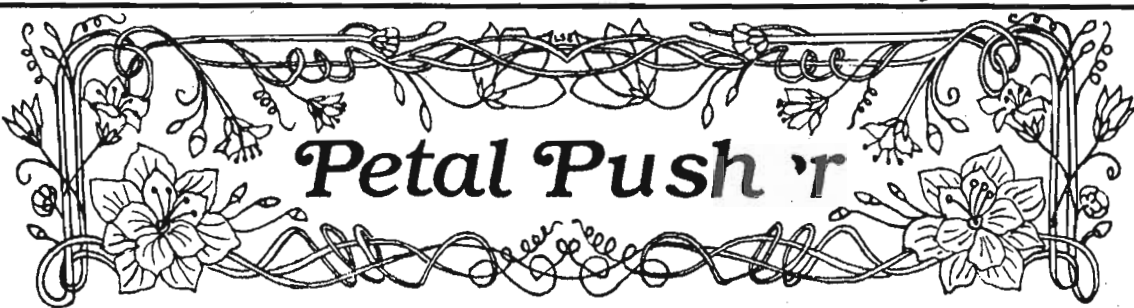


89005

Missouri Native Plant Society



Sept. - Oct. Volume 4 Number 5, 1989

EVENTS

- Sept. 30- Oct. 1, Sat. - Sun. MONPS Quarterly Meeting and field trips; Henning State forest and La Petite Gemme Prairie. Evening Board meeting.
- Oct. 3, Tuesday, 7:30 PM, Jefferson City Chapter. Monthly meeting at MDC HQ. Program: Natural Communities of Mo.- Paul Nelson.
- Oct. 10, Tuesday, 7:00 PM Kansas City Chapter. Monthly Meeting at 291 Extension office. Program:
- Oct. 14 (or 21), Sat. 9:00 AM, Springfield Chapter field trip to Hercules Glade. Meet at SMSU Temple Hall west loading dock.
- Oct. 15, Sunday, 1:00 PM, Kansas City Chapter field trip to Bluffwoods. Meet at Minsky's Pizza parking lot at I29 and Barry Rd.
- Oct. 21, Saturday, 8:30 AM. Jefferson City Chapter field trip to Wegner Wood. Meet at MDC HQ to carpool.
- Oct. 26, Thursday, 7:30 PM, St. Louis Chapter Monthly meeting at Washington Un. MacMillan Hall, Rm 101. Speaker Karen Haller.
- Oct. 26, Thursday, 7:00 PM, Springfield Chapter monthly meeting at Springfield Nature Ctr. Program: Merv Wallace.
- Nov. 4-5, Sat.-Sun. St. Louis Chapter Field trip to Sandponds Nat. History Area, Ripley Co. and Cork Wood and Allred Lake Natural Areas Butler Co. Call Bill Summers for info.- 314-843-0862.
- Nov. 7, Tuesday, 7:30 PM Jefferson City Chapter monthly meeting at MDC HQ. Program: Natural History Research on Insects, Dennis Figg.
- Nov. 11, Saturday, 8:30 AM, Jefferson City Chapter field trip to Centralia RR Prairie. Meet at MDC HQ to carpool.

- Nov. 14, Tuesday, 7:00 PM Kansas City, Chapter monthly meeting at 291 Ext. Center. Program: Jerry Overton, Mo. Prairies.
- Nov. 19, Sunday, 1:00 PM Kansas City Chapter field trip to Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary; prairie seed collection.
- Nov. 30, Thursday, 7:00 PM, Springfield Chapter monthly meeting at Springfield Nature Center. Program: Paul Redfearn, Botany in China.

PLANT POLITICS

The purple loosestrife bill passed, was signed by the Governor, and became effective August 28, 1989. As of that date, it will be illegal to sell Lythrum salicaria and its hybrids.

Associated Press - Washington - The Senate voted Wednesday (July 26, 1989) to slash \$65 million from the Forest Service's road-building program in fiscal 1990 and reallocate \$40 million of the money to resource conservation and stewardship programs.

The 55-to-44 vote came on an amendment by Sen. Wyche Fowler, D-Ga., to the \$10.9 billion spending bill for federal lands, Indian and cultural programs for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.

Fowler, chairman of the Senate agriculture subcommittee on conservation and forestry, said his amendment would restore fiscal and environmental responsibility to a program that already had created a road network in national forests. The network is eight times longer than the interstate highway system.

"These are national treasures," Fowler said, "They are not national tree farms. Roads destroy fish and wildlife habitats, disturb migration routes and degrade water quality. Roads and road-building cause more erosion and sedimentation than logging or forest fires."

Fowler said the \$40 million reallocation would "re-emphasize and help restore the priorities of public land protection for the benefit not of one or two private companies, but of all American citizens."

Wild-Collected Bulbs to Avoid

NRDC is working with the World Wildlife Fund, the Garden Club of America, and others to educate gardeners about the probable wild origin of certain types of plants, to put pressure on U.S. bulb dealers to describe plants' origin honestly, and to push the U.S. government to help protect exploited bulb species.

Unfortunately, wild-collected bulbs are often misleadingly labeled "Product of (or Grown in) Holland" despite their true origin in the wild in Turkey, Portugal, or even the U.S.! The concerned gardener must rely on alerts such as this one to avoid accidentally purchasing wild-collected plants.

In theory, it should be possible to develop a scientifically based program for harvesting wild plants at a sustainable level. So far, however, there are few effective controls over commercial collecting of plants in this country or abroad. Nor is there scientific research into the species' life cycles and ecological needs.

This information on origins of species bulbs is from two British colleagues, Mike Read and Sara Oldfield, who were able to visit The Netherlands, Iberia, Turkey and other European of the bulb trade.

NRDC recommends that people avoid buying the following bulb species.

Cyclamen

Wild-collected Cyclamen are exported from Turkey without adequate controls to protect rare species or ensure that collecting does not reduce more widespread ones. U.S. nurseries sell corms imported through The Netherlands or occasionally directly from Turkey. These imports totaled over 140,000 plants in both 1986 and 1987.

Buy species or "hardy" Cyclamen only from those few dealers in the U.S. who propagate. One is Montrose Nursery, P.O. Box 957, Hillsborough, N.C. 27278.

Eranthis

The popular yellow-flowered E. hyemalis is taken from the wild in Turkey. U.S. imports have come primarily via The Netherlands (600,000 to 700,000 bulbs annually), but in some years additional bulbs are imported directly from Turkey.

Galanthus

Snowdrops are very popular because they promise that spring is coming before we dare to believe it. The U.S. imported 4 million bulbs in 1987. Unfortunately, many of them had been collected in Turkey. This country has exported over 175 million Galanthus, primarily G. elwesii, during the past 5 years. As wild populations of this species

have declined because of this collecting pressure, exporters have turned to other species. The U.S. has proposed placing the genus in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The species Galanthus nivalis is "farmed" in various European countries, so you may buy that species. Please do not buy any other species, or any snowdrops for which you cannot determine the species name.

Leucojum

The species L. aestivum is obtained primarily from the wild in Turkey. A second species, L. vernum, is collected from the wild in Hungary.

Narcissus

Do not buy the popular "Angel's Tears," N. triandrus, N. asturiensis, and N. cyclamineus, which are wild-collected. Also propagated to some extent in The Netherlands but is also collected in Portugal.

If you wish to plant the attractive miniature Narcissus, use the many propagated hybrids identified by fanciful names.

Sternbergia

Turkey exports these plants against the recommendation of Turkish botanists. The United Kingdom has proposed placing the genus in Appendix II of CITES.

North American wildflower (bulb) species

Cypripedium

The North American species of lady's slipper orchids are not propagated commercially -- despite misleading claims by some sellers.

Erythronium

The North American species of this lily genus, except the hybrid, "Pagoda", are wild-collected. Erythronium japonicum is also probably of wild origin.

Trillium

Plants of this genus are certainly from the wild, whatever the seller may claim.

Apparently Acceptable

Commonly grown Crocus, Fritillaria, and Iris are propagated, but be careful about more specialized species, which are probably collected. Avoid North American Fritillaria. The "botanical" tulips are really small cultivars rather than true wild species. Several species of tulips are propagated in small numbers by Dutch growers; avoid T.

praecox which is rare in Turkey and apparently little cultivated in The Netherlands.

Difficult Decisions

The daisy-like Anemone blanda is propagated in large quantities in The Netherlands, but Turkey continues to export up to 7.5 million wild-collected plants every year. These exports are within the quota suggested by a Turkish botanist, Dr. Ekim.

Temperate Terrestrial Orchids

Japan exports annually a few million "bulbs" of three genera, Habenaria, Bletilla, and Pleione. According to TRAFFIC Japan, these plants now are from propagated sources, although they were formerly collected in Japan or imported from Taiwan or elsewhere. Japan imported at least 250,000 Pleione from Taiwan and 78,000 Bletilla from China as recently as 1985.

Reported U.S. imports of Bletilla have fallen from 140,000 in 1986 to about 52,000 in 1988.

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Natural Resources Defense Council
1350 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005



Attention seed collectors! Monarch Nursery and Seed is presently looking for collectors of seed from native and landscape plants. Seeds of most trees and shrubs, either native or not will be purchased. Acorns from northern red oak, pin oak, willow oak and scarlet oak are needed in large quantities. Seed cones of spruce, pine and fir of trees with good growing patterns will get premium prices. If you are interested, please write for a collector's price list. There are 73 different seed types needed.

Monarch Nursery and Seed
RR#1 Box 208 AB
Orrick, Mo. 64077



THE ROADSIDE TRIO by Sylvia Forbes

Driving along the highways in Missouri, it is obvious how prevalent exotic (non-native) plants have become in our landscape. I am always amazed at the prevalence of three plants which seem to grow everywhere. Can you guess which ones I'm talking about? While they are colorful and attractive, it makes one wonder which native wildflowers used to dominate our landscape before these three were introduced.

This article will take a look at these three very common plants, which are Chicory, Cichorium intybus; Queen Anne's Lace, Daucus carota; and Yellow Sweet Clover, Melilotus officinalis. All are introduced plants, but are very commonly found throughout most of Missouri.

Chicory

Chicory, Cichorium intybus, has many other common names, including Succory, Blue Sailors, Coffee Weed, Bunk and Ragged Sailors. Its scientific name, Cichorium, is an adaptation of the Arabic name for coffee, and intybus is the Latin name for endive. The common name Succory comes from the Latin word succurrere, "to run under", referring to the ability of the roots to grow to great depths. A German translation for this plant is Watcher of the Road, as there is a legend that says a beautiful young girl waited along the road every day for her lover to return, and finally died of a broken heart. The chicory grew up on the place where she died. Another legend is that chicory was a love potion, and that a chicory drink served to one's lover kept the lover true.

Chicory is native to the Mediterranean area of Europe, where it is also cultivated. It is introduced in the U.S., where it grows throughout most of the country, and also into Canada. As well as along roadsides, it is found in fields, waste areas, pastures, fence rows, and limestone soils. In Missouri it is found throughout the state except in the southeast lowlands. It is a perennial herb, which grows as tall as three feet, and blooms from May to October. A member of the Composite family, it has only ray flowers, the light blue color of which Emerson described as matching the sky. The flowers of some less common varieties of chicory may also be white or pink. The leaves resemble that of the dandelion.

The young leaves of Chicory have long been used as a salad green, having been eaten by the Romans. The leaves have also been boiled in water, with the water poured off once or twice to remove the bitter taste, and served like spinach. The flowers can be eaten in salads, and a jelly can also be made from them. The chicory flower was served as a sweetmeat during the time of King Charles II of England. The roots, dug in early Spring, are similar to dandelion roots but a little larger. They are edible after peeling and boiled, though there is not much left to eat after preparation. A flour may be ground from this portion of the root as well. The roots and leaves are best collected before the flowering stalk appears, because as the plant gets older, it becomes much more bitter. The roots were chewed fresh by many Indian tribes as a form of chewing gum.

The roots can be cleaned, then roasted until they split, and the dark brown centers ground and used as a substitute for coffee, or merely to flavor coffee. Chicory coffee is said to be good for liver and gall bladder ailments. The Egyptians and Greeks drank chicory coffee quite often, and called it the liver's friend. Millions of pounds of the Chicory root have been imported from Europe for coffee. In New Orleans and other southern cities coffee is commonly flavored with Chicory. Chicory does not contain caffeine. Reported benefits of chicory coffee are to relieve habitual constipation, and to mediate the stimulative effect of real coffee.

As early as 1616 Chicory was known to be cultivated in gardens in Germany. Seeds of the plant were sold commercially as early as 1726. Several cultivated forms of chicory have been developed. A large headlike form has been developed for salad, and is sold in European city markets. The plant can be forced, and the leaves blanched, and in this

form it is a well-liked vegetable in France, and is called Barbe de Capuchin. There are also a large-rooted varieties, which are known in Belgium as Witloof.

Chicory has been used as a medicinal herb for centuries. The leaves and blue blossoms have been used in making a tea to aid digestion, and to relieve mucous congestion. Fresh leaves were used for making teas and lotions for soothing skin eruptions. A liquid distilled from the flowers was used to bathe inflamed eyes. Syrup of Succory has been used as a laxative for children. It has been reported that a decoction of 1 oz. of the roots to a pint of boiling water has been found effective in jaundice, liver enlargement, gout and rheumatic complaints. The action of chicory is as a tonic, laxative, and diuretic.

Older herbalists bruise the leaves, and used them to make a poultice for swelling, inflammation, and inflamed eyes, and for feeble stomachs. In combination with endive, it was considered a useful remedy for ague. If taken too often, chicory may cause congestion in the digestive organs, and eye problems.

Chicory has been cultivated as fodder for sheep in France, the first year getting two cuttings and following years three cuttings. It is valuable fresh, but does not dry well for hay. Chicory is relished by livestock, but if very much is consumed, the plant gives a bitter taste to milk and butter.

Other uses of chicory are for dyeing, and for a general purpose litmus paper. The stems, leaves, and blossoms have been used for dyeing and result in various shades from yellow to green to beige. The blue flowers will turn pinkish if they come in contact with acid.

continued next month.



FERNS AWAY FROM HOME

The American Fern Society's annual foray began at the University of Toronto on August 6. I just happened to be driving by so I boarded the bus for the 75 mile trip northwest to the Mono Cliffs Provincial Park. The trip was led by Donald Britton of the University of Guelph.

This is a particularly rich area consisting of a broad, glaciated valley between the Niagra escarpment on one side and the Canadian shield on the other. The habitat included both wet and dry cliffs, boreal forest floor, savannah, prairie, lake, bog and swamp. The park is very large and is home to at least 53 species and hybrids of ferns. 19 other ferns have been reported but not yet verified.

We found 41 species and hybrids including eight Dryopteris and six of the clubmosses, Lycopodium and Huperzia. The Huperzia lucidulum was so huge and luxuriant it hardly resembled the Missouri version and grew all over the ground. Fortunately, our group included fern authorities Herb and Florence Wagner, John Mickel, Carl Taylor, Joe Beitel, Charles Werth, Dave Barrington and several others who were able to point out the identifying characteristics of these confusing tribes. They kept up a running commentary on ferns, habitats and the latest research throughout the day.

We saw Equisetum variegatum at a lake edge and Botrychium matricariifolium in savannah areas. In forest floor areas and along creeks, we found Thelypteris phegopteris (northern beech fern), T. noveboracensis (New York fern), Athyrium thelypteroides and Gymnocarpon dryopteris (oak fern). The stars of the day were Cryptogramma stelleri on very wet, shaded cliffs and the rare Phyllitis scolopendrium (Hart tongue fern) on limestone outcroppings. This fern allegedly hybridizes with Camptosorus rizophyllus (walking fern) to produce the walking tongue fern.

Other species were the same as many found in Missouri although some were rarer there and some more common. It was also interesting to see how the different habitat affected the growth habits. Those which were more common and probably nearer the center of their range tended to be more robust while those less common and probably near the edge of their range tended to be less robust.

The trip was offered as a leisurely stroll along the Bruce Trail; however, it was rugged enough that I was not the only one strolling downhill on my fanny and uphill on my hands and knees. We were not able to see a number of rare ferns found in the area because there just wasn't enough time and some are in fragile areas. Canadians may define leisurely stroll differently but they are very clear about protecting their resources.

--Sue Hollis

SOME COMMENTS ON 65 MPH BOTANIZING

I did a lot of driving this summer and almost always in a hurry so many botanical opportunities were passed by at high speed. However, a lot can be seen while driving.

On the Fourth of July, chickory, Queen Anne's lace and red butterfly weed made a very patriotic display in many parts of Missouri. Wonder why they grow together so often.

I was shocked at the Purple Loosestrife in Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Ontario, Michigan and Ohio. It grows in ditches, creeks, fields, lawns, everywhere - even on the rocks in the middle of Niagra Falls. It is a beautiful plant but very damaging to the environment as it crowds out everything but trees. For those who claim the seedless hybrids are safe, much of this stuff spreads by root through the waterways. There is no safe Purple Loosestrife.

Many states have adopted reduced mowing policies and now even the interstates are more interesting with patches of wildflowers and varying foliage. Unfortunately, Kansas still keeps the road sides tidy and neat. How boring to drive over 400 miles with only an occasional representative of the rich prairie flora we might have. I-70 in Colorado was also mowed but Highway 24 between Limon and Colorado Springs was not. The roadsides were covered in sunflowers, lupines, prickly poppies, a yellow blazing star and a bunch I couldn't identify.

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On a short drive into the mountains, the roadsides sported bush penstemon (Penstemon fruticosus), harebells, blue asters, ripe raspberries, sticky geraniums, evening primroses, a mountain gayfeather, purple monarda, Indian paintbrush, yarrow, yellow composites and many others.

Of course, coming home to find various liatris and rose turtlehead in my own backyard was best.

--Sue Hollis



Corallorhiza
odontorhiza