

Missouri Native Plant Society

July

Payment for your annual Society membership is due this month. Please look for our green renewal envelope, enclosed in this issue for your convenience, and use it to mail your check or money order today.

- 9 Sat., 6:00^{PM}**
Osage Plains **Osage Plains Chapter Tour at the home of Dale Jennings**, Rt. 7, about one mile north of Coal. Our potluck dinner begins at 7:00^{PM}. Please bring a large covered dish for the dinner. Dale and his family will provide wieners and hamburgers. A business meeting will follow the dinner. All interested persons are encouraged to attend for an enjoyable evening. Another field tour in July will be discussed at this meeting.
- 11 Mon., 7:00^{PM}**
Columbia **Scott Hamilton, urban conservationist, Hinkson Creek Watershed Restoration Project, will present “How to Create Rain Water Gardens, Watershed-Friendly Yards, and Riparian Tree Plantings along Local Creeks”** at the Hawthorn Chapter regular meeting, Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Also Scott will give an update on his work with the Hinkson Creek watershed project. For more information contact Paula at 573-474-4225.
- 27 Wed., 7:30^{PM}**
St. Louis **Paul Nelson, Mark Twain National Forest, will present “Can Historical Ecosystems Survive in an Expanding Cultural Landscape?”** at the St. Louis Chapter regular meeting, Powder Valley Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood (off Geyer Road, between Watson and Big Bend). Paul will be on-hand to sign copies of the revised edition of the book **The Terrestrial Natural Communities of Missouri**, which we hope will be published by the date of the meeting. This event is being co-sponsored with Powder Valley Nature Center.

August

- 1** **Due date for material for September-October *Petal Pusher*.** Please send information, photographs and graphics to Betty Walters, MONPS Newsletter Editor, by this date (contact information on back page).
 - 5 Friday**
Osage Plains **An August Field Tour** may be planned—depending on drought conditions. Publicity will be provided beforehand.
 - 19 Friday**
Columbia **Hawthorn Chapter Katy Trail Walk with a dinner at the Winery** in Rocheport is planned. For more information contact Paula at 573-474-4225.
 - 24 Wed., 7:30^{PM}**
St. Louis **St. Louis Chapter regular meeting**, Powder Valley Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood (off Geyer Road, between Watson and Big Bend). Topic to be announced.
- Note:** **The Kansas City Chapter** will be taking a rest until September and have nothing scheduled for July and August.

Dues Are Due

By Ann Earley, Membership Chair

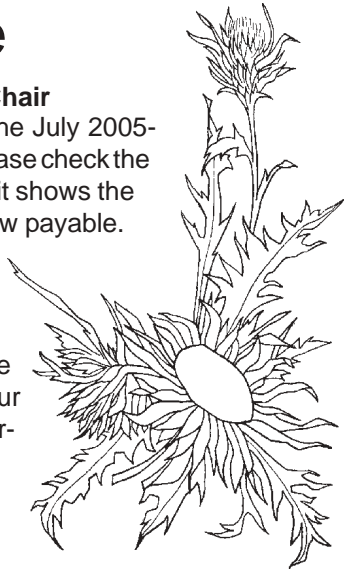
Membership renewals for the July 2005-June 2006 year are now due. Please check the top line of your mailing label. If it shows the date 20050630, your dues are now payable.

To renew please look for the renewal envelope in this issue of the *Petal Pusher*.

Please remember to complete your contact information, and your society and chapter dues preferences.

If you have questions about your membership status, please contact me (see back page for contact information).

We value our members and urge you to renew today!



Passing the Reins

By Kathy Thiele, Immediate Past President

At the June meeting in Kirksville, three new members of the Board of Directors took office. Rex Hill is now President replacing me, Tim Smith is Vice President replacing Jay Raveill, and James Trager is our new Member of the Board replacing Pam Haverland.

Also leaving the Board is Jack Harris, who served as our Immediate Past President. Jack did a great job of helping me transition into the President's office and, hopefully, I will do the same for Rex.

On behalf of MONPS, I'd like to say thank you to all those who have served during my tenure and to those who have accepted the call to serve in the coming years.

Welcome Rex, Tim, and James!

University of Wisconsin Press Announces Publication

Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest

By Andrea Christofferson, Marketing Manager, University of Wisconsin Press

The University of Wisconsin Press is pleased to announce the publication in July 2005 of the long-awaited **Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest: An Illustrated Guide to Their Identification and Control** by Elizabeth J. Czarapata. This book will be an essential resource for all concerned about the growing threat of invasive plants to native ecosystems.

Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest includes more than 250 color photos that will help anyone identify problem trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, sedges, and herbaceous plants (including aquatic invaders). The text offers further details of plant identification; manual, mechanical, biological, and chemical control techniques; information and advice about herbicides; and suggestions for related ecological restoration and community education efforts. Also included are literature references, a glossary, a matrix of existing and potential invasive species in the Upper Midwest, an index with both scientific and common plant names, advice on state agencies to contact with invasive plant questions, and other helpful resources.



Staffs of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Endangered Resources, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum, and other invasive plant experts have carefully reviewed the information in this book.

Elizabeth (Betty) Czarapata (1950-2003) was director of the Weed-Out Program of the Park People of Milwaukee County; a member of the Wild Ones Natural Landscapers and the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin; the founder of the Wind Lake Environmental Club. A schoolteacher by profession, she created a curriculum on invasive plants for environmental educators.

For further information, visit the University of Wisconsin Press website at [<http://www.wisc.edu/wisconsinpress/>]. Look for ISBN 0-299-21050-2 in Cloth \$60.00; ISBN 0-299-21054-5 in Paperback \$26.95.

Editor's Note: Many thanks to Don Kurz for sending us this article about such a worthy publication for our member's library consideration.

Are Increases in White-tailed Deer and Decreases in Native Bees Driving *Trillium* Extinct?

By Tiffany Knight, Assistant professor of Biology, Washington University, St. Louis, MO

You may all be familiar with *Trillium* (recently classified as *Melanthiaceae* instead of *Liliaceae*), a stunning beauty that blooms in the forest understory in the early spring. Several researchers, including myself, have conducted research on *Trillium*, and have made some interesting findings.



Tiffany pollinating *Trillium*.

Fun *Trillium* Facts

There are less than 50 species of *Trillium*, all of which are in North America and Japan.

Trillium has a long life cycle similar to humans—most forest *Trillium* takes 17 years to mature! Flowering *Trillium* are up to 70 years old. The average life span is 39 years!

Once *Trillium* flower, they may flower every year. However, if conditions are harsh, flowering *Trillium* will shift back to a non-flowering state and only make 3-leaves.

Trillium seeds, which germinate below ground, are covered with a sugary substance that ants cannot resist. The relationship with ants and *Trillium* is mutualistic—ants get nourishment from the sugar around the seeds, and in return they move the seeds around which allows *Trillium* to migrate to new areas. However, the average seed germination rate is only 50 percent with just 30 percent of them getting past the 1-leaf stage.

White-flowering *Trillium grandiflorum* produces large flowers that can only be pollinated by large insects, such as bumblebees. If bumblebees do not visit flowers, plants do not produce any seeds. *Trillium* are incapable of mating with themselves.

The rhizome of *Trillium ovatum* (the western equivalent of *grandiflorum*) has been used to stop uterine bleeding.

What Threatens *Trillium*?

The biggest threat to *Trillium* is white-tailed deer. Deer love to eat *Trillium*, and prefer *Trillium* to most other forest plants. Deer primarily eat the flowering *Trillium*. Once the plant is eaten, it cannot re-grow in that season and does not produce any seeds for that year. However, these individuals almost never die (right away, that is). Instead, these plants will become smaller and will not flower in future years, and small plants are vulnerable to death. When deer consume more than 15 percent of the flowering *Trillium* at a site, the population becomes at risk of extinction. The long-term persistence of *Trillium* depends on keeping the deer herd size in check.

Trillium are sensitive to disturbances to the forest. For example, logging of large trees allows more light to enter the forest, which favors shorter-lived plant species rather than *Trillium*. In addition, when deer numbers are high, deer trample plants, eat plants and disturb the soil. These disturbances also favor short-lived plant species, and can favor invasive weeds such as garlic mustard.



Results of a deer enclosure experiment: (left) *Trillium* growing inside enclosure, six years after it was erected; (right) the control plot, an unprotected area, where garlic mustard became abundant.

Editor's Note: The information above is based on Tiffany's study of *Trillium grandiflorum* populations in deciduous forests in northwest Pennsylvania and was presented as part of the Joint May Meeting of the Missouri-Illinois Native Plant societies. A special "Thank you" to **Tiffany** for sharing her time, talents and knowledge and many thanks also to **Judy Turner** for seeking Tiffany's permission to bring this information to our readers.

Last 2005 MONPS Field Trip Set for September

September 16, 17 & 18: Fall Field Botany Trip and Board Meeting to Prairie State Park and vicinity. Visits to southwest Missouri prairies where we will see warm-season grasses and late-blooming composites.

Tim Smith is planning the specifics of this last Society field trip adventure of 2005. Look for all the trip details in the September-October issue!

Ms. Alexandra Harmon-Threatt and Ms. Tara Herring Win 2005 Hudson Fund Award

By George Yatskievych, Hudson Committee Chair

The committee for the Stanton Hudson Memorial Fund for Botanical Research has concluded evaluations of proposals for the 2005 Hudson Fund Awards. The committee members are George Yatskievych, Paul McKenzie, and Paul Redfearn. We are pleased to announce that we had two outstanding proposals for our first annual competition and, with the approval of the Society's Board, were able to make two awards of \$500 each to partially fund these deserving proposals.

Congratulations to both of the recipients of the 2005 Hudson Award! We wish them both success with their studies.

Ms. Alexandra Harmon-Threatt is a student in the Department of Biology at Washington University working under the supervision of Dr. Tiffany Knight. Alex's research concerns a comparison of the pollination biology, breeding system, and seed biology for pairs of related species in which one of the plants is a native species and the other is a non-native invader.

Ms. Tara Herring is a student in the Department of Biology at St. Louis University working under the supervision of Dr. Peter Bernhardt. Tara's research involves the pollination biology and breeding system of yellow ladies' slipper orchids.

Kansas City Chapter

Donates Funds to Restore Glade, Participates in Celebration & Festival

By Sue Hollis, Kansas City Chapter Representative

We elected new officers in January and set up field trips for the coming year. We also voted to give a total of \$750 toward work on restoring a glade on the South Fork Prairie and building new bird blinds at Martha Lafitte Thompson Nature Sanctuary. The blinds will be used in an established outreach program for children of all ages.

Larry O'Donnell gave a program on rain gardens and dealing with water runoff on developed areas using native plants to control erosion at our March meeting.

We visited Isley Park Woods on Lovers Lane in Excelsior Springs on April 2nd. We saw a number of the earliest wildflowers.

We had Earth Day exhibits at the Sprint corporation on Friday, April 22nd, and at Lakeside Nature Center on Saturday, April 23rd. We saw about 2,200 people at Sprint and several hundred at Lakeside.

We visited the Linda Hall Library on Sunday, April 24th to see the viburnum and tree peony collections and a woodland wildflower garden. Because of the moisture in the preceding nine months, everything was looking very good.

Larry Rizzo led us to Salt Fork Fen in Lafayette County on April 30th. There are four listed species there but we identified only the marsh marigold, *Caltha palustris*. The others are sedges, and it was too early to identify them. This is a quaking deep muck fen, and we tested both the quake and the muck.

We had an exhibit at Powell Gardens Annual Spring Gardening Festival and sold plants from Missouri Wildflower Nursery. This is a great opportunity to talk to people about using native plants for many purposes.

All in all, a busy spring!



Ozarks Native Plant Society Chapter

Members Enjoy Noblett Lake Trip

By Pat French Ozarks Native Plant Chapter Representative

We had a great meeting on April 19th with Bill Summers doing a program on Missouri orchids.

Then on April 30th, 18 folks went on a fabulous field trip to Noblett Lake and had a wonderful day doing plant identification with special emphasis on orchids.

Regular meetings are always held at the Ozark Regional Office, Missouri Department of Conservation, 551 Joe Jones Blvd., West Plains, Missouri.

Hawthorn Chapter

Members Enjoy Field Trips, Create Rain Garden & Participate in Celebration

By Judy Turner, Hawthorn Chapter Representative

We had several spring wildflower field trips in April. The first was a visit to one of the most beautiful parks in Missouri, Ha Ha Tonka. At least 25 early spring species were found. Later in the month there was an impromptu trip to the Runge Nature Center in Jefferson City to view the butterfly photo exhibit by Donna Brunet. Several Hawthorn Chapter members took part in Donna's project to count the numbers and species of butterflies seen in Columbia yards last year. And, as usual for this time of the year, many members participated in the Wednesday evening wildflower walks in Rock Bridge State Park with Randal Clark. Columbia's annual Earth Day celebration concluded a very active month for us. Thanks for Becky Erickson and other chapter members who grew, transplanted, and potted all the plants. In addition to selling plants, books, and T-shirts, we had educational poster displays and literature available to the public. Several members participated in the creation of a rain garden for Rock Bridge Elementary School. Prior to the digging and planting of the rain garden, we learned how to design, what good aquatic plants to plant, and the water critters that might inhabit the rain garden.

In May the Hawthorn Chapter had a very informative program on the integration of native plants and wildlife with agriculture.

Presenters were Tim Reinbott, superintendent of UM-C's agronomy research farm (Bradford), Brad Jacobs, and Nadia Navarrete-Tindall. Several on-going surveys of plants, birds, and other wildlife are currently being conducted. One of the most amazing re-discoveries is the presence of ragged orchids, *platanthera lacera*. At last count, there were over 70 of these orchids found. Brad reported a total of about 170 species of birds counted in his monthly surveys.

A joint outing with the St. Louis Chapter brought us to Graham Cave State Park and the Danville Conservation area. Bruce Shuette lead the morning hike in Graham Cave, and John George led us at Danville. It was amazing to see the plant diversity re-occurring at Graham Cave after the latest controlled burn. The Hawthorn folks took an additional side trip to visit the farm of Jim and Andrea Kennedy near Reform (Callaway County). They have (and we saw) over 100 Lady Slippers and about 150 Twayblade orchids. What fun!

Various members continued to join Randal Clark's wildflower walks through Rock Bridge State Park.

Future Activities are Sept. 9th and 10th - Columbia's first Bio Blitz! The defined area will be the Flat Branch Creek watershed; Sept. 17th & 18th - Columbia Heritage Festival; Oct. 16th - Fall foliage hike to Painted Rock State Forest.

St. Louis Chapter

Speakers Highlight Meetings & Members Participate in MO Native Plant Sale

By Martha Hill, St. Louis Chapter Representative

Guest speaker for the regular January 26th meeting was Barbara Perry Lawton who talked about her new book "Hibiscuses: It All Began with Dorothy Lamour." We enjoyed her beautiful slides of *Hibiscus*, and she stayed to autograph copies of her book.

On February 23rd, Don Kurz, renowned author of several native books, gave a presentation on "Just Across the River-Wildflowers of Illinois," which was an overview of his recent publication "Illinois Wildflowers." He is a talented photographer and everyone enjoyed his slides.

Rex and Martha Hill were the speakers for the March 23rd meeting and talked about their trip last November to New Zealand with many interesting pictures of the country and its heritage.

On April 20th Guest Speaker Charlotte Taylor talked about the *Rubiaceae* family, which includes *Galium* (Bedstraw), *Hedyotis* (Bluets), *Cephalanthus* (Buttonbush) and *Mitchella* (Partridge Berry) in Missouri. A combination of slides and line drawings were very interesting and everyone enjoyed learning important facts about stipules in identifying members of this family.

Charlotte brewed some decaf coffee made from coffee beans for part of her demonstration.

A MONPS Display was set up at the Missouri Native Plant sale at the Shaw Nature Reserve on May 6th and 7th. In addition to brochures that were handed out, 15 T-shirts and one bandana were sold. Two memberships were purchased. Jack Harris reported that Saturday morning there was a nearly continuous visitation to the MONPS exhibit booth. Quite a bit of literature was distributed. MONPS and Grow Native! flyers and brochures were of interest. Several questions were received inquiring about how to control harmful exotics—prompted by the exhibit panel on that subject. Many thanks to those who volunteered their time, energy, and photo imagery toward making the MONPS participation a success: **John Oliver, Mary Smidt, Kathy Thiele, Pat Harris and George Yatskievych.**

The Hawthorn Chapter and the St. Louis Chapters organized a May 15th field trip to Graham Cave State Park and Danville Conservation Area with Bruce Schuette and John George leading the group.

KU Researcher Plans National Effort to Create 'Waystations' for Monarchs

LAWRENCE — University of Kansas ecology professor Orley "Chip" Taylor is starting a national effort to create 10,000 "monarch waystations" over the next three years to help preserve and stabilize the dwindling numbers of monarch butterflies in the United States.

"We need a large-scale effort to help preserve the monarch," said Taylor, who serves as director of Monarch Watch, an outreach organization based at KU that is dedicated to tracking the monarch's migration and conserving its habitats for the last 14 years. "The idea is to get everyone who is interested in the monarch butterfly and those interested in gardening to create monarch habitats."

These habitats contain milkweeds and nectar plants, Taylor said. Monarchs lay eggs on milkweed plants, and larvae use the plants to feed until they become adult butterflies. The adult butterflies feed by obtaining nectar from flowers.

The monarch population has declined since its peak in 1996, Taylor said. Urban sprawl and the use of herbicide-resistant crops, plus an unusually cool summer in 2004, caused the monarch population to shrink to one-tenth its size compared to its peak and one-fourth its size during an average year.

In recent years, development, especially in prime monarch breeding grounds of the upper Midwest of the United States, is eliminating habitats for monarchs. According to the American Farmland Trust, farm and ranch land is disappearing at the rate of 3,000 acres per day or 1.2 million acres per year. During a five-year period starting in 1992, six million acres of farmland—an area the size of Maryland—were converted into subdivisions and other developments.

Widespread adoption of herbicide-resistant soybeans and corn in the past five years has resulted in the loss of at least 80 million acres of monarch habitat, Taylor said. In the past, farmers used tilling to control weeds, which always left enough milkweeds and nectar plants around for monarchs to sustain themselves. With herbicide-resistant corn and soybeans, however, farmers spray herbicides more liberally, leaving far fewer milkweeds and nectar plants available for monarchs.

To offset the loss of milkweeds and nectar plants, Monarch Watch wants individuals across the nation to create Monarch Waystations as a way to preserve these key sources of food. Waystations can be created in home gardens, schools, parks, zoos, nature centers or anywhere there are unused plots of land.

"This effort won't replace the amount of milkweed that has been lost or even keep pace with the habitat losses each year," Taylor said. "On the other hand, waystations will get the public involved in the conservation effort and hopefully these people will educate their fellow citizens. We are losing wildlife habitat at an incredible rate, and we have to do something about it to avoid losing the monarch butterfly."

Monarch Watch has developed a waystation kit that includes information about how to create the best habitat for monarchs. The kit contains seeds for milkweeds and nectar plants and are available for a small fee by going to [<http://www.monarchwatch.org/ws>] or calling 800-780-9986.

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.

Nevin Aspinwall, Kirkwood

John Stolarski, St. Louis

George Van Brunt, St. Louis

Ana Grace, Webster Groves

Kathy Tenorio, St. Louis

Diane Kuschel, Columbia

Darin Banks, Prairie Village, KS



MONPS Chapter Websites

KANSASCITY

www.angelfire.com/mo2/kcmonps/

COLUMBIA

www.digmo.com/npsboco

SITES FOR MISSOURI BOTANY

Flora of Missouri Project:

<http://ridgwaydb.mobot.org/mobot/missouri/>

Atlas of Missouri Vascular Plants:

http://biology.smsu.edu/herbarium/atlas/atlas_of_missouri_vascular_plant.htm

READER'S SITES OF INTEREST

KCWildlands: www.kcwildlands.org

GrowNative!: www.grownative.org

National Plant Conservation Campaign:

www.cnps.org/NPCC

Native Plant Conservation Campaign News

Recent news from Emily B. Roberson, Ph.D., director Native Plant Conservation Campaign, includes an article from the University of California-Berkeley and an article from the Xerces Society, a Native Plant Conservation Campaign cooperating organization.

Dainty pink Mt. Diablo Buckwheat Rediscovered

By Robert Sanders

Media Relations UC Berkeley

24 May 2005 BERKELEY, CA - A petite pink flower that hasn't been seen in 70 years has been rediscovered on the flanks of Mount Diablo in Contra Costa County by a University of California-Berkeley graduate student.

The Mount Diablo buckwheat, *Eriogonum truncatum*, "has been a Holy Grail in the East Bay for several decades," according to UC Berkeley botanist Barbara Ertter, who confirmed the identification in the field on Friday.

Last reported in 1936, the flower was presumed extinct, she said, because its habitat has been overrun by introduced grasses. It is one of only three plants, all of them rare, that are endemic to Mount Diablo.

Xerces Society Releases List of North America's Most Vulnerable Pollinators

For more information contact Scott Hoffman Black

Executive Director of the Xerces Society; 503-534-2706

26 May 2005 PORTLAND, OR - The Xerces Society, in cooperation with scientists across the United States and Canada, has produced the Red List of Pollinator Insects of North America. The Xerces Society Pollinator Red List includes 115 species and subspecies: 57 butterflies, 2 moths, and 56 bees from across the US and Canada. Each species has a brief status review that distills the current state of knowledge of life history, distribution, threats, conservation needs, and research needs into a single document.

Pollinators are keystone species in terrestrial ecosystems. They provide the critical ecological function that guarantees rich and diverse plant communities, which, in turn, provide food and other commodities for us, and form habitat for wildlife.

Many of the pollinators included in the Xerces Red List suffer from destruction of their habitat for intensive agriculture and urbanization. Pesticides have negatively impacted pollinator populations, and pose a continuing threat. Introduced diseases and parasites are a leading factor in the decline of several species.

To view the complete Red List go to [www.xerces.org].



Illustration by Paul W. Nelson, reprinted with permission from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, originally published in the book **Spring Wildflowers of Missouri State Parks** by Bruce Schuette.

Indian paintbrush

Castilleja coccinea is a partial parasite and sometimes penetrates the roots of other prairie plants.

Flowers are actually inconspicuous greenish yellow and hidden in the axils of the brilliantly colored bracts, which can occur in red, orange, and yellow.

Its hairy, short, oblong, basal leaves form during the first year. Leaves on the hairy unbranched stems are alternate, sessile, and narrow to linear with a fingerlike appendix.

Look for this plant April-July in fields, prairies, and glades in both very dry and wet situations statewide, except northwestern Missouri and Southeast Lowlands.

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
 Kansas City \$5.00
 Osage Plains \$5.00
 St. Louis \$5.00
 Ozarks Native Plant \$5.00

(Circle all that apply)

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

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- Annual Society Membership Is Due
- Officers & Board Members Take Office
- 2005 Hudson Award Winners Announced
- Tiffany Knight's *Trillum* Research

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