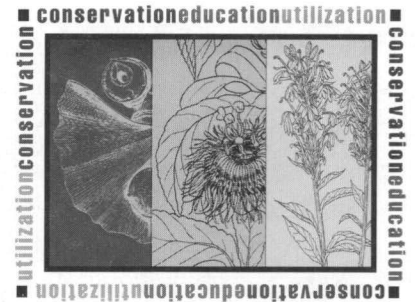


MISSISSIPPI NATIVE P.L.A.N.T.S

The Newsletter of the Mississippi Native Plant Society, Inc.



Volume 22 • Issue 2

Spring, 2004

The Mississippi Native Plant Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization established in 1980 to promote the preservation of native and naturalized plants and their habitats in Mississippi through conservation, education and utilization.

MNPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELECTIVE POSITIONS

•President

Bob Brzuszek
Dept. of Landscape Architecture
Box 9725
Mississippi State, MS 39762
662-325-7896 (D)
662-325-7893 (E)
RBrzuszek@LALC.msstate.edu

•Vice-President

Joseph McGee
19496 Highway 80
Hickory, MS 39332-3133
601-646-5402 (D)

•Secretary/Treasurer

Debora Mann
114 Auburn Drive
Clinton, MS 39056-6002
601-974-1415 (D)
601-924-4966 (E)
mannndl@millsaps.edu

•Newsletter Editor

Lynn Ashford
138 West Way Road
Florence, MS 39073
601-845-7535 (D)
weedbyhand@aol.com

NON-ELECTIVE POSITIONS

•Education Chair

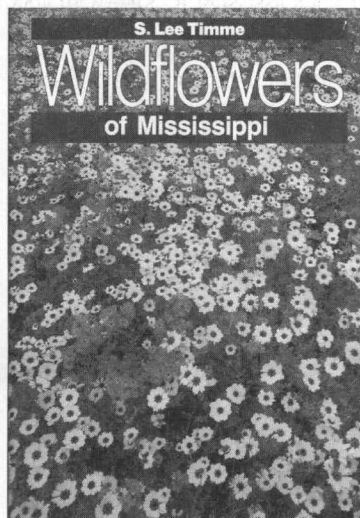
Dr. John Guyton
2710 Beach Blvd., Suite 1-E
Biloxi, MS 39531
228-388-4710 (D)
jguyton@ext.msstate.edu

•Trips Chair

John Hays
2148 Riverside Dr.
Jackson, MS 39202
601-354-7303 (D)
601-354-7227 (E)
john.hays@mmns.state.ms.us

Help Get *Wildflowers of Mississippi* Back in Print!

by Dr. Stephen L. Timme



As many of you may know, the University Press of Mississippi no longer has any copies of *Wildflowers of Mississippi*. I am still getting requests to purchase the book (this past year I received some 23 requests). I have asked the University Press of Mississippi to consider reprinting the book, but apparently they feel it is not profitable. This is extremely disappointing. Missouri has published and reprinted their wildflower guide for more than 40 years. I have even informed the Press that I would dissolve any royalties that I might receive (believe me, I spent 50+ times more money in travel, film, processing, and time than was made on this book) to reprint the book. I urge the membership of the MNPS and the society

itself to urge the UPM to reprint the book. I am not interested, nor have I ever been, in any royalties. I know there has to be more folks becoming interested in the beautiful wildflowers of the great state of Mississippi.

Wildflowers of Mississippi, by S. Lee Timme; ISBN 0-87805-395-6
University Press of Mississippi, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211,
601-432-6205.

TRIPS CHAIR'S NOTES

by John Hays



Recap of Winter Field Trip

On Dec. 6th, a small group of 8 or so members met at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science where I gave a tour of the Museum's collections area, explained how we process plants from the time they enter the library until we mount them; showed them the other portions of the wet and dry collections; gave them a look behind the aquariums and then answered some questions before letting them tour the Museum's various exhibits at their own pace. Hopefully, they enjoyed themselves as much as I did.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Bob Brzuszek

MNPS 2004-2005 Officer Elections

Yes, another year has passed and it is once again time to solicit nominations for MNPS officers for the coming year. Special thanks goes out to those who have served, and to those who have been coerced to serve! The following people have agreed to serve once again for their respective positions, yet we are asking current members for others who may wish to be nominated. Please fill in the names below (with phone numbers) and send to: Vic Rudis, Research Forester/Landscape Ecologist, USDA-FS SRS Forest Inventory and Analysis Unit, 201 Lincoln Green, Starkville, MS 39759; 662-338-3109 or FAX 662-338-3101; via email: vrudis@ra.msstate.edu. We will hold elections at our MNPS Annual Meeting at Mississippi State University in June.

President:

Nominee: Name _____ Phone _____

Vice-President: Joseph McGee

Nominee: Name _____ Phone _____

Secretary/Treasurer: Debora Mann

Nominee: Name _____ Phone _____

Newsletter Editor: Lynn Ashford

Nominee: Name _____ Phone _____

Education Chair: John Guyton

Nominee: Name _____ Phone _____

Trips Chair:

Nominee: Name _____ Phone _____

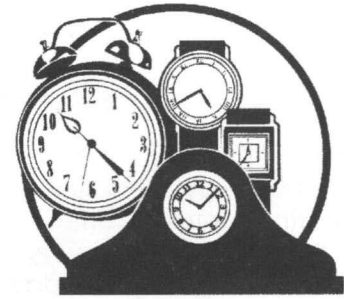
Upcoming MNPS Field Trips

• **Mid to late June – A trip to one of the prairies in the Jackson area** (Bienville National Forest). Easy to access prairies with a nice display in early summer.

• **Tentative for Fall – A trip to the Delta National Forest** and the natural areas there to see the changing of the leaves.

Please let John Hays know well in advance if you'd like to participate in these tentative trips. The more notice he has, the better. If you have any suggestions for places to visit, contact John or the editor.

Minutes of the Board –



2003 Fall Meeting

Tuesday, November 11, 2003
at 2 p.m. via the MNPS
webpage chatroom

Present: Bob Brzuszek, Debora Mann, John Guyton

- For the Treasurer's Report, Debora reported that \$6,728.15 is the current MNPS assets: \$2,712.58 checking, \$4,015.57 CDs.
- Bob reported that the Starkville chapter has met monthly for field trips and lectures. Around 25 regularly attend the meetings.
- The winter MNPS newsletter should be out in December.
- John Guyton reported that there will be a national Environmental Educator meeting held in Biloxi in November, 2004. There will be an opportunity for MNPS members to assist with field trips and other programs. A discussion was held on national organization of state native plant societies.
- After discussion, Bob offered to host the annual MNPS meeting in Starkville in June, 2004. Officer elections will be held at that time. Bob encouraged that names be solicited for President for 2004-2005.
- It was suggested to update the MNPS brochure in order to send to other conservation groups in the state. Bob will contact Lynn on this, and a list of organizations will need to be generated.
- The next MNPS board meeting was proposed for Jan/Feb, 2004 to be held in Jackson.

Perennial Plant Association Names Plant of 2004



Perennial Plant Association

This year's winner is Japanese Painted Fern, *Athyrium niponicum* 'Pictum', chosen for its low maintenance, hardiness, and showiness. Dr. Steven Still, Executive Director, says, "The Japanese Painted Fern provides impressive contrasting foliage that brightens any shade area." Try mixing it with our natives for an outstanding display.

EDUCATION CHAIR'S NOTES

by John Guyton, Ed. D.

The Many Merits of Moss

Possibly the best prize I received as a National Project Learning Tree Teacher of the Year was a week "vacation" courtesy of the World Forestry Center in Portland, Oregon. Actually, we spent very little time at the center. Each day we were taken on a fabulous field trip: waterfalls of the Columbia River gorge where I saw beautiful lichens and mosses, the Coastal Temperate Rainforest with its moss-bearded hemlock trees, Big Tree (National Champion Sitka Spruce with its faithful companion - moss), old growth forest - more moss, visited forest management operations (yep, moss here too), a tour of Wehayerhauser's reforestation efforts including a helicopter tour of Mt. St. Helens (moss is back), visits to Magness Memorial Tree Farm (wonderful moss covered snags), we followed trees from a seed orchard/nursery through a mill to a home construction site, visited the Cascade Stream Watch (oh, the mosses!), discussed conservation practices on the High Desert Warm Springs Indian Reservation, and finally, a sunset champaign toast to an incredible tour at Timberline Lodge on Mt Hood! Now to the point - moss grows everywhere! While examining nurse logs in the Temperate Rainforest I began to notice the extensive mats of moss and was reminded of my childhood and the mats I enjoyed under the trees along my favorite streams. And the memories came flooding back.

Once home, a quick search of my notes rekindled a latent interest. This, arguably more advanced than the lichens, spore-bearer lacks the vascular tissue to transport water from roots to leaves so the conduction of water

is along the outside of the stems, thanks to surface tension. Water passes almost instantaneously through the leaf surfaces, in both directions. With single cell thick leaves an elaborate vascular network would be only a hindrance - but then again it results in mosses being height challenged!

A little sun and the moss looks dead, shriveled and brittle, but a light shower, or a splash from your water bottle, can change that in a

*It was so much easier
to be enthusiastic
when her feet
were touching something
besides shoes.*

Larry McMurtry, American Writer

matter of minutes. Freezing water expands and with that expansion comes the ability to crack rocks and rupture plant cells; but this is not a problem for the mosses that quickly discharge surplus water, to crystalize on its surface, thus protecting their cells.

These ancient (although they left few fossil remains) plants were doing the "big dirty" before seeds were invented, and they do it everywhere from the tropics to the arctic covering an estimated 1% of earth's continental land masses. (Hard to accept a height challenged plant as a dominant plant type!) They have even mastered asexual reproduction - why, I don't know. Mosses can be found year round, doing what mosses do, some flourishing in

arctic waters and others basking in hot springs (*Archidium alternifolium*).

For fun I have listed a few interesting moss tidbits from my notes.

Moss covered soil on mountain sides and in mountain valleys collects an incredible amount of rain water and actually prevents excessive quantities from flowing downhill.

Bog moss (*Sphagnum*) and Reindeer lichen (*Cladonia rangiferina*) retains so much water (up to 95% of its dry weight) in their matted underparts beneath a crisp dry surface that a little pressure produces a stream of clear water. Even changes in air pressure can release this moisture that has been given credit as being the source of many streams.

The Hair Cap or Pigeon Wheat (*Polytrichum commune*) fruiting stems make beautiful rings when the base is poked into the capless spore capsule.

Mosses near Niagra Falls support their carbon dioxide habit with a decomposition product of bicarbonate of lime - dissolved by the water. The lime precipitates encrusting the lower leaves while the tips continue to grow. Some stems are believed to be over 2,000 years old and 50 feet long (most of the length is buried).

Streams in relatively flat terrain can be caused to meander by Cedar moss (*Hygroamblysteguin*

Continued on page 4

MAKE A FILM CANISTER TERRARIUM

Begin by inserting an inverted water bottle cap with a couple holes drilled in it and a shoestring wick poked through one hole, into a relatively clear film canister (Fuji). Push the cap down to about 1/4 inch above the bottom. As you slowly fill the chamber below the cap with water you will appreciate the two holes. Now, place a few sprigs of moss in the inverted cap, cap the canister and do whatever you do with a terrarium.

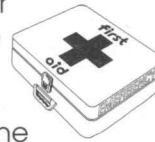
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irriguum) that accumulates debris (mud, sand and small twigs) as it clings to rocks. Cedar moss has also been known to obstruct pond outlets forcing the formation of new outflows.

Many useful properties of Spaghnum moss were noted during World War I while the American Red Cross used it as a substitute for cotton bandages. It was more absorbent than cotton, softer and less irritating than cotton. It was

cheaper to use as cotton was in great demand for use in explosives – creating a demand for dressings. Spaghnum also retained its antiseptic properties. (American Surgeon, J. B. Porter, in the *International Journal of Surgery*.)

Laplanders used Hairy Cap moss for bedding. Linnaeus reported sleeping on moss beds during his wanderings. These beds were made by cutting out large blankets of moss and rolling them



up for transport – covers were also made from such moss mats. Hairy Cap moss has been used to stuff mattresses and upholster furniture.

Well, if it covers 1% of our land mass what did you expect – of course we found uses for it. And no, I don't have a theory on why we don't make better use of it today. Now, close your eyes, lean back and let yourself be transported to your childhood; lying on a bed of moss listening to a stream's serene music...

Wildflower Identification Challenge by E-Mail

by Dr. Stephen L. Timme

T.M. Sperry Herbarium, Pittsburg State University, Kansas

Late in 2003, I established a Wildflower Identification Challenge by E-Mail. Currently more than 40 people from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Alabama, Colorado, and Canada participate. Each week, a photo of a wildflower is sent in jpeg format. The participant then uses whatever resources to make an ID of the photo and returns the answer to me at my e-mail address. With each photo, a brief description will be included, as well as habitat.

This ID challenge is *only* for fun and learning. It is a good way to sharpen one's ability to recognize wildflowers. The plant photos are generally from the Midwest, although I may throw in an "outsider" once in awhile with clues. Even though most are from the Midwest, many overlap with Mississippi and Alabama. In addition, if anyone is interested, I can provide a list of some



excellent wildflower guides to purchase at very reasonable prices.

When one submits an ID, please include the scientific name (species name), family name, and common name. This will help one to learn the plant names and what family to which they belong.

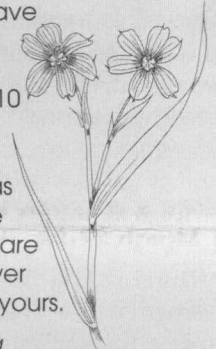
Each month, everyone who has submitted a guess, right or wrong, has their name placed in a hat, bowl, or whatever. One name is drawn and an 8x10 photo of a wildflower or scenery is sent to them. Also, the name of the plant is given with the following week's challenge.

If anyone is interested, send your full name and e-mail address to: Dr. Stephen Timme at sperherb@pittstate.edu or sperryherbarium@pittstate.edu.

Even if I do not have any Mississippians interested in joining the ID Challenge, I'd sure like to hear from my MNPS friends. I really miss the field trips in Mississippi.

In the Ditch Heralds of Spring

Let those Texans have their bluebonnets; we have everything else! Here's a list of 10 common roadside bloomers that will assure you spring has really arrived. By the way, some of them are great in the wildflower garden! Try them in yours.



- Bluettes (*Houstonia caerulea*) – sunny slope edges; very low; masses of sapphire blue
- Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginiana*) – lawns, open areas; very short, pale pink with stripes
- Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*) – sunny slopes, medians; short; grass-like, blue
- Buttercup (*Ranunculus fascicularis*) – open fields, low areas; short to medium; waxy yellow
- Heal-All (*Prunella vulgaris*) – low places; short; masses; lavender/pink
- Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*) – roadsides, open areas; medium; brilliant blue to pink
- Spring Cress (*Cardamine bulbosa*) – low moist places; medium; bright white; edible leaves
- Daisy Fleabane (*Erigeron strigosus*) – roadsides, open spaces; medium; small white daisies in clusters
- Verbena (*Verbena rigidula*, *Verbena tenuisecta*) – sunny open areas, medians; very low; deep purple
- Mexican Buttercup (*Oenothera speciosa*) – open places, medians; short to medium; pink to white

Calendar Events for Spring 2004

MISSISSIPPI

GARDEN & PATIO SHOWS

• **Feb. 28-29** – Gulfport Garden & Patio Show; MS Coast Coliseum & Convention Center, Gulfport. Sat., 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Sun., 12 – 5 p.m. Admission \$3 adults, 13 & under free. www.msnla.org or 800-678-0179.

• **March 13-14** – Jackson Garden & Patio Show; State Fairgrounds. Sat., 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Sun., 12 – 5 p.m. Admission \$3 adults, 13 & under free. www.msnla.org or 800-678-0179.

• **March 27-28** – Southaven Garden & Patio Show; DeSoto Civic Center, Southaven. Sat., 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Sun., 12 – 5 p.m. Admission \$3 adults, 13 & under free. www.msnla.org or 800-678-0179.

HERB & GARDEN FESTIVAL

• **March 27-28** – Herb & Garden Festival; Chamber of Commerce, Mainstreet, Visitor's Center, 1000 Washington Ave., Ocean Springs. www.oceanspringschamber.com or 228-875-4424 for details.

NAAEE

• **November 6-10** – The North American Association for Environmental Education is holding their 2004 annual conference in Biloxi. The call for papers will be going out in the next couple weeks and it could be that some of our members might be interested in doing a session. MNPS Education Chair, John Guyton, is the conference chair. There will likely be around 1,000 in attendance and the membership spans 55 countries. The NAAEE web site (naaee.org) will have additional information as it becomes available.

MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE

• **First Tuesday** of each month – the Mississippi Museum of Natural

Science offers a lecture series addressing a variety of natural science subjects. Unless noted otherwise, the lectures take place from 12 – 1 p.m. in the Rotwein Theater. Free to Museum Foundation members – show your membership card at the gate. Regular Museum fee: \$4 for adults; \$2 for children.

• **April 6** – Bob Brzuszek, Professor, Landscape Architecture, MSU presents, "Working with Restless Natives." Tues., 12 p.m. Learn to work with native plants in the home garden. Following a slide show, Bob Brzuszek, Heather Sullivan, and Halla Jo Ellis will guide a short tour of the native plant gardens on the Museum grounds. See what you can create in your own backyard!

CLINTON COMMUNITY NATURE CENTER

• **May 1** – Nature Day 2004; Clinton Community Nature Center, 617 Dunton Rd., Clinton. Sat., 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Workshops, food, plant sales, fun for the kids and adults, music, dancing. To raise awareness and funds for the CCNC. Free admission. For more info on this and other events: www.clintonnaturecenter.org or 601-926-1104.

LOUISIANA

• **March 27** – Bloom Fest Expo & Seminar – Northeast Flower Society; The Pentecostals of the Twin Cities Family Life Center, 1255 Glenwood Dr., West Monroe, LA; Sat., 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Speakers include: Steve Bender, Felder Rushing and Rick Griffin. Tickets \$35.00 and includes continental breakfast & lunch. For tickets send check payable to Northeast Flower Society and mail to: Mona Hayden, Bloom Fest Ticket Sales, 444 Standard Reed Rd., West Monroe, LA 71291, 318-396-8692 (home) or 318-547-1221 (cell).

KENTUCKY

• **April 29-May 2** – Wildflower Weekend-The Gorge in Bloom! Natural Bridge State Resort Park. Native plant enthusiasts can enjoy one of Kentucky's most diverse areas in bloom. Sat. and Sun.: dozens of field trips; evening programs. Registration Fee: \$5/adult, \$2/child 6-12, free/kids 5 and under, payable upon arrival, no preregistration required. For accommodation info call 1-800-325-1710. For event info contact Zeb Weese, Park Naturalist, 1-606-663-2214, ext 2104 or jason.weese@ky.gov. For park info: www.naturalbridgepark.com.

Make Plans Now for Spring Field Trip

• **April 17** – MNPS Spring Field Trip. We are tentatively scheduled to visit the "Cove" in Webster County, MS on April 17th. This is a wonderful example of the once extensive Beech-Magnolia forests in Mississippi. There will be plenty of great plants and natural scenery, including the only known site in the state for Maple Leaf Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*) and other seldom seen goodies.

All interested parties **MUST** make reservations with John by **March 26th**. If under 10 members schedule attendance he will have to cancel the trip as he will be involved in serious field work on the Coast beginning in early April through late September and will be gone a great deal of the time. Advance reservations are *crucial* because if the meeting is held, the logistics of the trip have to be worked out ahead of time. When scheduling, please provide John with your phone number or email address so you can receive updated info.

john.hays@mmns.state.mu.us • Days: 601-354-7303; Fax: 601-354-7227

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL FORM

Join the organization devoted to the study and appreciation of wildflowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees native to the state of Mississippi. Members receive **MISSISSIPPI NATIVE PLANTS**, a publication that addresses scientific and gardening issues relevant to the recognition, enjoyment, and conservation of our native plants and natural habitats.

Join Today!

- _____ **New Member** _____ **Renewal**
- _____ Student: \$7.50
- _____ Individual or Family: \$10.00
- _____ Sustaining: \$15
- _____ Contributing: \$35.00
- _____ Life: \$125.00
- _____ Check here if you do NOT want your name to appear on a Membership List.

Name _____

County _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

e-mail _____

Please return this form with check to:
 MNPS, Inc.
 c/o Dr. Debora Mann
 114 Auburn Drive • Clinton, MS 39056-6002

MISSISSIPPI NATIVE PLANTS is the quarterly publication of the **Mississippi Native Plant Society, Inc.**

Issue 1–Winter: Dec/Jan/Feb
 Issue 2–Spring: March/Ap/May
 Issue 3–Summer: June/Jly/Aug
 Issue 4–Fall: Sept/Oct/Nov

Deadlines for all* copy are:
 Winter – October 15th
 Spring – January 15th
 Summer – April 15th
 Fall – July 15th

**Final deadline for Events is the 30th of the month listed.*

Any interested parties may send articles, photos, drawings, etc. to the editor with the knowledge that materials may not be returned.

All are welcomed.

•**Gulf Coast Chapter:** Meets every 4th Monday at various locations near Gulfport. For more information contact president, Edie Dreher at 228-864-2775 or mail to 100 24th St., Gulfport, MS 39507.

•**Starkville Area Chapter:** For meeting times and information, contact Bob Brzuszek at rbrzuszek@lalc.msstate.edu or phone 662-325-7896.

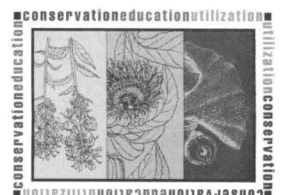
Visit the MNPS, Inc. web site at: groups.msn.com/mississippinativeplantsociety

DON'T FORGET!

Be sure to reserve your place for the Spring Field Trip. Call or email John Hays by no later than **March 26th!**

CLINTON MS 39056-6002
 114 AUBURN DR
 M/M DEBORA AND TOM MANN

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 PLANT SOCIETY, INC.
 c/o Dr. Debora Mann
 Millsaps College
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 Jackson, MS 39210



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