 10.00 per year or Family = \$15.00 per year

Name Telephone
 Address
 City State Zip
 E-mail

Make check payable to:
 Alabama Wildflower Society (mail it with this form)
 c/o Margie Anderton
 271 Co. Rd. 68
 Killen, AL 35645

Thursday, July 11th Birmingham Botanical Gardens First Annual Alabama Wildflower Society Lecture

Dinner: @ 5:30 (for AWS Members Only; \$12.00 per person) **Lecture:** @ 7:00 P.M. (Open to Public)

Speaker: Dr. John Hall, The University of West Alabama Meal will be catered by Jim-N-Nicks.

Please send \$12.00 to Margie Anderton if you wish to eat. **Reservation deadline by June 27th.**
 (271 CR 68, Killen, AL 35645). Please bring books, plants, or other botanical items for door prizes.