

PETAL PUSHER

The Newsletter of the Missouri Native Plant Society

Volume 5, Numbers 4

July - August, 1990

SEPTEMBER, SINKHOLES, -- STATE MEETING!!!

September 14-15-16

The site of the Fall MONPS Board Meeting will be at the old Big Springs State Park -- now part of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. They have fourteen rustic cabins, fully equipped with kitchen facilities, and are located in a beautiful old growth pine setting, with a natural area nearby. In order to secure accommodations, we need to **begin reserving them NOW**. Please announce this at your next meeting and have people call the number below as soon as possible. There are 1,2, and 3 bedroom units, so people should plan on pooling up and sharing a cabin. Cost is only \$27, \$34, or \$42 per night. Alternative accommodations are available in Van Buren. These numbers are also listed below.

Big Springs Lodge
314-323-4423

Hawthorn Motel
314-323-4274

Smalleys Motel
314-323-4263

The theme of the Fall meeting is Sinkhole ponds. Tim Nigh will start off the weekend presenting a Friday evening program on sinkhole ponds, at the Ozark National Scenic Riverways Office, on Highway 60 in Van Buren. Highlights of the Saturday field trip include visits to at least four sinkhole ponds to botanize. Everyone can discuss their plant finds at the evening barbecue, followed by the quarterly board meeting. On Sunday, weather permitting, we will tube or float the Current River. Boat/equipment rentals are available at Van Buren.



ITINERARY



Friday, 8 pm

Program on Sinkhole Ponds by Tim Nigh, at the Ozark National Scenic Riverways Office on Highway 60 in Van Buren

Saturday,
9 am - 4 pm

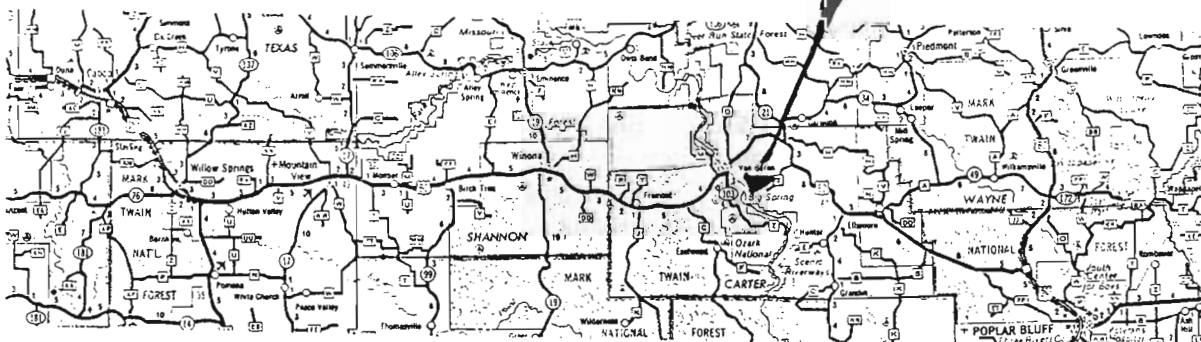
Field trip to Red Maple Pond Natural Area, Cupola Pond Natural Area, Brushy Pond Natural Area, and Tupelo Pond Natural Area

6 pm
7:30 pm

Social Hour and Barbecue
Board Meeting

Sunday
?

Float Trip



THE NEWS ON DUES

Due to the resignation of the state treasurer and membership chairman earlier this year, the 1990 dues situation has been somewhat chaotic. For example, 1) no dues notices were sent out at the end of last year, 2) some people who paid their dues did not receive the state newsletter, and 3) many people have not paid their dues and still continue to receive the newsletter.

At the state board meeting in June, the treasurer and membership positions were filled by Rad Widmer and Pat Grace respectively. However, it will take some time to get the state membership lists straightened out. Therefore, members are urged to send in their 1990 dues if they haven't already done so. Those who are members of a local chapter should send their payment (including state dues plus their chapter dues) to their chapter treasurer. Those who are not members of a chapter should send their payment to the state treasurer (see address on back cover). Dues are normally due January 1st of each year.

The Board apologizes for the inconvenience which this situation has caused MONPS members.

State Dues are:	20.00	Family
9.00 Regular	25.00	Group
5.00 Student	200.00	Lifetime

WATCH OUT FOR GARLIC MUSTARD

An exotic weed which is rapidly spreading through Illinois, and is now found in some parts of Missouri, especially in the Northeast, is Garlic Mustard, *Alliaria petiolata* (formerly *Alliaria officinalis*). It invades forest and woodland areas, out-competing and replacing the native wildflowers. Unlike most weeds, which establish in disturbed habitats, it aggressively invades high quality woodlands, making it a serious threat to our native flora. It spreads rapidly, and produces large monocultures. A biennial, it produces abundant seed which is easily dispersed, aiding its distribution, and also making it hard to eliminate once it has been established.

Garlic Mustard blooms May through July, the flowers having white petals and occurring in clusters at the top of 1-2 foot tall stems. An identifying characteristic is that the stems, when crushed, give off a garlic odor. The plants are green all winter, also aiding in identification.

Best elimination methods include pulling up by hand, and burning at the proper time of year. For more detailed information, look for an upcoming article in *Missouriensis*.



ANNUAL SYSTEMATICS SYMPOSIUM at MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

October 4-6 are the dates of the upcoming Systematics Symposium sponsored by the Missouri Botanical Garden, titled *Biological Relationships Between Africa and South America*. Fees are \$80 to attend all three days, or \$40 for 1 1/2 days. For more information, or to register, write to Systematics Symposium, Missouri Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166.

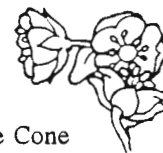
KANSAS WILDFLOWER SOCIETY 12th ANNUAL MEETING

Plan now to attend the 12th annual meeting of our neighbor, the Kansas Wildflower Society, to be held Sept. 28-29 at Pittsburg State University, in Kansas (near Joplin, MO). Highlights include a field trip to Prairie State Park, seed exchange, program on "Native Plants at Home" by Dr. Steve L. Timme, tour of the Sperry Herbarium, and field trip to the Francis Monahan Outdoor Education Center's restored prairie.

Cost of the meeting is \$10.00, which includes the Saturday luncheon. Send checks to the Kansas Wildflower Society, Mulvane Art Center, Washburn University, Topeka, KS, 66621. Motel accommodations are convenient at Super 8 (1-800-843-1991), Extra Inn-Budget Host (316-232-3800), or Townsman (316-231-8300). All are under \$29 for a single, and under \$35 for a double room.

OH! MO-KO!

by Linda Lathrop



Mo-Ko Prairie was a color-amic fantasy of Purple Cone Flower (*Echinacea purpurea*), Obedient Plant (*Physostegia virginiana*), Sensitive Briar (*Schrankia uncinata*), and Beardtongue Penstemon (*Penstemon digitalis*), iridescent-like in the blazing June sun. Thank goodness for the constant breeze.

Our group was small enough (12 souls) that one could ya-la ya-la and still be within calling distance to observe a find. Among the interesting flora spotted were:

Physalis humilis - pale yellow, bell-shaped nightshade

Galium arkansanum - a maroon-flowered Galium

Salvia azuria - not to be confused with Lobelia thank you

Mirabilis albida - Four O'clock

Helenium flexuosum - Wing-stem Sneezeweed

My favorite on this prairie was the Obedient Plant. The wind parted the four-rowed flowered as if they were hair. We didn't see any *Callirhoe digitata* on the Mo-Ko, as we did on Golden Prairie the previous day. *Schrankia* made up the majority of magenta color on this prairie. The several patches of *Diospyros virginiana* towards the tops of the hills weren't nearly as well established as were the patches on Niawathe Prairie, which we visited the previous day.

Bill Summers explained the difference between the Resin Weed and Ashy Sunflower, both were growing together and without flower; Resin Weed stems tended to purple, whereas the sunflower remained white.

The background information (maps, history, etc.) made available by Tim Nigh was excellent. I wish I had the discipline to sit and thoroughly study and absorb it all. Alas, the fun and excitement of reuniting with botanical friends overcame my learning desire. The follow-the-leader, autopilot style of hiking left chances to chat, though it occasionally caused some missed turns.

We slowly trailed back to the vehicles for the last regrouping before dispersing on other afternoon endeavors, bidding Mo-Ko adieu and looking forward to Fall's field trips at Big Springs.



THE MISSOURI NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Minutes of the June 16, 1990 Board Meeting Stockton Lake State Park, Missouri

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by President Bill Summers at 8:30 pm. Other board members present included Karen Haller, Tim Nigh, Jody Eberly, Linda Ellis, Larry Houf, Joanna Turner, George Yatskievych, Sue Taylor, Wallace Weber, Sue Hollis, and Sylvia Forbes. Other attendees included Jim Bogler, Kay Yatskievych, Pat Grace, Steve Timme, Rad Widmer, Tim Smith, All Haller, Linda Lathrop, and Carol Dodds.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report. No report, as this office is currently vacant.

Committee Reports.

Atlas Committee. Wallace Weber had no news to report.

Editorial Committee. Wallace Weber reported for Paul Redfearn, that the next issue of *Missouriensis* is at the printer, and will be sent out soon.

Membership Committee. No report, as there is no chairman. Pat Grace was nominated for the chairman, and was voted in. All chapters were asked to send an updated membership list to Pat, at 30 N. Iola Dr., St. Louis, MO 63119.

Newsletter. Sylvia Forbes reported that the newsletter had recently been sent out. There was much discussion on the need to update the mailing list. It was suggested that we do a mailing for membership renewal, which would only go to those we don't know the dues status on. There was a question on "what is a life member?" All chapters were asked to identify any life members.

Field Trips. Tim Nigh reported that they had been successful so far. He stated that he had planned field trips for the next board meeting to see several sinkhole ponds, in the Van Buren, Big Springs State Park area. He has also planned an evening program on sinkhole ponds for Friday night, September 14th.

Environmental/Education Committee. No report.

Archives. Sue Taylor reported that she had received items recently from several people; she would also like to see items deposited such as interviews, anecdotes, photos on field trips, slides, etc. Tim Nigh suggested that for each field trip and board meeting that there be group pictures. Sue suggested that people might wish to will their slides and other items to the MONPS.

Old Business.

Board Members. Two new board members were elected at the annual meeting; these included Larry Hour and Linda Ellis.

Eastern Native Plant Alliance. Linda Ellis reported

that the annual meeting of the ENPL will be August 17-19, at the Holden Arboretum at Mentor, Ohio, costing \$50. ENPL has successfully encouraged two large nurseries, Springhill and Van Bourgondien, to stop growing field collected plants. ENPL will also be producing two informational brochures. Linda asked for funding from MONPS to pay her registration fee to the ENPL annual meeting. Bill Summers stated that someone had anonymously donated \$25 toward the registration. Wally moved to pay the other \$25 of the registration fee; Larry Houf seconded, the motion passed.

Native Plant Legislation. Bill Summers wrote Jim H. Wilson a letter to request that native plant legislation be a priority with the Department of Conservation. Tim Smith suggested that people write the highway department to encourage legislation to stop people digging along the highway. Pat Grace stated that she had asked about planning and zoning issues, and had found out that the Dept. of Conservation has two urban biologists that can help people with planning and zoning. Wally Weber stated that the Native Plant Society will have to have members get involved in politics if we want to see changes. There was discussion on getting a lobbyist. Wally explained that several organizations often combine to pay for a full-time lobbyist. George suggested that the Conservation Federation is already in place to do this, and that the cost to us to have them work on issues we feel important is \$1 per member of MONPS.

Treasurer. Sue Hollis nominated Rad Widmer, Jody Eberly seconded, and the motion carried. Starting July 15, send all treasury matters to Rad Widmer, 1172B Schulte Hill Dr., Maryland Heights, MO 63043, or call 314-576-3707 (h), or 314-553-4059 (w). After discussion, it was decided that we will maintain the P.O. Box in Jefferson City; Tim Smith and Tim Nigh will be responsible for collecting the mail every other week and forwarding it to the appropriate board members. It was decided that we would publish Rad Widmer's address for dues mailings.

Bylaws. Sue Hollis stated that she will have the revised bylaws ready for the December meeting.

New Business.

Dues. There was a question on if the student fee of \$5.00 had been dropped. After discussion, George moved to put the student category back in; Wally seconded; the motion carried. Sue Hollis asked about the affiliate membership fee; it was agreed that we should have an affiliate membership category at a cost of \$9.00.

Missouri Native Plant Week. It was suggested that we have a Missouri Native Plant Week, officially proclaimed by the Governor. It might be celebrated along with Prairie Day or the MONPS annual meeting. It was felt that we should check with the Prairie Foundation before scheduling it with Prairie Day. Bill volunteered to write a letter to the Governor, but this issue was tabled until September.

State Fair Booth. The idea of having a booth at the State Fair was tabled, with the intention to discuss for next year. Sue Hollis will contact the State Fair, for information on having a booth.

Slide Bank. Steve Timme stated that he was willing

to keep up a slide bank. He has files and space to store them. This was approved. The slides will be the property of the MONPS, and the photographer's name will stay with the slide. It was suggested that a committee be set up to determine the uses of the slides. The question of whether this committee has a board position was tabled until the September meeting.

Bylaws Committee Questions. The bylaws committee had questions on some of the possible revisions, and asked for input/discussion of the board. Decisions passed included the following:

1. Independent editors will be voting board members.
2. It is required that at least four board meetings per year will be held, but if one meeting does not have a quorum, then it may be adjourned and counted as one of the meetings.
3. A past president shall not be a voting board member.
4. A past president shall be called ex-officio.
5. Limitations of all terms of office shall be removed for all officers.
6. There will be no change in rules regarding chapter representatives who do not attend meetings.
7. There will be no limit on the terms of office for officers.
8. There will be nothing done regarding disbanding of chapters.
9. Anyone on the board can make a motion for due cause to remove a board member from the board.
10. There will be a written vote by the board (to remove a board member from office).
11. An active non-board member will be appointed by the board to tabulate the votes (on a vote to remove an officer).
12. 75 % of the entire board is required to pass the motion for removal.

Chapter Reports.

St. Louis - no report.

Kansas City - Sue Hollis reported that they had activities for Earth Day, held wildflower walks at Burr Oak Woods, did plantings at Burr Oak Woods, had a booth at Powell Gardens, had some good speakers, and had a field trip with Sierra Club to see native orchids.

Springfield - Wally stated that their chapter has a new president, Steve Timme. They also had a table at Earth Week at the Springfield Nature Center.

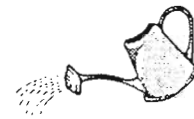
Columbia - Sylvia stated that they had a booth at Earth Day and Day With Wildlife, had wildflower walks weekly in Spring, and had good speakers and attendance at meetings.

Jefferson City - no report.

Adjournment. The motion was made, and passed, and the meeting adjourned at 11:50 pm.



Propagation Tips



Many people have tried propagating plants at home by different techniques, and sometimes meet with little success. One reason plants may not do well is due to the accidental introduction of fungi, unhealthy bacteria, or other disease pathogens. The value of a clean, sterile environment for propagation of plants should not be underestimated.

Here are some tips for keeping a clean, sanitary propagation bench, which will hopefully result in better propagation success.

- * When buying sterilized potting soil or mix, be sure to buy unbroken bags.
- * Treat tools with disinfectant before using in treated soils.
- * Never place flats or pots directly on the ground outdoors. Set on polyethylene, 2 X 4's, or pallets.
- * Avoid taking cuttings at or near the root level.
- * Don't plant clean seed or stock in untreated soil or transplant infested seedlings to treated soil.
- * Treat benches or tables with bleach or some liquid disinfectant before dumping treated soil on them. pallets for pots and plants should also be treated.
- * Segregate clean pots and flats to definite areas of the work room. Never store clean containers on the floor.
- * Break off cuttings if possible, rather than pinching or cutting. If cutting, dip the knife into 75% alcohol and rinse in clean water between plants.
- * Avoid handling treated soils unnecessarily.
- * Disinfect the bench or table after propagating each "crop."
- * Hang the hose nozzle on the side of the bench. Don't allow it to touch the ground. Disinfect nozzle if it does.
- * Place new plants or plants of uncertain health in a separate area, so as not to infect the rest of your collection.
- * Avoid splashing water from one pot to another.

Adapted From: May 1990 Under Cover, published by the Univ. of MO Extension

August

by Celia Thaxter

*Buttercup nodded and said goodbye,
Clover and daisy went off together,
But the fragrant water-lilies lie
Yet moored in the golden August weather.
The swallows chatter about their flight,
The cricket chips like a rare good fellow,
The asters twinkle in clusters bright,
While the corn grows ripe and the apples mellow.*





CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- Saturday, August 25**
7:45 am, Meramec St. Pk
Canoe Trip down the Meramec River, looking at riparian communities. After the canoe trip, we will look for Orobanche, led by George Yatskievych. This is a joint event of the Columbia, Jefferson City, and St. Louis chapters. Reservations are required for the canoeing portion. Call Sylvia Forbes at 314-446-0222 for more detailed information.
- Saturday, August 25**
9 am, Springfield
Field Trip to Grand Gulf State Park near Thayer (South of West Plains). Meet at Temple Hall, West Loading Dock, SWMU.
- Sunday, August 26**
1 pm, Kansas City
Field Trip to Sager Wood/Jerry Smith Farm, at 135th and Prospect, Grandview MO.
- Saturday, September 8**
8 am, St. Louis
Field Trip to Dupont Prairie Remnants, in Pike County, to find the Compass Plant. Meet at I-270 and Manchester Road, in West county Shopping Center. Call Jim Bogler, 314-842-0111 for more info.
- Monday, September 10**
7:30 pm, Columbia
Monthly Meeting of the Columbia chapter. Dr. Clair Kucera will speak on Grasses of Missouri, held at Farm & Home Savings, at 8th St. and Broadway.
- Tuesday, September 11**
7 pm, Kansas City
Monthly Meeting of Kansas City chapter, at University Extension center on Highway 291. Speaker to be announced.
- Thursday, September 13**
7 pm, St. Louis
Field Trip to W. Tyson Prairie, at W. Tyson County Park, to view the phases of establishing a prairie. Led by Steve Tiemann. Call 314-842-0111 for more info.
- Saturday, Sept 15**
9 am - noon, Columbia
Workshop on Grass Identification, taught by Larry Mechlin, from the Missouri Conservation Dept. Call 314-446-0222 to register.
- Sat-Sun, Sept 15-16**
all weekend
State Board Meeting at Van Buren. Field trips to various sinkhole ponds. Call Tim Nigh at 314-751-4115 for more information.
- Saturday, September 22**
9 am., Columbia
Field Trip to Tucker Prairie, about 20 miles E of Columbia on I-70, led by Dr. Clair Kucera. Meet at Nowell's parking lot at the corner of I-70 and 63 South at 9 am. For more information, call 314-446-0222.
- Monday, Sept 24 & Oct 1**
7 - 9 pm, Columbia
Wildflower Identification Workshop, held at the Columbia Area Career Center, on South Providence. Two session beginner workshop, taught by Sylvia Forbes. Call 314-886-2291 to register.
- Thursday, September 27**
7 pm, Springfield
Mervin Wallace of Missouri Wildflowers Nursery will present a program on **Native Plant Propagation**, held at the Springfield Nature Center.
- Thursday, September 27**
7:30 pm, St. Louis
Monthly Meeting of the St. Louis Chapter. Owen Sexton will speak on the Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus), at the Missouri Botanical Garden.
- Fri - Sat, Sept 28-29**
all day, Kansas
Kansas Wildflower Society Twelfth Annual Meeting, at Pittsburg State University, in Kansas. See announcement on page 2 for information.
- Saturday, Sept 29**
9 am, Springfield
Field Trip to Piney Creek Wilderness Area. Meet at West Loading Dock, of Temple Hall, SWMU.
- Saturday, Sept 29**
9-4, Kansas City
Day on the River, at Blue River Parkway in Kansas City. Environmental stream activities planned from 9-4. For more information write MDC, Fisheries Division, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180.
- Sunday, Sept 30**
1 pm, Kansas City
Field Trip to East Valley Park in Excelsior Spring, led by Cathy Johnson, natural history artist and author of the Nocturnal Naturalist. Meet at Shelter #2 at the park.
- Thursday, Oct 4 & 11**
7 pm, Columbia
Native Plant Materials Workshop, taught by Ron Taven, horticulture professor. Two sessions on native plants for home landscaping, held at the Columbia Area Career Center. Call 314-886-2291 to register.
- Thurs - Sat, Oct 4-6**
Systematics Symposium at the MO Botanical Garden. See announcement on page 2.
- Monday, October 8**
7:30 pm, Columbia
Monthly Meeting of the Columbia chapter. Dr. Leon Snyder will speak on Landscape Design with Native Plants, held at Farm & Home Savings, at 8th and Broadway.
- Tuesday, October 9**
7 pm, Kansas City
Monthly Meeting, Kansas City chapter. Ann Carter will speak on Wild Edibles of Missouri, at the Extension Center, Hwy 291.
- Sunday, Oct 14**
1 pm, Kansas City
Field Trip to Burr Oak Woods, at Blue Springs, led by Paul Thompson, botany professor at Metropolitan Community College.
- Saturday, Oct. 20**
8 am, St. Louis
Field Trip to Valley View Glades, looking for Gentians and Lady's Tresses, led by Jim Bogler. Meet at I-270 and Manchester Road, in West County Shopping Center. Call 314-842-0111 for more info.

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of the
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