



## Missouri Native Plant Society

### May

- |        |                                |  |
|--------|--------------------------------|--|
| 2 - 4  | Fri. - Sun.<br>Kansas City     | <b>Annual Powell Garden Plant Sale.</b> Sale times are Friday: 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM; Sunday: 12:00 Noon - 5:00 PM.  |
| .....  |                                |  |
| 7 & 14 | Wed., 5:30 PM<br>Columbia      | <b>Wildflower Walk.</b> Led by Randal Clark. Meet at Rock Bridge. Contact Paula at 573-474-4225 for more information on all chapter events.  |
| .....  |                                |  |
| 10     | Sat., 10:00 AM<br>St. Louis    | <b>Field Trip.</b> Big Spring Area, Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Carter County, led by Bill Summers to see lady slippers. Meet at the junction of Highways 103 & Z in the parking lot. Bring lunch, drink and be prepared for wet areas.   |
| .....  |                                |  |
| 12     | Mon., 7:00 PM<br>Columbia      | <b>Chapter Meeting.</b> Held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd.  |
| .....  |                                |  |
| 15     | Thurs., 7:00 PM<br>Kansas City | <b>Chapter Meeting.</b> Held at the Discovery Center, 4750 Troost. Elmo Law, Biology Professor at UMKC, will give a presentation on the life cycle and reproduction of plants.   |
| .....  |                                |  |
| 17     | Sat.<br>Kansas City            | <b>Field Trip.</b> Ona Geishen's Prairie, South of Sedalia near Paintbrush Prairie. Meet at Wal-Mart at 350 Highway and Blue Ridge Cutoff. Contact Sue Hollis at 816-561-9419 for meeting time.  |
| .....  |                                |  |
| 18     | Sun., 1:00 PM<br>Columbia      | <b>Hike.</b> Silver Fork Area, Northern Boone County, led by Jim and Joann Whitley. Meet at MDC.   |
| .....  |                                |  |
| 19     | Mon., 7:00 PM<br>Clinton       | <b>Chapter Meeting.</b> Missouri Department of Conservation, Meeting Room, South end of 2nd Street.  |
| .....  |                                |  |
| 22     | Thurs., 11:30 AM<br>Columbia   | <b>Board Meeting.</b> Uprise Bakery, 816 E. Broadway. All are invited.   |
| .....  |                                |  |
| 28     | Wed., 7:30 PM<br>St. Louis     | <b>Chapter Meeting.</b> On Safari in Tropical East Africa: Big Animals and Amazing Plants, presented by George Thornburgh. Held at Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Rd, Kirkwood (off Geyer Road, between Watson and Big Bend).                                    |
| .....  |                                |  |
| 31     | Sat., 8:30 AM<br>Kansas City   | <b>All Day Field Trip.</b> Slip Bluff State Park, Lamoni, Iowa, in search of the small white lady slipper orchid. Meet at the park and ride at the Liberty / Highway 152 exit from I-35. If that lot is closed, park by the side of the road until we all get there and decide what to do. |



June

- 1 **Due date for material for July – August *Petal Pusher*.** Please send meeting, field trip information and articles (typed double-spaced) to the editor by this date. Send e-mail to: [bettyluvsinsects@yahoo.com](mailto:bettyluvsinsects@yahoo.com)
- 6 – 8 Fri., 7:00 PM **State Field Trip and Board Meeting.** Prairies Around Clinton.  
Clinton
- 13 – 14 Fri., 3:00 PM UNTIL **Second Annual Kansas City BioBlitz.** Powell Gardens. (See Page 3.)  
Sat., 3:00 PM The Kansas City Chapter will be participating in the botany portion. The chapter will sell  
Kansas City plants at the Outreach segment that runs from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM Saturday. If you would like to volunteer, contact Dan Rice at 816-461-0206.
- 16 Mon., 7:00 PM **Chapter Meeting.** Missouri Department of Conservation, Meeting Room, South end of  
Clinton 2nd Street.
- 21 Sat., 9:00 AM **Field Trip.** Hidden Valley Park in search of Goldie's Fern. Meet at the parking lot in the  
Kansas City park. Directions: Take I-435 across the Missouri River and exit at Parvin Road (near Worlds of Fun). Take Parvin west to Belmont; Belmont south to Russell Road to the parking lot on the right side of the street.
- 22 Sun. **Field Trip.** To Shaw Nature Reserve, Gray Summit, MO. Contact Paula at 573-474-4225  
Columbia for more information.
- 25 Wed., 6:00 PM **Twilight Wildflower Walk.** Emmenegger County Park led by Bill Summers. Directions:  
St. Louis From Powder Valley, drive west across the bridge and turn left at T to parking lot. Bring a drink and bug spray.

**Nominating Committee Final Report**

*Submitted by: Bruce Schuette,  
Chairman of the Nominating Committee*

The Nominating Committee has received correspondence that for personal reasons, Keet Kopecky is unable at this time to take on the position of Treasurer of the Missouri Native Plant Society. Fortunately Bob Siemer (nominated by Ann Earley and seconded by Jack Harris) has agreed to accept nomination, and if elected, to serve as Society Treasurer.

The final 2003 – 2005 Board Nominees are:  
President, Kathy Thiele, St. Louis, MO;  
Vice President, Jay Raveill, Columbia, MO;  
Secretary, Kimberlie McCue, St. Louis, MO;  
Treasurer, Bob Siemer, Chesterfield, MO;  
Board Member, Paul McKenzie, Columbia, MO;  
Board Member, Max Towler, Eureka Springs, AR.

The election will be held during the Annual Meeting, June 7, 2003 in Clinton, MO.



To make a prairie

(1755)

*Emily Dickinson*

To make a prairie it  
takes a clover and one bee,  
One clover, and a bee.  
And revery.  
The revery alone will do,  
If bees are few.

## Summer Field Botany Trip & Board Meeting

**JUNE 6 – 8 CLINTON**

Members and friends are invited to join us as our host, the Osage Plains Chapter, will lead us on an exploration of the prairies around Clinton; then, attend our Board Meeting.

### ITINERARY

- 6 June Fri. Evening Get-Together & Cookout at Beth's.  
7:30 PM
- 7 June Sat. Field Botany Trip. Meet at Super 8 Motel.  
8:00 AM Sites to be determined.  
Noon Lunch: Artesian Park, Clinton, on your own.  
1:00 PM Field Botany Trip. Site to be determined.  
5:00 PM Dinner at Beth Walker's.  
6:30 PM Annual Board Meeting at Chamber of  
Commerce (Depot), one block from Beth's.
- 8 June Sun. Optional Field Botany.

### LODGING

- Super 8 Motel \$65.00 + Tax  
506 Kansas Avenue (Jct. 13 & 7 & 52 & 18) Clinton  
Telephone: 860-890-6188

### DIRECTIONS

**To Super 8 Motel:** From US-65 South, turn Right on MO C, 17.52 miles. Turn Right onto MO-7, 7.53 miles. MO-7 becomes MO-7/MO-18, 0.01 miles. MO-7/MO-18, 0.17 miles. The motel is easy to find just to the west on MO-18 from where MO-7 and MO-13 split and can be seen from the intersection of highways.

**To Beth Walker's:** 106 E. Clinton Street. From MO-7/MO-13 turn Left on N 2nd Street/N 3rd Street, 0.2 miles. Continue on N 2nd Street 1.1 miles. Continue on S 2nd Street 0.4 miles. Turn Right on E. Clinton Street. (See back page for telephone number.)



## Kansas City WildLand's 2nd Annual BioBlitz

*By Roberta Vogel,  
EPA Region 7*

Kansas City WildLands (KCWL) will conduct its Second Annual BioBlitz in remnant prairie and woodlands at Powell Gardens in Kingsville, MO from 3:00 PM on Friday, June 13th until 3:00 PM on Saturday, June 14th. Following on the success of last year's BioBlitz at Swope Park, for 24 hours, biologists and naturalists from across the region will survey the Powell Garden prairie and woodlands for all forms of plant and animal life.

On Saturday from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, the public is invited to visit the Powell Gardens Visitor's Center to see what the scientists have discovered at the KCWL BioBlitz Education and Outreach event. There will be demonstrations and displays of the life found on the BioBlitz, native plants to purchase, and guided hikes to see the wild life of Powell Gardens first-hand. If you would like to join this year's BioBlitz, we need scientists and naturalists from all disciplines to conduct surveys, and other volunteers to assist the scientists and handle logistics.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Linda Lehrbaum, KCWildLands Coordinator, at 816-561-1061 X116 or email: [Linda@bridgingthegap.org](mailto:Linda@bridgingthegap.org)

Powell Gardens is located on Hwy 50, about 20 miles east of Lee's Summit, MO. See: [www.powellgardens.org](http://www.powellgardens.org)

## MONPS Affiliates: Plant Conservation Alliance (PCA)

*By Jack H. Harris, President*

In the March-April 2003 issue of the *Petal Pusher*, Page 5, we announced that the Missouri Native Plant Society (MONPS) is now affiliated with the Native Plant Conservation Campaign. As a reminder, your Society is also affiliated with a second national level organization: The Plant Conservation Alliance (PCA) - <http://www.nps.gov/plants>

The mission of PCA is: "To protect native plants by ensuring that native plant populations and their communities are maintained, enhanced, and restored." The PCA is a consortium of many organizations. The MONPS is one of more than 145 cooperators associated with the primary group of 10 federal government member agencies. Each year, PCA awards thousands of dollars for on-the-ground conservation and restoration projects through matching funds grant program administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The PCA presently has three working groups. Each group has an appealing www page loaded with information on the current activities and various services for interested viewers. For example, the Restoration Working Group has a "Library" with Resource Links, Ecology News, Glossary, and links to "On-Line Databases."

Your attention is invited to (1) Alien Plant Working Group (PCA-APWG) - <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/index.htm>; (2) Medicinal Plant Working Group (PCA-MPWG) <http://www.nps.gov/plants/medicinal/index.htm>; and (3) Restoration Working Group (RWG) - <http://www.nps.gov/plants/restore/index.htm>

I believe that all Society members will find subject matter of interest somewhere in the material offered by the PCA. Happy hunting!

# Petals & Wings

Betty Walters, Editor



A queen. She must be a queen, I think to myself. She seems weak and confused as she clings to the bright yellow miniature narcissus. I watch as she slowly probes along the outside of the cornona and adjoining perianth with her long tongue instead of entering inside as I have observed bumblebees successfully gathering nectar and pollen. Seemingly exhausted, at last, she simply sits clutching the cornona with her feet and basking in the early March morning sun before she takes flight and disappears.

Alone, I linger on the porch enjoying one of the few rare warm March days when spring seems to be winning the struggle to throw off the last vestiges of winter. The in-between time I call it, the time before dandelions and oaks bloom, and bees are busy feeding from fruit tree blossoms. I wonder if, perhaps, the queen has returned to the tree where she found protection in the furrows of its bark from months of freezing temperatures. Having long grown tired of sheltering from winter's onslaught of snow and ice, I, like her, have come out to enjoy the sun and am eager for warm days and sweet blossoms.

During winter's gray days, I often sit at my kitchen table pouring over the many seed catalogs the mailman stuffs into my mailbox. I wile away the evening hours planning and dreaming of gardens to be planted in the spring. Over the years, I have learned that, unless the listener is a gardener, any explanation of my child-like behavior when finding my order in the mailbox is futile; still, every year, nothing fills me with more unabashed joy than receiving the seeds I have selected for my summer garden.

As I survey the blooming spring bulbs, I am yearning to start my seeds the last weekend in March.

The set up I put in my basement is simple and effective. I purchase the seed starter trays complete with peat pellets and clear dome tops, which can easily be found in most stores with a garden shop. When planting day comes, I add warm water to the trays and wha—la! Instant peat pots in plastic netting. I sprinkle a few seeds on top of the peat moss, cover them with a thin layer of sand, pop on the domes and place under the shop lights. I use the inflorescent plant tubes, but good success can come with using the standard inflorescent tubes. I hang the lights on chains about eight inches from the trays and raise them as the plants grow. Once the seeds have sprouted, I remove the domes, water as needed and leave the lights on for twelve hours a day. The warmth from the lights, furnace, dryer and hot water heater makes the basement an ideal 'hot house' for my thriving miniature garden.

Gazing out across the greening lawn, I hope I might catch a glimpse of the queen searching for a rodent hole in which to start her brood. Nothing moves except the wind through the chimes. Too early, I think as I settle back against the garden bench and smile—dreaming again. Mother's Day weekend my transplants will be ready to set out in the gardens. Yes, come summer the queen will send her sons and daughters to feed from the liatris, butterfly weed, purple coneflower, salvia, monarda, rudbeckia, aster, sunflower, zinnia and marigold flourishing in the garden where she visited me today.

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## Correction

Josh Shroyer is a forester with the Missouri Department of Conservation, and all references to the DNR should have been MDC in the Chapter News from the Osage Plains Chapter, Page 5, March–April 2003 issue. Thanks to Larry Rizzo for bringing this to my attention.

## MONPS Chapter Web Sites

Kansas City [www.angelfire.com/mo2/kcmonps/](http://www.angelfire.com/mo2/kcmonps/)  
Columbia <http://www.digmo.com/npsboco>

## WWW. SITES FOR MISSOURI BOTANY:

Flora of Missouri Project:  
<http://ridgwaydb.mobot.org/mobot/missouri/>

## OTHER SITES:

KCWildlands: [www.kcwildlands.org](http://www.kcwildlands.org)  
GrowNative!: [www.grownative.org](http://www.grownative.org)

## Welcome to New Members

We are happy to welcome these new and returning members to the Missouri Native Plant Society. We hope you will join us soon at some of our upcoming meetings and field botany trips.

Carol Arnold, Columbia

Dee Dokken, Columbia

Rex and Martha Hill, St. Louis

Lance Jessee, Kansas City

James and Andrea  
Kennedy, Portland

Bob Siemer, Chesterfield

Barbra Stephenson,  
Florissant



# Missouri bladderpod – No Longer Endangered?

*By Tim Smith, Botanist  
Missouri Department of Conservation*

Southwest Missouri's little yellow mustard, Missouri bladderpod (*Lesquerella filiformis*) grows on limestone glades and around limestone outcrops in pastures, lawns, utility corridors and roadsides. It is usually found near eastern red cedars, as that species readily invades thin soils over limestone bedrock in the absence of periodic burning. Missouri bladderpod sites can be most easily spotted in late April or early May, when each plant's wiry stems support racemes of four-petaled flowers about four to eight inches above the ground. In a good flowering year, a limestone glade can be covered with patches of bright yellow that are visible from a distance.

As a winter annual, Missouri bladderpod is well suited to the alternately wet and then desert-like conditions of a limestone glade. Its seeds germinate in the fall and produce tiny rosettes, which are clusters of leaves growing close to the ground. A big rosette of Missouri bladderpod can be covered by a quarter and most are the size of a dime or smaller. The rosette is able to persist throughout the winter despite cold temperatures and frost heaving.

Glades are usually warm and wet in the spring and the rosettes begin growing their flowering stems then. The number of flowering stems varies from one to more than 25 from one rosette. After flowering, fertilized flowers produce spherical fruits that are green and fleshy at first, eventually becoming tan and papery, like air "bladders" containing seeds. By early June, when the glade is hot and dry, Missouri bladderpod stems have withered, and the plant exists there only in the form of seeds which can withstand the summer drought conditions. Not only are that spring's production of seeds present, but also still-viable seeds from previous years are present in the soil's seed bank.

Missouri bladderpod was designated as a federally endangered species in 1987, which meant that the species was considered to be in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. At the time of writing of the federal recovery plan in 1988, the plant was known from only 11 sites in Christian, Dade and Greene counties.

Today, we know of more than 60 sites for Missouri bladderpod, including two in Arkansas. Long-time MONPS member Bill Summers, discovered the plant in northern Arkansas in 1997, on a field trip with the Arkansas Native Plant Society. A search of herbarium specimens in Arkansas revealed an earlier collection from another Arkansas location, which was visited and found to still contain a small population of the plant.

Because of the number of new sites discovered for Missouri bladderpod since 1987, the number of sites in protected ownership and our success in managing the species, the Missouri Department of Conservation, in 1998,

requested that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reclassify Missouri bladderpod from endangered to threatened status. That process has proceeded, and the proposal to reclassify is expected to appear in the Federal Register for public comment in the near future. As a federally threatened species, Missouri bladderpod will continue to receive federal and state protection, but it will no longer be considered on the verge of extinction.



## Plants in the News Support Takes Root In Legislature

On Wednesday, April 2, 2003, HB182, naming big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) as the official state grass, was given initial approval in the Missouri House of Representatives according to the Associated Press.

Representative Bob May, R-Rolla and sponsor of the bill, said Big Bluestem grass has been around for about 10,000 years and usually grows between eight and nine feet tall. "It was important in prehistoric times. And when the first Americans drove the prairies of our state, it was important to them for wildlife habitat. It's a very important species of grass," he continued.

May said the idea for a state grass arose while he was speaking to a group of fourth-grade students in his hometown of Rolla. The students were studying conservation, and he was scheduled to speak about government, so the idea seemed natural, he said.

Also, legislation designating the Norton/Cynthiana as the official state grape was approved by the Senate and sent to the House.

Senator Sarah Steelman, R-Rolla and sponsor of the bill, SB651, is quoted as saying, "This is a very important grape to Missouri's economy and produces over \$8 million in revenue a year. I will say it is a very hearty durable grape that survives Missouri's cold winters and hot summers." Norton grapes were sent to France in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to help that country's wine industry recover from a virus that threatened to wipe it out, Steelman said.

# Missouri's Virginia Sneezeweed Reintroduction Efforts Underway

By Jessica Little, Communications Coordinator  
Center for Plant Conservation  
Missouri Botanical Garden

The only population of Virginia sneezeweed, *Helenium virginicum*, growing in Missouri did not set seed last year. The land it is growing on is not protected from development, grazing or other disturbance. In the event that this plant disappears from Missouri, scientists now have the tools to reintroduce it in the wild.

The Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) has decided to include this plant in its National Collection of Endangered Plants. This living collection contains seeds and cuttings for more than 600 of the country's most imperiled native plants.

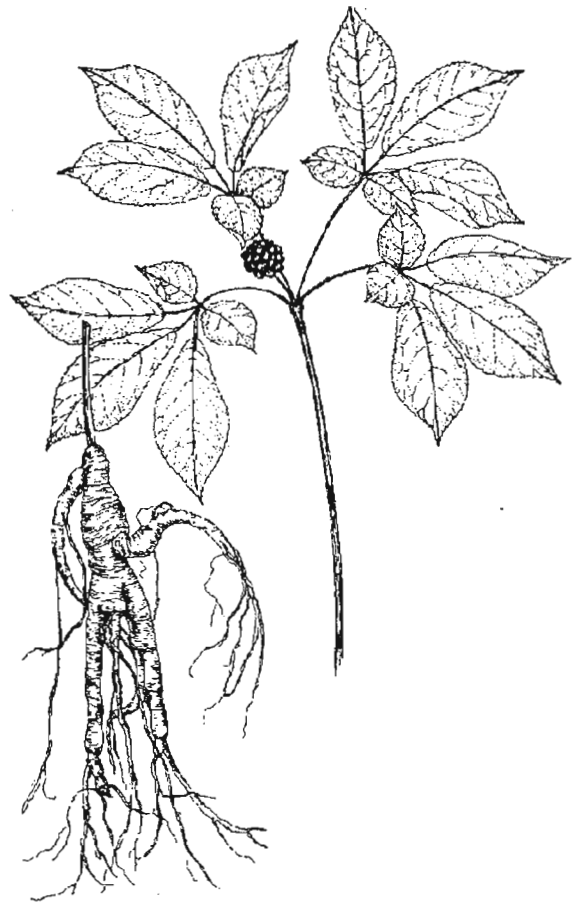
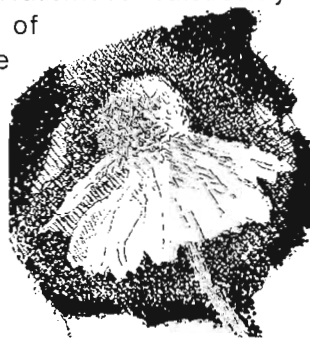
"An important conservation resource, the collection is a back-up in case a species becomes extinct or no longer reproduces in the wild," said Kathryn L. Kennedy, Ph.D., president and executive director of the center. The collection allows CPC scientists to study rare plant life cycles, rare plant storage and germination requirements. The Missouri Botanical Garden, a CPC participating institution, will be the custodian of the species.

Fortunately, scientists from the garden had collected seed from the sneezeweed in 2001 – the last year the Missouri population is known to have set seed. They have since grown about 500 plants for restoration work. In partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), the garden will be providing seedlings for a reintroduction project this spring at MDC managed properties in Howell County.

The sneezeweed occurs only around sinkhole ponds in Missouri and Virginia. While there is one population in Missouri, the sneezeweed has 25 known populations in Virginia. In Virginia, development and the invasion of the non-native purple loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*, threaten the plant. Purple loosestrife is slowly extending its range throughout freshwater wetland areas in Virginia and may invade the sneezeweed's habitat.

The Center for Plant Conservation is dedicated solely to preventing the extinction of America's imperiled, native flora. For more information about the Center for Plant Conservation, please visit the web site at: [www.centerforplantconservation.org](http://www.centerforplantconservation.org).

*Helenium autumnale*  
Drawing by Jim Ziebol



## Herbs, Botanicals & Other Products

By Patricia Ford,  
U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service

Hosted by the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center the web site <http://www.mskcc.org/mskcc/html/11570.cfm> enlightens, informs and provides objective information about various plant products that are used for their medical properties, ostensibly for oncologists and health care professionals.

The site provides important information about interactions, adverse effects, details about the active ingredients, and the benefits and risks of using it.

Their FAQ reports on plants that may pose a health risk, interfere with some medications, cause light sensitivity, or potentially endanger unborn children.

Plants provide an unpurified form of materials that pharmaceutical companies may refine into medicines. In this case, dosage, contamination, and other drug interactions are difficult to control. For medical advice, see your doctor.

# Geocarpon minimum – Rare Plant for a Scarce Habitat

By Betty Walters

*Geocarpon* was not identified by botanists until the early 1900s, and the only known species of the genus is *Geocarpon minimum*. This obscure tiny succulent annual begins its life cycle in winter and dies four to six weeks after setting seed the following summer. No bigger than a fifty-cent piece, it favors eroded areas in grasslands called "slicks," and because the species requires bare mineral soil, it may have always been historically rare.

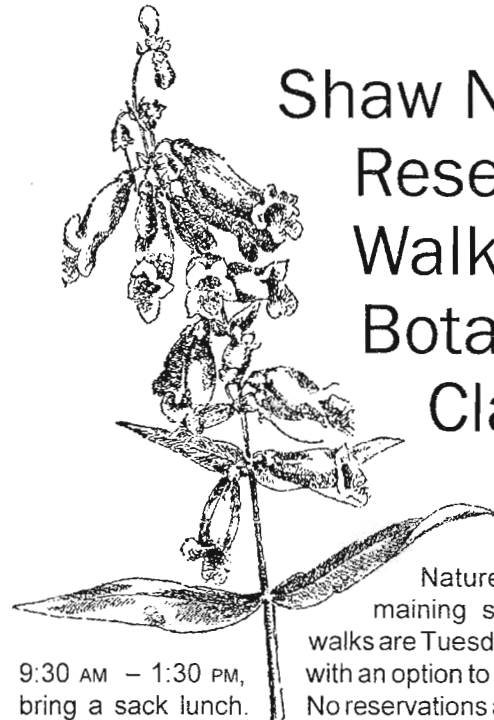
Young *Geocarpon* plants are dull gray in color and turn reddish-purple upon maturity. The green blooms appear from mid-March through early May, lack petals, and may look like leaves as the flowers are borne in the leaf axils. The cup-shaped leaves are sessile and oppositely arranged on the stems. During May through early June, the fruits mature, and the plants die after setting seed. The seeds germinate during December and form tiny clusters of leaves. The rosettes live through the winter and grow to maturity the following spring.

*Geocarpon* occurs in Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana and depends upon a scarce habitat. In Missouri, the 13 known populations are restricted to shallow moist sandy depressions within the sandstone glades of the southwest counties – Dade, Polk, Greene, Cedar, Lawrence, Henry and St. Clair. In Arkansas and Louisiana, *Geocarpon* is confined to open outcrops where the thin subsoil layer is high in concentrations of sodium and magnesium. The soil appears reddish due to the presence of iron nodules, has high root toxicity, and is low in organic matter and poorly aerated. Four populations are known in four Arkansas counties – Bradley, Drew, Cleveland and Franklin.

In time, slicks change by migrating over a restricted area. *Geocarpon* populations must move with them in order to survive; thus, the species is extremely vulnerable to local extirpation if the habitat is not protected. The Missouri Department of Conservation has determined that "*Geocarpon* is threatened by habitat destruction and modification, competition from non-native plant species and lack of glade management," and listed it as Endangered.

*Geocarpon* is listed as Imperiled by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, Threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Imperiled globally.

Missouri and federal law prohibits the exportation, transportation, or sale of plants on the State or Federal lists. To report a sighting of *Geocarpon* contact: Endangered Species Coordinator, or Resource Science Botanist, Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102



## Shaw Nature Reserve Walks & Botany Classes

According to Barbara Troutman, Shaw Nature Reserve's remaining spring wildflower walks are Tuesday, May 6 and 13, with an option to leave at lunch, or No reservations are required.

9:30 AM – 1:30 PM, bring a sack lunch.

The Wildflower Identification and Ecology class will be taught over four individual Saturdays, May 17, June 28, July 19, and Sept. 20, 9:00 AM until noon, and reservations are required.

Trees of the Nature Reserve, will be held Saturday, June 14, 9:00 AM until noon. Reservations are required.

Please call 636-451-3512 for related fees and further information.

### 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: Missouri Native Plant Society  
 PO Box 20073, St. Louis, MO 63144-0073

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- Summer Field Botany & Board Meeting
- Nominations for 2003–2005
- Chapter Meetings, Field Trips & Hikes

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