

Missouri Native Plant Society

May

- 3-4** Sat.-Sun.
Kansas City **Mayfest at Powell Gardens.** Join the celebration by selling wildflowers and providing information about native plants. More volunteers to help at the booth and more donated plants are welcome. Call Sue Hollis (816) 561-9419.
-
- 6** Tues., 7:00 PM
Jefferson City **Identifying Wild Edibles** by Ella Roberson, a naturalist and lecturer from the Rolla area. She will explain how to identify and use wild edibles. Monthly meeting at Runge Conservation Nature Center.
-
- 10** Sat., 9:30 AM
Jefferson City **Field Trip to the Farm of Ella Roberson.** Meet at Runge Nature Center to carpool. We will leave promptly at 8:00 AM
-
- 10** Sat., 9:00 AM
Kansas City **Field Trip to Slip Bluff Park in Lamoni, IA.** Our annual trek to see the white ladyslipper orchids. Be prepared to climb, crawl and scoot. Meet at the Park & Ride in Liberty, I-35 and Barry Rd., exit 152. Bring lunch and drink for an all day trip.
-
- 17** Sat., 9:00 AM
Kansas City **Field Trip to Knob Noster State Park.** There should be an abundance of woodland and wetland plants blooming. Meet at Walmart on Hwy. 350 east of I-435 to carpool.
-
- 17** Sat., 10:00 AM
Jefferson City **Nature Walk** led by MONPS members at Runge Conservation Nature Center.
-
- 17** Sat., 9:00 AM
St. Louis **Field Trip to Orchid Valley** in Hawn State Park led by Jim Bogler. Meet near Dobbs Tire Center, South County Mall or at Hawn State Park at 10:30 AM.
-
- 17** Sat., 9:30-2:30 PM **Annual Statewide Butterfly Count.** See article on page 4.
-
- 21** Wed., 7:00 PM
Kansas City **Natural History Resources** of the County Parks program presented by Ed Bowers, naturalist, Jackson County Park Service. Monthly meeting held at Loose Park Garden Center.
-
- 28** Wed., 7:30 PM
St. Louis **Monthly meeting** at Missouri Botanical Garden, Ridgway Center. Program to be announced.
-
- 31** Sat., 8:00 AM
St. Louis **Field Trip to Savanna Ridge Glade** in Meramec State Park led by Penny Holtzmann. Meet at Sunset Hills Shopping Center parking lot across Rott Rd. from Laumeier Sculpture Park at 8:00 AM or Meramec State Park Boat Launch at 9:00 AM. Bring lunch & water.
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Continued on page 2

June

- 5** **Due date for material for July–August *Petal Pusher*.** Please send meeting, 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
-
- 7** Sat., 9:00 AM **Field Trip to Z Bar Ranch** for a prairie walk. For more information call Dan Rice, Kansas City (816) 461-0206.
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- 14** Sat., 10:00 AM **Nature Walk** led by MONPS members at Runge Conservation Nature Center. Jefferson City
-
- 14–15** Sat.–Sun. **Annual Meeting and Field Trip.** See page 3 for details.
-
- 18** Wed., 7:00 PM **Landscaping with Wildflowers** program presented by Allan Branhagen, Powell Gardens. Kansas City Monthly meeting at Loose Park Garden Center.
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- 21** Sat., 9:00 AM **Field Trip to Taum Sauk State Park** led by Mary Smidt. The Mead's milkweed should St. Louis be in bloom. Meet near Dobbs Tire Center, South County Mall to car pool.
-
- 25** Wed., 7:30 PM **Monthly meeting.** Due to conflicts with Jazz in June at the Garden we will **not** meet at St. Louis the Missouri Botanical Gardens this month only. Details to be announced.
-
- 27** Fri., 6:00 PM **Field Trip to Isley Woods.** Our seasonal exploration site. Meet at the Park & Ride lot in Kansas City Liberty, I-35 & Barry Rd., exit 152.
-
- 28** Sat. **Field Trip to Konza Prairie,** Manhattan Kansas. For more information call Dan Rice, Kansas City (816) 461-0206.
-

Salepli Dondurma

by Karen S. Haller

Would you like to eat ice cream made of wild orchid tubers? How would you react to a photograph of a boy jumping rope...the "rope" being a length of the thick, elastic, Turkish ice cream known as salepli dondurma?

According to an extremely interesting and provocative article billed as "Dessert Flower" on the cover of the April 1997 *National History* magazine and entitled "The Flower of Frozen Desserts" on pages 76-77, orchid ice cream has been made in the city of Maras, in south-central Turkey, for more than 300 years.

Tubers of *Orchis provincialis*, *O. anatolica* and *O. morio* are the most commonly collected. Once dug, the fresh, white tubers are washed and immersed in hot water for fifteen minutes to soften and loosen the outer skin. Then the tubers are threaded on strings and dried in the sun for a week. The whitish flour milled from the dried tuber is the "salep."

According to information gathered by Eric Hansen from the salep dealers, the most valuable tubers are the ones that dry to a translucent yellow color. Why? These tubers contain a higher percentage of mucilage which gives the ice cream a distinctive firmness, so firm that some people eat the ice cream with a knife and fork.

Is depletion of the orchid population a concern? Not according to the locals who maintain that the orchids remain abundant. But, others express concern and thus researchers at Ankara University are encouraged to investigate the feasibility of growing these terrestrial orchids as a crop.

I suggest that you read the complete article to comprehend more fully the history and production of salepli dondurma, the orchid-flour ice cream.

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.

John Beck, Jr, St. Louis
Casey D. Galvin, St. Peters
William Hall, Wildwood
Patty Moody, Prairie Village, KS
Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Lincoln, NE
Prairie State Park, Liberal
Kate Sammons, New Melle



1997 Annual Meeting and Field Trips

June 14-15

STOCKTON LAKE

The summer temperatures and long daylight hours tell us it is time to head for the Springfield Plateau and the tall grass prairie. Prairie remnants in the vicinity contain a wide variety of broadleaf plants in addition to the dominant grasses. Many of the forbs should be at their peak blooming period and we will visit several different habitats in order to see as many different species as possible. Bring your sharp observers eye, camera and notebook for a rich native prairie may contain as many as 200-300 species within the brief walking distance of a few acres. The latest edition of the *Public Prairies of Missouri* booklet describes more than a dozen different public prairies within 25 miles of Stockton. Various glades (with e.g., *Geocarpon minimum*) and prairies are of sufficiently high quality to have been designated State Natural Areas. We will develop a carefully ordered list and visit as many as our schedule permits.

All members and friends are welcome to attend the field trips, annual dinner and/or meeting. Come join us on the prairies!

Lodging:

• Owl Haven (417) 276-4907

Stockton: RB Rd.

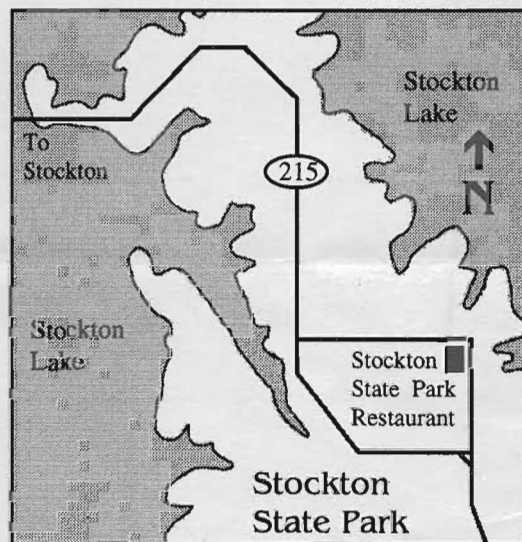
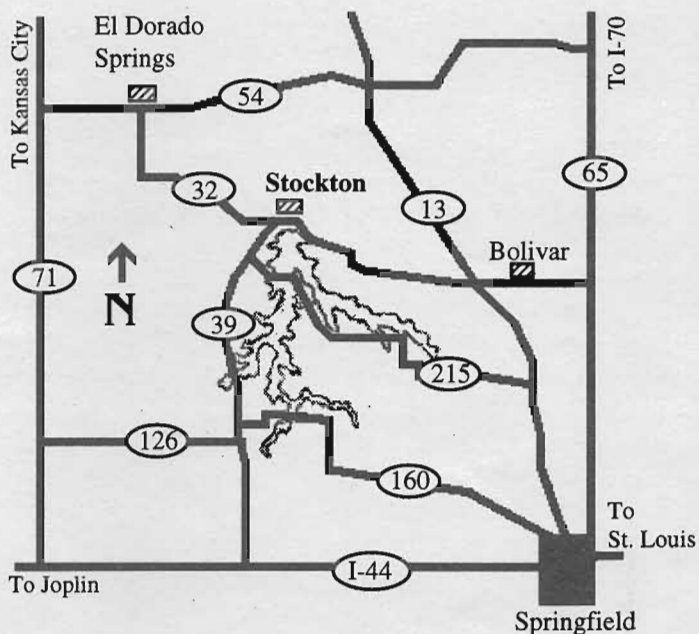
Single \$34.50 plus tax

Double \$42.50 plus tax

Make reservations as soon as possible. This is a resort area and advance bookings fill the motels early in the season

Camping:

Available at Stockton State Park on a first-come, first-served basis.



Itinerary

- | | | |
|---------|------------------|--|
| 13 June | Fri., 7:30 PM | Friday evening get-together. Possible tour of the Black Walnut Factory. Or we'll meet in one of the motel rooms at the Owl Haven. |
| 14 June | Sat., 8:00 AM | Field Trip to a prairie to be identified. Meet at the Owl Haven Motel in Stockton. We will leave promptly at 8 am. Or meet at picnic area on Hwy 96 west of Hwy 39, at 8:45 AM. |
| | Sat., 12:00 NOON | Lunch in Golden City at Cookies Restaurant. |
| | Sat., 1:30 PM | Field Trip to Cook Meadow. Meet in Golden City in front of Cookies Restaurant. |
| | Sat., 7 PM | Annual Banquet. Stockton State Park Restaurant. Buffet from \$7.95 to \$11.95 or order off the menu. |
| | Sat., 8:15 PM | Annual Meeting & Board Meeting. Stockton State Park Restaurant following the banquet. Attendance at meeting does not require participating in the banquet. |
| 15 June | Sun. | Optional Field Trips. To be organized on site or plan your own. |

Butterfly Count



HELP WANTED

by Susanne Greenlee

The Annual Statewide Butterfly Count needs your help. We are looking for people to help census butterflies found at natural areas around the state. The information gathered will assist in assessing butterfly distributions and long-term population trends. Butterflies, due to their narrow feeding habits, are excellent indicator species to monitor the health of natural areas. In 1996 over 100 volunteers across the state attended the counts, and we hope you will join us in 1997.

There will be a coordinator at each site. They are experts at identifying butterflies and will lead the group over the census route. Don't worry if you are new at identifying butterflies. We need catchers, recorders, identifiers using books and other tasks. There is something for everyone! Please call the coordinator of the site you are interested in to sign up.

The counts for each site will be held three times throughout the season. Each site will hold a count sometime between May 10-25, June 15-30, and August 15 - September 15.

Please bring water and a lunch if you plan on spending the whole day. Be prepared for a day outside. Long pants, a hat, sturdy shoes, insect repellent and sunscreen are recommended. Please bring a butterfly net and /or butterfly guide (especially the *Butterflies and Moths of Missouri* by R. Heitzman) if you have them. We will have some extra on hand.

1997 Butterfly Count Coordinators

- Bennett Spring Savanna – Diane Tucker (417) 532-3925
Burr Oak Woods – Ron Wantoch (913) 432-3847
Busch Wildlife Area –
Bill Brandhorst (314) 965-7269
Civre River State Park –
Bruce Shuette (314) 528-7247
McCormack Loess Mounds –
David Ashley (816) 271-4334
Ozark Caverns (Lake of the Ozarks) –
Jocelyn Korsch (573) 346-2500
Paintbrush, Grandfather, Friendly and Drover's Prairies –
Janet Sternburg (573) 751-4115, ext. 634
Powder Valley Nature Center – Doug Jackson (314) 301-1500
Prairie State Park – Cyndi Evans (417) 843-6711
Taberville Prairie – Ron Huber (913) 236-4043
Thousand Hills State Park –
Maureen McHale (816) 665-6920
Three Creeks Conservation Area –
Linden Trial (573) 445-6680
Valley View Glade –
Marshall Magner (314) 961-4588
Victoria Glade –
George Winkler (314) 993-1652



Chapter News

Hawthorn Chapter — George Brakhage of our chapter received the E. Sidney Stephens Award from the Missouri Chapter of the Wildlife Society at the Missouri Forest, Fish and Wildlife Conference, February 6 at Osage Beach. This is the highest award of the Missouri Chapter of the Wildlife Society, and is for George's dedication and contributions to wildlife conservation.

Pam Haverland received the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society's Award of Excellence at the same meeting. This is the highest award of the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and is in recognition and appreciation of long-term contributions to aquatic resource conservation in Missouri.

Jefferson City — Our December meeting included a dinner and silent auction shared with the River Bluffs Audubon Chapter. The program was given by Frank Oberle on eagles and prairies. We raised about \$95 for our chapter at the silent auction from items generously donated by members.

In January, Tim Smith gave a talk on native small trees and shrubs to a good-sized crowd. Our February program was given by Tim Frevert on choosing the right tree for the right spot, particularly in urban landscaping. Our March program was given by Don Kurz, author of *Scenic Driving in the*

Ozarks, including the Ouachita Mountains. He gave a slide show on his book with an emphasis on botanical interests and followed with a book sale and signing. Mr. Kurz donated book profits to our chapter's treasury.

We are in the process of electing new officers for our chapter. So far we have:

- President: Open
- Vice President: Carol Young
- Secretary: Ronda Mayhan
- Treasurer: Lois Kinkade

Osage Plains — We had a good turnout for the February meeting with a few less in March. For our February meeting we were fortunate to have slides from the Missouri Botanical Garden on spring wildflowers. The script accompanied them and gave us such interesting insights on their history/uses.

In March, Mr. Eaglesfield once again blessed us with presentation of some of his wonderful slides. There was much discussion on *how can we get more people at our meetings and what do we want to do during the meetings*. There was also discussion on getting involved with the Scouting program or other such groups.

Our first field trips will be April 5 and April 19. Tentative areas are the Jennings place on Highway 7 or Artesian Park. Our next meeting will be April 14.

Missouri Natural Areas Program Celebrates 20 Years of Progress & Success

How time flies when you're having fun! MONPS members indeed enjoy particular appreciation of having the highest quality natural features areas systematically identified, located and mostly made accessible to all. Many of our field trips are anchored around visiting and subjecting these special areas to intense scrutiny, which in turn usually produces a whole host of OOOH's! and AAAH's! And many of our Society mem-

bers have been active official program participants in various capacities over the years. But did you field botany veterans realize this has been going on for twenty years? Governor Carnahan has confirmed (1) your worst fears (elapsed time), and (2) your greatest hopes (program success) by signing the proclamation that follows:



Office of the Governor
State of Missouri

PROCLAMATION



WHEREAS, the Missouri Natural Areas Committee was formed April 20, 1977, by joint agreement between the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Missouri Department of Conservation to coordinate the classification, inventory, designation, and stewardship of Missouri's most significant natural features; and

WHEREAS, 1997 marks the 20th anniversary of the Missouri Natural Areas Committee and the agencies represented on the committee have worked together to designate 168 Natural Areas in 74 of Missouri's counties that only represent the best remaining examples of Missouri's rich and diverse natural heritage; and

WHEREAS, these outstanding natural areas are owned by state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, local governments, corporations and private citizens, foundations, and other ownership associations; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Natural Areas Committee has fostered a strong public awareness of Missouri's natural communities, aquatic life, and geological features, and the need to protect significant remnants; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Areas are maintained for the enjoyment of all, the education of students, and the beneficial scientific studies; and

WHEREAS, the collaboration of state and federal agencies toward a common goal is an outstanding example of inter-governmental cooperation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MEL CARNAHAN, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do proclaim

April 1977 as

MISSOURI NATURAL AREAS MONTH

and urge all citizens to join in this observance so that we may increase our appreciation of Missouri's natural heritage.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 1st day of April 1997.

s/Mel Carnahan, Governor

s/Rebecca McDowell Cook, Secretary of State

by Marlene Miller

STILL MORE EXOTICS

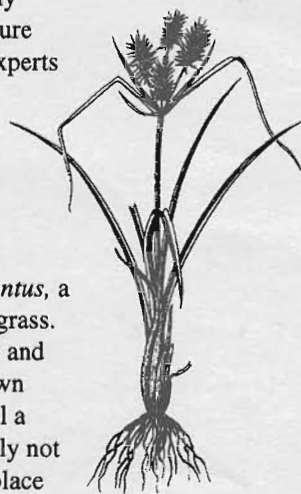
An article by Eddie Rhoades in the Georgia Native Plant Society's January 1997 *NativeSCAPE*, warned about three "new" invasive exotics. Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) has become a pest in California. The fluffy seed heads are beautiful but soon disintegrate, spreading seed far and wide. The plant prefers dry, infertile soil. Scotch broom (*Genista x apachiana*), which is sometimes planted along highway medians, was brought to this country in the 1800s for its fine leaf texture, wispy form and yellow spring flowers. However, in some western states, scotch broom is invading hillsides and routing out desirable native species. Chinese tallow tree (*Sapium sebiferum*), also called popcorn tree, has been outlawed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as an ornamental gone wild. The plant is currently on the Georgia list of suggested landscape plants! Let's hope our Missouri habitat is not conducive to these exotic nuisances.

ALLERGY RELIEF

A full page ad in a recent *Parade Magazine* issue cited the benefits of an allergy relief medication, featuring a half-page, giant picture of what appeared to be *Helianthus annuus* (common sunflower). The flower was apparently intended to remind hay-fever sufferers of their dreaded nemesis, as encouragement to rush out and purchase the product. Some advertising or marketing type apparently either didn't realize that ragweed (*Ambrosia sp.*) is the main culprit, or else figured that the ragweed flower was too small to have the desired shock effect. At least the family was correct!

LAWN DEFENDERS MOUNT CAMPAIGN AGAINST YELLOW NUT SEDGE

A recent edition of a St. Louis weekly community newspaper carried a feature article with the headline, "Garden Experts Say Nutsedge is the No. 1 Lawn Nuisance." Several "weed" specialists are quoted concerning the threat of yellow nut sedge to manicured lawns, then recommend herbicides for control. The article is probably referring to *Cyperus esculentus*, a native sedge, also called yellow nut grass. While perhaps a pest to some people and undoubtedly a revenue source for lawn treatment companies, the plant is still a native and deserves better. Admittedly not very showy, sedges have their own place in the environment and offer a unique appearance, certainly more stimulating than the exotic flower and grass monoculture frequently being seen in the modern landscape.



Somehow, we never think spring is really ever going to come, and yet, it does, every year. I must admit to needing the starkness of winter and some of its idleness to truly appreciate the assault that spring makes on both the senses and the physical constitution.

I thought I was going to get to go back to North Carolina this month, but that has not come to fruition. In fact, due to a string of circumstances closing doors on the outing, I have the feeling the best thing my daughter and I can do is stay as far away as possible. After seeing it in its summer attire, I was looking forward to checking out its spring wardrobe. A friend of ours was there for Easter and I understand it is absolutely beautiful.

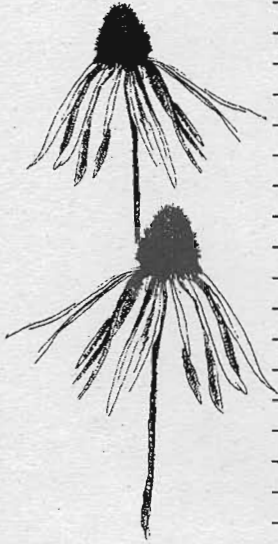
However, I will stay home and continue to explore my own rather austere surroundings. For some reason this particular area of the Truman Lake region seems relatively sterile of native plants. There are some *wildflowers*, but not necessarily natives. I've studied on this a bit, but have not determined why this is so. Much of this region is very prolific, but not at my own back-door. Our farm is bordered on two sides by Corps of Engineers property used as flood plain. There are two creeks, Big Barker on the east and Little Barker on the north. I find a few wild phlox, dutchman's breeches, may apples, and spring beauties and that's about it. I have trouble even finding enough violets to make a small bouquet such as I used to love as a child. Once I found some indian pipe in a deer bed and occasionally a few morel mushrooms make their appearance. There used to be some wild strawberries, but I haven't seen any for years. Even the blackberries are doing poorly. There are a few wild plum (almost enough for jelly) and lots of wild gooseberries.

We have an abundance of animals...deer, turkey, opossum, raccoon, beaver, coyote, etc. Why, then the lack of abundance of native plants. There have been two burns since we have lived here. One was about 1977 and the other, several years later, but none real recent. The area was farmed for many years, was a turkey farm at one time, but has not had anything but a little hay taken off of it for about 15 years now. We've been quite successful at building up the soil with compost etc. for vegetable gardening. Herbs will grow in the non built up soil. A small orchard, strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, and grapes now have a foothold. However, my attempt at reestablishing a prolific wild area has met with much less success. We've tried both mowing [at different times (usually late fall)] and burning. We've not amended the soil, just cleared it of "weedy" cover. I'm waiting to see what happens this year, but last year was disappointing, as was the year before. This doesn't mean I'm in the mood to give up. I'm pretty stubborn and I'm bound to read something, somewhere that gives me a clue as to what I still need to do or not do.

Take a deep breath of the rich spring air and then keep your nose to the ground (that's where most of the growth is so far). Wishing you a superb year.

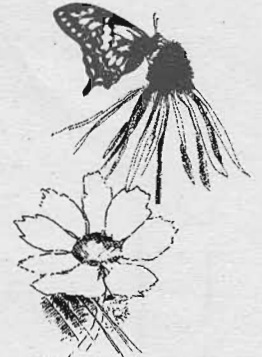
Missouri Native Plant Society — Publication Order Form

MONPS is pleased to offer a selection of books to members at discounted prices. Check the books below you desire to order. Each order form must be accompanied with cash or check for total cost of books, including shipping and handling.



*Drawing by
Jim Ziebol*

_____	Edible Wild Plants of the Prairie — Kindscher	\$11.25
_____	Medicinal Wild Plants of the Prairie — Kindscher	\$11.25
_____	Walking with Wildflowers — Haller	\$22.50
_____	Konza Prairie — Reichman	\$11.25
_____	Roadside Kansas — Buchanan & McCauley	\$8.50
_____	Flora of the Great Plains — GP Flora Committee	\$47.00
_____	Field Guide to the Common Weeds of Kansas — Barkley	\$6.90
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_____	Guide to Kansas Mushrooms — Horn, et al	\$17.00
_____	Watching Kansas Wildlife — Gress & Potts	\$8.50
_____	Growing Vegetables in the Great Plains	\$11.25
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_____	Wildflowers of Mississippi — Timme	\$19.50
_____	Kansas Prairie Wildflowers — Owensby	\$11.95
_____	Wildflowers of Nebraska & the Southern Great Plains — Farrar	\$15.50
_____	Colorado Flora: Eastern Slope — Weber	\$25.00
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*Drawing by
Jim Ziebol*

Make checks payable to: T.M. Sperry Herbarium

Send order form to: Dr. Stephen L. Timme
T.M. Sperry Herbarium - Biology
Pittsburg State University
Pittsburg, KS 66762-7552

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**Orders are Appreciated
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**ARTICLES AND ART DEADLINE
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5 JUNE 1997**

INFORMATION ON JOINING MISSOURI NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

<p>SOCIETY DUES (Chapter dues additional)</p> <p>Student \$5.00 Regular \$9.00 Contributing \$20.00 Life \$200.00</p>	<p>CHAPTER DUES</p> <p>Columbia \$6.00 Jefferson City \$5.00 Kansas City \$5.00 Kirksville00 Osage Plains00 Ozark Showy00 St. Louis \$5.00 Springfield \$5.00</p>	<p>Make checks payable to: Missouri Native Plant Society and MAIL DUES TO: Jack H. Harris, Treasurer 9708 Green Park Road, St. Louis, MO 63123</p> <p>Name _____ Street _____ City, State, Zip _____ Phone _____</p> <p>For Chapter Representatives, see back page.</p>
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Vol. 12 #3
May - June 1997

Missouri Native Plant Society
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FORWARD AND
ADDRESS CORRECTION

Inside This Issue

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 - Natural Areas 20th Anniversary
 - Butterfly Count
-

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