

## **Upcoming Events for Wildflower Enthusiasts!**

**Saturday Sept 16** Trips to Limestone Park and Moss Rock Preserve, where Ken Wills and Dick Mills will tell us about their work to restore 2 environments, those of-a sandstone glade and a native prairie. **Meet at Limestone Park at 9AM.** Bring bug spray, a hat, sunscreen, plenty of water and snacks. We will end our trip in Hoover at Moss Rock Preserve and afterward, those who are interested can get together for lunch. **Directions to Limestone Park:** Drive south on I-65. Take the Alabaster Exit 238 to US 31/AL 3. Turn left at the top of the hill. Stay on US 31 for 4.5 miles. Watch for Saginaw Pipe Corp. and prepare to turn ¼ mile later. The entrance to Limestone Park is on the right, just past a trailer park. Look for a smallish blue sign at the entrance.

**Sunday, Sept 24** Look for native plants and tour Manitou Cave, a sacred site of the Cherokee on Lookout Mtn. near the town of Fort Payne.

Meet Linda Sherk at the Trussville Lowes at 1885 Edwards Lake Rd. at 8:15AM. We will leave by 8:30AM in order to be at the cave by 10:30AM. Directions will be provided. Carpooling is encouraged.

Dress in layers and be prepared for the weather. Wear non-slippery outdoor shoes, long pants, layered tops, jacket/wind breaker, small back pack to hold essentials. Bring a flashlight, water, lunch and snacks. A change of shoes for the drive home is suggested. Please consider making a donation for this field trip. Manitou Cave of AL is a 501c3. Please make your reservation with Linda Sherk at 205-415-1643 or [blt111@bellsouth.net](mailto:blt111@bellsouth.net). Check out [manitoucaveofal.org](http://manitoucaveofal.org).

The property is situated on 10 acres with a spring fed pond, a beaver lodge & dams, and an historic visitor's center (2016 "Places in Peril"). Before we enter the cave, we will look for native plants, and while we break for lunch, our guide will give us a brief history and an overview of what we can expect to see underground,

The cave is entered through a window-sized opening. It is dark, so bring a flashlight. The constant 56 dig temperature means that you will also need a jacket. Walking to the Reflection Room will take 20-30 minutes. Our guide will point out & illuminate historical points, artifacts, signatures and beautiful formations. Most of the path consists of a hard cave mud floor that is wide enough for 2 people. The path is well marked, has concrete steps, 8 bridges with hand rails, and at times has water on the ground. The cave part of our trip will take about 1 ½ hours.

**Sunday, Oct 1** Turkey Creek Nature Walk led by Linda Sherk. Meet at the Falls parking lot 1p.m.

**Oct 20 – 22** AWS Fall State Meeting at Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge on Ft Morgan Peninsula & Gulf State Park. Our guide in the fields will be Fred Nation, a Gulf Shore native plant expert and consultant. Lodging is at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Gulf Shores. **Deadline for making your reservation (251-948-6191) is Monday, September 18, 2017.**

**Oct 26 - 29** Native Plant Conference at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens with 19 experts in the fields of botany and ecology. Registration is now open. To find out details and the conference schedule, visit [bbgardens.org](http://bbgardens.org).