



July – August 2014 NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSOURI NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY Volume 29 No.4
“ . . . to promote the enjoyment, preservation, conservation, restoration, and study of the flora native to Missouri.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Missouri Native Plant Society Fall Meeting and Field Trips in and around Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Our meetings will be held in the Missouri Department of Conservation Meeting Room, and we will also have a brief introduction and orientation program in the same location Friday night. Please join us! Our Field Trips will include some unique Southeast Missouri habitats. All activities are open to family members and friends.

For the most accurate and up-to-date details, please visit
[The Missouri Native Plant Society website](#) and our [Facebook Page](#).
(or go to [Facebook.com](#) and enter Missouri Native Plant Society in the search box.)

Schedule: (We will optimize locations based on conditions. Check websites for updated info and maps of field trip locations.

Friday, September 12

Early Bird Field Trip – meet at 2:00 p.m. at MDC Office

(located between the Comfort Inn and Super 8 at exit 99. See map [next page and GPS coordinates below.)

7:00 P.M. Evening Meeting at MDC Office GPS: **37.345571, -89.590342 or 37°20'44.1"N, 89°35'25.2"W**

Program: **Orientation and Introduction to SE Missouri – Bruce Henry** of the Missouri Department of Conservation

Saturday, September 13

8:00 AM – Meet at MDC Parking Lot.

Morning Field trip – Sand Prairie Conservation Area and Baptist Camp Sand Prairie

Lunch: We will eat lunch in Cape Girardeau. You may eat on your own or plan a picnic lunch.

1:00 PM –Afternoon field trip – Trail of Tears State Park

Directions: GPS: **37.438796, -89.480518 or 37°26'19.7"N, 89°28'49.9"W**

Head east on **William St** toward **Farrar Dr** 1.5 mi

Turn left onto **S Kingshighway** 0.9 mi

Slight right onto **N Cape Rock Dr** 1.9 mi

Turn right onto **Lexington Ave** 1.2 mi

Turn left onto **MO-177 N/Big Bend Rd**

Continue to follow **MO-177 N** 8.7 mi

Turn right to stay on **MO-177 N** 233 ft

Take the 1st right onto **Moccasin Springs Rd**

Visitor's Center Parking Lot will be on the left 0.3 mi

7:00 PM – **MONPS Board Meeting at MDC Office** (see directions above)

Sunday, September 14

8:00 A.M. – Meet at MDC Office Parking Lot Morning Field Trip – **To Be Announced**

Directions:From the East (St. Louis): via [Google Maps](#) (url: <http://goo.gl/maps/KS1y5>)

Take **I-55 S** 111 mi

Take exit **96** toward **Cape Girardeau/Gordonville**

Take exit **99** (**Cape Girardeau/Jackson**) for Comfort Inn and Super 8 or

Take exit **96** (**Cape Girardeau/Gordonville**) for Auburn Place and Pear Tree Inn.

From the West (Kansas City): via [Google Maps](http://goo.gl/maps/pO6j7) (url: <http://goo.gl/maps/pO6j7>)

- Take **I-70 E** 207 mi
- Take exit **210A** to merge onto **I-64 E/US-40 E/US-61 S** toward **Chesterfield** 25.6 mi
- Take exit **25-25A-25B** to merge onto **I-270 S** toward **Memphis** 11.9 mi
- Take exit **1A** for **Interstate 55 S** toward **Memphis** 0.7 mi
- Merge onto **I-55 S** 100.0 mi
- Take exit **99 (Cape Girardeau/Jackson)** for Comfort Inn and Super 8 or
- Take exit **96 (Cape Girardeau/Gordonville)** for Auburn Place and Pear Tree Inn.

➤ **From the SW (Springfield): via [Google Maps](http://goo.gl/maps/pcpQM) (url: <http://goo.gl/maps/pcpQM>)**

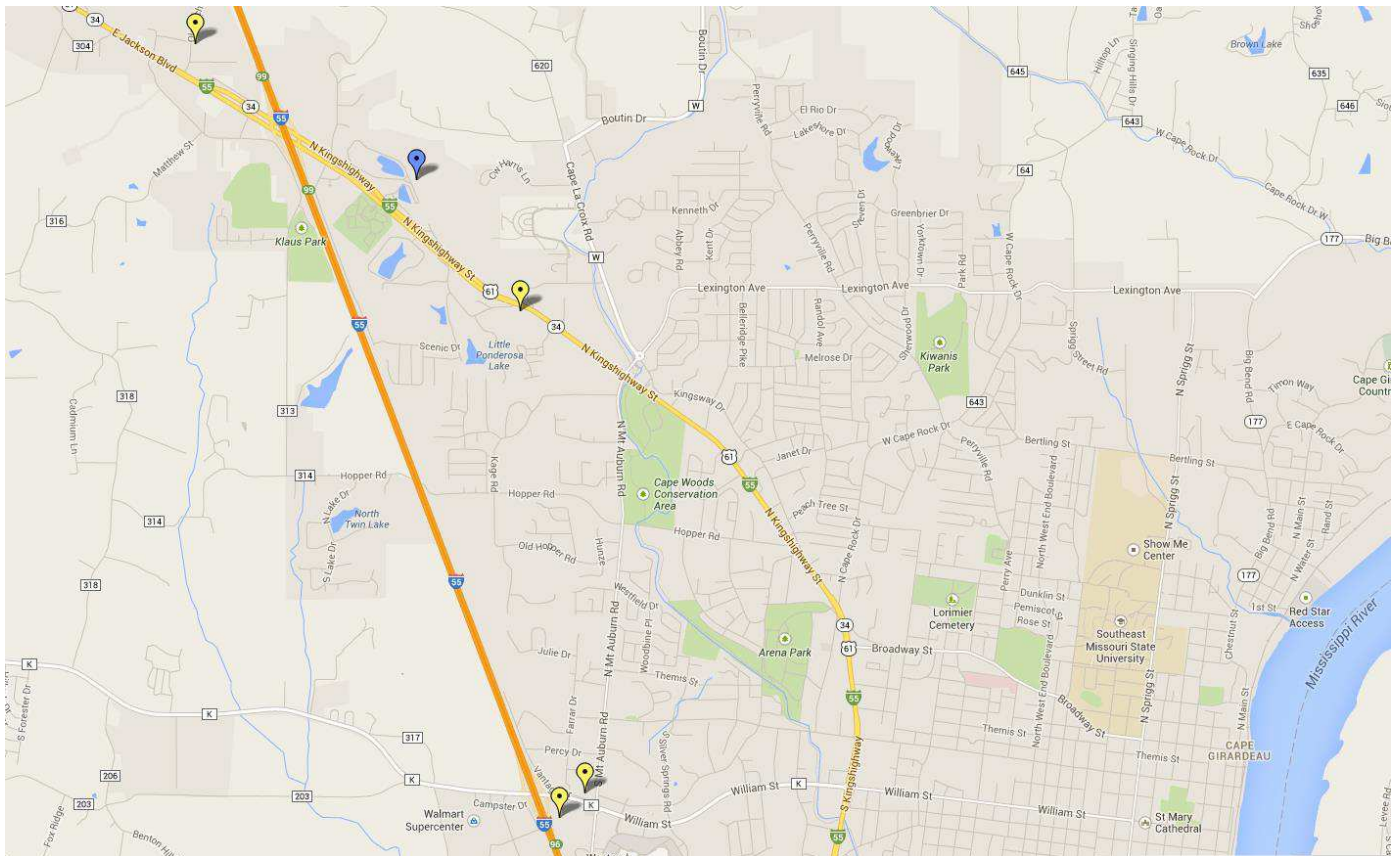
- Take **US-60 E** toward **Cabool** 173 mi
- Exit onto **US-60 E/US-67 S** toward **Poplar Bluff**
- Continue to follow **US-60 E** 4.8 mi
- Merge onto **US-60 E/US-67 N** via the ramp to **Sikeston**
- Continue to follow **US-60 E** 51.5 mi
- Continue onto **I-57/US-60 E** 0.3 mi
- Take exit **1B** to merge onto **I-55 N** toward **St Louis** 27.8 mi
- Take exit **96 (Cape Girardeau/Gordonville)** for Auburn Place and Pear Tree Inn.
- Take exit **99 (Cape Girardeau/Jackson)** for Comfort Inn and Super 8 or

Alternate, less scenic, but high-speed route from Springfield via [Google Maps](http://goo.gl/maps/vu05c) (url: <http://goo.gl/maps/vu05c>)

Please Friend us on Facebook



And more information on our website
www.monativeplantsociety.org



Motels in the Cape Girardeau area:

Prices shown are the lowest available online. (Note: "Advance Purchase" rates are billed when booked and are not refundable.)

➤ **Pear Tree Inn – Cape Girardeau** [[Google Local Info](#)] GPS: **37.302930, -89.575598** or **37°18'10.6"N, 89°34'32.1"W**
3248 William Street, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 Phone: (573) 334-3000; Website: druryhotels.com

Advance Purchase (online): \$80.74/night (Single or Double)

➤ **Auburn Place Hotel and Suites** [[Google Local Info](#)] GPS: **37.301725, -89.577770** or **37°18'06.2"N, 89°34'40.0"W**
3265 William Street, Cape Girardeau, MO 63703. Phone: (573) 651-4486; Website: Auburn Place

AAA or Senior (55+) (online): \$74.50/night (Single or Double)

➡ Comfort Suites Jackson-Cape Girardeau [Google Local Info] GPS: 37.355245, -89.609751 or 37°21'18.9"N, 89°36'35.1"W
2904 Old Orchard Road, Jackson, MO, US 63755. Phone: (573) 204-0014. Fax: (573) 204-0203 . Website: comfortsuites.com

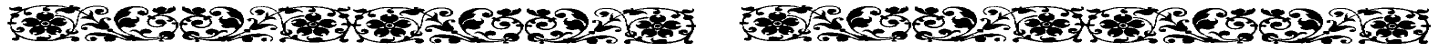
Advance Purchase (online): \$80/night (Single or Double)

➡ Super 8 Cape Girardeau [Google Local Info] GPS: 37.336594, -89.581230 or 37°20'11.7"N, 89°34'52.4"W
2011 N Kingshighway, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. Phone: 573-339-0808. Fax: 573-339-2060 Website: super8.com

Advance Purchase (online): \$63.71/night (Single or Double)

Camping is available at:

- **Trail of Tears State Park (14.0 miles from Cape Girardeau)** [Central Reservation System](#). Rex Hill has reserved a group site for us. Please send a courtesy email to rexhill@charter.net if you are interested.
- **Cape Camping & RV Park** (1.6 miles from Cape Girardeau, exit 99; RVs and 12 tent sites)
- **Cherokee Hills Campground** (13 miles from Cape Girardeau, exit 105)
-



Dues are Due

By Ann Earley, Membership Chair

Membership renewals for the July 2014-June 2015 year are due. If you receive your newsletter by postal service delivery, please check the top line of your mailing label. If it shows the date 20140630, your dues are now payable. When renewing, please remember to include your contact information including email address, and your society and chapter dues preferences. Cut the renewal form from the bottom of this page.

If you prefer to get your Petal Pusher by email with color photos, please indicate that preference to Ann [membership] on your renewal form and email Becky [PP editor beckyerick711@centurylink.net] with your request.

For those members receiving their newsletter by email without a mailing label, or for others with questions about their membership status, please contact me or your chapter representative (see back page for contact details) for information about your membership expiration date. **We value our members and urge you to renew today!** If you know you renew every year, simply highlight and print the membership form at the bottom of the page.



If you would prefer to not bother with annual renewal, we invite you to become a Life Member.

Information on joining Missouri Native Plant Society

Society Dues

Circle all that apply

Chapter dues additional

Student = \$5

Regular = 10

Contributing = 20

Life = 200

Columbia = \$6

Kansas City = 5

Osage Plains = 5

Ozarks = 5

Southwest = 5

Perennis = 5

St Louis = 5

Empire Prairie 5

Contribution to Hudson Grant Fund _\$_____

All contributions are tax deductible

Please mark here if you want PetalPusher and appropriate announcements by email. **Include email address > > >**

Make checks payable to **MO Native Plant Society**

Mail to: Missouri Native Plant Society

PO BOX 440353

ST. Louis MO 63144-4353

Name _____

Address _____

9-digit zip _____

Sometimes activities are changed at the last minute so we need a way to notify you.

Phone _____

Email _____

**Minutes: Quarterly Meeting,
Missouri Native Plant Society;
3 May 2014 Potosi, MO Super 8**

Submitted by Casey Burks, Secretary

Brian Edmond (BE)	Theresa Cline (TC)	Bill Knight (BK)
Michele Bowe (MB)	Paul McKenzie (PM)	Casey Burks (CB)
John Oliver (JO)	Rex Hill (RH)	Martha Hill (MH)
Elizabeth Olson (EO)	Justin Thomas (JT)	Bob Siemer (BSie)
Bruce Schuette (BSch)	Ann Wakeman (AW)	Ann Earley (AE)
Steven Buback (SB)	Malissa Underwood (MU)	

At 7:12 PM, with a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by “**Amateur mycologists have questionable mores**” President Paul McKenzie (PM) and all present welcomed new board member Justin Thomas. Justin will fill the position vacated by Allison Vaughn for the next three years.

The agenda was approved with the addition of MODOT Mowing.

John Oliver (JO) volunteered to be the assignment recorder. Minutes from the December 7, 2013 meeting in Columbia, MO were approved.

Treasurer’s Report presented by Bob Siemer: ~\$2000 in the red at present: T-shirt expense \$1400; startup funding for plant app \$700. But dues are coming in and there’s good liquidity of \$17,000.

Hudson Scholarship Fund: \$1476. \$247 in donations this quarter; Bill Knight is making and selling benches to raise money for the fund.

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

Distribution Chairman: BK said for last Petal Pusher mailing he only needed to mail 300. The minimum for non-profit press is 200 copies. Shout out by PM to PP Editor Becky Erickson for doing such a great job. There are 110 now signed up to receive the PP by email.

Publicity Chairman: JO related that Kevin is recovering.

MONPS website update: BEd reported that we have the domains and two website are now operational

MONATIVEPLANTSOCIETY.ORG and **MONATIVEPLANTS.ORG** are good. . Need members to submit events etc to website. People will be able to Google Missouri Native Plants to get to our website.

NOTE: The old website

MISSOURINATIVEPLANTSOCIETY.ORG has no useful information anymore

Missouriensis: Treasurer Bob Siemer reported there is \$1100 budgeted for publication.

Social Media Committee: JO says there are 752 members on Facebook now. Wants to keep it clean and interesting with good information.

Petal Pusher: Cost calculation of Petal Pusher is that it costs approximately \$6 for six issues. To help offset this expense:

NOTE: One year from this June, people will need to pay \$5 for post office mailing expenses of PP. Chapter reps will need to present this change to members. On the new website, the membership form has choice for people to pick email or hard copy postal mailing.

COMMITTEES & TASK FORCES

Membership: AE reported 321 total members [includes 58 life members]. 16 New members since the December meeting. Its dues renewal time. Chapter reps please help members renew.

Hudson Award: There were NO applications for either the Hudson Award or WGNSS! Should the requirements be expanded?

Awards: Wording of different awards was discussed. New Award was approved.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

- Wildflower app BOD approved via email
- New membership brochures: RH reported 1000 were printed and includes the Empire chapter. One website is correct and other has error. More will need to be printed when other chapters are added. However no word currently on Joplin or Cape Girardeau.
- T-Shirts: Rex brought the latest printing of T-shirts: the orchid design on sand colored shirt. Some of green color left. Need to contact him directly to bring certain sizes.
- Any future MONPS sponsored workshops? Nels Holmberg will be giving a class on Plant ID for Novices. Thank you Nels. Also Ron Colathe and GY giving class on how to identify common MO Native Plants
- Wildflower poster project:-MU related that MODOT still delaying. After final approval by MODOT, then MONPS will review. It was noted that a year has passed since proofs were submitted.
- Ways to Increase membership – BK Suggestions Presented: Have a “new member liason” person for each chapter. **NOTE to AE and BEr: when listing new member in PP, please list Chapter as well as town.** Let Master Naturalists know about meetings and field trips. Put notice of field trips in local newspaper.
- SB presented results of the Survey he sent out. 71% were not a member because they didn’t know much about the organization. Most respondents were interested in Native Plants for the sake of Conservation and Habitat Restoration. Approximately 15% were willing to pay a surcharge in order to keep receiving the Petal Pusher in paper format. Contact Steve for more information on interpretation.

MODOT MOWING issue: AW suggests, for the sake of preserving habitat for pollinators and Monarch butterflies, that a recommendation be made to MODOT to not mow along highways. Mowing of invasive weeds is often done after it has gone to seed. Timing of mowing is the issue. Also request that MODOT not use seed of *Sericea lespedeza* in planting mixes. PM already has a meeting scheduled with MODOT.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Summer Meeting and Field Trips (June13-15, 2014) – In and around Bethany, MO. Potential field locations: Chloe Lowry Marsh Natural Area, Dunn Ranch, Helton Natural Area, and Pawnee Prairie **Note: SB will contact the Iowa Native Plant Society to invite them to join us at this meeting.**

Fall Meeting and Field Trips (September 12-14, 2014) – Cape Girardeau, MO. We may visit Trail of Tears State Park, Sand Prairie Conservation Area, Kelso Sanctuary.



Ozark Chapter

Submitted by Liz Olson, Chapter Representative

On June 17th and July 15th, the Ozark Chapter met for our popular **Plant Identification nights**. Folks brought in a variety of live plants, freshly cut specimens from their properties and neighborhoods, and digital pictures of plants



and mushrooms. Chapter president Susan Farrington helped everyone to identify the plants, which were then

passed around the table for all to admire. The cool spell in July coincided with our meeting, and the weather was so pleasant that we pulled tables and chairs outside on the lawn. Some highlights from the July meeting included: *Silphium asteriscus* (Starry rosinweed) – the common name refers to its bitter resin (“rosin”); *Rudbeckia laciniata* (cutleaf coneflower); *Eupatorium serotinum* – late boneset; Royal catchfly – *Silene regia* (common in the Ozarks, but infrequent throughout the rest of its range); Rose gentian – *Sabatia angularis* (flowering all over the roadsides); *Lobelia spicata* – pale-spiked lobelia (the flowers are inverted top vs bottom); *Cuphea* (blue waxweed) – (its short sticky hairs trap insects); *Asclepias viridiflora* (green milkweed); *Hypericum prolificum* (shrubby St. John’s wort); Asparagus (garden asparagus grows wild in disturbed/waste areas); *Acalypha ostryifolia* (Hophornbeam copperleaf) - this one had our group stumped – thanks to Jeri for figuring it out!



Kansas City

submitted by Hilary Haley, Chapter Representative



John Richter beside a magnificent elm.

The Kansas City Chapter enjoyed a field trip to **Weston Bend Bottomland Forest in Leavenworth, KS on June 7th**. This bottomland forest occurs along the floodplain of the Missouri River and is home to several large hardwood trees. Though there is little management on the area, several species of trees were identified including green ash, elm, burr oak, pecan mulberry, box elder, cottonwood, and sycamore.

The sheer size of many of these trees impressed everyone on the trip. Even though the area was rich with tree species, relatively little else occurred in the understory, aside from a few species of sedges.

[State Meeting Minutes cont . . .]

Note: Local members need to be contacted for their help with planning.

Winter Meeting and Planning Session (December 6, 2014) – Columbia, MO Dunn-Palmer Herbarium

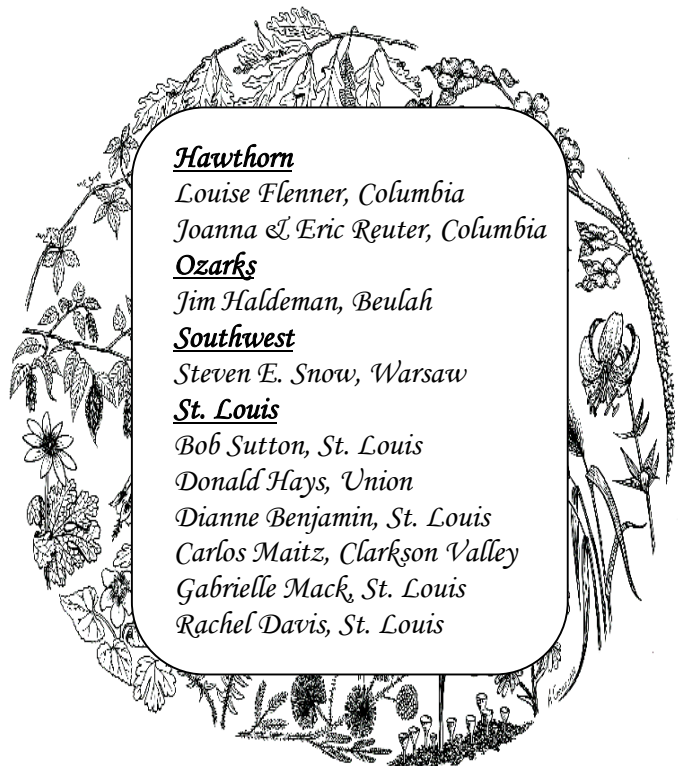
Review assignment/commitments noted by assignments recorder – John Oliver

1. Chapter Reps: urge members to consider switching to the electronic version of the Petal Pusher. Urge people to reach out to the new members.
2. Brian Edmond: Add membership form to website. Make changes to get our new website higher in the Google search results.
3. Paul: Contact GY to ask what are the current qualifications on the application for the Hudson Grants and forward to the Board, also ask about the possibility of expanding the terms to include other things.
4. Rex and John: Contact some key people to stir up interest in the September meeting in Cape Girardeau.
5. Paul will provide recommendations to joint NWF/MODOT about mowing to control teasel, S. lespedeza/spotted knapweed etc.

At 8:21PM PM made motion to adjourn, RH seconded and motion passed.



Welcome to New Members!



Hawthorn

Louise Flenner, Columbia

Joanna & Eric Reuter, Columbia

Ozarks

Jim Haldeman, Beulah

Southwest

Steven E. Snow, Warsaw

St. Louis

Bob Sutton, St. Louis

Donald Hays, Union

Dianne Benjamin, St. Louis

Carlos Maitz, Clarkson Valley

Gabrielle Mack, St. Louis

Rachel Davis, St. Louis

St Louis Chapter

Submitted by Rex Hill, Chapter Representative

In June, we held our annual evening walk, taking advantage of the long daylight hours by meeting at 6:00 PM at the Green Center in University City in suburban St. Louis. Thirty souls showed up, some from a beginner botany class being given at Meramec Community College by several of our chapter members. It turned out to be a pleasant evening weather-wise, as has been our summer this year for the most part. We toured the property, previously an orchard owned by the Green family and now by University City. A portion of the land serves a city park, and the remainder is leased to the non-profit Green Center organization for the purpose of maintaining a natural laboratory and educational center. The property includes a native plant garden, a restored prairie and wetland, and a wooded area adjacent to a municipal golf course. Their website, www.thegreencenter.org, provides a great deal more detail. Suffice it to say, it was a very pleasant evening, both socially and botanically.

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name
Annonaceae	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	papaw
Aristolochiaceae	<i>Aristolochia serpentaria</i>	Virginia snakeroot
	<i>Aristolochia tomentosa</i>	Dutchman's pipe
	<i>Asaram canadense</i>	wild ginger
Cabombaceae	<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	water shield
	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	Carolina water shield
Calycanthaceae	<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	C. allspice, sweetshr
Ceratophyllaceae	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	hornwort, coontail
	<i>Ceratophyllum echinatum</i>	hornwort, coontail
Lauraceae	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	spice bush
	<i>Lindera melissifolia</i>	pondberry
	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	sassafras
Magnoliaceae	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	tulip tree
	<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	cucumber magnolia
	<i>Magnolia tripetala</i>	umbrella magnolia
Nymphaeaceae	<i>Nuphar advena</i>	cowlily, spatterdock
	<i>N. advena ssp. advena</i>	
	<i>N. advena ssp. ozarkana</i>	
	<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	fragrant water lily
Saururaceae	<i>Saururus cernuus</i>	lizard's tail

Empire Prairie Chapter (St Joseph)

Submitted by Steve Buback Chapter Rep

Look for the latest activities in the next Petal Pusher.

Perennis Chapter

submitted by Andrew Braun Chapter Rep

Look for the latest activities in the next Petal Pusher

[StL cont] In July, Richard Abbott of the Missouri Botanical Garden gave a presentation on **basal angiosperms**. This group of plants diverged at points in the development of flowering plants to not quite strictly adhere to the characters of monocots or dicots even though we consider them to be classified as dicots. They account for 2 or 3% of plant species in the world and in Missouri we have 18 taxa from eight different families as shown in the table below. Some are aquatic and they tend to be found in tropical or mesic (wet) environments, but not exclusively.

Many are aromatic or spicy, containing ethereal oils, a trait lost in the development of true dicots (eudicots). Some have flowers in whorls of three, a more common feature of monocots, i.e. Liliaceae. Some of the technical characters that don't fit into true dicot descriptions include carpels that are not fused, laminar or flattened stamens with wide filaments, woodys with alternate, entire, spirally arranged leaves, and herbs with a sheathing petiole base. We all enjoy brushing up against spice bush when we are hiking, or showing a member of the younger generation the smells emitted when crushing a sassafras leaf.

Now we know what we're dealing with!



Hawthorn Chapter

Submitted by Boyd Terry Secretary and Becky Erickson

We had an interesting and eventful outing 28 June to visit the hundred-acre woods Jim Whitley had owned for decades and John George has actively managed for 6 years. John explained about the process of cutting acres of nearly-mature cedars and getting them burned. We had a good time scouting for the diverse naturally occurring



natives so long dormant under the cedar canopy.

In comparison, we visited Fred and Sally Erickson's land just around the corner. They had an open timothy



field with lots of *Asclepias tuberosa* around the edges and we gave them some conversion ideas. Their pristine woodland is full of *Hydrastis canadensis*. We heard an odd 'tree frog', , , no, not a frog. Looking up, we found a very small raccoon high on a tree trunk.

MR Photos

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Osage Plains

Casey Burks, Chapter Representative

June 12th: Theresa Cline and I headed up early toward Bethany and had time to stop at **Pershing State Park**. It had recently reopened due to flooding so the main access through the wetland was via a raised board walkway. Indeed, stinging nettle and jewelweed do grow together. We also navigated the mud to visit a nearby well preserved Covered Bridge. It was a toll bridge and cost 3-cents for each person to cross, 9-cents for each head of cattle. It is so interesting to be reminded of that part of our history. Again, I was amazed to see the understory covered with stinging nettle and I have become interested in learning about its medicinal uses.

June 13th-15 OP members Theresa Cline, Scott Lenharth, Wayne Morton and I attended the MONPS meeting and field trips around Bethany, MO which was selected to see Steve Bubeck's area. On Friday evening, Steve gave us an overview of the area and highlights of the conservation areas on the Sat-Sun schedule. As well as seeing different types of plants in this area of Missouri, (I learned about and ate honewort at Poosey CA), these meetings offer wonderful opportunities to learn from members in other areas. Hilary Haley explained to me how they are using the bison as a tool in prairie restoration studies at Dunn Ranch. On Sunday, after waiting for a storm to pass, John Oliver led us to a cemetery he knew of that had a patch of native prairie connected. Those of us who went were treated to see several blooming wood lilies. They are spectacularly beautiful. John also showed me the "slap" method of determining slippery elm: take a leaf, lay it on one hand and slap it with the other then see if it sticks to your hand or easily falls off. A slippery elm leaf will stick. Back at home, a neighbor gave me an elm tree to cut up for the wood and I was glad to do the slap test and realize it was a small slippery elm. I am now using a draw knife to get bark from it as well as a wild black cherry tree!

June 14th: Field Trip plus OP Meeting was held at the **Conrad-Neuenschwander Prairie**. Since several members were attending the State MONPS meeting in Bethany, Bernie Henehan graciously sent in this report.

We have been very fortunate, over the last few years, to have been guests at field trips at the spectacular private Prairie of the Neuenschwander/ Conrad family in St. Claire County. Our most recent outing was on the morning of June 14th. We had a good group of folks on hand and also some of family of the owners. Our President, Elizabeth Middleton, was present. She also serves as the local botanist for the MDC and shares her tips on plant ID. She gave us helpful pointers on how to tell the look-a-like plants apart. These included: Black and Brown-eyed Susans, Big Bluestem and Gamma grasses, Ashy Sunflower and Rosin Weed, and Flowering Spurge and Bastard Toad Flax. The weather was wonderful and to add to the glory of the event the neighboring Valley Center Christian Church treated us to a delicious buffet luncheon which made our day complete

[OP cont. next column >]



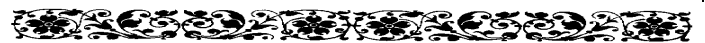
[Hawthorn cont. . .]Our meeting 14 July was called to order by President Denny Donnell; fifteen members were present. Minutes were reviewed of last meeting of May 12. Items of interest included an estimated \$280 in sales from the Bradford Farm Quail Day 19 June. Dues are in arrears as of 1 July.

A moment of remembrance was celebrated to Jean Graebner

For a complete written tribute, see the July Hawthorn newsletter on www.columbianativeplants.org

A major activity project was presented and reviewed; estimated to last at least the next 3 years to reclaim open land into native prairie at the Columbia Audubon-Bonnyview property. The combined efforts of Columbia Parks and Recreation, Native Plant Society, Columbia Audubon, Master Naturalists are focused. We should begin to collect native plant seeds with proper labels which can be stored with Becky Erickson. Several dedicated naturalists serve on the committee to propel this project to its finish.

Program was officiated by Becky Erickson who provided the expertise for the very lively session of plant identification with a competitive quiz to identify 18 demo native plants. This was a competition among all present and Lea Langdon claimed first prize with 14 correct. Laura Hillman, Linda and Gary Shillito tied for second. They divided the demo plants equitably for their own gardens. Additionally members brought unknown plants for identification which brought keen interest from the group. 29 plants were juried and confirmed by Becky Erickson with eager discussion and contemplation. Supplemental to this, Becky led a discussion about various sunflower species and also the importance of legumes for the native plant environment.



[OP cont . . .]

June 28th : Field Trip to Ragland Prairie. This is another private prairie we are privileged to visit via Bernie knowing the owners. Last year we saw Mead's milkweed here but after walking the area several times we finally decided it must not have emerged this year. There is a nice variety of native plants that by now we can name most of them with confidence and it is so much fun to realize how much we've learned. This prairie has an abundance of New Jersey Tea which I love to gather, dry and share.

Reminder: Any member who would like to receive the Petal Pusher by email needs to send their request to editor Becky Erickson beckyerick711@centurylink.net. Benefits of receiving the Petal Pusher by email include: earlier receipt of information; color pictures; savings in printing costs for MONPS.

From Casey's Kitchen

Submitted by Casey Burks

I give Jim Long credit for encouraging me to start making these muffins several years ago. I love to have a batch in the freezer to grab for special occasions. The goldenrod around our place by Truman Lake that has the anise fragrance is the elm leaf goldenrod. Just take a flowering stem and gently strip off the flowers. It usually doesn't take very long to get 3 or 4 Tablespoons of flowers. You can also use Queen Anns' lace flowers for a hint of carrot.

In food processor, put 3 or 4 Tablespoons = ¼ cup packed goldenrod flowers

2 C flour, 3 & ½ tsp. baking powder, 1 tsp. salt; process 1 min. In separate bowl, mix ½ C softened butter with 1 & ½ C sugar, add 3 eggs, 1 C milk, ½ tsp vanilla. Mix to make smooth batter then whisk in goldenrod flour.

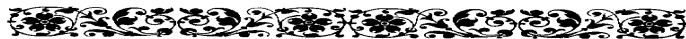
Fill greased and floured muffin cups 2/3 full.

Bake 35-40 minutes in a preheated 350 degree oven.



Solidago ulmifolia is commonly found in open woodland; appearing in Sept as sprangled fireworks among the undergrowth. As the name translates, leaves are shaped much like an elm tree's leaves.

**Turn screen time to green time.
Get outside!!**



Kansas City

Submitted by Hilary Haley, Chapter Representative

For questions about upcoming field trips contact the field trip leader, otherwise contact John Richter via e-mail: jrichter@ene.com, or cell phone 913.217.0432. Please RSVP with the field trip leader or John Richter for all field trips. We use RSVP information to plan car pool logistics and if a field trip will have any attendance. This is important for making decisions based on severe weather, etc.

2 Sept, 7 PM, MDC Discovery Center: Chapter meeting.

John Richter will give a presentation about the characteristics of select plant families. His presentation will include a multitude of specimens he has pressed and archived in his

Southwest Chapter

Submitted by Brian Edmond Chapter Representative

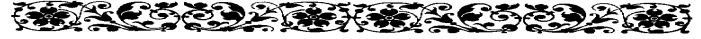
A small group of orchid enthusiasts searched for both the White Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium candidum*) and Showy Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*) on the last weekend in May at Lead Mines Conservation Area in Dallas County. We failed once again to locate *C. candidum* flowering stems in the area where we know them to be. After some intense searching for the same and only individual stem of *C. reginae* we saw a couple of years ago, we found it but it was only a non-flowering stem. But, by pure serendipity, we located a small, nearby hillside fen with more than a dozen individual plants, all blooming! <http://on.fb.me/1rPpTzR>

In early June, a small group wandered around Twenty-five Mile Prairie in Polk County. This small prairie, a recent Missouri Natural Areas addition, was spectacular! If you are driving through the area (MO 13 north of Bolivar), you owe it to yourself to stop by! <http://on.fb.me/1n1Aqm4>

Chapter member Mary McCarthy hosted a neighborhood "Butterflies and Bees" celebration in central Springfield on Sat 28 June 2014. More than 200 people, some with homemade bee and butterfly costumes, attended to view small native gardens, learn about native pollinators, do crafts, and gather information about native plants and landscaping. Everyone is already planning for next year. Way to go, Mary!

On the hottest day of the year so far, we held our annual July cookout meeting and native plants tour at Michelle Bowe and Brian Edmond's farm. Approximately 25 people, including some new faces, showed up bearing side dishes and drinks. After talking about the 1/2 acre wildflower / prairie restoration, some of the group walked through the paw paw patch and viewed our droughty but green and healthy sedge meadow and frog pond.

Check the calendar section for upcoming events. Be sure to watch the Facebook Events page and your email inbox for details about upcoming trips and events! In case of bad weather, watch Facebook for cancellations or call ahead of time and we'll call back with more information.



CHAPTER

CALENDARS



Osage Plains

Regularly scheduled meetings will be 4th Monday 6:30pm, at the Henry Co. Library, Clinton. Meetings are open to the public and our purpose is to enjoy learning about and sharing information about native plants. For further information please contact President Elizabeth Middleton Elizabeth.Middleton@MDC.gov ; past President Emily Horner Emily.Horner3@yahoo.com , or Chapter Representative Casey Burks mobugwoman@gmail.com Contact Bernie Henehan berniehenehan@me.com or Dan Henehan danhenehan@embarqmail.com for fieldtrip information.

[KC cont . . .] personal herbarium. This will be a great event for you to see some interesting pressed plants, and maybe inspire yourself to learn more about the native flora around you.

20 Sept – Crooked River Conservation Area: Car pool location and meeting time TBD. Do note this Conservation Area is located approximately 10 miles north of Richmond, MO. Contact person is John Richter:

jack_0_lantern@hotmail.com. This area in Ray County actually has some nice woodlands where timber harvests have relaxed some since the early 1900's. Most native forest in Ray County was timbered back in the early 1900s, with logging still occurring on private properties to this day. Come help us learn more about the flora of this Conservation Area

4 Oct Sat. – Marais Des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge: Car pool location and meeting time TBD. Contact person is Harold Draper.

St Louis

Chapter meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Sunset Hills Community Center, 3939 South Lindbergh Blvd., Sunset Hills, MO 63127. Google Map: <http://goo.gl/maps/K3PR>

27 Aug Wed, 7:30 PM – George Yatskievych, Curator at the Missouri Botanical Garden, author of the recently completed three-volume Steyermark's Flora of Missouri, will narrow his sights and speak to our chapter on rich heritage and historical botany in Missouri.

24 Sept Wed, 7:30 PM – Alice G. Tipton, University of Missouri Columbia will speak on her research for which she was the recipient of a Hudson Award: **The ghost of glades past: ectomycorrhizal community abundance in degraded and restored dolomite glades.**

22 Oct Wed, 7:30 PM – Every year this is the meeting where chapter members are invited to share their photographs from the past field season. Power Point presentations, digital images, and even old fashioned slides are welcome. Friends and newcomers are welcome at meetings.



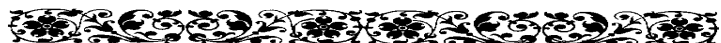
PETAL PUSHER BY EMAIL

From Becky Erickson PP editor.

One hundred eighteen[of 350] MONPS members have sent me their permission to start electronic delivery and stop paper delivery.

I must have your permission to receive the email edition. Copy this address into your email 'to' line beckyerick711@centurylink.net and I will respond.

When renewing, or joining for the first time, please remember to include your contact information including email address, and your society and chapter dues preferences.



[OP cont . . .] Other than special arrangements, Chapter Meetings are scheduled for the 4th Monday evening of the month, February through November. Programs are open to the public and our purpose is to enjoy learning about and sharing information about native plants. For further information please contact President Elizabeth Middleton Elizabeth.Middleton@MDC.gov or Chapter Representative Casey Burks mobugwoman@gmail.com .

There is no Osage Plains chapter meeting in August but plan on attending **22 Sept at 6:30pm** in the Friends Room of the Henry County Library in Clinton. Program TBA. All friends and newcomers are welcome.

Ozark

The Ozark Chapter meets at 6:30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month at the Missouri Department of Conservation, Ozark Regional Office, 551 Joe Jones Blvd, West Plains, MO 65775.

19 Aug: In the summer months, the Ozark chapter meetings are “**plant-identification nights.**” All are welcome to bring in plant specimens or photographs to share with the group. We have a great time identifying the plants and learning a little about their biology and how they fit into the ecosystem.

We are in the process of scheduling speakers for our fall meetings on 16 Sept, 21 Oct, and 18 Nov. Contact Chapter President Susan Farrington for more information: 417-255-9561.

Southwest

Greene Co Botanical Center, Spgfld, 4th Tuesday, 6pm

Sat 23 Aug. Join Missouri Botanical Garden President Emeritus **Dr. Peter Raven** in Springfield MO for a Missouri Prairie Foundation Fundraiser Dinner.

<http://bit.ly/1ujCe3v>

Tue 26 Aug 6pm: Springfield - Greene County Botanical Center. We'll work in the native gardens. Bring clippers, buckets, gloves, water, and a friend.

Sat 20 Sept 9am to 2:30 pm: Springfield - Greene County Botanical Center. Grow Native! Workshop: Advanced Native Plant Landscape Design.

<http://bit.ly/1ujC1NQ>

Tue 23 Sept 6pm: Springfield - Greene County Botanical Center. We'll work in the native gardens. Bring clippers, buckets, gloves, water, and a friend.

Tue 28 Oct 6pm: Springfield - Greene County Botanical Center. We'll work in the native gardens. Bring clippers, buckets, gloves, water, and a friend.



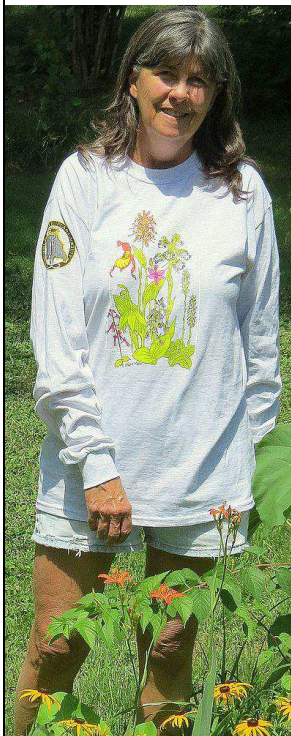
Empire Prairie Contact Steve Buback for information.

Perennis Contact Andrew Braun for information

NEW long-sleeved shirts with Orchid Print are available

Contact Rex Hill – RexLHill@charter.net

[Rex took photos of Martha modeling new shirts]



New long sleeve Orchid T-shirts are now available. They come in two colors, **Carolina Blue** (a light blue) and **Ash** (a light gray). They come in Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, and 2XL and sell for \$17. The orchid images remain the same, both front and back, with the MONPS logo on the right sleeve at the shoulder. In addition, the short sleeve T-shirts in the **Sand** (tan) color have been restocked and are available in all sizes for \$15 each. Contact your Chapter Representative and place your order. Shirts are distributed to the chapter reps at quarterly fieldtrip/meetings. Better still, come to the quarterly fieldtrip.



Enjoy botanizing with friends in a unique area of the state, and pick up your shirt(s) then! The next fieldtrip is to be held in the Cape Girardeau area on the weekend of September 12-14.



Ant Lions!!!

Submitted by Ann Wakeman

I saw this insect on a pier in front of our house earlier this week. The following is info, primarily from a website about this species in Florida [see web site for photos; no room here] <http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/misc/neuroptera/Glenurus.gratus.htm> U of FL Entomology and Nematodology. I edited it into this:

Some people have called them 'demons of the dust', but children in the southern United States coined the term "doodlebugs" to describe their antics. Although most people associate them with the funnel-shaped pitfall traps, most of the genera have other habits often reflected by their movements which can be very fast across the surface of the sand (*Brachynemurus*); slow, creeping movements (*Dendroleon*); or fast backward movements under the sand (*Vella*).

One of the most striking antlions is *Glenurus gratus* (Say). The richly dark-marked wings are distinctive. While most antlion larvae are found in the soil, the unusual, two-toothed mandibled larva of *G. gratus* lives in tree holes.

Hawthorn Calendar

For folks interested in hiking and wildflower sightings around the state, See chapter newsletter for details; also available on www.columbianativeplants.org Otherwise you are encouraged to participate in outings with other MONPS chapters and MPF. Chapter meetings held on odd-numbered months on the second Monday at Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia: 8 Sept 7pm; 10 Nov 6pm, 12 Jan 6 pm. Third Thursday lunch at Uprise Bakery continues to be well attended by members for informal discussions generally centered around native plants and environmental issues. See www.columbianativeplants.org for postings of newsletters and activity details.

21 Aug Thurs Lunch with native plant enthusiasts. 11:30 at RagTag 10 Hitt Street = just south of Broadway.

6 Sept Sat Dining Wild at LU 3 to 9 PM. See article inside. Reservations due 23 Aug.

8 Sept Mon 7 PM Membership Meeting Unitarian Universalist Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd, Columbia. Program TBA.

MONPS Fall Meeting and Field Trips (Sept 12-14) – Cape Girardeau, MO. We may visit Trail of Tears State Park, Sand Prairie Conservation Area, Kelso Sanctuary. See details in Petal Pusher. All are welcomed and you may invite friends and family.

18 Sept Thurs Lunch with native plant enthusiasts. 11:30 at RagTag 10 Hitt Street = just south of Broadway. Good food; lively conversation regarding plant management, environment, etc

16 Oct Thursday Lunch with native plant enthusiasts. 11:30 at RagTag 10 Hitt Street = just south of Broadway.

Look for a wreath workshop late in October. Collect dried native plant materials suitable for wreath-making.



Adult **ant lions** can be seen flying in forested areas during summer months and sometimes are attracted to lights.

All three larval instars live in dry hollows of trees among fine wood particles and other assorted debris. These hollows are large enough to allow for free movement of the larvae under the surface of the debris and are structured so that rainfall does not soak the contents of the hollow. The larvae may dig or run after prey, though not rapidly. At times, larvae may simply lie in wait. They feed on assorted insects found in their microhabitat such as termites, beetle larvae and ants.

Larvae complete their life cycles in one or two years, depending upon the abundance of food and the duration of warm nights in their habitat during the year. Cocoons are approximately 1/2 inch and adults emerge in 28 days.

Both adults and larvae are predators and are economically beneficial. Adults commonly feed on caterpillars and aphids and the larvae feed on surface dwellers such as ants and other insect larvae.

Ed Note: [from personal experience] I have seen the cone traps in several places including Tanzania and Kenya; I saw an adult at a night light in Michigan. I believe some species of ant lion is common anywhere on the temperate Earth.

Verbesina occidentalis – A Pioneer Era Addition to Missouri Species?

Submitted by Ben Duffield

Verbesina occidentalis was found October 21, 2011 in an isolated portion of Miller County. On that day, *V. occidentalis* was at the end of its blooming period while *V. alternifolia* was producing ripened seed. A full length specimen, several feet in length, was later verified as *V. occidentalis* by Justin Thomas and George Yatskievych. This collection is believed to be the first one for the species in Missouri. For a history of earlier



©2006 Jeffrey Pippen

efforts to collect this taxon from a Missouri site, consult Flora of Missouri, Volume II, *V. alternifolia* description, page 562. Nearest other county record for species is an extreme northwest county in Tennessee. How

did the species become part of Missouri flora?

Verbesina occidentalis species range is generally from Alabama to Virginia with a greater presence east of the Appalachian Mountains. Moving westward, county occurrences becomes more fragmented with the western portions of Kentucky and Tennessee having perhaps only a dozen county records. Current western portion of species range reminds one of the dispersion associated with 19th Century American westward expansion.



Photos by Jeffrey Pippen

Miller County, Missouri was formed in 1837 and Tuscumbia, on the Osage River, became the county seat. Tuscumbia served as an active site of river commerce from that time, well into the earliest part of the next century. Building Bagnell Dam upstream in 1931 brought an end to the Osage River being used as an artery of commerce.

Miller County population of *V. occidentalis* is associated with an earlier primary road leading from Tuscumbia. This artery was replaced by a superior roadway at least 80 years ago. It is believed *V. occidentalis* seed was attached to river cargo off loaded at Tuscumbia and later scattered by accident while in transit across a land route. If this theory of origin is correct, the Miller County population is quite old and approaching or surpassing a century of existence. The stand remains quite robust.

Dining Wild at LU

Submitted by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall,
Lincoln University Native Plants Program

Lincoln University Cooperative Extension's (LUCE) Native Plants Program (NPP) in Jefferson City is having a **Dining Wild experience on Saturday, September 6, 2014 at the Scruggs University Center at Lincoln University 820 Chestnut St. Jefferson City, MO. Garden tours and mixer 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**

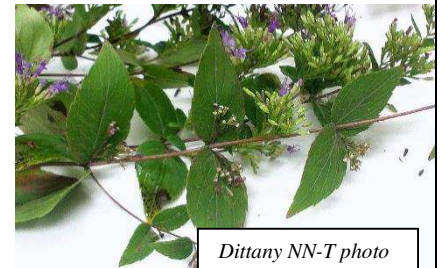
Dinner and presentations 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

A full course dinner prepared with native edible plants and locally grown meat and produce will be served. Menu includes appetizers, entrée, salad, side dishes desserts and local wine samples.

This dining experience will include optional native plant garden tours, educational exhibits, a social mixer, presentations and dinner.

Registration and exhibits start at 3 p.m. at Lincoln's Scruggs University Center lobby located at 820 Chestnut Street. Garden tours leave from Scruggs are 3:15 and 4:15 p.m., followed by a social mixer from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Scruggs lobby where wine samples and appetizers will be served. At the Scruggs Ballroom Dr. Nadia Navarrete-Tindall, LUCE State Extension Specialist will offer presentation Native Edibles of Missouri followed by dinner. Special guest Mr. Bill Rupert, horticulturist and native landscaper will present 'Landscaping with Native Plants' at 7:30 p.m.

Most of the meal, appetizers and beverages will include or be flavored with native edible plants such as dittany, stinging nettle, sumac and wild leeks. Locally grown produce and meats; such as buffalo meatloaf with wild leeks will be served.



Dittany NN-T photo

The cost of the event is \$25.

Check with name and contact information should be sent to Lincoln University Cooperative Extension (LUCE) c/o Shirley Downing, 900 Chestnut Street, Allen Hall Room 102, Jefferson City, MO 65101 by 23 Aug.

Dr. Navarrete-Tindall says, "**The primary mission for LUCE's NPP is to increase awareness about native plant diversity and the importance for conservation and wildlife in urban and rural areas. An important goal of the NPP is to evaluate native plants with potential as specialty crops. During this event participants will have the opportunity to taste some of these edible native plants and learn to prepare them.**"

For more information, special accommodations or about having a booth please **contact Amy Hempen at HempenA@LincolnU.edu or call at (573) 819-3553.**

Curator's Corner:

A new column by Michelle Bowe

Michelle Bowe is an Instructor and Curator of the Ozarks Regional Herbarium (SMS) at Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. She is also President and Treasurer of the SW Chapter of MONPS and is on the state MONPS Board. This is the first in what will hopefully be a regular column on herbaria and herbarium curation, written from her small, warm, windowless office next to the herbarium in Kings Street Annex. E-mail: mbowe@missouristate.edu.

An Introduction

What does a curator do? I've asked myself this question many times. A museum curator keeps track of specimens (usually by maintaining an electronic database), repairs them, coordinates visitors, and tries to protect specimens from damage. We also share specimens or information about the specimens with researchers, students, and other institutions. And, not least importantly, many curators add their own or their students' specimens to the collection. I do all of the above and more at the Ozarks Regional Herbarium. Need to know where to find a particular plant in the Ozarks? Need to compare your specimens with correctly identified specimens? Would you like a copy of the herbarium database? Contact me!

This brings me to the next question I wanted to address in this introductory column: **What is an herbarium and why is it important?** And why is it "an herbarium" and not "a herbarium"? Herbarium is traditionally pronounced with a silent 'h' just as "herb" (as in "herb garden") is pronounced. That being said, there are some stubborn botanists who insist on pronouncing the "h." I am not one of those.

Anyway, herbaria (plural of herbarium) are collections of preserved plants with label information indicating when and where the plants were collected and who collected them. The scientific name of the plant is also given on the label. Common names are not typically given because they are highly variable and somewhat regional in nature. Ideally, a label would also include GPS coordinates, making it super-easy for someone to find the plant again. The exception to this being a good idea is if the plant is of conservation concern. In those cases, it is better to include less information. Or to protect the information (for example, by not making it available on a public document). To summarize, herbaria are cabinets and cabinets full of folders full of dead, flat, dried, labeled plants.

Example of a herbarium label:

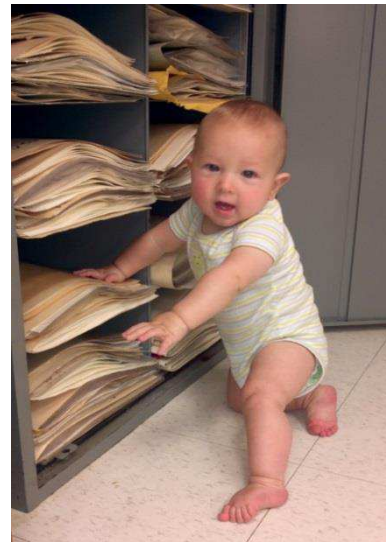
PLANTS OF MISSOURI Fagaceae	
<i>Quercus alba</i> L.	
Greene county:	
Found on the East side of Holland, just S of Grand Ave., Springfield	
George B. Jones	9 Oct. 2011
OZARKS REGIONAL HERBARIUM MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY (SMS)	

The information on the label can tell us where to find a plant (or at least where it once was found), and when it was found. The specimen itself gives us information about the condition of the plant at the time. > >

For example, was it flowering? Did it have fruit? Have the leaves started changing color? Even non-plant material such as insects and fungi can be found on specimens.

What do I do all day, you ask? Like many curators, I am also a college instructor, so today, I finished grading student plant collections and calculated their summer grades. Then, I filed 10 specimens into their proper family and genus folders in the herbarium cabinets and entered 10 more into the database. This can get tedious after a while, so I have to admire the folks at the Missouri Botanical Garden who sit in a small, windowless office and do it all day (glue, database, file; glue, database, file). Finally, I finished writing this column and reviewed and deleted a few hundred emails (and read and wrote a few). Oh, and I took a walk to look for a tree for someone. I didn't find it, probably because it was cut down. Now, I'm just hoping we have a specimen of it somewhere—that's next.

Fortunately, I get volunteers periodically.



Each semester, my taxonomy students add to the collection, but I also frequently have other helpers, including: Mike Skinner, Jeremy Keene, Julian Edmond, Brian Edmond, Shane Snider, and miscellaneous other students.

Julian Edmond began helping with the herbarium when he was only seven months old!

Dues are due see page 3

“Go my Sons, burn your books. Buy yourself stout shoes. Get away to the mountains, the valleys, the shores of the seas, the deserts, and the deepest recesses of the Earth. In this way and no other will you find true knowledge of things and their properties.”
Peter Severinus, a 16th Century Dane educator.

Editor's Picks:

Newest pesticide - neonicotinoids –
please inform your gardening friends.

<http://www.xerces.org/2013/06/21/pesticide-causes-largest-mass-bumble-bee-death-on-record/>

Before you buy, ASK if plants were treated with neonics. Please do not purchase garden plants from nurseries who cannot tell you if plants are treated with neonics. They probably were. Please explain this issue to your friends who are avid gardeners.

Neonic product list for reference

<http://www.xerces.org/neonicotinoids-and-bees/>

Newest evidence of neonics in surface water. There, it kills water dependent insects and probably amphibians and fish.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/07/140724124441.htm> Similar report From Xerces in *Wings* [Vol36 No1, P30]

Web links

You are probably in awe of the summer blooms, but the important part to think about is the seeds. Here is a strategy for diversity and adaption:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/04/140418141238.htm>

An Ozark Naturalist's Notebook

<http://gbairdchem.wordpress.com/>

Groton Open Space News

News from a community Nature park in CT

http://gosaonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/GOSA-News-Spring-2014.Final_1.pdf

Nadia's Yard

Musings about suburban native gardening

<http://nadiasyard.com/>

Ozark Highlands of Missouri

Observations from the hills to the back yard

<http://allisonjvaughn.blogspot.com/>

Wren Song

Weekly newsletter with links to several articles

<http://www.ecosystemgardening.com/wren-song/>

Wild Ones Landscaping

Healing nature one yard at a time

<http://www.wildones.org/>

Local ecotype guidelines

<http://www.wildones.org/learn/local-ecotype-guidelines/>

Plant identification www.plants.usda.gov

Plant Conservation Alliance

Info from every agency and most botanical gardens

Edibles, aliens, ecosystems, fire, landscape mitigation, and more.

www.nps.gov/Plants

Xerces Society

Information on Bees, Monarchs, and most other insects.

www.xerces.org

BEE A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

Please sign up for Bud Burst

Monarch Watch and

NEW Bumble Bee Watch

Keep a calendar, or diary, or "list" of when you see plants emerging, when you see trees blooming or leaves erupting, when seeds are ripe. All the instructions are on the Bud burst web site. The site starts by asking you about common garden plants, but you can add anything you want. It is not too late. They want late blooming flowers and seed set dates.

Monarch fall migration is upon us, Please report every instance of Monarch sightings to Monarch Watch.

Learn more about BumbleBeeWatch.org:

- Watch this video to learn how to contribute your photos, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7Kp3Awf2MQ>
 - Learn how to take helpful photos of bumble bees, www.bumblebeewatch.org/contents/photo-tips/
 - Meet the Bumble Bee Watch partners, <http://bumblebeewatch.org/contents/about/>
- Read more about bumble bees at risk on Xerces' Project Bumble Bee web page, <http://www.xerces.org/bumblebees/>



BE photos

Please Put out lots of
nectar plants this fall.
**MONARCHS NEED
THEM**

MPF/GN had free seedlings available this fall, but they ran out within a few days of the announcement.

For a list of suppliers, see the Resource Guide on the Missouri

Prairie Foundation's Grow Native website at this link: grownative.org/resource-guide/. For a free brochure on the topic of butterfly gardening, email Pubstaff@mdc.mo.gov, or mail your request to Publications, Missouri Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180.

Millpond Plants: Located near Columbia has over 500 swamp milkweeds and nectar plants **573-657-2314**



Hello MONPS Folks,

Miss you all! Hope everyone is doing well!

Judy Turner in Bastrop TX

Well, it's been almost 3 years since the devastating fire in Bastrop County that consumed 3,400 acres of mostly loblolly pine trees, including 94% of Bastrop State Park, one of the most popular in Texas. We Bastropians are still feeling the effects. Only about half of the 1,600 homes and 28 businesses that burned have been rebuilt. Many of us are still waiting for our blackened sticks to be cut and removed. Commercial tree removal companies use very heavy equipment which destroys what little top soil we have, so not much regrowth is occurring on those properties. The rest of us are patiently waiting for an environmentally and Houston Toad (our endangered species) friendly (with lighter equipment or by hand) company called Go Green to receive permission from the USFW and the county to begin their process of removing our dead trees at no cost to the land owner. They were finally given the go-ahead in June of this year. The Houston Toad protections mean that their areas can't be disturbed from January to June. And for the record I'm very happy to say that our property is a participant in that protection.

If I remember correctly, the estimated density of pines in this "Lost Pines" region is about 300-500 trees per acre. We probably have less than 100 mature trees still living on our almost 6 acres. But we do have a few new seedlings that began in the spring of 2012 that are now 6 feet tall! We're very pleased! However, we are still losing mature trees.

The accompanying pictures will show a recent example. To explain the pictures - when we first started participating in the Houston Toad Conservation Plan, I built a water catchment table out in our woods to provide consistent water for the wildlife that wander through. The first table partially burned in the fire. So I rebuilt it. Well, back on July 6th we had almost 2 inches of rain. It almost never rains here in July! And on July 7th one of our mature pine trees uprooted itself out of the red clay and fell, crushing my water catchment table and water barrel. I believe what happened was that the lateral roots of this tree were killed in the fire and it was only anchored by its



long taproot. This tree had quite a bit of foliage and was covered with lots of new green pine cones. We were very sad for it to fall to say the least.

Good fire does promote regrowth. When our property burned, it was only a moderate fire as opposed to the severe ground sterilizing fire that first roared through. We welcomed new or returning vegetation after the fire. We're still being surprised by what comes up. From roots we had lantana, turk's cap, red buckeye, yaupon, farkleberry, post oak, beautyberry, and even asparagus fern (I know it's not native, but it sprouted less than 2 weeks after the fire). Now, here's a partial list of things I had not encountered before on our property in the 30 years I've lived here: pincushion daisy, hercules club, butterfly pea, lanceleaf greenbrier, prairie spiderwort, little ladies



tresses orchid (new this spring!), georgia sunrose, hairy bush lespedeza, goat's rue, Texas skeleton plant, roosevelt weed, cowpen daisy, Texas squaw-weed, wooly ironweed, clammy-weed, scrambled eggs, golden-wave, lanceleaf coreopsis, butterfly weed (which I actually transplanted from an adjacent burned area to my yard - and 7 of the 9 plants that I dug up have survived for 2 years now!). Well, you get the picture! There's more that we haven't identified yet.

What fun!



Rose gentian [*Sabatia angularis*]

Casey Burks wants to share her photo of Rose gentian [*Sabatia angularis*] with you. Since this species is an annual and needs specific conditions, it occurs sporadically; locally common one year and not the next.





Missouri Native Plant Society
 PO BOX 440353
 St Louis, MO 63144-4353
www.monativeplantsociety.org

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**"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community.
 It is wrong when it tends otherwise." Aldo Leopold**

PRESIDENT

Paul McKenzie
 2311 Grandview Circle
 Columbia, MO 65203
 573-445-3019
naulbeckvmo@mchsi.com

VICE PRESIDENT

John Oliver
 4861 Gatesbury Dr.
 St. Louis, MO 63128
 314-487-5924
joliver02@earthlink.net

SECRETARY

Casey Burks
 914 SE Hwy ZZ
 Deepwater, MO 64740
 515-291-1550
mobuewomana@gmail.com

TREASURER

Bob Siemer
 74 Conway Cove Drive
 Chesterfield, MO 63017
 636-537-2466
ace623@prodigy.net

PAST PRESIDENT

George Yatskievych
 Missouri Botanical Garden
 PO Box 299
 St. Louis, MO 63166
 314-577-9522 (w)
george.yatskievych@mobot.org

BOARD MEMBERS

Justin Thomas ('14 - '17)
 Rt 4 Box 946
 Salem MO 65560
ithomas@botanytraining.com

Robin Kennedy ('14 - '17)
 University of Missouri Herbarium
 Columbia, MO 65211-3170
 573-882-6519
kennedvr@missouri.edu

Bruce Schuette ('13 - '16)
 678 St. Route 147
 Troy, MO 63379
 636-528-7247 (w)
basch@centurytel.net

Malissa Underwood ('12 - '15)
 10665 County Rd. 381
 Holts Summit, MO 65043
 573-301-0082
Malissa.Underwood@mdc.mo.gov

Steve Buback ('12-'15)
 MDC NW Regional Office
 701 James McCarthy Dr
 St. Joseph, MO 64507
 816-271-3111
Steve.Buback@mdc.mo.gov

Michelle Bowe ('13 - '16)
 901 S National Ave
 Springfield, MO 65897
 417-836-6189
Mbowe@MissouriState.edu

MISSOURIENSIS

CO-EDITORS
 George Yatskievych
 314-577-9522 (w)
george.yatskievych@mobot.org

Doug Ladd
 The Nature Conservancy
 2800 S. Brentwood Blvd.
 St. Louis, MO 63144
 314-968-1105 (w)
dladd@tnc.org

PETAL PUSHER EDITOR

Becky Erickson
 PO BOX 496
 Ashland MO 65010
 573-657-2314
beckyerick711@centurylink.net

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Bill Knight
 7175 Old Lemay Ferry Road
 Barnhart, MO 63012
 314-856-5167
knight-bill@sbcglobal.net

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Lisa Hooper
 Jay Raveill
 Tim Smith
ARCHIVES
 Jack Harris
 9708 Green Park Rd.
 St. Louis, MO 63123
 314-368-0655
jahar@mac.com

MEMBERSHIP

Ann Earley
 P.O. Box 440353
 St. Louis, MO 63144-4353
 314-963-0103
ace623@prodigy.net

SOCIAL & MEDIA

Brian Edmond
 Steve Buback

PUBLICITY

Kevin Bley
 4 Zinzer Ct
 Grantwood Village, MO 63123
 314-438-7127
blev435@yahoo.com

WEBMASTER

Brian Edmond
 Also SW Chapter Rep

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES SOUTHWEST

Brian Edmond
 8878 N FR 75
 Walnut Grove, MO 65770
 417-742-9438
briancedmond@gmail.com

KANSAS CITY

Hilary Haley
 204 South 15th Street
 Bethany, MO 64424
 (660) 867-3866
hhaley@tnc.org

OSAGE PLAINS

Casey Burks [also Secretary]

EMPIRE PRAIRIE

Steve Bruback [also on Board]

OZARKS

Liz Olson
 MDC Ozark Regional Office
 551 Joe Jones Blvd
 West Plains, MO 65775
 417-255-9561 Ext. 307 (w)
Elizabeth.Olson@mdc.mo.gov

PERENNIS

HAWTHORN

Ann Wakeman
 5798 Windy Meadows Lane
 Fulton MO 65251
 573-642-6927
mike-ann@socket.net

ST. LOUIS

Rex Hill
 4 Grantwood Lane
 St. Louis, MO 63123
 314-849-1464
RexL.Hill@charter.net

ENVIRON. AND EDUCATION

John Oliver [also Vice President]
www.monativeplants.org
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