

Alabama Wildflower Society

Blanche Dean Chapter

November Meeting coming up soon ...Nov 1st

Bob Tate will treat us with an update on where in the world he has been this year.

Bob tells us that he will talk with us about his experiences “From the Pacific Coast to the Atlantic Coast and One Stop In Between”.

Join us Monday, Nov 1 - 7 PM in the BBG meeting room.

We're on the WEB!
alabamawildflower.org



President - Linda Sherk

Vice President in charge of programs - Marty Schulman

Vice President in charge of field trips, Michelle Reynolds

Treasurer - Maryalys Griffis

Recorder: Charles Gleaton

Editor/Web Site - Karen Hutchinson

Bob Tate—Bio

Born: in Birmingham, Alabama, Married to Ann , 2 sons- Robert and Stephen with 4 grandchildren - Alex , Erin, Elise and Reid.

Graduate of the University of Alabama and University of Alabama School of Law

Board of Director of the Birmingham Audubon Society, 1975-to present, Cahaba River Society,

Board of Directors 1990-1998, President 1998, Alabama Wildflower Society, President 1981 and 1982, Blanche Dean Chapter, Alabama Wildflower Society, President 1985, Watershed Identity Foundation, President and Board of Directors 2002-2005. Cahaba River Society: 1995 *Cahaba Conservationist of the Year*, Cahaba River Society: 1996 *Lifetime Achievement Award*,

Alabama Commission on Environmental Initiatives 1999-2001, Southern Appalachian Mountain Initiative 1992-2002

Practiced law with the Firm of Burr & Forman LLP from June 1957 through December 1997.

Retired, Senior Partner on December 31, 1997

2011 Calendar of the Blanche Dean Chapter of AWS

- **Monday, March 7, 2011 – Pot Luck Dinner at the Birmingham – Paulette Haywood Ogard/Sara Bright- Butterflies of Alabama - Botanical Gardens-bring a dish and join us at 6:30AM for some wildflower fellowship.**
- **Saturday, March 26 – Field Trip to the Pocket.**
- **Monday, April 4, 2011-Meeting at 7:00PM at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens – Wendy Jackson – Fresh Water Land Trust.**
- **Monday, June 6, 2011 - Meeting at 7:00PM at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens –Dr. Larry Davenport – “Nature Journals”.**
- **Monday, Sept. 12, 2011 - Meeting at 7:00PM at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens - Dr. Ellen McLaughlin.**
- **Monday, Nov. 7, 2011 – Tom Diggs, - Meeting at 7:00PM at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.**

Minutes of September 13, 2010

The Society met as scheduled at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. It was the initial gathering following a hot summer hiatus. President L. Sherk called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

The first item for presentation/discussion was Dr. Ellen McLaughlin, retired Samford University biology professor, speaking of her continuing weekend community education courses with the Samford after Sundown Program. During the fall will be classes on local geology, Alabama fishes, urban fall wildflowers, etc. Contact Dr. McLaughlin or Ms. Sherk for additional information.

Visitors were recognized. It was announced that there would be a trip to the Moss Rock Preserve in Hoover on 9-18 and a fall wildflower trip to Ruffner Mountain on 10-9. Marty Schulman and Michelle Reynolds are now, officially, Society vice-presidents, the former in charge of programs and the latter in charge of field trips. The much-talked about “butterfly book”, published by the University of Alabama Press, is now available to the public. Programs/trips for the upcoming season include again visiting “The Pocket”, in Georgia, on 3-26, hearing Samford’s Dr. Davenport speak of his new book in June, the annual “pot luck”

dinner being in March, Dr. E. McLaughlin speaking in September, etc. All in all, there is much to be seen and heard ahead.

Tonight’s delightful presentation was delivered by Michelle Reynolds, Ruffner Mountain Nature Center education committee chair. Her topic was “Succulents: Native to the Americas from tropical to subtropical, to alpine to our four deserts, to Alabama glades, AND suggestions for your local garden”.

Succulents are actually not a biological classification. They are plants with particular properties, and in essence water-retentive plants which have adapted to extremes of harshness and which now require minimal water for survival. They’re the closest thing to plastic in the plant world. They don’t really need to be pruned or deadheaded. There are four types, namely 1) stem (cactus and cactus-like), 2) caudiciform, 3) root, and 4) leaf.

Succulents are comprised of 10,000 species. There are sixty families. They are very cellular and very juicy. Their flowers bloom for only short periods of time.

Survival mechanisms (defense), essential for generational longevity, are waxy cuticles, hairs, and spines and thorns. Fruits and seeds differ abundantly. Flowers, as

with the cactus, are often yellow. The legendary Galapagos Islands are replete with numerous specimens.

Flora are often dependent on fauna, and vice-versa. The cactus finch thrives on the ingestion of cactus.

Only time prohibits hours and hours of discussion about succulents. Be it known, however, that the quarry at the Ruffner Mountain Preserve has a beautiful stand of false aloe. Ms. Reynolds is especially fond of this physical presence.

As a final note, it is important to know that succulents can make for beautiful gardens and collections. Planting on rooftops goes back to Roman times, and perhaps earlier.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00p.m. We will next convene on Nov. 1 when Bob Tate will speak of “Where In The World Has He Been?”.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles E. Gleaton, Recorder