

September-October 2007

Vol. 22, No. 5

Missouri Native Plant Society

Calendar of Events

Hawthorn Chapter

Monday, Sept. 10: Regular program and business meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Universalist Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, Mo. The program will be presented by Shane Pruett, doctoral candidate in fisheries and wildlife. He will present the results of research on birds in the bottom land hardwood forests in southeast Missouri compared to central Missouri.

Saturday, Sept. 29: South Farm Showcase. Tour the farm throughout the day and learn about ongoing research on native plants, turf-grass, water quality, alternative fuels, beef and agroforestry. Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hawthorn Chapter plans to have its usual booth with plants, books and educational display and materials.

Saturday, Oct. 13: Fifth Annual Chestnut Festival at the University of Missouri Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center in New Franklin, Mo., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hawthorn Chapter plans to have its usual booth with plants, books and educational display and materials.

Monday, Nov. 12: Regular program and business meeting at 7:30 p.m. Possible new meeting place to be announced.

Kansas City Chapter

Thursday, Sept. 20: Meeting at the Discovery Center, 4750 Troost, Kansas City, Mo. Topic to be determined. Meeting starts at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 22: Head to Jerry Smith Park to look for downy gentian and other late summer/early fall bloomers. The stunning blue downy gentian is a visual treat on the late summer landscape. From Interstate 435, take Homes Road south to 139th Street, immediately south of the Blue River bridge. Turn left (east) onto 139th and go three-fourths of a mile to the park entrance on the left. Take the dirt road about a third of a mile to the parking area. The group will gather at 9 a.m.

Saturday, Oct. 13: The chapter will gather at Maple Woods to view the colorful fall display of sugar maple trees and other autumn blooming plants, possibly small orchids and Indian pipes. Take North Oak Trafficway north to 76th Street. Go east on 76th Street about 1.25 miles. Parking area is on the south side of the street. The group will gather at 9 a.m.

Ozarks Chapter

Sunday, Sept. 9: Field trip to view the peak bloom of thousands of

rough blazing star plants (*Liatrix aspera*) on the glade at the property of Dan Drees and Susan Farrington in Eminence, Mo. Call Susan to arrange car pooling and to get directions. Work: (417) 255-9561 x 307. Home: (573) 226-3004. The trip is scheduled for 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 18: For the chapter meeting, Jack Singleton will present "Wow... I've never been touched by a butterfly!" Don't miss this very enthusiastic and informative presenter. He'll share his inspiration and great practical advice for getting kids involved with nature and native plants. MDC Ozark Regional Office, 551 Joe Jones Blvd., West Plains, Mo. The program is scheduled for 7 p.m. (business meeting open to all at 6:30 p.m.).

Wednesday, Sept. 26: Field trip to White Ranch Conservation Area near West Plains, Mo. Tour of a prairie fen and/or glades. Call Susan Farrington for more information (417) 255-9561 x 307. Meet at the MDC Ozark Regional Office parking lot. The trip is scheduled for 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 16: Chapter meeting: Program to be announced. MDC Ozark Regional Office, 551 Joe Jones Blvd., West Plains. The program is scheduled for 7 p.m. (business meeting at 6:30 p.m.).

St. Louis Chapter

Saturday, Sept. 1: Field Trip to the Wild Canid Center, Buder Site. Meet at Hilda Young Conservation Area at 9 a.m. The trip will be coordinated by Pamela Meyer, education coordinator at the center, and Nels Holmberg.

Wednesday, Sept. 26: Program by Dr. Paige Mettler-Cherry of Lindenwood University: "The Ecology of *Boltonia decurrens* in the Illinois and Mississippi River Floodplains." The program will focus on the conservation and ecology of the federally threatened decurrent false aster. Chapter meeting at Powder Valley Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood (off Geyer Road, between Watson and Big Bend) at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 30: Field Trip to see *Boltonia decurrens* in its natural habitat. Time and place to meet to be determined.

Wednesday, Oct. 24: Members' Night. Share your slides or other photographs from the year. Photos of mystery plants are also welcome. Enthusiastic photographers should bring no more than 20 of their best shots in order to give all a chance to show off their treasures. Chapter meeting at Powder Valley Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood (off Geyer Road, between Watson and Big Bend) at 7:30 p.m.

Have You Expired?

by Ann Earley, membership chairwoman

We certainly hope you have not expired!

Please check the top line of your mailing label. If it shows the date 20070630, 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).

New members

Welcome to these new members of the Missouri Native Plant Society.

John Atwood, St. Louis

Corinne Kozlowski, St. Louis

Brian Mohr, Osceola, Mo.

Jenny Lee, Labadie, Mo.

Dearndia Higgins, Birch Tree, Mo.

Anna Strong, St. Louis

Alex Harris, Independence, Mo.

Harold Draper, Kansas City, Mo.

Wanda Parscal, Holts Summit, Mo.

Jean Everett, Charleston, S.C.

John G. Daniel, St. Louis

Prairie garden tour planned in Hawk Point

The Missouri Prairie Foundation will sponsor a tour of the 20-acre native plant garden of MONPS member Jerry Brown near Hawk Point in western Lincoln County on Sept. 29.

Hawk Point is north of Warrenton on Highway 47.

He has converted an old hay field to 12 acres of prairie gardens ranging from 6 months to 12 years of development. He has also planted many prairie grasses and wildflowers around a small lake, in a large wild bird garden, and along the edge of oak/hickory woodland.

The tour is scheduled for 1:30-5 p.m., and a potluck dinner is planned from 5-6 p.m.

For more information, contact Jerry Brown at jwb175@accessus.net or (636) 338-9298.

Ninth annual Endangered Species Run

The ninth annual Endangered Species Walk/Run Race in Jefferson City is planned for Saturday, Oct. 13.

This event raises funds to restore habitat, conduct research and support education projects for endangered plants and animals in Missouri.

The race starts at 9 a.m. (walk at 8:45) and finishes at the North Jefferson City Pavilion, near the intersections of Highways 63 and 54.

For more information, and to register for the race, visit www.mdc.mo.gov/programs/es_walkrun/ or call (573) 522-4115, ext. 3150.

Class to study La Barque Creek area

Nels Holmberg and Jack Harris have scheduled a class at Meramec Community College on the Wildflowers of the La Barque Creek watershed.

The La Barque Creek Watershed in northern Jefferson County contains some of the most interesting plant life and most striking scenic spots of the St. Louis area.

This class will explore and appreciate this plant life and scenery, as well as the area's geology, biodiversity and preservation efforts.

The La Barque Creek Watershed is a classic example of a relatively healthy/recovering natural landscape that is teetering on the brink of being consumed by development.

The class is sponsored by Missouri Native Plant Society and meets curriculum requirements for the master naturalist certificate offered by St. Louis Community College.

A classroom session is scheduled for 7-9 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 18. Field trips are scheduled for successive Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to noon on Sept. 29 and Oct. 6.

The cost for the class is \$28. Register by going to http://users.stlcc.edu/ClassSchedule/term_search.asp.

Cut flowers for the floral trade

A program on using Missouri native flowers for the floral trade is planned at the University of Missouri-Mountain Grove campus in the southern part of the state.

A program titled "Missouri Cut Flowers: From Field to Market" is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 5.

The free morning session is planned to be open to the public and includes a tour and vendor sales.

An afternoon session is planned to be a workshop on cut flower production and marketing (registration fee required).

The program is conducted in cooperation with the Missouri Grow Native Program.

The campus is located a half mile north of the Highway 60 and Highway 95 exit.

For more information, contact Marilyn Odneal, MarilynOdneal@missouristate.edu or (417) 547-7513.

Native plant school

Programs on prairie reconstruction, native trees and bird habitat are planned at the Shaw Nature Reserve, Gray Summit, Mo.

■ "Prairie Reconstruction: Seeding and Maintenance" is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 6.

■ "Native Trees for Sidewalks, Backyards, and Power Lines" is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 11.

■ "Quail Management for Rural Land-owners" is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 8.

The programs are scheduled for 1-4 p.m. Call Shaw Nature Reserve at (636) 451-3512 to make a reservation. The cost is \$12 for nonmembers and \$8 for members. Fees paid at the Shaw Nature Reserve Visitor Center on arrival.

Shaw Nature Reserve is on Interstate 44, about 32 miles southwest of the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis and 22 miles west of the I-44/I-270 interchange.

Tramping through fen and glade

Missouri Native Plant Society members have a Sept. 14-16 field trip in store for themselves to investigate the savanna of Ha Ha Tonka State Park and the Coakley Hollow Fen at Lake of the Ozarks State Park.

Itinerary

Friday, Sept. 14

7 p.m. — Presentation by Missouri Department of Natural Resources staff at Missouri Department of Conservation's Camdenton Service Center office. The office is on the west side of Highway 5, about 2.5 miles northwest of the intersection with Highway 54.

Saturday, Sept. 15

8 a.m. — Meet for field trips at the MDC office. From there, we will carpool to Ha Ha Tonka State Park, which is 5 miles southwest of Camdenton, off Highway 54 on Highway D.

8:30 a.m.-noon — Explore vegetation of the state park, including Turkey Pen Hollow Savanna and a sinkhole known as Red Sink.

Noon-1 p.m. — Picnic at park picnic area near the post office on Highway D. The area has picnic tables and pit toilets. Bring your own picnic lunch.

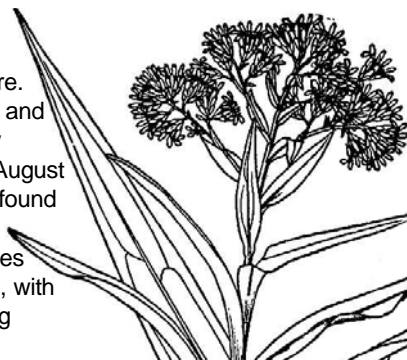
1-4 p.m. — Explore other areas of the state park, including glades and karst features.

7 p.m. — MONPS Board Meeting at MDC's Camdenton office.

Sunday, Sept. 16

8 a.m. — Meet at the MDC Camdenton office for field trip to Coakley Hollow Fen at Lake of the Ozarks State Park, near Ozark Caverns. We'll drive about 4 miles northeast of Camdenton on Highway 54 and turn right onto Highway A. At about 7 miles east of Highway 54, we'll turn north and go about 1.5 miles to the site. We should see blooming Riddell's goldenrod and other glacial relict plants.

Riddell's goldenrod, *Solidago ridellii*, grows three feet tall or a little more. It has thick, smooth stems and flattened clusters of yellow flowers that bloom in late August and continue into fall. It is found in wet prairie or meadow areas in limy soil. The leaves are sickle-shaped, smooth, with no teeth, often folded along midrib.



USDA-NRCS plants database

John Oliver



Rex Hill

Members of the Missouri Native Plant Society plan to visit the savannas of Ha Ha Tonka State Park. Ha Ha Tonka contains one of the largest publicly-owned savanna landscapes left in Missouri. It has been actively managed since 1983.



Eyes will be peeled to find royal catchfly, *Silene regia*. It grows two or three feet tall. The plant is usually unbranched except for the upper flowering stem. The red star-shaped flowers stand out in the prairie. While red doesn't attract bees, it does attract butterflies, which have proboscis long enough to reach down the throat of the catchfly. The flowers have five narrow petals that flare abruptly outward from a long tubular calyx that is about an inch long. The flowers are three-quarters to an inch across and have exerted stamens with grey anthers. The blooming period occurs from mid- to late summer.

Hawthorn Chapter Report

Submitted by Judy Turner, chapter representative

Our chapter tries to balance out our activities between great field trips, educational opportunities, and program/business meetings. It's really hard to determine what to mention first as we thoroughly enjoy all of the activities.

In early June the members of the Hawthorn Chapter participated in the rainy second annual Nature Trail Side Expo sponsored by the city of Columbia and University of Missouri-Columbia.

The rain did not deter folks from visiting our booth and learning about native plants. As a demonstration exercise Nadia Navarret-Tindall and Becky Erickson planted blue lobelia, swamp milkweed, button bush and river oats in the Forum Wetlands near our booth.

The city Parks and Recreation Department is to be commended for their efforts in maintaining and protecting this outstanding wetlands.

On June 21, UM-C's Bradford Research and Extension Center held its third annual Native Plant Field Day. As expected, Hawthorn Chapter members were there with plants, books and educational displays and materials.

Nadia and Becky assisted Bradford staff and others in giving presentations, demonstrations and lectures on native plants, their uses and benefits. This event was well attended by the public, even though it was hot and windy.

At our May program meeting, we were treated to a visual trip by Becky through the Rock Mountain National Park, the Black Hills, various Nebraska prairies and other wonderful ecosystems.

For our July program we continued Southwesterly on another visual trip by Jean Everett, Ph.D, Department of Biology, College of Charleston, S.C. Jean covered three major diverse areas of the Sonoran Desert in her slides. All of us were ready to head to the West and Southwest after seeing these presentations. Jean's parents, Nancy and George Brakhage, are long time chapter members.

Here's an update on our Stadium Project. And NO, we have not been out weeding in the hot weather. Rather, while Becky is obtaining the collection permits for us, we are eyeing areas where we can collect seed for the fall dispersal.

In the meantime, our clearing along Stadium Boulevard has been noticed by the public and has resulted in more wild flowers visible this year than last. We're feeling encouraged!

Have I covered all of our activities?

Oh wait, the field trip to Morris Prairie! It was outstanding!

For those of you state folks who got to tour Morris Prairie a couple of years ago, you should definitely plan a return trip. Greg Gremaud, Missouri Department of Conservation regional naturalist for that area, has done an excellent job of managing this prairie.

Since it was burned last fall, it was lush with new growth. The early species in bloom presented an outstanding display for us to ooh and aah over, even though we were a bit early for the blazing stars or compass plants. It was obvious there would be a riot of color when they did.

Be sure to visit the new MDC interpretative center when you are in Kirksville. It is quite a treat.

Also, I want to mention a great late-May field trip to four prairies in Pettis County. The Paintbrush, Grandfather, Friendly and Drovers prairies were visited. The shooting stars were fading, but other plants were beginning to show their beautiful blooms.

Kansas City Chapter Report

Submitted by Daniel Rice, chapter representative

The Kansas City Chapter doesn't meet during July and August, so our next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 20.

We will also start up our field trip schedule in September with a trip on the 22nd to Jerry Smith Park in south Kansas City. We will be looking for downy gentian and other late summer/early fall bloomers.

Our October field trip is to Maple Woods in north Kansas City. Here we will be viewing the wonderful fall colors of the sugar maple trees found here. Other fall bloomers often seen here are several small orchids and Indian pipes.

Everyone is welcome to join us on our field trips and attend our meetings. If you are interested, please feel free to e-mail me at dtrice95875@aol.com for more information.

Ozarks Chapter Report

Submitted by Susan Farrington, chapter representative

At our June meeting, Missouri Department of Conservation Private Lands Conservationist Brad McKee presented an informative program concerning government funding opportunities for wildlife habitat improvement. He also led a field trip to view an impressive woodland restoration and prairie planting on private property in Howell County.

At our July meeting, Jack and Pat Harris presented a colorful program on the Glade Flora of Missouri.

Bill Summers led several field trips, including one to Galloway Creek and another to Tingler Prairie. Prairie blazing star (*Liatris pycnostachya*) was in full glorious bloom at Tingler, and the introduced population of federally threatened Virginia sneezeweed (*Helenium virginicum*) was also observed to be doing very well.

The Ozarks Chapter donated books to two local libraries. Garnett Library at Missouri State University-West Plains received Volumes 1 and 2 of *Steyermark's Flora of Missouri* by George Yatskievych. The West Plains Public Library received Edgar Dennison's *Wildflowers of Missouri*.



Photos courtesy www.mobot.org

Liatris pycnostachya

St. Louis Chapter Report

Submitted by Martha Hill, chapter representative

In June, the St. Louis Chapter had an evening walk along the trails at Emmenegger Park in South St. Louis County.

George Yatskiyevych, our esteemed chapter president, reports 15 people attended and enjoyed a hike to glades on a ridge overlooking the Meramec River. The hike was cut short because of inclement weather, but several people enjoyed a communal dinner at a local eatery.



Rudbeckia missouriensis



Manfredo virginica

Photos courtesy www.missouriplants.com

On Wednesday, July 25, Pat and Jack Harris gave a presentation of "Missouri Glades and their Flora" to the St. Louis Chapter. Their talk drew a large crowd, and we enjoyed seeing Pat and Jack's beautiful flower pictures in the auditorium instead of our usual meeting room.

Jack talked about the different types of glades and where they are located in Missouri. Pat gave a slide show of plants one would normally see on a specific type of glade, with spectacular close-ups of many of the flowers.

The group met again on Saturday, July 28, when Jack and Pat led us on a tour of Victoria Glade in Jefferson County. Victoria Glade is owned by both the Nature Conservancy and the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Jack pointed out a little seen goldenrod, *Solidago gattingeri*, that is found only in only on glades in Arkansas, Missouri and Tennessee. Although no one expected to see many flowers because of the lack of recent rainfall, there were many blooming plants, such as Missouri coneflower (*Rudbeckia*

missouriensis), rose pink (*Sabatia angularis*), spiked lobelia (*Lobelia spicata*), and blue hearts (*Buchnera americana*).

There were also many interesting seeds from plants such as American aloe (*Manfredo virginica*), Missouri primrose (*Oenothera macrocarpa*), and the glade endemic Fremont's leather flower (*Clematis fremontii*).

In August, we are looking forward to George Yatskiyevych's report on his search for the "little hermit," a new species of parasitic plants in the *Orobanchaceae* family found in the state of Guerrero, Mexico.

WORLD NEWS ROUNDUP

Cheatgrass and western fires

Western states have had problems with rampant fires, and National Public Radio in late July reported that a nonnative grass was part of the reason for the past year's 20% increase.

The NPR article reported from a study that blamed cheatgrass, *Bromus tectorum*, that has grown up in the firebreaks meant to stop fires before they reached people's homes and cultivated areas. The cheatgrass grows fast and dies early, providing dry tinder for starting and spreading fire with an explosive force.

"At that stage, it's almost like gasoline," Utah state fire management officer Sheldon Wimmer told the NPR reporter.

The NPR report said the cheatgrass could be kept in check by spraying with herbicides or by hand cutting, but Wimmer had another strategy, to introduce another nonnative plant to crowd out the cheatgrass. NPR didn't report what the name of the other exotic species.

Lost plants in China

An attempt to rescue plants from the creation of Three Gorges Reservoir in western China has failed.

The funding-starved Three Gorges Botanical Garden for Rare and Specious Plants closed June 9, reports the Worldwatch Institute.

According to ChinaDaily.com, the garden was the brainchild of Xiang Xiufa, a former fish pond farmer who gave up his business to launch the botanical garden in 2002. The effort was supported by China's top botanists and the garden received \$50,000 (the amount according to Worldwatch Institute) from the State Forestry Bureau for its first stage of development.

The Three Gorges reservoir started storing water in June 2003.

Both sources say nearly 10,000 rare plants of 175 species were preserved in the botanical garden.

Emerald ash borer

The U.S. Department of Agriculture was reported in June to be poised to attack emerald ash borer by using three species of imported Chinese wasps to eat the borer beetles.

The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* says government has spent more than \$100 million in the past five years to fight the emerald ash borer, which has been blamed for killing 20 million ash trees in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana and was at Wisconsin's doorstep. The pest has devastated Michigan's ash lumber business — apparently a lot of baseball bats are made from Michigan trees.

Detroit has bucked federal directives to battle the borer by clearcutting trees in the vicinity of infected trees and instead has injected trees with pesticides. The city claims success, with only three of the city's estimated 640 ash trees being infected in the past five years. Detroit said the cost of the program was \$20,000, much cheaper than clear cutting.

Missouri Native Plant Society annual meeting

By Ann Schuette
Secretary

President Rex Hill called the 28th annual meeting to order and welcomed members and guests attending the Missouri Native Plant Society Annual Meeting on June 2 in Dexter, Mo.

Ann Schuette, secretary, recorded the notes.

Although there were no MONPS awards this past year, President Hill reviewed the Hudson Fund award given to Kurt Piskin and awards made to Tom Aley, Ozark Underground Laboratory and the Dan Tenaglia Foundation for the preservation of Natural Areas.

The president presented a summary of the past year's activities including the three field trips to Mingo NWR in the fall, the springs of Missouri in the Spring and the coming field trip to Mingo NWR and Duck Creek CA. He thanked each of the local chapters for their dedication and noted the uniqueness of each mentioning that the Society thrives on the strength of each local chapter. He also thanked Nels Holmberg for promoting the chapter through

the classes offered at Meramec Community College.

There was no Treasurer's report since Bob Siemer was unable to attend the meeting.

The election of the Society's officers and board members was done by acclamation.

The following were elected:

President Rex Hill
Vice President Tim Smith
Treasurer Bob Siemer
Secretary Ann Schuette (replacing Kim McCue)
Board Member (2007-10) John Oliver
Board Member (2007-10) Bruce Schuette

President Hill brought up the planned fall field trip to Ha Ha Tonka and Ozark Caverns. The lodging suggestion in Camdenton, Mo., that was originally provided seems to be full. Sue Hollis had researched additional lodging facilities and shared them with the members. It was noted that camping is also available in the area.

Off the bookshelf: Michael Pollan's 'Second Nature'

By Chuck Robinson
Petal Pusher editor

There is an uneasy truce between gardeners and advocates of native plants and conservation. Gardeners are those profligates to blame for encouraging the spread of ornamental nonnative plants and for wasting natural resources to keep the alien introductions alive where nature did not mean them to go, and the others the sworn defenders of native species.

Yet, both sides also have affection for things green. For both, a colorful flower in a glade beckons and they go bounding. Both have an amorphous ideal to which they aspire, and conflicting notions in their respective skulls about how attain those ideals.

While they agree on many points, the two sides sometimes exhibit the zealotry of conflicting sects.

However, it is important for native plant supporters to consider the points made in Michael Pollan's book "Second Nature: a Gardener's Education" in an attempt to better define what we expect for a "natural area."

The book has a 1991 copyright, but it has recently been reissued with a new cover to capitalize on the popularity of Pollan's "Botany of Desire," which came out in 2001 to rave reviews and his "Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals," which was published in 2006.

In "Second Nature," Pollan offers a series of a dozen essays. In "Weeds are Us," he tackles Ralph Waldo Emerson's

postulate that weeds were simply plants whose virtues hadn't been discovered.

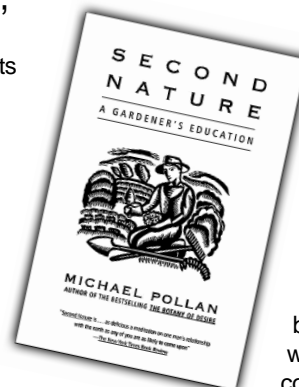
For Pollan, rather than a symbol of nature's vitality, weeds are as much a product of cultivation as the hybrid tea rose: "For where garden plants have been bred for a variety of traits (tastiness, nutritiousness, size, aesthetic appeal), weeds have evolved with just one end in view: the ability to thrive in ground man has disturbed."

Pollan develops and applies these general ideas in a later chapter, "The Idea of a Garden," in which he describes the public discussion of what to do with a revered New England forest of old-growth white pines that were decimated by a tornado in 1989. The issue of what to do with Connecticut's Cathedral Pines drew a public outcry.

On the one hand, the Nature Conservancy and others of the "wilderness ethic" decreed nothing should be done to the tract. It should be left for nature to heal. Since the Conservancy owned the site, that carried much weight.

However, Cathedral Pines was a special place to the wider public. Many weddings took place there and thousands visited annually to commune with nature. The wider public decried the mess wrought by the storms on the site and the possible fire hazard to nearby homes of so much timber and kindling left strewn there.

Pollan asked if nature was best served if exotic weed Japanese honeysuckle over-



took the place. He suggests the place and its future can't be divorced from the influence of people, so people should play a bigger role in determining what is best for it. In effect, he wrote, it should be considered a garden.

"The reason that the wilderness ethic isn't very helpful in a place like Cathedral Pines is that it's an absolutist ethic: man or nature, it says, take your pick. As soon as history or circumstances blur that line, it gets us into trouble," he writes.

In the U.S., we have done a good job of designating areas as sacred, drawing a line around "wilderness areas" but not in managing the other areas, he says. Instead of nature, the market — the god of laissez-faire economics — rules the other areas, the fallen areas that are no longer virgin.

In the case of the Cathedral Pines, a firebreak was created by the nearby homes. Rather than a wilderness or a garden it more resembled a demilitarized zone, or "a perfect symbol of our perverted relation to nature."

These are touches from two chapters of "Second Nature." Besides at libraries, you can find used paperback copies for sale on Amazon.com for \$10, including shipping.

Quarterly Board Meeting

**By Ann Schuette
Secretary**

The following notes were taken at the June 2 board meeting of the Missouri Native Plant Society in Dexter, Mo.

There was no treasurer's report since Bob Siemer, treasurer, was unable to attend the meeting.

Publicity Chairman's Report: Rex Hill announced that Kevin Bley had completed the nomination form as well as the award certificate for the Blazing Star Award. Hill related that it was a "loose" award in that local chapters can do what they want and have a choice as to whether they use the local chapter or state president's name. The PDF format can be sent out and changed as each chapter wishes.

Distribution chairman's report: Bill Knight requested feedback from the local chapters on the latest mailing of the Petal Pusher. No complaints had been received by the chapters. Knight asked chapter representatives to let him know if additional copies are needed. It was agreed that they are good handouts for publicity purposes.

Website: Hill said that after receiving information that people were having problems getting in to the website, Robin Kennedy spent much time addressing the problem and found a software bug. Hill said they assume the problem has been solved. Fact Sheet 5 on invasive plants is now on the site.

Membership report: Although Ann Earley was not present at the meeting, she had sent a report that stated there were nine new members for a total of 320. There is one new life member for a total of 43. She will send out updated rosters to the local chapters.

Archivist report: Jack Harris has been trying to compile a complete set of minutes from all of the MONPS meetings. He now has only two missing – September 1986 and April 1987. He still has a few things to go through and requested that anyone having those

please contact him. President Hill thanked him for all his work.

Ball Caps: Pat Harris led a discussion on purchasing ball caps, including whether to buy patches to affix or caps with a logo or phrase already on them. After much discussion it was decided not to use this as a money-making project but rather for members who wanted them. Hill assured members that the treasury had enough money to cover the cost until the caps were sold. Tim Smith made a motion seconded by Dan Rice that Pat Harris be authorized to purchase 101 caps for \$10 each or less. The motion passed.

Miscellaneous announcements:

■ Tim Smith announced that, in the third year the bill had been nominated, legislation making big bluestem the official grass of Missouri passed and is on the governor's desk for his signature.

■ Paul McKenzie reported that he has been in contact with the Arkansas native plant society about the possibility of a joint meeting. Since both societies seem to be enthusiastic, Paul will continue discussions and report back with several options.

■ The next quarterly board meeting will be in September at the Missouri Department of Conservation office in Camdenton. The speaker is yet undetermined, but will most likely be speaking on savanna work in the area.

■ Marlene Miller asked if plant lists could be compiled for each field trip associated with the quarterly meetings. It was decided that highlights for the September field trip(s) would be brought to the meeting, and Susan Farrington said she would compile the list.

■ John Oliver reported that he had sent on-line CD interest rates to Bob Siemer. It was decided that the CDs would stay where they are for now.

■ Tim Smith said the options for the Sunday field trips leaving at 8 a.m. would be Otter Slough and Holly Ridge conservation areas.

Rolla 4th graders help big bluestem become Missouri's official grass

Big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) was named the official Missouri state grass on June 11.

Legislation sponsored by Rep. Bob May and promoted by four successive classes of fourth graders in Rolla, Mo., was signed into law by Gov. Matt Blunt at

the signing ceremony at a Rolla elementary school.

Big bluestem also is the Illinois state prairie grass.

Kansas State University reports online that big bluestem is also known as turkey-foot, because of the distinctive shape of the

inflorescence.

The grass prefers deep, fertile, dry soils of prairies, plains and open woods. It usually is seen in large clumps. The leaf blades take on a reddish cast after frost.



INFORMATION ON JOINING THE MISSOURI NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SOCIETY DUES

(Chapter dues additional)	
Student dues\$5
Regular\$10
Contributing\$20
Life\$200

CHAPTER DUES

Columbia\$5
Kansas City\$5
Osage Plains\$5
St. Louis\$5
Ozarks Native Plant\$5

Make checks payable to Missouri Native Plant Society

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

Name: _____
 Street: _____
 City, state: _____
 9-digit ZIP: _____ Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

(Circle all above that apply)

Do not publish my name and address in the membership list.
 \$_____ Contribution for student research award (Hudson Fund)

*** All contributions are tax deductible ***

Missouri Native Plant Society
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Missouri Native Plant Society officers and board members

PRESIDENT

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