

# Missouri Native Plant Society

## September

- 4**      **Sun., 9:00<sup>AM</sup>**      **Kansas City Chapter field trip to Jerry Smith Farm Park to see fall wildflowers**, including the eared false foxglove. Meet at the Walmart parking lot. Bring water. For more information contact Sue Hollis at 816-561-9419, <ferngro@att.net>.  
Kansas City
- 11**      **Sun., 9:30<sup>AM</sup>**      **St. Louis Chapter field trip to Shaw Nature Reserve**. Join Members of the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society, who will be visiting the St. Louis area. Meet at the Visitor's Center inside the entrance on the south side of I-44 at Gray Summit.  
St. Louis
- 12**      **Mon., 7:00<sup>PM</sup>**      **Hawthorn Chapter regular meeting** at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Speaker to be announced. For more information contact Paula Peters at 573-474-4225.  
Columbia
- 15**      **Thurs., 7:00<sup>PM</sup>**      **Kansas City Chapter regular meeting** at the Discovery Center, between KFC and Brush Creek at 4750 Troost. Program to be announced. For more information contact Sue Hollis at 816-561-9419, <ferngro@att.net>.  
Kansas City
- 16-18**      **Fri.-Sun.**      **Society State Board Meeting and Field Trip to Prairie State Park**. See Page 3 for details.
- 17 & 18**      **Sat. & Sun.**      **Heritage Festival**. Please plan to help with the Hawthorn Chapter booth. For more information contact Paula Peters at 573-474-4225.  
Columbia
- 17**      **Sat., 5:00<sup>PM</sup>**      **Osage Plains Chapter walking tour of Bud and Carolyn Henzlick's farmstead** south of Appleton City about 2½ miles – Gardens, special crops, about four buildings of agricultural antiques, and a green house – 6:00<sup>PM</sup> Pot Luck dinner. Bring a large covered dish of food to add to the meal. All are welcome, but remember to bring food. A business meeting will follow the meal.  
Osage Plains
- 23-24**      **Fri.-Sat.**      **Bioblitz at Little Creek Nature Area, 2295 Dunn Rd, Florissant**. Join us at 3:00<sup>PM</sup> Friday and 10:00<sup>AM</sup> Saturday to inventory the plants.  
St. Louis
- 28**      **Wed., 7:30<sup>PM</sup>**      **Alexandra Harmon-Threatt of Washington University** will present "Pollination Systems in Native and Non-Native Plant Species Pairs-What's the Buzz?" at the St. Louis Chapter regular meeting, Powder Valley Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood (off Geyer Road, between Watson and Big Bend).  
St. Louis

**SEE PAGE 2 FOR OCTOBER EVENTS**



## October

- 1**            **Deadline for the November-December *Petal Pusher*.** Please send information, articles, photographs and graphics to Betty Walters, MONPS Newsletter Editor, <bettyluvsinsects@yahoo.com> by this date.
- 15**           **Sat., 9:00AM**            **Ozarks Native Plant Society Chapter field trip to Grand Gulf State Park** in Oregon County (Thayer area) until Noon. For more information contact Pat French at 417-255-9561 Ext. 222 (w).
- 16**           **Sun.**                    **Hawthorn Chapter fall foliage hike to Painted Rock State Forest** and lunch in Westphalia. Columbia For more information contact Paula Peters at 573-474-4225.
- 16**           **Sun., 8:00AM**           **St. Louis Chapter field trip to “The Hiram Hideaway,”** a 200-acre property of MONPS member Kevin Bly and his family in Wayne County. Meet in the commuter parking lot on the W side of I-55 at Reavis Barracks Road for car pooling. Bring a lunch, drink and the usual field gear. St. Louis
- 22**           **Sat., 9:00AM**           **Kansas City Chapter field trip to Hidden Valley Park to see fall foliage and Goldie’s fern.** From I-435 in Missouri, take Parvin Road exit and turn left/west onto Parvin Road. Turn left/south onto Bennington Road and then right/west onto Russell Road. The parking lot is only a couple of blocks. For more information contact Sue Hollis at 816-561-9419, <ferngro@att.net>. Kansas City
- 26**           **Wed., 7:30PM**           **St. Louis Chapter Annual Members’ Night Slide Show.** Share your slides or other photographs from trips taken during the year. Photos of mystery plants are also welcome. Enthusiastic photographers should bring up to their 20 best shots to give all a chance to show-off their treasures at the regular meeting, Powder Valley Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood (off Geyer Road, between Watson and Big Bend). St. Louis
- 29**           **Sat., 10:00AM**           **Missouri Chestnut Roast at Franklin Farm** until 4:00PM. Please plan to help with the Hawthorn Chapter booth. For more information contact Paula Peters at 573-474-4225. Columbia

## 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.

**Chris and Jessica Brown**, Gray Summit

**Ken and Ginny Brown**, St. Louis

**Betty Drees**, Overland Park, KS

**Adrian and Jennifer Brown**, St. Louis

**Mary Voges**, House Springs

**Retha Edens**, Arnold

**Harvey Welch**, Kirkwood



## Has Your Membership Expired?

**By Ann Earley, Membership Chair**

We certainly hope not!

Please check the top line of your mailing label. If it shows the date 20050630, we have not received your dues for our new membership year, which begins in July and ends in June. Unless we receive your dues renewal very soon, this issue of the *Petal Pusher* may be your last.

To renew, please use the form on the inside back page of this newsletter. If you have questions about your membership status, please contact Ann Earley (see back page for contact information).

We value our members and urge you to renew today. Please don't expire!

# Last 2005 MONPS Field Trips Set for September in Three of Missouri's Premier Prairies

By Tim Smith, Field Botany

## Friday, September 16

**7:00<sup>PM</sup>** – Cyndi Cogbill of Prairie State Park will present a program on the park in a meeting room off the lobby of the Super 8 motel in Lamar.

## Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>

**8:00<sup>AM</sup>** – Meet in the Lamar Super 8 parking lot for drive to Prairie State Park. Bring picnic lunch.

Directions to morning field trip: Take Hwy 160 west from Lamar ca. 12 mi to Hwy NN. Turn right (north) onto Hwy NN, go 1 mi north, then turn left (west) onto Central Rd. At 1 mi, turn right (north) onto 130<sup>th</sup> lane and park along road. We will explore the 40 ac. prairie on the west side of 130<sup>th</sup> lane.

**11:00<sup>AM</sup>** – Leave field trip area by getting back onto Central Rd. and continuing west for 2 mi to 150<sup>th</sup> Lane. Turn right (north) onto 150<sup>th</sup> Lane and proceed about 1.3 mi to Visitor Center on right, where restrooms are available. We will leave the Visitor Center and continue north on 150<sup>th</sup> Lane for ca. 0.6 mi to a picnic area on the left where we'll have lunch. There are shade, picnic tables and privies at this site.

**1:00<sup>PM</sup>** – Leave picnic area for afternoon field trip to MDC's 160-acre Wah-Sha-She Prairie in Jasper County.

Directions to afternoon field trip: Retrace route above to get back to Hwy 160 south of Prairie State Park. From Hwy 160/Hwy NN intersection, go east on Hwy 160 for ca. 2 mi to Hwy 43. Turn right (south) onto Hwy 43 and go south for ca. 13 mi to Hwy M in Jasper Co. Turn right (west) onto Hwy M and go ca. 6 mi to southeast corner of Wah-Sha-She Prairie. Turn right (north) from Hwy M onto gravel road and go ca. 0.2 mi to parking area for prairie, on the left.

**ca. 4:00<sup>PM</sup>** – Leave Wah-Sha-She Prairie for return to Lamar via Hwys 43 and 160.

**7:00<sup>PM</sup>** – MONPS Board meeting in meeting room off lobby of Super 8 Motel in Lamar.

## Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>

**8:00<sup>AM</sup>** – Meet in Lamar Super 8 Motel parking lot for short drive to Treaty Line Prairie, ca 3 mi southeast of Lamar. Take Hwy 160 east of Lamar for ca. 2 mi, turn right (south) onto SE 40 Lane. Go south for 1.5 mi, then turn left (east) onto SE 20 Rd. At ca. 0.5 mi, Treaty Line Prairie is on the right.

### Lodging Information

Lamar Super 8 Motel  
Jct. of Hwy 71 and Hwy 160  
417-682-6888

Ask for MONPS rates

Single rooms - \$48.59 + tax  
Double rooms - \$55.79 + tax

Another option is the Blue Top Inn in Lamar  
417-682-3333



JUNE 2005 - Members of the Missouri Native Plant Society hike through the Morris Prairie Conservation Area during the annual summer field trip. Photo by Martha Hill.

## Ken and Marlene Morris Are Presented with Society's 2005 Stewardship Award

By Tim Smith

In 1989, Marlene Morris contacted the Missouri Department of Conservation to report that she and her husband Ken had a remnant prairie on their property in Sullivan County. She recognized several native prairie plants that were growing there.

A MDC biologist visited the site and confirmed that the Morris's indeed had a high-quality 40-acre prairie, a true rarity in north-central Missouri. That initial contact was the first step in a series of events that has resulted in the management and permanent protection of a diverse, north Missouri prairie.

The Morris prairie is home to more than 200 species of native plants, including the state-listed wood lily, auriculate false foxglove, pale gerardia, tussock sedge and dwarf chinquapin oak. Marlene personally noted the wood lily from the tract, leading to its confirmation and reporting as the only extant site in Missouri by Greg Gremaud in *Missouriensis* (2001).

Ken and Marlene have been excellent stewards of the prairie during their ownership, cooperating with MDC to facilitate prescribed burns, the cutting of woody vegetation, brushhogging, herbicide application, seeding of some areas and the harvest of native plant seeds.

The couple have welcomed many visitors to the prairie over the years, including MONPS and participants of the North American Prairie Conference that was held in Kirksville in 2002.

The Morris's have worked with MDC to provide permanent protection for the prairie. This year, Ken and Marlene moved back to Iowa, and MDC took over ownership of the site as the Morris Prairie Natural Area on the Morris Prairie Conservation Area.

For their excellent stewardship of an important site for Missouri's native plant resource, Ken and Marlene Morris are presented with the Missouri Native Plant Society's Stewardship Award for 2005.

## Become a 'Citizen Scientist' for the Missouri Botanical Garden

**ST. LOUIS** - Are you concerned about the spread of harmful invasive species and want to help reduce their ecological and economic damage? Now you can make a difference as a Citizen Scientist for the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Citizen Scientists are volunteers who receive expert training to identify and track important plant invaders in our area. They locate where these invaders have arrived and get that information to those who can do something about it. These volunteers contribute vital invasive species data directly into a national database. Regional agencies that manage for invasive species receive regular updates on this tracking data to help them take appropriate action.

"The Garden is committed to mitigating the spread of invasive species," said Dr. Kim McCue, conservation biologist at the Missouri Botanical Garden. "The Citizen Scientists will be part of a nationwide effort to document and report occurrences of invasives."

Because species become evident at different times of the year, two training sessions will be held. The first began in early August 2005 with a second session in Spring 2006. Training is free of charge. Volunteers must be age 16 or older. No experience is required, only a willingness to learn and complete the training.

For more information, please call the Missouri Botanical Garden's Volunteer Program Office at 314-577-5187, or e-mail <jackie.juras@mobot.org>.

The Missouri Botanical Garden's mission is "to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment, in order to preserve and enrich life." Today, 146 years after opening, the Missouri Botanical Garden is a National Historic Landmark; a center for research, education and horticultural display; and the 2004 winner of the *Horticulture* Magazine and American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta "Garden of Excellence" Award.



Show hosts David and Molly. Photo by Kindra Cineff, Animal Planet.

## Tune In!

**Submitted By Nels Holmberg**

The National Wildlife Federation has teamed up with Animal Planet to create "Backyard Habitat," a new television series that makes the planet a better place for animals, one backyard at a time.

Hosted by David Mizejewski of the National Wildlife Federation and TV personality Molly Pesce, each episode presents fun and simple ways to attract wildlife to your property, whether it's a balcony in the city or a large backyard.

From butterfly gardens to turtle ponds to bird feeders, learn how to build, landscape and create a certified habitat at home where you can enjoy the simple pleasures nature has to offer every day. Aired weekdays at 11:00<sup>AM</sup> E/P through September.

Tell a friend—visit [<http://www.nwf.org/backyardTV/show/>].



## Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge Activities Calendar Fall 2005

**Submitted By Corey Kudrna**

September 10<sup>th</sup>, 9:00<sup>AM</sup>-3:00<sup>PM</sup>\*\* Prairie restoration/invasive plant work day work sponsored by Friends of Squaw Creek, Prairie Committee.

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:00<sup>AM</sup>-4:00<sup>PM</sup>\*\* - 17th Annual fall work day sponsored by the Friends of Squaw Creek.

October 8<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am-4:00pm\*\* - Refuge headquarters opens for fall weekends.

October 9<sup>th</sup>, Refuge Big-Sit\*\* - Sponsored by the Midland Empire Audubon Society.

**October 9-16 National Wildlife Refuge Week**

October 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:00<sup>AM</sup>-4:00<sup>PM</sup>\* - Midwest Colleges invasive plant control work day sponsored by the Friends of Squaw Creek.

October 29<sup>th</sup>, 9:00<sup>AM</sup>-4:00<sup>PM</sup>\* - Prairie restoration/invasive plant restoration work day work sponsored by Friends of Squaw Creek, Prairie Committee.

\*Activities are weather dependent and may be canceled due to inclement weather. Please call Corey at 816-383-0034 to inquire about cancellations. Safety is a primary concern of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and for this reason all work-day volunteers will need to wear work boots, long sleeve shirt, and long pants.

\*\* Call the refuge headquarters for details at 660-442-3187.

## Terrestrial Natural Communities of Missouri Is Now Available

**By George Yatskievych**

The Missouri Natural Areas Committee announces that the new book **The Terrestrial Natural Communities of Missouri** by Paul Nelson has been published.

The new edition is about three times as thick as the old 1985 one and contains a fully revised classification system for Missouri's natural communities. It is illustrated with numerous maps and color photographs and provides much more detail on each community type.

The book features a lengthy set of introductory essays on presettlement communities in the State, the factors that influence their abundance and distribution, and the reasons why changes to these communities have accelerated over the past few hundred years.

The book has been published in hardcover by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, which advises that a limited number of copies are available. The retail price is \$29.95.

**The Terrestrial Natural Communities of Missouri** is available at Missouri State Parks and Missouri Department of Conservation offices and nature centers and is also available through the Garden Gate Shop at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Copies may be ordered from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Visitor Services Program by calling 800-334-6946 (tax and shipping charges will apply).

# The Thistle That Isn't

By Edgar Denison

**Editor's Note:** Originally published in *Nature Notes*, Vol. 49, No. 2, Feb. 1977, the *Journal of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society* [www.wgnss.org] and reprinted here in its entirety with the expressed permission of James F. Adams, *Nature Notes* Editor. Many thanks to Tim Smith for bringing this informative article detailing Edgar's original research to our attention. Read recent information about this plant at [http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/ncnu02/v5-174.html].

For years, those of us who feed the birds in winter have found that goldfinches and pine siskins prefer "thistle seed," and as we love our feathered friends, we have graciously shelled out more "dough" to attract these lovely and hungry customers. Long ago I wondered what kind of thistle this seed came from—with a growing suspicion that this was not the seed of a thistle. First inquiries established the fact that the seeds come from Ethiopia, that mysterious wonderland in Africa. All further efforts to find out more about this thistle seed were fruitless. Then, in 1975 I grew some of these seeds. They germinated almost as thick as grass under the feeders, where careless finches dropped them in large quantities. The plants grew and in no way resembled anything that looked like a thistle. But frost came before they flowered. In 1976 I started them early, lined them out in the garden and some dozen plants flowered profusely.

Now, in 1976, in some stores there appeared a second name for this seed, Niger. On questioning I was told that one wholesale house of seeds used that name.

The plants grew about one meter tall from procumbent (trailing) stems which are dull red at the base for about 10 cm. Red streaks continue as fine lines up the many-branched stems. The flowers are golden yellow, definitely composites, with considerable variation in the number of ray florets, but generally with 6 to 10. The flowerheads are about the size of a one-half dollar coin. The rays are quite irregularly toothed, and the general appearance is strikingly similar to our Beggarticks (*Bidens polylepis*). But this similarity is restricted to the flowerheads. The leaves are totally different. Our African plant has opposite leaves without petioles (leaf-stems), but with small teeth. The leaf shape is narrow, pointed, with a rounded lower portion, and a length of up to 12 cm. The plant is so floriferous that it could be grown as a garden subject.

But what was this, our non-thistle? Armed with specimens I went to the Herbarium of the Missouri Botanical Garden and started to go through their huge collection of African composites. Luckily, an expert taxonomist, Dr. William D'Arcy, took me by the hand, and in a short time the mystery plant had a name, *Guizotia abyssinica*, a member of a large genus indigenous to Africa.

From there another step produced a fabulous three volume German book set, published in Berlin in 1895, **Die Pflanzenwelt Ost Africas und er Nachbargebiete**, (The Plant-World of East Africa and Neighboring Territories). Here we are told that the English name is Niger and the Ethiopian, Nukk or Nehuk. The book has an excellent illustration and a most detailed description of the plant. More important is that *Guizotia abyssinica* is native to Ethiopia and grows wild at elevations between 1,900 and 3,000 meters, roughly from 5,000 to 10,000 feet. It is much cultivated because the seeds are rich in oil that is primarily used for human consumption. We learn that the seeds are roasted over a fire, then pulverized, and the oil boiled and skimmed off. Why pressing would not be easier remains an unanswered question. The seed are so oil-rich that an oily spot can be seen if we step accidentally on them. The oil is light yellow, thin flowing, clear and has a nut-like taste. The seeds are black, about 4-6 mm long, narrow and pointed.

Cultivation seems to be quite primitive. After plowing in early July seeding proceeds, and without any fertilization, after three month harvesting begins. It appears that growth so close to the equator is much more rapid than in our latitude.

Another publication, "Agriculture in Ethiopia" published in 1961 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations tells us the *Guizotia abyssinica* is extensively grown all over Ethiopia, and that large quantities of seeds are exported. In this pamphlet the plant is called Nug, and we learn further that the oil is not only for human consumption, but also for making soap

Being an excellent source of oil, the plant and some of its near cousins has been brought into cultivation on a large

scale in India. Some years back, the U.S. Government tested the growing of Nug in our country. The trials were abandoned because the oil was considered to be less valuable than others which we have available in abundance.

There were quite a few other facets concerning *Guizotia abyssinica* that I wanted to explore, but my letter to the Ethiopian Embassy remained unanswered. Dr. Fred Meyer, the supervisory botanist of the Herbarium of the United States Agricultural Research Service, a good friend of mine and who has been in Ethiopia several times collecting plants, told me that the embassy had nobody with any knowledge of botany or agriculture. He furnished me with interesting information for which I gladly thank him.

Now that you know that the "thistle seed" which we have been buying is NOT from a thistle, you can go to your feed store and ask for *Guizotia abyssinica* seed. Unfortunately, this display of knowledge may not save you any money!



## Society Members Visit Morris Prairie & Union Ridge CA on Saturday

Article By Rex Hill, President

The summer heat (and it was hot!) did not prevent 15 members of MONPS from attending the field trips scheduled during the Annual Membership and Quarterly Board meeting held in Kirksville, MO.

On Saturday morning, June 25<sup>th</sup>, we visited **Morris Prairie Conservation Area** in Sullivan County, a new Missouri Natural Area and soon to be MDC property. Prairie restoration is underway to an area prized by the Morris family for its rich and diverse native plant life. George Shurvington, the Wildlife Management Biologist for MDC in Kirksville gave us a great introductory talk after which we hiked from the old home site to one of the fields responding to a burn regimen where we saw the following quality plants with Coefficient of Conservatism (**COFC**) > 5:

- *Arnoglossum plantagineum* (*Cacalia plantaginea*, *C. tuberosa*) - Indian plantain (FL)
- *Baptisia alba* var. *macrophylla* (*B. leucantha*) - White wild indigo (FL)
- *Carex bicknellii* - Sedge (FR)
- *Carex festucacea* - Sedge
- *Carex stricta* - Tussock sedge (FR)
- *Ceanothus americanus* - New Jersey tea, Wild snowball (FL)

- *Coreopsis palmata* - Finger coreopsis (FL)
- *Echinacea pallida* - Pale purple coneflower (FL)
- *Eryngium yuccifolium* - Rattlesnake master, Button snakeroot (FL)
- *Festuca paradoxa* - Cluster fescue
- *Lespedeza capitata* - Round-headed bush clover, Roundhead lespedeza
- *Liatris pycnostachya* var. *pycnostachya* - Button snakeroot, Gayfeather
- *Melanthium virginicum* - Bunchflower (FL)
- *Parthenium integrifolium* - American feverfew, Wild quinine (FL)
- *Phlox pilosa* - Prairie phlox, Downy phlox (FL)
- *Quercus prinoides* - Dwarf chestnut oak, Scrub oak, Dwarf chinquapin, Dwarf chinkapin
- *Salix humilis* - Prairie willow, Dwarf gray willow, Sage willow
- *Silphium laciniatum* - Compass plant (FL)
- *Sporobolus heterolepis* - Prairie dropseed
- *Veronicastrum virginicum* - Culver's root (FL)

Two sedges, *Carex bicknellii*, and *C. stricta* along with *Quercus prinoides* are state-listed plants.



*Melanthium virginicum*



*Silphium laciniatum*

In the afternoon we traveled with George Shurvington to **Union Ridge Conservation Area**, also in Sullivan County. Here we visited several areas undergoing restoration to hill-top prairie areas, separated by steep valleys that support more woody flora. This visit was brief (because of the heat), but we saw a number of species including:

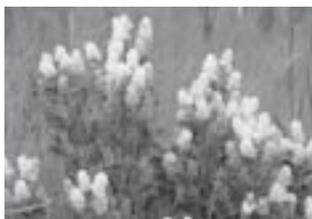
- *Allium stellatum* - Wild onion, Pink wild onion (FL)
- *Amorpha canescens* - Lead plant (FL)
- *Asclepias purpurascens* - Purple milkweed (FL)
- *Ceanothus americanus* - New Jersey tea, Wild snowball (FL)
- *Coreopsis palmata* - Finger coreopsis (FL)
- *Lilium michiganense* - MI lily, Turk's cap lily (FL)



*Coreopsis palmata*



*Echinacea pallida*



*Ceanothus americanus*



*Asclepias tuberosa*



*Rudbeckia hirta*

## And Conclude Field Trip on Sunday Hike at Atlanta/Long Branch CA

All Photos by Kathy Thiele, Immediate Past President



Newly installed MO Native Plant Society President Rex Hill presides over his first Quarterly Board Meeting.

On Sunday morning the group left Kirksville and headed south to the **Atlanta/Long Branch Conservation Area** in Macon County. In the slightly cooler morning temperatures, we visited a prairie restoration area familiar to **Tim Smith** where quite a few quality plants were thriving, including:

- *Agrimonia parviflora* - Swamp agrimony, Many-flowered agrimony
- *Amorpha canescens* - Lead plant (FL)
- *Apios americana* - Groundnut, American potato bean
- *Arnoglossum plantagineum* (*Cacalia plantaginea*, *C. tuberosa*) - Indian plantain (FL)
- *Asclepias purpurascens* - Purple milkweed (FL)
- *Baptisia alba* var. *macrophylla* (*B. leucantha*) - White wild indigo (FL)
- *Calystegia spithamea* (*Convolvulus spithameus*) - Low bindweed, Dwarf morning glory (FL)

- *Ceanothus americanus* - New Jersey tea, Wild snowball (FL)
- *Coreopsis palmata* - Finger coreopsis
- *Dalea candida* var. *candida* (*Petalostemon candidum*) - White prairie clover (FL)
- *Dalea purpurea* var. *purpurea* (*Petalostemon purpureum*) - Purple prairie clover (FL)
- *Echinacea pallida* - Pale purple coneflower (FL)
- *Eryngium yuccifolium* - Rattlesnake master, Button snakeroot (FL)
- *Festuca paradoxa* - Cluster fescue
- *Gentiana puberulenta* - Prairie gentain, Downy gentian
- *Heuchera richardsonii* - Prairie alum root (FR)
- *Lespedeza capitata* - Round-headed bush clover, Roundhead lespedeza
- *Liatris aspera* - Rough gayfeather
- *Liatris pycnostachya* var. *pycnostachya* - Button snakeroot, Gayfeather
- *Lythrum alatum* var. *alatum* - Winged loosestrife
- *Parthenium integrifolium* - American feverfew, Wild quinine (FL)
- *Salix humilis* - Prairie willow, Dwarf gray willow, Sage willow
- *Scleria triglomerata* - Tall nut grass, Whipgrass

In attendance on the field trips were: Ann Earley, Patricia French, Martha & Rex Hill, Sue Hollis, Nels Holmberg, Paul McKenzie, Marlene Miller, Ed O'Donnell, Jay Raveill, Dan Rice, Bob Siemer, Tim Smith, Kathy Thiele, and Judy Turner.

Thanks to **Paul McKenzie** for the sedge identification brush-up on Friday evening and to his vigilance in looking for sedges on the field trips.

**Note:** Normally we would have twice (or more) the number of members in attendance at these field trips.

The weather was definitely a factor, but *don't* forget

the next trip scheduled for September 16, 17, and 18 at **Prairie State Park** in western Missouri.

It should be a great trip (and somewhat cooler). Besides the great prairie plants, we should see American bison, scissor-tailed flycatchers (the Oklahoma State Bird), crayfish burrows, numerous butterflies, and good friends.



**Kansas City Chapter Members** (L-R) Ed O'Donnell, Dan Rice and Sue Hollis (Back) examine the native flora at Morris Prairie CA.



**St. Louis Chapter Members** (L-R) Bob Siemer, Ann Earley and Nels Holmberg search for state-listed plants at Morris Prairie CA.

# Petals & Wings

Betty Walters, Editor



"Gardening is civil and social, but it wants the vigor and freedom of the forest and the outlaw." ~Henry David Thoreau

No, Mr. Thoreau did not live in our time; perhaps, if he had, he might have been pleased to visit my untamed gardens and those of some wild gardeners I fondly call my friends.

Could it have been my childhood love of the cool forest and sunny field? The rebel, who views conformity as a waste of time? Or the artist, who paints with texture, form, line and color? Or the poet, who weaves words from the senses and emotions? Or was it the committed student of the natural environment, who learns through observing? Or was it simply my laziness? I can not say for certain what led to my skewed perception of what a garden should be, but I think it had a lot to do with life—some gardens have it; some gardens do not.

Foundation plantings of exotic shrubs bore me. Folks mowing, watering and fertilizing acres of lawn grass bewilder me. Trees grown too large along sidewalks and at the corner of houses grieve me. Flowering plants confined to the back garden of the house, or in a few pots on the front porch, dismay me.

There are no foundation shrubs in front of my house, or in the back, or on the side. There is a lawn here, but I never water or fertilize it, and since I have lived here, there is less of it. The trees I planted are in the back yard—across the entire swath of what was once nothing more than a grass lawn. There is plenty of room for them to grow, sink their roots into the dark soil and spread their sturdy limbs unrestricted to the sun and sky. The flowers are everywhere: front, side and back of the house and in pots on the porch too.

My neighbors all came over, one by one, after I moved in and started planting in my wild beds. I talked to them about how and why I was using perennial native plants: less maintenance and more butterflies, beneficial insects and birds. They lowered their heads, seemed to listen and went home to continue maintaining what they call their "traditional gardens."

When my neighbors stop by to visit me now, they ask what plant this or that is in bloom, shake their heads, call my gardens "mixed beds," and say I "can get away with anything in them."

Where I plant verbena, my neighbors plant petunias. Where I plant salvia, they plant geraniums. Where I plant rudbeckia, coneflower, sunflower, goldenrod and aster, they plant mums—every year. Where I plant wild roses and native hydrangea, they plant forsythia and burning bushes. Where I plant fruiting trees, they mow the grass. Where I plant herbs and vegetables, they mow more grass.

While I leisurely sit on my garden bench and watch the robins, cardinals, blue jays, mourning doves and mockingbirds devour the feast of blackberries and mulberries, my neighbors sit and watch their spouse, or hired men, mow the grass and manicure the shrubs. While I am astonished by the different bees gathering pollen, and butterflies and day-flying moths sipping nectar, they water their lawns. While I observe how the goldfinches and purple finches relish the coneflower and sunflower seeds, they go indoors complaining about the heat and their parched lawns. Alone, I linger in my wild gardens listening to a male cardinal sing the last song of the day from his high perch in the walnut tree. I welcome the twinkling constellations as they begin to appear in the darkening sky and am amazed as hundreds of fireflies take flight from their hiding places among the native plants. Soon I hear the garbled voices from televisions drifting through the widows of my neighbor's houses as they settle in for the night.

Yes, I think I may understand what Mr. Thoreau was trying to say—some gardens are wild and filled with the mysteries of life; some gardens are not.



## Visit the Missouri Native Plant Society Website for the Latest Information

Robin Kennedy, University of Missouri Herbarium, Columbia, is a member of our Board of Directors and serves as our Society's webmaster. Robin has done an excellent job of constructing our site on the World Wide Web [[http://www.missouri.edu/~umo\\_herb/monps](http://www.missouri.edu/~umo_herb/monps)].

Learn the new requirements for earning the Society's Badge of Achievement, "Wear the Coneflowers!" and read our Mission Statement and by-laws by following the links on the Homepage.

Get an update on the latest future statewide Field Botany Trip itineraries (with related accommodation arrangements) and the meetings and hikes for each affiliated chapter by clicking on the **Calendar** button.

If you are interested in native plants, the **Images** button will take you to our members' photos. If you are a member and would like to contribute one, or several, of your own native plant photographs, please contact Robin for guidelines today at [umoherb@missouri.edu](mailto:umoherb@missouri.edu).

Read several recent selected features of interest from the *Petal Pusher*, the MONPS newsletter (such as "Gardening with the Natives" and digital photography), download and print five of the Society's brochures on plant-related topics and check out our publications of interest by clicking on the **Publications** button.

You will find contact information for Chapter Representatives, can download and print the Society's brochure and become a member of our Society by clicking on the **Membership** button and following the instructions.

The **Links** button will open a page to other native plant sites for your enjoyment, which you can peruse at you leisure. Links to gardening organizations will be added soon.

If you have not visited our site, do so now, and be sure to add it to your favorite sites and visit often!

## MONPS Websites

### KANSASCITY

[www.angelfire.com/mo2/kcmonps/](http://www.angelfire.com/mo2/kcmonps/)

### COLUMBIA

[www.digmo.com/npsboco](http://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](http://biology.smsu.edu/herbarium/atlas/atlas_of_missouri_vascular_plant.htm)

### READER'S SITES OF INTEREST

**KCWildlands:** [www.kcwildlands.org](http://www.kcwildlands.org)

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

#### National Plant Conservation Campaign:

[www.cnps.org/NPCC](http://www.cnps.org/NPCC)

**Garden Clubs** \*NEW\*

#### Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri, Inc.:

[www.federatedgardenclubsofmissouri.org](http://www.federatedgardenclubsofmissouri.org)

**Mid-Central District:** [www.midcentralmo.com](http://www.midcentralmo.com)

## Retired Mechanic Finds New Flower Species in Arkansas

**Submitted By Emily B. Roberson, Ph.D. Director Native Plant Conservation Campaign**

From Associated Press - Thursday, June 16, 2005

Hiking in the Ouachita Mountains one day, retired mechanic John Pelton's eye caught a pink flower that he hadn't noticed before. The man with a passion for plant life couldn't figure out just what kind of flower he had found in Saline County. He contacted Theo Witsell, a botanist with the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, who couldn't find the plant in any books or on any web sites. Witsell spent years classifying the plant and will officially unveil it as a new species found only in two rare Saline County habitats in an article to be published next month in the botany journal *Sida, Contributions to Botany*.

The small, pink flower is named Pelton's rose-gentian. "It's bloomed in Arkansas beside all the known species for years," Witsell said. "It's not every day that you find a new plant species in a temperate climate like North America."

The plant is rare because its habitat is rare, Witsell said. In one spot it grows in a bed of igneous rock covered with about a foot of soil. In the other location, shale rock deposits create the same conditions. "Many plants growing here are holdovers from a drier age, a more desert-like Arkansas that existed about 5,000 to 8,000 years ago," Witsell said.

Pelton is a former president of the Arkansas Native Plant Society. He only became interested in botany when high winds would sometimes spoil his fishing trips. While waiting for the winds to subside he spent time photographing wildflowers in the Arkansas hills.

## Hawthorn Chapter Report

**Submitted By Judy Turner, Chapter Representative**

During June, nine chapter members traveled to Bill Haag's property in Callaway County to view his four glades. The glades are approximately 200 acres out of his 850 acres. His goal is to restore the land that has not been disturbed, like the glades and savannas. Restoration has included removal of cedar trees. Extremely high quality examples of historic native remnants have been found. According to Becky Erickson, "The large glade seemed to have everything you would expect on a glade." Some folks saw glade plants they had never seen before. Unfortunately, restoration of the previously farmed bottom-land has not yet been successful. This property is also known to contain historic house-sites from the Civil War Reconstruction days when slaves were given 40 acres and a mule. The cabin on the property was built using the salvaged square logs from the old houses.

Our chapter is participating in the first (hopefully, annual) Native Plant Field Days at the University of Missouri-Columbia Bradford Research & Extension Center. Sessions will include educational displays and discussions. Tours of the Center will highlight native plant gardens for wildlife, prairie and wetland restoration, prairie birds, quail management with native plants, agroforestry with native cool season grasses and legumes, and beneficial insects associated with native plants. Many of these tours include viewing research and demonstration plots which have been developed by agriculture graduate students at UM-Columbia.

## Kansas City Chapter Report

**Submitted By Sue Hollis, Chapter Representative**

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, we met at South Fork Prairie in northern Cass County. South Fork is the property of Dave and Kathy Winn and has never been plowed. It has a high level of diversity. We meet there every year to count the Meade's milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*). Only 15 were found this year, considerably down from prior years. We speculated that the very moist fall and winter had favored other forbs, which were much more robust than usual. There may have been more milkweeds hiding in the taller vegetation. Dave's mother and his high school biology teacher, both delightful people, joined us.

We then went on to Snowball Hill Prairie, another privately owned unplowed property, which covers a small hill and much diversity from top to bottom. As at South Fork, the best bloom was going well, presenting a lovely view of the many species of wildflowers. We also determined that the tick populations are very healthy at both locations.

A customer at the Powell Gardens plant sale was very unhappy about her plant order that was lost. Dan Rice and I found that we could supply all the plants she wanted from stray seedlings in our own gardens. When I delivered the plants and told her they were free, she insisted that she pay something. I told her we could accept a \$5.00 contribution to our research grant fund. She wrote a check; when I got home and looked at it, the amount was \$25.00.

# Osage Plains Chapter Report

## Submitted By David Lindel

May 16<sup>th</sup> - The monthly meeting was held at the Missouri Department of Conservation Headquarters meeting room, Clinton, attended by 20. Two years of service in the Peace Corps in Gambia, Africa, was summarized by Sherry Leis, Grassland Botanist, Missouri Department of Conservation. Sherry provided an excellent discussion and slide show of her work. With an academic background in environmental biology and anthropology, she highlighted the Gambian people's culture and use of various plants needed for food. Sherry wore full dress, bright colored clothing from Gambia and emphasized their work to encourage appropriate forestry management to maintain the productivity of forests needed to maintain their people.

June 20<sup>th</sup> - The monthly meeting was a picnic (pot-luck) at Artesian Park, Clinton, attended by 18. Lawrence Lewis demonstrated their solar panel oven in preparation of baked beans—very resourceful. In addition to enjoying lots of good food and conversation, we discussed the following business items: the next field tour, June 25<sup>th</sup> on Corps property near the Deepwater Wildlife use area; the special tour and pot-luck evening meal on the property of Dale Jennings and family, July 9<sup>th</sup>. This has become an annual event, since we tour his property where he has planted thousands of native warm season plants purchased from various companies.

Collection of Osage Plains Chapter and Missouri Native Plant Society dues was conducted, and others not in attendance will be contacted in the immediate future.

The change in date to Saturday, September 17, 5:00 PM with Bud and Carolyn Henzlik south of Appleton City was discussed. This has become an annual meeting and pot-luck evening meal.

A final special event was the dedication of trees secured and planted by Jerry Payne. A dogwood had been planted in memory of William Howard Jones and a maple tree had been planted in memory of Ruth Jennings. These memorial trees remind us of their concern and work in the Osage Plains Chapter during their life-time and are a living reminder of the value they placed on maintaining the beauty of our environment. Photographs were taken of Ola Jones, sister-in-law of William Howard and Dale Jennings, husband of Ruth and those in attendance by each tree for a news photo story.

## FIELDTRIPS

### Summary by Jim Harlan

May 29<sup>th</sup> - Our regular field trip was canceled due to the 3-day holiday weekend. Some of us attended a survey for Mead's milkweed at Wah-Kon-Tah Prairie. A few were found, and pictures were taken. Three club members assisted. They were Jim & Dorothy Harlan and Peter Nichols. Sherry Leis & Emily Kathol were there with the Missouri Department of Conservation crew.

June 18<sup>th</sup> - Special field trip to private land (owned by David Strange) in the Iconium area. The purpose was to assist the landowner with identification of plants on his property. We joined another group, Crater Critter Community Council, for the tour. The following people from the Osage Plains Chapter attended. Dale Jennings, Jerry Payne, Jim & Dorothy Harlan, Linda Bishop, Betty Swihart and Larry & Ruth Lewis. After the tour most of us had lunch at the Toadsuck Grill in Iconium.



# Ozarks Native Plant Society Chapter Report

## Submitted By Pat French, Chapter Representative

The Chapter had a booth at the Old Time Music Festival in West Plains on June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and used the NPS exhibit. Many folks visited the booth, and much interest was generated.

A regular chapter meeting was held on June 21<sup>st</sup> at the Missouri Department of Conservation Ozark Regional Office in West Plains, and there were 19 folks in attendance. The program was on invasive species. Melanie Carden-Jessen provided copies of Tim Smith's *Plants That Won't Stay Put* brochure and also copies of the Missouri Vegetation Management Manual inserts on invasive species and their controls. There was a lot of good discussion and good information on the subject.

A copy of Steyermark's has been donated by a chapter member, and a subcommittee will be working on a plan for raffling or other fund raising effort.

The next meeting was planned for 6:00PM on August 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Ozark Regional Office, and the topic was on seed starting.

The next field trip will be to Grand Gulf State Park in Oregon County, (Thayer area) on October 15<sup>th</sup> from 9<sup>AM</sup> to Noon.

# St. Louis Chapter Report

## Submitted By Martha Hill, Chapter Representative

### FIELDTRIPS

June 11<sup>th</sup> - Nels Holmberg invited members to help collect plants at the Marshall I. Diggs Conservation Area for herbarium specimens. Due to the storm the previous day, Nels couldn't make it, and Jeannie Moe led the expedition.

June 12<sup>th</sup> - The Hawthorn Chapter sponsored a joint field trip for both St. Louis and Hawthorn chapters to the Bill Haag property in SE Callaway County. The location was 700 acres of private property where restoration has been in progress for about three years. There is a 200+ acre glade and much work has been done for ruffed grouse. This property still has historic house sites from post Civil War era. Country is rough, but there are logging/farm roads through the property. It has been featured in at least two Conservationist articles in the last two years. Tom Westhoff (MDC PLC) was our tour guide.



# Tidbits



## In Arizona, Remove Grass, Get Rebate

By The Associated Press FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. - Pulling up grass in Flagstaff could earn homeowners some greenbacks.

The City is offering a one-time \$500 rebate to households that remove at least 1,500 square feet of grass and replace it with rock or hardy native plants that require little water.

The average homeowner uses about 72 gallons annually to water each square foot of grass, according to the Bureau of Reclamation.

Adam Miller, Flagstaff water conservation manager, expects up to 20 households a year to take advantage of the rebate.

**Submitted By Kathy Thiele**



## Seed ID Website A Must See

Check out this seed identification website [<http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/seedid/search.asp>].

You can search for photos of seeds by scientific or common name and there's a basic or advanced quiz you can take. I think I'll look a little more closely at the seeds next time I'm in the field.

**Submitted By Kathy Thiele**



## Desert Wildflower Images Are Cool

Looking for an indoor activity while waiting for the heat wave to pass? Recommend exploring the web page listed below. Set aside 10 minutes or so—it's worth it. WHO'D A THUNK IT? California desert images that are really, really COOL!

### NATIVE PLANT CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN NEWS

We don't usually do this, but this southern California wildflower photo site is so incredibly gorgeous, that it must be shared. This is what we are all fighting for [<http://feralflowers.com>]. Thanks to the Native Plant Society of Oregon for finding this.

Enjoy!

Emily B. Roberson, Ph.D. Director Native Plant Conservation Campaign

**Submitted by Jack H. Harris**



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**.

## Rose Verbena

***Glandularia canadensis*** a low growing (1-foot) sprawling member of the Vervain family.

Five-lobed tubular flowers are in terminal clusters and vary in color from pink to magenta to rose-purple.

Leaves to three inches are variable, opposite, on petioles, 3-divided with toothed lobes.

Look for this plant March-November on dry hillsides, waste places, glades and woodland borders statewide. Rose verbena is an excellent choice for front of the border planting in commercial and home flower gardens and attracts the day-flying Hummingbird clearwing and Snowberry clearwing moths, as well as several butterfly species.

### 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.

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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9 digit Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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## Inside This Issue

- September Field Botany Trips Set
  - Ken & Marlene Morris Receive Award
  - Reprint of Edgar Denison's 1977 Article
  - June Field Botany Trips Plant List with Photos
- 

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