



# Alabama Wildflower Society

## Blanche Dean Chapter

[www.alabamawildflower.org](http://www.alabamawildflower.org)  
President - Linda Sherk  
Vice President in charge of programs - Marty Schulman  
Vice President in charge of field trips, Michelle Reynolds  
Treasurer - Maryalys Griffis  
Editor/Web Site - Karen Hutchinson

### Wendy Jackson our April 4th Speaker Executive Director Freshwater Land Trust

7pm on April 4th join us at the BGG

Wendy will be speaking about Preserving the Places That Matter.

Freshwater Land Trust's mission is the acquisition and stewardship of lands that enhance water quality and preserve open space. We have protected - or helped to protect - over 10,000 acres, and we work to conserve more land every day. Freshwater has many important projects and ongoing partnerships, and these are some of the current highlights.

**Red Mountain Park** A 1108 acre tract that could become one of the largest urban parks in the nation

**Seven Springs** A spring that is home to the federally endangered watercress darter and owned by Faith Apostolic Church in Powderly, Alabama

**Five Mile Creek** A 28-mile stream flowing through northern Jefferson County that has inspired a nationally recognized partnership and a model for river restoration and conservation

**Turkey Creek Nature Preserve** A 700-acre nature preserve exists along Turkey Creek that preserves a scenic and historic resource

**Shades Creek** Shades Creek is a major tributary to the Cahaba River, running 56.4 miles from its source near the Birmingham Race Course, through Shades Valley, to the Cahaba River near the Shelby County/Bibb County line. Along the way it passes through Irondale, Birmingham, Mountain Brook, Homewood, Hoover, and Bessemer

**Please remember to pay your dues.**

### Upcoming Meetings

**Monday, April 4, 2011**-Meeting at 7:00pm at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens – *Wendy Jackson – Fresh Water Land Trust.*

**Monday, June 6, 2011** -

Meeting at 7:00pm at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens –*Dr. Larry Davenport – “Nature Journals”.*

**Monday, Sept. 12, 2011** - Meeting at 7:00pm at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens - *Dr. Ellen McLaughlin.*

**Monday, Nov. 7, 2011** -

Meeting at 7:00pm at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. *Tom Diggs*

### Certificate in Native Plant Studies at the Kaul Wildflower Garden

The Gardens launches its new Certificate in Native Plant Studies program this spring! The curriculum combines core courses, electives, field trips and volunteer service, giving students a well-rounded educational experience revolving around native plants, conservation, and environmental education and service. Classes will be held at The Gardens as well as Ruffner Mountain Nature Center, Aldridge Botanical Gardens and sites managed by the Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance.

Core courses will be offered every other month, as will various electives. Students may begin their certificate with any course, but we suggest starting with Introduction to the Study of Native Plants to gain a basic understanding of the program's scope. Certificates will be awarded to those who fulfill requirements within three years, but anyone is welcome to attend any of the courses.

Registration and further information about the program, including course descriptions, instructor bios and certificate requirements can be found at [www.bbgardens.org/plantstudies](http://www.bbgardens.org/plantstudies). Contact Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator John Manion at 205.414.3985 or [jmanion@bbgardens.org](mailto:jmanion@bbgardens.org) for details.

## Wendy Jackson our April Speaker

### Executive Director Freshwater Land Trust



Wendy Jackson is the Executive Director of the Freshwater Land Trust, a position she has held since 2001. At the Land Trust, Wendy has established partnerships that have resulted in the formation of the 466-acre Turkey Creek Nature Preserve in Pinson, the Five Mile Creek Greenways Partnership, and the 1,108-acre Red Mountain Park property in Birmingham. During her tenure as Executive Director, the Freshwater Land Trust has protected or helped to protect almost 8,000 acres throughout Central Alabama.

Under Wendy's leadership, the Freshwater Land Trust became the first accredited land trust in Alabama in 2009 by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. The Freshwater Land Trust received the 2003 Governor's Conservation Organization of the Year Award and was named the 2005 Charitable Organization of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. The Freshwater Land Trust also received the Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce's Non-Profit of the Year (Category 1) in 2009.



Wendy has been recognized across the state for her businesslike approach to conservation and her unique ability to bring diverse partners together for the benefit of conservation. She is the 2005 recipient of the James Dockery Environmental Leadership Award which is presented to individuals who have played a leadership role in preserving the South's environment, and she is a 2009 graduate of Leadership Birmingham.

Freshwater Land Trust (205) 226-7900 [wendy.jackson@freshwaterlandtrust.org](mailto:wendy.jackson@freshwaterlandtrust.org)

[www.freshwaterlandtrust.org](http://www.freshwaterlandtrust.org)

The Mission of the Freshwater Land Trust is the acquisition and stewardship of lands that enhance water quality and preserve open space.



#### **APRIL 8-10, 2010 Tuscaloosa AL**

You are cordially invited to a birthday party for the Alabama Wildflower Society hosted by the George Wood Chapter in Tuscaloosa. We will have a birthday celebration at the Arboretum, site of the meeting establishing AWS. Event headquarters will be the Jameson Inn where we have a block of rooms set aside for reservation. The Jameson Inn has rooms with a special negotiated rate of **\$65.00 per night (\$75.10 with tax)** for 1-4 per room. This includes a continental breakfast and other amenities.

The rate is guaranteed, but there is a triathlon in town, so make reservations quickly. Call 205-345-5018 or 800-Jameson (1-800-526-3766) and mention AWS. The motel is located at exit 71A off I 20-59 in Tuscaloosa.

More specific details and maps for this celebration will be available at the motel. If you know someone who does not get email, please phone the details to them. The detailed flyer will also be posted on our newly designed website at [www.alwildflowers.org](http://www.alwildflowers.org).

# Please remember to pay your dues !

## 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:  
blt111@bellsouth.net

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

Make check payable to :

Blanche Dean Chapter-AWS  
c/o Maryalys Griffis  
2021 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South - Apt. 720  
Birmingham, AL 35205

*Please include your:* Name Telephone Address City State Zip  
E-mail

**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.

The purpose of the Alabama Wildflower Society is to enjoy the fellowship of shared interest in native plants and to promote the knowledge, appreciation, and use of native plants. We strive to preserve areas of significant interest because of their native flora. To promote interest in young people in this endeavor, we give several scholarships each year to deserving students.

Dues: Individual \$ 8.00 per year Family \$12.00 per year

Make check payable to:

Alabama Wildflower Society  
c/o Margie Anderton  
271 Co. Rd. 68  
Killen, AL 35645

*Please include your* Name Telephone Address City State Zip  
E-mail

## **native plant sale at Ruffner!**

Linda Sherk, our president, will be there with a booth/table and lead some walks.

### **Volunteers Needed:**

On April 9<sup>th</sup> 2011, Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve is holding its first annual Native Plant Sale! Proceeds from the sale will support activities at the preserve. Arnie Rutkis of Stoneshovel has been working hard potting plants and we have been busy coordinating the event, but we need some help setting up and running the sale. Please call Mandy or me if you would like to help us out and work a shift. There are numerous tasks listed below. Come help Birmingham's backyards go native! It's good for everyone.

To sign up contact:

Mandy Nobles at 205 833-8264

Or Michelle Reynolds at 205 838-2370

for more information

[coverings@bham.rr.com](mailto:coverings@bham.rr.com)

### **Tasks:**

*Day of sale*

- \* information booth
- \* write tickets for sale plants
- \* run plants to pick up station
- \* direct traffic to pick up station
- \* sales assistant

*Prep days - 2 days before sale*

- \* move plants into place
- \* prepare boxes and trays
- \* sale set up

**Blanche Dean Chapter  
Alabama Wildflower Society**

We're on the web:  
[www.alabamawildflowersociety.org](http://www.alabamawildflowersociety.org)

Don't miss your chance to see the spring wildflowers at the Kaul Wildflower Garden at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens <http://www.bbgardens.org/photo-gallery.php?cn=30>



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Take a look at our stunning new logo! We hope you agree with us that it captures both the wonderful natural elements of Ruffner mountain, but also a bit of history. The history of Birmingham reflected in the steep quarry face on the right side of the mountain, the history of the great social elements of the WPA (Works Progress Administration) style in which it was designed and the natural history of our region, as seen in the gentle drape of the longleaf pine in the foreground. It says who we are, where we come from and what we care about.



Note another thing about that logo... It says *Preserve* not *Center*. Ruffner Mountain Nature Center is Alabama's oldest. But we have evolved since 1977, no longer are we a couple of small houses tucked away in a neighborhood. We now manage one of the largest privately managed urban natural areas in the country! We are a significant chunk of the greenspace that is turning Birmingham into one of the greenest city in America.

So, while we will continue to be a place for people, with exciting recreational opportunities and stirring educational offerings, while we will continue to be Birmingham's oasis; we must recognize that all that is only possible if we preserve and restore the outstanding natural resource that makes it possible. Thus the longleaf pine in the logo not only celebrates our natural history, but it also speaks to preserving and restoring these wild elements for future generations - it says where we are going.

<http://www.ruffnermountain.org/>