

March - April 2001

Vol. 16, No. 2

# Missouri Native Plant Society

## March

- 21      Wed., 7:00 PM      **Chapter Meeting.** Everyone in the Kansas City area is invited to attend. Held at the Kansas CityLoose Park Garden Center, 52nd and Wornall.
- 28      Wed., 7:30 PM      **Chapter Meeting.** Topic to be announced. Chapter meeting at Missouri Botanical Garden, Kemper Center. (Note: change of meeting place.)

## April

- 1      **Due date for material for May - Junel *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.
- 7      Sat.,      **Field Trip to Lakeside Nature Center** in Swope Park to check the trails for spring Kansas City ephemerals. Contact Dan Rice, 816-461-0206, for the meeting time.
- 9      Mon., 7:00 PM      **Chapter Meeting.** Topic to be announced. Held at the Midwest Science Center, Columbia 4200 New Haven Rd
- 25      Wed., 7:30 PM      **Chapter Meeting.** Topic to be announced. Held at Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis Ridgway Bldg.
- 28      Sat., 10:00 AM      **Field Trip to Dillard Mill State Park,** led by Nels Holmberg. This corresponds with St. Louis their Wildflower Day. The trip may involve wading a creek to get to a glade. There will be light refreshment at the end of the hike. Nels will meet interested parties at Dillard's Mill. Bring lunch & drink if desired.



## Nominating Committee Report

by Jim Bogler

The Society will elect new officers and two board members this spring to take office following the annual meeting in June 2001. The Nominating Committee (listed below) hereby nominates the following persons to fill the office or board positions shown:

President: Jack H. Harris, St. Louis, MO  
Vice President: Dr. Stephen Timme, Pittsburg, KS  
Treasurer: Donna Kennedy, St. Louis, MO  
Secretary: Sandra Kubal, Columbia, MO  
Board Member: Bruce Schuette, Troy, MO  
Board Member: Dr. Jay Raveill, Warrensburg, MO

If you would like to be considered for one of these positions or if you would like to nominate someone else, you should send a written nomination and a written second from another member. You should also include a written confirmation of willingness to serve from your nominee. These documents should be sent to the Nominating Committee at the address shown below before 25 March 2001.

Jim Bogler, Chair  
7916 Col. Dent Dr., St. Louis, MO 63123

Nominating Committee members:  
Larry R. Morrison, O'Fallon, IL  
Bill Summers, St. Louis  
Ed O'Donnell, Kansas City



## ATTENTION — All Native Plant *Procrastinators!*

By Jack H. Harris

For those who have **inadvertently** overlooked paying their Native Plant Society dues for the year 2000 — we have a message for you! This is the last issue of the *Petal Pusher* you will receive unless you renew your dues payment before the next mailing list is compiled.

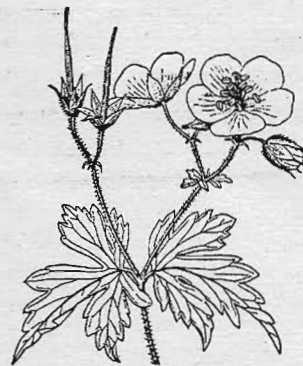
Dues are a mere \$10.00 and should be mailed to the Treasurer, Donna Kennedy (see back page for address). Don't forget to include the additional amount should you wish to be a member of one of the Chapters.

We look forward to your continuing participation on our field trips, at our meetings about Native Plants, and most of all, the sharing of common interests with others in the Society.

## Ballot Committee

President Jack H. Harris appointed Dan Rice, Independence, MO to be the Chair of the Ballot Committee. The other members of the committee are George Scheil, Raytown, MO and Dave Alburty, Drexel, MO.

The Nominating Committee (Chair: Jim Bogler) will forward the final list of nominees, both from the list developed by the Nominating Committee and any at-large nominations from the membership, to the Ballot Committee in time for an election ballot to be published in the next issue of the *Petal Pusher*.



## To Be a Master Naturalist!

By Vicki Flier

A new naturalists certificate program was started this spring at the St. Louis Meramec Community College (MCC). This Master Naturalists Certificate was developed jointly by the St. Louis Audubon Society and the MCC. The Missouri Native Plant Society, the St. Louis Herpetological Society and St. Louis Chapter of North American Butterfly Association are collaborating by conducting workshops in coordination with the academic program.

Requirements for the certificate include three core courses and three elective courses at MCC and six of the 13 workshops offered. The courses will be offered in spring, summer and fall and the workshops will rotate in the spring and fall.

This spring's lineup of workshops includes:

- Amphibians: Identification and Natural History
- Butterflies: Identification and Natural History
- Identifying St. Louis Warblers
- Insects: Harmful or Beneficial
- Introduction to Missouri's Native Plants
- The Flow of Energy in our Ecosystem: Understanding the Food Web.

A whole new lineup will appear in the fall.

Certificate holders may then go on to get Gold, Silver or Bronze certificate awards from the St. Louis Audubon Society for community service hours utilizing their certificate. Any interested persons should contact Vicki Flier at 314-968-9166 for more information on this exciting new community venture.

Nels Holmberg (contact information on last page) is project coordinator for the Missouri Native Plant Society.

# Spring 2001 Field Trips & Board Meeting

APRIL 20 -22 COLUMBIA, MO

Members and friends are invited to join us as we visit and explore the spring wildflowers at the new Hart Creek Conservation Area. The exceptional mesic forests of this 574-acre site was purchased by MDC in 1997. Species of interest include blue cohosh, wild leek, dolls eyes and broad beech fern. We may have time to see the sand phlox that occurs on area bluffs above the KATY Trail.

In the afternoon, at the Pinnacles Natural Area, we will explore the scenic geologic features that have resulted from erosion of the Burlington limestone bedrock including the narrow hogback ridge with the towers that gave the area its name. We should see a number of plant species in the open, rocky habitats that were not present in the mesic forest of the morning's hike.

## ITINERARY

- 20 April Fri., 7:00 PM **Evening get-together:** Mexican buffet dinner at Pam Haverland's. She will provide all the fixin's, including stuff for vegetarians. Paul McKenzie will talk on grasses.  
**RSVP to Pam at 573-443-2189 or email pamela\_haverland @ usgs.gov**
- 21 April Sat., 8:00 AM **Field Trip to new Hart Creek Conservation Area.** Meet at Best Western motel parking lot at 8:00 AM. Mike Leahy, MDC Natural History Regional Biologist will lead us on an excursion into the area. Bring your own lunch and drinks.  
**Lunch.**  
**The Pinnacles NA** for our afternoon field trip.  
**MONPS Spring Board Meeting.** Held at the Dunn-Palmer Herbarium.
- 22 April Sun., 9:00 AM **Optional field trip to Earthquake Hollow Conservation Area.** Meet at the area parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Information on this mesic wildflower viewing area will be provided at the Saturday night Board of Directors meeting.



photo by jahar

The Pinnacles

## LODGING

- Best Western Columbia 573-474-6161
- Includes a continental breakfast of cold cereal, pastry, bagels, etc., and coffee, tea and juice.

All rooms are \$60.00 plus tax for one to four persons.

**This is a discounted price, so be sure and ask for Missouri Native Plant Society discount.**



photo by jahar

The Pinnacles

## DIRECTIONS

**To Best Western Inn:** Take Exit 128 from I-70. Sign can be seen from I-70/Hwy 63 intersection.

**To Hartsburg CA:** Drive to Hartsburg, taking Hwy. 63 south past Ashland and turn southwest on Hwy A to Hartsburg. Meet in Hartsburg at the KATY Trail parking lot at 8:45 AM From there it is about 1.0 mi. north-northwest on a gravel road to the Hart Creek CA parking lot.

**To The Pinnacles NA:** Leave Hart Creek CA. Head back up Hwy A to Hwy 63. Take Hwy. 63 north back to Columbia. Continue north on Hwy 63 for about 12 miles past I-70, turning east off of Hwy. 63 about 0.5 mi. north of the intersection with westbound Hwy. 124. The road to the east will turn immediately south and become gravel before reaching the Pinnacles NA at about a mile. Park at the open area.

**To Earthquake Hollow CA:** Travel to intersection of TT and Hwy 54, about 13 miles south of Fulton, MO. Take TT east for about 1 mile. At 1.0 mi. Hwy TT turns due south. Don't turn south there but continue east on gravel rd. about 1.0 mi. to parking lot on left.

*Petal Pusher*

**To Pam Haverland's home** at 6901 Ginlet Lane: Take Hwy 63 south from I-70 to Route AB (about 2 miles south of KOMUTV tower). Go east on AB 4 miles to Ginlet Lane. Go north (left) 3/4 mile to intersection with several mailboxes. Go through the intersection and take left fork of Y immediately after. Go up the hill and right turn at the first driveway.

**To Dunn-Palmer Herbarium:** From eastern MO, 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 fourth 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 western MO, 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."

## Clinton, MO Resident Makes Donation to MU Herbarium

Over the past six years Carrol Eaglesfield has spent more than a thousand hours gathering, researching and preserving plants he collected in Henry County. Now he has donated the results to the University of Missouri Dunn-Palmer Herbarium.

Eaglesfield, a retired minister, gave more than 300 plant mounts to the MU herbarium Jan. 16. The mounts are pressed and dried plant specimens attached to acid free paper and include a detailed description of each plant. He figures a conservative estimate of time spent in searching for the plants, identifying and preparing them would be about four hours per specimen.

Eaglesfield is an active member of the Osage Plains Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society, a state-wide organization dedicated to promoting the awareness of Missouri's native flora.

Eaglesfield attended high school in Clinton, MO more than 60 years ago. He returned in 1994 after a career that included 25 years as an educational missionary in West Africa and 12 years teaching in the biology department of Missouri Baptist College in St. Louis, MO.

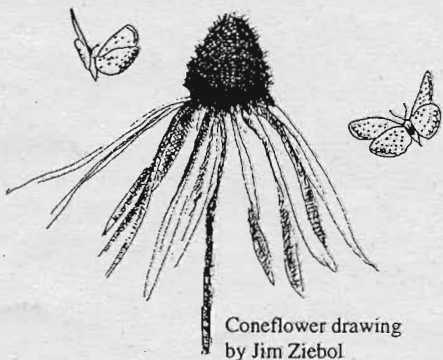
"I have two master's degrees," Eaglesfield says, "one in theology and one in zoology. People think that's kind of peculiar."

Wherever he's been he's pursued his interest in biology and zoology. He has thousands of photographic slides of plants and landscapes from his time in Africa. After he first retired he lived for ten years in Washington State. During that time he prepared over 500 herbarium specimens that are now part of the collection of Padilla Bay Education Center on Puget Sound.

The MU herbarium, founded in 1856, is the oldest public institutional herbarium west of the Mississippi River and contains more than 300,000 plant specimens. The oldest specimens date from the 1830s and the oldest Missouri specimens were collected in 1852.

"Eaglesfield is a very good lay botanist. I've been in the field with him," says Robin Kennedy, curator of the MU herbarium. "This is a collection we welcome because it adds to our knowledge of bio-diversity in Missouri."

James P. Curley of the U. of MO Agricultural Information Office.



Coneflower drawing  
by Jim Ziebol

## MORE IS LESS? (A What If)

By Jack H. Harris

The Missouri Department of Conservation (visit their web page: <http://www.conservation.state.mo.us/nathis/backyard/>) notes that the 1990 US Census data estimates "...1,489,661 single family homes in Missouri..." If we should then assume that each home has a quarter-acre yard, then there "...would be 372,414 acres..." with the potential for planting native plants (naturescaping?).

And what if the preliminary 2000 census estimates the population in Missouri to have grown by about 9% plus to over 5,595,211. Let's assume the 9% rate applies also to single family homes. We can then calculate that the quarter-acre yard total has grown to 407,212 acres of land surface – all with a potential to grow native plants. The Census population projection for Missouri in 2025 is 6,250,000. Using the same simple arithmetic, the calculation would then yield 454,900 acres of potential yard resource. The more population, the more yard space available for native plants?

The reality of course is that the dominant yard acreage is dedicated to a monoculture of "lawn" grasses of various exotic lineages, e.g., fescues, et al. Not to mention the hordes of aggressive imported "ornamental" species e.g., *Lythrum salicaria* (purple loosestrife), *Lonicera mackii* (Amur honeysuckle), *Lonicera japonica* (Japanese honeysuckle) capable of enormous direct and collateral damage, to the native plant communities. In addition we now have the camp follower species that are rarely deliberately planted but tag along on our vehicles and in our plethora of possessions, jumping off the free ride at every possible site. These are the infamous *Sorghum jalapense* (Johnson grass), *Dipsacus sp.* (teasel) and *Alliaria petiolata* (garlic mustard), among others. These species are aggressively confiscating territory on their own with no help from "yard builders" or anyone else. The more population the less territory available for native plants?



Is this a conundrum? Can a culture of exotics plant users be persuaded to convert to be native plant users for their yards? Even if such a change were possible, how many of our 2400 native species could we find a place for in the 450,000 acres of yards that will be available in 2025? And how many species of plants can be successfully grown on a quarter acre yard? Is that number – whatever it is – sufficient to mitigate the impact of the growing population? Can less be more – for native plants?

Yes, it could be to some degree anyway. I remember when every garden and yard magazine columnist and advertisement predicted certain doom if a single blade of cut lawn grass was allowed to fall on the turf. Now mulching mowers, etc., is the rage in nearly all the department stores. An indicator of what is possible.

To paraphrase someone much wiser than I – there is no alternative but to conclude that we do have free will.

## New Florida Plant is Not So New!

By Susan Farrington

The last issue of the *Petal Pusher* (Jan-Feb 2001) reported a "new plant discovered in Florida," a species of *Utricularia* that photosynthesizes underground. Versions of this story have gone around the world in the last year, thanks to a UPI press release that picked up a local newspaper story in Florida concerning the discovery. As so often happens, the facts were somewhat distorted by the media, which especially picked up on the "meat-eating" characteristics of the plant. Calls from reporters flooded the Archbold Biological Station in Lake Placid, Florida where the discovery was made.

In fact, the *Utricularia* "discovered" is not a new species, but is most likely *Utricularia subulata*, a common type of bladderwort occurring in the eastern third of the continent (including in a few marly fen sites in the Missouri Ozarks). It typically grows in acidic sandy soils in moist locations. It is a tiny plant, the smallest of the yellow-blooming terrestrial bladderwort species in the United States. The Information Manager at the Archbold Biological Station, Fred Lohrer, reports that "the *Utricularia* is a widespread species in the southeastern U.S. that grows in seasonal ponds here in central Florida's sandy Lake Wales Ridge. When the ponds dry up, the yellow flowers persist, with the rest of the plant's parts in the sand, and with the bladders perhaps still functional, gobbling up nematodes."

What was unusual about this "discovery" was not the plant itself, but the particular conditions in which it was growing. Two botanists from the University of Florida that specialize in plant physiological ecology (Kevin P. Hogan and Stephen Mulkey) made the discovery. Kevin Hogan writes, "At Archbold we found it growing around the edges of ponds that had probably been larger but were becoming smaller as the dry season progressed. It seemed to be most common in areas of clean white sand around but not in ponds, and not on other types of soil. In some areas it was very abundant, and when we scraped away the sand at the surface, we found a dense and extensive network of underground 'stems' and 'leaves.' This mode of life would only be possible under these special conditions. We do not yet know whether it is a genetic variant especially adapted to these conditions, or whether it is simply taking advantage of an opportunity. The light it receives there is enough for photosynthesis. By living underground it may be protected from drying out and from too much sun, and the availability of carbon dioxide might be higher, which would increase photosynthesis." Hogan and Mulkey also found an alga in this sand, forming a slightly greenish layer approximately 2 cm deep, about the same depth that the *Utricularia* networks were found.

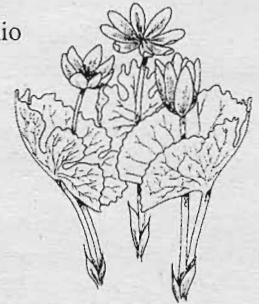
Hogan and Mulkey certainly hadn't intended to publish their findings via press conference, and had attempted to correct errors in the original draft of the local newspaper story. But as so often happens, the newspaper ignored their corrections, persisting in stating that the plant was newly discovered, and distorting the facts. And thus a new urban legend of sorts was born!

*Petal Pusher*

## Welcome to New Members

We're happy to welcome these new members to the Missouri Native Plant Society. We look forward to our association and hope you will join us soon at some of our upcoming meetings and field trips.

Matthew A. Albrecht, Athens, Ohio  
Devin Chandler, Auxvasse, MO  
Vicki Flier, St. Louis MO  
Dorlis L. Grote, Silex MO  
June Jeffries, Troy, IL  
Justin Thomas, St. Louis MO  
Janet Wilson, Springfield, MO



## Grow Native! Program Plants New Ideas for Home Landscaping

By Cheryl Riley

For those who enjoy both gardening and wildlife watching, a new program of the Missouri Department of Conservation called Grow Native! brings the two activities together. Grow Native! works with wholesale and retail nurseries to promote and sell native plants, shrubs, trees and grasses that benefit wildlife and celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of a region. It is a conservation and education program in partnership with the private sector to promote using native plants in landscapes – from the smallest of yards to larger acreage.

Proponents of native plants point out the following qualities:

- Native plants are a good source of food and cover for wildlife.
- They are well adapted to a specific region's temperatures, soil conditions and rainfall.
- They improve the health of the ecosystem and add balance as well as being attractive.
- Most are perennials and many can add year-round interest.
- Planting natives helps reduce the number of aggressive exotic plants that can take over a landscape.

Missouri is in the transition zone between western prairie grasslands and eastern forest. Because it is home to both prairies and forests, over 2,000 different species of native plants are found in Missouri.

Coordinators of the Grow Native! Program are Judy Allmon and Cheryl Riley. They will be working with Department of Conservation staff to let the public know what nurseries in the Midwest are participating in the program. Public programs will be offered throughout the year as well as workshops for nurseries. A brochure is also available by visiting one of the member nurseries or sending a self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope to:

Grow Native!, P.O. Box 104671, Jefferson City, MO 65110

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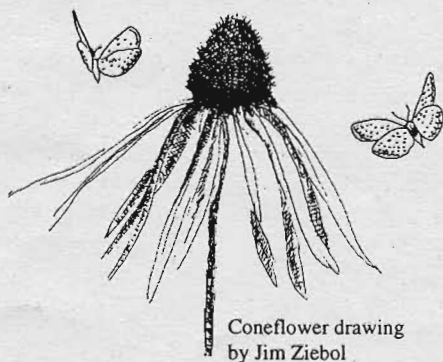
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To paraphrase someone much wiser than I – there is no alternative but to conclude that we do have free will.



## Woods Prairie Work Days

By Andy Thomas

The Ozark Regional Land Trust (ORLT) needs your help at its upcoming winter volunteer workdays. We continue to focus on the restoration of two of our most exciting projects: Woods Prairie and Sarcoxie Cave. Please spread the word to all who may be interested.

The schedule is as follows:

Mar. 3 Woods Prairie work day

Mar. 24 Sarcoxie Cave and Spring work day

The Saturday workdays take place from 9:00 to 3:00, rain, snow, or shine (within reason). We were not able to burn Woods Prairie in December due to a little blizzard, so we will keep trying. Even if we are not able to burn in January, we will focus on the other projects that day. By the end of the second workday we will hope to be finishing up the interior fence which will then pave the way for restoring the entire 40 acres to prairie.

At the picturesque Sarcoxie Cave and Spring property, we will continue our slow but steady progress in restoring the area to a more natural Ozark appearance and balance. We will continue removing exotic weeds and weedy brush from the cave area, freeing trees of strangling vines, removing fences and trash, and planting wildflowers. We will probably have a fire going to clean up brush and to warm up by. Cavers from the Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy hope to continue their exhaustive exploration and mapping of the cave, and there may be opportunities for you to help (please call in advance if you are interested in this). Also, our ORLT Stream Team will be testing and monitoring the quality of the spring water and we encourage anyone (especially children) interested in learning about water quality monitoring and fun chemistry to come and join our team.

Bring your lunch and plenty of drinking water. Restroom facilities are not available. Also bring along your favorite tools — shovels, spades, garden trowels, fence pliers, pruners, loppers, workgloves, garbage bags, handsaws, chainsaws, etc. Friends and children are welcome.

Woods Prairie is located 4 miles east of Mt. Vernon, MO. From the intersection of Hiways 174 and K, go south on Hiway K 1.5 miles, then turn right onto Farm Road 2125. Woods Prairie is about 3/4 mile down this road on the left.



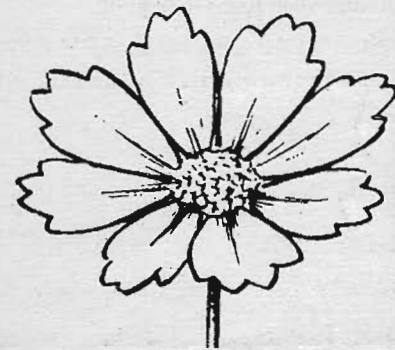
There are no signs as of yet, and the area next to the road looks like an ordinary fescue pasture. But look up the hill for an area of waving golden prairie grasses — before the burn, that is.

Sarcoxie Cave and Spring is located near downtown Sarcoxie, MO. From east or west on Hiway 44, take Sarcoxie exit #29 and go south into town.

Just past Cadwell's Grocery, turn left on 5th Street. Go one block to the square and turn right onto Cross Street. Continue straight ahead just past the square, cross a small bridge and railroad track and you will see a large white house on the right. You found it! The house is privately owned, so please be considerate.

Thanks, and we hope to see you on the land this winter!

Andy Thomas: 417-236-0223 (eve), 417-466-2148 (day)  
ORLT: 417-358-0852 or 888-835-0032 email: orlt@ipa.net



## Upcoming MONPS Meetings & Field Trips

Do you want to check out some different areas in 2001? Join other native plant enthusiasts on these exciting field trips. All members and guests are welcome to participate at all of our field trips and meetings.

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| June 8-10   | The Nature Conservancy's Dunn Ranch prairie. Meeting in Bethany.  |
| Sept. 21-23 | Kansas City area. Possible sites are the Jerry Smith Farm, Blue River Parkway and the Blue River Glade. |
| December 1  | Columbia. This is an all day business meeting. Plans will be made for 2002.                             |

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State \_\_\_\_\_  
9 digit Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- 2001 Officer & Board Nominees
- Spring Field Trip & Board Meeting

Missouri Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 20073  
St. Louis, MO 63144-0073

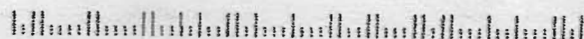
Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
St. Louis, MO  
Permit No. 1720

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

90000000

63123-7133 48



### 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  
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Kansas City, MO 64109  
816-561-9419  
ferngro@worldnet.att.net

**SECRETARY**

Vacant

**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)  
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Columbia, MO 65201  
573-443-2189  
pamela\_haverland@usgs.gov

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