



# Finding an orchid new to Missouri turns even determined sedge heads

By Paul McKenzie

## Carex highlights

There were several *Carex* spp. highlights during the MONPS April 18-19 field trip to Holly Ridge Conservation Area.

The most exciting find was the discovery of *Carex reznicekii* by Alan Brant, who bet Paul McKenzie 5 gallons of morel mushrooms that the specimens he found were correctly identified. Paul thought that the specimens were best identified as *Carex umbellata* but based on previous field experience with the species, and the fact that the bet was too costly, Alan carefully explained the differences between the two species.

The Holly Ridge Conservation Area turned out to be a gold mine for sedge heads interested in , Section Acrocystis. Members of this section observed during the field trip included *C. albicans* var. *albicans*, *C. albicans* var. *australis*, *C. reznicekii*, *C. nigromarginata* var. *nigromarginata*, *C. nigromarginata* var. *floridana* and *C. umbellata*. In addition to *C. albicans* var. *australis*, *C. reznicekii* and *C. nigromarginata* var. *floridana*, the other species of *Carex* observed on the field that is tracked by the Missouri Natural Heritage Program was *Carex debilis* var. *debilis*, which was the dominant understory carex in the area.

## Other distraction highlights

Despite the great diversity of *Carex*, most participants were distracted by the flowering specimens of the large whorled pogonia orchid *Isotria verticillata*. This species was in perfect flower and different photographers took turns photographing flowering orchids. The story would not end



Photo by John Oliver

here except the fact that the group split up looking for different plants, especially Alan Brant's discovery of *Carex reznicekii*.

One of the last groups to photograph the *Isotria* was a small group who was with Justin Thomas. While individuals were getting into position to photograph the pogonia, Justin noticed a very small orchid on a small hummock nearby. Assuming it was not anything unusual (possibly a species of *Tipularia* or *Corallorhiza*) Justin photographed the

Found on the MONPS field trip to the Holly Ridge Conservation Area, the southern twayblade orchid (*Listera australis*) has redish-brown flowers on brown stalks or yellowish flowers on light-colored stalks, according to Car. G. Hunter's "Wildflowers of Arkansas." The lower lip is divided into two relatively long segments that point down. The flower is about a third of an inch long. It has two opposite sessile leaves that are oval and about 3/4 of an inch long.

orchid and headed back to his home. Upon arriving home and viewing his photographs, Justin realized that the small orchid he had photographed was not a species of *Tipularia* or *Corallorhiza*, but the first state record for Southern twayblade orchid (*Listera australis*).

Wanting to alert the MONPS folk of his discovery, he decided to contact someone at the hotel in Sikeston. At 11p.m., I was

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# Calendar of Events

## Hawthorn Chapter

**July 13:** Regular Meeting: 7 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Sheppard Blvd. John Dyer will speak on heirloom apples and grafting apple trees.

**August:** Wetland walk TBA

**Aug 4-5** — Native Plants and Pollinators Workshop. A two-day special training for Extension Specialists and other Educators sponsored by Lincoln University in collaboration with the University of Missouri. Check the Web site at <http://www.lincolnu.edu/pages/2526.asp> for more information or contact Nadia at (573) 681-5392 or e-mail: [Navarrete-tindalln@lincolnu.edu](mailto:Navarrete-tindalln@lincolnu.edu).

## Kansas City Chapter

**Saturday, July 4** — Tickwood Ranch annual Fourth of July blowout! Dave Alburty and Carol Pranulis host this annual party at Tickwood Ranch, complete with fireworks, a pristine swimming pond, and lots of good food and drink. Call Dave and Carol for details at: (816) 619-3375.

**Saturday, July 11** — 9 a.m. Field trip to Hidden Valley Natural Area. Hidden Valley boasts some of Missouri's most interesting ferns, including Goldie's Fern. Directions to Hidden Valley: from I-435 in Missouri take Parvin Road exit and turn left/west onto Parvin Road. Turn left/south onto Bennington Road and then right/west onto Russell Road. The parking lot is a couple of blocks from there. We will meet in the parking lot. Contact Dave or Kathy Winn at (913) 432-4220 or 9913) 486-4220 for

further details.

## Osage Plains Chapter

**July 11** — Potluck dinner and trail ride, as well as business meeting at Dale Jennings home place on Highway 7 in Coal. Contact Emily Horner, 660-885-6981, [Emily.horner@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Emily.horner@mdc.mo.gov) for details.

**July 25** — Field tour of the Truman Lake WMA - Deepwater area. Contact Jim and Dorothy Harlan for details. (660) 885-3350, [jdharlan@socket.net](mailto:jdharlan@socket.net). Meet at the Henry Co. Library parking lot at 9 a.m.

**No August meeting.**

**Aug. 22** — Field trip location TBA after a little scouting for mid summer blooms. Contact Jim and Dorothy Harlan for details. (660) 885-3350, [jdharlan@socket.net](mailto:jdharlan@socket.net). Meet at the Henry Co. Library parking lot at 9 a.m.

## Ozarks Chapter

**Tuesday, July 21**— Evening field trip in lieu of our regular chapter meeting. We'll hike a trail or a creek in the Mark Twain National Forest. Bring your water shoes! Meet at Ozarks Regional Office parking lot at 6:30 pm. Call or email Susan Farrington for more information (417) 255-9561 x 307, [susan.farrington@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:susan.farrington@mdc.mo.gov).

**Sunday, Aug. 2** —1 pm: Afternoon field trip to hike a creek along the Eleven Point River to search for the very rare tall larkspur (*Delphinium exaltatum*). It's not known from the Eleven Point watershed, but it could well be there. We may not find

any, but we'll have fun looking! Wear sturdy water shoes and old clothes. Call or e-mail Susan Farrington for more information.

**Tuesday, Aug. 18** — Chapter meeting at 6:30 pm at the MDC Ozark Regional Office, 551 Joe Jones Blvd, West Plains. Plant id night. Bring plants to identify. We'll use hand lenses and microscopes and learn how to key out an unknown plant.

## Perennis Chapter

**Aug. 29** — Members of Perennis will document plant occurrences at Trail of Tears State Park as part of the annual Bioblitz. It will start at 9 at the Visitor Center. Other biota surveyed at the Bioblitz will be: mushrooms, birds, insects and herpetofauna.

## St. Louis Chapter

**Wednesday July 22** — Shirley Graham, Curator at the Missouri Botanical Garden will be giving a talk on Lythraceae. Chapter meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Powder Valley Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Dr., Kirkwood (off Geyer Rd., Watson and Big Bend).

**Wednesday Aug. 26** — Dennis Hogan, Environmental Resource Specialist for St Louis County Parks will be speaking on the natural communities of St Louis County Parks. The meeting is scheduled 7:30-9 p.m. at Powder Valley Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Drive, Kirkwood (off Geyer Rd., Watson and Big Bend).

## New members

Chris Barrigar, Bloomfield	Isaac & Jennifer Ogle, Fayetteville, Ark.
Dallas Scott, Broseley	Myles Guffey, Mountain View
George Hampton Jr., Bernie	James Faupel, St. Louis
Joshua Dugger, Bernie	Sara Reindel, Columbia
Chris Crabtree, East Prairie	John Barry, Columbia
Burton Noll, St. Louis	Beth Fisher, Columbia
Dr. Wayne Morton, Osceola	Baers Pure Scents, Boonville
David Hendel, St. Louis	Lucinda Swatzell, Cape Girardeau
Cathy Bylinowski, Kansas City, Kan.	Irene Unger, Columbia

## Renewals due

To see if your membership has expired, look at the top line of your mailing label. If it shows the date 20090630, we have not received your dues for our new membership year, which begins in July.

Unless we receive your dues renewal soon, this issue of the newsletter may be your last.

To renew, please use the form on the last page of this newsletter, or the one on the MONPS web site.

If you have questions about your membership status, please contact Ann Earley

# 2009 Hudson Award given to two researchers

The Stanton Hudson Memorial Award honors the late H. Stanton Hudson (1921–2002), a longtime member of the Missouri Native Plant Society whose passion for the flora of Missouri and its conservation inspired his friends and family to create a small grants program in his memory.

Each year, the Society makes at least one \$500 award to a deserving student conducting research on any aspect of botany that involves the Missouri flora. For 2009, the review committee (George Yatskievych, Paul McKenzie and Jay Raveill) received two excellent proposals that were equally meritorious for funding.

Although MONPS generally makes only a single award, outside donations, a donation from the St. Louis Chapter and proceeds from the Society's Master Naturalist classes at St. Louis Community College permitted us to fund both of the top proposals.

Kyra Krakos is a doctoral student in the biology department at Washington University of St. Louis. The title of her proposal was: "Specialization of pollination systems in *Oenothera*."

Erica Wheeler is a doctoral student in the biology Division at the University of Missouri — Columbia. The title of her proposal was: "Hybridization, Polyploidy and Asexuality in the *Allium canadense* Varietal Complex."

Congratulations to both of these individuals and good luck to them on their interesting and important research.

# Silent auction bolsters MONPS grant funds

By Kathy Thiele

The weekend of May 30 was not only the weekend of the MONPS quarterly meeting and field trip, it was the weekend of our silent auction.

More than 57 items were donated, bringing in a total of \$922 toward the Hudson Fund principal. The item bringing in the most money was a copy of Steyermark's *Flora of Missouri* donated by George Yatskievych which went for \$85.

Second in line was a stained glass dragonfly for \$60 crafted and donated by Martha Hill.

Many people donated books both new and used and some, such as those donated by Doug Ladd and Paul Nelson, were autographed. Native plants were a popular donation. Larry Wegmann even brought some that were originally starts from Edgar Denison's garden.

Other items donated included framed prints, jellies from native plants, Missouri honey, note cards, artwork, and much more.

So many people donated items and pitched in to help that I can't begin to thank them all personally. So to all of you out there who donated, purchased, or pitched in – here's a big THANK YOU from me and from the Missouri Native Plant Society! Your money and efforts will mean more interest available for grants and a brighter future for native plant research.

# Celebrating 30 years

MONPS heads to its birthplace in Fulton, Mo., to celebrate its 30th anniversary.

The fall field trip is scheduled for Sept. 25-27. If you're planning on attending, it's a good idea to secure lodging soon. It is a "Family Weekend" for Westminster College in Fulton and lodging may be scarce.

Below is a tentative schedule.

## Friday evening, Sept. 25 — Westminster College

- Hunter Activity Center — Hermann Lounge
- 5:30 p.m. — Reception and Welcome
- 7 p.m. — MONPS Quarterly Board Meeting

## Saturday Morning, Sept. 26 — 8 a.m. to Noon

- Field trip to the Prairie Garden Trust area, 4 miles south of Fulton
- This is a private preserve owned and managed by Lorna and Henry Domke
- We'll meet at the Country Hearth and Inn parking lot at 8 a.m.

## Saturday afternoon, Sept. 26 — Westminster College

- Hunter Activity Center — Hermann Lounge
- 1-5 p.m. — Speaker series featuring Doug Ladd, Paul Nelson, Bill Summers, Jim H. Wilson and George Yatskievych

## Saturday Evening, Sept. 26 — 7-10 p.m.

- Awards Banquet Dinner — Sir Winston's Restaurant in Fulton.

## Sunday morning, Sept. 27 — 8 a.m to noon

- Field trip to Tucker Prairie, most probably. Again, we'll meet at the Country Hearth and Inn parking lot at 8 a.m.

## Lodging

### In Fulton

- Country Hearth Inn and Suites: \$80 with AAA or AARP — (573) 642-0077

### In Kingdom City — 10 miles north of Fulton

- Super 8: \$58 with Missouri Native Plant Society — (573) 642-2888 (Contract # G0000863)

### Additional Lodging

- Fulton: Holiday Inn Express: \$86 — (877) 863-4780
- Kingdom City: Comfort Inn: \$90 — (573) 642-7745

awakened by the phone ring by my bedside. Justin apologized for calling so late and for not letting other MONPS members know about his discovery on Saturday afternoon. I informed him not to sweat it, that it was good that he called, and for a report of a new genus and species of orchid to the state I would not care if he called me at 2:30 a.m.! In a somewhat delirious state, I jotted down notes from my discussion with Justin, including directions on where to look for the orchid.

Because it was too late to let others know about Justin's discovery, I informed George Yatskievych and others (all who were still around) at breakfast Sunday morning. Some of us decided that after the field trip to Big Oak Tree State Park, we would travel back to Holly Ridge Conservation Area to see if we could locate the *Listera australis*. George called Bill Summers to inform him of Justin's discovery. Bill was attending the Azalea festival held in nearby Charleston, Mo. Bill informed him that he had looked for the species at Holly Ridge on several occasions without success, but because of his commitment to the azalea festival it was unlikely he could search for the plant Justin had found. Following a rain-soaked trip to Big Oak Tree State Park, me, George, John Oliver and Sue Hollis headed back to Holly Ridge to look for the orchid.

On the way into the site, we bumped into Bill Summers, who had rearranged his schedule to look for the orchid — it was also obvious that the author of "Orchids of Missouri" could not resist seeing a new genus and species of orchid in Missouri.

To our delight, Bill informed us he had relocated the orchid and personally escorted us to the exact spot where it was at. What a gorgeous orchid it is! Given its tiny size and the fact it was within 20 meters of the one population of *Istoria*, it was a miracle it was not accidentally stepped on Saturday. ]

It is truly amazing that Justin spotted it, especially given that it was missed by several excellent botanists who have a knack for finding rare species. Unfortunately, despite an exhaustive search by me, Bill, George, John and Sue, no additional plants were found, but, given its small size and the fact it was missed by probably over 30 individuals on Saturday, surely



Photo by John Oliver

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service reports the range of *Listera australis* being from Texas to Florida up to Arkansas and also in East Coast states and provinces from Florida north to Quebec and Ontario in Canada. The genus name is dedicated to Martin Lister, 1638-1711, a famous English naturalist.

there are additional plants somewhere in the vicinity.

Southern twayblade is a native orchid that occurs in similar habitat in Arkansas, and Theo Witsell reported that this was a good year for the species in that state. If you are wondering how such a species could go undetected for so long, especially at a site that has been botanized repeatedly by some of the state's best, including Bill Summers, who has a keen eye for orchids, the answer may be linked to the severe ice storm we all witnessed in the Bootheel this spring. The tops of many trees were snapped off and lying on the ground. The added light may have been sufficient to stimulate dormant or sterile specimens of this orchid to bloom. This may also explain the good bloom year that we witnessed for *Istoria verticillata*.

One thing that the story should demon-

strate is that exciting new plant finds can be discovered at high quality sites that have been botanized by highly qualified individuals for years. As for *Listera australis*, this is a species that would automatically qualify as a species that should be tracked as a species of conservation concern, probably with a state rank of SU (status undetermined).

The discovery of a new genus and orchid during a MONPS field trip is obvious a story that should be officially reported in *Missouriensis*, and Justin is committed to doing so. Although it is truly regrettable that more MONPS members did not get to see the orchid, it was simply due to a combination of unanticipated factors. The important take-home message is that because of Justin's keen eye, we now have another native species to add to the Missouri's flora.

# Conservation and Preservation

By Retha Meier

This article is written from a researcher's point of view about the importance of scientific research on Missouri native plants. Hurdles in our research include finding field sites and then obtaining permission to study the plants.

As we network, usually more sites become known to us. For example, we were recently informed about an enormous population of *Cypripedium reginae* on private property. When we contacted the private land owner and requested permission to study the orchids, our request was denied. A reason for the denial was not provided. I believe that the more scientific information that we can obtain about our Missouri native plants and their pollinators the better we will be able to conserve and preserve them.

If someone owns a masterpiece, (a Rembrandt would be nice), how should they go about preserving it? Should the treasure be placed under ultraviolet light? Should it be kept in the dark? Is it to be stored below room temperature? What about the humidity? Research has to be done to find out how to treat it before the person knows how to keep it.

What if you own property on which rare and endangered plants grow? What would you say to researchers from a university who request permission to study those rare and endangered species? You weigh the benefits against the harm that could be done. You ask a trusted person, perhaps someone working for a conservation department who has had previous dealings with the same researchers, what he or she thinks about allowing these investigators on your property. After collecting this information and processing it, you either grant or deny the researchers permission to do research on your plants.

Your decision must be based largely on trust and on an understanding of the research process. Trust must be earned. How is trust earned in a research situation?

The researcher requests permission from the Missouri Department of Conservation (or a private land owner) to do research on MDC property (or private property). The researcher informs the contact person at the Department of

Conservation (or private land owner) about the times that the researcher will be at the study site. The researcher is courteous and honest. Fieldwork is completed with as minimal damage to the area as possible. A report is written to inform the Department of Conservation (or private land owner) of data collected and experimental results. Presentations are given to share information gained from the research and the Department of Conservation (or private land owner) is acknowledged. Journal articles are written to share information with the scientific community and once again the Department of Conservation (or private land owner) is acknowledged. Perhaps a popular article will be written about the research to better inform the general public. Eventually, word gets around that the researcher is trustworthy (or not).

What does "minimum damage to the area" mean? This means that when researchers are collecting data in the form of pollinators or flower samples, some trampling with soil compaction occurs. Real footprints are made, especially during the spring and early summer when soils are wet. That's the maximum damage done at any field site. Researchers always attempt to leave the site as it was found.

With our research, we walk to the site. Sometimes the distance is considerable, especially when we have to carry our equipment and chairs. We sit in the hot sun from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., catching pollinators and performing experiments on plant breeding systems. If it starts to rain, we pop out our umbrellas and wait for the weather to change.

Most researchers do fieldwork because they care about the organisms they are investigating. They want to be an integral part of the discovery process. Do researchers engage in research to obtain data to publish so they can keep their jobs or are they doing research because they really care about ecology? The answer to this complicated question is "yes." Researchers must publish, but researchers doing fieldwork also care about nature.

We have been doing research in our lab on the genus *Cypripedium* for seven years now. We are only allowed to harvest a small percentage of the flowers every year.

With our research we do experiments to determine if the species is self compatible — will the flowers accept their own pollen? We harvest these flowers and take them back to the lab for microscopic examinations of their pollen grains and pollen tube development. We harvest tissue samples for genetic analysis to determine the relatedness of the individuals within a cluster and within populations. If we had access to a large population of flowers, we would not have to spend five to seven years doing research on the plants. We could complete the entire research project in one or two years, depending upon the population size, and move on to investigate other rare and endangered native plant species.

We do research to determine the identity of the pollinators. During the past three years of research on *Cypripedium reginae* we have identified four pollinators. That's not very many. What does this mean? It means that *Cypripedium reginae* is very selective about which pollinator serves as a pollen vector. It means that not very many pods are going to be produced. Out of the four pods produced in 2008 in one population of *C. reginae*, three were eaten by insects, leaving only one viable pod. It means that if bees continue to disappear, the native plants that they pollinate could also disappear.

The bottom line is that a person cannot preserve anything by putting a fence around it. We must understand the life cycle of a species to know how to preserve it.

Basic research is important. Pieces of the puzzle are put together to gain a more complete picture of an organism and thus to know what to do to preserve the species. Research needs to be completed both at levels of the individual plant and its population.

Our experience shows that it's far easier for us to obtain permission and travel to a foreign country to study foreign species than it is to study native species on private property here in Missouri. A need exists to increase our scientific investigations on our own rare and endangered plants or these plants will vanish in the absence of implemented programs that will stimulate their natural fertility and capacity to regenerate.

## Hawthorn Chapter

Submitted by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall, chapter representative

*With excerpts from several members contributions and photos by Becky Erickson.*

Spring is always a busy time for the Hawthorn Chapter, either visiting old and new places, educating people about incorporating native plants in their lives or working on our own gardens.

Here are a few highlights for the months of April and May:

On April 5, President Vanessa Melton led a walk at Pinnacles Youth Park, north of Columbia, east of Highway 63 on Pinnacles Road. Several members enjoyed seeing Virginia bluebells, red trillium, spring beauty, toothwort, rue anemone, Dutchman's breeches, bloodroot, yellow and purple violet, pussy toes and hepatica. Some past attendees noted that hepatica was not blooming as well as it had been the last few years. Has anyone else noticed that in other areas, we wondered?

On April 26, as in the past few years, the chapter participated in the Earth Day celebration in downtown Columbia next to Peace Park. Vanessa wrote "placed between belly dancers and the ice cream man, we always had a crowd who fortunately were interested in native plants and books on the subject." Many plants and books were sold that day and we learned a lot about belly dancing.

On May 5, members guided by Paula Peters and Becky Erickson met at Three Creeks Conservation Area to visit a glade undergoing restoration and surrounding areas. The highlight of the outing was hundreds and hundreds of shooting stars (*Dodecatheon meadia*) growing on public and private land. The shooting stars showed high diversity by having flowers ranging from white to dark pink. Becky mentioned that these plants are so abundant because past cattle foraging excluded competing vegetation. The glade was stunning, with mats of rose verbena, and sparse hoary pucoon, birdfoot violet-of every color combination and golden Alexanders (*Zizia* spp). All these species have responded well to ongoing management that includes removal of encroaching red cedars and prescribed burning. Good stands of *Asclepias quadrifolia* are also present in this area. Three Creeks Conservation Area

is located in southern Boone County, only a few miles from Rock Bridge State Park in Columbia.

On May 11, President Vanessa Melton opened the Hawthorn chapter regular meeting at 7 o'clock Monday evening at the Unitarian Church. She introduced the speaker, Mike Currier, naturalist coordinator for state parks with Department of Natural Resources. He discussed the purpose of the Natural Areas program in managing the best remaining examples of our various terrestrial and aquatic communities to preserve and perpetuate them.

"They are natural treasures," he said, "because it is through visiting them that people come to know what Missouri in all its diversity is about."

He explained that the function of the program is to identify and protect the best examples of natural terrestrial and aquatic communities remaining in Missouri—savanna, woodland, forest, prairie, glade, and wetlands. A Missouri Natural Areas newsletter is available, and there is an electronic version. For more informa-

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Becky Erickson

On a hike at Three Creeks Conservation Area, Hawthorn Chapter members were greeted by a glade with hundreds of shooting stars (*Dodecatheon meadia*).



Becky Erickson

Hawthorn Chapter hikers found a glade with many birdfoot violets (*Viola pedata*) at Three Creeks Conservation Area.

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tion on natural areas, go online to MO/DNR. Select Natural Areas to find a list of specific areas including location and acreage.

After Mike's presentation, Jean Graebner reported that the Marge McDermott memorial stone is now in place under the tulip tree in the Pocket park in Rocheport. The tree, planted last fall, is in full leaf. A memorial program is planned for 1 o'clock Sunday afternoon, June 7, which was followed by gathering at Jean's home. Vanessa announced that the contribution to the Unitarian Church will go up and a canopy cover with wheels will be purchased.

Jack Beckett was elected unanimously as the new vice president; this position was vacated when Vanessa Melton became president on the resignation of Nancy Langworthy. Jack will finish Vanessa's term, which will run through December 2010. As vice president, Jack will fill in for the president when needed, and he will also serve on a committee of his choice. Congratulations Jack!

## Kansas City Chapter

Submitted by Daniel Rice, chapter representative

The Kansas City Chapter took part in a number of events in April and May.

On April 11th we had a great field trip to Isley Park Woods in

Excelsior Springs, Mo. We were hoping to see lots of bloodroot, and we weren't disappointed. Lots of bloodroot in bud, in flower and past blooming, plus other spring ephemerals like spring beauty were everywhere. The nice part was that it didn't snow on us like last year!

April 17 found several members manning a booth at the Sprint Earth Day Festival at the Sprint campus in Overland Park, Kan. This was a time to talk with lots of people about native plants and distribute lots of literature. On top of that, a free lunch was provided!

The next day, April 18, several members manned a booth at the Lakeside Nature Center's Earth Day Celebration. Here, in addition to passing out literature, native plants from Missouri Wildflower Nursery were sold as a fundraiser. A good time was had by all (even in the rain).

The chapter's main fundraiser took place May 1-3 at the Powell Gardens Spring Festival. This is the best time to recommend the use of native plants in the landscape, as the attendees are all veteran gardeners. In fact, Saturday morning we were chastised by shoppers because we were "late" by arriving at 9:45, even though the sale didn't open until 10! This is always a fun event, especially when it doesn't rain!

On May 16 several members traveled to King City, Mo, to visit the private prairie of MONPS member Larry Maher. Mr. Maher has been restoring his prairie for 20 years, and the results are great! He has natural populations of Indian paintbrush (both red and yellow) and both cream and blue wild indigo. He also has a natural population of showy orchids, and has introduced the small white lady's slipper orchid, which is reproducing nicely.

Our last spring meeting took place on May 21. We discussed the past field trips and worked out arrangements for the next ones, including our June 13 joint field trip with Dr. Mindy Walker of Rockhurst University at Kill Creek Prairie in Kansas. This is the field trip where we will be looking not only for native plants, but also for timber rattlesnakes, Dr. Walker's area of research.

Future field trips include one to Hidden Valley Park in search of the goldie's fern, and the annual Fourth of July blowout at Tickwood Ranch, home to Dave Alburty and Carol Pranulis.

That's it for now from Kansas City! If you have any questions or desire more information about our events, please feel free to contact me at [drice95975@aol.com](mailto:drice95975@aol.com).

## Osage Plains Chapter

Submitted by Emily Horner, chapter president

Marlene is off enjoying her new found freedom that comes with retirement, so you are hearing from another member this month.

April brought forth our first field trip of the season to the Peterman property located on a wooded hillside that leads to Honey Creek in Henry County. This is an annual field trip to view and photograph the glorious spring ephemerals. We not only had great attendance but also a great display of flowers, including bloodroot, Virginia bluebells and Dutchmen's breeches.

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April also brought about our elections for the Osage Plains Chapter. Our new/renewing chapter officers:

- President – Emily Horner
- Vice President – Brian Mohr
- Secretary/Treasurer – Lawrence (Larry) Lewis
- Representative to State – Sharon Warnaca
- Field trips – Jim and Dorothy Harlan

Ted Bolich is a candidate for board member in the state organization. Emily Horner will serve as historian.

Prior to the business meeting, Emily Horner provided a program on lichens, with a short presentation and specimens brought in from the field. Seeing as though we are all

amateurs in this area of mycology, we were able to identify approximately 10 lichen species, including brown caps, eeindeer lichen and shield lichen. A good place to start! Fungi and algae combine to form three forms of lichens: crustose, foliose and fruticose. The Osage Plains and its many glades have a lot of opportunity for studying lichens.

On May 7 we held our field trip at Valley Center Prairie, owned by Kathy Conrad and John and Peg Neuenschwander. It was a beautiful spring day to enjoy this amazingly diverse remnant sandstone prairie, located in St. Clair County. We didn't make it much past the parking lot before we spotted at least 20 species and many of them in terrific bloom. We kept heading west and found even more, including three colors of shooting star. They were everywhere!

Of course the unique find of the day was one-flowered cancer root, found by Kathy Conrad. This was the first time it has been documented within St. Clair County. It is a parasitic plant that feeds off the roots of other plants, and thus does not leaves and is not green.

Thanks to our hosts and caretakers of this inspiring prairie.

We also heard many grassland birds, including grasshopper sparrows and dicksissels, as well as saw three-toed and ornate box turtles and perhaps a northern crawfish frog. It was too quick to grab before it went down a burrow.

Lastly, in order to get ready for the upcoming state field trip and meeting with the Arkansas Native Plant Society, we had a presentation on Mead's milkweed.



*Those partaking in the Valley Center field trip were Kathy Conrad (owner), John and Peg Neuenschwander (owners), Jo and Brian Mohr, Larry Lewis and Emily Horner (not pictured).*



*Phlox were in abundance on Valley Center Prairie.*

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Kathy Conrad found a one-flowered cancer root during a Hawthorn Chapter hike May 7.

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Jason Comer, MSU graduate student, spoke to us regarding his master's work on Mead's milkweed. Jason used DNA to assess genetic diversity within individual Mead's milkweed populations, including the Winn's South Fork Prairie population. His work included comparisons with three other milkweed species.

Jason found great diversity within populations of the Mead's, leading to the encouraging conclusion that lack of diversity is not an apparent threat to survival of the species. He also confirmed again with his work that Mead's milkweed, much like other *Asclepias* spp. are obligate outcrossers. Fly bee, fly!

Unfortunately our native plant salvage day at Wah' Kon-Tah Prairie was rained out, believe it or not, this year! We will try again in the fall. Upcoming events include Mead's milkweed surveys with Emily Horner, more field trips to see Wayne

Morton's glade and savanna in St. Clair County, and our annual potluck dinner and trail ride to see the wildflowers at Dale Jennings.

## Ozarks Chapter

Submitted by Susan Farrington, chapter representative

Theo Witsell, botanist for the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, was the guest of honor at our April chapter meeting, presenting us with a program about the rare plants of the interior highlands of Arkansas.

It was a great program, and we look forward to trying to find some of those rare plants in our neck of the woods. After all, Arkansas keeps stealing our endemic plants, so shouldn't we return the favor?

We enjoyed several field trips, starting with an early evening field trip in April to enjoy the wildflowers at Tingler Prairie, led by Susan Farrington. We admired the very rare Ozarks trillium, but missed some of the other bottomland wildflowers because the trail was impassable due to limbs from ice damaged trees.

In late April, Susan Farrington led a trip to Shannon County to hike the Ozark trail along Rocky Creek through the Mill Mountain Shut-in area. In early May, six brave souls endured the drenching rains to enjoy the native azaleas in Oregon County on a trip led by Rose Scarlet and Ellen Kauffman. The group got soaked, but the azaleas were gorgeous! A good-sized group enjoyed an evening field trip led by Bill Summers in mid-May to Galloway Park in West Plains.

Ellen Kauffman presented a wildflower program to middle-school aged kids at the West Plains library. She taught them how to ID plants using field guides, and also did some crafts with them. Thanks, Ellen, for helping inspire the next generation to appreciate native plants!

## Perennis Chapter

Submitted by Allison Vaughn, chapter representative

On June 13, accomplished bryologist Nels Holmberg joined the Perennis chapter as he continued his documentation of the bryophytes of Morris State Park.

Holmberg's survey represents the first bryophyte survey for the state park. Vascular plants have been thoroughly documented from the park upon acquisition by the state. However, recent implementation of a prescribed fire regime and significant damage to the park's canopy has resulted in alterations to the light availability for the woodland floor.

Growing season surveys for vascular and nonvascular plants will be conducted this year and will include the relict sand prairie and acid seeps.

## St. Louis Chapter

Submitted by Martha Hill, chapter representative

Our April speaker was George Van Brunt, with his talk on

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“Pollen, the Other Plant.” Although I couldn’t make it to the meeting, I was told that it was an interesting and insightful talk on the science of pollen grains, with several accompanying pictures of microscopic views. Our thanks to George for his informative discussion on a topic that turned out to be quite interesting.

Rex Hill taught a class on Missouri prairies at the Meramec Community College on April 29, with two field trips the following Saturdays to Cuivre River State Park and the Shaw Nature Reserve. Credit also needs to go to Nels Holmberg for coordinating classes like this one. They have become popular with many of the people in the Master Naturalist Program and with our St. Louis Chapter members. Jack and Pat Harris have agreed to lead a class in field botany this summer and already the class is filling up fast.

The Shaw Nature Reserve held their annual native plant sale on Saturday, May 9, where our chapter hosted a booth. There seemed to be a lot of interest in the event this year and several

people stopped by to look at the poster Jack and Pat Harris put together with names and pictures of endangered and/or threatened Missouri plants.

Rex Hill led a group of expert and amateur botanists to Lower Rock Creek in the Mark Twain National Forest on Saturday, May 16. It had rained the day before and we didn’t know how navigable the trail would be, but it turned out to be a fun hike and we made it all the way to the creek without having to wade through water. Alan Brandt, Nels Holmberg and Steve Buback were our go-to people when we had questions about any of the plants. They are always great to have along.

This seemed to be the month for Rex. Our May meeting, held on May 27, was a presentation by Rex Hill on Missouri prairies. He drew a pretty good crowd, giving the history of prairies in our area and showing a film developed by the Missouri Prairie Foundation, specifically several of Cuivre River State Park’s personnel. It was a very good film and many thanks go to Bruce Schuette for the loan and for his part in making the film possible.

## Shaw Nature Reserve plant sale

By Jack Harris

The St. Louis Chapter regularly participates in the annual Friday evening and all day Saturday event of the Shaw Nature Reserve’s Spring Native Plant Sale. This year the chapter volunteers sold 31 MONPS T-shirts, one MONPS cap, signed up one new member and accepted one member dues renewal.

Chapter staff helping out at the exhibit table, in addition to Martha Hill, Rex Hill, and Bill Knight (shown in the photo), were John Oliver, Jack Harris and Wayne Clark.

OH!, and before I forget — while the above was in progress, a whole platoon of native plant vendors sold truckloads of potted native plants, many packages of seeds and related miscellany to hundreds of eager real and potential gardeners.



# Quarterly board meeting

## Sikeston, Mo., on April 18

President Rex Hill called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

The minutes from the December 6 board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Siemer reported that we had spent \$1,000 more than was received during the last fiscal year, but that it was not a problem at this time. He also reported that two \$500 Hudson Fund scholarships were awarded this year, with no withdrawal from the designated CDs. Donations accounted for \$758 and the remaining came from the general fund.

### PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA

Petal Pusher – Chuck Robinson thanked everyone for articles that had been submitted. He requested an article on the field trips associated with this board meeting. Rex Hill said he would write an article with input from others. Paul McKenzie will provide input about the *Carex* species observed.

Distribution Chairman – Bill Knight reported that the May/June edition was at the printers and should be out next week.

Publicity Chairman – Kevin Bley had submitted articles to the Sikeston paper in conjunction with our field trips and board meeting.

MONPS Web site – The Web site is being used. Ann Earley said she has received questions from potential new members. President Hill said David Winn was doing a great job.

Missouriensis – George Yatskievych said there were no new developments.

### COMMITTEES & TASK FORCES

Membership – Ann Earley reported that we had 22 new members since the December meeting, for a total of 311. Those who had not paid their dues were taken off the roster.

Archives – Jack Harris reported that everything was coming along. He brought pictures of the 1979 founding group to look at.

Awards Committee – Steve Buback related that several names had been submitted. Typically the announcement of award recipients is made at the annual meeting, but since the meeting is early this year, the announcement will most likely be made at the September meeting.

Nominating Committee – The slate provided by Sherry Leis and published in the *Petal Pusher* is as follows –

President George Yatskievych  
 Vice-President Paul McKenzie  
 Treasurer Bob Siemer  
 Secretary Ann Schuette.

### SOCIETY BUSINESS

30th Anniversary Committee – Larry Morrison presented several options for meeting rooms, banquet location, and speakers. After discussion, two motions – one to send a \$200 deposit to Westminster College and another to charge everyone \$20 to cover the meal and room charge – were tabled. Paul McKenzie agreed to do a reconnaissance trip to Fulton to determine if there are other options for meeting rooms and food service for a group of approximately 50 and encourage attendees from the Hawthorn chapter. He will e-mail the results. PM also agreed to coordinate the field trips.

### MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Meramec spring classes have been set, one on snails and the other on prairies. The classes have had good attendance.

President Hill thanked the Perennis Chapter for their work in organizing this meeting.

George Yatskievych noted that the money donated in Dan T's name was still in the bank. It will probably be donated to an organization for land acquisition.

## INFORMATION ON JOINING THE MISSOURI NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

### SOCIETY DUES

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

### CHAPTER DUES

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 Ozarks Native Plant .....\$5  
 Perennis .....\$5  
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**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- Eureka! Finding *Southern twayblade orchid*
- Importance of fieldwork

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