

January-February 1999

Vol. 14, No. 1

## Missouri Native Plant Society

### January

- 5** Tue., 7:00 PM  
Jefferson City **Propagation** presented by Ann Wakeman, Rock Post Nursery. Chapter meeting at Runge Nature Center. Prior to the meeting we will have supper at 5:30 PM at Mel's Restaurant on Industrial Blvd. Join us.
- .....
- 20** Wed., 7:00 PM  
Kansas City **Annual Field Trip Planning Session.** We will also announce the slate of candidates for Chapter offices. Chapter meeting at Loose Park Garden Center.
- .....
- 27** Wed., 7:30 PM  
St. Louis **Natural Resource Survey** presented by Mike Currier, Resource Steward, Missouri State Parks. Chapter meeting at the Missouri Botanical Garden, Ridgway Center.

### February

- 1** **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 preferably send by e-mail to: [pharris@stlnet.com](mailto:pharris@stlnet.com)
- .....
- 2** Tue., 7:00 PM  
Jefferson City **Beekeeping and Native Plants** presented by Gabe Bourbear, beekeeper. Chapter meeting at Runge Nature Center.
- .....
- 8** Mon., 7:00 PM  
Columbia **Chapter Meeting** at Midwest Science Center, 4200 New Haven Rd. Program to be announced.
- .....
- 24** Wed., 7:00 pm  
St. Louis **Chapter Meeting** at the Missouri Botanical Garden, Ridgway Center. Program to be announced.

### March

- 2** Tue., 7:00 PM  
Jefferson City **Endangered Species in Missouri** presented by Tim Smith, botanist, Missouri Department of Conservation. Chapter meeting at Runge Nature Center.

### For Your Convenience: DUES ENVELOPE INSIDE THIS ISSUE!!!

Easy, four (4) step renewal:

- 1.** Mark membership status/Chapter preference on the back of the envelope;
- 2.** place check for dues in envelope;
- 3.** place stamp on front of envelope;
- 4.** drop envelope in the mailbox.

You're all done.

Time left over to enjoy our native flora!!!!

## 1999 MONPS Meeting & Field Trip Schedule

✓ **Mark your calendars now!** The quarterly MONPS Board meetings have been scheduled for 1999. Join your fellow native plant enthusiasts for some exciting field trips in these general areas.

- April 23–25      Cassville/Roaring River area. This should be a good time to see the Ozark dwarf trillium and the Ozark spiderwort. See the March-April issue of the *Petal Pusher* for details.
- June 11–13      Houston, MO. Join us for our 20th anniversary celebration.
- Sept. 10–12      Ironton area.
- December 4      Columbia. This is an all day business meeting. Plans will be made for 2000.



## Nominations Sought for MONPS Awards

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 may present up to five different awards:

The Erna R. 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 furthering the knowledge of Missouri flora;

The Plant Stewardship Award, for an individual or organization for preservation of important elements of Missouri's flora through purchase, registry, and/or management practice;

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.

Recipients need not be members of the Society.

The MONPS Award committee will consider those nominations received by 1 April 1999. Please send written nominations to Sue Hollis, Kansas City (Chair); or John Oliver, St. Louis (see back page for addresses), setting forth the contributions of the individual or organization. Awards will be presented at the June Annual Meeting.

## Nominations for MONPS Board Requested

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 June 30 are Pam Haverland and Robin Kennedy.

The Nominating Committee members are: George Yatskievych, St. Louis (Chair) (see back page); Bill Summers, St. Louis 314-631-8346.

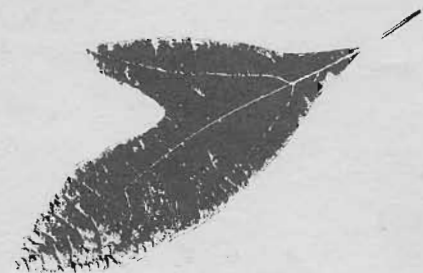
If you are interested in filling any of the open positions or would like to nominate someone else to fill a position, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee by Jan. 31, 1999. A slate of candidates will be published in the next edition of the *Petal Pusher*, but members will have at least 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 give your suggestions for our future leadership.

## 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.

Jeff Cantrell, Neosho  
Marilyn Edgington, Clinton  
Doris Hesse, Jefferson City  
Randy Knotts, Liberty  
Teresa & Bill Tometich, Jefferson City



## 20th Anniversary Retrospective

In June 1999 we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Missouri Native Plant Society. As part of the annual meeting schedule for Houston, MO on June 12th, we are planning a retrospective look at those 20 years. If you have any slides or pictures from those years to share with the other members at the June meeting, please send them to Larry Morrison (see back page for address), who will put together a presentation. All slides and pictures will be returned.

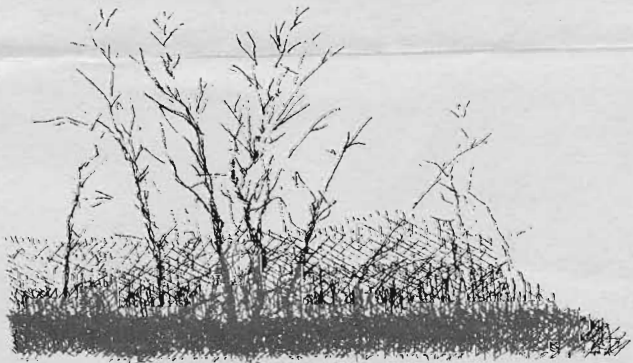
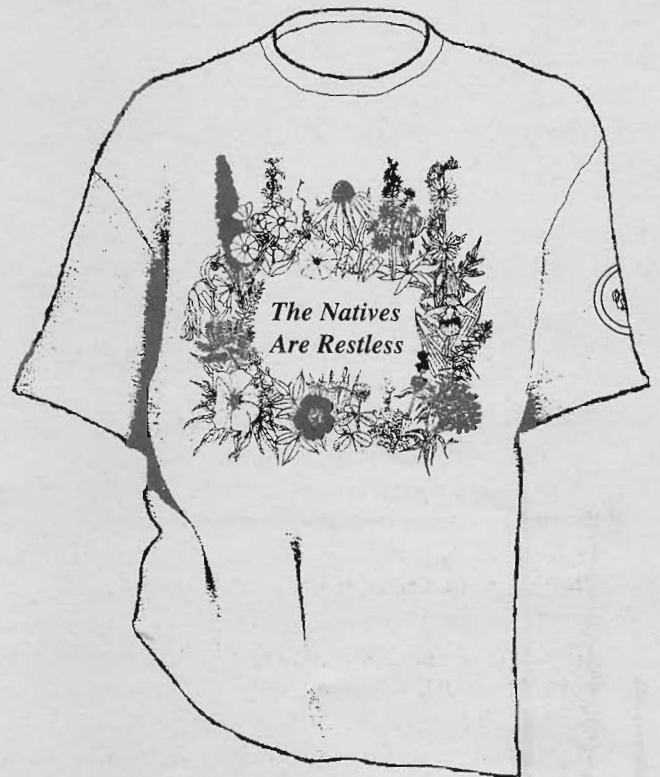
## Popular Banner Revived

by Jack H. Harris

You can help raise the level of public awareness about native plants and our natural heritage. And be decked out in an attractive new t-shirt at the same time. Sue Hollis (MONPS Vice-president) has gone to great lengths to resurrect an extirpated, once popular t-shirt banner. Many of you will recall the catchy "THE NATIVES ARE RESTLESS" slogan and the associated floral design. This design (in 5 colors) – original by Linda S. Ellis – appears on all of the T-shirts. In addition, a small MONPS logo is now discreetly placed on the sleeve. Beneath this logo is a brief notice that the Missouri Native Plant Society is "20 years and growing" (see sketch). The shirts are ashy gray cotton (99%). Sizes available include medium, large, extra large, and extra, extra large.

Shirts may be purchased from the Chapters or from the Society. Chapters share the revenue margin of the T-shirts that are sold under their auspices.

To purchase: contact your Chapter Representative or call or write to Jack Harris — (address, etc., on back of this publication). Society Price: \$10.00 plus shipping (≈ \$3.00). Chapter prices may vary.



Drawing by Jim Ziebol

## Fiscal Year for MONPS

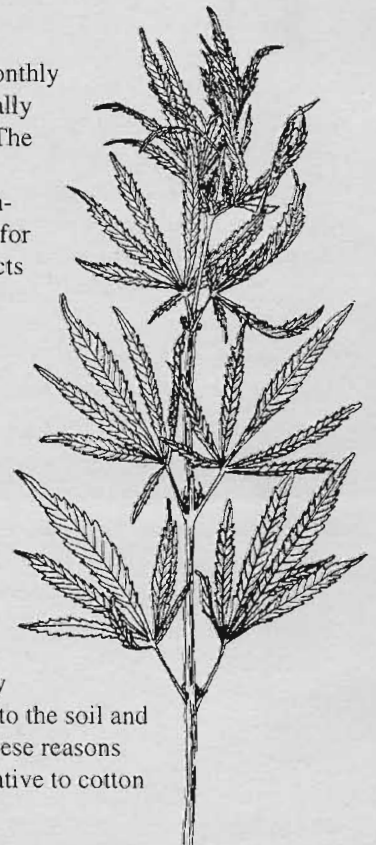
by Jack H. Harris

On 5 December 1998 the Board of Directors adopted a resolution that directs the Treasurer to take those actions that will make it legal for the MONPS to officially maintain all financial records on a fiscal year basis of 1 July – 30 June. It will be necessary to file certain forms with the Internal Revenue Service. The goal is for the Society to change from the current 1 January – 31 December accounting year to the new schedule beginning 1 July 1999. The reasons for making this change were described in the September–October 1998 issue of the *Petal Pusher*. This action will synchronize the terms of office of the elected Society officials and certain IRS reporting obligations and internal resource commitments. The Chapter treasurers will be advised by the Society treasurer of any necessary changes in accounting schedules, rules, et al.

## Tidbits

### MORE ON CANNABIS

"The Healthy Planet" is a monthly "alternative" newspaper usually found in health food stores. The December 1998 issue noted advantages of using "environmentally friendly" materials for Christmas gifts. More products are being made from hemp fiber (*Cannabis sativa*), but the ecological advantages of hemp are not well known since the plant is banned in the United States. Ten times stronger than cotton, the hemp fiber comes from the stalk of the plant also grown for marijuana leaves. Industrially grown hemp, however, produces few leaves, grows in virtually any climate, replaces nutrients into the soil and requires no pesticides. For these reasons alone, hemp is a good alternative to cotton and tree products.



## Quarterly Board Meeting Highlights December 5, 1998

President Larry Morrison, 16 board members and 3 guests met at Runge Conservation Nature Center, Jefferson City, MO.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jack Harris reported a balance of \$8,774.96. Current membership stands at 341 paid-up members. He gave a status report on our T-shirt fund raisers.

### Committee Reports

**Missouriensis:** George Yatskievych reported that the next issue will be sent to the printer by the end of the year.

### Old Business

**Book Sales:** Pam Haverland reported that the Hawthorn Chapter has a new person taking care of the book sales. They will be purchasing more books, and will revise the book list.

**Chinquapin Invitation:** We had been invited by the editor of the *Chinquapin*, the newsletter of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society to send in a profile of MONPS for publication in their newsletter. Larry Morrison responded and the article appears in their Winter 1998 issue.

**Fiscal Year Changes for MONPS:** Jack Harris, Treasurer, proposed the MONPS fiscal year be changed from 1 January – 31 December to 1 July – 30 June. It was moved, seconded & carried (MSC) to make the change starting in July 2000. (See article on page 3.)

**Flora of Missouri Atlas:** Project is progressing. Dr. Paul Redfearn advised that they hope to have it published in 1999.

**Forest Plan for Mark Twain Forest:** Jim Bogler was appointed to set up a committee. It was the consensus of the Board that MONPS should comment on Plan Proposals as appropriate.

**Logo Copyright:** MONPS filed a copyright application for the Society logo. The application was denied. The reason given was that the logo had been in use many years before the copyright was applied for.

**Native Plant Suppliers List:** A letter had been sent to all the suppliers now on the list. Some sent in changes. Several didn't respond. Pam Haverland will update the Fact Sheets with the new information.

**New T-shirt:** Sue Hollis reported that 200 T-shirts with "The Natives Are Restless" banner will be printed at a cost of \$1203.00. It was MSC that we would sell them for \$10.00 each. (See article on page 3.)

**Support for IBC in August 1999:** George Yatskievych reported that he had turned in a plan for MONPS to provide volunteer assistance to certain field trips to be held July 31 or August 8 in conjunction with the XVI International Botanical Congress.

**IBC Art Contest:** IBC will conduct an art show during the convention in St. Louis in 1999. It was MSC that the MONPS board authorize George Yatskievych to arrange with the IBC plans for MONPS to sponsor a \$250.00 prize for a botanical

artwork, the subject of which is native to North America, preferably to Missouri.

### New Business

**1999 Meeting Schedule:** (See page 2 in this issue of the *Petal Pusher*.)

**Committee Volunteer Opportunities:** Larry Morrison appointed the Awards and Nominating Committees. (See page 2 for details.)

**Editorial Committee Appointments:** Larry Morrison appointed Stephen Timme and Tim Smith to the Editorial Committee in place of Sylvia Forbes and Donna Ford.

**Grassland Coalition:** Tim Smith reported that we have been invited to join the Grasslands Coalition. It was MSC that MONPS apply for membership.

**MONPS Brochures:** It was MSC for Pat Harris to have 1000 MONPS membership brochures printed after the Spring meeting.



## Chapter News

**Hawthorn Chapter — Programs:** In October Randal Clark, Hawthorn Chapter member, presented a slide show from his collections on fall foliage. In November, Clair Kucera, author of *Grasses of Missouri*, gave a presentation on the native grasses of Missouri. The program included grass identification and was followed by a book signing.

Our Fall field trip was an October hike along Roby Farm Road (designated to become a scenic road) in Western Boone County, to Boone Cave. It was followed by a pot-luck dinner at Marge McDermitt's.

We were very successful selling both books and plants at the Columbia Heritage Festival in September.

**Jefferson City —** In December we joined with River Bluffs Audubon Chapter for the year's final meeting. The delicious catered dinner was followed by speaker Dennis Figg of Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). He presented "Grasslands Initiative," Missouri's new program to save the Greater Prairie Chicken and other grassland species. A silent auction of donated holiday decorations, art work and books added interest to the evening.

Regular scheduled meetings are at Runge Nature Center, 7:00 PM on the first Tuesday of each month September through May. All are invited to join us for supper at 5:30 PM, the restaurant to be announced each month. Several field trips are held during the year.

**Kansas City** — We had an excellent field trip in October to the Tickwood Ranch Restoration Project, the work of two Chapter members, Dave Alburty and Carol Pranulis. We toured the property both on foot and four-wheel drive truck, identifying 57 different species, the majority still in bloom. (This warm weather has been interesting in that natives are quite often re-blooming very late in the season!) The restoration project is still in its infancy, but there are already good signs that the natives are indeed coming back! Our chapter will keep tabs on the Alburty-Pranulis' progress.

Our speaker in November was Bob Fluchel, MDC. He spoke about the new Urban Nature Center that will be built on 12 acres of land close to the Country Club Plaza, mid-town Kansas City. The land is actually part of the Kaufman Foundation property, and has been leased to the Department free for a number of years. The property will be landscaped with natives, and will include a marsh, woodland, and meadow. In addition, there will be a Discovery Center that will house classrooms centered around woodworking for wildlife, naturoscaping, native Missouri plants, wildlife, aquatic life, and much more. They are even installing berm-islands in the parking lot to reduce run-off from rainstorms. A system for reducing wastewater is being installed in the building itself. It is called "The Living Machine" and consists of a series of stacked plexiglass cylinders that contain microbes, etc. that will break down the wastes from the restrooms. The water will then be passed through a container holding aquatic plants, and then the resulting graywater will be used to flush the toilets. An interesting concept; I can't wait to see it working!

**Osage Plains** — We will not have any meetings during the months of December and January. We will reconvene in February, 1999. Because of speaker commitments, our meeting days may vary. Please watch the Clinton Daily Democrat for the correct date. It will be the second or third Monday night of the month at 7:00 P.M. in the basement of the Henry County Courthouse.

Our September meeting was held at Marlene Miller's farm. It was a beautiful evening and those who arrived early were able to wander around the yard and gardens for awhile. We enjoyed a great covered dish supper and then enjoyed slides of the past year by C.F. Eaglesfield. Marlene reported on the June Board Meeting.

The October meeting was held on the 19th with Steve Clubine, a grasslands biologist from MDC as the speaker.

The November meeting was held on the 16th with Ranger Richard Abdoler from the Corp of Engineers. He discussed the history of Truman Lake and the usage of public land around it. He showed some very interesting slides including

some on archeological findings. He concluded with some beautiful pictures of wild flowers to be found in the area. After the program, we did some planning for next year. Several members gave Marlene orders for books to be picked up at the next Board meeting.

Our last field trip for the year was October 3. The October 17 trip was canceled due to rain. We have really enjoyed trips along the Katy Trail even though its construction is not yet finished.

**St. Louis** — Although the temperature doesn't reflect it, it is December, the traditional time to clean the gardening tools, look at seed catalogs, and learn sedge nomenclature. Oh well, one out of three is all I can usually accomplish. As is our custom, the St. Louis Chapter will take a winter respite during the holiday months of November and December, but will resume our regular schedule of meetings on January 27, 1999 and on the fourth Wednesday of each month thereafter. Shake off your winter dormancy and join us at the Missouri Botanical Garden in January!

Just before the department stores declared it Christmas, we held our September and October meetings. In September, Karen Kramer, Natural Areas Coordinator for the MDC, spoke on "Missouri's Prairie Resource." In October, we held our usual yearly wrap-up, the annual Show and Tell. This is a chance for the professional photographers in the group to humiliate the likes of me. I myself have found that all plants look pretty much alike when you (A) take the picture from a respectful distance, (B) use discreet lighting designed to avoid breaking the mood of the deep woods (no flash), and/or (C) explore the creative possibilities afforded by including your thumb in the picture for scale or artistic effect. Congratulations to the rest of you for beautiful pictures.

Turning to other activities, our members participated in the 45th Annual Systematics Symposium at the MO Botanical Garden on October 9-10, and in the annual seed collection at the Arboretum the same weekend. And on a more serious note, Jim Bogler gave members an opportunity to see the area of Creve Coeur Park through which the Page Avenue highway extension will be built. On two weekends in October, he led field trips to the old growth area whose fate was to be decided by voters in the November election. Unfortunately for those of us who prefer our parks unpaved, the voters approved the highway construction.

Here's hoping the new year brings you health, happiness and many opportunities to view the beauty of nature!



## The Frustrated Gardener

by Marlene Miller

I know you haven't heard from me for awhile. This has been a very busy year and yet somehow kind of "unfulfilling." Has anybody else had that feeling, or is it just me? That doesn't mean I'm totally unappreciative. I'm still enjoying the natural things that are available to us all. I'm having more trouble focusing on them though. Having just come through the Thanksgiving season, I need to look at all those "natives" and be grateful. The wonderful thing is that most of them come without price tags...Christmas presents for which we don't have to pay.

This has been an extremely unusual year. The weather hasn't been what we expected when we expected it. As a result, most of the things in which my husband and I put a lot of effort just weren't successful. Take potatoes, for instance. I know we put potatoes into the ground, but nothing, and I do mean nothing, but weeds ever came back out. Believe me, I'm not talking about unappreciated native plants; I'm talking weeds... seven foot tall!!! We totally lost the watermelon plants and the cantaloupe didn't fair any better. One day there were pretty hills of vines and the next, we couldn't even find them.

Nevertheless, the native world kept on producing. You see, that's the difference between what belongs and what we think we need to have. Native plants adapt. There are plants that survive and thrive no matter what the climate, weather pattern, soil conditions, etc. When plants are native to a region, there will always be something growing, flowering, and producing seed. Regardless of whether I got tomatoes or potatoes or green beans, there were still beautiful fields of hibiscus and goldenrod. There are violets blooming again in November! What a treat!

I know they don't  
are pretty right  
bittersweet  
brush has  
berries to put  
ments.  
heads of  
leaves



(Dandelions too. I count, but they really now.) I've not found this fall, but the buck especially heavy into fall arrangements. The rains ruined the the sumac, but the were of brilliant hues. I couldn't even grow petunias this year, but I just picked more roses yesterday (November 29) and dried them for potpourri. It looks like the rose hips are going to be really nice too.

I need to take more time to appreciate what is on my doorstep and let go some of the struggles. What about you? Plants are doing some weird things outdoors this fall. Take time to go look before that final jump into winter which is bound to arrive soon. It always does.

See you next year when the cycle starts over again. It won't even be affected by Y2K! If the year 2000 arrives in disaster like some people are predicting, we can just tell all those people who are suspended in time to "Go take a walk!" We might even join them.

## E-mail to the Editor

### Orchids/Asters: 20K and Counting...

I noted in your May-June issue of *Petal Pusher* you mention that at 20,000 species the orchids represent the largest plant family in the world. I can see why you might not reveal the source, for there is

probably not a good count yet. Walters and Keil (1996) indicate approximately 20,000-25,000 for Orchidaceae and 20,000-23,000 for Asteraceae but state "...the Asteraceae... is the largest family of dicots and the second largest family of flowering plants [only the Orchidaceae has more species]." Have you come across anything more definitive yet?



[I might like to use your response in our next newsletter as a letter to the editor in *CHINQUAPIN*, if you don't object]

J. Dan Pittillo, Editor  
*Chinquapin*

*Thanks for your interest in the "Tidbits" item. I checked with an authority at Missouri Botanical Garden, who confirms that you are indeed correct. Orchidaceae and Asteraceae lead the pack in species, but exact number is very murky due to species interpretation, varieties, forms, subspecies, etc. However, to an amateur botanist in the USA Midwest, the fact that Orchidaceae has so many species was truly amazing, enough to warrant a mention in our newsletter.*

*Carl Darigo, co-editor, Petal Pusher*

### Botanists/Birders

In your recent issue of *Petal Pusher* you printed a note about how many birders there were by an Audubon Society count and wondered about the number of botanists, plant watchers/observers. At The New England Wild Flower Society library I have a database of statistics on native plant societies. There are 68 nps's and botanical clubs nationally. Approximately 58,000 people belong to these organizations. Not a very good showing compared to the birders but I also have a bibliography on Wildflower Gardening books. There has been a great increase in books on this subject in the past 15 years. From 1915 to 1979, 67 of these books were published. But between 1980-1995, 108 more books were added. I have 25 more titles to add from 1995-1998. So I am sure many thousands of people indulge in some form of native plant gardening to add to the number above of people interested in native plants.

Yours, Mary M. Walker,  
Marymw@aol.com

## XVI International Botanical Congress

<http://www.abc99.org>

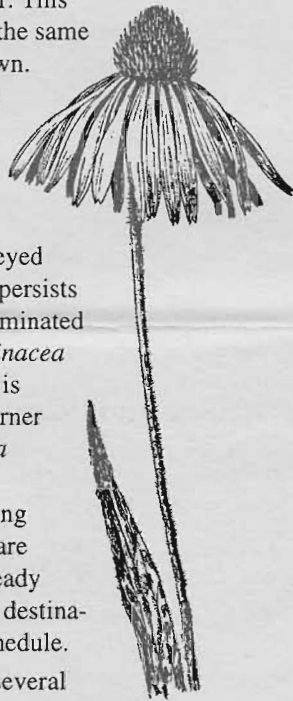
# Frost Flower Watch - Waiting...& Waiting.....& Waiting.....

by Jack Harris

By this time last year, early December 1997, we had already enjoyed multiple editions of frost flowers in our neighborhood (south St. Louis County). Not this year. Continuous warm, balmy, resort weather precludes any hint of frost flowers. A robust crop of frost flowers produced by, e.g., *Verbesina virginica* v. *virginica* (white crownbeard) and *Cunila origanoides* (dittany) requires temperatures in the low twenties or less. Recent temperatures have mostly ranged from  $\approx 40 - \approx 70$  degrees F daily. And the weather forecasters promise a few more days of the same. But this has also apparently been very confusing to certain other native plants in the yard.

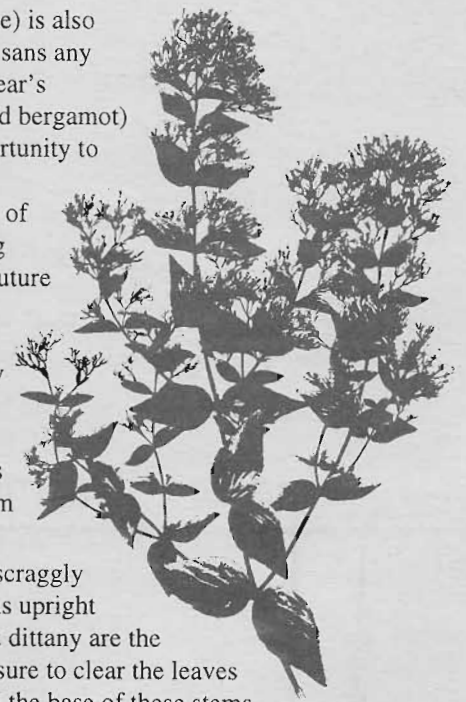
The small colony of *Iris fulva* (copper iris) has one stem that has produced three flowers over the period 20 November - 6 December. This even though most of the leaves in the same grouping of plants are turning brown. The copper petals are smaller than usual but two flowers are presently in good color. Now two more stems appear to be trying to join the competition. *Sisyrinchium angustifolium* (blue-eyed grass) has produced one stem that persists with one flower opening when illuminated by the sun. A small colony of *Echinacea purpurea* (purple coneflower) that is sheltered between the southeast corner of the house and the *Taxus baccata* (English yew) still has 3-4 stems persisting in blossom. The remaining members of the same species that are scattered around the yard have already caught the train to plant dormancy destinations - according to the normal schedule.

On a less colorful dimension several other species have developed their basal rosettes in preparation for launching the annual blooming party next season. *Aster sericeus* (silky aster) has its silky white long-johns on its low-lying leaves. *Penstemon*



*tubiflorus* (beard-tongue) is also ready to join the party, sans any fuzzy coat. And next year's *Monarda fistulosa* (wild bergamot) is not missing the opportunity to build an early strong position in anticipation of the heavy duty growing time next spring. The future years frost flower sources of white crownbeard and dittany leaves are included in this group. But ironically, these low clumps of green are not the item of interest at this time.

The dead, brown, scraggly carcasses of last seasons upright stems of crownbeard & dittany are the things to watch. So be sure to clear the leaves and debris from around the base of these stems, otherwise the fragile crystaloides flowers won't be visible. The first hard freeze usually produces the most elegant and intricate frost flowers. Better be watching at sunrise. Frost Flowers have a strong aversion to direct sunlight - they simply melt, evaporate, or both. Touching or bumping is also highly destructive. But given an interval of a day or so to recharge, be on the lookout again at the next hard freeze. Last year between 16 November and 31 December we had five crops of frost flowers of varying degrees of spectacularity. For the record, on 8 December 1998, we are still waiting.



**We hope 1999  
is a great year for everyone,  
with many days of enjoying  
Missouri's native plants.**

## INFORMATION ON JOINING MISSOURI NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

### SOCIETY DUES

(Required for membership)  
Student ..... \$5.00  
Regular ..... \$9.00  
Contributing ..... \$20.00  
Life ..... \$200.00

### CHAPTER DUES

(Add to Society dues)  
Columbia ..... \$6.00  
Jefferson City ..... \$5.00  
Kansas City ..... \$5.00  
Osage Plains ..... .00  
St. Louis ..... \$5.00  
Springfield ..... .00

(Circle all that apply)

**Make check payable to:** Missouri Native Plant Society

**Mail to:** Jack H. Harris, Treasurer  
9708 Green Park Road, St. Louis, MO 63123-7133

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Vol. 14 #1  
January – February 1999

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### Inside This Issue

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Awards  
Officers & Board Members
  - 1999 Quarterly Board Meeting Dates
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**St. Louis, MO 63144-0073**

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(see officers)

### FIELD TRIPS

Tim Smith  
(see board members)

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Tim Smith  
Stephen L. Timme

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