

Alabama Wildflower Society

Blanche Dean Chapter

June 2011

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- Saturday, JUNE 4 - Field Trip to HURRICANE CREEK IN VINEMONT, AL. Followed by a visit to the Cullman Native Plant Society's Wildflower Garden in SPORTSMAN'S LAKE PARK in Cullman.
- Monday, June 6, 2011 - Meeting at 7:00PM at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens -Dr. Larry Davenport - "Nature Journals".
- September Fieldtrip to The Kathy Freeland Bibb County Glades Preserve- date to be set
- Monday, Sept. 12, 2011 - Meeting at 7:00PM at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens - Dr. Ellen McLaughlin - Around the World with Dandelions.
- Saturday, October 8, 2011 - Fieldtrip to Turkey Creek
- Fri., Nov 4 and Sat. , Nov. 5 - CSNPC
- Monday, Nov. 7, 2011 - Tom Diggs will talk about his liatris research - Meeting at 7:00PM at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Dr. Davenport to speak Monday, June 6th at our next meeting.

The Nature of Nature Journal

Join us at the Botanical Gardens on
Monday, June 6th, at 7pm.

Dr. Davenport authors a regular column in *Alabama Heritage* magazine, and these columns form the basis of the chapters in his new book, *Nature Journal*. The book was published in August 2010 by the University of Alabama Press as part of the Gosse Nature Guides series. Davenport's presentation will focus on the writing and publication of *Nature Journal* and how you might incorporate its contents into your own lives to foster a new sense of connection to the natural world.

L. J. Davenport, Ph.D.

Professor of Biological & Environmental
Sciences

Samford University

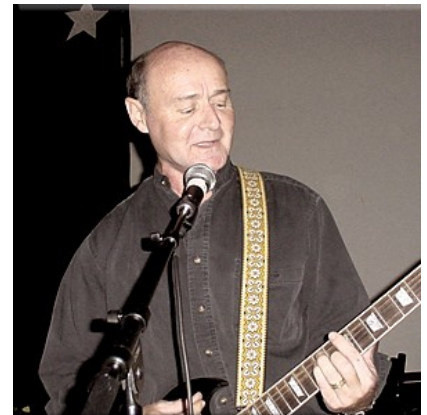
Ebenezer Swamp FieldTrip

Clematis Crispa/Swamo

Leatherflower

as photographed by Maureen Shafer

Davenport's work with the rare Cahaba Lily, along with his contributions to education and environmental stewardship has been recognized on several occasions by state and local offices.



Dr. D. rockin' out at
"Kickin' It for Kids"



ALABAMA WILDFLOWER SOCIETY, BLANCHE DEAN CHAPTER

Minutes of 3-7-11

The meeting met as scheduled at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. It was the initial meeting following the Christmas holidays and winter, making it a "perfect" moment for the annual Potluck Dinner. President Linda Sherk signaled "go" for the pigout at approximately 6:30 p.m. Food flowed like wine.

Following the gluttony, attention was briefly given to business. John Manion, curator of the BBG, spoke of upcoming events at the Gardens and of courses geared to obtaining a naturalist certificate. Another trip to "The Pocket" in north-west GA will be taken on 3-26. There will be a workshop on frogs on the same date in South Alabama.

Kate LeCroy spoke of doing research at the Ruffner Mtn. Preserve and how she discovered the Smooth Blue Aster at Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve's limestone rock quarry. Kate is a recipient of one of the Blanche Dean Memorial Scholarships this year.

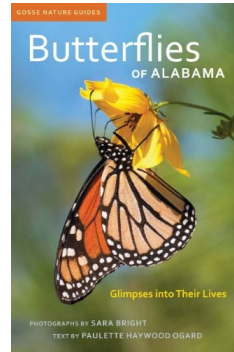
It was reported that we have \$1220.82 in our treasury. We will be rendering a \$200.00 donation the Central South Native Plant Conference (CSNPC). The \$200 is being given to the CSNPC, which is in Nov, to co-sponsor speakers. Our members will in turn get a \$25 discount for the CSNPC. We dedicated this donation to George Cuisick (who died recently), because he has consistently been giving us \$100

per year for the last several years. He wanted these \$\$\$ to be used to encourage interest in native plants.

Delivering the delightful presentation tonight was Sara Bright and Paulette Ogard, the topic entitled "Butterflies of Alabama: Glimpses into their Lives". They have recently written and published a book with this title.

Space will prohibit conveying all that was presented and discussed tonight but a brief accounting of facts and highlights will be attempted.

Butterflies were said to be "cold-blooded insects" (sounds like a villain in a horror flick). They have a head, thorax, abdomen, and six legs. They have a 4-stage life cycle, one being the abundantly witnessed caterpillar period.



Most species test for PARTICULAR plants upon which to lay their eggs. They are indeed choosy. Birds are a predominant

destructive force with caterpillars. For purposes of defense, various strategies are utilized by the caterpillars, namely: 1) The ingestion of poisonous plants which makes them poison; 2) Mimicry or the inducement of fright, e.g., having visual features suggestive of their being a snake, or appearing to be feces or actually miring themselves within the vicinity of feces; 3) Emitting

foul odors; 4) Camouflage via blending in with particular plants; and 5) Conventional hiding.

Caterpillars shed frequently. Commercially, spices are obtained from them, as are tannins for wine.

Butterflies come in all sizes. All are pollinators, and sip liquids from flowers and other matter. They are often aground, and to hide will sometimes fall like a leaf. They do mate. They are attacked by many other creatures as praying mantes, ants, and carnivorous plants. For survival, they have learned to be most adaptable.

In Nature, the color "yellow" is often associated with poison. Both butterflies and caterpillars also sport the colors of black and/or blue and/or orange to indicate poisonous characteristics.

The only carnivorous butterfly in No. America is the Harvester. The only swallowtail in Alabama is the Zebra. He often feeds from paw-paw trees.

The meeting adjourned shortly after 8:00 p.m. We will next meet on April 4 @ 7:00 p.m. when Wendy Jackson will speak of the Fresh Water Land Trust. ...

Note: Due to tornado weather the April 4th meeting was cancelled.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles E. Gleaton, Recorder

Delivering the delightful presentation tonight was Sara Bright and Paulette Ogard

Welcome to our new member - Debbie Pezzillo



Protect Forever Wild

The last few days on Forever Wild were tough, but the results keep this effort headed towards renewal.

First, the Forever Wild bill (HB126) stalled in the Senate due to a filibuster. Gerald Dial was able to shut down the Senate for more than three hours until not enough Senators were in the chamber, asked for a vote, and due to the lack of quorum forced adjournment for the day.

On Thursday, after a lot of negotiating, the Senate passed a constitutional amendment bill that would allow a vote of the people in November 2012 (making the

program "restart" date of October 1, 2012, so there won't be a gap in the funding and program should the people of Alabama pass the amendment in November 2012). That bill received unanimous support of the Senate and now it goes to the House.

Now the legislature is on a two week hiatus and will return the week of May 23. We'll have 7 legislative days to get it passed by a super majority of the House - so gear up to contact your representatives again. It doesn't need the governor's signature since it is a constitutional amendment - the people will sign or veto in November 2012.

Forever Wild renewal is still alive and well, just in a different form and a different bill number. While the Senate's action adds much time and cost to continuing this renewal effort into a statewide voting effort, keep in mind that the people of Alabama overwhelmingly voted in favor of creating Forever Wild. Broad interests support the program now.

Beth

Beth K. Stewart

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FIELD TRIP TO HURRICANE CREEK

SATURDAY, JUNE 4 - FIELD TRIP TO HURRICANE CREEK IN VINE-MONT, AL. FOLLOWED BY A VISIT TO THE CULLMAN NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY'S WILDFLOWER GARDEN IN SPORTSMAN'S LAKE PARK IN CULLMAN, AL.

Meet in the parking lot of Hobby Lobby on Fieldstown Road in Gardendale at 9AM to caravan. I-65 exit 271

Hurricane Creek Park is located in a 500 foot deep gorge with trails that feature waterfalls, rock formations and a forest of Large-leaf Magnolias and

Mountain Laurel. It should be a good opportunity to see hanging gardens of Fire Pinks, Alum Root, Jack-in-the-pulpit and other plants that inhabit sandstone cliffs.

Bring a lunch and drink. We will picnic after the hike.

Entrance fee to the park: \$3

For more information: <http://hurricanecreek.homestead.com/index.html>



Hurricane Creek in Cullman

www.alabamawildflower.org
President - Linda Sherk
Vice President of programs - Marty Schulman
Vice President of field trips - Michelle Reynolds
Treasurer - Maryalys Griffiths
Editor/Web Site - Karen Hutchinson

We're on the Web!
Alabamawildflower.org

We are sorry to announce one of our members passed away in April.

HELEN HUDDLE KITTINGER passed away at home Thursday, April 14, 2011. Her good friend, Sue Hutchinson, was at her side. She was born March 25, 1924 in Rural Retreat, Virginia. Helen loved her family and loved the great outdoors. She was an avid birder, enjoyed photography, wildflowers and nature in general. She was an amazing teacher who enjoyed sharing her love of birding with family and friends. Helen had an inexhaustible supply of knowledge about birds, wildflowers, trees and butterflies. Helen loved her Tuesday Birding Group and spent many a glorious Tuesday with her friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations to Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Inc. or the Birmingham Audubon Society.

Helen was so friendly and willing to share her expertise.

She will be missed by so many.

The Central South Native Plant Conference will be held at Birmingham Botanical Gardens in the Fall of 2011. Gardeners, landscape architects, and plant enthusiasts of all kinds are treated to one of the most extensive seminars in the nation every three years since 1989. Program chair Jan Midgley describes the conference as "a place for people to learn and to share their knowledge about our regional biological heritage." The focus is on wildflowers that call Alabama home and to foster awareness, appreciation and increased usage of plants native to the Southeast.

Highlights of each conference include an outstanding line up of Southeastern native plant experts in a range of lectures, break-out sessions, field trips and tours. A variety of speakers from all over the Southeast United States converge in Birmingham for what is truly the premiere conference in the region. From novice to expert, everyone is welcome. Contact Shelly McCarty, Special Events Coordinator for Birmingham Botanical Gardens, with any questions at 205.414.3965 or sbusby@bbgardens.org.

Check it out!



There is a new website that gives information about things to do outside around Birmingham.

<http://trekbirmingham.com/>

Trek Birmingham is a Birmingham-Southern College Project made possible by a grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama

