The Newsletter of the Mississippi Native Plant Society

Summer 1997

Volume 17 Issue 3



A Summer Flowering Shrub that touches your senses



The excitement of spring and all its glorious color has now subsided. Summer with its heat and humidity is here, and people are going about their normal routines—working, preparing meals, mowing grass, tending the vegetable garden, and watching their children now that school is out. The yellows of sunflowers, reds and pinks of hibiscus, and the purples of ironweed or phlox are the center pieces of the landscape. Why not add to this a native shrub that has white or sometimes pink flowers with has a delicious fragrance?

The shrub that I refer to is know by its common name of summersweet clethera and by its botanical name of *Clethra alnifolia*. Summersweet is native to the southeast, including from as far north along the seacoast as Virginia, coming down to Florida, and across to the eastern portion of Texas. Leaves are simple and alternate along the stem and can be up to 4" long and 2" in width. The edges of the leaves are toothed or serrate. Summer leaf color is a deep green and in fall the leaf color is yellow. The growth habit of

As to preferred growing conditions, this native shrub will grow in any decent garden soil, but when provided with moist, acid soil in sun to part-shade it will thrive. It will languish, however, if put in a dry area with too much sun.

The best attribute of summersweet has purposefully been saved for last - flowering! Erect racemes bearing many small, pearl-colored flowers cover this shrub for 4 to 6 weeks each summer. Flowering occurs on new season's growth and the raceme can be as long as 6". When placing this shrub in your landscape, situate it attracting wildlife, summersweet is visited regularly by bees and butterflies.

As with many native plants on the market today, there are several cultivars of Clethra alnifolia. *C. alnifolia* 'Rosea' and 'Pink Spires' sport light pink blossoms. *C. alnifolia* 'Hummingbird', so named because it was spread of only 3-4 feet.

If you want to try propagating this shrub, it can be done by division, seed or cuttings. I take cuttings during the summer months, treat them with a rooting hormone, and put them under mist. They root using this procedure in 2 to 3 weeks. For the home gardener who just wants a couple of extra plants for the landscape or to share with a friend in a year or two a happy plant will have suckered at the base enough that it can be dug and divided.

⁻ Karen Partlow is the owner of NATURE'S NOOK in Meridian, MS. She specializes in growing native and non-native perennials, shrubs, ferns, and grasses. See Page 3 for more details.

Newsletter Update

It's been a year since I first took over this position. As enjoyable as it is to get this newsletter out to say that it is not a tremendous amount of work would be less than honest. Thanks for your patience.

Dues, dues, and over due dues. Fair warning is placed on your mailing labels and it is your dues that make the printing of the newsletter possible. Deliquent dues do not make for a financially stable society. Please try and be prompt about your renewals. Consider an upgrade to Sustaining Member the next time around if you aren't already giving at that level.

Those of you who have submitted articles and passed calender of events and interesting tid-bits my way for inclusion in the newsletter, your time and efforts are greatly appreciated. Keep it up! To those of you who have sent notes which relay a 'thumbs-up' opinion about the newsletter - thank-

For those of you who have access I have recently acquired an e-Mail address and may be reached at llibous@hotmail.com Please feel free to post any information or articles of interest for inclusion into the newsletter to that address.

-Lynn Libous-Bailey, Editor

Local Chapters

Jackson -- *NEWS FLASH* The Jackson Area pre-Chapter of the MNPS has held two meetings, one at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, and the other at the Clinton Community Nature Center. Considerable interest was generated to continue the focus on establishing a Chapter in the Jackson Metropolitan Area. The President and Secretary-Treasurer are in the process of contacting other native plant societies to determine the strategies of incorporating and developing Chapters within the Society.

At the first meeting, Ronald Wieland gave a brief slide presentation on the ecology of Lefleur's Bluff State Park. At the second meeting, Ron Larson gave a walking tour of the CCNC. For members interested in becoming involved in the Jackson Area Chapter, please contact Dr. Debora Mann at 974-1415 (D) or 924-4966.

The next chapter meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting on Oct. 4. See page 7 for more details.



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

1996 -1997 MNPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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One question that comes up every time I speak about native plants is "Where can we get them? Mississippi Nurseries have numerous southern wholesale sources from which to purchase native plants. Some of us are not fortunate enough to live near local nurseries that are willing to carry what we want. For us, mailordering plants is necessary.

Below you will find listed those mail order nurseries with which I have had ordering from. All the nurseries listed have disclaimers printed in their catalogues which states that they only propagate from seed or cuttings of wild plants and do not 'dig and grow' from wild populations. **Natures Nook** and **Southern Perennial and Herbs** are located in MS. Consider checking out their listings before purchasing out of state.

Members who knows of other reliable mailorder sources are welcome to submit them. Now is the time to send in your money and request the Fall 1997-Spring 1998 catalogues. They make great wishbooks!

- Lynn Libous-Bailey

414-639-2371

Beaver Creek Nursery 7526 Pelleaux Road Knoxville. TN 37938

615-922-3961

Catalogue: \$2.00 (No pictures)

Excellent selection of gallon sized trees and shrubs. Many native selections of hollies listed.

Carroll Gardens PO Box 310

Westminster, MD 21157 1-800-638-6334

Catalogue: \$3.00 (No pictures)

Informative catalog lists a huge selection of perennials, vines & more. Can ship in early spring and late winter.

Elk Mountain Nursery 142 Webb Cove Road Asheville, NC 28804-1929

704-251-9622 elkmountain@circle.net

Catalogue: \$3.00 (No pictures) http://www.circle.net/elkmountain

Wonderful selection of nursery grown native perennials, trees and shrubs. Reasonable prices. Many wildlife, medicinal and herbal plant uses listed.

Heronswood Nursery Ltd. 7530 NE 288th Street Kingston, WA 98346

360-297-4172 FAX: 360-297-8321

Catalogue: \$4.00 (No pictures) http://www.eskimo.com/~mcalpin/heron

Lots of our native plants that the English gardens are filled with. Good planting combinations suggested.

Milaeger's Gardens 4838 Douglas Avenue Racine, WI 53402-2498

Catalogue: \$2.00 (Good color pictures)

A good nursery with lots of native plants. Solid basic info. Good selection of prairie plants.

Native Gardens 5737 Fisher Lane Greenback, TN 37742

423-856-3350

Catalogue \$3.00 (No pictures)

Native plant specialists. Reasonably priced plants with good adaptability. Good cultural information.

Nature's Nook 1578 Marion-Russell Road Meridian, MS 39304

601-485-5161 natures@cybertron.com

Catalogue: \$3.00 (Some pictures) http://www.cybertron.com/naturesnook

MS nursery that specializes in perennials for the south. Consistant quality, healthy plants and reasonable prices. Good selection of natives.

Niche Gardens 1111 Dawson Road

Chapel Hill, NC 27516 919-967-0078 FAX:919-967-4026

Catalogue: \$3.00 (Some color pictures) http://www.nichegdn.com

Great selection of natives & general use landscape plants. Good descriptions, suggestions & quality.

June-July-August

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Plant Delights Nursery 9241 Sauls Road Raleigh, NC 27603

919-772-4794 FAX:919-662-0370 tony@plantdel.com

Catalogue: \$3.00 (Some color pictures)

http://www.plantdel.com

A most entertaining catalogue. Hundreds of U.S. natives, and hardy Mexican perennials. Consistant plants, lots of unusuals.

Prairie Nursery PO Box 306

Westfield, WI 53964

608-296-3679 FAX: 608-296-2741

Catalogue: \$3.00 (Most plants pictured)

Wonderful source for native midwestern prairie plants. Good cultural discriptions, including wildlife uses. Bare root, potted and seeds available.

Shooting Star Nursery 444 Bates Road Frankfort, KY 40601

502-223-1679

Catalogue: \$3.00 (Line drawings)

Good source of only native shrubs, woody vines, grasses and perennials. Useful descriptions for wildlife use and cultural practices. Lots of plant habitat information. Reasonable prices.

Southern Perennials and Herbs 98 Bridges Road

sph@neosoft.com Tylertown, MS 39667 800-774-0079 FAX: 601-6843729

Catalogue: \$3.00 (No pictures)

http://www.s-p-h.com

Large selection of native perennials as well as herbs. Reasonable prices and good quality. Informative catalogue packed with info.

Sunlight Gardens, Inc.

174 Golden Lane

Andersonville, TN 37705

1-800-272-7396 FAX:423-494-7086 sungardens@aol.com

Catalogue \$3.00 (Some line drawings)

Consistant quality and good plants. Natives and named cultivars are their speciality. Excellent planting suggestions and combinations. Reasonably priced.

Wildseed Farms 1101 Campo Rosa Road

PO Box 308

Eagle Lake, TX 77434

1-800-848-0078

Catalogue: \$2.00 (Pictures)

Seed source for many native wildflowers. Great instructions for home meadows. Wildflower mixes available, but try purchasing 'native only' mixes.

Woodlanders, Inc. 1126 Colleton Avenue Aiken, SC 29801

803-648-7522

Catalogue: \$3.00 (No pictures)

Large selection of mostly native trees, shrubs and perennials. No size listing and often plants are small. For the seasoned gardener that can nuture, this is a goldmine for southeastern natives.

Yucca Do Nursery PO Box 450 Waller, TX 77484

409-826-4580

Catalogue: \$3.00 (No pictures)

Texas and Mexican native plants that survive our summers are all right here. Salvias and hundreds of drought tolerant perennials and woodies. Plant descriptions are concise but worth researching elsewhere.

SOMETHING ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL CAUGHT YOUR EYE? IF THERE'S CELERY GREEN ON THE DATE THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE 88. IF THERE IS ORANGE YOUR DUES ARE DELIQUENT. DON'T PUT IT OFF - MAIL YOUR RENEWAL CHECK TODAY!!!

A Review of the Magazine entitled Plant Talk

- Robert Stewart

A relatively new magazine from England eliciting glowing comments from professional and lay botanists around the world. Plant Talk, first published in March 1995, features "News and views on plant conservation worldwide" and does so in manner that is both scientifically correct and easily understood by a variety of readers. Director Hugh Synge and Editor John Akeroyd are botanists.

A color photograph, usually a close up of a plant or a habitat, appears on the cover of each issue. Inside one finds a timely editorial, letters, a profile of someone active in plant conservation (Plant Talk 1 carried a tribute to North American botantist Al Gentry who died in a plane crash in Equador in 1993) . notices of meetings, and news items relating to matters affecting plants worldwide, including the effects of war. For example, the botanic garden in Sarajevo was hit by over 400 artillery shells from Efforts are underway to restore the garden, in part, by soliciting seeds and plants from those who had received them from the garden.

This is followed by a "Special Features" section with articles on a variety of topics. "Nature Revealed in Porcelain" describes the work of Patrick O'hara of County Cork, Ireland, who crafts botanically accurate groupings of plants in porcelain, but only after he has observed and drawn them in nature. traveled to the pinelands of Florida to observe Bartram's Ixia, of the Iris family. In that same issue is an excellent short article on the use of plant tissue culture at Kew Gardens to propagate rare and endangered plants. In others issues are articles on the Vernal Pools of California, the teak forests of Thailand, the flora of Poland's "miniature alps". important plant areas of Turkey, Seed Savers of Iowa (they have literally thousands of hard to find varieties), how to reintroduce a plant to an area where it formerly grew, and tips on photographing

plants. Color photographs are frequent and of good quality.

There is also a book review section and a section devoted to newly published floras from around the world. In a review of The Palms of Madagascar, I learned that of the 171 species described, all but five are endemic (found nowhere else). Other special features give the latest news on international conservation meetings. Special attention is given to activities of the IUCN (The World Conservation Union) and to Red Data Books that provide essential information on threatened plants. In an ongoing series of articles, Hugh Synge has been explaining the Biodiversity Convention that was signed by many governmental representatives in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. "The Last Word" features an excerpt from notable natural history writing including that of John Muir, Henry David Thoreau, W. H. Hudson, and others well worth knowing.

Finally, there is the informative section "100 Plant Facts for Campaigning Conservationists." This began with the first issue (back issues are available) and is still going with several facts included in each issue. Some examples from the various facts: all but one of the 1650 species of known cacti live in the Americas; Peppers (Capsicum) of the New World are first noted in writings in 1493, the year after Columbus arrived. Within a century they were known as far east as India; with 25,000+ species, the orchid family has more species than any other family of flowering plants; and, it is likely that 10-15% of the Earth's flowering plants are undescribed.

Subscriptions are \$25.00 per year for four issues. The address for U.S.A. subscriptions is Plant Talk, P. O. Box 65226, Tucson, AZ 85728-5226. Most issues contain 35-40 numbered pages.

Mississippi Native Plants The Newsletter of the Mississippi Native Plant Society

Mississippi Native Plants is the quarterly publication of the Mississippi Native Plant Society.

Winter (Issue 1) Spring (Issue 2)

December/January/February March/April/May

Summer (Issue 3) June/July/ August

Fall (Issue 4)

September/October/November

Deadlines for the Fall Issue are as follows: Articles--July 15 Calendar of Events--- July 30

Deadlines for the Winter Issue are as follows: Articles---Oct 15 Calendar of Events---Oct 30

Hard copies or articles in Word Perfect or Word submitted to the Editor are solicited and welcomed.

Mid-South Native Plant Conference to be held in Memphis on October 24-26 at Christian Brothers University

SCHEDULE

Friday, October 24, 1997

10 00 am - Noon

Visit Open Gardens

Registration in CBU Theater Lobby

Noon - 1:15 pm

Welcome: General Information Keynote: Why Use Native Plants in Your

Landscape? - Glattstein 1 15 pm - 2 15 pm General Session: Native Ferns Useful in

Your Mid-South Gardens - Mickel 2 15 pm - 2 45 pm Break - Refreshments

2.45 pm - 3.45 pm Keynote: Exceptional Garden - Worthy Cultivars of Native Plants - Hendricks

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Concurrent Sessions

a) Propagation for Home Gardeners - Midgley

b) Down and Dirty Gardening Techniques -Planting Nursery-Grown Plants - Furr

c) Selecting, Naming & Introducing Cultivars of Southeastern Native Plants - Lowman

d) Creating a Bog/Swamp Environment in the Home Landscape - Brzuszek

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Gourmet Dinner in the Gardens Time for regional networking

Saturday, October 25, 1997

9:00 am - 9:30 am

Assembly: Announcements
General Session: Garden Musings - Amason

9:30 am - 10:30am Keynote: The New American Garden Changing Attitudes Toward Gardening in

America - Smith

11:00 am - Noon

10:30 am 11:00 am Break - Refreshments [Depart: Session (h)] **Concurrent Sessions:** e) Pokeweed: Pan-American Pariah or

American Palate Pleaser? - Studebaker f) Planting a Residential Prairie -

Woodbury g) Large Scale Professional Production & Propagation of Natives - Hendricks

h) Field Trip - Public Lands for Native Plants: A Neighborhood Project -Pellett & Leggett

Noon - 1:00 pm

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Lunch (provided at CBU) General Session: Designing With the Native

2:15 pm - 3:15 pm

Landscape - Brzuszek Concurrent Sessions

i) Native Magnolias of the Southeast - Amason j) An Introduction to Native Mosses - Pendano

k) Backyards to Schoolyards: Gardening with

Children - Aldridge & Stanley l) Hypertufa in the Native Garden: Creating Realistic Water and Stone Features - Barton

3:15 pm - 3:45 pm

3:45 pm - 4:45 pm

Break - Refreshments General Session: Favorite Native Trees for

Homeowners - Touliatos 4:45 pm - 5:15 pm Wrap up: farewell, plant sales and pick-up

Sunday, October 26, 1997

Field Trips 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Visit Open Gardens

Scott Woodbury curates Whitmire Wildflower Garden at Shaw Arboretum. He has wide-ranging experience and interest in Southeastern native plants and prairie ecosystems.

SPEAKERS

Leslie Aldridge professionally designs eclectic residential gardens for people of all ages featuring native plants She has created gardens for local schools and Lichterman Nature Center

Carl Amason is the expert on natives of his region. He has planted a virtual arboretum on his farm in Union County, AR and readily shares his knowledge and love of plants

Gail Barton teaches horticulture at Meridian Community College where her fragrance garden features many natives. A previous owner of Flowerplace Plant Farm, she has recently begun a sixacre native plant garden.

Bob Brzuszek is the senior curator of the Crosby Arboretum in Picayune, MS He uses natives in his professional landscape designs and takes an active leadership in several landscaping and

Julius Furr holds a degree in landscape architecture from LSU, but he is truly a landscape naturalist specializing in woodland native plants. He and his wife garden together in Brandon, MS.

Judy Glattstein is an internationally known lecturer, garden writer, and horticultural consultant living in Frenchtown, NJ. She shares her enthusiasm for native plants and naturalistic garden design through books, magazine articles and classes at the New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, Institute of Ecosystem Studies and Arnold Arboretum.

Dale Hendricks grows thousands of plants annually at North Creek Nurseries, specializing in open-pollenated natives, nursery propagated selections and environmentally responsible exotics

Margaret Leggett is an avid gardener, nurse and Greenways volunteer with the Vollentine Evergreen Association in Memphis.

Larry Lowman, a former park naturalist, now owns Ridgecrest Nursery He emphasizes natives in his designs and has introduced several selections of Southeastern native plants

John Mickel is Curator of Ferns at the New York Botanical Garden His recent book, Ferns for American Gardens, is the only in-depth American book on fern cultivation.

Jan Midgley owns Wildflower, Inc., a native plant nursery in Wilsonville, AL. She has been program chair and conference director for the Cullowhee Native Plants Conference.

Tom Pellett is an exceptional designer and lecturer specializing in residential design in the Mid-South. He designed the MBG Sensory Garden and plantings at Lichterman Nature Center

Gregory Pendano is Herbarium Assistant in the Bryology Lab at the Missouri Botanical Garden, where he has become increasingly acquainted with and fascinated by mosses

Gary Smith teaches landscape design at the University of Delaware. As a designer, he searches for ways to connect people and nature through personal creativity.

Nickie Stanley works as an Artist -in -Schools with the Memphis Arts Council She teaches the youngest visitors at Lichterman Nature Center and cultivates a yard full of natives at home.

Russell Studebaker is a garden writer, lecturer and garden consultant. He was the city horticulturist with the Tulsa parks department and has received numerous conservation awards

Plato Touliatos, originally trained in forestry, has owned Trees by Touliatos Nursery in Memphis for 35 years. He is a well-known lecturer and water garden specialist

GROUND RULES

Registration cost is \$85. However, if payment is received by Oct 1, 1997, the preregistration fee is \$70. Conference registration includes a gourmet dinner on Friday evening, snacks, Saturday lunch and a limited edition 1997 MSNPC T-shirt. Meais and T-shirts cannot be guaranteed for those who register after Oct 15, 1997. Cancellations must be made in writing by Oct 1, 1997. A \$15 processing fee will be retained. Cancellations after Oct 1, 1997 will not be refunded. Purchase orders not accepted. Make checks payable

Mid-South Native Plant Conference Registration Form

Name Zip State Phone (day) (_) (eve) () T-Shirt Size: (Circle one) M L XL XXL (Unspecified = XL) you will attend: abcd efgh [ijkl]

Refer to ground rules for cancellation refund policy Let us know if you have any special needs

Amount Enclosed

Make Checks payable to: MSNPC

Registration Fee \$85, or

Preregister by Oct. 1 Fee \$70

MSNPC, LNC Return to: 5992 Quince Road Memphis, TN 38119

901-680-9756

******* MNPS Annual Meeting and Tour to be held October 4

Members are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Native Plant Society. The meeting will be held on October 4, 1997, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM at the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area Education Center.

The Education Center is located at the junction of Highway 43 and the Natchez Trace Parkway. At the junction travel eastward on Highway 43 (towards Ross Barnett Reservoir) for several hundred yards until you see the sign and entrance way to the Management Area. Drive north about a quarter mile to the headquarters building where the meeting will commence. Parking is available at the Education Center.

A business meeting will be held from 11:00 AM to 12:00 noon. A **Brown-Bag Lunch** will follow, at which time we have scheduled a speaker. After lunch, around 1:00 PM, we will take a walk on Jack's Ridge Trail. The trail is named after Jack Herring, past executive director of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, who has a keen interest in growing native plants located just out the door from the headquarters building. Time permitting we will take a tour of the Ross Barnett Reservoir Marsh area, where numerous wetland plants, such as *Nelumbo lutea* (American lotus), *Bidens laevis* (Bur-marigold), *Bidens mitis* (smallfruit beggarticks), *Baccharis halimifolia* (eastern baccharis), *and Hibiscus moscheutos* (crimsoneyed rosemallow) will be in bloom, among an assortment of wetland sedges, rushes, willows, grasses and herbs.



New MNPS Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Debora Mann, has volunteered to serve as Secretary-Treasurer for the society. Dr. Mann is a Botany Professor at Millsaps University in Jackson and brings considerable botanical expertise and enthusiasm to the society. She is a welcome addition to the MNPS Board. The Society's central address will remain at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. THANK-YOU Debora for taking an active roll in the society!!!

Mississippi Native Plant Society Membership Application

_____\$125.00

Membership Categories:

Name_____

Address____

County______
Telephone - -

_I prefer not to have my name appear on the membership list. Return this form along with a check made payable to Mississippi Native Plant Society to:

Mississippi Native Plant Society C/O Ron Wieland MS. Museum of Natural Science 111 N. Jefferson St. Jackson, MS 39202

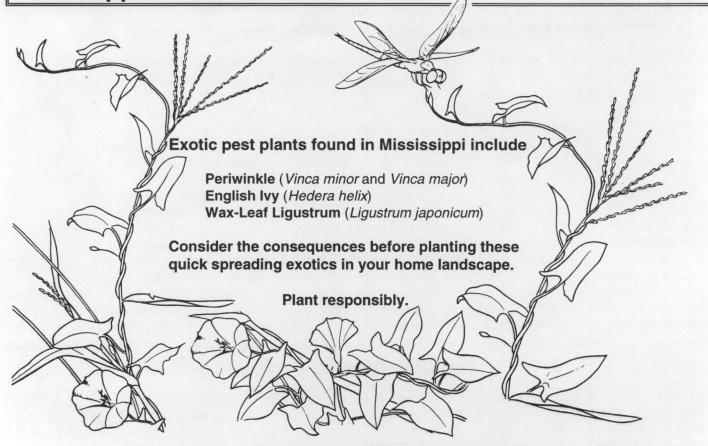


All members receive Mississippi Native Plants. Life members also receive Wildflowers of Mississippi by S. Lee Timme











Mississippi Native Plant Society PO Box 357 Stoneville, MS 38776-0357

M N P S

CONT 8/29/97 M/M DEBORA AND TOM MANN 114 AUBURN DRIVE CLINTON MS 39056-4966

BIBB COUNTY ALABAMA FIELD TRIP TO THE 'GLADES' ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 1997

The MNPS, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, and The Nature Conservancy Field Office, Jackson, are sponsoring a field trip to see the exceptional Glades area in this county on Saturday September 20, 1997. The tour will be lead by Allen Schotz, Ecologist with the Alabama Natural Heritage Program. We will meet between 11:00 and 11:30 AM at the I-59 Rest Area located about 10 miles east (past) of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Guests are welcome to bring a Brown Bag Lunch to eat at the rest area where we will regroup and travel to the Glades, leaving at 12:00 noon sharp. The trip will involve easy to moderate walking. A good pair of walking shoes and apparel for sun or rain protection are recommended. You should plan to be in the field for 3 to 4 hours with the trip ending around 4:00 to 5:00 PM.

Those interested in joining the group in Jackson, call Ron Wieland at 354-7303 and leave your name and telephone number. We will be leaving from the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, 111 N Jefferson St., Jackson at 8:00 AM sharp. If you're joining the group at the I-59 Rest Area in Alabama be prompt - the 12:00 Noon departure from there will be strictly adhered to.

Dolomite, a sedimentary rock composed of calcium magnesium carbonate, outcrops are rare in the Southeastern US. Bibb County, Alabama, is one of the few places where significant outcrops of Ketona dolomite occur, though these are quite minor in extent.. None exist in MS. James Allsion, a botanist with the Georgia Natural Heritage Program, on a float trip down the Little Cahaba River discovered the Bibb County Glades, an area with and an astounding complement of eight new species of plants, several widely disjunct species, and an unusually large collection of state listed rare species. The nine plants endemic to the site, known nowhere else in the world, are new species or varieties of Indian paintbrush, daisy fleabane, gayfeather, compass plant, prairie clover, coreopsis, Onosmodium, Solanum, and Spigella. Also maiden bush, cloak fern, and yellow nailwort were discovered at Bibb County Glades, with the nearest populations of these species occuring in TX, OK, or VA. You won't want to miss this trip to one of the premier conservation sites within the Southeast.