AWS STATE MEETING
2/2/08 (Birmingham Botanical Gardens)

Members Present: Becky Graham (president), Caroline Dean (vice-president), Margie Anderton (treasurer), Rosemary Blethen (newsletter editor), Brian Finzel (secretary), Ginny Lusk (scholarship committee chair), Richard Holland, Becky Holland, Anne Kitchens, Cindy Martin, Alice Robertson, Al Blethen, Betty Cofield, Gerald Cofield, Bob Tate, Ann Tate, Violet Reed, Jack Hearn, and Cindy Hearn

- October 2007 Meeting
  o Minutes were approved from the October meeting

- Alabama Hiking Trail Conference
  o Conference will be held from March 14-16 at the Cheaha Lodge
  o Becky Graham will make a presentation there on behalf of the AWS
  o Discussed lack of informative pamphlets for AWS to distribute
  o Becky Graham will provide copies of recent newsletters
  o Becky Graham would like to have seeds to give out to attract interest

- Proposal to Amend AWS By-Laws
  o Discussed need to add four at-large members to the AWS board of directors
  o At-large members should be nominated by the board and serve a one-year term
  o Proposal would be inserted after first paragraph of Article III
  o Pros and cons of this amendment were discussed
  o Board decided that the president should appoint a committee to study the issue and then submit an amendment in writing at least one month before a future board meeting

- Future AWS Meetings
  o Caroline Dean informed us that the spring Weeks Bay meeting fell through
  o Plans have been made for a meeting in North Carolina from June 20-22 with several sites to visit and nights in Forest City and Dillsboro
  o Board decided to return to Cane Creek on April 19 and 20 with reservations in Sheffield again
  o Board decided on a March 21 and 22 meeting in Huntsville for 2009 to view the Huntsville Botanical Garden Trillium garden with outings and reservations in Huntsville
  o No leads yet on a fall 2008 meeting

- Central South Native Plant Conference
  o Conference will be held October 17-19 in Birmingham
  o There will be various field trips and a likely Saturday night banquet
  o Board decided only to promote the conference via newsletter
Website Report
- Reviewed current information on website
- Discussed addition of image library of over 350 regional plants and an updated wildflower links page
- Discussed need for an upcoming regional events page

Treasurer’s Report
- Four scholarships were recently awarded – three for $3000 and one for $2500
- Discussed scholarship fund CD’s
- Approximately $8500 in interest was earned in 2007 from these CD’s
- Discussed general fund report

Newsletter Report
- Extra materials for newsletter will be available in online and email versions
- Will continue to promote the emailing of newsletters to members
- Rosemary Blethen will make an AWS brochure which will also be posted on web
- Richard Holland will handle brochure printing
- Discussed need to put new brochures in selected locations (i.e. bot. gardens)
- Discussed outside requests to publish George Wood’s articles in other publications

Scholarship Committee Report
- Information on scholarships is sent annually to 25 schools
- Discussed need to develop a list of contacts at universities to gather more applications
- Board decided future scholarship recipients should only do a ten minute presentation at AWS meetings
- Board decided to put scholarship information in the newsletter about each individual and their research
- Discussed desire to allow professors to apply for grants

Property Donation
- A couple of acres in Cherokee County near Mentone have been left to the AWS
- Bob Tate will survey the property soon to see what is there
- Bob Tate will report his findings at the next meeting

New Committees
- Finance committee was formed with Margie Anderton as chair and Bob Tate and Cindy Hearn as committee members
- Publication committee was formed with Richard Holland as chair
- Membership committee was formed with Cindy Martin as chair
- Publicity committee was formed with Alice Robertson as chair
● **Possible Name Change for AWS**
  o Discussed possibility of changing name to the Alabama Native Plant Society
  o AWS would probably get more members as a native plant society
  o Board decided to keep AWS as name
  o Board agreed to list the AWS as “Alabama’s Native Plant Society” on website

● **Hospitality/Registration Room at Future Meetings**
  o Discussed idea of paying for a suite as a hospitality/registration room during meetings
  o State and local chapters may split room costs
  o Margie Anderton will check on the price for a room at the April meeting
  o Board decided not to get a suite for the June meeting in North Carolina

● **New T-Shirt Design**
  o Discussed printing of new AWS t-shirts
  o Costs will be about $10 per shirt
  o Board decided to use an old design with a birdfoot violet and the AWS name

● **Fern Society Events**
  o Ginny Lusk discussed and passed out flyers for the May 21 and June 18 events

● **Birmingham Audubon Society Events**
  o Bob Tate discussed the upcoming events