Spring wildflower weekend and native plant sale set at Crow's Nest in Tishomingo

WHEN: April 30-May 2

WHERE: Crow's Neck Environmental Education Center, 281 County Rd. 115, Tishomingo MS 38873, 601-438-6751.

PROGRAM: 8 p.m. Friday. Introduction, storytelling, video-slide show and sing-a-long led by Crow's Nest staff.

8:30 a.m., Saturday, field trip led by Crow's neck staff, Sidney McDaniel and MSU botany students. Evening program: Bring favorite slides of your plants. Dinner followed by plant sale. Bring a plant to share; donations support MNPS educational activities. Sunday, breakfast and field trip to favorite area.

BRING: Sleeping bag or blankets and sheets. Pillow, towel and soap, rain gear and outdoor trail gear, one native plant to donate.

FEES: $55 per adult includes two nights lodging at a modern facility complete with fireplace, kitchen, commons area and bunkbeds. Also includes three meals Saturday, Sunday
breakfast and all program activities. Call about fees for day-use only or one-night accommodations: Vic Rudis, 324-0403. Leave message.

SEND FEES TO: MNPS, P.O. Box 2151, Starkville MS 39759. PREPAYMENT REQUIRED BY APRIL 19. Children ages 8-18 are especially encouraged to participate. Children’s fees are $45 ($55 after April 19). A parent or adult guardian much accompany each child.

Crow’s Nest setting offers outdoor ed

Located in northeastern Mississippi near the town of Tishomingo, Crow’s Neck occupies a 530-acre peninsula on Bay Springs Lake. Rolling topography and vistas of wooded shoreline dominate the landscape. This beautiful setting combined with facilities which are second to none offer an outdoor educational opportunity unique in Mississippi.

Year around programming is available to a wide diversity of user groups including schools, business/industry, and the general public. All of the programs conducted at Crow’s Neck are centered on meeting the mission of providing educational experiences which will develop and increase environmental understanding and promote appropriate stewardship of our natural and cultural resources. To this end, Crow’s Neck was designed to facilitate both day-use and residential programming.

Crow’s Neck opened in April 1993, and was built under the supervision of the Army Corp of Engineers as part of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Project. Upon completion of the site the Corps of Engineers turned over the operation and management of the facility to the Northeast Mississippi Environmental Education Consortium.

Facilities include a 14,000-square-foot building with classrooms, conference room, laboratory, kitchen, auditorium, exhibit room, dining hall and administrative offices. Cabins offer views of forest and lake shore. There are two outdoor classrooms, an outdoor amphitheater, wildlife observation boardwalk, miles of hiking trails, canoe/boat house and more.

History of MNPS traced

Early field trips major reason for success

by Fred Searcy, Jr.

Not too many years ago, the Mississippi Academy of Sciences tried to trace the history of the early years of the academy and realized they were unable to determine exactly who was present at the first organizational meeting and what took place during the first few years of the society. With this in mind, I thought members might like a few of my recollections as to the birth of the Mississippi Native Plant Society.

It all began at the March 1980 meeting of the Mississippi Academy of Sciences on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Several people were standing around making good use of the exhibitor’s happy hour when Joe Jacob of the Mississippi Heritage Program asked why the botanists present didn’t get together and form a plant society. I suspect Joe’s questions
was a little selfish because such an organization would be of some benefit to the purposes of the heritage program. Be that as it may, none of us could think of a reason not to form a society and in general thought it was an excellent idea.

To the best of my recollection, our group consisted of Ed Decker, Barry McPhail, Cary Norquist, Will McDearman and John Burris. I will not list their associations because they probably have changed so much over the years. We began to throw out names of individuals who might be interested in such a society and in a very short time we had a list of 20 names. I agreed to send out a letter to the people on our list and see if there was interest by calling an organizational meeting on 19 April 1980 at the Museum of Natural Science in Jackson. Will McDearman and I received a good response from the initial mailing of letters.

The meeting on the 19th was somewhat a surprise because 16 people showed up, including several not on the original mailing list, showing the power of word-of-mouth communication.

Those attending were R.C. Roberts, Mrs. Frances Wills Mrs. Ruth Downey, Liz Peeler, John Burris and Frances Rebmann, all of Jackson, Jerry Hall of Starkville, Kenneth Gordon of Florence, Sam Faulkner of Mississippi State, Travis and Margaret Salley of Cleveland, Robert Stewart of Merigold and Delta State, Kirk Hill of Pinola, and myself.

At the meeting we discussed whether or not there was a need for such a society, the function of the society, and the name. Everyone called for the formation of what was then named the Native Plant Society of Mississippi. This was later changed to the Mississippi Native Plant Society because of space limitation on our newsletter. Temporary officers were selected. They were myself as chair-person, Robert Stewart as vice-chair, and Will McDearman as Secretary-Treasurer and editor of the newsletter.

A summer meeting was scheduled for the Mississippi Gulf Coast to areas in and around the Mississippi Gulf Coast Laboratory for May 24, 1980. The meeting adjourned with 100 percent paying due for the first year.

Interest in the society began building immediately. The Gulf Coast field trip drew 24 people. This was also designated the first official meeting of the organization. Those attending were Jonathan Barlow, Les and Margaret Saucier, Donald and Susan Crawley, Randy Coleman, Travis and Margaret Salley, Janice Thrash, Maryellen Duprel, Elizabeth Smith, Bill and Hedy Cibula, Kirk Hill, Samuel Faulkner, Will McDearman, Fran and Marjorie Smiley, Chris Smith, Marion Rush, Mary and Bob Burkes, Robert Stewart and myself. Permanent officers were selected. I was chosen as President, Robert Stewart as Vice-President, Travis Salley as Secretary-Treasurer and Will McDearman as editor of the newsletter. The constitution was discussed as to the items needed in it and several volunteered to write in and submit suggestions and questions for ratifications.

Reflections on those early years amaze me that a group of people so easily established the society and that it had an immediate success. Communications were either by letter, phone or word of mouth and out enrollment began to grow rapidly. I feel that the major reason for the success was the numerous field trip scheduled early in the organization's beginnings and the contributions by professors at Ole Miss, State and Delta State to serve as guides on these trips.

Robert Stewart was a major influence on the beginning of our society. His tireless efforts and guidance made the earlier years the success that you see in the native plant society today. I'm not sure
that the people who first met in
Jackson in March of 1980 had any idea
that the society would turn into as
dynamic an organization as it is
today. Travis Salley went out of his
way to produce and put on programs
for us and would visit any group at
the drop of the hat to show his great
slides while promoting the native
plant society. Over the years I've
seen the society grow and become more
important in conservation in the
state and have seen it reach the
stage of having influence state wide.

NOTE: Fred Searcy is now an
associate professor of biology at
Broward Community College, 7200
Hollywood Blvd., Pembroke Pines, FL
33024.

Research arboretum
offers new possibilities

by Patti Drapala

For many years, the Mississippi
Nurserymen's Asso. has sought
evaluation information from
Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry
Experiment Station (MAFES)
horticulturists on landscape plants
common to other areas of the country
but capable of growing in
Mississippi.

In response to that request, the
MSU Department of Horticulture began
a research arboretum three years ago
on the MAFES South Farm. This gives
researchers yet another means of
evaluating hardiness of plant
materials to satisfy public demand
for new and different plants.

"In 1989, my graduate students
and I put out plants donated by
members of the nurserymen's
association. Since then, the research
arboretum has gradually been built to
what's here today," says MAFES
Horticulturist Lester Estes, manager
of the arboretum.

At present, the three-acre
arboretum contains 151 trees; 301
shrubs, vines and ornamental grasses;
94 varieties of perennial; 44 ferns;
and 502 annuals. Trees and shrubs are
lined in neat rows, and vines are
trained on wire trellises. Annuals
and perennials are in three raised
beds, each bed eight feet by 99 feet.
Ferns are growing in an 18-foot by
18-foot raised bed.

Estes says there is a huge pool
from which researchers can select
plant materials for the arboretum.
Not only are researchers looking at
native varieties and their
performance under different growing
conditions, but they are also
examining the adaptability of popular
plants from the North. Cuttings from
such plants grown at the arboretum
could one day lead to varieties
suited to Mississippi's climate.

"We don't know whether certain
sugar maple cultivars can sustain
themselves here. Will they take the
temperature? How would they be
affected by lack of soil moisture for
an extended period?" asks Estes.

Plans are already underway to
double the size of the arboretum to
six acres within the next few years.
But even more important is the
support of MAFES, the nursery
industry and the public in getting
the research arboretum established.

"Just like the rose garden on
campus, once people hear and read
about the research arboretum, they
will come out and see it," Estes
points out.

Nursery operators and industry
representatives interested in
donating plant materials to the
research arboretum can contact Estes
at 601-325-3223, or write him at: MSU
Dept. of Horticulture, P.O. Drawer T,
Mississippi State, MS 39762.
"Bad" wildflower plot? There’s no such thing

by Travis Salley

My son, Tom, offered me the use of a plot of land 60' by 200' to use for wildflowers. It is located on the bank of Jones Bayou in Boyle, MS. Because this plot was a public road about 70 years ago, it is compacted, has no top soil, and very little summer vegetation. It has a pH of 7.5 and a history of flooding. Beavers, muskrats and water moccasins are abundant. There are so many cutworms, they even eat plants that no one wants. Anyone with one eye and half a sense would have run from the offer. I accepted the offer saying it would take five years to make any type of showing.

On November 1, 1991, I spot sprayed to kill small amounts of dallis grass that was on the plot. The next step was to lay out the beds, 7' by 7' with a 5' walkway over the area. Since it was getting late in the planting season, I started planting seeds and setting out plants with very little bed preparation: only scratching the top of the soil with a garden rake. This continued until May 1992. I used every species of wildflower and every variety of vegetables that I had and what other people gave me.

The walkways were covered with 4" to 8" of leaves from John q. Public. I hauled about 40 cubic yards of oak leaves and pine needles that people had put out for the trash truck. The leaves were there to decay, hold moisture, improve the soil and control any "weeds" that might come up. In the summer, I removed the leaves from the walkways and put them in a pile to finish composting for about two months. After removing the leaves, I dug 2" to 6" of soil from half of the walkways and put it on the beds which then became 19' x 19'. The composted leaves were then added to the top of the beds to about 2" deep.

Last fall I obtained about 40 cubic yards of wood chips and 40 cubic yards of oak leaves and pine needles. This was put in the walkways. The chips were put down 4" to 6" first with the leaves 4" to 6" deep on top. It has not settled to a firm walkway.

"There is a plant for every place."

The first summer the plot created a lot of interest from people who were curious and people who were interested in plants. The Mississippi Delta does not have a great number of wildflowers and there were some plants that a few people had not seen before. Only about 75 of the 100 kinds of seeds and plants put out came through the summer.

Some of the plants did very well and others did "so-so". Some of those that did well are Queen Anne's lace and chicory, which both can be a pest. Some others are: several types of black-eyes susans, cup plant, Mexican sunflower (Tithonia), Indian blanket, New Jersey tea, rain lily, New England aster, purple coneflower, five species of hibiscus, cypress vine, sensitive plant, Stoke's Aster, hearts-a-bustin', wild strawberry, California poppy, cosmos, wild geranium, four species of wild iris, showy evening primrose, nasturtium, iron weed and four species of phlox. The vegetables were planted on prepared bed and the ones that did well were okra, tomatoes, onion, carrots and cabbage.

This first year was so good it leaves me with little to do for an encore in five years. My goal is to have 200-plus species of wildflowers. It seems to me now there is no such thing as a "bad" plot for wildflowers. There is a plant for every place.
Upcoming Events

April 17: Spring Yard and Garden Jamboree, Jim Buck Ross Agriculture & Forestry Museum, Lakeland Dr., Jackson. While there, check out the garden displays of recycled materials and the herb garden.


April 24: Spring wildflower field trip led by botanists Charles "Sedge" Bryson and Ron Weiland along Cooneah Creek chalk bluffs to view variety of unusual plant life including rare Price's potato-bean, and a potential prairie restoration project area along the Natchez Trace. Bring insect repellent and sack lunch. Meet at 10 a.m. at Tupelo Ranger Station, Natchez Trace, Tupelo. Cost: $10; limit 20 people. Sponsored by Nature Conservancy.

April 24-25: Spring Open Garden, Flowerplace Plant Farm, Meridian, MS. Mail order catalog $3. For a catalog ($3) or directions to the farm, contact Gail Barton, P.O. Box 4864, Meridian MS 39304, 482-5686.

April 30-May 2: MNPS Spring Meeting, Tishomingo. More info: See (Add page here) or call 324-0430.

May 1: Pascagoula River boat tour and barbecue, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Nature Conservancy trip will tour cypress-filled oxbow lakes of "Big Swamp." Naturalist guide is Jack Herring. Bring insect repellent and snack for lunch. Supper provided. Cost $25 person; limit 15 people.

May 8: Black Creek canoe trip and Trash-A-Thon, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Black Creek Canoe Rental, Brooklyn. Cost, $10; limit 20 people. Canoes and beverages provided. Bring sunscreen, insect repellent hat, sunglasses and sack lunch.

May 19: "Plants and Gardening" lecture, Dr. Lester Estes, Starkville Public Library, noon.

May 29: Sweetbay Bogs tour will be led by Mississippi Nature Conservancy Director Roger Jones. This unique ecosystem near Wiggins includes many unusual carnivorous and rare plants. Feet will get wet. Bring sneakers or boots, insect repellent and sack lunch. Cost, $10; limit 20 people.

June 9-12: Gulf Coast Regional Native Plant Conference, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, LA. This is another in a series of regional native plant conferences akin to the widely-praised Cullowee, NC conferences. Register before May 15. Costs $70. More info: Bill Fontenot, Lafayette National History Museum, 637 Girard Park Dr., Lafayette, LA 70503, 318-235-6181 or Marion Drummond, 504-767-6916.


Sept. 24-26: Eastern Native Plant Societies Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO. More info: Eastern Native Plant Alliance, P.O. Box 6101, McLean VA 22106, 703-356-7425.

The Parable of the Kindled Spirit

by Dale Goodner

One upon a time a large bear named Herald (a relative of Smokey) was walking through the woods. He wore a tattered broad-brimmed hat and carried a shovel. His goal was to protect the forest.

It happened one day that he came upon a wonderful bird known as the phoenix. This was the mythical bird which periodically consumed itself in flames and then arose renewed from the ashes.

Herald knew nothing of the natural history of this incredible bird. He marvelled, however, at its beauty and colors. You can imagine his shock when this object of his attention began to smolder. He rushed up and "put the phoenix out" before it had really warmed up. In this way he saved its life, removed any hope of regeneration, and thereby condemned it to extinction all at the same time.

Herald, being a fairly intuitive bear, saw the misery he had inadvertently caused and realized immediately that something was very wrong here. He decided to conduct a study. Ornithologists from throughout the land were called in to examine the endangered phoenix and all agreed that, alas, it was aging and would soon be dead. But it was not too late! There was still a spark of life in the deteriorating bird. One hope remained...if the magical fire could be re-kindled!

It would not be easy. It would require many people from all over the countryside to come to the aid of the dying phoenix. Only through love and care and great effort could this magical mystical and colorful bird hope to once again arise renewed from the ashes. Volunteers from all walks of life responded, including Herald.

But there was a venerable old cat, Faust, who demurred. He thought that he, as a cat, knew more about birds than any "know it all" ornithologists (a bird in the teeth is worth two in the heath, etc.). Faust called for still more studies, and offered himself as an authority in place of the scientists. He didn’t believe that anything could arise from a bunch of ashes, even from magnetic flames. It is death, not life, that comes from fire. Besides, if the phoenix is meant to die, so be it...that’s what birds are supposed to do; it’s natural, it’s evolution!

The cat spoke loudly decrying what he called the 'self interests' of the volunteers. He insisted that Herald’s original actions were "natural." Also, it would, in fact, be "unnatural" to help the phoenix rekindle.

The volunteers, based upon what they saw, and what the scientists had told them, knew action must be taken quickly if their mythical bird was to be saved. In the end they left Faust meowing in the distance and went about the business of re-setting the magical flame.

Slowly, little by little, bit by bit, the beleaguered phoenix was able to once again consume itself in flames, and with breathtaking beauty arose renewed from the ashes. A sense of well-being returned to the land. Herald was deeply grateful to all who had given of their time and efforts to make the renewal possible. If fact, everyone, with the possible exception of the cat, were indebted to the phoenix for giving them the opportunity to experience life, death, and a sense of belonging. If the truth were known, even old Faust was moved by the mythical bird...but he’s never admit it.

Herald is back out, protecting the forest; but now there is a connection. He has participated in the natural processes and found new meaning and feeling of unity. He knows now that he is both protector and protected. Reprinted from "Oak Friends", Peoria Wilds Project.
Delta member shares her favorite ideas for landscaping with Mississippi native plants

By Lynn Libous-Bailey

I am a gardener. In many respects that is a sickness. I live to make it through my eight-hour day at work so that I can rush home to be in my yard. My husband and children have grown to understand that dinner in our household will never be served as long as the sun is shedding enough light for me to find my spade!

Though I have lived in Mississippi for 12 years, I am originally from Upstate New York. Gardening in this harsh Delta environment has made me more than humble. Seems that this thing they call Zone 8 with summer nighttime temperatures in the mid-to-upper 70's, and humidity hovering in the low-to-mid 90's makes one quickly reassess what plants will make it May through September here and which ones are better left to be grown in the cooler hills of Mississippi and to Gail Barton in her now re-defined Zone 7b!

I finally realized, after losing more plants than I care to remember, that the way to go is with natives, especially those that thrive in the middle South. There is always the perfect plant for that not-so-perfect place and Mother Nature knows what it is. All one has to do is study her.

Unfortunately, most people seem to feel that if you garden with natives, you must have a very unkept looking border. Not so. It is all in the method of presentation. I have found a winning combination with some natives that thrive in low, wet, damp areas, in sun or shade. Our backyard had a natural drainage gully which ran through it. Filling it up to level the land would mean more work than I cared to undertake, not to mention the question of where the runoff would then end up. Besides, there is always the perfect plant waiting for such a place. After clearing the area of the brush that had accumulated and widening it into a three-foot sweep, I began to search the wildflower, trees and shrub books and gardening catalogs in search of the plants to fill the area.

I began with Itea virginica. It would provide me with beautiful bronze stems all year, great panicles of flowers in the spring, and burgundy leaves remain even in December. The Itea was placed on the Southeast side of the gully, as it will flower and have much brighter fall color if placed full sun. In the middle of the gully, just behind the Itea I needed something striking in form, semi-evergreen and not just your usual perennial. I found what I needed in a Juncus sp. Three foot tall, great structure and its flowers are produced in a wispy group that makes you look twice. It has been more than a conversation piece, especially to those who dare to see if the tips are sharp! Near the Juncus but on the shadier side of the gully I have placed three Amsonia hubrechtii. It provides me with great steel blue flowers and a wonderful airy structure all summer. The fall colors of gold/yellow give a wonderful contrast to the green stems of the Juncus and the burgundy of the Itea. I do not cut the stems, as the winter form of the seed pods and the tan/grey they turn provide structure so badly needed in winter. This fall I filled the gaps in this section with Ranunculus sardous, transplanted from a nearby field, and it is providing a blast of yellow at such a dreary time. I underplanted this area with Marshallia graminifolia this fall and eagerly await its bloom next summer.

As you look further behind the
Amsonia into the transition region of my "Woodland Area" you will find a mass planting of Hydrangea quercifolia. This is one shrub that I would not trade for the world. Providing me with great peeling bark beautiful summer blossoms and brilliant red/orange foliage in the fall and winter, it is the backbone of the area. I find that although it may thrive in full sun with its feet damp mine is doing better in a morning sun/afternoon shade area with very little additional water during the year.

This entire grouping I have planted next to a foot bridge my husband built this past summer. Low railings topped with an eight inch piece of cypress provide a seat from which to admire the combination.

In another area of the gully I have placed Ilicium parviflorum, which provides the evergreen height needed in that spot, and the scent of root beer when the leaves are bruised. On the sunnier side lies a grouping of Andropogon virginicus and flanking this grass on the slope is a mass planting of Lythrum virgatum. The Andropogon gives me the blue-green color and upright form that I find attractive with the airy loose form of the Lythrum, especially when the Lythrum is in bloom. In the fall the Lythrum provides red/burgundy leaves which look great against the copper flower stalks of the Andropogon which also give height and structure to the winter garden. The center of the gully in this area is comprised of a sweep of Louisiana Iris. Although most of them are selections of wild species, I admit to sneaking in a few named hybrids. The La. iris’s are in active growth throughout the fall and winter and provide a fresh green color and upright form for the area. I have ordered a start of Niviusia alabamensis (Alabama Snow-wreath) hoping it will provide an early spring bloom to replace the White Flowering Almond (Prunus sp.) which no longer fits into the scheme of the area) located on the woodland side of the La. Iris.

This area of the yard is far from finished. I have huge gaps along the gully that are yet unfilled, but would rather keep them mulched than to plant something that I just am not happy with.

I find it very satisfying when guests tour the yard and find it hard to believe that this section of the yard is comprised of natives. I am often asked why I don’t have marigolds or petunias (or those 700 other garden center specials) and I am quick to point out the Tagetes on the edge of one border by the Pennisetum ‘Hamlen’ and a Ruellia sp. standing three feet tall in a clump that is finally large enough to make a statement. I look forward to showing off the Ruellia ‘Nolans Dwarf’ that I planted this fall and letting them know that this 18-inch beauty is evergreen, can take full sun and stays open all day without me dragging the hose to its rescue.

They may not appreciate it the way I do, but I’m the lucky one that gets to have her morning coffee sitting on the railing of that handmade bridge watching the birds bathe in the gully after a soaking rain.

THE MNPS is in urgent need of new officers

Randy Winstead, vice president, has moved out of state, and Sherrie Wygul, secretary-treasurer, is resigning at the end of this year. With competition for our time from other groups sponsoring plant outings such as Crosby Arboretum and The Nature Conservancy, it is very important to have active leadership to continue the mission of the Native Plant Society. Anyone interested in serving should call Vic Rudis at 324-0430.
Native Seed Bank news

In the previous issue, Dr. James Wolfe wrote about the Native Seed Bank at Coffeeville, MS. Dr. Wolfe informs us that he is now retired from the USDA Soil Conservation Service in Coffeeville and has moved.

He's still interested in wildflowers, heirloom varieties and maintaining a personal "seed bank". He will provide a list of what he has to those interested when time permits. Address inquiries to: Dr. James A. Wolfe, Rt. 3, Box 3145, Rogersville, TN 37857, 615-272-8801.

Seeds of natives available at Crosby

Crosby Arboretum in Picayune maintains a good collection of native seed of herbaceous and woody plant species.

Bob Brzuszek, curator of Crosby's Pinecote Native Plant Center, says the following species are available: toothache grass (Ctenium aromaticum (Walter) Wood, white topped sedge, Dichromena latifolia (L.) Hitch., purple coneflower Echinacea purpurea (L.) Moench, false hoarhound (Eupatorium rotundifolium L., plume grass (Erianthus giganteum (Walter) Muhl. liatris (Liatris squarrosa Michx., panic grass (Panicum virgatum L.) and thalia (Thalia dealbata Roscoe).

For more information, contact Bob at 799-2311.

Does your yard look like Anywhere, USA? Give your garden a sense of place with native plants. -- Mississippi NATIVE Plant Society.
Be sure to include the following info with your payment:

- Membership Application and Membership Notice

Please indicate class of membership and enclose one.

The Mississippi Plant Society is open to any interested party and offers a newsletter and membership quarterly. The newsletter is mailed quarterly and includes articles on native plant propagation, planter plants, and seed exchanges. Please send your application and payment with the year's dues.

The Mississippi Plant Society, P.O. Box 2131, Starkville MS 39759.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the Society at 607-940-1324.

Programs

- Field Trips to Locations Throughout the State
- Lectures by Experts, Seminars, and Slide Shows by Native
- Naturalized Plants of Mississippi
- Native Plant Society Quarterly
- Membership Application and Membership Notice

Please mail the application and payment with the year's dues.

Membership is open to any interested party and includes the quarterly newsletter with articles on native plant propagation and seed exchanges. Please send your application and payment with the year's dues.

The Mississippi Plant Society, P.O. Box 2131, Starkville MS 39759.
As a result of a meeting called by Fred Searcy, Jr. on April 19, 1980 at the Museum of Natural History in Jackson, the Mississippi Native Plant Society drew its first breath. The organization was formed for individuals and groups interested in all aspects of botany, particularly the vascular flora of Mississippi.

There always have been people with a love of native plants of Mississippi. The overall purpose of the Native Plant Society is the furtherance of knowledge about the native and naturalized plant species of Mississippi and the encouragement of an attitude of respect and appreciation for these species.

GOALS

---Gather and disseminate knowledge about the native and naturalized plant species and their habitats in Mississippi.

---Work for the preservation of these species and conservation of their habitats.

---Inform the public about these species and habitats, including their propagation, importance, ecology and need for protection.

---Encourage the propagation and use of native plants and habitats in designing residential, commercial and public landscapes.

---Promote fellowship among all persons interested in understanding and appreciating native plants and their habitats.