



Missouri Native Plant Society

May

- 4** Thur., 5:30 PM
Columbia **Nature Walks**, led by Randal Clark every Thursday through May 25. Meet at the Devil's Icebox parking lot of the Rockbridge Memorial State Park. Walks held rain or shine.
- 5-7** Fri.-Sun.
Kansas City **Annual Spring Festival Flower Sale** with Merv Wallace. For more information, call Dan Rice, 816-561-9419.
- 6** Sat., 9:00 AM
St. Louis **Field Trip to Shaw Arboretum** led by Mary Smidt. Meet at the Visitor's Center.
- 12** Fri., 6:30-9:30 PM
St. Louis **Native Plant Auction & Presentation by Dave Tylka**. Held at the Missouri Botanical Garden, Ridgway Bldg. There will be no charge for the lecture or auction. Sponsored by Shaw Arboretum.
- 13** Sat., 9 AM - 4 PM
Gray Summit **Spring Wildflower Sale** at Shaw Arboretum of the Missouri Botanical Garden. Enter off Robertsville Rd. which is on the Arboretum's west boundary. Watch for signs.
- 13** Sat., 10:00 AM
Jefferson City **Field Trip and Potluck Lunch at Jean Stanford's Wildfields**. Bring something to share for lunch. Dress for hiking and the weather. South on Hwy. 54 from Jeff City to Brazito. Left (east) on County Road E, 1.4 miles to Junction of E and H. Left but stay on E for 1/4 miles more. Right onto lane at auto junk yard, 3/10 mile to the house. 572-635-4862.
Note: This replaces the regular meeting at Runge Nature Center.
- 13** Sat., 10:00 AM
Dillard Mill **Dillard Daffodil Dalliance Wildflower Walk**. The tour will cover riverine, and if the creek don't rise, some glade areas. Contact Dillard Mill State Historic Site, 573-244-3120.
- 17** Wed., 7:00 PM
Kansas City **Chapter meeting**. Topic undetermined. Held at Loose Park Garden Center, 52nd and Wornall.
- 20** **Due date for material for July-August *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. **Note early date!**
- 20** Sat., 9:00 AM
Kansas City **Field Trip to Overland Park Arboretum**. Meet at the Arboretum, 17940 Antioch Rd.
- 20** Sat., 10:00 AM
St. Louis **Field Trip to the English Family Farm** led by Nels Holmberg & Caleb English. Bring lunch and beverage. Take I-44 to Cuba. Turn south on Hwy 19 to Steelville. Take Hwy 8 east from Steelville for 6.9 miles to the intersection of Hwys 19/8. Pass Hwy E, & count driveways; i.e., turn right on the 9th driveway (note 4 reflectors at drive = 2 red on one side & 2 red/blue on the other). Proceed 1/2 mile down the drive.
- 24** Wed., 7:30 PM
St. Louis **Tour of the Native Flora Plantings at the Kemper Center Gardens** led by Larry Enkoji. Meet in the lobby of the Ridgway Center at the Missouri Botanical Gardens,

June

- 2-4** Fri.-Sun. **Summer Board Meeting & Field Trips.** See pages 3 for details.
- 16** Fri., 6:00 PM
Kansas City **Field Trip to Prairie Center, 26325 W 135th in Olathe.** Meet at the east parking lot.
- 17** Sat., 9:00 AM
St. Louis **Field Trip to Nature Institute/Gordon Moore Prairie** led by Linda Barteau. From I-270 drive north on Hwy 367. Cross the Clark Bridge to Alton, turn right on Broadway. Go left on Hwy 3. Exit onto College Ave and go right. Turn left at stop light (golf course opposite on right), just past the mental hospital. Drive into Gordon Moore Community Park. Park by the Nature Institute sign.
- 28** 7:30 PM
St. Louis **Field Trip to Forest Park Savanna** instead of the usual monthly meeting. Park behind the Art Museum on Valley Dr. where it bends to parallel Skinker.

Tidbits

FOSSIL FLOWERS

Thanks to Pat Grace for forwarding an article from the "New York Times" Science section (December 21, 1999) entitled "In Tiny Fossils, Botanists See Flowery World" by Carol Kaesuk Yoon. It seems that some scientists have pushed back the date for the beginning of the major diversification of flowering plants from 60 million years to nearly 90 million years before the present. Biologists at Cornell University have uncovered over 200 species of fossil flowers, which include ancient relatives of carnations, oaks, pitcher plants, and water lilies among many others, at a site in New Jersey. And in conjunction with this finding, there are indications that insects were busy doing their thing at the same time. Also included in the find is the oldest fossil of a monocot, in this case a member of a group known as Triurids. Seems that Triurids are leafless, do not contain chlorophyll, and depend on decaying matter for sustenance. For a small fee, further details are available on the web at: <http://archives.nytimes.com/archives/search/fastweb?search>



BOTRYCHIUM CAMPESTRE UPDATE

In the Iowa Native Plant Society's December 1999 newsletter, author Thomas Lammers gives an update on *Botrychium campestre* (prairie moonwort), a new species first described from the southwestern Iowa Loess Hills bordering the Missouri River as recently as 1982. The tiny plant is closely related to two other more common *Botrychium* species, *B. dissectum* (cut leaf grape fern) and *B. virginianum* (rattlesnake fern), but is much smaller, only two inches tall. Since the original discovery, additional sites have been found in the Iowa Loess Hills, southwestern Minnesota, sand dunes along Lake Superior in northern Michigan and in Illinois. Also, previously misidentified specimens have turned up from Nebraska, North Dakota, Alberta and Saskatchewan. With the

hope that the plant might be found in Missouri, several years ago George Yatskievych led the Webster Groves Nature Study Society's Botany Group on an unsuccessful search over the heights of northwestern Missouri's Loess Hills. However, George still feels it eventually could be found in Missouri.

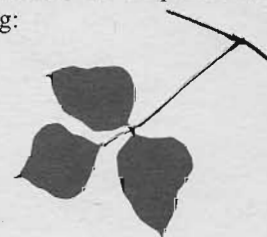
FIBONACCI

The January 2000 issue of Georgia Native Plant Society's "NativeSCAPE," carried an interesting article on botanical relationships of the "Fibonacci Sequence." Authors Ken Gohring and Jim Smith explained for benefit of fledgling mathematicians, the "Fibonacci Sequence," first described by a same-named Italian 300 years before Columbus discovered America. The sequence, which is a number progression, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, 144... where each succeeding term is the sum of the two preceding terms, was first discovered by analyzing offspring from a pair of rabbits. The ratio of successive Fibonacci numbers approaches the number 1.61804..., known by the ancient Greeks as the golden mean or golden section. Some botanical applications cited were lily and iris with 3 petals, geranium, buttercup and columbine with 5 petals, rue anemone and delphinium with 8, oxeye daisy 34 and African daisy 55 and 89. Pine cone bracts spiral in 8 and 13 rows and seeds in the center of a sunflower spiral in 55 and 89 rows. The authors also give a detailed explanation of how the sequence relates to placement and spiraling of alternate leaves on a stem. Apparently nature incorporates the Fibonacci Sequence and golden mean into plant design to gain the best growing and reproductive characteristics.

FREE SOFTWARE

For Windows 3.1/Windows 95 **only**: "Aquatic Plant Information System," Version 1.0 and "Noxious and Nuisance Plant Management Information System," Version 4.0. Requests can be mailed or e-mailed to the following:

Dr. Michael J. Grodowitz
CEERD-ER-A
3909 Halls Ferry Rd.
Vicksburg, MS. 39180-6199
e-mail: grodowm@wes.army.mil



Summer 2000 Field Trips & Board Meeting – June 2-4 – Carthage, MO

Members and friends are invited to join us as we visit and explore the unique flora that occurs on our most threatened plant community: the prairies. It is estimated that less than one percent of the original prairie area is left undisturbed.

Hardpan prairie (one of our most rare types), e.g., create some of the most extreme conditions - impermeable soils, long hot and dry conditions - and thus concomitant examples of the adaptability of plants trying to cope. Join us as we learn to observe and to value the many facets of our natural heritage.



photo:jahar

Buchnera americana

ITINERARY

- | | | |
|--------|----------------|---|
| 2 June | Fri., 7:00 PM | Evening get-together: Cindy Evans, naturalist at Prairie State Park will present a natural history quiz and slide presentation. Held at Carthage Memorial Hall. |
| 3 June | Sat., 8:30 AM | Field Trip to Treaty Line Prairie in Barton Co. Meet at the Days Inn parking lot in Carthage at 8:30 AM. Treaty Line is a 168 acre prairie with barbara's buttons, buffalo clover and a small pond. Leave prairie at about 10:45 AM. |
| | Sat., 11:00 AM | Lunch: Cooky's Restaurant in Golden City. NO Cooky's pies if we are not on time! |
| | Sat., 2:00 PM | Field Trip to Wah-Sha-She Prairie Natural Area. This TNC prairie near the Kansas border features a shallow marsh, prairie chickens and prairie mole crickets. If time allows, we'll visit Wildcat Glade Natural Area on the SW side of Joplin. This site is Missouri's finest example of a chert glade. |
| | Sat. | Dinner: On your own. There are a number of restaurants in the area. |
| | Sat., 6:00 PM | MONPS Annual Meeting. Held at Carthage Memorial Hall. |
| | Sat., 7:00 PM | MONPS Summer Board Meeting. Held immediately after the Annual Meeting at Carthage Memorial Hall. All MONPS members and friends are invited to attend. |
| 4 June | Sun. | Optional Self-guided Field Trips. Woods Prairie in Lawrence County, or Diamond Grove Prairie SE of Joplin are two possibilities. |

DIRECTIONS

To Days Inn: From Hwy 71, take Fir Rd. exit. At the first stop light, across from WalMart, turn left. Look for a large Days Inn sign.

To Carthage Memorial Hall: From Hwy 71 take Hwy 96/Central St. east to Garrison. Turn right/south to the third block. Memorial Hall is on the left/east, just across from Braums - look for the large Braums sign.

To Treaty Line Prairie: Hwy 71 from Carthage @ 17 miles to Hwy 126. Turn east on Hwy 126, go 6 miles east and turn north on Hwy T. Go 5 miles north on Hwy T and turn west onto SE20 road. Prairie is on the south side of road at about 2 miles. A parking lot is in the NW corner of the tract.

To Cooky's Restaurant in Golden City: About 11 miles east of Hwy 71 on Hwy 126 and about 20 miles NE of Carthage (as the crow flies) at the junction of Hwys 126/160/37.

To Wah-Sha-She Prairie Natural Area: From Golden City, take Hwy 126 back west to Hwy 71, turn south on Hwy 171 and at @ 7 miles, turn west on Hwy M in Jasper Co. Take Hwy M @ 16 mi. west to Wah-Sha-She Prairie Natural Area on the north side of Hwy M. A parking lot is near the middle of the east side of the prairie.

To Wildcat Glade: Directions will be available that day.

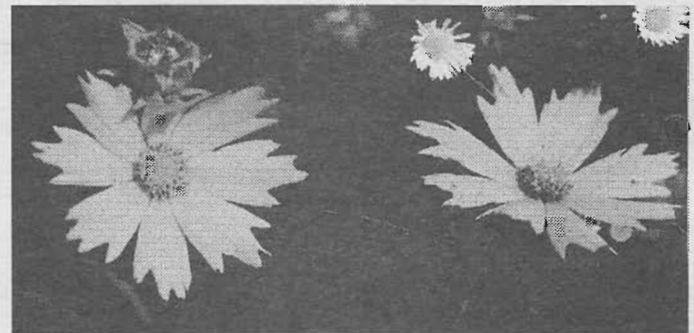


photo:jahar

Coreopsis grandiflora

LODGING

• Days Inn Carthage 417-358-2499
Includes a continental breakfast of coffee, juice, tea, toast, doughnuts and cake.

One bed, one person \$38.00 + tax

One bed, two persons \$48.00 + tax

Two beds, two persons \$51.00 + tax

Ask for MONPS discount

CARA Update

The Conservation and Reinvestment Act (H.R. 701 and S. 2123) could be landmark conservation legislation if allowed to pass this year. The House bill has more than 300 co-sponsors.

Under the legislation, the government would earmark \$2.8 billion of the roughly \$4 billion in annual oil and gas drilling fees for buying and protecting environmentally sensitive lands and other conservation activities. Congress now uses this money as part of its general budget, spending less than \$600 million a year on the priorities proposed in the lands bill.

Budget-minded lawmakers question whether Congress can afford to wall off so much money for one particular cause. Proponents of the bill, meanwhile, argue it is only fair to use

oil and gas fees to answer the nation's most pressing environmental needs.

At the time of this writing, the House leadership has postponed a vote on the measure. The bill, however, has generated significant support, prompting some to warn the leadership it cannot afford to postpone the issue indefinitely. Much of the bill's popularity stems from the fact that its funding can be used for popular local projects. A bipartisan group of House members worked behind closed doors for months to reach a compromise late last year, and an identical bill has been introduced in the Senate.

What can you do? You can show your support by contacting the following people. Tell them you 'CARA lot' about wildlife and ask them for a floor vote on H.R. 701.

Information for this article provided by Cheryl Riley.

House Leaders

Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House
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The Capitol
Washington DC 20515
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Fax: 202/225-7733

Honorable Tom DeLay
Majority Whip
H-107
The Capitol
Washington DC 20515
Tel: 202/225-0197
Fax: 202/225-5117

Honorable Richard Arney
Majority Leader
H-327-A
The Capitol
Washington DC 20515
Tel: 202/225-4000
Fax: 202/226-8100

The Honorable David Dreier
Chairman
House Rules Committee
H-312 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515
Tel: (202) 225-9191
Fax: (202) 225-6763

Missouri House Members

The Honorable William L. Clay
2306 Rayburn House Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515
(District 1) 202/224-6514

The Honorable Karen McCarthy
1232 Longworth House Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515
(District 5) 202/225-4535

The Honorable Jim Talent
1022 Longworth House Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515
(District 2) 202/225-2561

The Honorable Pat Danner
1207 Longworth House Office Bldg
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(District 6) 202/225-7041

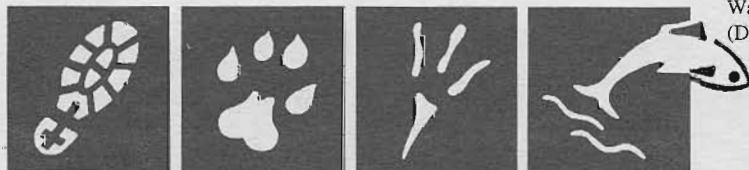
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The Honorable Roy Blunt
508 Cannon House Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515
(District 7) 202/225-6536

The Honorable Ike Skelton
2227 Rayburn House Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515
(District 4) 202/202-2876

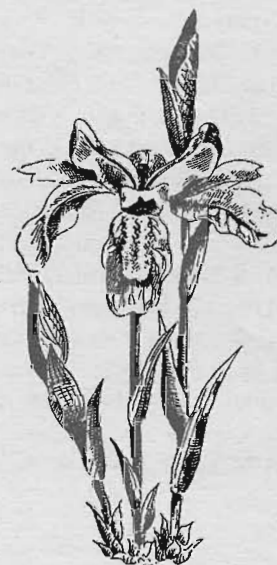
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The Honorable Ken Hulshof
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Washington, D.C. 20515
(District 9) 202/225-2956



Kudos to G.Y.

All Missouri botany people are of course already aware of George Yatskievych's great new monocot flora, *Steyermark's Flora of Missouri* Vol. 1, but our readers might be interested in a review from a different part of the country, published in the prestigious journal, "Systematic Botany" (Vol. 24, 1999), by Janet R. Sullivan, Department of Plant Biology, University of New Hampshire, Durham NH. Most book reviews while generally complimentary to the author, invariably include some criticisms. However, Ms Sullivan's comments are 100% favorable. The full page review is replete with such terms as "this beautiful volume," "packed with information," "thorough and well prepared," "interesting and enjoyable reading," "described in a clear style," "wonderful" and "highest quality." The reviewer particularly enjoyed the introduction including systematics, history of Missouri botany, collection data and graduate studies information. She also liked the dichotomous keys and line drawings, concluding the review with the statement "...will be indispensable to anyone working with plants of Missouri and adjacent states." Congratulations, George! Copy received courtesy of Nels Holmberg.



Missouri Native Plant Society Ballot

Please exercise your voting privilege **NOW!**

This election is to fill two (2) Board seats. Terms will expire in the year 2003.

Kimberlie McCue — St. Louis, MO, is the Conservation Biologist for the Missouri Botanical Garden, where she works to conserve rare plants in the midwest region (MO, IL, IN, AR, OK, TN, KY), in affiliation with the Center for Plant Conservation. She earned a Ph.D. from MU in 1977 in Ecology & Evolution, researching the genetic dynamics of rare plant populations. Kim travels frequently throughout the midwest to observe rare plant populations and collect germplasm for the conservation collection at MBG. She mentors university students in their work as volunteers and interns at MBG, gives talks at scientific meetings, publishes her work in scientific journals, and is an officer in the Society for Conservation Biology.

Paul McKenzie — Columbia, MO, works for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, where he is the Endangered Species Biologist and Coordinator for Missouri. He holds a Ph.D. in wildlife and fisheries science, with a minor in botany, from Louisiana State University. Paul has authored numerous papers in scientific journals and other publications. He has discovered a new species of mistletoe in Puerto Rico, and been involved in other discoveries and re-discoveries of plants in Missouri, Louisiana, and Puerto Rico. Paul specializes in the identification of grasses and sedges and is also an avid birder.

Stephen Timme — Pittsburg, KS, is a Professor of Botany at Pittsburg State University in southeast Kansas, where he is also Director and Curator of the T.M. Sperry Herbarium. He has contributed a substantial number of Missouri plant specimens to the Missouri Botanical Garden herbarium and to the herbarium at Southwest Missouri State University. Steve is a past president of the Missouri Native Plant Society and the Kansas Wildflower Society, and has been a member of MoNPS for 15+ years. Steve has more than 25 publications in journals and is the author of three books on wildflowers.

Instructions:

Vote for no more than two out of the three candidates. You may vote for only one if you wish. Single memberships should use the left hand column only. Family/joint memberships may use both columns.

- 1.) Please mark your ballot – fold page into thirds along dotted lines with ballot info on the inside – and Pat Harris' address on the outside;
- 2.) Tape the folded ballot at the top – do **not** use staples – (see marked locations on the ballot);
- 3.) Add 1st class stamp;
- 4.) Place in mail box;
- 5.) **Mail by 15 May 2000.**

Vote for two (2)

1st member

Kimberlie McCue

Paul McKenzie

Stephen Timme

Vote for two (2)

2nd member

Kimberlie McCue

Paul McKenzie

Stephen Timme

Tape here

Tape here



Place
Stamp
Here

**PAT HARRIS
9708 GREEN PARK
ST LOUIS MO 63123-7133**

Fold

Fold

The Lek Trek

by Sharon Gough

Grasslands, sometimes referred to as the Silent Resource, are about to get a voice in Missouri. Plans are taking shape for the Lek Trek, a walk across Missouri designed to raise awareness of the values of grasslands. The Lek Trek is sponsored by the Missouri Prairie Foundation, and named after the courtship grounds of the greater prairie chicken, the campaign's mascot. The Lek Trek aims to raise funds for grassland habitat work and to help citizens understand how grasslands are important to our wildlife, soils, water quality, biodiversity and quality of life.

Prairie once covered 40% of the North American continent, but less than 1% of it remains today. In Missouri, less than one half of one percent remains. Species depending primarily on grasslands are declining, many of them dramatically.

Globally, one in eight plant species is in danger of extinction. Plant biodiversity is the primary source of our medicines, clothing and shelter. It is also the only source of the genetic diversity critical to maintaining the long-term viability of our food crops. Species are being lost 100 to 1000 times faster now than natural extinction rates have historically allowed. And the United States heads the top ten list of countries with the most species at peril. Twenty nine percent of our plant species are in danger, and our prairies have been the hardest hit.

The Lek Trek will begin the enormous task of helping citizens understand grassland issues and of finding ways to enhance this resource to meet the needs of both humans and wildlife. The campaign will also serve as the public debut of the Grassland Coalition, an alliance of natural resource agencies, hunters, landowners, and conservation groups united for the purpose of delivering funds, manpower and technical

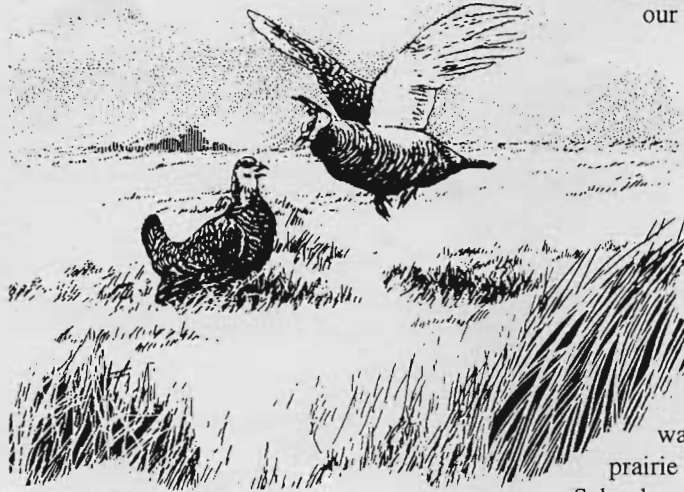
information to landowners willing to improve their grasslands. MONPS became a part of the Grassland Coalition in 1998, at its inception.

The Lek Trek will be an enormous event. The 565 mile walking odyssey will begin at the Iowa line near Hatfield on July 21 and end at Prairie State Park on October 14, 2000. A second group will start at the Arkansas border in Southwest City on September 23, to walk north to PSP, completing the span of the state. Sixteen communities along the route are planning special events to welcome the trekkers and highlight the importance of grasslands to our culture, our economy, our wildlife and our long-term well being.

Lek Trek events will offer Prairie Days, Pioneer Days, historical re-enactments, Native American Dancers, hog roasts, ice cream socials, games, pioneer crafts, dancing, parades, fairs, contests, hayrides, old-time fiddle music and more. Each week will also feature a Learner Day, when Grassland Coalition naturalists will join the walkers to share their knowledge of prairie species and grassland ecology.

Schools, scouts, 4-H, and other groups will be encouraged to use these days as outdoor classrooms. All walkers are encouraged to "buy" miles to support the work of the Grassland Coalition.

The Lek Trek offers Grassland Coalition members a golden opportunity to connect with Missouri citizens. Coalition members are urged to have a presence at Lek Trek events. If you have a display, a program, or time to help, please consider participating in the walk or at one of the special events. Lek Trek brochures and newsletters are available. For more information, visit our website at www.lektrek.org, or contact: Michael Lintecum at Lintecum.Michael@worldnet.att.net; call the Lek Trek line at 816-561-8735; or Sharron Gough: P.O. Box 106, El Dorado Springs, MO 64744; goughs@mail.conservation.state.mo.us.



Drawing from the *Prairie-Chicken Newsletter*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: MISSOURI NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SOCIETY DUES (Chapter dues additional)

Student \$5.00
Regular \$10.00
Contributing \$20.00
Life \$200.00

CHAPTER DUES

Columbia \$6.00
Jefferson City \$5.00
Kansas City \$5.00
Osage Plains00
St. Louis \$5.00

Make check payable to: Missouri Native Plant Society
Mail to: Donna Kennedy, Treasurer
816 Samone Ct., Ballwin, MO 63021

Name _____
Street _____
City, State, 9 digit Zip _____
Phone _____
e-mail _____

(Circle all that apply)

- Election Ballot
- Annual Meeting & Summer Field Trips
- CARA Update

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St. Louis, MO 63144-0073

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