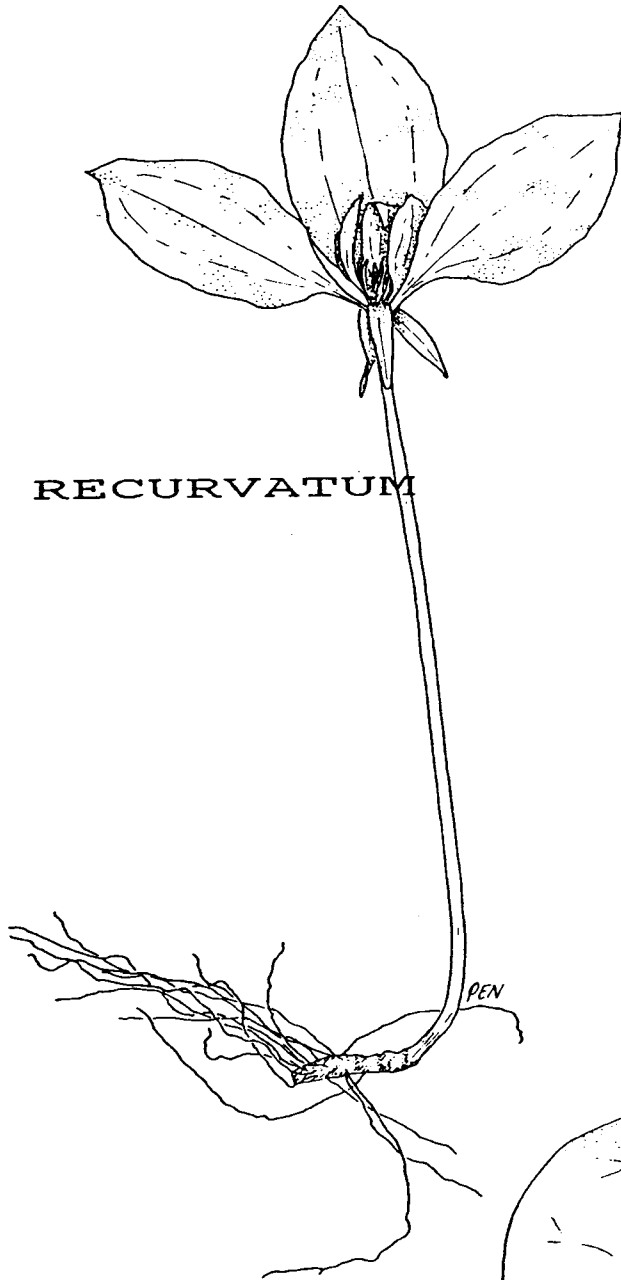


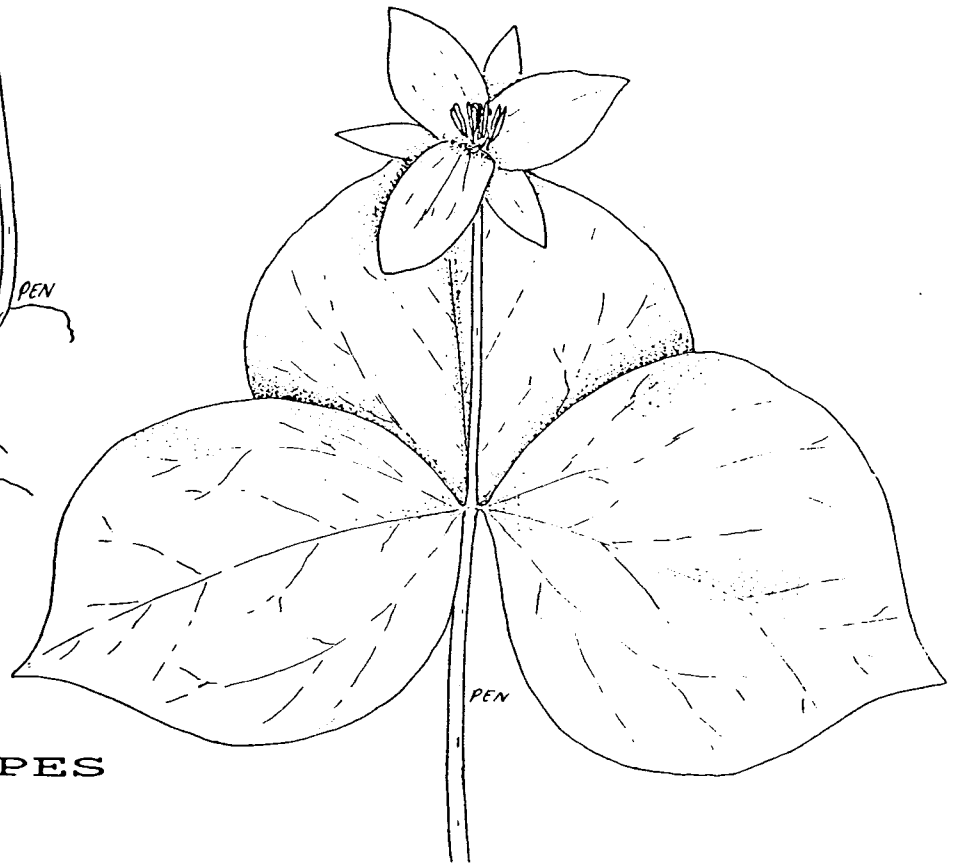
MISSISSIPPI NATIVE
PLANT SOCIETY
JANUARY 1987

TWO MISSISSIPPI
TRILLIUMS

T. RECURVATUM



T. FLEXIPES



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Faye Swan

Plans are firming up for 1987 and it promises to be a busy year. Our first planned activity is our boat trip to Horn Island on April 4. Complete information on this trip, including registration forms, will be mailed at a later date. Please look at your mailing label and see if you have an 87 after your name (or LIFE). If you do not please get your membership dues in right away. Paid up members will be given priority on reservations, for both boat and room. Annual dues are:

Individual: \$5.00 Family: \$7.50
 Sustaining: \$10.00 Student: \$2.50
 Contributing: \$25.00 Life: \$75.00

Please mail your dues to: Travis Salley
 202 N. Andrews
 Cleveland, MS 38732

We will have a limited number of rooms reserved at the Gulf Coast Research Lab.

Our joint meeting with the Alabama Wildflower Society is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 25 and 26, at Bankhead National Forest. Headquarters will be at the Imperial Inn, Haleyville, Alabama 35653 [Telephone: 205-486-5205]. Please make any room reservations directly with Imperial Inn. The meeting will begin at 9:00 am at Imperial Inn, with registration, visiting, etc., and will leave for the first field trip at 9:30 sharp. Imperial Inn will reserve 50 rooms for the entire group until 10 days before the meeting. Room rates are (per room) 1 bed: 1 person \$23.00, 2 persons \$27.00; 2 beds: 2 persons \$29.00, 3 persons \$33.00. In making your reservations, please state that you are attending the wildflower meeting. The evening meal on Saturday night will be at the Galley Restaurant adjacent to Imperial Inn, 6:30 pm, followed by a program. Cost of the meal will be \$8.50, including tip. Checks for the meal should be made out to the Alabama Wildflower Society and sent to Mrs. Inga Paul, 2208 DeRussey Road, S.E., Huntsville, Alabama 35601. She will call in reservations with checks which should reach her at least a week before the meeting. We will have picnic lunches on Saturday and Sunday. Sunday breakfast will be "on your own". MNPS will provide the program for the banquet with Dr. Steve Timme agreeing to do this for us.

Alabama usually has a plant sale at one of their spring meetings and felt that our joint meeting would be good one to do this. They suggest that every member bring at least one plant to be sold. Proceeds would be divided between the two societies. If you have further questions concerning the meeting, please contact George Wood, Rt. 2, Box 115, Northport, AL 35476. Let's have a good turnout for this meeting. I have heard so many good things about Bankhead and have been anxious to go there. I certainly will be there in April.

The "Landscaping with Native Plants" conference at Cullowhee, N. C. will be held July 23-25 this year. If you really want to give yourself a treat, plan to attend this meeting. This year, field trips will be added,

which should make this an outstanding event. Registration forms have not been mailed yet, but we should be receiving them soon. If you are interested in going this year, contact me and I will be certain that you receive the information. My address is: 400 Hillside Drive, Starkville, MS 39759 or phone 323-2641.

Our fall 1986 field trip to the Crosby Arboretum at Picayune, MS was very enjoyable. The new facilities at the arboretum are very outstanding. Chris Wells did an excellent job in hosting this trip. Also, Lee Peterson gave a very good program on "Edible Plants" and had samples for anyone who cared to taste them. Some of us were lucky enough to get one of his books. If not you may order one from Lee Allen Peterson, 1721 Caroline St., Mandeville, LA 70448. One of the local MNPS members also made persimmon ice cream which was very good.

If you have any ideas which you feel would make our MNPS a better organization, please let me hear from you so these can be presented to the board at our next meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you in 1987.

GUIDE TO THE VASCULAR PLANTS OF THE FLORIDA PANHANDLE

By Andre F. Clewell

reviewed by Chris Wells

Dr. Andre F. Clewell's book is a useful manual for identifying vascular plants in Southern Mississippi. I have yet to speak to a botanist in this region who has used the book and found fault with any of the keys.

Perhaps partly due to limited numbers of botanical characteristics from which a botanical key may be constructed, sometimes there are remarkably similar keys in the different floristic manuals. According to Clewell (in his manual), he has tried to devise useful and original keys-particularly for the more difficult taxa. The keys do work and they are sufficiently different (from other manuals) that the manual becomes a good cross-check for identifying vascular plants.

For those of us who prefer manuals of wider scope, there are some problems. There are no useful descriptions of individual species (detailed descriptions in most cases end at the generic level). This constricts the use of the manual to keying plants. Textual comparisons must be made using other manuals. As a general rule, there are no drawings of individual species. These two deficiencies necessitate a quick trip through your local herbarium or a look at drawing and descriptions in other books.

The organizational structure of the book is rather challenging to those of us who learned plant identification with "Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas" or "Manual of the Vascular Flora of Texas" (two manuals-that between them-cover much of Mississippi's flora). The sole compromise made to "natural" groupings of plants in the manual is the separation of Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Monocots, and Dicots (to be fair, the separation is for convenience, not to reflect phylogeny). Within each of these groups,

families are arranged alphabetically-genera within families are alphabetically arranged, and species within genera are also alphabetic. This certainly avoids the esoterica of phylogenetic arguments, but it limits casual browsing for related taxa. Each family has a brief morphological description and each species has a few words about habitats and/or distribution within the panhandle.

Some of the family names may be unfamiliar to users familiar with other manuals. For example, Trilliaceae, Agavaceae, and Hypoxidaceae get shuffled about by various authors among and within the Amaryllidaceae and Liliaceae. Clewell seems to split families almost as rampantly as Small did in his "Manual of the Southeastern Flora." The utility of splitting versus lumping at any given taxonomic level is subjective. I think that since it works and appears logically consistent, then "lumpers" must resign themselves to learn to use Clewell's system.

The glossary is very well done. Circularity of definitions is kept to a minimum (a certain amount is unavoidable). Of particular difficulty in plant descriptions is using text to describe geometric properties. Clewell addresses this problem with sketches that follow the glossary (and are referenced by the glossary). The arcane logic of terms such as "ternately decompound" becomes less obscure when sketched.

There are two indices-one for common names and another for scientific names. The common name index is particularly useful for botanists who work extensively with the non-botanist rest of the world who use common names.

The construction of the book is far superior to the "Carolinas" manual (that manual usually begins self-destruction shortly after purchase). The type is easy to read on sturdy paper (paper that recovers well from coffee and jelly spills). This a manual that should be in the library of those of us seriously interested in the identification of plants of the Southeastern Gulf-Coastal Plain.

FOREST SCIENCES LABORATORY ARBORETUM, STARKVILLE, MS

Victor A. Rudis

An arboretum in Starkville? Yes!

The USDA Forest Service, Southern Forest Experiment Station, owns a 7.8 acre land parcel adjacent to the Mississippi State University (MSU) campus. Several buildings house the Forest Sciences Laboratory (two research units: Technology of Eastern Forest Tree Seeds, and Forest Inventory and Analysis for Mid-South States). The remaining acreage contains a collection of more than 150 trees representing some 26 genera and 50 species. Most species are native southern hardwoods.

The small, fledgling arboretum, begun in 1978 by the Hardwood Genetic Research Unit, represents an ambitious, long-term demonstration, instruction, and research project for the Forest Service's Starkville facility. Two-thirds of the trees are seedlings or saplings; so, it will be a few years before the arboretum is fully developed.

Maintenance and improvement of the arboretum today is minimal. Funds have been provided for mowing, and for limited landscaping and maintenance around the buildings and fence areas. The majority of trees planted between 1979 and 1981 have survived, although many are in need of attention (hand weeding around trunks, labeling, pruning, etc.) The once extensive walkway is overgrown with grass. Labels for all trees and a revised map of surviving trees are sorely needed. The Hardwood Genetics Unit no longer exists, which means that funds and manpower for additional improvements or more extensive tree care are not available.

Volunteers are needed to help maintain and improve the arboretum. We are particularly interested in someone who can update the master plan and develop a brochure for self-guided tours. Those willing to help should contact:

Southern Forest Experiment Station
Forestry Sciences Lab, P. O. Box 906
Spring Street Extended
Starkville, MS 39759
(601-324-1611, ask for Vic Rudis)

The current condition of the arboretum, ongoing research activities, and limited manpower prevents public tours at this time. However, area college-level teachers (e.g., MSU and Wood Jr. College) have used the facility for instruction and may continue to conduct and supervise small group tours by arrangement. The Forestry Sciences Laboratory and Arboretum are located at the intersection of Howard Road extended and Spring Street extended-- opposite the white and blue "Starkville" water tower, and south of the MSU Forest Products Laboratory.

TRILLIUM IN MISSISSIPPI

Some of the earliest spring flowers in Mississippi are the various species of Trillium. Common names often applied to the group are wake-robin or simply trillium. Two of our species are illustrated on the front cover. Trillium recurvatum, purple trillium, is common over much of north and central Mississippi and may be readily distinguished by the turned-down sepals. On the other hand, the white-flowered T. flexipes is much rarer and only known from Tishomingo County. Trillium stamineum, with twisted maroon petals, is found rather widely in the extreme eastern counties of the state. In southwestern Mississippi the carrion-scented maroon-flowered T. foetidissimum is the common species. The similar T. cuneatum with spicy or musky-scented flowers occurs in rich woods over much of the non-Delta remainder of the state. Very local species are T. ludovicianum (somewhat similar to the last two species) found in Copiah County and the rare and smallest in size of our species T. pusillum in Jones County.

Trilliums are generally an indicator of rich woods. And often where one finds trilliums, one finds other interesting early spring plants. Most parts of the state outside of the Delta and the immediate coast have one or more species. It won't be long until the first trillium is in bloom in the state. Look for them and enjoy a part of your Mississippi natural heritage.

MISSISSIPPI WILDFLOWER PROJECT

The Mississippi Wildflower Project would like to the following individuals and organizations for their contributions:

Faye A. Swan, Starkville
 Mrs. Betty Duckworth, Jackson
 Bryant Mather, Clinton
 Mrs. I. N. Roberts
 Mrs. J. C. Rochester
 Greenville Garden club
 Senatobia Home & Garden Club
 Sunkist Garden club
 Isola Garden club
 Alta Vista Garden Club
 New Augusta Garden Club
 Magnolia Garden Club
 Casa Y Flores Garden Club
 Jr. Greenville Garden Club
 Gloster Homochitto Valley Garden Club
 Tchula Garden Club
 Obera Garden Club
 Forest Garden Club
 Columbus Garden Club
 Holly Springs Garden Club

The contributions of individuals and organizations contributing are greatly appreciated. However, the total amount to date falls far below the goal of MWP. If you would like to contribute toward the publication of THE WILDFLOWERS OF MISSISSIPPI, please send your contributions to:

WILDFLOWERS OF MISSISSIPPI PROJECT
 P. O. BOX 4873
 MISSISSIPPI STATE, MS 39762-4873

SLIDES NEEDED FOR MISSISSIPPI WILDFLOWER PROJECT

A number of slides are needed for the MWP. If you have any of the following and would like to contribute them to the project, please send them to:

Dr. Steve L. Timme
 Department of Biology
 P. O. Box 5284
 University of North Alabama
 Florence, Al 35632-0001

Eriocaulon decangulare (Hard-heads), *Tillandsia usneoides* (Spanish Moss), *Crinum americanum* (Swamp Lily), *Nemastylis geminiflora* (Celestial-lily), *Habenaria blephariglottis* (White Fringed Orchid),

Habenaria repens (Water-spider Orchid), Hexalectris spicata (Crested Coral-root), Brasenia schreberi (Water Shield), Magnolia spp., Sarracenia drummondii (Purple Pitcher Plant, with flowers), Drosera spp. (Sundews, with flowers), Hibiscus militaris (Halberd-leaved Mallow), Stewartia malacodendron (Wild or Silky Camellia), Gordonia lasianthus (loblolly Bay), Eryngium integrifolium (Eryngo), Kalmia latifolia (Mountain Laurel), Liatris elegans (Blazing Star), Chamaelirium luteum (Fairy Wand), Medeola virginiana (Indian Cucurbit Root), Trichostema dichotomum (Blue Curls), Swertia caroliniensis (Colombo), Oenothera lancinata (Evening Primrose) and Oenothera fruticosa (Evening Primrose).

All slides will be returned.

FLORA OF MISSISSIPPI UPDATE

Work on the "Flora of Mississippi" continues with the expected publication date still early 1990. A meeting was held recently in Jackson to coordinate fund raising for the project. Volunteers are still needed and further information may be obtained by writing IBE, Box EN, Miss. State, MS 39762 or by calling 325-7570 between 7 am and 4 pm.

Also discussed at the meeting was the goal of completing the text of the monocots in 1987. This appears feasible as most of the contributors are working on groups within the monocots with some groups already essentially complete. Illustrations for the flora are about 15% complete. We still plan to illustrate every species with original line drawings. Examples of the illustrations by Paul Nace, the current illustrator, are on the front and back pages of this issue of the MNPS newsletter.

PLANTS NOT KNOWN FROM MISSISSIPPI

On the reverse side are illustrated two plant species to be expected in Mississippi. Both are known from within a few miles of the state, but as yet there are no records of their occurrence in Mississippi. Leitneria floridana or corkwood is a shrub or small tree with somewhat leathery olive-green leaves. Its usual habitats are swamps, river banks or even roadside ditches. It occurs very locally in northern Florida, southern Georgia, the bootheel of Missouri, eastern Arkansas, and eastern coastal Texas. It is to be expected either on the edge of the Delta or along the lower Pascagoula River or the lower Pearl River.

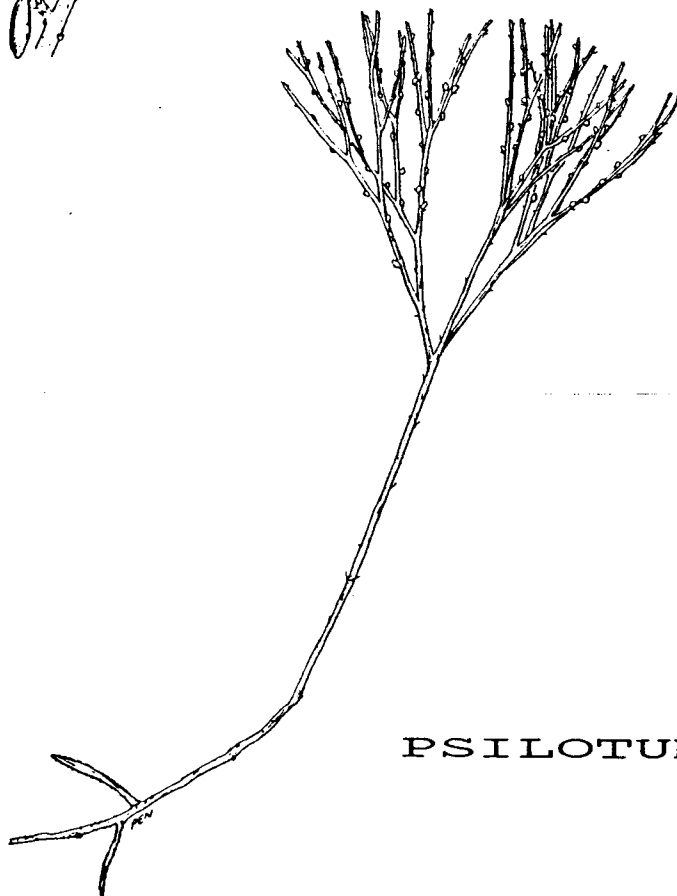
The other plant, Psilotum nudum or whiskfern, is very widespread in the tropics mostly as an epiphyte. It is known from adjacent Louisiana and I have seen it growing terrestrially near Tallahassee, Florida. It is perhaps even more likely to occur than corkwood and to be expected near the coast.

Keep your eyes open for these two unusual plants. It would be significant to find either in Mississippi.

EDITORS NOTE: The MNPS Newsletter is scheduled to be published four times a year around the ends of January, April, July, and October. Material for consideration should be submitted by the fifteenth of the appropriate month for inclusion in that issue. SM.



LEITNERIA FLORIDANA



PSILOTUM NUDUM