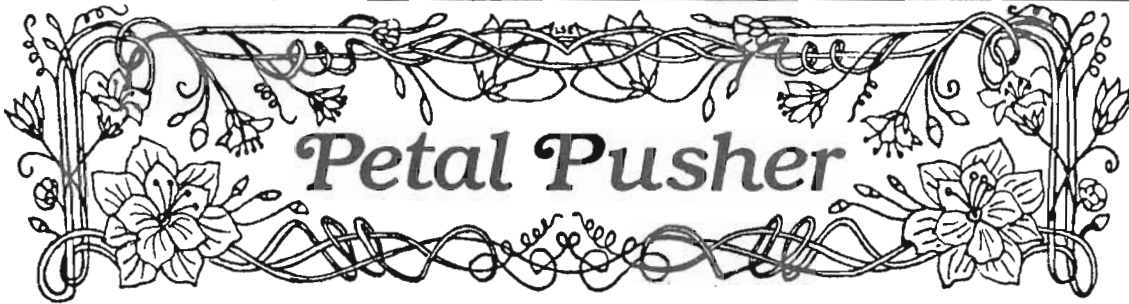


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 Missouri Native Plant Society
 

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 JAN. - FEB. Volume 4 Number 1, 1989
 

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 SPECIAL NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS
 

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Mark your calendars now for the Missouri Native Plant Society's 10th Anniversary Meeting Saturday June 17th, 1989 at Westminster College in Fulton Mo. A symposium will be presented along with appropriate field trips, speakers and a banquet. Lodging will be available in the college dorms. More details in upcoming issues of Petal Pusher.

January 10th, Tuesday, 7:00PM: Kansas City chapter monthly meeting. Un. Extension center (373-5500) Speaker Joe Werner, Urban Biologist, MDC

January 14th, 10:00AM Saturday. Kansas City chapter. Tour and study at the Norlan K Henderson Herbarium with Dr. Henderson. UMKC Campus

January 21st Saturday, 1:00PM Winter Botany at Powell Gardens, Kingsville, Mo. (816-566-2600) Conviener, Keet Kopecky

January 26th, Thursday, 7:00PM St. Louis chapter meeting. McMillan Hall, Washington Un. campus - Elizabeth Cornelison on "Conservation Concerns".

February 7th, Tuesday, 7:30 PM Jefferson City monthly meeting at MDC Building Speaker: Bob Libbert.

February 14th, Tuesday, 7:00PM Kansas City chapter monthly meeting at Un. of Kansas Medical Center's Clendening Library. Speaker: Susan Case, rare books librarian will tour pharmaceutical-botany collection. 472-0227 for information.

February 18th, Saturday 10:00 AM KC chapter Tour of Linda Hall Technical Library rare botany books collection with curator Bruce Bradley. 472-0227 for info.

February 23rd, Thursday, 6:30 PM St. Louis chapter 5th Anniversary Dinner at Whittemore House, Washington Un. campus Speaker: John Wylie.

 NOTES OF INTEREST
 

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From the Natural Resources Defense Council

Two herb industry associations have adopted a resolution discouraging the collection and sale of wild-collected ladyslippers (*Cypripedium* spp.) for medicinals and encouraging commercial propagation. The resolution, sponsored by Steven Foster of Arkansas, was adopted by the International Herb Growers and Marketers Association and the American Herb Products Association in June and July. In accordance with the resolutions, Nature's Way, a health food company based in Utah, announced in October that it would stop purchasing ladyslippers. President Ken Murdock encouraged other companies to take the same step.

The Center for Plant Conservation has prepared a resource book on plant conservation. It lists over 500 professionals and agencies engaged in conserving US native plants and summarizes state plant conservation laws. Cost is \$9 for each, including postage. Send a check to Center for Plant Conservation, 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

From Flora of North America Newsletter

Congress has passed a bill reauthorizing the 1973 Endangered Species Act, providing more money and expanded authority for the program. The Act calls for the preparation of an official list of endangered or threatened species of plants or animals, development of a program for the recovery of each, and monitoring their progress. The 1973 Act officially expired in 1985, and since then the program has been funded at the 1985 budget level plus inflation-- a very low level indeed, considering that the number of species protected by the Act has doubled in the past seven years.

## FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE PRAIRIES


The Nature Conservancy Acquires Two New Preserves In Missouri by Margaret Clancy

The Missouri Chapter of The Nature Conservancy recently added two new preserves to its collection of protected natural areas. The additions, totaling some 588 acres, include two of the state's most important natural community types as well as several rare plant species.

Rockhill Prairie, in Benton County, is one of the few dry-chert prairies presently known from Missouri. To date a total of 172 native taxa have been observed at the site; most notably among these is the rare Mead's Milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*), a Federally endangered plant. Warm season native grasses are well represented throughout the 68 acre tract as are glade plants such as prairie dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*) and Missouri evening primrose (*Oenothera macrocarpa*), which are unknown from other Missouri prairies. Despite obvious post-settlement disturbances, Rockhill prairie retains a high degree of floristic diversity and sizeable component of conservative plant species. After evaluating the site, TNC Land Steward Doug Ladd remarked, "The vegetation here consists overwhelmingly of native species and there is a distinct lack of invasive weeds. Rockhill Prairie has great potential to become an exemplary natural system." In addition to custodial management activities, The Conservancy will be conducting a detailed census of the *Asclepias meadii* population and completing pretreatment vegetation sampling before applying prescribed fire to the site in 1990.

Hailing as the Missouri Chapter's newest and third-largest preserve is Shut-in Mountain Fens in Shannon County. This fen-marly seep mosaic with associated dry-chert and xeric-igneous forest communities compares to none other in Missouri. Two state rare plants, small-fruited false loosestrife (*Ludwigia microcarpa*) and low nut rush (*Scleria verticillata*), occur on three separate fens, as do three relict fen sedges, *Carex interior*, *Carex suberecta* and *Rynchospora capillacea*. A large population of Grass pink orchid (*Calopogon pulchellus*) also occurs at the site. Shut-in Mountain, just north of the fens, is one of the most spectacular igneous domes in the St. Francois mountains. A high quality xeric igneous forest interspersed with small rhyolite glades rises 1100 feet to the summit. There an open, treeless area, reminiscent of the subalpine regions of the northwest affords a panoramic view of the surrounding hills. Recognizing the previous landowner's commitment to conservation, Rod Miller, TNC state Director, said, "Several things always need to come together in a project of this type. In this case, the area could not have been preserved without the strong desire of Mrs.

True Loy to see this important remnant of Missouri's heritage set aside for future generations. Mrs. Loy and her mother Mrs. Bolin deserve our appreciation for their willingness to work with The Conservancy to preserve this unique example of presettlement Missouri." Prescribed fire will play an important role in the management of this site as well. Preliminary data indicate that reintroduction of fire to this system will rehabilitate the areas surrounding the fens, resulting in one large fen complex. Shut-in Mountain is sure to be one of the Conservancy's most interesting and popular preserves.



### A CONFERENCE: NATIVE AMERICAN TERRESTRIAL ORCHID PROPAGATION AND PRODUCTION

The purpose of the conference is to bring together those working in the laboratory and in the field on problems of propagation and cultivation of native orchids; to exchange information and ideas that may hasten the day when orchids are produced economically and decrease their collection from the wild.


When: March 10-11, 1989

Where: The Brandywine River Museum  
Chadds Ford PA  
(about 30 miles west of Philadelphia)

Registration: \$98.00 (immediately)  
Brandywine Conservancy  
PO Box 141  
Chadds Ford PA 19317

The cut off for registration for this conference is listed as January 15th but interested parties should call FM Mooberry or Mark Gormel at the Brandywine Conservancy at (215) 459-1900 or (215) 388-7601, Ext. 127 for information. The list of speakers is impressive and this really looks like a worthwhile conference.

The Editors



### PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO BENEFIT NATIVE PLANTS

Regular readers of this newsletter are familiar with two threats to our native plants. One is the invasion of purple loosestrife which outcompetes native wetland vegetation. The other is the picking and digging of wildflowers, particularly coneflowers, from roadsides and other public and private land.

To address these two concerns, the Department of Conservation is proposing two pieces of legislation. One seeks to control the spread of purple loosestrife by banning the sale and distribution of *Lythrum salicaria* plants and seeds.

The second proposed legislation will make it illegal to pick or dig any wild plant from public or private land without the landowner's permission. Plants covered by this proposed bill include trees, vines, shrubs, grasses, wildflowers and ferns.

We will keep you posted as these proposed bills are introduced and assigned numbers. Their passage will help ensure the survival of our native plants.-CT & GW

THE SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL  
RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT

During the past decade the field of ecological restoration has evolved from inconspicuous beginnings into a discipline widely recognized as having a crucial role to play in natural area conservation.

Environmentalists have always been concerned about the preservation of natural and wilderness areas. Now, as restorationists, they are taking on a new task--not just the preservation of what already exists, but a heroic campaign to regain ground that has been lost, and in the process to achieve what Aldo Leopold called a "mutually beneficial" relationship between our species and the rest of nature.

The challenge is one that, by its very nature, demands a wide variety of skills and appeals to an almost endless array of interests. Scientists and administrators are involved. So are engineers and landscape architects, farmers and landowners, natural area managers and representatives of numerous governmental agencies, naturalists and "plain citizens"--and a healthy mixture of professionals and amateurs.

The Society for Ecological Restoration and Management was organized in 1987 in response to this growing interest, and in recognition of the interdisciplinary nature of restoration and management work and the clear need for better communication among those involved in it.

The goals and objectives are to promote research, facilitate communication and promote wider awareness of restoration and management issues and to recognize contributions in the field and to contribute to public policy in restoration and management.

The Society publishes a quarterly newsletter and biannual journal and has an annual conference. Membership dues are \$25.00 individual, \$15.00 student, and \$75.00 organizational.

The Society for Ecological  
Restoration and Management  
University of Wisconsin Arboretum  
1207 Seminole Highway  
Madison, Wisconsin 53711

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
BECOMES FIRST STATE AGENCY TO FUND  
TROPICAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS  
--The Nature Conservancy News

The Missouri Department of Conservation recently announced it would provide significant funding for a comprehensive inventory of bird species in Latin America. According to the Nature Conservancy, a Washington, DC, based land conservation organization

that is undertaking the project, the Department's action represents the first time a state agency has contributed directly to conservation efforts in the tropics.

Says Chairman of Missouri's Conservation Commission John Powell, "Many of the birds that winter down there are Missourians part of the year. We all enjoy these birds when they're around, but we probably don't think much about what they're doing in the winter months when they're not around. We have to realize that conservation in Missouri means conservation in the tropics."

The Department of Conservation, which is responsible for all wildlife resources in the state, has provided \$15,000 to the Nature Conservancy, half of what that organization says it needs to complete a computerized database of 2500 species of birds in Latin America and the Caribbean over the next year. Once completed, the information will be used by conservationists to determine the most crucial tropical areas to protect.

According to the Nature Conservancy, the inventory of Latin American birds will include the almost 300 species that breed in the United States during the summer months, many of which are found within the state of Missouri.

Environmentalists estimate that 74,000 acres of tropical forest are cleared worldwide everyday; that's a loss of an area the size of the state of Virginia every year. Biologists suspect that many North American bird populations migrate to the same tropical regions every year. Only now, more and more populations return to their wintering habitat to find cleared pastures and charred vegetation where lush tropical forest used to be. Many of these birds don't make it back to the north or come back in far fewer numbers.

As one of several environmental organizations working to protect tropical habitats in Latin America, The Nature Conservancy has established the most extensive wildlife inventories in the hemisphere to determine which areas deserve the highest priorities for protection. According to the Conservancy, the bird inventory funded in part by the state of Missouri will be the most comprehensive of its kind.

The organization also stresses the uniqueness of the state's commitment of funds to the project. Says the Conservancy's vice president for international programs Geoff Barnard, "People in this country are just beginning to realize that the quality of our environment depends to a great extent on what happens outside our borders. The state of Missouri's funding for this international project has been the most tangible evidence of this new consciousness I have seen so far."

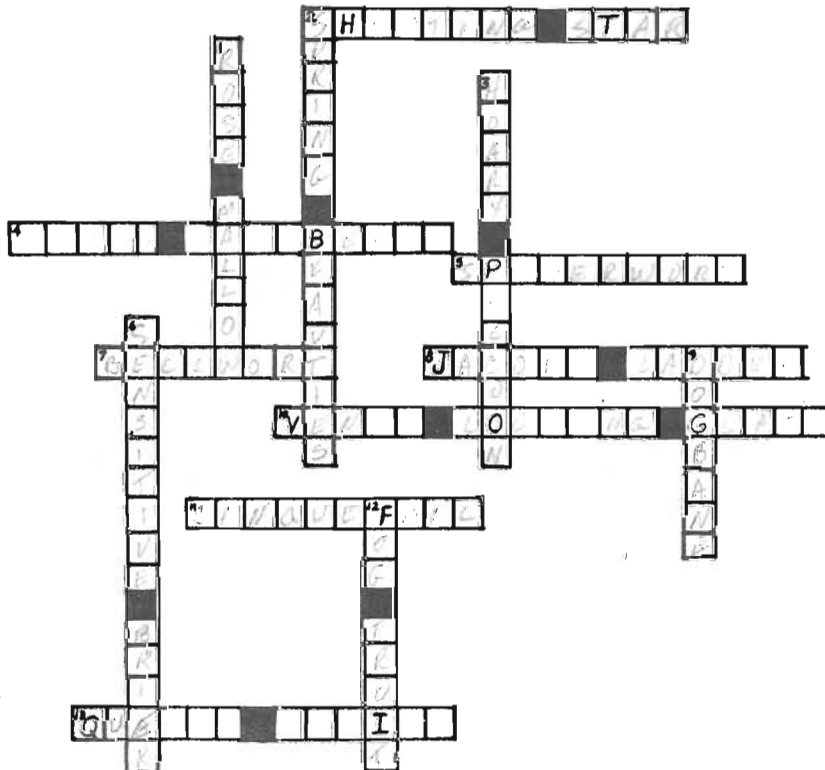
ACROSS

2. Basal leaves form a rosette  
Flower stalks make a nodding coquette.  
Five petals reflex to open the bloom  
Allowing the stamens to protrude.
4. Flowers borne above the leaves  
In dense raceme with stamens seen.  
Compound leaves, sharply toothed  
Poisonous white berries, forsooth.
5. Mucilaginous plant, with narrow leaves,  
The stem is surrounded by leaves sheaths.  
Three-parted flower, purple or blue  
Each bloom lasts only a day, it's true.
7. Nodding blooms of twisted flowers  
Usually look in need of showers.  
The oval leaves are downy beneath,  
The stem passes through each as a sheath.
8. Opposite leaflets on alternate leaves,  
Low-growing plants along woodland streams.  
Many blooms of pale, pale blues  
Drought and sun this plant eschews.
10. Blue axillary flowers, shaped like a star,  
Stamens attach to petals, yet reach out far.  
Leaves alternate yet don't appear to  
For the stem pierces each leaf through.
11. Leaves in fives, palmately compound,  
A trailing plant, low to the ground.  
Bright yellow flowers, with petals five,  
Likes sunny fields or along the roadside.
13. Simple flowers, of early spring skies,  
Eagerly awaited, these tiny blue eyes  
Scatter across the grassy plains  
Like dew drops of March rains.

DOWN

1. Colonies of tall, woody plants,  
Leaves with bases like a lance.  
A very large flower, white or rose,  
The purple center columned anthers show.
2. Petals arise from sepals two,  
Grasslike leaves, in couples, too.  
Early spring flower, blushing pink,  
Of Southern belles it makes one think.
3. A hairy plant of Ozark glade,  
Of rocky hillsides unafraid.  
Small orange flowers in cyme unfold,  
Make a splash of color bold.
6. Prickly, sun-loving, trailing plant  
Shrinks from notice, murmuring "I can't",  
Protruding stamens make showy blooms,  
Belled by the ease with which it swoons.
9. Tall fibrous plants with small white flowers,  
Bees love to cluster on by the hours.  
Milky juice does a warning give  
To canine friends who wish to live.
12. With lance-shaped leaves, the stems grow low  
Trailing the wet; large colonies grow.  
Small egg-shaped flower clusters arise  
From axillary stems that reach for the skies.

answers in next issue of Petal Pusher



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