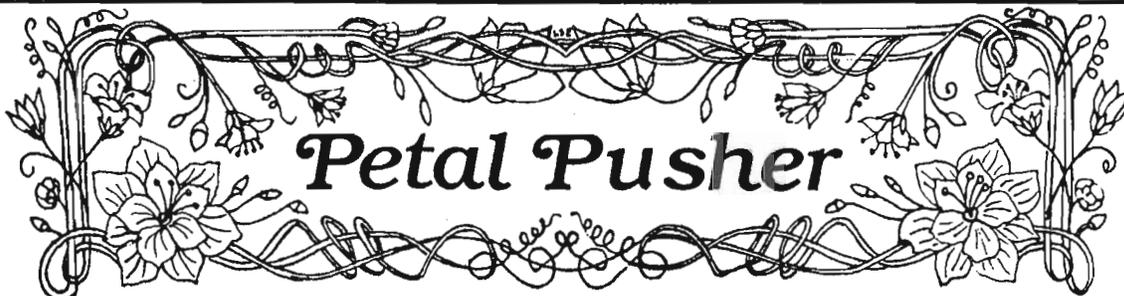


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# Missouri Native Plant Society

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**July-Aug. Volume 4 Number 4, 1989**

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## EVENTS

- August 13, Sunday, 2:00 PM Kansas City Chapter  
2nd annual Pot Luck at Martha Lafite Thomp-  
son Nature Sanctuary. Program: Flora of  
Appalachians, Linda Ellis. RSVP to Pau  
Williams, 471-5832.
- August 19, Saturday, 8:30 AM Jefferson City  
Chapter Field Trip to Ozark Caverns St.  
Park. Meet at MDC headquarters to car  
pool. Call 496-3492 if you plan to go.
- August 24, Thursday 7:30 PM St. Louis Chapter  
Monthly meeting at Mo. Bot. Gardens. Tour  
of English Woodland Garden with garden  
guide, Adrienne Biesterfeldt.
- August 28, Monday, 7:00 PM Columbia Chapter  
monthly meeting at MDC headquarters, Col.  
Program: Mike Sweet, Native Plants and the  
Law.
- September 5, Tuesday 7:30 PM Jefferson City  
Chapter monthly meeting. Program: Ginny  
Wallace, Escaped Exotics; Monsters of the  
Plant World.
- September 16, Saturday, 8:30 AM Jefferson City  
Chapter field trip to Cuivre River St. Park.  
Call 496-3492 if you plan to go.
- September 16, Saturday, Springfield Chapter  
Field trip to La Petite Gemme Prairie.  
Time and location TBA.
- September 23, Saturday, 10:00 AM Kansas City Chapter  
field trip with the Sierra Club to Konza Prairie.  
Meet at Loose Park to carpool. Program: Dr. John  
Zimmerman, Kansas State Un.
- September 28, Thursday, 7:00 PM Springfield Chapter  
monthly meeting at Springfield Nature Center.  
Program: TBA
- September 28, Thursday 7:30 PM St. Louis Chapter  
monthly meeting. Program: Summer of 1989  
Members bring 10 slides for ID and show and  
tell.

## PLANT THEFT

Ginny Wallace has asked that any members  
who have seen plant thieves at work in Missouri  
report the location and amount of material to  
her at the Jefferson City Conservation office.  
This information will go to helping with form-  
ulation of legislation for poaching.

Ginny Wallace  
c/o Mo. Dept. of Cons.  
PO Box 180  
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102-0180

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## WEAR IT PROUDLY

We now have a MONPS T-shirt available,  
a must for every well dressed member. The  
shirts are three color (red, green and black)  
on a white shirt and portray Royal Catchfly  
(*Silene regia*), a plant on Missouri's watch  
list. Sizes from small to x-large (no children's  
sizes). This is a high quality shirt that will  
hold up to many washings. To order, send \$10.00  
plus \$1.50 for postage per shirt to Linda Ellis,  
911 W. 48th St. # 105, Kansas City, Mo. 64112.  
Proceeds will go to the state organization.

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## PINS

Our native orchid, the showy lady's slipper,  
now appears on our very own MONPS pin. The pin  
is a half-inch oval of enamel on gold with a  
heavy duty shank and back so it can easily go  
through the layers of your hat, coat or tie.  
Send \$4.00 for each pin to MONPS PIN, PO Box 6612,  
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102.

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## THE STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION PROJECT

The Student Conservation Association, Inc., headquartered in Charlestown, New Hampshire will be working in Missouri this year. The SCA is a high school work group for students 16-18 years old. These volunteers serve in co-educational groups of 6, 10 or 12 participants with one or two qualified adult supervisors who lead the program. Groups live in a tent situation and cook and care for themselves. This year, 6 students from Michigan, Indiana, Pennsylvania and North Carolina are constructing approximately 2 1/2 miles of trail in Paddy Creek Wilderness area this summer.

## HIGHWAY WILDFLOWERS

The Eleven Point Ranger District of the Mark Twain National Forest is inviting the MONPS to participate in a partnership project in Shannon and Carter Counties. A six mile stretch of Highway 60 is being reconstructed east of Winona. Hi. 60 is a major east-west travelway for tourists, recreationists, 18-wheelers and residents. A large part of the reconstruction is across National Forest lands. The Forest Service and the Mo. Highway and transportation commission have agreed to seed native grasses and wildflowers along sections of National Forest involved in the reconstruction.

Construction started on the project in June and will continue throughout 1989. Seeding will most likely take place in the spring of fall of 1990.

Because of the high cost of some wildflower seed and the "experimental nature of this type seeding, the contractor is seeding less of some species than was originally desired. The Missouri Native Plant Society can help make this stretch of highway a real showcase of native beauty by contributing time, labor, seed and/or seedlings to increase the amount of showy flowers in the mixture. Species which are particularly needed include *Asclepias tuberosa*, *Echinacea pallida*, *Liatris pycnostachia* and *Ratibida pinnata*.

The Forest Service is inviting MONPS members to visit south-central Missouri for a weekend (1 or 2 days) service trip when the seeding is in progress. One day could be spent supplementing the seeding done by the contractor and one day could be spent enjoying the many botanizing hotspots on this area. Depending on the time of year, a float trip down the beautiful Eleven Point, Jack's Fork or Current River might be enjoyable.

All donations will be acknowledged in media contacts, and on an exhibit to be constructed at Fremont Tower Site along Hi. 60. This is an opportunity to show Missourians that their highways can rival Texas for wildflower beauty! If you are interested in donating seed or seedlings or are interested in being part of a field trip to help seed/plant, please contact Jody Eberly, Eleven Point Ranger District, Rt. 1, Box 182, Winona, Mo. 65588, (314) 325-4233 (w) or (417) 934-2759 (H).

## TENTH ANNIVERSARY SALUTE

The 10th anniversary symposium honoring 10 years of MONPS existence was an unqualified success. Many people worked tirelessly to organize the lectures, the speakers, the accommodation, the meeting rooms, the snacks, the lunches, the banquet and the field trips. Several organizations displayed booths at the symposium and the lectures were appropriate and valuable for our members and guests. Approximately 100 paid reservation made the whole event a success and a suitable homage to our organization.

Friday night, about a dozen members met at the Fulton Community Center for an all member slide show that was informative as well as hilarious. Many of the slides shown were donated to Ginny Wallace to use in her closing address after the banquet held on Saturday night.

Early Saturday, as we scurried to assemble booth and lecture material, participants began to arrive. The two symposium groups ran simultaneously until noon when we broke for lunch and reorganization for the field trips. As usual, it was difficult to quit botanizing in time for the banquet and awards presentation, but everyone made it.

Not a small bit of grumbling could be heard from the board members who had to attend to duty and forgo some of the Sunday field trip time but there'd nothing like a trip in progress to make board duties fast and furious.

Some of us did manage to catch up with the field trip participants and enjoy a last bit of comradeship before returning to our various habitats. The high quality of our members came through to the last; a fitting salute to 10 years of Missouri botany and a prime beginning for ten more.

the Editor



## ELECTION AND AWARDS RESULTS

### Officers :

Bill Summers, President  
Karen Haller, Vice President  
Sylvia Forbes, Secretary  
Ken McCarty, Treasurer

### New Board Members

Jody Eberly, George Yatskievych

### Awards

Stewardship - Onnie and Betty Conkin  
For their care and preservation of a 15 acre hill top prairie in Sullivan County unusually rich in species diversity.

### Research - Louis Brenner

For his work before its time on the structure and fire history of the Missouri Ozarks.

### Education - Linda S. Ellis

For significant contributions to botanical awareness in Missouri.

More than 50 people split into two groups to enjoy a 3 hour tour of the sandstone glades and hear about the management practices being applied here. DNR Resources Steward Ken McCarty and DNR Naturalist Bruce Schuette (Cuivre River State Park) were the able leaders of the two groups.

Two hundred seventy-three plant taxa had already been listed for the Natural Area and our group added twenty to thirty species to the plant list. Twenty yards into the woods from the park's developed area, Ken's group could already see the influence of the sandstone substrate and thin soil creating dry and harsh conditions. The first taxonomic discussion also ensued as we looked over the pale blue flowers of a Prairie Larkspur (Delphinium virescens/caroliniana?)

Another thirty yards put floks on hands and knees enjoying the gorgeous blossoms of the Prickly Pear (Opuntia compressa), and between the pads, the acid loving little Spikemoss (Selaginella rupestris) laid its strands of gray-green branches on the ground.

The Dry ledges supported scrubby species of oak trees, i.e. Blackjack Oak (Quercus marilandica) Post Oak (Q. stellata), Chestnut Oak (Q. prinoides) and Shingle Oak (Q. imbricaria) and also Eastern Red Cedar (Juniperus virginiana). The sunny rock outcrops supported colonies of Rushfoil (Crotonopsis elliptica). The reduced leaf surface of this plant is characteristic of many plants seeking survival on glades. False Dandelion (Krigia dandelion), Pussy Toes (Antennaria plantaginifolia), Woolly Lip Fern (Chelanthus lanosa), Bee Balm (Blephilla ciliata), Adder's Tongue (Ophioglossum englemannii), Rattlesnake Fern (Botrychium virginianum), Wingstem (Verbesina helianthoides), Scurfy Pea (Psoralea tenuifolia), Pearlwort, (Onosmodium subsetosum), Mirabilis (M. alba), Venus Looking Glass (Specularia perfoliata), Goat's Rue (Tephrosia virginiana), Melic Grass (Melic nitens), Purple Cudweed (Gnaphalium purpureum), Prairie Milkweed (A. stenophylla) Green Milkweed (A. viridiflora), Whorled Milkweed (A. verticillata), Spiderwort (Tradescantia virginiana), Beardtongue (Penstemon spp.), Shooting Star (Dodecatheon meadii), Purple Prairie Clover (Petalostemon purpureum) and White Prairie Clover (P. candidum) were among the many other botanical joys of the day.

Prescribed Fire had recently been applied to a section of the Natural Area and the group compared this to the unburned glades. A release of sedge and grass species resulted in an immediately obvious "green" effect and increased diversity.

As always, members offered up treatises of plant uses, identification techniques and taxonomic query. As we reconvened at our starting points, the original two groups had dispersed into 4, 5, 6...or ? as all reveled in the personal perspective of a Native Plant Society... ten years old!

Wanda Doolen

## PLANT POACHING

From the April, 1989 issue of Horticulture magazine, Hort Journal editorial.

Commercial trade in rare bulbs, woodland wildflowers and ferns has boomed in recent years as gardening with native plants has become ever more popular; but now indiscriminate overcollecting and poaching for commercial purposes is coming under increased criticism from concerned gardeners and conservation organizations. These unethical and often illegal collection practices are putting dangerous pressure on native plant populations and their habitats. In some cases, poaching has become so heavy that plants that were not formerly considered rare are now in danger of extinction.

Some species are protected by international agreements and by domestic legislation in their countries of origin. However, such laws are often difficult to enforce. Moreover, the 1973 Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)- the major legislation in this field- has not been signed by all the countries that trade in plant materials. For example, Turkey continues to export thousands of hardy cyclamen, galanthus, and sternbergia and Portugal is still the source for a number of narcissus species. The volume of unregulated exports is no doubt responsible for untold depletion of native plants in both countries.

Nor is the United States free of these problems. A CITES endangered plant list does not include many North American natives that are sold here as well as abroad. Collectors, particularly in the Appalachian states and Michigan, continue to plunder wild populations and sell the plants to wholesalers and nurseries, in flagrant violation of existing federal statutes. The 1973 Endangered Species Act protects rare plants on federal lands and, as amended last year, provides backup for states and private landowners concerned about illegal collection of rare plants, while the 1981 Lacey Act prohibits interstate trade and export of endangered native species. But because not every state has a list identifying such plants, enforcement of these promising acts remain spotty. Both the Fish and Wildlife Service and The Nature Conservancy, a private conservation organization, are in the process of compiling such lists, but the inventory will take many years to complete.

Ironically, wild plants are often unsuitable for the home garden. Plucking plants and bulbs from their natural habitats may traumatize them to the point where they never fully recover. For example, the oft-collected pink ladys' slipper, (Cypripedium acaule) is notoriously fragile and requires mycorrhizal fungi in its soil to survive. It is unlikely that a wild plant transplanted into a garden will bloom again no matter how carefully the nursery - and you - handle it. In general, nursery propagated stock is sturdier, healthier, more uniform and far more likely to do well in your garden than wild collected plants.

Recent commercial enterprises have begun to show concern. Last year W. Atlee Burpee & Co. withdrew from its catalogs all wild plants that could not be varified as nursery propagated stock of legitimate origin. A spokesman explained that Burpee, as a company that implicitly promotes beautification of the earth, "cannot at the same time condone the depletion of part of it." (This year, a selection of bona-fied nursery propagated wildflowers returned to the Burpee catalog). William Park, president of Park Seed, agreed and pointed out that wild collection is not even economically sound for large companies. "It is easier and cheaper to propagate the plants in our greenhouses, where we can control quality and uniformity," he said.

Some small specialty nurseries, lacking the facilities needed to mass produce plants or bulbs on their own, either collect from the wild themselves or contract with poachers. Others, acting as middlemen between dealers and gardeners, can also be guilty of inadvertently (or deliberately) selling poached stock. But some are taking an ethical stand against poaching. Sunlight Gardens in Tennessee states on the opening page of its wildflower catalog: "All of our plants are nursery grown from seed or propagated vegetatively, since it is against our principles and policy to sell wild collected plants." Niche Gardens, a North Carolina nursery, devotes an entire page of its catalog to alert gardeners to the problem, listing suspected plants such as trillium and Jack-in-the-pulpit and entreating customers: "Boycott the sale of these species as mature plants." These companies are not alone; you will find that nurseries that do not wild-collect or buy from poachers are increasingly proud to say so.

Individual gardeners can help by putting pressure on indifferent or unscrupulous nurseries. Become a better consumer. Read advertisements and catalogs carefully. Be particularly suspicious of plants that have exotic origins, that are slow or difficult to propagate, or that lack cultivar names. Be wary of bulbs identified as "wild", "species" or "botanical". For woodland plants, watch out for evasive phrases such as "hardy northern stock" or name-of-state grown. Low prices and volume discounts are also a cue. (A nursery is not going to charge a mere \$2.00 for a *Trillium grandiflorum* if it has spent the necessary three years or more nurturing this difficult wildflower in its greenhouse.) Above all, if you are in any doubt, ask! If the reply doesn't satisfy you, take your business elsewhere.

Terry Blau

## LIMERICKS FOR THE NOT TOO DISCRIMINATING!

There once was botanist names Yatskievych,  
Who found some rare ferns in a ditch.  
(He said) "It's not hard to find  
The plants you've in mind,  
If you look for the plants in their niche."

There once was a lichenologist named Ladd,  
Who described botany as "really rad."  
While out on the trail hikin'  
He found a new lichen  
And thought what a good day he'd had.

There once was an artist named Ellis.  
The work on her drawings was zealous.  
She had just the knack  
That most people lack  
"It's nothing," she'd modestly tell us.

There once was a botanist named Wallace,  
For plant names she just said "please call us."  
Someone brought in a strange tree  
So she went through the key  
And found it was *Hamamelis vernalis*.

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: University of Iowa Press  
The Kuhl House  
119 West Park Rd.  
Iowa City, Iowa, 52242  
319-335-2000

This fall the University of Iowa Press will be publishing Fragile Giants: A Natural History of the Loess Hills, by Connie Mutel. This illustrated volume will provide us with a complete natural history of this unique area. Note especially that Fragile Giants includes a comprehensive listing of information on public use areas and educational programs as well as auto tours and an informed discussion of preservation and management issues.

We think that the members of your organization will be interested in knowing about Fragile Giants. We would appreciate your help in spreading the word about this valuable volume through your newsletter.

In addition, any other suggestions that you may have that would help us to get news of Fragile Giants to midwesterners interested in natural and cultural history would be welcomed.

We commend your efforts to preserve natural diversity, and hope that the publication of this volume will help those efforts.

Cordially,

Amy Roberts-Vanskike

\*A catalog of Un. of Iowa publications is available from the above address or phone.

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## FALL BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED:

The fall Board meeting is scheduled for September 30, 1989 at the Springfield Nature Center in Springfield, MO. The meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm. Field trips are also planned, but details were not complete by press time.

If you want further details on this meeting please contact Ginny Wallace at (314) 751-4115 x198, or write to MoNPS, P.O. Box 6612, Jefferson City, MO, 65122.