

## Alabama Wildflower Society Blanche Dean Chapter

**Dr. Ellen W. McLaughlin**  
Is our next speaker ... meet us at the Birmingham  
Botanical Gardens. Monday Sept 12, 2011. 7 PM



### OUR Calendar:

**Sat., Sept. 3 at 9am**  
Fieldtrip to The Kathy  
Freeland Bibb  
County Glades  
Preserve.

**Monday, Sept. 12,**  
**2011** - Meeting at  
7:00PM at the Bir-  
mingham Botanical  
Gardens - Dr. Ellen  
McLaughlin –  
Around the World  
with Dandelions.

**Saturday, October 8,**  
**2011** – Fieldtrip to  
Turkey Creek

**Fri., Nov 4 and Sat.,**  
**Nov. 5** -CSNPC

**Monday, Nov. 7, 2011**  
– Tom Diggs will  
talk about his liatris  
research - Meeting  
at 7:00PM at the  
Birmingham Bo-  
tanical Gardens.



## DANDELIONS: AT HOME AND AROUND THE WORLD

Dr. Ellen W. McLaughlin will be speaker at the Blanche Dean Wildflower Society Meeting. Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Monday Sept 12, 2011. 7 PM

*"Taraxacum officinale* L. 1753 is an acaulescent perennial herb with perpendicular roots and pinnatisect leaves in a basal rosette. The scapes are hollow with a solitary inflorescence composed of bisexual yellow-rayed florets. Nutlets are muriccate with a long beak attached to a white pappus. Found along roadsides, pastures, lawns and waste places." (Radford, et al. Vascular Flora of the Carolinas).

This is the technical description of a fascinating flower that everyone knows – the common dandelion. This program will present the origin of the dandelion, its world-wide distribution and discuss some of the reasons for its success. Dandelions are apomictic, that is they can produce viable seeds without pollination, cross-fertilization or self-fertilization. Dr. McLaughlin will present her own observations on dandelion growth from bud to bloom to puff ball and seed germination. The use of dandelions as a food and herbal medicine will also be discussed.

**Dr. Ellen McLaughlin is retired Professor Emeritus from the Samford University Biology Department and now teaches courses in the Natural History Certificate program in Samford After Sundown. She will be teaching "Tree Identification and Tree Bark Biota", "Urban Wildflowers" and "Insects and their Kin" this Fall 2011.**

We will vote on email newsletters instead of paper .  
Please send Linda your email address at  
blt111@bellsouth.net

**Field Trip SOON! Sat., Sep 3, 2011 at 9am**

Blanche Dean Chapter, Al  
Wildflower Society

**Kathy Stiles Freeland  
Bibb County Glades**

Fieldtrip

**Sat., Sep 3, at 9am**

Jan Midgely, leader

For further information:

contact Linda Sherk

205/415-1643 or Marty

Schulman 205/617-0273

Join us for a fairly mild walk on some grades across the unusual dolomite formations that host unique & endangered plants in the Lost World in Bibb County along the Little Cahaba River.



**Kathy Stiles Freeland Bibb  
County Glades outing**

**JOIN US**

**Sat. Sept 3 at 9am**

An endemic is an organism which lives in only a small geographic area or one type of habitat. The cedar glades are unusual in having a large number of endemic species.

**Directions:**

Coming from southern end of Bham:

- Take 1-65 south to the Calera/US Highway 31 exit and travel south about 3 miles into Calera
- In downtown Calera, turn right onto Alabama Highway 25 south towards Centreville
- Travel about 12-13 miles through Montevallo and Wilton
- **We will meet Jan @ the intersection of 25 with CR65 @ 8:30;** then we'll proceed to the TNC preserve as follows
- Turn right (north) onto Bibb County Road 65 and travel about 3 miles
- Cross the Little Cahaba River at Bulldog Bend and continue for about 0.8 miles beyond bridge
- Turn left (south) onto an unnamed dirt road and travel about 0.2 mile to where the road dead-ends at the preserve parking area (where there is a prominent sign). Follow the nature trail to the Little Cahaba River. We plan to arrive at 9 am.

Alternatively, join us to consolidate vehicles & caravan to the meeting place planning to arrive at 9am:

**We will meet @ 8:00 behind the gas station in front of WalMart @ exit 238 (Alabaster, after the tank farm exit).**

We will caravan from there to the meeting point @ 25/65; we will proceed down I65 & exit for the the Shelby Cty airport, then take 12 (past Shelby Academy) for ~2 miles to 22, then turn right for ~8 miles to the intersection with 119; then left into Montevallo.

Coming from West Blocton:

Take CR24 past the Cahaba River NWR, cross the river, then turn right onto CR65 @ the stop sign. Turn right onto the unnamed dirt road (next-to-last one before crossing the Little Cahaba River @ Bulldog Bend). We should be **arriving by 9AM.**



*The fringed bluestar is found in open glades, while the Alabama phlox may be seen on roadside embankments.*



## Ruffner Mountain Volunteers Needed

Michelle Reynolds  
[www.coverings.me](http://www.coverings.me)  
[coverings@bham.rr.com](mailto:coverings@bham.rr.com)

### Monday Morning Work Parties

Volunteers are needed to help weed and maintain the Ruffner Mountain native plant gardens. If you have a flexible schedule and can work on weekdays like me, please come and join us on Mondays from 7AM to

10AM. Drop in and work anytime during the work party hours. As you work, you'll learn about Ruffner Mountain and its plant communities. Please bring your own tools, drinks and snacks. Participants are advised to wear sturdy shoes, work gloves and other seasonally appropriate clothing. We encourage volunteers from all backgrounds and experience levels. Kids are welcome when accompanied by a parent or guardian. Please contact me at (205) 914-7077, or e-mail [coverings@bham.rr.com](mailto:coverings@bham.rr.com) for more

#### Minutes of AWS: Blanche Dean Chapter—June 6, 2011 Meeting

The meeting met as scheduled at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, called to order at a few minutes after 7:00 p.m. by President Linda Sherk. Treasurer MaryAlys Griffis announced that we had \$1383.58 in our group funds. Dr. Ellen McLaughlin of the Samford after Sundown Program had several wildflowers on display for everyone interested to take a stab at identification. Later this year, she will be repeating her course on usage of the microscope. There will be more.

Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve: The area needs weeding and volunteers will be welcomed. In addition, another outing to the Bibb County Glades is upcoming Sat., Sept. 3 at 9am.

Our speaker for the evening was the renowned Samford University biology professor, Dr. Larry Davenport. He has adorned the Samford campus for 25 years. Tonight, he focused exclusively upon the history and the making of his new publication *NATURE JOURNAL*, available since August of 2010 (hereafter sometimes referred to as simply *JOURNAL*).

The magazine *ALABAMA HERITAGE*, originated by Suzanne Wolfe and Guy Hubbs, had its initial printing in 1986. In 1988, Hubbs contacted Dr. Davenport about writing an article for the magazine concerning Charles Moore who had been a topic for Dr. Davenport's Master's thesis. Another article about the Cahaba Lily (Dr. Davenport has spoken at the annual Cahaba Lily Festival in Bibb County for ~ 25 years) appeared in 1991. The following year, 1992, is when Dr. Davenport began to present a column on a quarterly basis. Dr. Davenport, ever the scientist with the inherent and necessary facts-only delivery, learned that writing for the *AL HERITAGE* magazine was going to require some alterations on his part, i.e., some "entertaining" literary ad-libbing and colorful tangential dialogue. This was a transition of epic proportions. With the help of many, including Mike Howell, the "science" contact, daughter Laura, a poet and one who had no hesitation in criticizing Dad, and wife Rebecca, an artist,

Continued on last page.

### The Alabama Rivers Alliance and Alabama Environmental Council proudly host

SYRCL's  
**WILD & SCENIC**® FILM  
 FESTIVAL

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

President - Linda Sherk

Vice President of programs - Marty Schulman

Vice President of field trips, Michelle Reynolds

Treasurer - Maryalys Griffis

Recorder—Charles Gleaton

Editor/Web Site - Karen Hutchinson

**When:** Thursday, September 8, doors open at 5:30pm

**Where:** WorkPlay Theater 500 23rd Street South, Birmingham, AL 35233

Tickets are now for sale online! <http://www.alabamarivers.org/events/wildandscenic>

**Buy your tickets online and pick them up at the will call desk the night of the event.**

Ticket Pricing:        \$25 VIP admission        \$10 General Admission

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival is the largest environmental film festival in the United States. It sits apart from the hundreds of festivals around the world by leaving you feeling INSPIRED and MOTIVATED to go out and make a difference in your community and the world.

September 2011 News

**Our state office of the Alabama Wildflower Society will meet during the Central South Native Plant Conference at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens the weekend of November 4 & 5, 2011**

***Native Plants – The Bigger Picture  
How Native Plants Complete the Puzzle***

In addition to discussing many wonderful native plants and their related topics, this conference will focus on the numerous important roles they play in our ecosystems and how we can help keep those systems intact. We will address the interrelationships of native plants to the myriad of life forms...birds, bees, butterflies, bugs – and humans!

Motel accommodations will be at the newly renovated Roadway Inn on Oxmoor Road which is approximately five miles from the gardens. Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens greatly appreciates your sponsorship of our Central South Native Plant Conference. As part of your sponsorship, your members get to attend the conference for the **discounted rate of \$100**. For your members to receive this discount they will need to put this code: **0945B** on their registration form.. For full information on the conference, please go to <http://www.bbgardens.org/central-south.php>

**Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Alabama**

by Robert Kral, Alvin R. Diamond, Jr., Steven L. Ginzburg, Curtis J. Hansen, Robert R. Haynes, Brian R. Keener, Michel G. Lelong, Daniel D. Spaulding, and Michael Woods

ISBN-13: 978-1-889878-34-8 Want one? order at this website <http://www.brit.org/brit-press/books/sbm-36>

The *Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Alabama* presents the first comprehensive statewide checklist of vascular plants for Alabama in over 100 years. Despite numerous county-level and regional plant checklists, Alabama has lacked a comprehensive and modern checklist or flora of since Charles Mohr's 1901 publication of *Plant Life of Alabama*. This compilation is based on thousands of voucher collections made primarily by the authors over decades of field work in the state. This annotated checklist of vascular plants includes notes on rarity, nativity and selected synonyms. The combined total of 3,743 species and 1,120 genera in 204 families indicates considerable floristic variety and elevates Alabama high among states with great overall plant diversity. As plant research and discovery in Alabama continues forward, this list will serve as a baseline for understanding the diversity of plant life in the state and will prove useful to botanists, conservation biologists, ecologists and anyone

Minutes continued:

the transition materialized into at least a passing success. Alice Christenson was another party teaching and emphasizing creativity.

The initial 17 columns, in spite of a "change" in Dr. Davenport's writing style, were more "factual" than spontaneously "entertaining". Article #18, about Shark's Tooth Creek in Greene County, marked a turning point. More "artistic expression" began to emerge.

After 40 articles came the idea of a publication. The University of Alabama Press, later the publisher for the JOURNAL, was much less than ecstatic. After about 50 columns, the column collections began to be modified. Dr. Davenport began to tire of the project. Some time later, Beth Motherwell of the University Press had, reportedly, "a lightbulb moment". She encouraged the idea of a publication of "about 25 of the best articles" with the addition that readers augment the articles with notation of their very own personal projects. Thus was born NATURE JOURNAL.

The Journal's articles include endeavors at the Walls of Jericho in north Alabama, experiences with mushrooms, the fascinating appearances and disappearances of cicadas, the majesty of the Great Blue Heron, etc. There is even a chapter entitled "Sex and the Freshwater Mussel". Dr. Davenport's childhood memories are a large part of much of the material.

The JOURNAL is part of the University of Alabama Press' Gosse Nature Guides Series. Another has been published about butterflies. One on ferns is upcoming. Exciting meeting? You betcha,

The presentation and meeting concluded a few minutes before 8:00 p.m. We will next meet on September 12 when Dr. McLaughlin will speak of the very common but very internationally existent and hardy dandelion

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles E. Gleaton, Recorder

