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MISSISSIPPI NATIVE  
PLANT SOCIETY  
MAY 1987

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**OGLETHORPE OAK**

(Quercus oglethorpensis)

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has really been a beautiful spring, the roadsides and woods have been lovely.

The MNPS trip to Horn Island did not work out. Approximately 50 of us were there but due to circumstances beyond our control, we did not go. Some of the group went to West Ship Island on the public boat.

The joint meeting of the Alabama Wildflower Society and the Miss. Native Plant Society at Haleyville, Alabama, was the week-end of April 25. Approximately 75 people were in attendance. The field trip to the Sipsey River recreation Area in Bankhead was on Saturday morning. One of the highlights of this site was the Showy Orchis. On Saturday afternoon the group went to Borden Creek, where the star was the Yellow Lady's-Slipper orchid. The field trip on Sunday a.m. was to the Dismals Gardens. Other things that were seen were Trilliums, Phlox, Bird's-foot violets, Yellow violets, Coreopsis, Fire-pink, Indian Cucumber-root, Yellow Root, Blue-eyed Grass, Foamflower, Golden Club, Jack-in the-Pulpit, May Apple, Shooting Star, Spiderwort, Patridge-Berry, and many types of ferns. These are things I overhead people say they saw; I only saw some of them. Many others were seen, but since I broke a bone in my foot on April 7, I have not been able to get around well in my cast. Therefore, I could not go on any of the trails. The banquet on Saturday night was a success, with more than 70 people present, of which 15 were MNPS members. One of our own MNPS won a door prize, a Yellow Lady's-Slipper orchid, won by Eugenia Summer of Columbus. Following the banquet, a plant sale was held. Everyone was supposed to have brought a plant for the sale. However, George Wood of AWS and Travis Salley brought a load each and thanks to them our Society came home with \$215 as a result. Thanks Travis!

We have another field trip in the planning stages for the Jackson, MS area. If possible, we will have information regarding this in the news-letter. If plans are not complete to make the deadline, you will receive a card about it. It will be a one-day trip where you can go and come in one day and not have to spend the night. (See later in Newsletter.)

If you want a T-shirt and have not ordered one, Travis has a limited supply. You might contact him and see if he has your size. They are \$6.50, postage paid.

Steve Timme reports that the manuscript for Wildflowers of Mississippi will go to press in the near future. If you have been meaning to make a contribution, but have not gotten around to it, please do so shortly to help keep the final costs down as much as possible. The check should be made out to "Wildflowers of Mississippi" and sent to: Wildflowers of Mississippi, P. O. Box 4873, Ms. State, MS 39762.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next field trip. If you have a suggestion for a MNPS field trip, please let me know, giving me details on your suggestion. My address is: 400 Hillside Drive, Starkville, MS 39759 - Faye Swan.

## QUERCUS OGLETHORPENSIS DISCOVERED IN MISSISSIPPI

Oglethorpe oak, a rare southeastern species first discovered by Wilbur Duncan in 1940 in George, has been found in small creek bottoms in Scott and Jasper counties by Jim Wiseman and Bob Jones of the Mississippi Natural Heritage Program. Since it was originally collected and described, this white oak species has been found in four counties in Georgia, four in South Carolina and one parish in Louisiana. Much of Scott County and part of Jasper County are in the Jackson Prairie region, which has some soils derived from fossiliferous, calcareous clays of the Jackson group (including the infamous Yazoo clay responsible for the highway buckling and car-sized potholes you encounter while driving through Jackson). It was known that Oglethorpe oak had been collected in Caldwell Parish, Louisiana, and soils derived from the Jackson group were present in the parish. This fact prompted a search for the species in Mississippi. So far the species has been found at three sites in both the Leaf and Pearl River drainages. It probably occurs in other locations since similar habitats are found in much of the general area.- Jim Wiseman.

### JACKSON AREA FIELD TRIP

Our next field trip will be May 30 at Bobbie Greaves' near Flora, MS. Directions from Jackson are - Take US49N and go to Flora, turn right on Hwy. 22, go 6 miles. Bobbie's place is on the right. Or, take I55N from Jackson, take Hwy. 463 at Madison, go 9 miles until you hit Hwy. 22, take a left, go one-half mile, turn left at Bobbie's. Or from Canton, take Hwy. 22, go 13 miles until you come to the intersection of Hwy. 463. Continue on another one-half mile, Bobbie's is one left. We will meet at 9 a.m. and visit several places on their farm. Bring a picnic lunch and something to drink. We will plan to break up about 3 p.m. so everyone should be able to get back home before too late. (Bobbies's telephone number is 879-8132). Rain cancels.

### ALASKA ADVENTURE

An exciting trip is being offered this summer to study the natural history (plants included) of the Denali Parks of Alaska. Travel is by train and river rafts on this 12 day expedition. College credit available. \$450 total cost. For detailed information write instructor, John Wenger, P. O. Box 24171, Anchorage, AK 99524-0171 (phone 907-562-5723) (Note: the instructor is the current president of the Alaska Native Plant Society.)

### 1987 MNPS DUES NOW PAYABLE

If you have not paid your dues, please indicate your continued support by doing so. Annual dues are:

Individual: \$5.00  
Sustaining: \$10.00  
Contributing: \$25.00

Family: \$7.50  
Student: \$2.50  
Life: \$75.00

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

## NATURAL AREAS MONITOR PROGRAM

Grand Bay Savanna, Pondberry Brakes, Horseshoe Bog, and Bobcat Bluff Forest are just a few of Mississippi's outstanding natural areas which have been registered by the Mississippi Natural Areas Registry. As would be expected, botanists and ecologists have recognized unique biological attributes in these areas. For example, Pondberry Brakes is habitat for the largest Mississippi population of pond spicebush, Lindera melissaefolium, a federally listed threatened species. Grand Bay Savanna represents one of the largest remnants of mesic savannas which were formerly common and widespread along the lower Gulf Coastal Plain from the Mississippi River east to the Appalachian basin in Florida.

Perhaps the most significant feature of these sites are the landowners. Through an interesting and successful conservation venture, private landowners have agreed to voluntarily protect the significant biological features which reside on their land.

Chris Fichtel, Director for the Natural Areas Registry, is currently searching for volunteers to serve as natural area monitors. This is an excellent opportunity for the MNPS to assume a more active conservation role with rare plants and significant plant communities. The duties of a monitor can vary, but the minimum requirement is a commitment to periodically visit the site and check for any change in land usage. Other activities for rare plants could involve taking census data, i.e. counting the number of flowering vs. non-flowering individuals, etc.

For more information, contact Chris Fichtel, Natural Areas Registry, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, 111 N. Jefferson St., Jackson, MS 39202 or call 354-7304.

<u>Site</u>	<u>County</u>
1. Grand Bay Savanna	Jackson
2. Cottonmouth Savanna	Jackson
3. Mouvella Bog	George
4. Thompson Bog	George
5. Shipman Bog	George
6. Bernard Bayou Savanna/Bog	Harrison
7. Horseshoe Bog	Stone
8. White Pond	Stone
9. Mossy Pond & Sandhill Scrub Forest	Lamar
10. Scott Paper Bogs	Greene
11. Savannah Branch Bog	Wayne
12. Allen Creek Bluff Forest	Lauderdale
13. Bobcat Bluff Forest	Smith
14. Foster Creek (rare fish & wooded streambank)	Copiah
15. Plum Creek Bluff Forest	Noxubee
16. Old-growth forest	Winston
17. Old-growth forest	Choctaw
18. Old-growth forest	Choctaw
19. Osborne Prairie	Oktribbeha
20. Rock Hill Mesic Forest & Chalk Barrens	Oktribbeha
21. Foster Chapel Prairie	Clay
22. Kilgore Hills (rare plants)	Clay
23. Chickasaw Co. Limestone Outcrops (rare plants)	Chickasaw
24. Coonewah Creek Bluffs (rare plants)	Lee
25. Shady Swamp	Itawamba

(See back page bottom for remainder.)



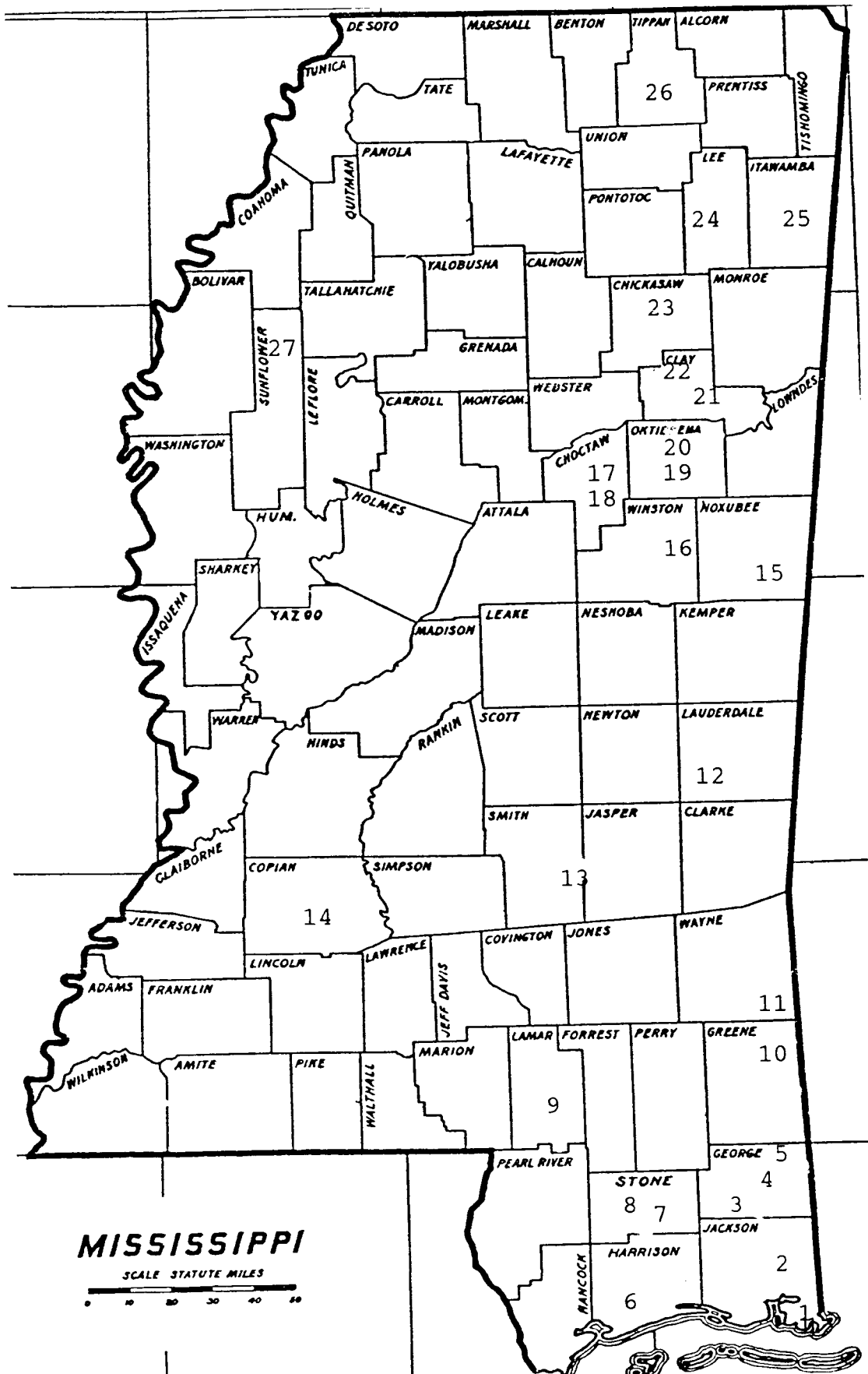
**PINGUICULA PRIMULIFOLIA**

**(from Spicebush Bog Natural Area)**

**Registry Sites (cont, from page 3)**

- 26. Stricklin Woods (rare plants)
- 27. Pondberry Brakes (rare plant)
- 28. Indian Bayou (rare plants)

**Tippah  
Sunflower  
Washington**



REGISTRY SITES WHERE MONITORS ARE NEEDED