

November - December 2000

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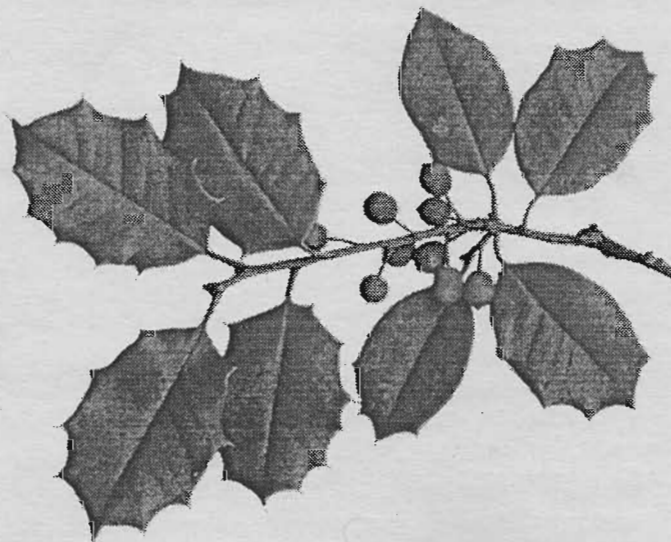
## Missouri Native Plant Society

### November

- 4 Sat. Jefferson City **Field Trip and Pot Luck Lunch** at Carol and Larry Young's home in Holts Summit. Directions and time will be sent via postcard.
- 15 Wed., 7:00 PM Kansas City **Chapter Meeting.** Held at the Loose Park Garden Center, 52nd and Wornall. Program to be determined.
- 20 Mon., 7:00 PM Clinton **Chapter Meeting.** Held in the basement of the Henry County Courthouse. Program to be determined.
- 27 Mon., 7:00 PM Columbia **Field Trip to U. of Mo. Dunn-Palmer Herbarium:** Herbarium Techniques & Management. Hands-on experiences in dried-plant mounting. Held at the Museum Support Center Bldg., west side of Rock Quarry Rd. just North of Hinkson Creek.

### December

- 1 **Due date for material for January-February *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.
- 2 Sat., 9:30 AM Columbia **Winter Board Meeting at Dunn-Palmer Herbarium.** See page 3 for details.
- 5 Tues., 7:00 PM Jefferson City **Chapter Meeting.** Held at Runge Nature Center. **Note:** This may be changed to Thursday, December 7 if we have a joint meeting with Audubon.



**Give a Gift of Nature! A MONPS Membership!**

## Frost Flower Alert?

by Jack H. Harris

At the time of this writing (8 October 2000), the first Canadian cold air mass of the season has made its unusually early presence known. Although not of sufficient intensity to produce frost flowers here, it does provide a reminder that we should soon be on the watch for them. As noted by Betty Swihart in her article (nice photos also) in the October 2000 issue of the *Missouri Conservationist*, prediction of when frost flowers will occur is dependent upon a whole host of varying environmental factors... But I have found that a reliable indicator is that the temperature must be at least in the lower 20s (degrees F). So if you know (1) where the plants are that produce frost flowers, and (2) the day that temperatures fall into the 20s or lower; that is the day to mount a short field trip to that loca-tion early in the morning, shortly after sunrise.

The following are observations noted in *Verbesina virginica* (white crownbeard) and *Cunila origanoides* (dittany) in my yard in south St. Louis Co.

In the 1999-2000 season the first appearance of frost flowers occurred on 30 November. They continued their sporadic appearances until 14 January 2000. At that time I was obliged to



Frost flowers on *Verbesina virginica*  
photo by jahar

travel out of the state and my records are therefore artificially truncated.

As has been noted by nature observers of highly eminent stature, everything seems to be connected to everything else - in some way or other! So why frost flowers? Well, how about after a long, cold, but very dry spell I saw two (2) blue jays and ten (10) house sparrows using the output of frost flowers as a source to quench their thirst. Watching through the binoculars I could clearly see them breaking off pieces of the thin, fragile ice and gulping them down. Of course they quickly consumed my frost flower crop that day. The price (and the wonder) of connectedness! Maybe not an answer to why - but an interesting adaptation.

And remember that not all frost flowers grow in the dark (shadow of the earth) when temperatures usually fall. On 4 January 2000 the temperature abruptly fell from  $\approx 30^\circ$  to  $\approx 20^\circ$  shortly after noon. With heavy cloud cover evident - blocking the power of the sun - frost flowers began emerging as white bristles (a la stellata) rather than the usual curling ribbons on the *Verbesina virginica*. Some stems had poorly shaped blobs of ice near the ground. It remained very cold over night and by the next day the sky had cleared and the sun soon made short work of the entire previous days frost flower production.

### SPECIES THAT ARE THE REPORTED SOURCE OF FROST FLOWERS

Technical Name	Common Name	Family	Range in MO
<i>Cunila origanoides</i>	dittany	Lamiaceae	every county
<i>Helianthemum bicknellii</i>	rockrose	Cistaceae	scattered except SE MO
<i>Helianthemum canadense</i>	rockrose	Cistaceae	new ?
<i>Pluchea camphorata</i>	stinkweed	Asteraceae	adjacent to Arkansas border
<i>Verbesina virginica</i>	white crownbeard	Asteraceae	southern half of MO
<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>	slender mountain mint	Lamiaceae	every county
<i>Aster patens</i>	spreading aster	Asteraceae	southern half of MO
<i>Verbesina alternifolia</i>	yellow ironweed	Asteraceae	nearly every county

## Opportunity—Help Your Society to Help and Enjoy Native Plants

by Jack H. Harris

Every two years the MONPS conducts an election to fill the positions of President, Vice-president, Treasurer, Secretary, and two of six at-large board members. The individuals so elected have the honor of participating, with the other board members, in conducting the Society's business of advocating/promoting the interests of the NATIVE FLORA of the State of Missouri. The next election will take place during the first few months of next year and the results will be announced in June 2001.

The development of the list of nominees/candidates for the election is carried out by the Nominating Committee. The functions of this Committee are vital to the continued exist-

ence of the Society. The Nominating Committee must consist of a minimum of three MONPS members, one of whom must be a member of the current Board of Directors. The President will appoint the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, who will then select additional Committee members. Upon completion of the development of the list of candidates, the Nominating Committee will forward the list to the Editor of the *Petal Pusher* for publication of the ballot.

The Society is searching for a member who would like to fill the position of Chairperson of the Nominating Committee. This is a one time appointment and automatically terminates upon delivery of the list of nominees. Interested parties should contact the President: Jack H. Harris (see back page). Or if you are confident that you know a good candidate for this position - please so advise the President.

## 2000 Winter Board Meeting

COLUMBIA, MO — DECEMBER 2, 2000

All Missouri Native Plant Society members and friends are invited to attend the winter MONPS state board meeting. If you want to have a voice in **your** Society, now is your chance. This is a business meeting, so plan to stay all day. The meeting starts at 9:30 AM and will end not later than 4:00 PM. We will be meeting at the Dunn-Palmer Herbarium. See directions below.

Coffee and hot water will be available during the morning (bring your own teabags and instant de-caf if you need those). Bagels and cream cheese will also be provided. We will be ordering lunch in. Or bring a lunch if desired.

### FIELD TRIP IDEAS FOR 2001

We will be planning the field trips associated with the quarterly board meetings. If you have a favorite area or two that you would like us to visit, join us in Columbia. Or you may contact an officer or board member with your suggestions before the meeting.

### DIRECTIONS

**To Dunn-Palmer Herbarium:** From the east, drive west on I-70 to (Exit 128), take U.S. Hwy 63 S, towards Jefferson City; go south to the Stadium Blvd. exit. Then west to the second light (this cross street is named College Ave. to the North, Rock Quarry Rd. to the south). Drive south  $\approx$  1/8 mile on Rock Quarry Rd., turn right into driveway and park near the "Museum Support Center."

From the west, drive east on I-70 to (Exit 124) take Stadium Blvd. south. Stay on Stadium Blvd. as it goes south and then curves east past the football stadium and the Hearn's Basketball Arena. Turn right (south) on Rock Quarry Rd. (there is a stop light here) and drive south  $\approx$  1/8 mile, turn right into driveway and park near the "Museum Support Center."

## 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.

Jerry W. Brown, Hawk Point  
Virginia Sheel, St. Louis



## Publications of Interest

"Forest Management for Missouri Landowners," by Bruce Palmer, Missouri Department of Conservation, 2000. 8 1/2" x 11"; 108 pages. The latest in Forest Management (versus Timber Management) advice and assistance. Specific to Missouri landowners, managers, stewards.

MDC publications are available upon request to Missouri Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO, 65102-0180; 573-751-4115.

*Petal Pusher*

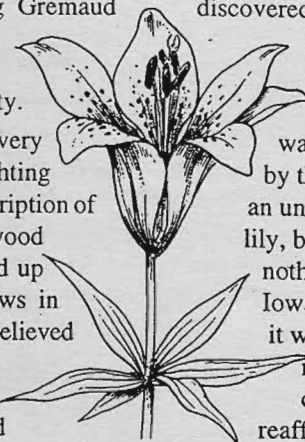
## Wood Lily Rediscovered in Missouri

by Greg Gremaud

Sometime in the 1940s, somewhere near St. Louis, an unknown botanist collected a couple of specimens of *Lilium philadelphicum*.

That was the last official record of the wood lily in Missouri until June 13 of this year. That's when wildlife management biologist Mike Jones and natural history biologist Greg Gremaud discovered a small population of these plants on a privately owned prairie in Sullivan County.

The discovery was really a confirmation of a sighting by the landowner in 1991. Her description of an unknown plant matched the wood lily, but subsequent searches turned up nothing. Because the wood lily grows in Iowa and Illinois, it would eventually turn up in northern Missouri. The sighting confirms those suspicions and reaffirms the value of native prairies as critical habitat for rare plants and animals.



Reprinted with permission from the August 2000 Missouri Department of Conservation's publication *Currents*.

Editor's note: George Yatskievych was so confident that the wood lily would be rediscovered in Missouri, that he included it in Volume I of the new *Flora of Missouri*.



## Membership Committee News

by Jack H. Harris

On behalf of all the members of MONPS, I welcome Ann Earley as the new Chairperson of the Membership Committee. Ann resides in the St. Louis area and is a member of the St. Louis Chapter. Ann will keep a sharp eye on membership status and be happy to work with Chapter membership staff as needed.

She will succeed Pat Grace who has decided to retire from the position of Membership Committee after persevering there for over nine years. We hope this move will permit Pat to spend more time exploring and enjoying *Platanthera peramoena*, among many others.

## Photo Exhibit

MONPS member, Casey Glavin, St. Peters, will have thirty prints of "Plants of Conservation Concern and Their Environments" on display at Powder Valley Nature Center, Kirkwood, MO. The exhibit opens December 1, 2000 and runs to January 31, 2001.

## Quarterly Board Meeting Highlights

SEPTEMBER 23, 2000

President Jack Harris, 11 board members and 6 guests met at the Jerry J. Presley Conservation Education Center in Shannon County, MO.

The Board has two vacancies: Lynda Richards and Ralph Lindgren. The appointment of Stephen L. Timme to fill the remainder of Ralph Lingren's term was approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report: Donna Kennedy reported that we had a balance of \$12,551.97.

### Media/Publications

*Petal Pusher*: Average cost of the Petal Pusher is \$.63 per copy to print and \$.15 per copy to mail. It was reported that MONPS was featured in the Summer 2000 issue of the *Chinquipin*, The Newsletter of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society.

### Committee & Task Force Reports

Membership: Jack Harris introduced our new membership chair, Ann Earley from St. Louis. Ann reported that we currently have 329 members.

Environment & Education: John Oliver reported that he had written to The Nature Conservancy, MO Dept. of Conservation and the MO Prairie Foundation in support of the Wah-Sha-She Prairie additions.

### Old Business

Publication Proposal by Casey Galvin: Casey's plans for a book on plants of conservation concern will be geared to the layperson. It will be a coffee table type book. He has photos of most of the 100 plus plants he wants to feature. Of the 85 photos, about 90% are publication quality. He wants to stress that the success of saving the plants is saving the habitat. He's looking for someone to write the text.

Meetings: MONPS will have a booth at the 47th Systematics Symposium and at the 27th Natural Areas Conference. Both of these are in October in the St. Louis area.

### New Business

Ballot Committee: Dan Rice was appointed as chair.

Fund Raiser Task Force: Donna Kennedy was appointed as chair. Two suggestions were: caps and tote bags.

Publication of Membership List in *Petal Pusher*: Robin Kennedy reported on some MONPS members increased concern about invasion of privacy. They preferred that their names and address not be published in the MONPS membership list in the *Petal Pusher*. It was MSC to have a check box on all new membership forms to indicate if a member does not wish to have his or her name and address published.

MONPS Name Affiliation/Use Policy (local & state): The question was raised by Robin Kennedy regarding MONPS policy on Society and Chapters authority to grant/agree to the use of MONPS name to affiliate or friendly organizations for various projects or campaigns, etc. The BoD

concluded that only the Society BoD may conclude such agreements for all of MONPS, and only each Chapter's officers and board may conclude such agreements on behalf of their respective Chapters.

## MONPS Noxious Weeds Task Force

Tim Smith, Chairperson

The purpose of this group is to track issues related to control of aggressively spreading, non-native plants. A number of federal and state initiatives are ongoing that have a bearing on the spread of exotic plants. A presidential executive order set in motion a group of representatives of federal agencies and others who are drafting a "National Management Plan" to limit the importation and spread of problem plants in the U.S. State initiatives include proposed legislation that would set up a similar Invasive Species Task Force at the state level. Particular species are introduced in the state legislature for designation as state noxious weeds. MONPS will periodically have opportunities to comment on these initiatives. Our committee will track the issues and look to the MONPS Board of Directors for timely Society input.



## Opportunity – MONPS Board Position Vacancy

by Jack H. Harris, President

The position of Secretary of the Missouri Native Plant Society is presently vacant due to the resignation of the duly elected member. The primary duties of the Secretary are to record the formal actions of the Board of Directors (BoD) at all official meetings (normally 4 each year) and to distribute minutes of the transactions to each member of the BoD. The individual occupying this position is an officer and voting member of the BoD of the Society.

The vacant position will be filled by appointment by the Society President. The present appointment is for the remainder of the unexpired term, until June 2001. At that time the position will be filled by election in accordance with standard Society procedures.

Individuals who may be interested in contributing to the mission and functions of the Society should contact the President (see back page). Also any MONPS member may nominate an individual for the vacancy. The person so nominated must be a member of the Society and be willing to serve in the voluntary position

## MONPS Navy Captures Rare Sighting

by Jack H. Harris

The regular fall quarterly meeting began the day (23 September 2000) with a MONPS naval force projection on the Current River. The multi-capability amphibious deployment of seven (7) canoes, one (1) K-2 kayak and two (2) K-1 kayaks was led by Fleet Task Force Commander Tim Smith and Chief Navigator Guide Bill Summers on an expedition from Pulltite Springs Campground to the Presley Conservation Education Center.

The amphibious capability was first exercised at the Pulltite Springs branch confluence. All forces were deployed and advanced unopposed to the spring source. Along the steep dolomite bluffs several stations of *Heuchera parviflora* v. *puberula* (alum root) were surrounded and received close observation by several brigades. Farther on *Coreopsis pubescens* v. *pubescens* (star tickseed) was also encountered. A search squad was committed to wade in the cold waters just downstream from the spring source in an effort to locate *Lemna trisulca* (star duckweed). The squad returned with cold feet but unable to make contact with *Lemna*. Retiring to the flotilla, the expedition continued down the river which had both shores punctuated with conspicuous displays of *Lobelia cardinalis* (cardinal flower), *Lobelia siphilitica* (blue cardinal flower), *Helenium autumnale* (sneezeweed), and *Bidens cernua* (nodding bur marigold). One very small, suspiciously reticent flowering character was captured directly by the surface fleet – i.e., from emergent *Justicia americana* (water willow). Interrogation crews later concluded that it was likely *Cuscuta gronovii* (dodder). The brilliant floristic colors along the shore of the river were further enhanced by the flashing yellow wings of the many Cloudless Sulphur butterflies and the occasional bright orange Monarch.



On the second amphibious exercise, Tim and Bill established a surprise beachhead at a navigationally tricky landing area and then immediately climbed over rough rocks and up a short, steep brushy slope. They quickly acquired the days hoped for objective: the recently discovered and rare (S-1 in Missouri) *Aconitum uncinatum* (southern monkshood) in full bloom. The fleets sophisticated communication system (much yelling and hollering) soon advised all forces of the target location. This led other ship commanders to attempt, with varying degrees of success, a landing alongside the lead craft while others elected the easier landing on the opposite shore and searched for a suitable site to wade across the river. Eventually all interested parties were able to observe the brilliant, deep blue flowers of the monkshood.

While engaging in close observation and much reconnaissance photography of the monkshood, an unexpected target of opportunity - *Gentianella quinquefolia* (stiff gentian) was discovered blooming nearby. The fleet commander then declared that the expedition had achieved its primary mission, that all forces should return to port and receive a well

deserved reward – lunch. Thereafter all craft were soon docked at the Education Center. Ships commanders reported all sailors accounted for and no casualties.

A clean sweep for the MONPS navy.

### AND THEN THERE WAS THE LAND CAMPAIGN

In the early afternoon, field trip leader Tim Smith led the group on the Lick Log Hollow Nature Trail, Angeline (Clow) State Forest, in Shannon County. The trail begins in a dry limestone/dolomite woodlands community and winds down-slope, roughly parallel to Lick Log Hollow Creek, passing into a dry igneous woodlands before crossing the creek and looping back to the origin. A short list of a sampling of the plants noted will provide a sense of the variety of plants/habitats that may be observed along this trail: *Corallorhiza odontorhiza* (late coral root), *Berchemia scandens* (supplejack), *Aster anomalous* (blue aster), *Dirca palustris* (leatherwood), *Cunila origanoides* (dittany), *Nyssa sylvatica* (black gum), *Erianthus alopecuroides* (silver plume grass), *Rudbeckia fulgida* (orange coneflower), *Parnassia grandifolia* (Grass-of-Parnassus), *Fuirena simplex* (umbrella grass), *Manfreda virginica* (false aloe), *Spiranthes magnicamporum* (great plains ladies' tresses), *Lespedeza thunbergii* (tall bush clover), *Polygonum tenue* (slender knotweed), and *Echinacea simulata* (pale purple coneflower).

On the way back, Tim Smith and Bill Summers ventured a short way off the trail and found a seep area that contained a robust population of Grass-of-Parnassus and several more stems of *Spiranthes magnicamporum*. But the hour was growing late and faint sounds of the dinner bell seemed to be ringing just over the ridge.

### Prairie Work Days - Help Needed

The Ozark Regional Land Trust announces four volunteer work days scheduled for this winter, plus a fall burn at Woods Prairie. We need lots of help! In the next year, we will be continuing our restoration efforts at the Sarcoxie Cave and Spring property, and at Woods Prairie which was purchased by ORLT in 1999. The schedule is as follows:

Nov. / Dec. ?, 2000	Burn Woods Prairie
Jan 20, 2001	Woods Prairie work day
Feb 10, 2001	Sarcoxie Cave work day
Mar 3, 2001	Woods Prairie work day
May 24, 2001	Sarcoxie Cave work day



The Saturday workdays take place from 9:00 to 3:00, rain, snow, or shine (within reason). If you are interested in helping with the prairie burn, please contact us as it must be scheduled around weather and other conditions and often takes place on very short notice. We will send out an announcement when the burn appears imminent.

If you would like to be on our email mailing list of events, please contact us at [orlt@ipa.net](mailto:orlt@ipa.net). Thanks, and we hope to see you on the land this winter!

Andy Thomas: 417-236-0223 (eve), 417-466-2148 (day)

# Missouri Plant Species of Conservation Concern—Y2K

by Jack H. Harris

The following table is a summary count of plants determined to qualify for ranking as to their degree of imperilment in Missouri. It is derived from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) report "Missouri Species of Conserva

tion Concern Checklist - June 2000." However the values listed in the right hand column are not the sums of ranked/ listed species but are *estimates* of the total statewide taxa (from other sources identified below).

PLANT TYPE	RANK									Total Mo Taxa
	S1	S2	S3	S4	SH	S?	SX	S Other	#Listed	
Lichens	12	2			1	7		4	26	≈ 436 <sup>1</sup>
Liverworts	9					6		3	18	≈ 400 <sup>2</sup>
Mosses	47					25	1	13	86	≈ 2382 <sup>3</sup>
Ferns & Allies	11	6	1		1		1	5	25	
Flowering Plants	185	98	17	1	81	0	4	68	454	
Totals	264	106	18	1	83	38	6	93	609	≈ 3218

Where: S1 = critically imperiled, extremely rare and / or vulnerable, 5 or fewer occurrences; S2 = imperiled due to rarity or vulnerable to extirpation, 6 - 20 occurrences; S3 = rare and uncommon, 21 - 100 occurrences; S4 = widespread, many occurrences but of long term concern; SH = occurred historically, may be re-discovered; S? = Unranked; SX = extirpated from the state; S Other = aggregate of various tentative rankings due to lack of data, uncertain sources, etc.<sup>4</sup>

A companion publication that contains descriptions and illustrations of 37 of the listed plants which are at greatest risk is *Missouri Plants of Conservation Concern*, by Tim Smith, 2000, MDC.

MDC publications are available upon request to Missouri Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO, 65102-0180; 573-751-4115.

<sup>1</sup> The total number of Lichens (taxa) in Missouri as reported in "Checklist and Bibliography of Missouri Lichens" by Douglas Ladd, 1996; Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri.

<sup>2</sup> The total number native taxa of Bryophytes (Liverworts and Mosses) in Missouri as estimated in "The Biodiversity of Missouri: Definition, Status, and Recommendations for its Conservation," 1992. Missouri Department of Conservation & the Mark Twain National Forest, USFS.

<sup>3</sup> The total number of native taxa of vascular plants (ferns & flowering plants) estimated at the end of 1997. See Table 7, page 83 in *Steyermark's Flora of Missouri*, Revised Edition 1999, by George Yatskievych, Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Botanical Garden.

<sup>4</sup> The S1 ... S4, etc., ranking system was developed by The Nature Conservancy, Conservation Science Division and adapted for use by MDC.

## 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)

Do not publish my name and address in the membership list.

Make check payable to: Missouri Native Plant Society

Mail to: Donna Kennedy, Treasurer  
 816 Samone Ct., Ballwin, MO 63021

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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 City, State \_\_\_\_\_  
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- December Board Meeting
- Frost Flowers
- Wood Lily Rediscovered

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