



PLEASE NOTE: The format of this newsletter is not as intended by the editors. Due to printing problems it had to be changed at the last minute. I take full responsibility for this layout -- look for the real thing next issue!

Ginny Wallace

**MISSOURI NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

**PRESIDENTIAL MEMO #1**

**January, 1986**

**VOLUME 1 NO 1**

**OFFICERS**

- President ..... David Castaner  
Herbarium-Biology Dept.  
Central MO State University  
Warrensburg, MO 64093
- Vice-President ..... Sherry Morgan  
P.O. Box 180  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
- Secretary ..... Joanna Turner  
166 N. Brentwood  
St. Louis, MO 63105
- Treasurer ..... Mervin Wallace  
P. O. Box 6612  
Jefferson City, MO 65102
- St. Louis Chapter ..... Katherine Chambers  
7024 Forsyth  
St. Louis, MO 63105

Happy New Year: and welcome to new members. On December 7, the board met the entire day (yep!) and discussed some important issues. A very productive session it was: Thanks to all the board members and visitors who contributed to making the meeting a great success.

We'll be meeting again this year with the Missouri Academy of Science. The meeting is set for April 25 and 26. Other meeting dates and Special Trips were planned. Keep reading the Newsletter for announcements. Missouriensis changed dramatically at the meeting. Missouriensis will be administered by a review board which I am in the process of appointing. In addition, a MoNPS newsletter was born: Linda Ellis, Sue Hollis, and Joanne Watkins from the Kansas City area became the new editorial staff. Good work, members! We all appreciate it. Missouriensis will probably be published only twice a year, while the newsletter will be printed six times. It won't be easy at first, so the staff will need any help (labor) or ideas available. We are especially anxious to have materials from our present and future regional chapters. Here's a great place for personal viewpoints, letters to editors, ideas, suggestions, and plain old news. How about a series on growing native plants--anyone volunteer?

**EDITORIAL STAFF**

- Linda Ellis  
Sue Hollis  
Joanne Watkins

Board Members

- Doug Ladd, St. Louis  
John Doggett, Sikeston  
Jim Key, Springfield  
Karen Haller, St. Louis  
John Molyneaux, St. Louis  
Wally Weber, Springfield

Committees

- Field Trip: Ginny Wallace  
Environmental Action: John Doggett  
Inventory: Jay Raveill  
Membership: James Dinit

We also discussed in detail our State Inventory and a checklist of plants. We need to thank those involved in this very time consuming project, especially Jay Raveill.

Some of you might like to look at Edwin Smith's "AN ATLAS AND ANNOTATED LIST OF THE VASCULAR PLANTS OF ARKANSAS" as a possible solution to a continuous changing state list. At this meeting it became clear that we have a way to go yet. We hope to serve all members of the society with plant lists usable at several levels.

We also discussed the role of chapters in MoNPS. We agreed the relationship between the Society and the Chapters is like that of a fine wine or a good marriage, getting older and better, but always needing delicate care. We hope individuals, areas, and chapters will use the Newsletter.

See you in Warrensburg.

*Dave*

**Newsletter Naming Contest**

Here's your chance to see YOUR NAME in PRINT 6 times a year and to contribute your bit a wisdom or humor to our newsletter. IT NEEDS A NAME! Please give our newsletter a name so it can blossom forth this summer in all its splendid beauty. The winner will be featured in the June Newsletter and will be recognized at a future society meeting. Submit your entries by MAY 15 to:

Missouri Native Plant Society  
P. O. Box 6612  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Welcome Mid-Missouri Chapter! Next meeting of the chapter: Wednesday, February 26, 7:00 PM, Tucker Hall, UMC Campus, Columbia.

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Secretary ..... Joanna Turner  
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NEWSLETTER NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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~~~~~  
We welcome material for the newsletter. Deadline for the April issue is March 10. Please submit any contributions by that date to Editors Linda Ellis, Sue Hollis or Joanne Watkins c/o MoNPS Newsletter, P.O. Box 6612, Jefferson City, MO 65102  
~~~~~

Not to be outdone, Jefferson City MoNPS members plan a chapter organizational meeting Thursday, February 27, 7:30 PM, Department of Conservation Headquarters Auditorium.

DECEMBER MEETING PRODUCTIVE

by Ginny Wallace

Reluctantly foregoing the traditional field trip (after all, how many plants are there to look at in December with snow on the ground), nine board members and eight members and guests settled down to some serious decision-making at the quarterly board meeting December 7 at Burr Oak Woods Nature Center in Blue Springs. President Dave Castaner convened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. and the diligent members worked until almost 4:00 that afternoon. A lot of ground was covered and it would take several pages to recount everything that happened. However, several important decisions were made and these are the highlights of those discussions.

The biggest news resulted from a lengthy discussion about Missouriensis; that is, the formation of a newsletter to be issued six times a year beginning with this very issue. Topics in the newsletter will include lists of new members, calendar of upcoming meetings and field trips, a question and answer column, items from other NPS newsletters and a contest to name the newsletter. If you want to get in touch with the membership, the newsletter is the place to do it. Just send your ideas and notes to the editors (in six-inch wide columns, please). The newsletter is being ably compiled and edited by Linda Ellis, Sue Hollis and Joanne Watkins of the Kansas City area.

Missouriensis will continue to be published twice a year, in June and December. It will be more technical than the newsletter, perhaps with each issue devoted to a theme, such as the history of Missouri botany. An editorial committee was formed to help decide what information should go in each publication. Committee members are the current editors plus Dave Castaner, Paul Redfearn, Doug Ladd and Ginny Wallace.

The board voted to support several new projects. A brochure committee is designing a new brochure and hopes to have a mock-up for board consideration at the next meeting.

It was decided to provide a total of \$250 to students or society members for expense money toward a project adding to our knowledge of Missouri's flora. The Awards Committee will be working out the details.

It was also decided to establish a speaker's bureau made up of MoNPS members who could give talks on Missouri plants to other organizations. For more details see the article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Future meetings were discussed and set as follows: April 25-26 at Warrensburg in conjunction with the Missouri Academy of Science; annual meeting June 13-14 at Big Lake State Park in Holt County with field trips to the loess hill prairies; and Sept. 20 in Ste. Genevieve County with a fern field trip. Watch for details of these and other meetings in the newsletter.

The status of the inventory project was discussed. Wally Weber has been digitizing county maps from the Flora of Missouri and hopes to have them completed by the end of spring semester.

Finally, Ginny Wallace passed around photos of the society's exhibit at the flower show in St. Louis. The board commended the St. Louis chapter for its work on the flower show and all other activities.

MoNPS SPEAKER'S BUREAU

by Ginny Wallace

One of the best ways to spread the word about native plants (and MoNPS) is by giving programs to groups such as scouts, garden clubs, women's clubs, church groups, etc. In November, Conservation Department Urban Biologist Dave Tylka gave a program to a women's church group in St. Louis. They were so enthused that they made a donation to the MoNPS St. Louis Chapter on the Department's behalf!

I am in the progress of compiling a list of MoNPS members who would be willing to give programs. Groups interested in programs could contact the speaker's bureau through the MoNPS P.O. Box in Jefferson City. A list of MoNPS speakers would then be sent to the group for them to contact a speaker directly. It would be up to you to accept or decline any invitations you receive. MoNPS may be able to reimburse speakers for mileage.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey and return it to me at P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102. You don't need to be a pro--just enthusiastic!

Speaker's Resource Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of advance notice needed: \_\_\_\_\_

# of miles willing to travel \_\_\_\_\_

Days and times available: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject(s) (i.e. local flora, photography, medical uses,

etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Other Comments: \_\_\_\_\_



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

by Ginny Wallace

Now that we have a newsletter we have a way of announcing all kinds of events, including FIELD TRIPS. If you would like to see field trips in your area, now's your chance--lead one. As field trip chairman I will work with you on trip

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Now that we have a newsletter we have a way of announcing all kinds of events, including FIELD TRIPS. If you would like to see field trips in your area, now's your chance--lead one. As field trip chairman I will work with you on trip information and maps. But it really takes a local contact to get something going. If you're interested, send a list of proposed trips and dates to MoNPS, Field Trips, P.O. Box 6612, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. If I get the info by March 1 it will get into the next newsletter.

SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

At their December meeting the MoNPS board voted to provide \$250 to students or society members for expense money toward a project that adds to our knowledge of Missouri's flora. The details and guidelines have yet to be worked out. If you have a project in mind be thinking about it and watch for more information in the next newsletter.

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DUES REMINDER

Membership dues for 1986 were due January 1. We have 6 issues of newsletters and 2 of Missouriensis to look forward to this year, not to mention numerous field trips and meetings. All this for only \$5.00! If you meant to mail yours and got sidetracked, please take a few minutes and do it now, so you won't miss anything.

If the box below is checked it means we haven't received your dues. Please send your check, payable to MoNPS, to P.O. Box 6612, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Since this is our first newsletter we would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new MoNPS members who joined in 1985:

Tom & Charmaine Abernathy, Cape Girardeau  
Robert Bartles, Macon  
Alan Brant, St. Louis  
Kelly Carter, Springfield  
Dr. Herb Domke, New Bloomfield  
Linda Ellis, Kansas City, MO  
Bill Gant, Tipton  
Mary & Mike Gerard, Columbia  
Nancy Glore, Irondale  
Rick & Roxanna Heidbrier, Troy  
Tom & Deborah Kruzen, Mountain View  
Don Kurz, Jefferson City  
Mark Leoschke, DesMoines, IA  
Barney Lipscomb, Dallas, TX  
Jim Locklear, Lincoln, NE  
Jean Love, Columbia  
Martha Newman, Clinton, IA  
Mark Pelton, Columbia  
Willie & Kazie Perkins, Willow Springs  
Deborah A. Qualls, Ames, IA  
George Rogers, St. Louis  
Marguerite Solomon, Independence and Sunrise Beach  
Mike Sweet, Jefferson City  
Richard Vaeth, Grandview  
Rodney Westerfield, Hollister  
Lynda Yarrington, Independence

Also, a very special welcome to the following members who were presented with gift memberships to MoNPS. We hope you will join us for meetings and field trips.

Johnnie Clinton, Willow Springs, from Mervin Wallace. Ruth Corzine, Springfield, from Jeannie Webdell. Alexandra Janssens, Independence, from Sue Hollis. Paul Shildneck, Decatur-IL, from Stan Tyson. John Thornton, Independence, from Cora Sullivan.

## ?? QUESTIONS ??

Do you have questions about plants, growing native wildflowers, how plants got their names, or other questions? We hope to make this a regular column and consult our members to answer your questions. We don't guarantee answers to all questions, but do write!

Q. What is a good reference to use for information on growing and propagating native plants?

A. See Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers by Harry R. Phillips (1985). Available from N.C. Botanical Garden, UNC-CH, Totten center 457-A, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514 (Paperback \$16.20, clothbound \$26.20).

Q. Are there any carnivorous plants in Missouri?

A. Yes, Missouri has two native carnivorous plants--Utricularia gibba and U. vulgaris commonly called bladderwort. These tiny plants are found floating in ponds and sloughs in spring and summer. They trap tiny

## CALENDAR

Coming Events Statewide - mark your calendar now!

### March 29, Saturday

Burr Oak Woods Nature Center, Blue Springs: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Field trip to Burr Oak Woods Natural Area. Leader Ginny Wallace.

2:00 p.m. Program "Spring Wildflowers of the Kansas City Area" by Ginny Wallace, botanist, Department of Conservation.

Call the Nature Center for more information (816)228-3766.

### April 26, Saturday

Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg. Spring board meeting and field trips. See newsletter for details.

### May 10, Saturday (all day)

Field trip to Pickle Springs Natural History Area, Ste. Genevieve County. Leader Ginny Wallace. See latest issue of Missouriensis for a description of this area. For more information and reservations contact Ginny Wallace, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

### May 25, Sunday (or May 31, Saturday)

Field trip to Indian Creek, Howell County. Leaders: Ginny & Mervin Wallace. See showy lady's slippers, lily-leaved twayblade, sullivania, Zigadenus elegans and more! For more information and reservations contact Ginny Wallace, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

### June 13 & 14, Friday and Saturday

Big Lake State Park, Holt County. MoNPS annual meeting and field trips to the loess hills. Watch for details in the next newsletter.

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE - APRIL MEETING

Saturday, April 26, 1986  
Central Missouri State University  
Warrensburg, MO

9:00 - 11:00	Board Meeting
11:00 - 12:00	Program
12:00 - 1:15	Lunch (on your own)
1:15 - 4:00	Field Trip to Knob Noster

## HIGHLIGHTS OF COMING ATTRACTIONS

The highlight of the quarterly board meeting April 26, will be a field trip to Knob Noster State Park, located just seven miles east of Warrensburg.

The end of April is an excellent time for viewing spring wildflowers and there will be plenty to see at Knob Noster. Bluebells, dutchman's britches, spring beauties and many others are common on some of the north and east-facing slopes within the park.

Willie & Kazie Perkins, Willow Springs  
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Q. Why does the sensitive briar (Schrankia uncinata) fold up its leaflets when it is touched?

A. The folding up of the leaflets is caused by sudden changes in water pressure. Each leaflet has a swelling where it is attached to the stem. These swellings are the "sensitive organs" composed of very thin-walled cells that are supplied with water by fine loops of conducting tissue. A slight stimulus causes the water to drain away from the sensitive organs very rapidly, resulting in a loss of pressure causing the leaflets to fold up.

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The visitor center at the park uses photographs, models and displays to trace the park's history and explain its natural features. The exhibits focus especially on savanna, a habitat that is

being restored in the park. After touring the visitor center we will have the opportunity to visit one of the savanna restoration areas.

As of this writing the schedule is still somewhat tentative. However, we plan on meeting for the field trip at 1:30 p.m., April 26, at the Knob Noster State Park Visitor Center. You can obtain a park brochure (which includes a map) by writing DNR, Division of Parks and Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

The afternoon promises to be fun and educational--we hope you'll join us.



## New Natural Resource Area

### POWELL HORTICULTURAL & NATURAL RESOURCES CENTER

DAVE and JUDY VISMARA, formerly with the ST. LOUIS BOTANICAL GARDEN are the managers of the University of Missouri-Columbia's POWELL HORTICULTURAL and NATURAL RESOURCES CENTER. It is located just 35 miles east of Kansas City 1/2 mile north of Highway 50. There is no admission fee and the hours are from sunrise to sunset every day except Christmas. It features 580 acres of land including nature trails, one main lake, several ponds, picnic areas, buildings for workshops and classes, a vegetable garden, an iris garden (planted under the direction of Dr. Norlan C. Henderson), and many annual and perennial flower beds. The area is fun to explore on your own or the staff will be happy to give you a guided tour. The land, formerly a Boy Scout Camp, was given to the University of Missouri in 1984 by the Powell Foundation. The center was created by the University of Missouri-Columbia to promote the science of horticulture, the art of gardening, research and education in horticulture and natural resources, and to serve as a resource for the community, the state, and the region. For further information please contact DAVE or JUDY VISMARA.

The Powell Center  
Route 1, Box 90  
Kingsville, MO 64061  
(816) 566-2600

### LETTERS

**DEAR EDITORS:** I am a new resident of Kansas City and would like information about Natural Areas within a short driving distance.

Mary W.-Kansas City

**DEAR MARY:** Here is a list of Natural Areas: HIDDEN VALLEY-North Kansas City (435 & Parvin Road), BLUE RIVER GLADES-Kansas City (Southwest of Swope Park), MAPLE WOODS-Gladstone (76th Street), BURR OAK WOODS-Blue Springs (1 mile north of I-70), and ISLEY PARK-Excelsior Springs.

For further information on these and others in the state, see the Directory of Missouri Natural Areas available from the Missouri Department of Conservation. Also read featured article on POWELL CENTER in this issue of the newsletter.

MoNPS  
P.O. BOX 6612  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102

### WORLD'S LARGEST FLOWER

Discovered in Sumatra in 1818, the flowers of Rafflesia arnoldii are thought to be the largest in the world. The unofficial record is 42 inches across for one specimen, but most specimens average about 27 inches across. Rafflesia is a parasitic plant that grows from the roots of wild vines in the grape family. It is found on just a few islands in Sumatra and Borneo and is in jeopardy today due to the clearing of rain forests. Government officials and scientists in Indonesia are working to protect populations of this mysterious plant, with partial support from the National Geographic Society.

From: National Geographic Magazine  
July 1985

### OLDEST LIVING PLANT CHALLENGED

The oldest known bristlecone pine is found in the White Mountains of California. Nicknamed Methuselah by its discoverers, it has been aged at 4700 years.

A new contender for the title is a creosote bush in the California desert that has been estimated to be almost 3000 years older. Nicknamed King Clone by a University of California scientist in 1976, the creosote bush is a bit of a "cheater." The original stem died when it was about one century old, and the genetically identical descendents grow outward in a gradually expanding ring. Bob Jenkins of The Nature Conservancy is quoted as saying, "...the creosote bush is the oldest single mitotic division in the plant world." That pins down the question.

The bristlecone pine was aged by counting growth rings. There's a couple thousand year margin of error for the creosote bush, because it was aged by determining present growth rate and multiplying by the distance the bush has spread.

From: National Wildlife Magazine  
December-January 1986



MS. LINDA S. ELLIS  
6668 N PENNSYLVANIA  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64118-3268