



**FALL BOARD MEETING AND FIELD TRIPS
SEPTEMBER 13-15, 1991 IN THE BOOTHEEL**

- Sept. 13, 8PM** Program on Bootheel Wildflowers, at MDC Forestry Office, Dexter, just off US 60 at 1-mile Rd. exit.
- Sept. 14, 9AM** Field Trip to Mud Creek Natural Area, a new 1300-acre natural area containing both mature bottomland and upland forests. Meet at Dexter Inn, Dexter, MO (Stoddard Co.).
- 7PM** Buffet Dinner at Hickory Log Restaurant in Dexter (\$10, no reservation necessary). Board meeting follows.
- Sept. 15, 9AM** Field Trip to Otter Slough Wildlife Area, meet at Dexter Inn. Returns at noon.

Make reservations as soon as possible as hotels fill very quickly this time of year.
Suggested accommodations: Dexter Inn on Business Loop 60 in Dexter (a block of rooms is being held for MONPS), 1-800-822-7061. Alternative accommodations: Hickory House Inn (across street from Dexter Inn), 314-624-3566.

Please remember to bring mosquito repellent, sack lunch for Saturday, and footwear suitable for wet ground.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sep 18, 7PM** Kansas City Program on tree species found on UMKC campus, by Elmo Law, Professor of Biology. Monthly Meeting at Loose Park Garden Center.
- Sep 22, 1PM** Kansas City Follow-up tour of trees of UMKC campus with Elmo Law. Meet at the biology building parking lot at 51st and Troost.
- Sep 27, 7:30PM** St. Louis Slide presentation on "Uses of Grasses by Prehistoric Native Americans" by Gayle Fritz. Monthly Meeting at the Ridgway Center, Missouri Botanical Garden.
- Sep 28-29** Prairie Stewardship: Ensuring the Future, Third Central Illinois Prairie Conference. \$25 registration fee + optional \$7.50 Saturday night dinner and entertainment. For more information call Professor John Ebinger, 217-581-3525 or Mary Hruska 217-398-2798.
- Oct 6, 3-7PM** Kansas City Field Trip and cookout at Hamill Ranch, north of Lawrence, KS. Visit prairie restoration project and what is possibly the westernmost piece of eastern hardwood forest. RSVP by Oct. 4: Linda Ellis 816-561-7732, or Natalia Howard, 816-531-6056.

- Oct 10 **DUE-DATE FOR MATERIAL FOR NOVEMBER-DECEMBER PETAL PUSHER**. Please send field trip information and articles to the editor by this date. Articles should be double-spaced and have the author's name, address, and phone number on them. If article has been wordprocessed please send copy on disk, which will be returned.
- Oct 8-11 **Workshop on Identification of Wetland Plants.** See details in May-June *Petal Pusher*.
St. Louis
- Oct 16, 7PM **Program on Ikebana, one of the schools of Japanese flower arranging,** by Sue Looney of the Ikebana Society. Monthly Meeting at the Loose Park Garden Center.
Kansas City
- Oct 20, 1PM **Field Trip to Bluff Woods and Weston State Park** for fall color tour and fruit and seed study. Bring cameras, sturdy walking shoes, and field guides. Meet at the entrance to Weston State Park just off Highway 45 in Platte Co.
Kansas City
- Oct 24, 7:30PM **Show-and-Tell Slide Show.** Bring 10 of your best slides from the past seasons' events to show and tell each other about. Monthly Meeting at the Ridgway Center, Missouri Botanical Garden.
St Louis
- Oct 24-25 **Conference on "Exotic Species"** at the Indiana State Museum. For more information contact Bill McKnight, Indiana State Museum, 251 E. Ohio, Indianapolis, IN 46204, 317-232-8178.
Indianapolis, IN
- Dec 10 **DUE-DATE FOR MATERIAL FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY PETAL PUSHER**. Please send field trip information and articles to the editor by this date. Articles should be double-spaced and have the author's name, address, and phone number on them. If article has been wordprocessed please send copy on disk, which will be returned.

WILDFLOWER PLANTING ON STATE HIGHWAY 60

by Jody Eberly

Amidst all the gloomy environmental news, there are a few rays of sunshine and hope. In 1989 and 1990, the Missouri State Highway Department reconstructed an eight-mile section of State Highway 60 between Fremont and Winona. Much of the reconstruction was on an easement through the Mark Twain National Forest. After discussions with the Forest Service, the Highway Department agreed to use a native grass and wildflower mix to seed the reconstructed section. The seed mixture included Butterflyweed, Lance-leaved Coreopsis, *Echinacea pallida*, Maximillian Sunflower, *Liatris aspera*, *L. pycnostachya*, Purple Prairie Clover, Gray-headed Coneflower, Black-eyed Susan, and Pitcher Sage. Also included were the grasses Little Bluestem, Side-oats Grama, Big Bluestem, and Indian Grass. Missouri Native Plant Society members contributed seeds of several species of grass and wildflowers.

This spring the seeding really showed its stuff when the Lance-leaved Coreopsis burst into bloom, blanketing the entire stretch with a carpet of gold. Several times, cars were seen stopped along the roadside taking pictures of the spectacular sight. One car was from the east coast and the folks said they were delighted by the beautiful wildflower display. The local newspapers even mentioned the sight and many comments by local residents showed that folks had really noticed the difference.

After the Coreopsis, the Black-eyed Susans came into their own. Other plants seen blooming included Gray-headed Coneflower, Thick-spiked Gayfeather, and Butterflyweed. Unseeded plants which have also made an appearance include Mullein, Queen Anne's Lace, Ironweed, Flowering Spurge, Ox-eye Daisy, and Daisy Fleabane. Grasses can be seen in many areas and some Big Bluestem has put up seedheads. Although there are still some bare spots, next spring and summer should have even better bloom. Perhaps someday, Missouri will surpass Texas as the place to go to see native wildflowers beautifying the entire highway system.

HERB DOMKE 1919-1991

Dr. Herbert H. Domke, former MONPS Board Member died 21 July 1991 at his home in New

Bloomfield. Herb and his wife Joan were the winners of this year's Plant Stewardship Award for their work in establishing the Prairie Garden Trust, a non-profit trust to promote prairie conservation. Our sympathy to Joan. Herb will be missed by all who knew him.