AWS STATE MEETING  
1/21/12 (Birmingham)  

Members Present: Richard and Nancy Cobb (co-presidents), Dr. Brian Keener (vice-president), Brian Finzel (secretary), Ginny Lusk (scholarship committee chair), Jerry Jones, Cheryl Jones, Anne Kitchens, Tracy Keener, Tara Finzel

- **Minutes From 12/3/11 Meeting**
  - Minutes from the 12/3 meeting were briefly discussed and approved by the board

- **Scholarship Committee Report (Ginny Lusk)**
  - Tuscaloosa Chapter donated $2500 to give out for 2012 scholarships

- **Update on Officers**
  - Becky Graham has agreed to remain as historian

- **Chapter Plant Sales**
  - Discussed dates of chapter/garden plant sales
    - April 7-8: Cullman, Tuscaloosa
    - April 14-15: Birmingham
    - April 21-22: Huntsville

- **AWS Chapters**
  - Discussed status of AWS chapters
    - Mobile, Sumter County, Northeast Alabama (Scottsboro), and Wiregrass chapters no longer active
    - Active chapters: Blanche Dean (Birmingham), Tuscaloosa, Cullman, Blount County, Shoals, Huntsville, and Bibb County

- **Future AWS Meetings**
  - Discussed spring meeting April 13-15 in Blount County
    - We will stay at Camp Sumatanga Lodge Friday and Saturday nights
    - Board approved paying $1000 deposit for lodge (due by 2/15)
    - County maps and an itinerary for trips will be passed out to all drivers
    - Saturday trip will include 4-5 sites in Blount County
    - Sunday trip will include 2 sites near Camp Sumatanga
  - Discussed spring meeting April 27-29 in Gatlinburg for the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage – we will stay at LeConte Lodge pending available rooms
  - Discussed potential of a fall meeting in Fort Payne to see fall colors, Little River Canyon, AWS property overlooking the canyon, and DeSoto State Park
  - Discussed need to develop a list of potential speakers for meetings
• **Day Trips**
  o Discussed potential of having 1 or 2 day trips a month throughout the state from spring through fall
  o Discussed numerous sites as ideal locations
  o Recognized need to list whether trips were easy, moderate, difficult, etc.
  o Discussed possibility of joining some already scheduled chapter outings
  o Dr. Keener will coordinate the scheduling of these new day trips

• **Learning Activities at Meetings**
  o Proposed idea to add learning segments to some future meetings to help meet our purpose of promoting knowledge about native plants
  o Discussed ideas such as learning about particular flower families utilizing dissecting microscopes at a herbarium

• **Website Report (Brian Finzel)**
  o Discussed wide array of links already on the wildflower links page of website
  o Discussed upcoming addition of a scholarship page on the website that would include application information

• **Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance**
  o Board appointed Richard Cobb as hopeful AWS representative for the Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance