Join us Monday, September 16 to hear Mark Bailey’s talk on his new book, *Lizards and Snakes of Alabama*. Come early, as there will be copies of the book for sale and a few live members of the *reptilia* family to view. The meeting starts at 7pm, at the Homewood Public Library. Once again, Mark Bailey has teamed with Craig Guyer and Robert Mount, both of Auburn University, to produce a spectacular guide to the scaled reptiles of Alabama. What is the difference between a snake and a lizard? Do lizards eat snakes? What keeps snakes away? Mark will answer these questions and more. Another in the Gosse Nature Series, *Lizards and Snakes of Alabama* is a definitive guide to our state’s scaled creatures.

Mark Bailey is co-founder and senior biologist with Conservation Southeast, Inc., a company specializing in conservation of native habitats and species of the southeastern United States. In addition to *Turtles of Alabama* and *Lizards and Snakes of Alabama*, he has also co-authored the forthcoming *Frogs and Salamanders of Alabama*. He was zoologist for The Nature Conservancy’s Alabama Natural Heritage Program from 1989 to 1997. Mark lives near Andalusia in the Conecuh National Forest with his wife Karan and daughter Ava.

Mark your calendars

- **Help Save the Georgia Aster – Turkey Creek Nature Preserve**
  - Sept. 1

- **Blanche Dean Field trip to Shoal Creek Park**
  - Sept. 7

- **Fall Plant Sale Birmingham Botanical Gardens**
  - Sept. 12-14

- **Huntsville’s First Annual Native Plant Symposium**
  - Sept. 12-14

- **September meeting of the Blanche Dean Chapter**
  - Sept. 16

- **October Meeting of the Blanche Dean Chapter**
  - Oct. 14

- **Fall Meeting of the Alabama Wildflower Society**
  - Nov. 1-3
Blanche Dean Chapter’s First Fall Field Trip: Shoal Creek Park on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019

Join the Blanche Dean Chapter of the Alabama Wildflower Society to see fall blooming native plants at Montevallo’s Shoal Creek Park. This is an approximately 167 acre park with about 105 acres in grasslands and 18 acres in an oak-hickory forest. There are wetlands which are mostly restricted to the banks of Shoal Creek and its ephemeral tributaries. Shoal Creek runs through the park, along with 2 different bedrocks. Underlying the lowlands is the Conasauga Formation and is visible at various locations within the park. The upland portion of the park is underlain by the Rome Formation and can be seen in the northwest portion of the park. Hwy 119 bisects the park. The soils in the park are primarily basic (alkaline) due to these limestone formations containing bedrocks. The entire park is relatively flat making it an easy hike/walk. Paths are maintained by mowing, leaving the rest untouched.

Meet Linda Sherk at 8:30 AM in the parking lot Shoal Creek Park 2781 Hwy 119, Montevallo, AL 35115. Shoal Creek Park is between Alabaster and downtown Montevallo. If you need directions or a meet up please contact Linda Sherk at 205-415-1643 or b111@bellsouth.net. Bring water and bug spray, restrooms are available. Those who are interested we will enjoy lunch together afterwards at a nearby restaurant. There is a covered pavilion for those who want to picnic.

Fall Meeting AWS

The Fall Meeting of the Alabama Wildflower Society will be in Tuscumbia on the weekend of November 1st, 2nd and 3rd (observe: no ball games that weekend!) at CANE CREEK PRESERVE owned by Jim and Faye Lacefield. The Preserve is a beautiful 700+ acres with deep overhangs, once housing native Indians, and beautiful waterfalls. Our own Leon Bates and possibly Charles Rose will be leading our hike. Some of this will be strenuous, but the Lacefield’s have a vehicle that can take the handicapped among us to the bottom where the walking is easy. Our dinner Saturday night will be at Coldwater Mill restaurant at 6 PM where we will order from the menu. This is directly across from The Alabama Music Hall of Fame, and if you want to come early Friday this is a wonderful site paying homage to all of our famous singers and songwriters. Our speaker Saturday night will be Patrick Thompson, with the Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance of the Donald E. Davis Arboretum. He will be speaking on the conservation of the Georgia Aster which is in decline. We have a block of rooms at the Microtel Inn and Suites by Wyndham, located at 1852 Hwy 72 East, Tuscumbia. 256-248-0055 or 256-320-4079. We have 10 double queen rooms ($80.00 plus tax) and 5 single rooms ($75.00 = tax). Cut off date is October 25th. Please mention AWS.

Sunday, we will drive to The Dismals Canyon in Haleyville in Franklin County off Hwy 43. If you haven’t been there, it is a wonderful spot with large rock formations and more beautiful waterfalls.

Huntsville Native Plant Symposium

All are invited to attend as Huntsville Botanical Garden hosts its first annual Native Plant Symposium the weekend of September 12-14. Noted speakers include Alan Weakly, conservation biologist and specialist in plants of the Southeast; Dwayne Estes, founder of Southern Grasslands Initiative; and Paulette Ogard, author of Butterflies of Alabama. Guided tours, exhibits, vendors and other events will take place. For more information and registration, go to http://hsybg.org/native-plants-symposium. Additionally -- AWS will have a table at the Symposium, and volunteers are needed. If you can take a shift on Friday or Saturday, please let Anna Bright know by emailing her at abrightdesign@aol.com. She would like to have at least two people each day.

If you would like to man the AWS table please let me know abrightdesign@aol.com. I would like to have at least two people for Friday and two for Saturday.
Native Plants and Nature Based Solutions to Climate Change
Emily B. Roberson and Doug Tallamy
Native Plant Conservation Campaign

What if there were one simple thing individuals, businesses and communities could do to address climate change? There is — plant native plants! They deliver benefits to our ecosystem in ways that introduced plants cannot. Why is this so?

Only the natives can sustain the abundance and diversity of the animal world: the 4000 species of native bees in North America, the hundreds of species of insectivorous birds, bats, lizards, bears, and foxes. Above all, only natives can support the insects that provide essential protein for these creatures. Those birds whose morning songs brighten your day rear their young on insects. A world without native plants and insects is a world without biological diversity, and a world without biological diversity is a world without humans!

The good news is that by saving native plants, we also battle climate change and other environmental woes.

Nothing sequesters carbon and manages watersheds as well as native forests.

According to the U.S. Forest Service, urban trees in the United States remove 784,000 tons of air pollution annually. Planting more native trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals would provide even more pollution control.

Restoring native plant communities could absorb enough carbon to compensate for more than 20% of U.S. greenhouse emissions.

Trees also create shade, lowering local temperatures and reducing energy use and emissions from building cooling.

Naturally dense native plant communities can also buffer severe storms. Roots and shoots absorb energy from wind and water, lessening storm strength and damage.

Collectively these processes are called Nature-Based Solutions.

Let’s fill our parks, gardens, roadsides and open spaces with natives, and then sit back, count our savings and enjoy the rewards. We can do it in our gardens and farms. Cities can do it along roadways, in parks and public spaces. Our gardens and communities will become more ecologically resilient, comfortable, safe, and will require less maintenance.

Help the Georgia Aster
Speaker at Turkey Creek N.P.
Sunday, September 1st - 1 p.m. at the Nature Center
3906 Turkey Creek Road - Pinson, Al 35126

The Friends of Turkey Creek Nature Preserve would like to invite you to an opportunity to learn about the Georgia Aster and it’s plight to survive.

Our speaker will be Patrick Thompson with the Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance of the Donald E. Davis Arboretum, Arboretum Specialist. He also worked for Auburn University. Patrick will be speaking on the conservation of the Georgia aster which is in decline.

We hope at Turkey Creek Nature Preserve to learn how we can help by propagating the Georgia Aster in our Native Plant Greenhouse for reintroduction to suitable sites.

Call Karen at 205-218-6800 for additional information.
As customary, tonight’s meeting was held at the Homewood Public Library. President Linda Sherk called the meeting to order shortly after 7:10 p.m. Figures were not readily available for our treasury fortune, but all were reminded by our treasurer, Ida Gleaton, that there was $2,296.71 as of last month.

The initial order of business was rewarding all new joiners and renewers with their potted sundrops (this had been promised). AWS tee-shirts were distributed to both those who had pre-ordered and those who wished to purchase extras on the scene. Among the announcements: 1) There will be a Wildflower Walk at the Cahaba Refuge on Sunday, May 19, with Michelle Reynolds and Linda Sherk leading; and 2) The Alabama Wildflower Society will be meeting in Anniston on June 7-9. Hayes Jackson will be leading the June 8 hikes. For additional info regarding activities contact Pres. Sherk at #205-415-1643 or blt111@bellsouth.net.

Speaking to us this evening was the honorable Henry Hughes, recently-retired from the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, where he served as Director of Education. Immensely studied in the subjects of forestry and botany, he has worked for more than twenty years in the urban forestry and restoration field in Alabama.

Mr. Hughes’ topic for tonight’s wild-eyed throng of listeners was The Centennial Tree Program. The title owes its origin to a similar undertaking in the state of New York some number of years ago. Much of Mr. Hughes’ concentration has been in the Shades Creek area of Birmingham. The genesis was in 2008. This particular area of land was originally heavy forested 10-12,000 years ago. It has remained “forested” but to a much smaller degree than in centuries past. The Centennial project began with gathering acorns and seeds from older trees, some standing more than a hundred years, and potting them. After two or more, years, they were re-potted to larger containers. The goal was to “rejuvenate” an area to reforestation and independent sustainability in something like twelve years. Species such as oaks, catalpas, and boxelder maples, and others, were the subjects.

The concentration of species could suggest, if not make known, the location of past swamps. Tree sizes were generally determined by elevation. Quality of topsoil was a function of rainfall. Fluvial species had (and have) interesting redistribution schemes.

Alabama was blessed with big swaths of natural forest, in contrast to many other areas. Created was what’s named a “circular forest” with protective buffer trees. Forest fragmentation was minimized.

Imperative with the goals of the Project was not planting improper species, or non-natives. Many great landscape trees are not reared or propagated by humankind! The Project considered this. Education and learning/teaching was part and parcel of the endeavor.

Simple to understand, but mindlessly given no attention, is the fact that abolishing leaves negatively affects forest regeneration. Ecology does not always mesh with orthodox aesthetics.

The lively and informative delivery concluded with discussion of the ‘back-then” ratio of longleaf pines to the hardy hardwoods. It’s difficult to put a number on this but the pines were certainly more prevalent than in today’s world.

The meeting concluded shortly after 8:30 p.m. Following the Alabama summer, we will once more come together on Monday, September 16, 2019, same time, same place.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles A. Gleason,
Recorder