

Hot Springs Village - April Native Plant Month Proclamation - DRAFT

WHEREAS: Native plants are an important part of Arkansas's natural heritage, history, and identity; and are indigenous to our region. Native plants have adapted and evolved over many years to flourish in the unique geography, hydrology, and microclimates, of our state; and

WHEREAS: More than 2,300 native plant species make for a diverse state flora; 11 of these species are endemic to Arkansas and found nowhere else in the world; and 5 of these species are federally threatened or endangered; and

WHEREAS: Gardens and landscapes composed of Arkansas's native plants conserve water, save energy, and reduce pollutants and pesticides in comparison to turfgrass; and

WHEREAS: Native plants provide high-quality food and shelter for Arkansas's native wildlife, including birds, butterflies, bees, and other pollinators, and both game and nongame species; and

WHEREAS: Native plants support more than 300 species of resident and migratory birds in Arkansas, many of which are of concern and increasingly threatened by climate change; and

WHEREAS: Native plants and their derivatives provide food, medicine, and other essentials; Arkansas has benefited from the economic impact of native plants, ranging from pecans to muscadine; and

WHEREAS: the Arkansas office of the National Audubon Society as well as other organizations and businesses, including nurseries and retail-garden centers, work to expand the market for our native plants; and

WHEREAS: By cultivating Arkansas's native plants, we honor our heritage, sustain the beauty and benefits of our environmental resources, and preserve a natural link to wildland areas both past and present;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, _____ OF THE HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS, do hereby proclaim the month of
April as

NATIVE PLANT MONTH IN HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE

and I encourage its observance to all Arkansans to celebrate native plants.