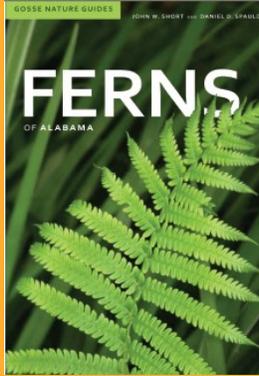


Alabama Wildflower Society

BLANCHE DEAN CHAPTER

SEPTEMBER 2012



You are cordially invited to the Official Book Launch of

Ferns of Alabama

By John W. Short and Daniel D. Spaulding

Thursday, Oct 25, 2012

4:00-5:00 p.m. Host Party & Early Signing

5:00 p.m. Public Reception

5:30 p.m. Program

Auditorium
at
Birmingham Botanical
Gardens
2612 Park Lane Road
Birmingham, AL 35223

Books available for purchase at **Leaf & Petal** at the Gardens Gift Shop

RSVP to

elbertareid@bellsouth.net
or 205.879.1935

Hosts

Birmingham Audubon Society
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Birmingham Fern Society
Blanche Dean Chapter, Alabama Wildflower Society
Crepe Myrtle Garden Club
Little Garden Club
Red Mountain Garden Club

Butterfly – Passionvine (Maypops) Coevolution: Butterflies Avoid Plant Bodyguards

Join us for our next meeting - Monday, September 10 – Meeting at the BBG starting at 7:00P

Gulf Fritillaries, common AL butterflies, are members of a family of butterflies that have coevolved with a family of plants (Passionvines or Maypops) throughout the warmer parts of the Americas. The plants, known for their beautiful flowers and fruit, are protected from most predators by the toxic chemicals they produce, but the butterfly larvae are able to detoxify the plant chemicals and use them in their own predator defenses. The plants have secondary defenses, such as using ants as bodyguards. My research indicates that the Gulf fritillaries have evolved a way to avoid the ant bodyguards.

After working as a postdoctoral research associate the Zoology Department at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and in the Biology Department at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Dr. Gannon served as Assistant Professor of Biology at UNLV, Gettysburg College, and Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana before coming to Birmingham-Southern College in 1995.



Speaker will be:

Andrew T. Gannon, Ph.D.

Professor of Biology

Birmingham-Southern College



Minutes of Last Meeting On June 4, 2012

The meeting commenced at approximately 7:10 p.m. on the grounds of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, being called to order by President Linda Sherk.

Treasurer Maryalys Griffis reported that there was \$1414.47 in Society funds. It was announced that a symposium on Preserving the Hemlock would be held at Samford University on Thursday, June 7, from 8:00a.m. until 4:00p.m. A lunch buffet would be available. Also, Dr. Ellen McLaughlin of the Samford after Sundown Program would be teaching a Natural History geology course on Saturday, June 9.

This evening's presentation was presented by Ms. Rebekah Pine-Parker of the Freshwater Land Trust. She is a land steward for this organization. A Huntsville native, she received a B.A. in urban environmental studies from Birmingham-Southern College in 2009. She thereafter received an M.S. in geography with a concentration in physical geography from the University of Alabama. She assumed her position as land steward in April of this year.

The Freshwater Land Trust, Alabama's first, covers the counties of Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair, Bibb, Blount, Walker, Tuscaloosa, and Chilton. Currently, with other partner entities, in excess of 10,000 acres are protected. Criteria for Trust intervention are (one or more) : 1) Water quality; 2) Biological conservation; 3) Recreational potential; 4) Important connectors to other conservation areas, and 5) Community Conservation

Priorities. The steward conducts annual site inspections on all fee-owned properties and conservation easements. She is also responsible for cleanups and restorative projects as invasive species removal, etc.

Some bigger current projects are

- Turkey Creek, Tapawingo Springs of Turkey Creek is the spawning area for the endangered vermilion darter.
- El Paso Wildflower Preserve, in Homewood, opened in March. It now has 1-2 miles of trails and will later connect to the Shades Creek Greenway. Trillium is prolific.
- American Chestnut Foundation, The Chestnut Foundation accepted a wonderful donation from Jerry & Joyce Lanning. They gave about 40 acres to FWLT to be another orchard site for the AL chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation; FWLT has already taken responsibility for overseeing the site, such as getting the irrigation system installed. The Chestnut Foundation now has more than 150 seedlings planted on Chandler Mtn. in St. Clair County.
- (One Mile) Red Rock Ridge and Valley Trail System have some thirty municipalities presently participating. There are 250 miles of proposed

greenways and 500 miles of complete streets throughout Jefferson County.

The Trust accepts funds from any and all sources. The current primary donors are various private organizations, corporate establishments, and an array of businesses. Grants are sought but are a minimal percentage of operating funds. FLT baseball caps were sold tonight at our meeting and a good number were bought. Needed money is needed money.

The Trust has 7 employees. Membership is open to all and volunteers are welcomed. Rebekah can be reached at telephone #205-417-2775.

There will be a field trip, dubbed a Full Moon Hike, at Turkey Creek Falls on August 3.

May the heavens be blessed for the efforts of our young folk toward protecting Planet Earth.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10P.M. Following the heat of summer, we will again convene on September 10.

*Alabamawildflower.org
Look for us on FACEBOOK!*

The AWS Fall Meeting

will be held at Dismals Canyon in Franklin County south of Russellville.

Dismals Canyon is a National Natural Landmark as recognized by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

<http://www.dismalscanyon.com> (ph 205-993-4559)

Dismals Canyon, is located in northwest Alabama, about 30 miles west of the Sipsey Wilderness, 12 miles south of Russellville, Alabama off US-43/AL-17 between Russellville and Hamilton on Hwy. 8



EVENT #1 THE DISMALITES Friday, Oct 5th

The Dismalites (*Orfelia fultoni*) are the larval stage of a very rare bioluminescent insect that emit a glowing blue light. These insects require natural conditions as found in the canyon which include high humidity, a rich humus and moss layer, and darkness. They build sticky webs to trap other insects which are drawn to the light produced by the Dismalite. Similar insect species have been documented in Australia and New Zealand but the Dismalites is a different species only occurring in very few places in North America. This fall they will be featured on an episode of Wild Horizons which airs on the Discovery Channel. The film crew obtained their footage from Dismals Canyon. This is truly an extraordinary phenomenon of nature that occurs in our state. Don't miss it!

**Ask for
AWS
group
discount**

Due to limited space, meet us at the parking lot of the Dismals at 8:30 p.m. where the walk will begin at 9:00 p.m. Do not forget your flashlight!

EVENT #2 WILDFLOWERING & BOTANIZING Saturday, Oct 6th

Saturday morning we will again meet at the parking lot of the Dismals Canyon at 9:00 a.m. Each person will be responsible for their discounted entry fee of \$8.50 to canyon staff. Once inside, we will hike and botanize the 1.5 mile trail which is 0.75 miles in, and the same 0.75 miles back. We will see some hemlock near the southern most part of their range, along with many other fall wildflowers and interesting sandstone geologic formations. Do not forget your lunch!

There will be no official Sunday activities.

LODGING

Some of you may need lodging for the outing. The official hotel for this meeting is the Best Western Hotel & Suites in Russellville 13770 Highway 43, Russellville, AL 35653. Ph 256-332-1002. When you call to make your reservation, be sure to tell them you are part of The "Alabama Wildflower Society Group" to receive the discounted rate (\$67.49 + tax). Arrangements for the hotel should be made before September 28th in order to receive the locked rate.

Calendar Dates to Remember:

10/25/12 Book Signing for "Ferns of Alabama" at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens , time to be set. More details later

11/5/12 Blanche Dean Chapter Meeting, speaker will be Beth Young introducing her Long Leaf Pine book due out in October.

11/17/12 Fall Color trip to High Falls and Buck's Pocket, Michelle Reynolds leading, more details to follow

3/4/13 Pot Luck Meeting at the BBG starts at 6:30PM

3/16/13 Field Trip to EL Paso Wildflower Preserve with the Freshwater Land Trust (back up date is 4/6/13) more details to follow

4/2/13 Blanche Dean Chapter Meeting at the BBG (hopefully will move to Monday , April 1)

4/27/13 Field Trip to Cloudland Canyon in GA...Rachel Young leading, more details later

6/3/13 Blanche Chapter Meeting at the BBG

9/9/13 Blanche Dean Chapter Meeting at the BBG

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

Alabamawildflower.org
Look for us on FACEBOOK!

We received the following request to help collect Milkweed seed.

My name is Tori Pocius and I am the Milkweed Coordinator at Monarch Watch at the University of Kansas. Over the past two years, we have launched a "Bring Back the Monarchs" Campaign which focuses on restoring milkweed habitat across the country. The link below details our campaign: <http://monarchwatch.org/bring-back-the-monarchs/>

Unfortunately, we do not currently have *asclepias* seeds from Alabama as part of our seed bank here in Kansas. We were hoping that your organization would be willing to help us gather seed pods from your area to facilitate milkweed restoration in Alabama. We are looking for seed pods from the following species:

A. exultata, *A. humistrata*, *A. incarnate*, *A. tuberosa*, *A. variegata*, *A. verticillata*, *A. viridis*, *A. speciosa*

We would really appreciate any help you would be willing to provide. Please let us know if seed collection would be possible :-)

Thank you for supporting the conservation of native plants and wildflowers,
Tori Pocius - Milkweed Coordinator - Monarch Watch—<http://monarchwatch.org>

Meet the Natives ... learn medicinal plant species

10/20/2012

'Meet the Natives' Plant Hike

Join Ila Hatter, "The Lady of the Forest", for a walk to "Meet the Natives" personally. Learn plant species that were used medicinally in different cultures and the folklore of different plants.

Date: Saturday, October 20, 2012

Where: Meet at the Nature Center (Next to DeSoto's Country Store) **DeSoto State Park**

Time: 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Free to the public; no registration required. Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!

Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov or Call (256) 997-5025