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IN MEMORIAM: MAXINE CLARK, 1905-1988

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Maxine Clark, longtime student of plants in Oklahoma and Arkansas, died at Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas, on 11 January 1988 at the age of 82. In her last years she was debilitated by Alzheimer's disease, the effects of that condition first appearing in 1978. The ravages of Alzheimer's advanced rapidly to the point that the loss of memory forced her to abandon almost all things botanical. Thus, the botanical community lost in premature fashion one of its most enthusiastic practitioners.

The daughter of Alexander Thomas and Iva Jane (Bradford) McMurtrey, she was born in Salem, Missouri, on 17 October 1905. She married Joseph Marsh Clark, at Steelville, Missouri, on 3 November 1929. She is survived by her husband and two sons, Joseph Henry Clark, of Dallas, Texas, and Thomas McMurtrey Clark, of Lafayette, Louisiana, as well as five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Burial was at Fairview Memorial Gardens, Fayetteville.

The Clark family lived for many years at Tulsa, Oklahoma, where Joe worked as a professional geologist. Maxine studied botany under Dr. Ralph Kelting at University of Tulsa, where she received her M.A. degree in Botany in 1959. Her thesis, entitled *A Study of the Flowering Plants of Tulsa County, Oklahoma Exclusive of the Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes*, was a fine floristic study and gave her a depth of experience and appreciation for all plant groups. The collections from that study are deposited at the herbarium of University of Tulsa. Maxine was a long-time friend there of Dr. Harriet G. Barclay and credited Dr. Barclay for stimulating her interest in field botany.

Following retirement Joe and Maxine moved to Fayetteville, Arkansas, and they quickly became actively involved in many aspects of Arkansas' natural history. His interests in geology and hers in botany took them to the outdoors, always working together as a team. They were charter members of the Ozark Society and served as editors of the award-winning *Ozark Society Bulletin* during 1967-1981. During their tenure with the *Bulletin* they helped make all aspects of natural history come alive to many people. Active canoeists and hikers, they made many treks into the Arkansas backcountry, always with a camera and a plant press. Maxine's feature column, called *Botanical Notes*, appeared in the *Ozark Society Bulletin* during the period of 1967-1981. Her column was of high quality and gave insight into the depth of her botanical understanding.

Her many years in Oklahoma gave her an appreciation of prairie and prairie plants. She was one of the first to recognize the few Lindley Prairie remnants in Benton County, Arkansas, and studied them for years. Her observations on two of the small prairie remnants were recorded in a 1977 paper (Clark, M. B. 1977. Remnant prairie plots of Benton County, Arkansas. *Proc. Ark. Acad. Sci.* 31:112-114.)

She was fascinated by ferns and one of her significant Arkansas finds was a Boston Mountain station for the Filmy Fern (Clark, M. B. 1962. *Trichomanes boschianum* in Madison County, Arkansas. *Amer. Fern J.* 52:85-86). Her collection served as a stimulus in the successful search for other stations in northwest Arkansas.

Maxine loved plants and she loved to make botanical specimens. She accumulated a sizeable collection of specimens and regularly worked with them. The specimens were stored at her home for many years until finally they were transferred to the herbarium at Arkansas Tech. Many of them were badly damaged by insect and water damage, but many more were salvaged. The collections are probably strongest in the prairie species, but she also collected many specimens from forest communities in the Ozarks and Ouachitas.

She was a member of the Arkansas Academy of Science, a charter member of the Arkansas Native Plant Society, and an honorary member of the Ft. Smith Geological Society. In addition, she was an active member of the Fayetteville Garden Club.

Maxine was a real botanist, familiar with botanical literature and the plants themselves. Those of us in the Arkansas botanical community who knew her well will miss her. Those who came along too late to know her will never know the curious mix of gentility and grit that she was. One of her closest friends has confided that she always saw many parallels between Maxine and the late artist Georgia O'Keefe. Maxine, too, had the eye of an artist and always appreciated the beauties of all of nature. A visit to her home was something like being in a combination of gallery and natural history museum. But, whereas the world of O'Keefe defied convention, Maxine always worked within the realm of that which was proper. In the words of a popular song — "she was a lady." And what a remarkable lady she was.