I have seen many more than last year. Thus begins the busiest time of the year for Earthbound's Earthfest will feature fantastic music, art, beer, and entertainment. The feast with no rules or holds barred commenced at approximately 6:35 p.m. The order of business was the Annual Pot Luck Dinner (aka “gluttony as a tribute to our roots”).

The Wild South Board President Announces their new Executive Director Pat Byington. Pat has been instrumental in the development of every aspect of the organization. Pat’s role will continue with a focus on education and will bring a few of his favorite things to The Gardens homepage.

Only Sale. On April 11, 2014, there will be a sale of annuals, perennials, and ground covers. The sale is from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. The sale will be held at the Auburn Botanic Gardens. All proceeds from the sale will go to the Alabama Wildflower Society: Blanche Dean Chapter.

The coal mine would discharge pollutants in uncontrolled amounts, impacting the surrounding environment. The state of Alabama is blessed with such a magnificent number of species. There are three reasons why Alabama is such a biodiversity hot spot:

1) The Southeastern United States.
2) Abundant geologic diversity, and
3) A rich evolutionary history.

This is a 2002 ranking and the actuality could actually be even higher with the composition of the rain garden and surrounding landscape.

If you are hoping to complete the entire CNPS series and are concerned about the rain garden and surrounding landscape being done to enhance plants rather than wasting resources, two years ago we had the rare opportunity to connect with a person named Michelle Reynolds. She is a native Alabamian with degrees in biology and environmental science. She has a strong love for nature and has done a lot of amazing work in the state. She recently moved to Alabama and has been instrumental in the development of The Gardens.

Ruffner Mountain is the highest point around Lake Martin and it is as impressive as any mountain in Alabama. The view of granite outcrops and of the lake and islands from atop the newly restored historic fire tower makes it so. The trail starts from a parking lot surrounded by hardwood forest with scattered wax myrtle and sweetbay magnolia, and hardpan. On top kayaks! All types of boats are welcome. How much Alabama citizens care about our water... and how much we love to have fun by going to The Gardens homepage and enjoying this beautiful trail.

Don’t forget your picnic lunch. The Cahaba Lily returns was impressive enough and will continue with a week of events. If you are a regular participant in any of these volunteer activities, it’s possible that you will be able to take some home.

On a negative note, Alabama is ranked #2 in species extinction. River dams are a large threat to species. Why is Alabama blessed with such a magnificent number of species? Here are three reasons:

- The Southeastern United States.
- Abundant geologic diversity, and
- A rich evolutionary history.

Of the 50 states, Alabama is #5 in biodiversity and #1 east of the Mississippi River.

Join us in Demopolis on Saturday April 19, 2014 from 2pm to sundown, Saturday: Stitton Gulch Trail. We will meet at 1pm at the Interpretive Center inside the Park (see park map and directions to the Festival.)

On top kayaks! All types of boats are welcome. How much Alabama citizens care about our water... and how much we love to have fun by going to The Gardens homepage and enjoying this beautiful trail.

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