

CURRICULUM VITAE

Charles Theodore (Theo) Witsell, MS

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Career Objectives: 1) Continue meaningful and impactful work in conservation biology and ecology with a focus on identifying, protecting, and managing for rare species and ecological communities across eastern North America. 2) Save Southeastern Grasslands.

Education:

<i>University of Arkansas at Little Rock</i>	MS	2007	Biology with emphasis in Plant Ecology & Biogeography (Thesis: <i>Vascular Flora of Saline County, Arkansas</i> = 1530 taxa)
<i>University of Arkansas at Little Rock</i>	BS	2000	Biology (Geology minor)
<i>Georgia Institute of Technology</i>	No degree	1993-1995	Worked toward a degree in Mechanical Engineering

Research Interests:

- Biogeography & Floristics of Eastern North America
- Plant Ecology – focus on rare species of vascular plants
- Plant Systematics and Taxonomy
- Ecological Restoration & Fire Ecology
- Flora and Ecology of Glades, Barrens, & Grasslands

Selected Work Experience:

Southeastern Grasslands Institute (SGI)

Co-founder and Chief Conservation Officer	Providing oversight for all aspects of SGI's science and stewardship work.	January 2024-present
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Southeastern Grasslands Institute (SGI)

Co-founder and Chief Ecologist	Worked with SGI Executive Director to formulate and build this new conservation organization, co-wrote and produced reports, assessments, presentations, grant proposals, web content, etc. Conducted botanical and ecological research and assessments, fundraising, and development activities across the southeastern U.S.	Sep 2016-January 2024
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Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Chief of Research / Ecologist / Herbarium Curator	Served as the coordinator and lead scientist for the state's Natural Heritage Program and Chief Planner for the state's System of Natural Areas (public nature preserves)	March 2019-January 2024
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Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Senior Botanist / Ecologist / Herbarium Curator	Served as the State Botanist and Ecologist and as one of the lead scientists for the state's Natural Heritage Program and System of Natural Areas (public nature preserves)	Sept 2010-March 2019
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Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Botanist / Herbarium Curator	Served as the State Botanist and as one of the lead scientists for the state's Natural Heritage Program and System of Natural Areas (public nature preserves)	Jul 2000-Sept 2010
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<i>Missouri Department of Natural Resources</i>		
Contract Botanist/Ecologist	Conducted plant inventory and ecological assessments of tracts containing rare grassland and woodland communities in the vicinity of Taum Sauk Mountain State Park	2016
<i>Watershed Conservation Resource Center</i>		
Contract Botanist/Ecologist	Conducted plant inventory and vegetation monitoring of wetland mitigation and restoration sites; advised on species recommended for use in restoration projects	May 2015 – Dec 2016
<i>Natural State Streams LLC</i>		
Contract Botanist/Ecologist	Conducted plant inventory and vegetation monitoring of wetland mitigation and restoration projects	Sep – Oct 2013
<i>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</i>		
Contract Botanist	Conducted sampling of vegetation along headwater streams in the Allegheny Plateau, Central Appalachian, and Ridge & Valley Ecoregions of West Virginia and Kentucky	Oct 2011 – May 2012
<i>Native Restoration & Management LLC</i>		
Contract Botanist	Conducted plant inventory and vegetation monitoring of wetland restoration projects	2012-2016
<i>NatureServe</i>		
Contract Botanist	Conducted sampling of vegetation plots for Vegetation Map Accuracy Assessment of Buffalo National River, Arkansas (National Park Service)	Jun-Nov 2010
<i>U.S. Forest Service</i>		
Contract Botanist	Conducted rare and invasive plant surveys in the Flatside Wilderness Area (Ouachita National Forest, Arkansas)	2009
<i>ECO, Inc.</i>		
Contract Botanist	Conducted plant inventory and vegetation monitoring of prairie and wetland restoration associated with City of Fayetteville (Arkansas) Westside Water Treatment Plant (http://www.ecoarkansas.com/WoolseyMain.html)	Jun 2006 – Dec 2016
<i>Gates-Rogers Foundation</i> (a non-profit conservation organization in the Ozark Mountains)		
Contract Botanist	Conducted comprehensive plant and plant community inventory of nature preserve and advised on management plan	Jan 2005 – Apr 2006
<i>Archaeological Assessments Inc.</i>		
Contract Botanist	Worked on plant and community inventory and Hydrogeomorphic (HGM) analysis of Arnold Air Force Base in Tennessee	Sep 2003 - Aug 2004
<i>National Park Service</i>		
Contract Botanist	Conducted inventory of plants and plant communities of old growth stands in Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas	Oct 2001 - Mar 2003
<i>Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission</i>		
Contract Botanist	Conducted rare plant surveys and ecological site assessments	Jun 1996- Jun 1999
<i>U.S. Forest Service</i>		
Contract Botanist	Conducted plant species monitoring as part of the “New Perspectives” study in the Ouachita National Forest	1996-1998

Skills:

- Expert: vascular flora and ecological communities of the southeastern and midwestern United States
- Proficient: vascular flora of the United States east of Rocky Mountains
- Experience with ArcGIS
- Experience classifying and mapping natural communities
- Technical and Popular Writing / Editing
- Familiar with a variety of Quantitative Ecological Sampling Techniques
- Grant writing
- Knowledgeable in ecology & identification of all vascular plant groups including grasses, sedges, rushes, and composites
- Skilled in natural area restoration and management activities and prescriptions
- Familiar with basic computer software
- Experienced with herbarium curation and specimen preparation and handling
- Organized several regional workshops and conferences

Boards and Advisory Roles:

- Regional Reviewer for the Flora of North America Project: 2011 – present
- Board of Advisors, Ozark Ecological Restorations, Inc. (a 501(c)(3) nonprofit specializing in restoration and management of rare Ozark ecosystems): 2006 – present
- Member, Arkansas Geology Commission StateMap Committee (advises state geological agency on priorities for geologic mapping resources): 2017 - present
- Board of Ambassadors, Botanical Garden of the Ozarks: 2009 - 2012
- Board of Directors, Arkansas Native Plant Society: 2003 – 2012
- Arkansas Multi-Agency Wetlands Planning Team (Botanist): 2001 – 2014

Selected Appointments, Honors and Awards:

- Garden Club of America Zone (Regional) Conservation Commendation – 2022
- Arkansas Senate Commendation - 2021
- Arkansas House of Representatives Commendation - 2021
- Little Rock Garden Club (Garden Club of America) Club Conservation Commendation - 2021
- Research Associate, Botanical Research Institute of Texas – 2014 to 2018
- Selected as one of 25 Visionary Arkansans by the Arkansas Times Newspaper – 2013
<http://www.arktimes.com/arkansas/visionary-arkansans/Content?oid=3038117>
- John D. Rickett Outstanding Graduate Student Award (University of Arkansas at Little Rock) – 2007
- Carl Amason Conservation Award (Arkansas Native Plant Society) – 2005

Selected Work Experience:

- Conducted extensive botanical and ecological field work in grasslands across the Southeastern United States
- Conducted field work statewide in Arkansas to determine species and communities of conservation concern, develop priorities for conservation, and select sites for inclusion in the State's System of Natural Areas
- Conducted floristic inventories, rare plant surveys, plant community monitoring, and ecological assessments across the southeastern and midwestern United States
- Published extensively in peer reviewed scientific journals
- Conducted studies in plant systematics and taxonomy and named species new-to-science
- Conducted surveys for many federally listed and/or globally rare plant species in Arkansas under the US Fish and Wildlife Service Section 6 Grant Program
- Conducted floristic inventories for 79 state Natural Areas as well as hundreds of other areas in Arkansas
- Wrote ecological assessments and management plans for state Natural Areas in Arkansas
- Advised staff from a number of state and federal agencies and private conservation entities including the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Arkansas State Parks, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas State Plant Board, and The Nature Conservancy on a variety of land management issues.
- Responsible for curating the official list of plant species of conservation concern for Arkansas and for gathering data on the distribution and status of all species on this list (n = 565)
- Built reference herbarium of Flora of Arkansas for Natural Heritage Program (20,000+ specimens)

- Served as botanist for the Arkansas Multi-Agency Wetlands Planning Team in conducting field surveys and sampling to characterize wetlands throughout the state
- Served as editor of *The Claytonia* (newsletter of the Arkansas Native Plant Society) – 2003-2012. Online at www.anps.org (click on Claytonia link).

Instruction Experience:

- Co-led Regional Workshop on Management of Remnant Grasslands for the Southeastern Grasslands Institute in Tennessee. June 2023.
- Lectured extensively on grassland and open woodland ecology, restoration, and management at various wildlife management workshops, prescribed burn courses, college classes, etc., mostly in AR and TN. 2010 – 2023.
- Co-led Regional Field Workshop for the Natural Areas Association in Arkansas. May 2019.
- Co-led (with NatureServe staff) Arkansas Ecological Integrity Assessment Workshop. May 2019.
- Served as an instructor at the Upper Delta Biodiversity Scholarship Summer Institute (Murray State University, Southern Illinois University, & Arkansas State University) at Pickwick Landing State Park, Counce, TN – 2017 <http://www.astate.edu/a/biodiversityscholar/biodiversity-scholar-images/Program.pdf>
- Organized and taught two two-day lab- and field-based aquatic and wetland plant identification workshops; Little Rock, AR – 2017
- Led a two-day field-based wetland plant identification workshop for wetland professionals; Fayetteville, AR – 2016
- Served as a field trip leader at the Great Smoky Mountains Wildflower Pilgrimage, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, TN & NC – 2016
- Co-organized and assisted in leading a four-day, field-based wetland plant identification workshop – 2012
- Led annual all-day field botany class for Central Arkansas Master Naturalists – 2006 to present
- Co-organized and taught Arkansas Sedge Identification Workshop (2 day) – 2005
- Co-organized and taught Arkansas Grass Identification Workshop (2 day) – 2004
- Led 120+ field trips for conservation professionals and the general public – 2000 to present
- Presented more than 200 lectures, presentations, and scientific talks to a wide variety of audiences including Native Plant Societies, professional and scientific meetings, The Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society, Society of American Foresters, Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, and various college classes – 2000 to present

Selected Publications:

Original Books and Book Chapters:

- T. Witsell** (2024). *Following Nuttall: A Bicentenary Interpretation of Thomas Nuttall's Exploration of the Arkansas Territory*. (Working title - In Prep)
- J.D. Ogle, **T. Witsell**, & J.L. Gentry. 2021. *Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Arkansas*. Ozark Society Foundation Press. 520 pp.
- Witsell, C.T.**, T.L. Foti, & B.T. Baker. 2018. *The Native Flora of Grasslands and Associated Woodlands in the Grand Prairie Ecoregion of Eastern Arkansas* (Book Chapter) in *Southeastern Grasslands: Biodiversity, Ecology, & Management*. University of Mississippi Press.
- Gentry, J.L., G.P. Johnson, B.T. Baker, **C.T. Witsell** & J.D. Ogle, eds. 2013. *Atlas of the Vascular Plants of Arkansas*. University of Arkansas Herbarium, Fayetteville, Arkansas. 709 pp.
- Klimas, C. V., E. O. Murray, H. Langston, J. Pagan, **C.T. Witsell**, & T. Foti. 2008a. *A regional guidebook for conducting functional assessments of wetland and riparian forests in the Arkansas Valley region of Arkansas*. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Vicksburg, MS. (ERDC/EL TR-08-23). 200 pp.
- Klimas, C. V., E. O. Murray, H. Langston, J. Pagan, **C.T. Witsell**, & T. Foti. 2008b. *A regional guidebook for conducting functional assessments of wetland and riparian forests in the Ozark Mountains region of Arkansas*. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Vicksburg, MS. (ERDC/EL TR-08-31). 200 pp.
- Klimas, C.V., E.O. Murray, H. Langston, **C.T. Witsell**, T. Foti, and R. Holbrook. 2006. *A regional guidebook for conducting functional assessments of wetland and riparian forests in the Ouachita Mountains and Crowley's Ridge regions of Arkansas*. ERCS/EL TR-06-14, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Original Journal Articles and Technical Publications:

- Witsell, T.**, V.L. McDaniel, B.T. Baker, D.M. Zollner, G.L. De Jong, S.L. Hooks. (2023). Coefficients of conservatism for the vascular flora of Arkansas. In Prep.
- Lance, R. and **T. Witsell**. (2023). *Crataegus ouachitensis* E.J. Palmer in Arkansas; serial reassignment and a new name and status for its variety *minor* Palmer. In Prep.
- Estes, D., C. Tracey, E. Zimmerman, W. Knapp, J. Vanderhorst, J. Singhurst, and **T. Witsell**. 2023. Riverscour Ecosystems of Eastern Unglaciated North America: A Review. *Natural Areas Journal*, 43(3), 148-168. <https://doi.org/10.3375/2162-4399-43.3.148>
- McDaniel, V.L., B. Baker, **T. Witsell**, & S.L. Hooks. 2022. Significant range extension of *Streptanthus squamiformis* (Brassicaceae), a Ouachita Mountain endemic. *J. Bot. Res. Inst. Texas* 16(2): 559–563. <https://doi.org/10.17348/jbrit.v16.i1.1237>
- Noss R.F., J.M. Cartwright, D. Estes, **T. Witsell**, G. Elliott, D. Adams, M. Albrecht, R. Boyles, P. Comer, C. Doffitt, D. Faber-Langendoen, J. Hill, W.C. Hunter, W.M. Knapp, M.E. Marshall, J. Singhurst, C. Tracey, J. Walck, & A. Weakley. 2021. Improving species status assessments under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and implications for multispecies conservation challenges worldwide. *Conservation Biology* 35:1715–1724. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cobi.13777>
- Noss, R.F., J.M. Cartwright, D. Estes, **T. Witsell**, K.G. Elliott, D.S. Adams, M.A. Albrecht, R. Boyles, P.J. Comer, C. Doffitt, D. Faber-Langendoen, J.G. Hill, W.C. Hunter, W.M. Knapp, M. Marshall, M. Pyne, J.R. Singhurst, C. Tracey, J.L. Walck, & A. Weakley. 2021. Science needs of southeastern grassland species of conservation concern—A framework for species status assessments: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2021–1047. 58 pp. <https://doi.org/10.3133/ofr20211047>.
- Soteropoulos, D.L., C.R. De Bellis, **T. Witsell**. 2021. [Citizen science contributions to address biodiversity loss and conservation planning in a rapidly developing region](#). *Diversity* 13 (6):255. DOI: 10.3390/d13060255
- Lynch, D.T., **T. Witsell**, B.A. Rugar, W.C. Holimon, D.W. Bowman. 2019. [The devil and the deep blue lake: How natural area acquisition and stewardship helps protect the major drinking reservoir in northwestern Arkansas](#). *Natural Areas Journal* 39(1): 78-89. DOI: 10.3375/043.039.0106
- C.T. Witsell**. 2015. [Book Review: Forgotten Grasslands of the South: Natural History and Conservation by Reed Noss](#). *Castanea* 79(4): 284-285.
- Singhurst, J.R., **C.T. Witsell**, E. Sundell, & W.C. Holmes. 2014. [Utricularia cornuta \(Lentibulariaceae\) new to the Arkansas & Oklahoma flora](#). *Phytoneuron* 2014-109:1-5.
- C.T. Witsell** & B.T. Baker. 2013. [Status of *Tridens x oklahomensis* \(Poaceae\) and updated treatment of the genus *Tridens* in Arkansas](#). *Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science* 67: 153-158.
- C.T. Witsell** & M.D. Warriner. 2013. [First record of the Ornate Box Turtle \(*Terrapene ornata ornata*\) from the Grand Prairie Ecoregion since 1981](#). *Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science* 67: 225-227.
- G. Yatskieych, R.J. Evans, & **C.T. Witsell**. 2013. [A reevaluation of the Ozark endemic *Claytonia ozarkensis* \(Montiaceae\)](#). *Phytoneuron* 2013-50: 1-11.
- Nelson, P.W., J.A. Fitzgerald, K. Larson, R. McCoy, A. Schotz, J. Taft, **C.T. Witsell**, & B. Yahn. 2013. *Central Hardwoods Joint Venture Glade Conservation Assessment for the Interior Highlands and Interior Low Plateaus of the Central Hardwoods Region*. Central Hardwoods Joint Venture. 113 pp plus appendices. [CHJV Glade Assessment final 18 April 2013 REVISED](#)
- Holimon, W.C., J.A. Akin, W.H. Baltosser, C.W. Rideout, & **C.T. Witsell**. 2012. [Structure and composition of grassland habitats used by wintering Smith's Longspurs: the importance of native grasses](#). *Journal of Field Ornithology* 83(4): 351-361.
- Fawley, K.P, **C.T. Witsell**, & M.W. Fawley. 2012. [A possible new Arkansas endemic plant revealed by DNA sequence analysis](#). *Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science* 66: 50-54.
- MacRoberts, M.H., B.R. MacRoberts, & **C.T. Witsell**. 2011. [Small-scale vascular plant species richness in southwestern Arkansas blackland prairies](#). *Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas* 5(2):743-751.
- Weakley, A.S., R. J. LeBlond, B. A. Sorrie, **C.T. Witsell**, L.D. Estes, K.G. Mathews, A. Ebihara, & K. Gandhi. 2011. [New combinations, rank changes, and nomenclatural and taxonomic comments in the vascular flora](#)

- [of the southeastern United States.](#) Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas 5(2):437-455.
- Johnson, G.P., **C.T. Witsell**, M. Clark, & D. Zollner. 2009. [Noteworthy Collections: Arkansas \(*Spiranthes magnicamporum* new to Arkansas\)](#). Castanea 74(4): 437-438.
- McKenzie, P.M., **C.T. Witsell**, L.R. Phillippe, C.S. Reid, M.A. Homoya, S.B. Rofsmeier, C.A. Morse. 2009. [Status assessment of *Eleocharis wolfii* \(Cyperaceae\) in the United States.](#) Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas 3(2):831-854.
- Jones, R.L., **C.T. Witsell**, and G.L. Nesom. 2008. [Distribution and taxonomy of *Symphotrichum sericeum* and *S. pratense* \(Asteraceae: Astereae\).](#) Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas 2:731-739.
- Holimon, W.C., **C.T. Witsell**, W.H. Baltosser, and C.W. Rideout. 2008. [Density and habitat associations of Henslow's Sparrows wintering in saline soil barrens in southern Arkansas.](#) Journal of field Ornithology 79(4):364-370.
- Simpson, J.D. Crank, **C.T. Witsell**, and J.H. Peck. 2008. [Two exotic ferns, *Dryopteris erythrosora* and *Marsilea quadrifolia*, newly naturalized in Arkansas.](#) American Fern Journal 98:111-112.
- Witsell, C.T.** 2007. [Hypericum adpressum \(Clusiaceae\) new to Arkansas and the Ouachita Mountains, U.S.A.](#) Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas 1:713-716.
- Witsell, C.T.** and B. Baker. 2006. [The vascular flora of the South Fork Native Plant Preserve, Van Buren County, Arkansas.](#) Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science 60:144-164.
- McKenzie, P.M., **C.T. Witsell**, and J. Woolbright. 2006. [Carex bicknellii \(Cyperaceae\) new to Arkansas.](#) Sida 22:801-804.
- Pringle, J.S and **C.T. Witsell**. 2005. [A new species of *Sabatia* \(Gentianaceae\) from Saline County, Arkansas.](#) SIDA 21:1249-1262.
- McKenzie, P.M., T. Smith, and **C.T. Witsell**. 2003. [Carex conoidea \(Cyperaceae\) new to Arkansas with notes on its occurrence in Arkansas and Missouri.](#) Sida 20:1727-1730.
- Peck, J. H., **C.T. Witsell**, & T. L. Foti. 2001. Arkansas Field Botany (Flora and Vegetation) Bibliography (1988 – 2000). Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Sciences 55:104-114.
- Peck, J. H., **C.T. Witsell**, & E. Hendrix. 2000. *Dryopteris goldiana* and its hybrid with *D. celsa* new to Arkansas. American Fern Journal 90:110-111.
- Witsell, C.T.** and **W.M. Shepherd**. 1998. [Rediscovery of *Marsilea vestita* subsp. *vestita* in Pulaski County, Arkansas after 162 years.](#) Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science 52:142-143.

Selected Presentations and Lectures:

Recent Original Technical and Popular Presentations and Lectures:

2023:

Access Fund Climbing Advocacy Conference; Bentonville, AR

Witsell, T. Natural History and Ecology of Cliff and Talus Communities (**invited talk**)

Southeastern Grasslands Workshop: Identification & Management of Remnant Grasslands; Montgomery Bell State Park, TN

Witsell, T, J. French, & C. Breeden. Grasslands and Open Woodlands: Natural History, Ecology, and Management

New Jersey Stewardship Roundtable; virtual training

Witsell, T. Southeastern Grasslands: Identification, Restoration, and Management (**invited talk**)

Quail 101 Workshop; Little Rock, AR

Witsell, T. Grasslands and Open Woodlands: Natural History, Ecology, and Management (**invited talk**)

2022:

Natural Areas Conference; Duluth, MN

Witsell, T. County Natural Heritage Inventories as Planning Tools for Natural Area Protection: A Case Study from Northwest Arkansas

Association of Southeastern Biologists Meeting; Little Rock, AR

Witsell, T. Arkansas Grasslands: An Overview of the State's Naturally Open Natural Communities

Arkansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Conference; DeGray Lake State Park

Witsell, T. Grasslands of Arkansas: Natural History, Conservation, Restoration, and Management (**keynote talk**)

Energy Resources Centre Research Roundtable: Rare Plants and the Biodiversity Value of Rights-of-Way; virtual meeting

Witsell, T. The Grassland Connection: Plant and Pollinator Biodiversity Under Tennessee Valley Authority Powerlines on the Cumberland Plateau (**invited talk**)

Arkansas Prescribed Fire Academy; Camp Robinson, AR

Witsell, T. Grasslands and Open Woodlands: Natural History, Ecology, and Management (**invited talk**)

2021:

WeDigBio; virtual meeting

Witsell, T. The Significance of Cliff and Talus Communities as Habitats for Rare Plant Species in the Interior Highlands of Arkansas (**invited talk**)

Arkansas Master Gardener State Conference; virtual meeting

Witsell, T & J. Ogle. Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines of Arkansas (**invited talk**)

2020:

Central Arkansas Library System Legacies and Lunch Lecture Series, Little Rock, AR

Witsell, T. & S. Matkin-Rawn. Off The Grid: A History of Nature, Black Power, and Freedom on the Arkansas Frontier (**invited talk**)

Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections Conference – virtual meeting

Witsell, T., D. Soteropoulos, & M. Robinson. How Digitized Herbarium Specimens Contribute to Biodiversity Inventory and Conservation Planning in a Rapidly Developing Region of Northwest Arkansas (**invited talk**)

2019:

Natural Areas Conference, Pittsburgh, PA

Witsell, T., M. Pyne, & T. Foti. Development and Application of Ecological Integrity Assessment (EIA) Protocols in Arkansas (**invited talk**)

Witsell, T., V. McDaniel, S. Walker, & P. Nelson. Mapping and Inventory of Riverscours Communities in Arkansas

Department of Arkansas Heritage Public Lecture Series; Little Rock, AR)

Witsell, T. Following Nuttall: A Bicentenary Interpretation of Thomas Nuttall's Exploration of the Arkansas Territory

Natural Areas Association Webinar

Witsell, T. & J. Ogle. The Arkansas Native Seed Program: A Statewide Initiative to Develop a Native Seed Industry Using Locally-sourced Plant Materials. (**invited webinar**)

2017:

Southeastern Grasslands Initiative Summit (Austin Peay State University); Clarksville, TN

Witsell, C.T. & D. Estes. Sacred Gems: The Important of Small, High-Quality Remnants to Larger-Sale Grasslands Restoration.

Witsell, C.T. & D. Estes. Grassland Biodiversity Exploration: An Overview of the Research Priorities of the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative.

Our Region, Our Vision Seminar Series (US Fish & Wildlife Service Region 4); Atlanta, GA
Witsell, C.T. & D. Estes. Research Priorities of the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative. **(invited talk)**

Southeastern Grasslands Initiative Outreach Meetings:

US Forest Service & US Fish & Wildlife Service &; Washington DC

US Fish & Wildlife Service; Atlanta, GA

Botanical Research Institute of Texas; Fort Worth, TX

Kirkpatrick Foundation; Oklahoma City, OK

North Carolina Botanical Garden; Chapel Hill, NC

Gulf Coastal Plains & Ozarks Landscape Conservation Cooperative; Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS

Witsell, C.T. & D. Estes. Research Priorities of the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative.

Upper Delta Biodiversity Scholarship Summer Institute (Murray State University, Southern Illinois University, & Arkansas State University); Pickwick Landing State Park, Counce, TN

Witsell, C.T. Ecology and Biodiversity of the Mississippi Alluvial Plain. **(invited talk)**

Witsell, C.T. Methodology for Conducting Biodiversity Inventories. **(invited talk)**

Herb Society of America National Conference; Little Rock, AR

Witsell, C.T. Wild Plants and Places of "The Natural State". **(plenary talk)**

Association of Southeastern Biologists Meeting; Montgomery, AL

Witsell, C.T. Floristic and Ecological Inventory of Native Grasslands of the Springfield Plateau, Northwest Arkansas: A Baseline for Restoration.

LandWise Conservation Win-Win Workshop (Northwest Arkansas Land Trust) Fayetteville, AR

Witsell, C.T. Good Science for Effective Conservation: Using Ecological and Biological Inventory to Set Meaningful Conservation Priorities **(invited talk to a variety of municipal, corporate, and conservation leaders from the region)**

Eureka Springs Native Plant Fair; Eureka Springs, AR

Witsell, C.T. Rare Plants, Habitats, & Ecological History of the Ozark Plateaus **(keynote talk)**

Quail 101 Workshop (Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service) Batesville, AR

Witsell, C.T. Natural History and Ecology of Arkansas's Grasslands and Woodlands **(invited talk)**

Witsell, C.T. Vegetation Response to Glade and Woodland Management **(invited talk)**

Hot Springs Village Audubon Society Speaker Series; Hot Springs Village, AR

Witsell, C.T. Native Plants and Habitats of the Ouachita Mountains. **(invited talk)**

Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association Speaker Series; Fayetteville, AR

Witsell, C.T. Ecology and Natural History of Kessler Mountain. **(invited talk)**

2016:

"The Mid-South's Forgotten Grasslands" Meeting (Shelby Farms Park); Memphis, TN

Witsell, C.T. & D. Estes. Research Priorities of the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative. **(invited talk)**

Federal At-Risk Species Workshop (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service); Russellville, AR

Witsell, C.T. & D. Estes. Research Priorities of the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative. **(invited talk)**

Mid-South Prairie Symposium (Austin Peay State University); Clarksville, TN

Witsell, C.T. Diamonds in the Coal Bin: The Importance of Small, High Quality Grassland Remnants to Large Scale Restoration. **(invited talk)**

U of A Geosciences Colloquium Lecture Series (University of Arkansas); Fayetteville, AR

Witsell, C.T. The Art and Science of Effective Conservation: An Overview of the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission's Work to Preserve the State's Biological Diversity. **(invited talk)**

Mount Magazine Butterfly Festival (Mount Magazine State Park); Paris, AR

Witsell, C.T. Native Milkweeds and Nectar Plants for Butterflies. **(invited talk and hike)**

2015:

Natural Areas Association; Little Rock, AR

Witsell, C.T. A (Much Too) Brief Overview of the Natural History of Arkansas. **(plenary talk)**

Association of Southeastern Biologists Meeting; Chattanooga, TN

Witsell, C.T., T.L. Foti, & B.T. Baker. Rare Plants with a Pinch of Salt: Extreme Botanizing in the Saline Barrens of the ArkLaTex. **(invited talk)**

Missouri Botanical Symposium; Rolla, MO

Witsell, C.T. The Breath of the South Blows Over this Valley: Southeastern and Coastal Plain Floristic Influence in the Interior Highlands. **(invited talk)**

EarthTalk Lecture Series (University of Arkansas at Little Rock); Little Rock, AR

Witsell, C.T. Deserts in the Forest: Rock Outcrop Plant Communities of Arkansas. **(invited talk)**

Arkansas Master Gardener Statewide Training (University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension); Benton, AR

Witsell, C.T. Gardening with Native Plants.

Sustainable Forestry Initiative Training (Green Bay Packaging Timber Company); Morrilton, AR

Witsell, C.T. Managing Rare Species and Natural Communities on Working Lands in Arkansas. **(invited talk)**

Glade and Woodland Restoration Workshop (Central Hardwoods Joint Venture); Harrison, AR

Witsell, C.T. Ecology and Management of Glade and Woodland Habitat. **(invited talk and field trip)**

LeadAR Lecture Series (University of Arkansas Leadership Development Program); Monticello, AR

Witsell, C.T. Deserts in the Forest: Rock Outcrop Plant Communities of Arkansas. **(invited talk)**

Monarch Butterfly Conservation Summit (Natural Resources Conservation Service); Conway, AR

Witsell, C.T. Native Milkweed Ecology and Management. **(invited talk)**

2014:

Association of Southeastern Biologists Meeting; Spartanburg, SC

Witsell, C.T. & B.T. Baker. Arkansas's Newest Herbarium: The Herbarium of the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission.

Witsell, C.T., M. MacRoberts, B. MacRoberts, & B. Baker. The Vascular Flora of the Blackland Prairies and Woodlands of Arkansas.

2013:

Association of Southeastern Biologists Meeting; Charleston, WV

Witsell, C.T., T.L. Foti, & B.T. Baker. Floristic Inventory of Native Grassland Remnants in the Grand Prairie Region of Arkansas: A Baseline for Restoration Efforts.

Witsell, C.T., B.T. Baker, & C. Osborne. The Significance of Cliff and Talus Communities as Habitats for Rare Plant Species in the Interior Highlands of Arkansas.

Estes, L.D., C. Witsell, M. Brock, & K. Anderson. Riverscour Communities of the Eastern Unglaciaded United States: Floristics, Community Classification, & Biogeography.

Arkansas State Parks Annual Interpreter's Workshop; Mt. Magazine State Park, AR

Witsell, C.T. Conducting Ecological and Biological Inventory in Arkansas's State Parks. **(keynote talk)**

Botanical Research Institute of Texas *Reimagining American Grasslands* Distinguished Lecturer

Series; Fort Worth, TX

Witsell, C.T. Ecology and Restoration of Grasslands in Arkansas. **(invited talk)**

North American Mycological Association Conference; Shepherd of the Ozarks Conference Center, Searcy County, AR

Witsell, C.T. The Natural History and Ecology of the Arkansas Ozarks. **(keynote talk)**

Friends of Hobbs State Park Guest Speaker Series; Hobbs State Park, AR

Witsell, C.T. Rare Plants and Habitats of Northwest Arkansas. **(invited talk)**

Hendrix College Biological Society Seminar Series; Hendrix College; Conway, AR

Witsell, C.T. The Ecology and Flora of Shale Barrens in the Ouachita Mountains. **(invited talk)**

2012:

Southeastern Prairie Symposium; Starkville, MS

C.T. Witsell. Floristic Inventory of Tallgrass Prairie Remnants in the Grand Prairie Region of the Mississippi Alluvial Plain: A Baseline for Restoration Efforts.

C.T. Witsell. Re-open for Business: Prairie, Glade, Woodland, and Other Open Habitat Restoration Projects on State Natural Areas in Arkansas.

America In Bloom National Conference, Fayetteville, AR

Witsell, C.T. Using Science and Information Technology for Strategic Conservation in Arkansas. **(invited talk)**

Northwest Arkansas Chapter of the Society of American Foresters Meeting; Russellville, AR

Witsell, C.T. Rare Plants and Habitats of the Interior Highlands. **(invited talk)**

Natural Areas Association Conference, Norfolk, Virginia

Witsell, C.T., B.T. Baker, & C. Osborne. The Significance of Cliff and Talus Communities as Habitats for Rare Plant Species in the Interior Highlands of Arkansas.

Miscellaneous Media Appearances:

Featured in Associated Press article on national decline of herbaria and academic botany programs:

<https://www.dailynews.com/2015/05/25/fewer-students-study-botany-more-plant-collections-closing/>

Feature-length Arkansas Times article "Arkansas Sprouts: A Brief Tour of the State's Ecological Riches with one of Arkansas's Foremost Botanists":

<http://www.arktimes.com/arkansas/arkansas-sprouts/Content?oid=4660074>

The Buffalo Flows (Emmy Award winning documentary on the Buffalo National River)

<https://www.amazon.com/Buffalo-Flows-Story-First-National/dp/1557289042>

Woolsey Wet Prairie Documentary

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ksvP1mw8Ko>

Buffalo River Glades Documentary

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gO8MEVTQutI>

ANHC segment on Interior Highlands Upland Depression Wetland

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpNgceOaJcM>

ANHC segment on the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission Herbarium

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-o4EzQDMxzQ>