

Society offers tokens of thanks for members' contributions

At the Missouri Native Plant Society annual meeting on June 21, which convened at the headquarters of the Squaw Creek U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge, two names were added to the society's honor roll of award recipients.

President Rex Hill called on the 2008 Awards Committee to announce the award winners to those attending.

On behalf of the Society the Awards Committee Leader Jack Harris read the citations of the two award winners, Ann Wakeman and Don Robinson.

The awards represent a token of the very high esteem in which MONPS members and friends of our natural heritage hold for Ann and Don.

The recipients were not present at the annual meeting. Their awards were presented to them personally in ceremonies to be conducted at the chapter nearest their respective home areas.

The 2008 Awards Committee members:

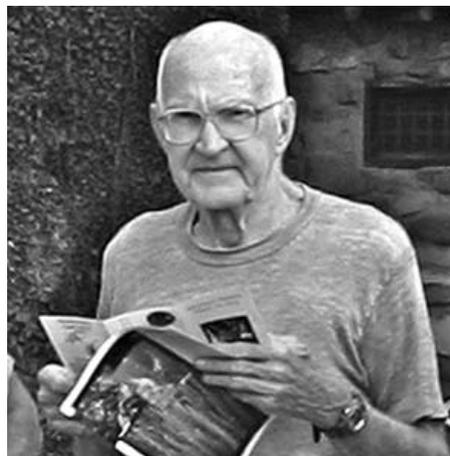
- Larry Morrison
- Judy Turner
- Sherry Leis and
- Jack Harris.



The Missouri Native Plant Society has given Ann Wakeman the Erna R. Eisendrath Memorial Education Award.

Don Robinson has been given the 2008 Plant Stewardship Award in recognition of his commitment to the preservation of a unique landscape of high biologic and scenic quality.

■ Read from the citations on page 3.



Calendar of Events

Hawthorn Chapter

Sept. 6-7: EcoArtFest at Cooper's Landing 2-8 p.m. Set up is at 12:30.

Sept. 8: Regular meeting at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Nadia Navarrete-Tindall plans to give a presentation about a privately owned conservation area in El Salvador, where the owners offer ecotours.

Oct. 18: Chestnut Festival at HARC (the University of Missouri Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center), New Franklin, Mo. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Please plan to help with our booth. Usually many hundreds attend from statewide.

Nov. 10: Regular meeting at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Topic to be announced.

Kansas City Chapter

Thursday, Sept. 18: Chapter meeting at the Discovery Center between KFC and Brush Creek at 4750 Troost, Kansas City, Mo. Program to be determined.

Saturday, Sept. 20: Native plant sale at Jerry Smith Park during Prairie Days festivities. For more information and directions, please contact Daniel Rice at (816) 461-0206 or drice95875@aol.com.

Osage Plains Chapter

Monday, Sept. 15 — Chapter meeting at 7 p.m. at Missouri Department of Conservation Clinton Office, 2010 S. Second St. Malissa Underwood, MDC grassland field station botanist, will discuss plant conservation and recovery efforts in the sandhills of Nebraska.

Monday, Oct. 20— Chapter meeting at 7 p.m. at MDC Clinton Office, 2010 S. Second St. Topic to be announced.

Ozarks Chapter

Chapter meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. at the MDC Ozark Regional Office, 551 Joe Jones Blvd., West Plains. For more information, contact Susan Farrington at (417) 255-9561 ext. 307.

Tuesday, Sept. 16: Chapter meeting. Betty Queen will present a program titled "Elderberries: our Ozarks Natural Resource." Betty will tell us about this incredibly versatile native plant and its many uses, showing us how to make "Elderberry shrub" (an old time refreshing Ozarks drink), jelly, tonic and salve.

Sunday, Sept. 21: Field trip to see the very rare Southern monkshood (*Aconitum uncinatum*) in Shannon County. Meet at the Round Spring parking lot at 11 am. Bring lunch, water and wear sturdy hiking shoes: we'll be hiking a dry (we hope) creek bed. See Dan Drees' article for more information.

Tuesday, Oct.21: Chapter meeting. Program to be announced.

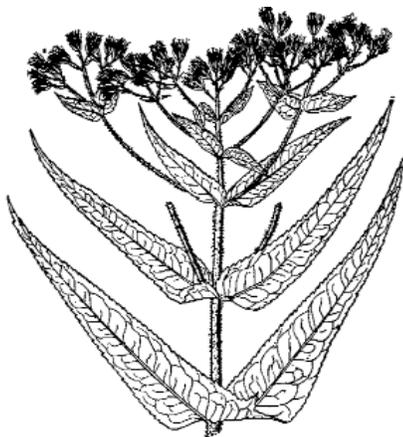
Other field trips: Bill Summers and/or Susan Farrington will likely be leading a few serendipitous field trips (as the spirit and wildflowers move them!). If you are interested, be sure that our secretary Polly Higgins (ozarksnps@yahoo.com) has your email address, and we will keep you informed of our plans.

St. Louis Chapter

Wednesday, Aug. 27: Meet at 7:30 p.m. for a program by Malinda Slagle, restoration ecologist at the Litzsinger Road Ecology Center, on "The Plants and Pollinators of the Litzsinger Road Ecology Center." Meet at the MDC Powder Valley Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood (off Geyer Road, between Watson and Big Bend).

Saturday, Sept. 20: Prairie Day at Shaw Nature Reserve (off Interstate 44 at Gray Summit, Mo.).

Wednesday, Sept. 24: Meet at 7:30 p.m. for a program by Casey Galvin, noted nature photographer, on "Plants of the Southeastern U.S. and their Regions." Meet at the MDC Powder Valley Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood (off Geyer Road, between Watson and Big Bend).



Boneset

Late summer brings Missourians the white flower heads of boneset. There are five common species in Missouri and six other less common ones.

The delicate, dull white flowers of common boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum* — pictured) blooms July through October. The flat-topped flower clusters have nine to 23 florets. It can be found in moist areas statewide. The triangular leaves with finely serrated edges are up to 8 inches long. The leaves are opposite and unite around the stem. They have no petioles. The plant grows up to 6 feet tall.

Late boneset (*E. serotinum*) is a bushier plant, growing 3 to 4½ feet tall. It blooms August through October. Look for it in fields and roadsides near moisture statewide. It has coarsely serrated leaves with long petioles.

Upland boneset (*E. sessilifolium*) can be found in dry, rocky bluff areas statewide except for western counties. The lanceolate serrated leaves have no petioles but they do not unite around the stem as with common boneset.

Award honors native plant advocate

Ann Wakeman has been a leader in the native plant advocacy community of the Columbia/Fulton area for nearly 20 years.

In recognition of her contributions, the Missouri Native Plant Society has presented the Erna R. Eisendrath Memorial Education Award to her.

During that time period she has been active in the Hawthorn Chapter MONPS, held the treasurer's position for the local Wild Ones chapter and served as a grant reviewer for the Wild Ones national organization.

She has been a field trip leader and has conducted chapter-sponsored propagation workshops that are open to interested parties for at least 12 years and regularly assists at educational exhibits during public events in Columbia, such as Earth Day.

Ann has conducted training seminars, workshops and given lectures to and on behalf of the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Grow Native program in Columbia, Springfield, and Kansas City, several Master Gardener chapters in the mid-Missouri area, Audubon chapters, Wild Ones chapters, Show-Me Yard tours for Columbia Parks and Recreation



Wakeman

Prairie", "Watershed Friendly Yards", "Landscape Design Using Native Plants", "Use of Natives for Bird Cover and Food", "New Roadside Seeding Installations", and "Native Plants and Butterflies." The state's new member nurserymen were required to attend her Grow Native seminar on seed succession.

Examples of her publications include articles in *Missouriensis* ("Rediscovery of *Oryzopsis racemosa* in Missouri"), Missouri Conservation magazine ("Landscape Design Using Natives"), and Missouri Prairie Journal ("Prairie in a Seed"). She

Department and the Boy Scouts.

Ann has further shared her wealth of knowledge by leading tours at the Prairie Garden Trust, the Domke's educational center in Fulton. Topics include "Converting Fescue Pasture to Reconstructed

also provided collection information for Clair Kucera's *Grasses of Missouri*.

Ann has been chief consultant or designer and installer of various native plant gardens, all of which are accessible to the public. Some of these gardens are located at the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church Center Headquarters in Columbia, the City of Columbia Forum Nature Area, MKT Trail Head, Stewart Park, Stewart Branch Creek, the Bear Creek Prairie Conservation Community and the wetlands at Forest Park in St. Louis. All of these well-designed native gardens function as interpretative centers for the viewing public.

The above mere sampling of accomplishments describe an exemplary lifelong dedication and persistence in the sharing of her knowledge and caring for Missouri's natural heritage and the role of our native plant community.

In these many ways Ann Wakeman has distinguished herself, the Missouri Native Plant Society, her community and is a role model for all to emulate.

MONPS recognizes land stewardship

Through his life long commitment to the preservation of a unique landscape of high biologic and scenic quality, Don Robinson is an exemplary role model of natural heritage stewardship that all admire.

Don has distinguished himself and is a credit to Jefferson County, to Missouri and to our regional community that values and cherishes our natural heritage. In recognition thereof, the Missouri Native Plant Society has presented the 2008 Plant Stewardship Award to him.

In 1964 Don took the first steps toward realizing a vision for a near pristine landscape homestead by purchasing 320 acres of land in Jefferson County.

This land later became an essential component of the La Barque Creek Watershed Conservation Opportunity Area. The 13-square-mile watershed is considered to be one of the highest quality terrestrial natural community landscapes in eastern Missouri.

Early on Don perceived the larger area's potential and added 40 acres in 1967, and



Robinson

Natural resource specialists have been attracted to the landscape of the La Barque Creek Watershed for several years. The unique watershed geology of steeply carved sandstone canyons and cliffs rimmed by forested dolomite and limestone strata harbor rare micro terrestrial and near pristine aquatic habitats. And the severe relief has tended to impede urban sprawl.

Surveys have determined the area to be of high quality, with listings so far of nearly

in two later transactions closed on additions of 178 and 311 acres.

Those real estate transactions were occasionally protracted but Don persisted and is still active in this endeavor. Today the property comprises a total of 849 acres.

700 vascular plants (416 on Don's property) and 172 bryophytes (131 on Don's property). The area also has 40 species of snails, and 42 species of fish thrive in the sparkling streams.

Many of the above are species of conservation concern and the Robinson property in particular contributes much to the species richness of the area. Don refers to the property as his "Isle of Wonderment".

Characteristically Don's vision extends beyond immediate horizons.

After careful appraisal of many options in the development of an estate plan, his concern for resource preservation and the interpretation and sharing of natural history values with subsequent generations led him to Missouri State Parks. He has created a trust specifying that upon his passing the Missouri State Parks will be the beneficiary of his La Barque Creek Watershed property and that the land will become Don Robinson State Park. Certain other elements of the estate will be conveyed to the Missouri State Parks Foundation.

Hawthorn Chapter

Submitted by Nancy Langworthy, chapter president

What a busy and emotional June! We celebrated Judy Turner's membership and contributions to our chapter and bid her farewell, sadly, at the end of June at a party hosted by chapter newsletter editor Becky Erickson.

Enjoying a buffet of wonderful food plus live music, a full house from the chapter was on hand to applaud Judy with a Blazing Star plaque commemorating her contributions, and Judy then immediately turned around to surprise Ann Wakeman with her plaque for winning the Erna R. Eisendrath Memorial Education Award.

Members didn't just party, either. We started June fulfilling a promise to our colleagues in the Audubon Society by beginning a catalog of native plants at Wild Haven, a property they bought years ago and are working to restore to native beauty. Ten of us came out early one morning and identified about 80 plants (including false dandelion, bellwort and purple milkweed).

Our adopted site along Stadium Boulevard needed some attention, so we pulled baby bush honeysuckle, sweet clover, and the occasional teasel on one blazing hot and humid day when it wasn't raining.

Then Becky single-handedly had another go at spraying the Johnson grass on another drier day. The rain however has promoted a wonderfully colorful and lush display of *Echinacea* and *Ratibida* and lots of *Asclepias tuberosa*.

It appears that all of the redbud seedlings have survived and a good number of the wild plums that were planted in April.

We had booths at two public sales/expos in June, as well. We gave away pamphlets at the Trail Side Nature Expo at the Forum Nature Area where we have worked in past years to plant and mark native plants along the trails. Two weeks later we set up a booth of books and lots of plants also at the University's Bradford Farm Quail and Native Plant Field Day only to be almost blown and washed away in a sudden storm.

By our last planned outing in June before summer heat set in, the bulk of the chapter had cried "enough, already!" and refused the planned Schwartz Prairie trip. Nonetheless, a couple of stalwarts enjoyed a day trip to Hite Prairie at Versailles.

The ground was soggy from never-ending rains so some seldom seen flowers were blooming profusely: bunch flower, wing-stem sunflower, sweet susan. The remains of fringed orchids were still apparent occasionally and, after a snack of juicy dewberries, one Michigan lily graced our view. The rain held off and in all it was a good day and the rest of us regretted our decisions.

Longtime member Jim Whitely has spent decades preserving and propagating native pond plants. In July, a number of his plants went on display at another site, the newly established Jefferson Institute Farm east of Columbia. A large pond on the farm hosts square-stem spike rush, arrowhead, copper iris, striking blue pickerel weed, and, especially, glorious pink fragrant water lilies—all thanks to Jim!

Members at our regular July meeting were treated to an excellent presentation by a Lincoln University scientist Dr. Hwei-Yiing Li-Johnson on her research using a DNA fingerprinting technique to genetically identify and separate Missouri native plant species from cultivars and non-native species. To date, she has evaluated native bamboo as opposed to non-native bamboo, native American bittersweet and invasive oriental bittersweet, as well as elderberry, persimmon, warm season grasses, and poverty grass from different regions of the US. Hwei-Yiing and our past-president Dr. Nadia Navarrete-Tindall, also at Lincoln University, will present this research at the August Prairie Conference in Minnesota.

Kansas City Chapter

Submitted by Daniel Rice, chapter representative

The Kansas City Chapter has had three events this summer. Three members participated in the Ecofest put on by the City of Independence on June 7. The event was well-attended, with many booths along the new hiking trail in Waterfall Park. This is a new city park across the lake from the new Bass Pro store. We didn't sell many plants, but we did pass out lots of literature about native plants, discussed native plants with attendees, and gave advice on native plants in the landscape.

Saturday June 14, found members traveling to Paint Brush Prairie near Sedalia, Mo. While there were a few Indian paint brush plants still in bloom, other plants were showier. Among these were beard tongue, prairie parsley, golden alexanders, yellow tickseeds and sensitive briar. All had a good time.

Saturday July 19, saw members gather at Dan Rice's home for a great summer potluck. After much eating, Dan took everyone on a tour of his yard. He does a little landscaping with native plants and was honored to show his yard to the other members. Although it was hot outside, everyone still had a great time!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday Sept. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Discovery Center. All are invited to attend!

Osage Plains Chapter

Submitted by Emily Horner and Dorothy Harlan

To the hills of St. Clair County we went, and what a suite of blooms we saw.

In June we held our chapter meeting at the home of members Jo and Brian Mohr. This was our second annual field trip to visit the Mohr's prairie, savanna and glade and the second year to enjoy the good food and company of native plant enthusiasts.

To start the day we set out along a path through the prairie and savanna. Pale purple coneflower was blowing in the breeze and the pencil flower was hiding at our feet. Once again we went over the age-old question: Is that goat's rue or lead-plant? It's hard to tell sometimes when there are no blooms to help out. Sensitive briar grabbed at our boots and a bedstraw eluded our ID skills.

Our youngest member, Owen, now 8 months old, enjoyed all the attention as well as the flowers.

We visited the cemetery that the Mohr's have been restoring,

a cemetery with roots tracing back to the Youngers (of Jesse James fame). To end the day we fed the bullheads in the pond and saw elderberries in their glory. We documented over 60 plants, with numerous plants not making the list I am sure.

To continue with annual traditions, in July we had our meeting at the property of member Dale Jennings. The evening began with a potluck - the desserts did not disappoint - followed by our meeting and ending with a wagon ride to enjoy the flowers and trees. Is there anything better on a cool summer evening with friends than looking at beautiful gray headed and purple coneflowers, blazingstars and mountain mint by wagon? No chiggers, no sweat, no poison ivy ... no problem.

The Harlans led another successful field trip to 25-mile Prairie, a diverse and exceptional prairie. Many new species were added to the list from last year. Only a couple of more field trips left this year. Let's hope for good weather and unique plants. On a final note, we would like everyone to keep Marlene and Jack Miller in their thoughts. Marlene is our very devoted chapter representative and normally writes this update. She has taken a leave to assist Jack while he contends with a serious illness.

Ozarks Chapter

Submitted by Susan Farrington, chapter representative

At our June meeting, our local district forester, Terry Truttmann, presented an entertaining and informative program on tree identification, including a trip out the back door to see what is growing in the woods behind the office.

Our July meeting was a popular field trip led by Bill Summers and Peggy Skinner to Galloway Park in West Plains. The elderberries were blooming, the blackberries were ripening (including some white ones!) and the restored prairie was looking great.

We also had an impromptu evening field trip in late June to see the grass pink orchids (*Calopogon tuberosus*) at Nature Conservancy's Shut-In Mountain Fens Preserve in Shannon County. The fen was as gorgeous as ever, and the group enjoyed learning about this unusual natural community from Dan Drees and the preserve manager, Neal Humke.

New officers were elected at our June meeting. Our new president and representative to the state board is Susan Farrington. Our new vice-president is Rose Scarlet. Our new Secretary is Polly Anna Higgins. Our treasurer continues to be Adele Voss.

A big thank-you to our outgoing and long-serving president, Ellen Kaufman, and secretary, Betty Queen, both of whom have more than done their part to serve our chapter since its inception four years ago.

Perennis Chapter

Submitted by Allison Vaughn, chapter representative

The Perennis Chapter met July 16 at Big Oak Tree for a barbeque and hike where members were treated to buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) in full bloom. In the mesic woodlands, the chapter's namesake, *Asclepias perennis* was also

blooming. Members enjoyed the late afternoon walk in the large bottomland hardwood forest.

No outings are planned for August, but chapter president Kent Fothergill implores all Perennis members to discover native plants on their own this month. September and October outings will include visits to Mingo National Wildlife Refuge and Duck Creek State Wildlife Management Area. Dates have not yet been set.

St. Louis Chapter

Submitted by Martha Hill, chapter representative

A Twilight Walk, which replaces our June meeting, took place at Emmenegger Park, Kirkwood, led by George Yatskievych. There were 12 participants.

Since we had a rain storm last year, we were hoping for a dry evening. It didn't rain, but the trail just beyond the bridge was about a foot under water. We had to drive to the north end of the park where the trail was dry.

After we crossed the creek at the bottom of the hill, we found a patch of *Impatiens capensis* (spotted touch-me-not). The pods were ripe for popping, which several people took advantage of the opportunity. Pat Harris scraped the brown coating off a ripe seed to reveal a robin's egg blue seed underneath.

Continuing up the hill, there was a pawpaw *Asimina triloba*, patch. Looking high in the trees we spotted several fruits.

Scutellaria ovata (heart-leaved skullcap) was scattered along the trail leading to the glade at the top of the ridge, overlooking the Meramec River. Unfortunately, the glade was overgrown with *Securigera varia* (crown vetch). But there were still some *Echinacea simulata* (glade coneflower), *Coreopsis lanceolata* (tickseed coreopsis) and *Asclepias hirtella* (prairie milkweed) poking through. At the edge of the glade was a large patch of *Onosmodium molle* ssp. *hispidissimum* (western false gromwell) in full flower. From there, we turned around and went back the way we came. (Written by Pat Harris.)

Our July monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, the 23rd. Theo Witsell, who is the Arkansas Natural Heritage Program botanist, and who gave a wonderful talk at our quarterly field trip held concurrently with the Arkansas Native Plant Society, came to St. Louis to give a talk on "Vegetation and Flora of Saline County, Arkansas."

Before the meeting, though, he and several MONPS members state-wide met for a field trip to Mason County sand areas by Havana, Ill., to see *Callirhoe triangulata*, at the same time appreciating the beauty and diversity of the sand prairies in Illinois.

Theo gave a good slide show with the data he accumulated during his tenure as a graduate student doing work in the field. His talk was so interesting that several members remarked afterwards that they would be interested in seeing Saline County, Ark., to botanize the flora themselves.

Many thanks to Theo, Tim Smith, Doug Ladd, Paul McKenzie, George and Kay Yatskievych, Nels Holmberg, and several others for their time botanizing in this area and talking to us about their sightings.

Spend time with 'Gods and Goddesses'

By Retha Meier
St. Louis Chapter

Say the words "plant taxonomy" to a person and it probably conjures up a mental image of the arduous task of memorizing plant names, names that are not only difficult to spell but just as difficult to pronounce. Where did these names originate? Dr. Peter Bernhardt, a world-renowned botanist at Saint Louis University, addresses this question in his latest book, "Gods and Goddesses in the Garden."

Dr. Bernhardt explains the how and why of scientific nomenclature.

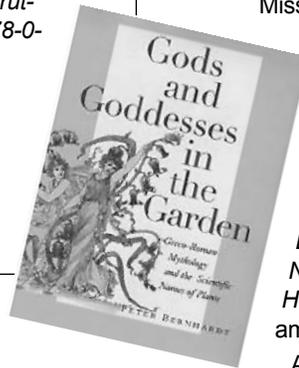
In establishing a historical foundation, the reader is introduced to Theophrastus, Carolus Linnaeus, Constantine Samuel Rafinesque, Charles Darwin, Asa Gray, John Gerard, John Lindly and Stephen J. Gould.

Carolus Linnaeus, a brilliant Swedish naturalist, botanist, and physician, is given credit for developing the binomial nomenclature system that we still use today in naming organisms. The reader is led through the steps of how a new species is named. Fascinating information!

Did you realize that Peter Raven, director of the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis has been honored by having a new genus of wild flowers named after him? *Megacorax*, (*Mega* means big and *corax* means raven) is the genus name for a member of the evening primrose family.

What happens when plant names change? We deal with it. We realize that change happens. As new information from scientific research is obtained, plant names change (such as *Talinum*). Dr. Bernhardt addresses this in his book and indicates that "Many binomials have a limited shelf life"

The book, "Gods and Goddesses in the Garden.: Greco-Roman Mythology and the Scientific Names of Plants," may be purchased at the Missouri Botanical Garden for \$24.95 or through Rutgers University Press at <http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu> using the ISBN 978-0-8135-4266-9.



Linnaeus is credited with deriving names from Greco-Roman myths and applying these names to newly discovered plants. Dr. Bernhardt investigates these Greco-Roman myths that served as an inspiration to plant taxonomists. He shares the unusual reward with the reader in teasing out the connection between a mythical figure and a scientific name. The reader is allowed, for a brief moment, a glimpse into a botanist's mind.

You might catch yourself saying, "Oh my goodness" when neural connections are made between scientific names and Greco-Roman mythological deities, monsters and/or heroes.

For example, Rhea, a fertile mother goddess married to Cronus, gave birth to Zeus, also known as Dyaus, Jupiter and Jove. Plant names associated with Zeus include carnations (*Dianthus caryophyllus*), Japanese persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*), date plum (*Diospyros lotus*), and black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), among others.

The author begins each chapter with a myth followed with a botany section that specifically addresses connections between mythological characters and scientific names.

What does this mean to a member of the native plant society? Many of Missouri's plants have scientific names originating from these Greco-Roman myths. These include *Gentiana* (gentians), *Carya* (hickories), *Cypripedium* (lady's slipper orchids), *Juglans* (walnut trees), *Diospyros* (persimmons), *Nymphaea* (water lilies), and *Helenium* (sneezeweeds), among others.

Also of interest are weeds introduced in Missouri, for example *Achillea* (yarrow). Sure, Dr. Bernhardt examines plant names from all over the world — China, Australia, Africa, and South America. Just keep in mind that early taxonomists exploring North America found flora of the Midwest just as exotic as in other geographical locations.

What does this book mean to a scientific educator? It means that Dr. Bernhardt has addressed National Science Teachers Association Standards within his book. This resource could easily be used by a creative science educator to encourage student interest in plant taxonomy, nature of science, inquiry, and scientific literacy. Dr. Bernhardt does a beautiful job integrating Greco-Roman Mythology with plant taxonomy in his book "Gods and Goddesses in the Garden."

I give this book a rating of 10 flowers out of 10!

Collard lizard shows success of KC Wildlands

By Daniel Rice
MONPS representative to the Partnership Council

KCWildlands has had one event this summer, a potluck picnic for the partners. We met at the Day Camp in Swope Park on Thursday June 26.

I would estimate the crowd at 50 people, which was great! We ate, discussed past, present and future workdays and then hiked down to Rocky Point Glade to see the progress made so far. The glade is looking great! All our hard work is paying off.

Then we had the thrill of the evening — 17 collared lizards from the colony at Blue Springs Lake were released at various points in the glade, in hopes of establishing a new colony on the glade. We are all keeping our fingers crossed!

Most participants then wandered back to the picnic area to continue conversations about the organization, while others hiked along the trail through the glade.

It was a great time, and the perfect way to thank everyone for all the hard work of the past year.

A quick look at

Triosteum angustifolium

By Sherry Leis
Osage Plains Chapter

The LaBarque Creek watershed, the site of MONPS fall field trip, has an impressive list of rare plants

One of these plants is *Triosteum angustifolium*, yellow-flowered horse gentian. A perennial plant, this member of the Caprifoliaceae is scattered in the moist shady forests, stream banks and bluff ledges of the Ozarks and its border. *T. angustifolium* can be found across the Eastern U.S. and as far west as west Kansas.

Members of the genus *Triosteum* are distinguished by brightly colored fruits (drupes) found in the axils of the leaves. *T. angustifolium* flowers May-August and has yellow to pale-orange fruits.

A moderately conservative plant, the yellow flowered horse gentian was given a coefficient of conservatism of 6 on a scale of 0 to 10 in Indiana (a Missouri coefficient was not available).

The coefficient represents a plant's tolerance to habitat alterations or disturbances. Highly conservative plants have a very narrow range of habitat conditions where they can thrive.

Although the species is no longer listed as a concern in Missouri, *T. angustifolium* is a species of concern in Connecticut and endangered in Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Molecular analysis of North American and Asian species of the genus found that the North American and Chinese species formed a clade (a taxonomic group descendant of a single common ancestor), while a Japanese species was genetically distinct from the rest. Interestingly, the Asian species have a terminal inflorescence, which may be derived from the axillary inflorescence type we are familiar with in North American species.

There are several ethnobotanical uses for the yellow flowered horse gentian. For example, fruits may be made into a coffee drink. Medicinal remedies also include

headache, colic, bilious vomiting, diarrhea, mild inflammatory complaints, fever and dyspepsia. A powder made from the roots has emetic or cathartic properties that can relieve the above symptoms. The leaves may also have diuretic properties.

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Field trip itinerary Sept. 12-14

■ **Friday, Sept. 12, at 7 p.m.** — Missouri Department of Conservation's Powder Valley Nature Center — Mike Arduser is scheduled to speak to us about the LaBarque Creek area. Mike is a conservation biologist with MDC and many of us know him for his expertise in the entomology area with the order *Hymenoptera* (bees and wasps). He, along with others, was instrumental in bringing attention to the area, surveying the area for some of its special organisms and geology and working on the development of a plan for its protection.

■ **Saturday, Sept. 13, at 8 a.m.** — Meet at the Powder Valley Nature Center parking lot and carpool to the LaBarque Creek area for a day of field trips.

■ **Saturday, 7 p.m.**— The MONPS board meeting is scheduled at the Powder Valley facility.

■ **Sunday, Sept. 14, at 8 a.m.** — Gather at the Powder Valley Nature Center for a short field trip in the morning.

Directions to Powder Valley Nature Center

■ For those of you coming to St. Louis from out-of-town, the Powder Valley Nature Center is at 11715 Cragwold Drive (ZIP code 63122).

■ Take I-44 east from I-270 and exit south (right) at Lindbergh Boulevard.

■ Go a short distance on Lindbergh and take Watson Road west (right).

■ Turn right from Watson Road at the traffic light onto Geyer Road and go 1/4 mile and turn left on Cragwold Road.

■ Follow Cragwold for about 1.5 miles to the Powder Valley entrance on the right.

Look on the front page of the July-August issue of the Petal Pusher for lodging information.

For a list of plants of conservation concern at LaBarque Creek watershed, go on the web to www.labarque.org/index_files/page0017.htm.

Mushrooms add to summer's colors

By Christopher Crabtree

The warm sunny days of Missouri call many of us to the forests and prairies to enjoy the colors of nature. From dazzling wildflower displays to migrating neotropical birds; a rainbow of colors adorn every habitat in various forms. This is also true of fungi. The mushrooms, molds, and amazingly bizarre growths that display myriad shapes, sizes, textures and vibrant colors. Every natural community has an array of species and many are specific to particular habitats. One does not have to be an expert or even an avid mushroom hunter to enjoy the unique and intriguing nature of fungi.

Most Missourians are familiar with the elusive morel of the springtime. Elusive for a reason, its coloration and pattern provides camouflage against the drab background of fallen leaves. But mushrooms are not always inconspicuous and small. The sulfur shelf (*Laetiporus sulphureus*), a large polypore, can grow to enormous proportions and can be as gold and fiery as the sun. Not only is it a beautiful mushroom, it is also a choice edible. A fifty-six pound specimen, the largest on record, was found in 2005 near Kansas City. Many other polypores are quite colorful, though not as large. The cinnabar-red polypore (*Pycnoporus cinnabarinus* and *P. sanguineus*), varnished shelf (*Ganoderma lucidum*), the turkey tail and false turkey tail fungi (*Trametes versicolor* and *Stereum* spp.) are a few of the common brightly colored polypores that decorate living trees and fallen logs throughout the year.

There are many colorful cup-shaped fungi that announce springtime in Missouri. Even before the morel hunters are beginning to sneak into the woods, various ascomycetes (which includes powdery mildews, various yeasts, cup fungi, morels and truffles) can be found among the leaves and branches. The scarlet cup (*Sarcoscypha dudleyi*) begins to appear in February and March attached to branches and twigs in deep forests. The stalked scarlet cup (*S. occidentalis*) is smaller and comes out later in the spring and in early summer in similar habitats. The bright red cups contrasting against a leafy backdrop are a stunning sight and a welcome find on a gloomy spring day. Many of the more



Laetiporus sulphureus is also known as sulphur shelf. It has brilliant orange-red caps and pale sulfur-yellow pore surfaces. It is an edible fungus.

Photos by Christopher Crabtree

colorful cup fungi are relatively small (less than 2 cm), but size doesn't matter when you are bright yellow, orange, red, blue, purple or green. Some of the cup fungi may also put on a show by forcefully releasing a cloud of spores when a light breath is blown over the cup surface.

Fungal chameleons

Some fungi are able to change colors before your eyes. A handful of fungi, especially some boletes and their kin, contain compounds that oxidize when exposed to air. The tissue may turn from bright yellow into deep green and finally dark blue, all within a few seconds. Other mushrooms

may turn red, yellow, brown and black when handled or cut. Sometimes the shift in color is mild and contained to one portion and at other times it is striking and occurs over the entire fungus. The rapid color change is useful in the identification of the mushroom and is also a spectacular site to behold when examining a mushroom in the woods.

The mushroom that many people enjoy photographing more than any other mushroom is *Lactarius indigo*, the indigo milk cap. The mushroom is not only a striking blue color, it also exudes a deep blue, milky latex when cut or damaged. The

see FUNGI, next page

FUNGI, from the previous page

genus *Lactarius* and *Russula* are of the same family (Russulaceae) and are common mushrooms of woodland and forest communities. They have a characteristic shape and texture which makes recognizing the two genera easy, identification to species level tends to be much more difficult. The Indigo Milk Cap is by far the most easily recognized *Lactarius* and is also considered a good edible. The genus *Russula* contains species of almost every color and variations of red and yellow are commonly encountered during the summer months. The cadmium yellow of *Russula flavida* easily catches the eye and is one of the most beautiful *Russula*'s in our forests.

Slime molds

Myxomycetes, formerly categorized in the kingdom Fungi but now in the kingdom Protoctista (Protista), are just as colorful as fungi, though smaller in size. Also called the 'true slime molds', these organisms undergo a plasmodial (slime) form or stage before becoming a mature, spore-bearing organism that looks similar to a fungus. The plasmodial stage is minute for most species, but some are large, easily observable masses on logs, mulch, and even mushrooms. The bright yellow plasmodium of *Fuligo septica* is one of the most easily recognized species and can be found throughout the growing season. *Physarum polycephalum* has a bright yellow plasmodial stage, but is very different in its mature fruiting body stage and is commonly found on oyster mushrooms (*Pleurotus ostreatus*). Many other colorful and interesting myxomycetes occur in Missouri and can be found by exploring rotting logs and other woody debris.

The colors and soft textures of nature are not kept for the petal, the feather, the sunset alone, they are also expressed in the fungi that spring from the fields, the forest floor, and old rotting logs. Once you begin to look closer at one mushroom, you may find yourself inspecting them all. The diversity of shapes, sizes, textures, and colors found in the kingdom Fungi continues to fascinate children and mycologists alike. Our knowledge of fungi and the diversity of mushrooms found in Missouri continues to grow with each new exploration. Next time you are in the woods, keep your eyes open and see what you can find.



Lactarius indigo, from above and below. Commonly called the indigo milk cap, the mushroom is light blue. If you cut it, it bleeds a blue milky sap.



Look for *Sarcoscypha dudleyi*, or the scarlet cup, in February or March in deep forests.

**Some of the mushrooms discussed in this article are edible, however great care must be taken to accurately identify any wild mushroom you plan to consume. Contact an expert or experienced individual before eat-*

ing any mushroom, don't take a chance. "When in doubt, throw it out". For information on mushroom hunting in Missouri visit the Missouri Mycological Society web site at www.missourimycologicalsociety.org.

Ozarks Chapter plans trip to seek Southern blue monkshood

By Dan Drees
Missouri Department of Conservation

The Ozark Chapter of MONPS invites Missouri (and Arkansas) native plant enthusiasts to meet at the Round Spring parking lot in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 21, to visit nearby hollows where Southern blue monkshood will be in bloom. Plans are to return to the Round Spring parking lot about 4 p.m.

Southern blue monkshood (*Aconitum uncinatum*) was discovered upstream of Round Spring on the banks of the Current River on Sept. 24, 1997, by a group of native plant enthusiasts. Since then, only three new sites have been discovered bringing the total number of plants to about 700. When you draw a line between the four populations it is less than 4 miles long.

Plans are to visit the largest population, which is on nearby Missouri Department of Conservation land. This population is logistically the easiest to observe. It starts near a gravel road and hugs the edge of an intermittent creek bank.

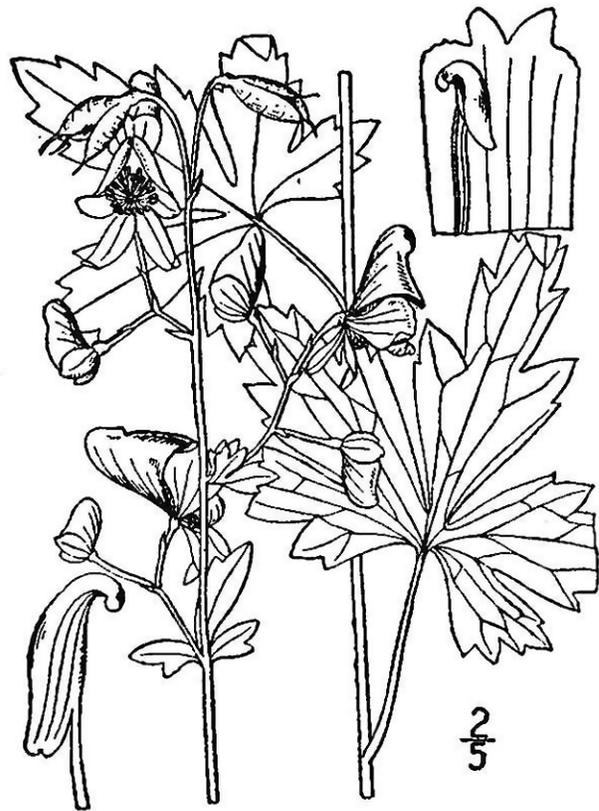
Come prepared to hike in the dry (hopefully) creek bed for about a mile total. Participants will have the option to help search the vicinity for new populations in similar habitat after honing our search image on this long and linear population.

Missouri is the only state west of the Mississippi River to have Southern blue monkshood. Our population is over 200 miles from populations farther east. Apparently, it is here as a relict from the time eons ago when the central highlands of Missouri and Arkansas were part of the Appalachian Mountains.

Southern blue monkshood is known from the wild in 15 states. NatureServe lists it as "vulnerable" in three states, "imperiled" in four states, and "critically imperiled" in six states, including Missouri. It is only "apparently secure" in Virginia and West Virginia. It is a bit puzzling that it is listed as "apparently secure" at the national level, especially considering the land conversion happening in those states.

Several references agree that Southern blue monkshood requires moist soil, prefers light (dappled) shade, prefers calcareous soil and tolerates heavy clay soil. One reference concluded that the seeds of Southern blue monkshood, "germinated only after a more or less protracted period of exposure to low temperatures."

The literature that is readily available leaves most questions about the ecology of Southern blue monkshood unanswered. My personal observations are that it struggles to bloom and set seed in closed canopy forested sites. I also have not seen any evidence of Southern blue monkshood in Missouri producing bulblets in the leaf axils, which is reported to occasionally occur when part of the stem is broken off.



Southern blue monkshood (*Aconitum uncinatum*)

To get to the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, from I-44 take State Route 68 south from St James and then take State Route 19 south into the park. Round Spring is on State Route 19.

In the pre-European landscape it may have been most abundant in moist woodlands rather than the dense shade of forests. Occasional low-intensity dormant season fires, primarily started by native Americans, may have played an important role in thinning the understory of small trees and giving monkshood the right mix of sun and moisture. Although moist woodlands probably were not common in pre-settlement times they are exceptionally rare in Missouri today.

The thinning of streamside trees by beaver offers another possibility for getting more sun to moist soils. However, beaver would not be using the intermittent drainages where some monkshood populations are found.

We do not yet know how to manage Southern blue monkshood to ensure that it has a fighting chance of remaining a part of our Ozark flora. The next step appears to be expanding and intensifying our search efforts to see just how many of these beautiful wildflowers we have.

For more information on the Sept. 21 monkshood field trip hike call Dan or Susan at (573) 226-3004 home, (573) 226-3616 x 226 Dan's work, or (314) 402-3345 Susan's cell.

Poppy mallow draws MONPS group to Illinois

By Tim Smith

Missouri Department of Conservation

On July 23 a number of MONPS members journeyed to the sand prairies of Illinois, northwest of Springfield, to see blooming plants of clustered poppy mallow [*Callirhoe triangulata* (Leavenw.) A. Gray].

The trip coincided with botanist Theo Witsell's (Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission) visit to St. Louis to give a presentation to the St. Louis Chapter of MONPS. Theo, as well as several Missouri botanists, was interested in seeing the species, which has never been documented from Arkansas. It was never formally announced as a MONPS field trip but, by the time that July 23 arrived, at least a dozen participants were ready for the trip. Dr. Steven Hill of the Illinois Natural History Survey was scheduled to meet us at the Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak Nature Preserve in Mason County, Illinois.

Although not a species of conservation concern in Illinois, clustered poppy mallow was last documented from Missouri in Mississippi County near Charleston, in 1933. It was also collected in Scott County, near Commerce, in 1927. The species grows in sandy, open areas and was undoubtedly associated with the sand prairies of southeastern Missouri, a habitat that was severely reduced by agriculture during the 20th century. It might also be a possibility in the sand prairies of northeast Missouri, Clark County, but it has never been documented from that area.

Our best view of clustered poppy mallow in Illinois was under a power line right-of-way adjacent to a gravel road just south of the nature preserve. There we saw two populations in full flower in sand prairie remnants on low ridges crossed by the road. The sand was very loose there, such that one could easily bury a foot in it by kicking with the toe of a boot. These prairie remnants are considered to be of high quality and contain many other sand prairie species, such as *Opuntia humifusa*, *Euphorbia geyeri*, *Croton michauxii*, *Cenchrus longispinus*, *Oenothera clelandii* and *Monarda punctata*.

We found the clustered poppy mallow to be plentiful and at peak of flower. It was the center of attention and was well studied and photographed. Its corollas ranged from wine-red to pink to almost



Clustered poppy mallow (Callirhoe triangulata) has triangular-shaped basal leaves. Stems, leaves and flower stalks are hairy. Five-petaled, deep rose-purple flowers to 2 inches wide bloom in clusters at the ends of long axillary stalks. Plants grow 2-3 feet tall. The related purple poppy mallow (Callirhoe involucrata) is a mat-forming plant.



Photos by John Oliver

In the July hunt, Kay Yatskievych, Doug Ladd and Paul McKenzie survey a sand prairie in Illinois northwest of Springfield. Callirhoe triangulata is found in dryish, rocky or sandy soils in prairies, open woods, sandy open ground and limestone glades.

white on one plant. Clusters of triangular-shaped basal leaves were present and gave rise to up to 10 flowering stems on larger plants. Several stem leaves of similar shape were also present on the two to three feet long, mostly leaning, flowering stems. Basal leaves were also commonly seen without associated flowering stems.

With the interest of the last several years in investigating and preserving

remnant sand prairies in southeastern Missouri, we had hoped to find an extant Missouri population of clustered poppy mallow. That has not yet occurred, but seeing the species in Illinois should improve our search images and our chances of a future rediscovery in Missouri. Anyone seeing a poppy mallow in a sandy habitat in Missouri should determine if it is a more common species or the long-lost clustered poppy mallow.

What's in a name?

By Pat Harris
St. Louis Chapter

In the last issue of the Petal Pusher, there was a welcome article titled "Botanical Inquiry" about *Talinum calycinum*, by Retha Meier. Unfortunately the accompanying photo was not of the species described in the article. The flower in the photo has four or five stamens, unlike *T. calycinum* which has 25-45 stamens. See the accompanying photo.

She wrote of several common names for *Talinum*, including 'fame flower.' According to an article written by George Yatskievych in the 1988, Volume 9, No. 1 *Missouriensis*, a similar common name 'flame flower' is used for the genus in the western part of the United States.

When George moved to Missouri from Arizona, he was surprised to learn the name here was 'fame flower' and thought it was a typo. After all, the bright orange or red flowers, looked like "small tufts of fire" from a distance.

In his research to find which common name was correct, which turns out to be either depending on where you live, he discovered that *Talinum* was first "described as a separate genus by Constantin Rafinesque under the name *Phemeranthus*."

So, guess what! In volume 3 of the *Flora of Missouri*, the correct name for *Talinum calycinum* will be *Phemeranthus calycinus*!

That is also the name used in 2003 by Robert Kiger, whose treatment appeared in Volume 4 in the *Flora of North America* series, the encyclopedia of temperate North American plant life.



Talinum calycinum, or *Phemeranthus calycinus*, has 25-45 stamens. *Talinum parviflorum* (below) has four-eight stamens.



Emerald ash borer found in the Bootheel

Emerald ash borer has made it to Missouri. Seven beetles were found July 23 at a campground at Wappapello Lake, which is 16 miles north of Poplar Bluff in Missouri's bootheel region.

Since the borer was first detected in southeast Michigan near Detroit in 2002, it has devastated the state's ash tree population. It has been reported in West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

Missouri is the farthest south and west of known emerald ash borer infestations.

State agencies started a monitoring program in 2004 to detect the pests as part of a nationwide early detection effort coordinated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The larvae feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients.

The borers are native to China and eastern Asia.

Symptoms of affected trees include die-back on the upper third of the tree, D-shaped exit holes in the bark where adults emerge, vertical splits in the bark, and distinct serpentine-shaped tunnels beneath the bark in the cambium, where larvae effectively stop food and water movement in the tree, starving it to death. It takes one to three years for the infested tree to die.

Adult beetles are roughly 3/8 inch to 5/8 inch long with metallic green wing covers and a coppery red or purple abdomen. They may be present from late May through early September but are most common in June and July.

Experts blame transport of firewood for spreading the emerald ash borer.

A Missouri Department of Conservation survey says ash trees make up about 3%

of the state's forests. In urban areas, 14% of street trees are ash.

The most common ash trees planted in the landscape are white ash (*Fraxinus americana*) and green ash (*F. pennsylvanica*). Missouri also has black ash (*F. nigra*) and blue ash (*F. quadrangulata*). Leaves are compound, 8-12 inches long, with five to nine leaflets per leaf. Ash trees have distinctive opposite branching.

Chinese scientists report that EAB can also attack trees in the genus *Ulmus* (elm), *Juglans* (walnut and butternut), and *Pterocarya* (wingnut). *Pterocarya* species are not native to North America but are in the same family as walnuts, pecans, and hickories (genus *Carya*).

So far, only ash trees have been infested in North America, even in mixed stands of ash and American elm.



Arkansas discovery

In April, Missouri Native Plant Society heard a report by Theo Witsell, botanist for the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, about the discovery of a new species, the Missouri Humpbacked Elf Moss, *Buxbaumia missouriensis*. Witsell reports the moss is found in rich woods with an abundance of *Carex* spp. and corny jokes. The habit of the moss is shown above, the spore to the right. Witsell gave the report at the end of a program he gave in conjunction with MONPS' own Paul McKenzie, who had little to add to Witsell's comments.

Photos by Theo Witsell



Maneuvering the MONPS website is easy and fun

By David Winn
MONPS Webmaster

If you haven't registered with our new website (www.MissouriNativePlantSociety.org) yet, I encourage you to join. Registration is easy! As a registered member you can help build our new website into a vibrant online community. Log on and you'll see a new, "Create Content" menu item on the right side of the page. That's where to start. Click the link and you'll find some of the different ways to contribute:

- Maintain your own MONPS "blog" (short for "web log"). A blog is simply your own online diary. Of course, how often you add an entry to your blog and its content is entirely up to you. Have a native plant-related project? Tell us about it. Share your thoughts about our last meeting. Or just tell us what you're up to these days.

- Have an interesting native plant photograph? Did you take some snapshots on your last field trip? Why not share them? Just click on "Image" to upload a picture. We currently have two collections of pictures (Image galleries): Plant Pictures and miscellaneous pictures taken on field trips.

- Forums are "threaded" discussions. That is, a new online discussion or "forum topic" is started by someone. Then others reply to the post, creating a continuous exchange of ideas. Click on the "Forums" link at the top of every page to see the current forums. We have two categories of forums: Event Planning and Plant Identification. Let me know if you'd like to see additional categories. Have a plant you can't identify? Start a new forum topic requesting help from the experts.

In addition, MONPS members can add their own comments to most of the news items, pictures, and posts created by others. Just click on the "Add new comment" link at the bottom of the article.



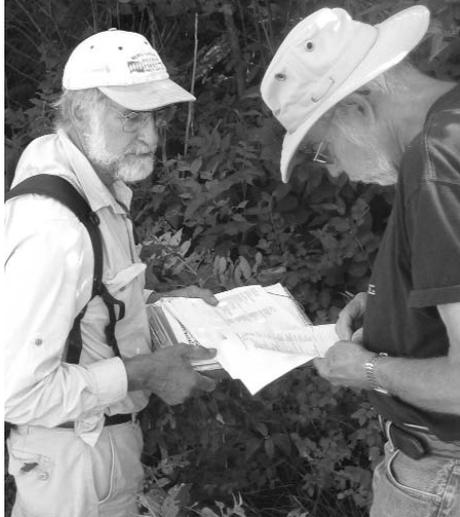
If you have any questions about adding content or uploading pictures send me a message. I'd be happy to assist. There is an e-mail form on the web site to contact the web master and also each of the chapters.

www.MissouriNativePlantSociety.org

Bounty from the prairie

These photos were taken Saturday during the June 20-22 field trip to the prairies of Missouri's northwest region.

Nels Homberg and John White double check their plant lists at Star School Prairie.



Jim Sullivan, Rex Hill and Dan Rice examine flora at Star School Hill Prairie, about 14 miles north of Rock Port, Mo.



Paul McKenzie, Sherry Leis and Tom Nagel, MDC regional natural history biologist, make a find at Star School Hill Prairie.



At Little Tarkio Prairie Conservation Area, Tim Smith explains how to identify the western prairie fringed orchid, the prize of the hunt Saturday afternoon.



Photos by Chuck Robinson



Marlene Miller and Cynthia Peterson get closer to a specimen

New edition of classic offers bigger pictures

By **Chuck Robinson**
Petal Pusher editor

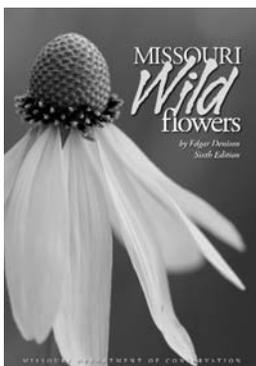
A sixth edition has been published of a Missouri classic that many of us have earlier editions of in our libraries, Edgar Denison's "Missouri Wildflowers."

Some of us have the collector's gene in our makeup. If they don't already have a copy of the new edition, surely they will be stopping by a Missouri Department of Conservation office soon to shell out \$12 for it.

Others may need some convincing to buy the new edition.

One reason might be that as the publication has matured since its first publishing in 1972, so have most of us. The new edition is 30 percent bigger than its predecessors, measuring 7 inches by 10.

Even if your eyes are as sharp as 36 years ago, it is nice that the photos in the new edition also are about 30% bigger.



Most of the 297 pictures are cleaned-up versions of Dennison's originals, though 17 other photographers contributed, too. Among them are names familiar to MONPS members: George Yatskievych, Kay Yatskievych, Tim Smith and others.

The text in the new edition also is larger. The common names are in headline-size type, the scientific name below it in bold, brown capital letters.

Scientific names in the new edition are updated. I counted eight changes from the fifth edition. A cynic might wonder if botanists change scientific names for the sake of selling more reference and guide books.

The new edition also marks 14 or so of the plants in the book with a "GN!" symbol representing the Grow Native program designation of a landscape-worthy plant. Nice to know, but a native plant gardener might quibble over why *Echinacea purpurea*, purple coneflower, is marked GN! but not *E. simulata*, the glade coneflower. I think the dangling

rays of the glade coneflower are distinctive.

However, no one can quibble with the idea of butterfly weed, *Asclepias tuberosa*, being garden worthy.

The sixth edition's pages match up nearly exactly with the fifth edition's, but instead of being laid out in columns down the page the plant entries are laid out horizontally and look more like a magazine than a field book. The new edition has little drop shadows framing the pictures and artsy lines on the page. It more resembles a coffee-table book than the previous editions.

The flowers are still organized by color. It is tough to understand why the entries are listed as they are. The system is not alphabetical. It is tough to go quickly to what you are looking for. I also think it odd that full-page pictures are used in front of each color's section but the plants aren't labeled. You can figure it out from what follows, but it seems like a lost opportunity to relay information.

Whether or not you need another copy of "Missouri Wildflowers," it makes a nicer gift than the older versions. It's a good way to lure more people into the native plant fold.

Check to see if your membership needs to be renewed

Is your MONPS membership about to expire? To find out, check the top line of your mailing label. If it shows the date 20080630, we have not received your dues for our new membership year, which begins in July.

To renew, please use the form below or on the MONPS website. If you have questions about your membership status, please contact Ann Earley (see back page for contact information).

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- We may find yellow-flowered horse gentian at LaBarque Creek on the fall field trip

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