January

7 Tues., 7:00 PM  Jefferson City
Native Shrubs and Small Trees for Landscaping. Presented by Tim Smith, Botanist for the MO Department of Conservation. Tim will speak on using native shrubs and small trees in the home landscape. Monthly meeting at Runge Conservation Nature Center.

8 Wed., 7:30 PM  St. Louis
UFO* Task Force. Bring 10 or so slides that show flowers, plants, (or a reasonable facsimile thereof), that are of unknown identity or obscure parentage, and the immense resources of the WGNSS Botany Group will be brought to bare (or should that be “exposed”). Held at Powder Valley Nature Center. *Unidentified Flowering Object.

11 Sat., 10:00 AM  Jefferson City
Nature Walk led by MONPS members at Runge Conservation Nature Center.

13 Mon., 7:00 PM  Columbia
Monthly meeting at the Midwest Science Center, 4200 New Haven Rd. Program to be announced.

15 Wed., 7:00 PM  Kansas City
Kansas City Chapter Annual Business Meeting. Come and help us plan our agenda for 1997. Also bring slides, new books and catalogs to share for show & tell. Held at Loose Park Garden Center.

22 Wed., 7:30 PM  St. Louis
Native Shrubs and Small Trees for Landscaping. Presented by Tim Smith, Botanist, Mo. Dept. of Conservation. Tim will speak on using native shrubs and small trees in the home landscape. Monthly meeting at the Missouri Botanical Garden, Ridgway Center.

February

4 Tues., 7:00 PM  Jefferson City
Monthly meeting at Runge Conservation Nature Center. Program to be announced.

5 Due Date for material for March–April Petal Pusher. Please send meeting and field trip information and articles (typed double-spaced) to the editor by this date. If article has been word processed on a Macintosh, please send copy on disk to Pat Harris. Disk will be returned. Or send e-mail to: pharris@stlnet.com

5–7 Wed.–Fri.  Osage Beach

8 Sat., 10:00 AM  Jefferson City
Nature Walk led by MONPS members at Runge Conservation Nature Center.

Continued on next page
Lotus 'Bored to Death' by Moth
by Bruce Schuette

On July 13, 1995 naturalist David Gronefeld and I were wading through Pickerelweed Pond conducting the annual vegetative sampling. We both noticed that virtually every leaf of the abundant American lotus (Nelumbo lutea) that was sticking up above water level was being shredded by small caterpillars. During our 1996 samplings the American lotus numbers had crashed, with only a few leaves noted in one corner of the pond.

Pickerelweed Pond is a natural upland sinkhole pond and a designated state natural area. I have been sampling the pond’s vegetational zones since 1978. During these years the American lotus population has built up and then sharply declined several times. Never before though, have we had any explanation why. This time we did.

After finding the abundant caterpillars in 1995 I contacted local lepidopteran authority Phillip Koenig. Phil was interested in trying to rear the caterpillars, and was successful in doing so (although it took Phil a return trip to the park to refill his ‘bathtub pantry’ with lotus leaves). Phil ended up with a good series of small moths which Richard Heitzman identified as Ostrinia penitalis (no common name).

Through detective work by Mike Skinner, some information about this moth was uncovered. Although related to the European corn borer (Ostrinia nubilalis), our moth is native throughout eastern North America. The European corn borer, like so many exotics, is a serious economic pest. However, this native stem borer feeds on members of the waterlily family, Nymphaeaceae, which includes the American lotus.

While the American lotus in Pickerelweed Pond was greatly affected in 1995, the lotus in another pond in the park was not dramatically affected in 1995 or 1996.

How long will it take the American lotus population to bounce back? Is the stem borer still around, or when will it be back? Will other American lotus populations be affected?

We still have so much to learn. Isn’t it great?

1997 MONPS Meeting & Field Trip Schedule

Mark your calendars now! The quarterly MONPS Board meetings have been scheduled for 1997. Join your fellow plant enthusiasts for some exciting field trips in these areas.

April 26 & 27  Cuitre River State Park. See the March-April issue of the Petal Pusher for details.
June 14 & 15  Prairie State Park Area. We’ll be visiting several prairies in this area.
Sept. 13 & 14  Crowley’s Ridge and Mingo National Wildlife Refuge areas.
December 6  Rolla. This is an all day business meeting, plus a short field trip – time permitting.

First MONPS Badge of Achievement Award

This year, the MONPS Badge of Achievement committee was proud to issue its first ever award to Pamela Olsen. Pam had been living in the St. Louis area for the past few years. She has recently moved to and says she hopes to Washington native there. Pam made an submission and congratulations.

As many of Badge of Achievement-badge designed by depicting two Missouri coneflowers, one yellow and one purple. It is only awarded to those completing a fairly-demanding, but hopefully fun, set of requirements. We hope to give out more of these patches in the future. If interested, get our Badge of Achievement brochure and see if you can pass the minimum requirements. I’ll bet you will find it a challenging test no matter what your level of experience with the flora of our state.
Nominations for MONPS Officers and Board Members Sought

by Tim Smith

The Society will be electing new officers and board members to take office following the annual meeting in June. The open positions are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two board members. The two board members whose terms expire in June are Tim Smith and Lynda Richards. The Nominating Committee is Tim Smith (Chair), Mary Smidt, and Ed O’Donnell.

If you are interested in filling any of the open positions or would like to nominate someone else to fill a position, please contact Tim Smith at 573-751-4115 ext. 200 during the day or at home at 573-635-8085. A slate of candidates will be published in the next edition of the Petal Pusher, but members will have at least 20 additional days following that publication to nominate candidates by written nomination, second, and statement by candidate of willingness to serve.

Please take this opportunity to evaluate your contribution to the Society and give your suggestions for our future leadership.

Nominations Sought for MONPS Awards

by George Yatskievych

It is time again to honor those who have served above and beyond the call of duty by nominating these individuals for awards from the Missouri Native Plant Society. The Society bestows awards at its annual meeting in June, and may present up to five different awards:

The Erna Eisendrath Memorial Education Award, for excellence in teaching, writing or otherwise instilling an appreciation of Missouri’s native flora;

The Arthur Christ Research Award, for a significant contribution toward the furthering of knowledge on Missouri flora;

The Plant Stewardship Award, for an individual or organization for preservation of Missouri vegetation and flora through purchase, registry, and/or management practices;

The Julian A. Steyermark Award, for lifetime achievements in any aspect of Missouri botany;

The Service Award, to recognize individuals who have provided exceptional service to the Society.

The MONPS Awards committee will consider all nominations made by 1 April 1997. Nominations should be in writing and can be sent to George Yatskievych, Missouri Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166.

Garlic Mustard Locations Sought

by Tim Smith

The Missouri Department of Conservation is interested in hearing reports of Missouri sites where you have observed garlic mustard (Allaria petiolata (M. Bieb.) Cavara & Grande). This exotic weed is apparently spreading aggressively into woodlands, particularly in the north half of Missouri. We are using the Heritage Database to track occurrence information. If you have observed garlic mustard infestations, please contact me with the estimated size of the population, its condition (flowering, fruiting, basal rosettes), the date of observation, and the description of the habitat. Include a map with the observation site clearly marked.

If you have questions regarding identification of garlic mustard, or if you know that you have the plant on your property, the Department can provide a description and recommendations for control or eradication. For more information, or to report sites please contact:
Tim Smith
MO Dept. of Conservation
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180

Free Copy of Steyermark Awarded

by George Yatskievych

The competition was heated for the complimentary copy of Steyermark’s Flora of Missouri, which had been donated by longtime member Stanton Hudson as a gift for a student interested in Missouri Flora. The winner was MONPS member Ms. Barkha Bullin of St. Louis University. Barkha recently completed an undergraduate honors project under Dr. Peter Bernhardt on the pollination biology of Nymphaea lutea, the American lotus, which she hopes to have published in a scientific journal. Barkha graduated summa cum laude with a BS from S.L.U., and hopes to continue both her studies and education in Missouri. Aside from her interest in vascular plants, she also is an active member of the Missouri Mycological Society and a Registered Nurse employed at a hospice.

Congratulations!
Quarterly Board Meeting Highlights
DECEMBER 7, 1996

President Larry Morrison, 14 board members and 3 guests met at the Midwest Science Center in Columbia, Missouri. Larry welcomed new Board Member Pam Haverland and thanked her for arranging the meeting site and setting up the afternoon field trip.

Treasurer Jack Harris reported a balance of $10,911.85. Current mailing list status is 372.

Committee Reports

*Atlas of Missouri Flora:* George Yatskievych will check with Iowa State Press concerning copyright questions.

*Missouriensis:* George Yatskievych reported the next issue should be printed by the end of January 1997.

Environment/Education: Jack Harris stated Missouri will continue to have funding for State Parks & Soil Conservation. The vote in November was 2-1 to continue funding for 10 more years to 2008. Thanks to all members who worked on this project.

Old Business

Internet Home Page: Thanks to Pam Haverland for setting up the computer and connecting us to the Internet. Pat Harris explained what had been accomplished so far. Jack & Pat’s son Brad spent time over Thanksgiving getting the Home Page started. The Board viewed the draft pages. Comments and suggestions were made for refinements and other pages to be added. It was moved, seconded and carried (MSC) to pay Brad Harris $100.00 for the design and production of this project.

New T-Shirts: There was some discussion on the wording on the T-shirt and how many to order. It was decided to order 100 shirts with the words “20th Anniversary — Missouri Natural Areas” and 250 shirts with the words “Celebrate Biodiversity.” It was MSC to pay Ann Grotjan $100.00 for the graphic creation and design for the T-shirt.

Regional Sources of Native Plant Materials Flyer: Sue Hollis went through the text the committee recommends for a new flyer. The goal is to produce a list of sources for native plants and plant materials which can be provided by MONPS to the general public for their use in obtaining native plants. It will consist of two parts. The first is to provide information and education on ethical practices regarding propagation and sale of native plants, why native plants are good choices, and other information. The second part will contain a list of nurseries and seed sources. The committee will proceed with a draft copy for later Board consideration.

Steyermark Donation: The copy of Steyermark’s *Flora of Missouri* that Stan Hudson donated to the Society was awarded to MONPS member Ms. Barkha Bullin of St. Louis University.

New Business

Appointments:
Nominating Committee: Tim Smith (chair), Columbia; Ed O’Donnell, Kansas City; and Mary Smidt, St. Louis.

Awards Committee: George Yatskievych (chair) and Karen Haller.

Ballot Committee: Sue Hollis (Chair), Carl Darigo and Pat Harris.

Meeting Schedule for 1997: See article on page 2.

By consensus it was agreed the MONPS Board meetings will continue to held on Saturday evening following the field trip.

New Booth/Display Equipment: Jack Harris will look into prices.

20th Anniversary Celebration - June 1999: Start thinking about how MONPS should celebrate. Ideas can be submitted to one of the Officers or Board Members.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:38 pm and members were invited to participate in the field trip to Laura & Paul Ellifrit’s wetlands.

Chapter News

**Hawthorn Chapter — New officers for 1997:**
- President: Joann Whitley
- Vice President: Larry Mechlin
- Secretary: Jean Graebner
- Treasurer: Paula Peters
- Chapter Representative: Pam Haverland
- Programs: Larry Mechlin

Sylvia Forbes gave a presentation at the November meeting on medicinal uses of native plants. She also has a herb business in Fayette, Booneslick Botanicals. The October meeting was an update on the Missouri Department of Conservation’s Eagle Bluff Wetland area by Tom Leifield, Assistant Area Manager.

Once again we are making cedar wreaths for Christmas as a fund raising project. This year we also have sumac and equestrian wreaths. Laura Ellifrit used tree fungi to make roses as accents.

Linden Trial is stepping down as the newsletter editor after many years of outstanding service. Nancy Brakheage is assuming the duties temporarily. Linden also will no longer handle book purchases for the Chapter. Larry Hine will keep our Chapter supplied with books for resale.

State Board meeting: The Hawthorn Chapter hosted the December State Board meeting on December 7. This included a field trip to Laura and Paul Ellifrit’s home and property on Cedar Creek in Boone County. Laura and Paul have constructed a wetland area which drains to Cedar Creek. The field trip included the wetland area, the upland area which drains to the wetland (many beautiful draws and rock formations), and along Cedar Creek. Laura and Paul’s hospitality (both sharing their beautiful land and the refreshments they provided) was greatly appreciated.

**Jefferson City — We have a new Treasurer: Lois Kinkade.**

In October, our guest speaker was Dr. Bill Elder. He presented a program on butterflies and butterfly gardening.
Bill Davit presented at our November meeting on prairie planting and prairie restoration. Our Chapter continues to host nature walks at Runge Nature Center.

Kansas City — We finished a busy field trip season in grand style: an October trip to Maple Woods Park in Gladstone. This trip was listed in the Fall Communiversity catalog, and the response was great! We had eleven people sign-up for the field trip, and more turned out than we expected! The day was perfect, everyone enjoyed themselves, and we had several membership inquiries. We will definitely have more field trip offerings in the Communiversity catalog next year.

Our meetings have been well attended this Fall, thanks in large part to our great speakers. In October, Dr. Craig Freeman spoke on the topic, “What Are Herbaria?” Dr. Norlan Henderson participated in the discussion that followed.

The November meeting was a hands-on presentation. Bob Mabes of the Kansas Wildflower Society showed us how to make greeting cards using dried plants. He does this as a money-making hobby, selling the cards at several locations around Kansas City.

There will not be a December meeting, but January is not that far off. That is when the chapter elects officers and decides on our field trip schedule. If anyone is interested in attending, feel free to call Daniel Rice, 816-461-0206.

Osage Plains — We have only had one meeting since the Society Board Meeting. The November meeting boasted one of the largest attendance ever. Steve Clubine, Grassland Biologist, with the Department of Conservation spoke on grasses. He had many samples of grasses which he passed around for us to examine and we were given a “vegetative key” to use while he instructed us on identification. Some of our members also brought samples of grass for identification. It was a very interesting meeting.

Our next meeting will not be until February. Ideas for topics and speakers were requested for the rest of the winter meeting programs. We will not resume our field trips until spring.

We were also reminded of questions and suggestions we were to consider from the last Society Board meeting. Some ideas were given to our rep to take to the December meeting.

St. Louis — Late autumn and early winter are traditionally a “slow” time for the St. Louis chapter. Holidays and cold weather take some attention away from actual botanizing. As a result, we have no regular meetings in November or December. Just prior to hibernating, however, we did take advantage of Indian Summer to visit Valley View Glades with Jim Bogler where we found downy gentian, (Gentiana puberalenta) and many specimens of (Spiranthes magnicamporum) in fragrant bloom. Later in October, Jack and Pat Harris led a trip to the top of Hughes Mountain, a favorite spot for scenic views especially when fall colors the hillsides.

Our September meeting featured June Hutson sharing her experiences as the new owner of what will always be known as Edgar Denison’s garden. A botanical landmark in St. Louis, Edgar’s Kirkwood home had a side lot full of wildflowers. June showed slides of the results of her considerable efforts to tame this treasure and to make it her own. Edgar’s many friends can rest assured his garden is in good and loving hands. Our October meeting was devoted to “Show and Tell.” Each member was invited to bring up to ten slides from the past year for all to enjoy. This serves as a reminder of the many finds and experiences we have shared during the year.

Parks & Soils for Today & Tomorrow VICTORY For Our Quality of Lifell

by Jack H. Harris

On 5 November 1996, Missouri voters decided by overwhelming margins to lead the way to the 21st century with an outstanding State Parks and Historic Sites System and an operational program to continue to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality across the State. This commitment was secured by approving Constitutional Amendment 8 at the ballot box by 1,279,265 (67%) yes votes to 641,752 (33%) no votes. Our State Parks, Historic Sites, and soil erosion abatement programs are thus assured of consistent funding until the year 2008.

This result did not come easy. Large investments of human and financial resources were necessary to carry the campaign to a successful conclusion. On the state wide level, the Citizens Committee for Soils, and Water Conservation & State Parks (CCSWC&SP) played the pivotal role by driving the strategic planning and action implementation. This committee’s operations spanned a time frame of well beyond two years, including phases on (1) planning, research & program development, (2) legislative programs/liaison, (3) the initiative petition (signature collection) effort, (4) fund raising, and (5) the voter education campaign. The Committee Co-chairs were Don Fischer, Coster and Darwin Hindman, Columbia. The MONPS was a member of the Committee. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to all of the support provided by Society members, and hope you continue to Enjoy Our Natural Heritage!
Tidbits

MONPS MEMBER IN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
One of the September 1996 National Geographic feature articles was on use of fire in prescribed burns to restore habitats. A part of the article described a burn on The Nature Conservancy's Goodnight-Henry Prairie in central Missouri. "Fire Boss" Doug Ladd was quoted several times in the article. Congratulations Doug!

HIGHWAY WILDFLOWERS
The September 29 St. Louis Post-Dispatch Sunday Magazine carried an article concerning wildflower plantings by Illinois and Missouri highway departments. Flora of Missouri curator George Yatskievych is quoted as identifying a species newly planted in Illinois, as non-native in Illinois and a member of the genus Eryngium, similar to rattlesnake master. Personal communication with George indicated that the specimen was too skimpy to allow species determination, but definitely was not E. leavenworthii, which has recently moved into western Missouri.

DISAPPEARING PLANTS
The December/January 1997 issue of National Wildlife contained an article stating that of the 17,000 native U.S. plant species nearly 10% may have disappeared from at least one of their native states. This data, that was compiled by The Nature Conservancy, also reports that 438 of these species are gone from two or more states. Delaware, with more than 12% of their native plants gone, recorded the highest percentage of lost species. The state recording the second highest decrease was Hawaii with an 8% loss. This is of particular concern, since 90% of the lost species occur nowhere else. It did not report what percent of Missouri species have disappeared.

INTERESTING ITEMS FOR A PLANT LIST
The September/October 1996 "Mycophile," newsletter of The North American Mycological Association, reported on several unusual finds during forays of the New York Mycological Society, based in New York City. On one trip to Long Island, a hand found projecting from the ground led to discovery of the body of a serial killer's victim. During another foray, a corpse was spotted hanging from a tree; at least one person continued hunting mushrooms while others reported the incident to authorities.

ANTI-DEPRESSANT
A local St. Louis radio station carries John Schieszer's "Medical Minutes," short comments giving a variety of interesting medical information. A recent item concerned use of St. John’s wort (Hypericum) as an anti-depressant. In Germany, 3 million prescriptions are dispensed annually. In the USA, the material is available in health food stores. No mention was made of any particular species, or which parts of the plant are used.

GOATWEED BUTTERFLY
Thanks to the Autumn 1996 Gaillardia published by the Oklahoma Native Plant Society for interesting comments on the goatweed butterfly (Anaea andria). The main food sources for larvae of this leafwing butterfly are croton plants. Apparently "goatweed" has been used in the past as a common name for crotons, resulting in the butterfly's common name. Oklahoma has two native crotons, Croton monanthogynus (one seeded croton) and C. capitatus (woolly croton). Besides these two, Missouri has another native, C. glandulosus var. septentrionalis (sand croton). The three Missouri species are commonly seen on field trips, so the butterfly should be readily seen in our state. The article's author has considered starting a campaign to change the butterfly's name to "croton butterfly."

Think Spring!

Drawing by Jim Ziebol

Welcome to New Members
We're happy to welcome these new members to the Missouri Native Plant Society. We hope you will join us soon at some of our upcoming meetings and field trips.

- Carol L. Fashing, Springfield
- Sharon S. Fieker, Columbia
- Robert Grinstead, Edwardsville, IL
- Doug Hall, Kansas City
- Jef Hodges, Clinton
- Sharon Koontz, Lees Summit
- Ben Mattocks, St. Louis
- Mary H. Sellers, Columbia
- Calvin Wait, Ethel
- Chandra Weerasinghe, Columbia

January - February 1997

Petal Pushe
Dues Reminder — 1997

Please help your Society by paying your 1997 Society and Chapter dues as soon as your schedule permits. Save us the expenses of reminding and soliciting your renewal. The dollars saved can be used to educate the public and promote the beneficial attributes of our native flora. We have made an extra effort to be sure that you receive this publication on schedule over the past several years so that you will be informed of events of interest to you. Your assistance is vital to the well being of our society! And Missouri native plants will appreciate your participation.

Please send you dues to the MONPS Treasurer, Jack H. Harris, 9708 Green Park Road, St. Louis, MO 63123.

Publications of Interest

by Jack H. Harris

Wildflower — This is the “only” native plant magazine in North America. It comes to all of its appreciative (obviously including this writer) readers from the Canadian Wildflower Society, Ontario, Canada. As might be expected, there is some emphasis on the individual plants, plant communities, ecoregions, ecosystems, etc., of the northeastern and eastern-central part of the continent, the magazines home territory. But there is definite coverage of all regions of the U.S. and Canada, with sortsies to California, the deserts of the southwest, the southern Appalachians, and across to British Columbia. Articles range from ‘why biodiversity’ to ‘how to grow ‘em,’ Philosophical, scientific and hands-on narratives embellished with attractive photos and illustrations carries ones interest from issue to issue.

This quarterly journal is a source of real enhancement of every readers appreciation of our native botanical heritage. North America’s Magazine of Wild Flora is “Dedicated to the study, conservation and cultivation of North America’s native flora.”

Membership is $30.00 (one year) & $55.00 (two years). Address: Wildflower, Unit #12A, Box 228, 4981 HWY. #7E, Markam, Ontario, Canada, L3R 1N1.

Scenic Driving in the Ozarks — Including the Ouachita Mountains by Don Kurz, 1996. 261 pp; Falcon Press Publishing Co. $14.95, paper.

Warning to botanists: this is not a book on botany. And it is not a clippings synthesis by a writer who has never even been in the midwest. It is a tour guide book as the title states.

But it is a special tour guide book that blends concise doses of natural history (geography, geology, geomorphology, flora and fauna, ecosystems) with ample details of local culture along the way. The special qualities of this book are derived from the author’s sixteen plus years as a professional naturalist, photographer, and writer while living in the region. Quality natural features receive eloquent attention throughout.

A highly selective excerpt for MONPS members, e.g., (contained in the description of a suggested visit to the La Rue – Pine Hills Ecological area in southwestern Illinois along the Mississippi River flood plain): “It is said there are more plant and animal species in this 3000 acres than in any other area of similar size in the nation.” ….“…area contains more than 1,150 species of plants, which is more than occur in all of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park.” ….“There are more habitats here than in any other place in the Ozarks.” … etc., etc. There is more information on this area in this book than occurs in the Directory of Illinois Nature Preserves.

The book is organized into 31 scenic drives with photos (all by the author) and maps. Of course every drive is not as botanically spectacular as the example given here.

But, I drove down that road just last summer and I didn’t see that.

Uno wunothoz!

“Discover Outdoor Missouri.” An updated map (1996) of Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) sites across the state. The map has orange squares that show where each conservation area is located. The reverse side has an alphabetical list of all the areas, the acreage, the recreational activities and directions to the area. There are nearly 850 sites listed. Maps are available free at the Nature Centers and other MDC offices.
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