

September - October 2000

Vol. 15, No. 5

## Missouri Native Plant Society

### September

- 9 Sat., 9:00 AM Clinton **Field Trip.** Meet at the Library parking lot. Destination to be determined.
- .....
- 16-17 Sat.-Sun. Columbia **Heritage Festival** at historic Nifong Park, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM both days. We will have a booth there and will be selling potted plants. Volunteers are needed to help.
- .....
- 18 Mon., 6:00 PM Clinton **Potluck Supper** at Marlene Miller's farm.
- .....
- 20 Wed., 7:00 PM Kansas City **Annual Plant & Seed Exchange.** Program to be announced. Chapter meeting at Loose Park Garden Center, 52nd and Wornall.
- .....
- 22-24 Fri.-Sun. **Fall Meeting & Field Trip.** See page 3 for details.
- .....
- 23 Sat., 9:00 AM Clinton **Field Trip.** Meet at the Library parking lot. Destination to be determined.
- .....
- 27 Wed., 7:30 PM St. Louis **Asteraceae Family Continued** program presented by MONPS members Nels Holmberg and Pat Grace. Chapter meeting at Missouri Botanical Garden, Ridgway Building.

### October

- 1 **Due date for material for November-December *Petal Pusher*.** Please send meeting and field trip information and articles by this date by e-mail to: pharris@stlnet.com. Or typed, double-spaced, by mail before this date.
- .....
- 14 Sat., 9:00 AM Clinton **Field Trip.** Meet at the Library parking lot. Destination to be determined.
- .....
- 16 Mon., 7:00 PM Clinton **Chapter Meeting.** Held in the basement of the Henry County Courthouse. Watch the *Clinton Daily Democrat* for more information.
- .....
- 25 Wed., 7:30 PM St. Louis **Annual Show & Tell.** Bring 10 of you favorite slides of interesting places & plants you have seen this year. Chapter meeting at Missouri Botanical Garden, Ridgway Bldg.
- .....
- 28 Sat., 9:00 AM Clinton **Field Trip.** Meet at the Library parking lot. Destination to be determined.



## 2000 Annual Meeting & Awards

The Annual Meeting was held on 3 June 2000 at Carthage Memorial Hall, Carthage, MO prior to the quarterly board meeting. Jack H. Harris presiding.

Four of the five Missouri Native Plant Society awards were presented by the Awards Committee this year.

Stan Hudson – Poplar Bluff, MO, received the Arthur Christ Memorial Research Award, for documenting the flora of Missouri through years of collection and observation.

Mrs. Edward D. Jones – received the Plant Stewardship Award, for foresight in promoting the ecological health of Central Missouri through the restoration of Prairie Fork Conservation Area.

Jan Phillips – received the Erna A. Eisendrath Memorial Education Award, for dedication to teaching the values of Missouri's natural heritage and for her enduring book, *The Wild Edibles of Missouri*.

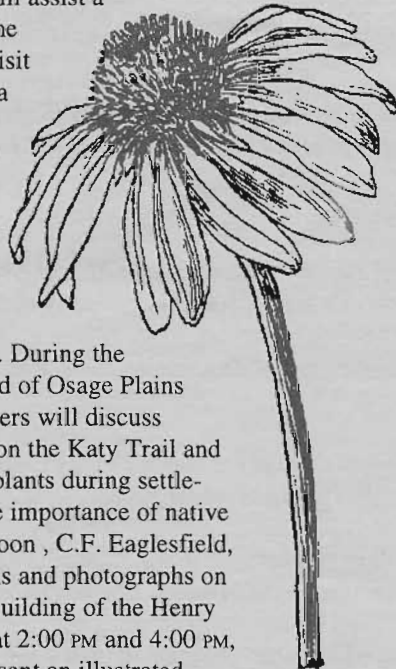
Larry Morrison – St. Louis Chapter, received the Missouri Native Plant Society Service Award, for outstanding leadership of the Missouri Native Plant Society and for compiling its history.

## Lek Trek in Clinton

by David Lindell

The Osage Plains Chapter at Clinton has planned two events in regard to the **Lek Trek**. On September 14, Gary Baldwin and several volunteers will assist a group of students from the Calhoun Grade School visit the Katy Trail to collect a native plant for mounting as an educational/art project.

On September 16, those walking on the Katy Trail (Lek Trek) will complete their trip down the trail to Clinton. During the morning, C.F. Eaglesfield of Osage Plains Chapter and other members will discuss native plants with those on the Katy Trail and the importance of these plants during settlement of Missouri and the importance of native plants today. That afternoon, C.F. Eaglesfield, will have plant specimens and photographs on display in the Delosier Building of the Henry County Museum. Also, at 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM, C.F. Eaglesfield will present an illustrated lecture about the importance and beauty of native plants in Missouri. All people are encouraged to attend and there is no admission fee. All events are in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation.



## Prairie Dropseed

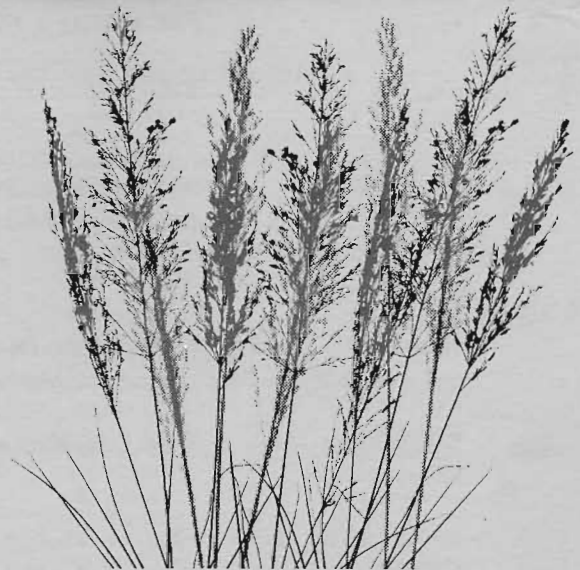
by Sue Vanderbilt

What a statement a meadow of Prairie Dropseed makes!

With its slightly weeping and slender emerald blades, it proudly holds its own upon the prairie. Partnered with the wind, it arches, twirls and tosses its mane in wild abandonment, swaying like a rolling ocean. One is beckoned to stand amidst the waves.

Late summer, stalks shoot up and give birth to tiny bubbled seeds. The tufted crown resembles a fist full of sparklers ...and do they sparkle... like diamonds when dew or droplets cling to each seed after nature takes a shower. Warmed by the sun, a sweet fragrance fills the air.

In fall, it dresses in shades from almond to sienna turning brilliant auburn when bathed by a chameleon sunset. Winter brings slumber as it's blanketed by snow and crystal capes...waiting to take to the stage in spring and once again perform anew its beautiful ballet.



## 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.

Allan Borstein, Cape Girardeau  
Pamela Gilford, Kansas City  
John & Carey Little, League City, TX  
Nicole Simmons, Russellville  
Laurel Temmen, Edwardsville, IL  
George Thornburgh, St. Louis

## Fall 2000 Field Trips & Board Meeting

### September 22-24 Jerry J. Presley Conservation Education Center

**Think about it!** A river and its related natural communities so spectacularly unique that it was one of the first in the nation to receive federal statutory protection – in perpetuity!

We hope to see several plant species that are endemic to this geologically ancient habitat. Here nature is still reluc-

tantly revealing floristic secrets – such as the monkshood (*Aconitum uncinatum*), only recently discovered by inquiring and persistent botany surveyors.

Wonder what we will find? Join us and be part of the discovery.

#### ITINERARY

22 Sept.	Fri., 7:00 PM	<b>Evening get-together</b> at the Presley Center. Speaker and topic not yet determined. Light snacks will be provided and we can enjoy an Equinox evening on the banks of the Current River.
23 Sept.	Sat., 6:00 AM Sat., 8:30 AM	<b>Continental breakfast</b> - hot and cold cereals, rolls, coffee, tea, juice, etc., at the Presley Center. <b>Canoe trip on the Current River.</b> An easy float of under 5 river miles from Pulltite Spring to the Presley Center. Meet at the Presley Center parking lot no later than 8:30 AM. A bus will pick us up and shuttle us to Pulltite Spring put-in. We will canoe back downstream to the Presley Center making stops along the way to view plants, including the only sites in MO for monkshood ( <i>Aconitum uncinatum</i> ). Canoe rental is \$25.00 per boat which includes the life vests and shuttle. Canoers should be prepared to pay \$12.50 each.
	Sat., Noon	<b>Lunch</b> at the Presley Center. A picnic style lunch served at the Center.
	Sat., 1:30 PM	Meet at the Center for a hike on the grounds, followed by a drive south on Hwy 19 to the Angeline Conservation Area near Eminence. We will hike into Licklog Hollow which has a stream with an igneous shut-in. Round Spring is nearby also.
	Sat., 5:30 PM	<b>Dinner</b> at the Presley Center. Family style.
	Sat., 6:30 PM	<b>MONPS Fall Board Meeting</b> at the Presley Center. All members may attend the Board Meeting. Presley Center reservations are not required. Light snacks will be available.
24 Sept.	Sun., 6:00 AM Sun., AM	<b>Continental breakfast</b> at the Presley Center. Suggestions for local/self guided field trips will be available.

#### LODGING

The Jerry J. Presley Conservation Education Center is a rustic style retreat which has accommodations for 26 persons.

Dorm style rooms have two twin beds each, locking doors and closets. Bathrooms are down the hall. Bed linens are provided; bring your own towel and washcloth. Couples will be assigned to the same room; otherwise, your roomy will be assigned. If you have a preference, contact Sue Hollis. (See back page of *Petal Pusher*.)

Cost: Lodging and meals are complimentary. Your reservation is your check for \$10.00 per person. All 26 beds are tentatively reserved. Contact Sue Hollis to be put on the waiting list. All reservations not paid by September 10, will be assigned to those on the waiting list. If you have paid for a reservation and cannot come or decide to stay in a motel, you will receive a refund.

Both lodging and food services are limited by the waste handling system. Only guests may use the shower facilities.

The Center can serve meals to 36 persons. If you do not have a reservation for a room, reserve your meals by contacting Sue Hollis. If we have more than 36 persons, those without reservations will have to provide their own food.

Don't assume all meal reservations are taken; cancellations occur and applications will be taken up to Thursday, Sept. 21

- Walnut Motel 573-729-3121  
Salem, junction of Hwys 19, 32 and 72.  
Prices \$42.00 - \$47.00 plus tax.
- Maple Tree Inn 573-226-3644  
Eminence, just off Hwy 19.  
Prices \$35.00 - \$45.00 plus tax, cash;  
credit cards 5% extra.

Camping is available at Round Spring and Pulltite campgrounds.

Camping is **NOT** permitted at the Presley Center.

#### DIRECTIONS TO THE PRESLEY CENTER

The Center is located just off Hwy 19, about 24 miles South of Salem or about 16 miles North of Eminence.

Traveling South on Hwy 19, the entrance is less than 1 mile past Hwy EE. Turn West and go 1.5 miles down gravel road. Watch for MDC sign.

Traveling North on Hwy 19, the entrance is 3.5 miles after crossing the Current River bridge. Turn West and go 1.5 miles down gravel road. Watch for MDC sign.



## Conferences, etc.

### PRAIRIE DAY

SEPTEMBER 16, 2000

From 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday, Shaw Arboretum of the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Missouri Department of Conservation will again be co-sponsoring a day on the prairie. This free event will have a variety of activities and demonstrations that will portray our prairie heritage. There will also be guided prairie walks and a live bison herd. Native plant nurseries will sell wildflowers and seeds. Food and beverages will be for sale.

The Missouri Native Plant Society will have a booth.

Shaw Arboretum is located south of Interstate Hwy 44 at the Gray Summit exit. Watch for signs to the designated parking area.

For more information call Powder Valley Nature Center, 314-301-1500.



### SYSTEMATICS SYMPOSIUM

OCTOBER 13 & 14, 2000

The 47th Annual Systematics Symposium will be held at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. The program theme this year is **Conservation**.

The major presentation titles/speakers scheduled for Saturday, 14 October are: The Central Role of Systematics in Conservation/Joel Cracraft; A Global Overview of Conservation Science/Richard Primack; The Missouri Botanical Garden in Madagascar/George Schatz; The Chicago Wilderness/Debra Moskovits; Comparing Species Diversity with Linguistic Diversity/Gary Nabhan; and Extinction – How Many Taxa & How Fast?/Stuart Pimm. Cocktails, dinner and speaker rounds out the program on Saturday evening.

There is a mixer with refreshments on Friday evening.

Registration is required – space is limited – register early. Systematics Symposium, MO Botanical Garden, Attn: Mick Richardson, PO Box 299, St. Louis, MO, 63166-0299; 314-577-5176; mick.richardson@mobot.org FAX: 314-577-0820

The Missouri Native Plant Society will have a booth in the exhibits area on Saturday.



### NATURAL AREAS CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 16 - 20, 2000.

The 27th Natural Areas Conference will be co-hosted by The Natural Areas Association and The Missouri Department of Conservation at the Henry VIII Hotel,\* Hazelwood, MO. The theme for this event is "Managing the Mosaic: Connecting People and Natural Diversity in the 21st Century."

Plenary and concurrent sessions are scheduled for 17 and 18 October where invited speakers include such notables as Dr. Peter Raven, Jerry F. Franklin, Donald Kurz, Daniel Botkin, & William H. Burch, Jr.

Commercial and non-commercial exhibits will be open 17 – 18 October. The Missouri Native Plant Society will have a booth at the exhibit area 17 & 18 October.

Conference field trips to Missouri and Illinois select quality natural areas: There are 26 separate trips scheduled to take place on 19 October. In addition, there are seven (7) pre-conference field trips on 14 – 15 October. Each trip is led by recognized experts.

On 20 October several programs concerning Public Natural Areas are scheduled.

A variety of society business sessions, social activities, dinners, etc., complement the technical schedule.

Registration information: Kate Leary, Conference Coordinator, Missouri Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO, 65102-0180. 573-751-4115 ext. 3183. FAX 573-526-5582. E-mail: learyk@mail.conserva.state.mo.us

\* = near the St. Louis International Airport.

### PRAIRIE RESTORATION WORKSHOP

OCTOBER 18 2000

Hear internationally recognized lecturer, nurseryman, and prairie restorationist – Neil Diboll – owner of Prairie Nursery, Westfield, Wisconsin.

A one-half day (10:00 AM to 2:00 PM) activity will take one through planning and planting for large and small-scale projects. Includes introductory talk and discussion of the restoration process and walking tour of planted prairies at Shaw Arboretum.

Registration (\$37.00) at Shaw Arboretum required. Includes box lunch. Space limited to 30 people. Shaw Arboretum, PO Box 38, Gray Summit, MO, 63039 // 636-451-3512.



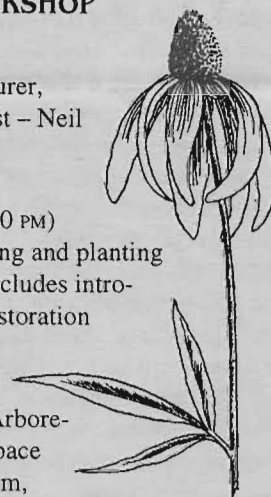
That evening, Neil Diboll will speak on the history of the prairie restoration movement in the mid-west and how it has shaped an American gardening style. Join Neil as he shares the story of the great American prairie experience.

Wednesday Evening October 18

6:00 PM to 6:30 PM Reception (Cash Bar)

6:45 PM to 7:45 PM Lecture

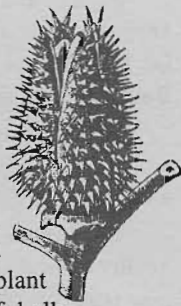
Tickets \$6.00 at the door or in advance. Contact Shaw Arboretum, PO Box 38, Gray Summit, MO 63039, 636-451-3512 (toll free from St. Louis).



## TIDBITS

### DATURA—AN UNDESIRABLE NATIVE!

An item in the Native Plant Society of Texas March-April 2000 newsletter, titled "Pretty Poison" by Catherine Rainwater, gives interesting comments on the deadly *Datura* (jimson weed) genus. All parts of all species (in our area *D. stramonium*) are poisonous and even handling the plants can cause a severe rash. When plant parts are ingested by animals or humans, powerful alkaloids, including atropine, hyoscyamine and hyoscyne, attack the central and autonomic nervous systems, causing delirium, convulsions, coma and frequently death. The most toxic part of the plants are the tiny, black seeds, which can spill from the capsules and even contaminate feed made from nearby vegetation. A member of the nightshade family, *Datura* is a showy plant and some gardeners are planting ornamental varieties, unwittingly putting themselves, as well as neighborhood children and pets, at significant risk of poisoning. The author recommends eradicating the plants whenever found.



### KUDZU CONTROL

The April 2000 "Harbinger," newsletter of the Illinois Native Plant Society, carried an article by Mark Basinger on possible biocontrol of Kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*). A fungus (*Myrothecium verrucari*) has been identified as a potential control for kudzu. However, the fungus, which is common in many regions of the world, including the United States, also infects and kills a wide variety of other plants, including several of economic importance, such as cotton and soybeans. Techniques are being investigated to inoculate kudzu with the fungus without damaging agricultural crops. USDA scientists in Mississippi have found that the fungus will kill 100% of the kudzu plant, from the leaves and stems down to the massive root. The best application so far has been direct spray application to the plants. These studies need to be completed before the fungus will be available for use. Kudzu was widely planted in the southeastern United States during the early 1900s for erosion control and forage, but quickly spread, now covering approximately seven million acres.

### COMMON NAMES

Mushroomers, as well as other nature enthusiasts, have ongoing disputes over the role of common names vs. scientific names. Via the Spring 2000 issue of "Mushroom the Journal," author Dick Grimm gives his version of a hypothetical outdoor adventure. While birding, he sees *Dendroica petechia*, the ever social *Geothlypis trichas*, then nest-building *Troglodytes aedon*. Plants spotted were *Sanguinaria canadensis* and *Fragaria virginiana*. Fisherpersons catch *Micropterus salmoides* at a nearby lake and his backyard pond is stocked with *Lepomis macrochirus* which furnish dinner for *Procyon lotor* and *Nerodia sipedon*. For our botanist readers, the translations are: *Dendroica petechia* = yellow warbler, *Geothlypis trichas* = yellow throat, *Troglodytes aedon* = house wren, *Micropterus salmoides* = largemouth bass, *Lepomis macrochirus* = bluegill, *Procyon lotor* = raccoon and *Nerodia sipedon* = northern water snake.

September – October 2000

## Publications of Interest

*Missouri Plants of Conservation Concern*, by Tim Smith, 47 pp; size 9 x 7 inches. Missouri Department of Conservation, 2000.

### PUT A FACE ON THAT NAME!

The *Petal Pusher* has in the past published a quantitative summary of the number of species of plants whose continued survival have been determined to be at some degree of risk or believed to be extirpated. This presentation has been in the form of a "text-book" style table.

And under "Publications of Interest," we have tried to bring to the attention of our readers the title, date and information needed for interested parties to acquire a copy of the specific publication that lists each and every name of all the plant species that collectively are the source for the data in the table. This form of rather sterile, arcane presentation no doubt leaves something to be desired as far as provoking any latent tendencies towards species conservation. The lingering problem is still "How to know one when you see one?" Now the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has distributed a new booklet that takes the lead toward providing an introductory style remedy for this condition.

This attractive and informative booklet contains descriptions and illustrations of 37 of the plants at greatest risk out of the total of 553 species that are considered to be at some degree of risk or believed to be extirpated. Each selected plant has one page devoted to it with most, if not all, of the following: a concise descriptive text, color photo, black & white illustration, a state range map, and a US range map.

While a few of the species displayed may have a face only a botanist could love, several are quite colorful and most attractive in the more conventional sense. It's a nice introduction to the process of "putting a face on that name!"

### *Biodiversity Activities Report – 1999*

Missouri Department of Conservation. 8.5 x 11 inches, 70 pages. Prepared by Carol Davit, Natural History Special Projects Coordinator.

A synopsis of Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) programs and activities concerning stewardship of our natural communities and natural resources planning. Major categories reported include, e.g., (1) Restoration and Recovery, (2) Research, (3) Surveys, Monitoring, (4) Planning and Progress, (5) Land Acquisition, (6) Natural Areas and Natural Areas Inventory, (7) Data Management/Public Information, (8) Highlights of Field Biology, plus various tables such as Species of Conservation Concern, etc.

To obtain your copy or either of these publications, call or write MDC, Attn: Carol Davit, Editor, Natural History Division, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO, 65102-0180 // 573-751-4115 and ask for a copy. While you're at it, ask for a copy of the "Missouri Species of Conservation Concern Checklist – 1999."

## Chapter News

**Kansas City Chapter** — We've had a very productive Spring. We have had three field trips, three fund-raisers, and our final meeting until September. The March field trip was to Knob Noster State Park. We were in search of several spring ephemerals. Our April field trip was to White Aloe Creek Natural Area in Parkville, MO. This is an area of woodland ranging from wet/damp along the creek to very dry on the hillside and crests. The drought was very evident here. The Spring ephemerals were finishing their bloom cycle in the lower areas, but weren't blooming at all in the dryer areas.

May 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> found several members manning a booth at the Powell Gardens Springfest. We sell plants from the Missouri Wildflower Nursery as a fund-raiser each year. This year we were joined by members of the Grassland Heritage Foundation.

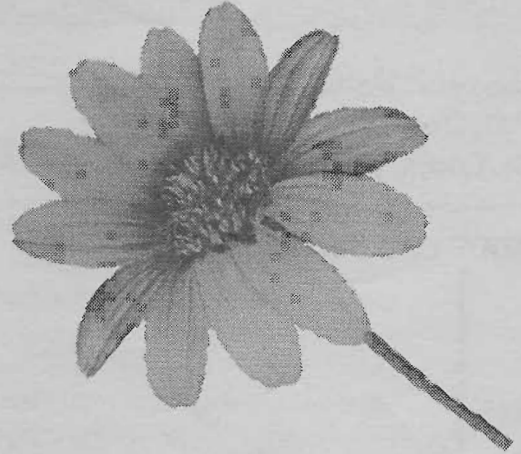
May 13<sup>th</sup> was another plant sale. This time, we sold extras from our own gardens at the Independence Farmers Market. It was a cold and windy morning (especially at 7:00 AM), but we sold enough to cover our expenses and still have some left for the treasury.

Our meeting in May was not quite what had been planned, but thanks to our Vice-President Dave Alburty and Secretary Carol Pranulis, we learned about the intricacies of a controlled burn. How timely a topic, especially with the Los Alamos fire fresh in our minds! Their slides of the fifteen-acre burn were fascinating, even more so after learning that the wind changed direction in the middle of the operation! Fortunately, they had everything under control this time!

Our next field trip occurred in May. This time we left the state and visited the Overland Park Arboretum in Overland Park, KS. This is definitely a work in progress! The headquarters building is big and beautiful, the trails are nice, but they are using many introduced species. Natives are there, but several were incorrectly labeled. We will definitely be returning here in the future.

May 27<sup>th</sup> found members again getting up at the crack of dawn to sell plants at the Independence Farmers Market. This time the weather cooperated, staying cool and cloudy, but no wind. We did very well, adding a nice amount to our treasury in three hours of selling.

Finally, our chapter now has its own web page! You can find us at [www.angelfire.com/mo2/kcmonps/](http://www.angelfire.com/mo2/kcmonps/) Our schedule of events is located there, along with photographs and links to related pages. If you have any questions about upcoming Kansas City Chapter events, either check out our schedule on our web page or contact me, Daniel Rice, at 816-461-0206 or [Drice95875@aol.com](mailto:Drice95875@aol.com).



**Osage Plains Chapter** — At our March meeting, Matt Parker, a student at CMSU masters program in the Department of Biology presented a program on invasive exotic plants and biological control. In April we set our meeting and field trip dates for the year. Jason McCauley from CMSU gave a presentation, with slides on the "Comparisons of Prairie and Pasture Areas." When asked about Dead Nettle/Henbit, he informed us that they are not a problem for the farmer. In May, Sharon Gough, Missouri Department of Conservation, gave a presentation on prairie chickens. There are only 1000 left in Missouri. Prairie chicken releases are being done and if you see any prairie chickens, you are asked to report the sighting. She then discussed the Lek Trek coming through Clinton, September 14-16. Plans were made including cake baking, display table, volunteer need, kids poster contest and involvement of schools and scouts. At our June meeting, Chapter Vice-president, Gary Baldwin had seven microscopes set up for us. We also dissected flowers.

Field trips have been on hold due to the illness of C.F. Eaglesfield. They will resume in June.

### INFORMATION ON JOINING 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 Plains ..... .00  
 St. Louis ..... \$5.00

(Circle all that apply)

**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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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- Annual Awards Announced
- Fall Board Meeting & Field Trips
- Conferences, etc.

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### Missouri Native Plant Society Officers and Board Members

#### PRESIDENT

Jack Harris  
9708 Green Park Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63123  
314-894-9021  
jahar@stlnet.com

#### VICE-PRESIDENT

Sue Hollis  
3311 Gillham  
Kansas City, MO 64109  
816-561-9419  
ferngro@worldnet.att.net

#### SECRETARY

Lynda Richards  
15676 CR 7170  
Rolla, MO 65401-7570  
573-364-8567  
grinrich@RollaNet.org

#### TREASURER

Donna Kennedy  
816 Samone Ct.  
Ballwin, MO 63021  
636-256-7578  
fishn2@primary.net

#### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Larry Morrison  
625 Wildwood Lane  
O'Fallon, IL 62269  
618-624-5964  
Larry.Morrison@scott.af.mil

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Pam Haverland ('99-'02)  
6901 Ginlet Lane  
Columbia, MO 65201  
573-443-2189  
pamela\_haverland@usgs.gov

Robin Kennedy ('99-'02)

300 Westwood Ave.  
Columbia, MO 65203  
573-443-5625  
rkennedy@  
biosci.mbp.missouri.edu

Ralph Lindgren ('98-'01)

2209 Kentucky Ave.  
Joplin, MO 64804-2145  
417-623-8084  
rglind@4state.com

Kim McCue ('00-'03)

MOi Botanical Garden  
PO Box 299  
St. Louis, MO 63166  
314-577-9497  
kmcue@ridgway.mobot.org

Paul McKenzie ('00-'03)

2311 Grandview Circle  
Columbia, MO 65203  
573-445-3019  
paul\_mckenzie@fws.gov

Bruce Schuette ('98-'01)

678 St. Rt. 147  
Troy, MO 63379  
636-528-7247 (w)  
baesch@nothnbut.net

#### ARCHIVES/BADGE PROG.

Jim Bogler  
7916 Col. Dent Dr.  
St. Louis, MO 63123  
314-842-0111  
jbogler@primary.net

#### ENV. AND EDUC.

John Oliver  
4861 Gatesbury Dr.  
St. Louis, MO 63128  
314-487-5924  
oliver@  
mail.lindbergh.k12.mo.us

#### FIELD TRIPS

Tim Smith  
1704 W. Main  
Jefferson City, MO 65109  
573-635-8085  
smitht2@  
mail.conservation.state.mo.us

#### MEMBERSHIP

Ann Earley  
1425 Bobolink Pl.  
St. Louis, MO 63144-1128  
314-963-0103  
aee623@prodigy.net

#### PUBLICITY

Nels Holmberg  
530 W Whiskey Creek Rd.  
Washington, MO 63090  
636-583-4551  
s961859@Admiral.umsl.edu

#### MISSOURIENSIS, CO-EDITORS

George Yatskievych  
MO Botanical Garden  
PO Box 299  
St. Louis, MO 63166  
314-577-9522 (w)  
gyatskievych@rschctr.mobot.org

Doug Ladd

The Nature Conservancy  
2800 S. Brentwood Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63144  
314-968-1105 (w)

#### PETAL PUSHER, CO-EDITORS

Carl Darigo  
553 Mapleview  
University City, MO 63130  
314-863-7057  
carl.darigo@juno.com

Pat Harris

9708 Green Park Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63123  
314-894-9021  
pharris@stlnet.com

#### EDITORIAL COMM.

David Castaner  
Paul Redfearn  
Tim Smith  
Stephen L. Timme

#### CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES COLUMBIA

Pam Haverland  
(see board members)

#### JEFFERSON CITY

Ann Grotjan  
59110 Redbud Rd.  
California, MO 65018  
573-796-4478

#### KANSAS CITY

Daniel Rice  
815 W. 31st St.  
Independence, MO 64055  
816-461-0206  
Drice95875@aol.com

#### OSAGE PLAINS

Marlene Miller  
949 NE Hwy C  
Calhoun, MO 65323  
660-694-3581  
jwmiller@iland.net (h)  
mtmiller@tacnet.missouri.org

#### ST. LOUIS

John Oliver  
(see Env. & Educ. Comm.)