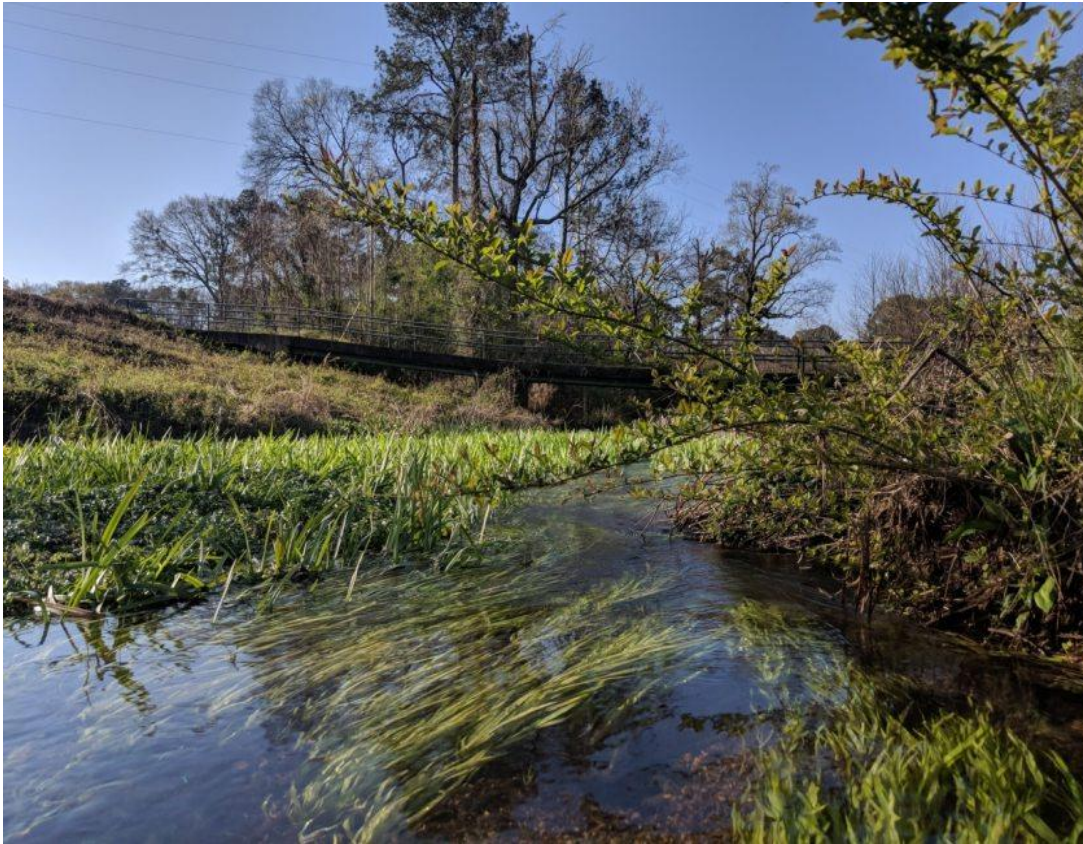


OFF WE GO! FALL WILDFLOWER EVENTS

Saturday, Oct 6 Visit the Watercress Darter Habitat at Roebuck Springs.

On Saturday, October 6, 2018, join Marty Schulman on a fieldtrip to see the recently restored watercress darter habitat at Roebuck Springs. We will meet in the parking lot of the Don Hawkins Recreational Center (8920 Roebuck Blvd., B'ham, AL 35206) at 10 a.m. Lunch afterwards nearby for those who are interested.

Of the now 6 places in the world where the federally endangered watercress darter (*Etheostama nuchale*) lives, all are in Jefferson County, says Marty, adding that, "Roebuck Springs is 1st or 2nd most appealing, and Turkey Creek is the other (this reserve population was introduced in the late '80's. This bright, colorful fish is totally elusive; I may have gotten only one glimpse of it in the wild over the many years I monitored water quality at these three sites. About seven years' ago, several scientists did a major population study in the spring run & I got to see a bunch that we examined, recorded, then released."



Watercress
Darter Habitat,
Roebuck
Springs

Mike Howell, Prof Emeritus (retired) from Samford University's Biology Department, who is well-known to many of us, had the honor of naming this new species 60 years ago when a grad student @ Samford. It was originally found in the Bessemer area not far from the tiny Watercress Darter Nat'l Wildlife Refuge. Only the Roebuck Springs population is in the Village Creek watershed; the others are in the Valley Creek watershed. Both creeks flow into the Warrior River.

This species prefers clear cold slow-moving shallow spring water that can be incredibly low in dissolved oxygen. Darters lack a swim bladder, thus cannot regulate their position in the water column. They remain under whatever cover vegetation (such as watercress) is available, only darting out to, for instance, grab a food item. But they aren't immune to the dewatering that City of Bham accidentally caused in 2008, killing some 13,000 of them that got stranded.

The spring originates on state prison property, the Boys School Vacca campus. It then passes under the city's Hawkins Park tennis courts, continues through the golf course where it joins Village Creek (whose furthest out point is approximately behind the Roebuck Plaza Walmart). Darters have, formerly, been found even below this junction.

Because of the environmental sensitivity, especially after the '08 incident, great care is taken to protect the spring run flowing into the creek. Thus, we may get to see the unusual large eared black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia auriculata*), and who knows what other plants & flowers. Our tour will begin at the recently completely greenway (thank you Fresh Water Land Trust) upstream of the tennis courts & continue along the spring run. While sunny & almost certainly hot, the walk is quite gentle. Insect repellent is a great idea, but do stay away from the water when applying it & any other chemical (sunscreen, etc) *puhleeze*.

Monday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. Blanche Dean Chapter Meeting – Homewood Library

Lindsey Barclift will speak on "The Magical World of Mosses"

Mosses are among the oldest, most hardy and environmentally beneficial plants on earth. My program will answer such questions as what is and is not a moss; how and where do mosses grow; and how to cultivate moss. I will also display and discuss my 12 favorite mosses.

Friday, Oct. 26 – Sunday, Oct. 28 Fall Meeting of the Alabama Wildflower Society

Please make your reservations now for what promises to be an excellent weekend! First up is Lagoon Park, Montgomery, consisting of 175 acres of sunny meadows, bogs, ponds and creeks, hardwood forests and piney flats.

we'll help natives in the one plant personal meadow. and harden garden tools thank you! wildflower Toulouse, led



While we are there, with the planting of park by donating from our own gardens for the Select now, pot up off now. Bring and gloves. We Sunday morning is a walk at Fort by Ned Jenkins, state

archaeologist. For lodging, meal information, and registration, visit the AWS website. Speaker for Saturday evening will be Joe Watts, President of the Birmingham Audubon Society and Coordinator for the birding trail project. For questions about the weekend, please contact AWS Vice-president Anne Kitchens: By Phone: 256-714-1607 or by Email: kitchensanne64@gmail.com. Looking forward to seeing you there!