

Spring field trip set for Farmington area

The spring meeting of MONPS is scheduled for April 30-May 2 in Farmington/Park Hills, Mo.

The Friday night and Saturday night meetings are planned in a private dining room in the Field House of the Mineral Area College (adjacent to the "Cardinals Nest").

The college (Map on page 9) is northeast of the intersection of routes 67 and 32 or southeast of the intersection of Route 67 and State Hwy. O. It is also about 4 miles north of the hotels listed below.

The address for the college is 5270 Flat River Rd., but the Field House is actually west of the main campus drive, which is Dixie Kohn Drive that runs between Flat River Road and Hwy O (see attached map). We have permission to park in any of the student lots marked A-G. Please do not park in lots 1-4 which are for staff only and require a permit (nothing needed for the student lots).

Hotel options (all located on the east side of State Hwy. 67 at Hwy. 32 exit):

- Holiday Inn Express Hotel & suites at (573)701-0505 or (877) 863 4780 (main meeting point for field trips),

- Super 8 — (573) 756-0344 or (800) 800-8000 or

- Days Inn — (573) 756-8951 or (800) 329-7466.

For field trips we will meet at 8 a.m. in the lobby and hotel entrance at the Holiday Inn Express.

For those interested in camping, please contact Hawn State Park at (573) 883-3603 or St. Joe State Park at (877) 422-6766. Please be aware that a two-night minimum stay is required to make a reservation. Also, reservations can be made online at: <http://www.mostateparks.com/campres.htm>

There are a lot of restaurants in the Farmington area. Ones that have received mostly great reviews include Ryan's, El Tapatio Mexican Restaurant, Warehouse Bar B-Q and Catfish Co., the Catfish Kettle and Branding Iron Bar B-Q.

Our meetings both nights will be from 7-10 p.m. with doors opening at 6:30 p.m.

On Friday night, Allison Vaughn of the MODNR Division of State Parks plans to present a program titled "The Natural Communities of Hawn State Park."

Those attending should bring lunch, beverages, bug repellent, and possibly wet-weather gear (to ensure that it does not rain). Field trips will be as follows:

Saturday, May 1

- **8 a.m.** Carpool from Holiday Inn Express to Hawn State Park. Those wishing to drive directly to the park can meet us there at about 8:45 AM. We will leave vehicles in the picnic area and botanize in the park, then return and have lunch at the picnic area .

- **1 p.m.** Leave Hawn State Park and drive to nearby Hickory Canyons Natural Area, where we will walk the trail.

- Dinner on your own after the field trip.

- **7 p.m.** MONPS board meeting.

Sunday, May 2

- **8 a.m.** Meet at parking lot of Holiday Inn Express and drive to St. Francois State Park, where we plan to botanize along Coonville Creek and possibly also visit the fen.

Chillicothe trip set for June

The MONPS summer field trip is planned for June 4-6 in Chillicothe, Mo.

Friday night's meeting is planned at 7 p.m. at FCS Financial, 2880 N. Washington St. off of Hwy 65 in Chillicothe. The speaker has not been determined.

For the Saturday, June 5, field trips, the group will meet at 8 a.m. at the Super 8 in Chillicothe

Field trips will be to the new eastern prairie fringed orchid

location and Chloe Lowry Marsh.

The annual and board of directors meetings will be at FCS Financial beginning at 7 p.m. Saturday night.

On Sunday, June 6, another field trip is planned to Crowder State Park. Meet at the Super 8 in Chillicothe at 8 a.m.

Hotels:

- Super 8 (660-646-7888)
- Comfort Inn (660-646-1669)

Bonus exploration planned May 22

A bonus field trip is planned for Saturday, May 22, to the around Spring Creek near Carmen Springs Wildlife Refuge Management Area on U.S. Forest Service land.

The field trip will include searches for showy lady slipper and rare sedges, including Justin Thomas' new discovery site for *Carex woodii*.

The group plans to meet at the Super 8 hotel in West Plains, Mo., at 8 a.m. The telephone number for the Super 8 is (417) 256-8088.

Please let Paul McKenzie know if you plan to attend this meeting. His phone numbers: 573-234-2132, ext. 107 (W); 573-445-3019 (H).

Calendar of Events

Hawthorn Chapter

Impromptu field trips anytime mid-week: One potential trip includes shooting stars at Three Creeks Conservation Area

May 10: Regular Membership Meeting 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Sheppard Blvd. Speaker: Steve Stacey, will talk about Mosses and their propagation. See additional information about this presentation on page 5.

May 15: Graham Cave State Park between Loutre River and Danville on I-70. Attendees will learn about cave history, and visit woodland/glade restorations. For carpooling, meet at MDC (College & Stadium) at 9 a.m.; return 3 p.m.

May 20: Lunch with native plant enthusiasts. 11:30 a.m. Uprise Bakery (RagTag) Hitt Street, south of Broadway.

May 22: Visit Warren Taylor's property in Callaway County to see spring wildflowers and orchids.

May 23: Part 3 of the propagation workshop – Potting. Time and place TBA.

May 30: Spring Creek Gap Natural Area to view restored open woodland and glades. On U.S. Highway 63 north of Vichy.

June 17: Bobwhite Quail and Native Plant Field Day at Bradford Farm in Columbia.

June 26: Visit Paintbrush, Friendly Prairie and other Pettis County prairies. For more information contact Paula at (573) 474-4225

Kansas City Chapter

April 30-May 2: Annual plant sale at Powell Gardens. Contact David or Kathy Winn at 913-432-4220 if you would like to volunteer. This is Kansas City Chapter's main fundraising event for the year.

Tuesday, May 4, 7 p.m.: Meeting at the Discovery Center, between KFC and Brush Creek at 4750 Troost, Kansas City, Mo. Program to be determined.

Saturday, May 15, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Plant sale at CVS store parking lot at 75th and Wornall. There will be some really good plants native to the eastern US from our own gardens and good prices. If you have plants to donate, can help with the sale or

want to buy, contact Sue Hollis, ferngro@att.net, for more information. Money will go to the Stan Hudson Research Grant fund for studying Missouri plants.

May 22: Lamoni, Iowa, and Wallace State Park. This Field trip will combine a visit to Wallace State Park in Missouri with a trip to Lamoni, Iowa to tour the beautiful prairies in that region. This will be an all-day trip, so plan accordingly. Meet at the Wal-Mart in Liberty at the corner of Highway 152 and I-35. We will gather in the northwest corner of the parking lot at 8 a.m.

June 5: Annual Mead's Milkweed Survey at South Fork Prairie. For nine years, local MONPS members have helped with counting the listed Mead's Milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*) at South Fork Prairie. The South Fork population of Mead's Milkweed will be included in a pollination study being conducted jointly by St. Louis University and the Missouri Department of Conservation beginning this spring. Locating and flagging Mead's stems will help study participants with their work. We will meet at South Fork Prairie at 10 a.m. Contact David or Kathy Winn at (913) 432-4220 for directions.

Ozarks Chapter

Tuesday, May 18: Field trip in lieu of our regular chapter meeting. Meet at 6 p.m. at the MDC Ozark Regional Office, 551 Joe Jones Blvd., West Plains. We will travel to Peggie Skinner's property on the south end of town, where Bill Summers and Peggie will show us the work they have done to restore her glade and woodlands. If you would like to drive there directly, call Susan Farrington for directions (contact info on back).

Saturday, May 22: The state society will be having a special extra field trip to Carmen Springs, which is in our neck of the woods, so hopefully we'll have a good showing of our local chapter members. See page 1 for details.

Sunday, June 6: 1:30 p.m. Afternoon tour of the glades and woodlands at the home of Susan Farrington and Dan Drees outside of Eminence in Shannon County. The glade coneflowers will hopefully still be lovely! Call Susan for directions and carpooling information.

Tuesday, June 15: Field trip in lieu of our regular chapter meeting. Meet at 6 p.m. at the MDC Ozark Regional Office, 551 Joe Jones Blvd, West Plains. We will travel to Tingler Prairie Natural Area, south of West Plains. For more info, contact Susan Farrington.

Osage Plains Chapter

May 22: Kathy Conrad's property.

June 19: Wayne Morton's prairie property.

Perennis Chapter

May 22, 9 a.m.: Nature hike at Big Oak Tree State Park.

June 5, 11 a.m.: Southeast Missouri Sand Prairies. Meet at Sand Prairie Conservation Area (see MDC Web site or www.semonps.org for directions). After hiking through the conservation area, caravan to the sand prairie site at the nearby Baptist camp. Following site visits, to River Ridge Winery at Commerce for refreshments. Obviously, there is little shade on sand prairies, so please be prepared for sun and heat if we're so lucky to have nice early summer weather that day. For more information, contact Allison Vaughn at allisonjv@yahoo.com.

June 12, 9 a.m.: Nature hike at Big Oak Tree State Park.

June 26, 9 a.m.: Nature hike at Morris State Park.

Directions to Morris and Big Oak Tree State Parks can be found at www.semonps.org.

Please contact Chris Crabtree at big.oak.tree.state.park@dnr.mo.gov with any questions.

St. Louis Chapter

Wednesday, May 26, 7:30 p.m.

Program to be determined. Meeting will be held at Powder Valley Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, Mo.

Wednesday, June 23, 6 p.m. Our annual wildflower walk will be held at Emmenegger Nature Park (Possum Woods CA). Follow Geyer across I-270. Turn left, and meet at the Parking lot at the bottom of the hill. Please note the early meeting time to allow for viewing wildflowers in the daylight. Members may head to a group dinner after the walk.

It's 'ain't' time

By Larry Wegmann
Springfield, Mo.

This story has its roots in a botanical taxonomy course I took at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green.

Dr. Ken Nicely was the instructor and my graduate adviser. This was a summer class that started the first week of June. Dr. Nicely was a native of West Virginia and had a down-to-earth explanation for most observations that summer.

On our first field trip he cautioned that we would have a difficult time finding flowers in bloom. It was "ain't" time. Everyone in the group had no idea of the meaning to this reference. Then he said, "ain't spring, ain't summer" and the flowers are all confused and waiting for the proper time. Thinking about this and observing the conditions, he was right. Then two weeks later the summer flowers began blooming.

Last year on May 30, my grandson and I made a trip to a known blooming population of Meade's milkweed north of Warsaw. The south-facing slope had few plants in bloom. The only dominant flower in sight was the Meade's milkweed. Just the previous week-end the state board meeting of Missouri Native Plant Society in Springfield, Mo., had featured a presentation by Emily Horner on the difficulty in the fertility of the Meade's milkweed. There was a long list of possibilities lending to the milkweed's declining populations.

My grandson was a great pathfinder in locating the red flags marking the milkweeds. Some were just coming into bloom while others were past their peak. I noticed that none of the fresh blooms had damaged



Larry Wegmann

Hungry beetles find protein on Meade's milkweed.

flowers from insect consumption. The flowers past their peak all had insect damage. A distinct group of flowers without damage but fully open were covered with small black beetles. These beetles were covered with pollen. When I moved the flowers to investigate where these beetles were hiding, more beetles appeared at the base of the florets, covered with pollen.

I thought nothing more of this until I looked at the pictures we took that afternoon. While on the site, I had the single-mindedness to look only for the Meade's milkweed. The absence of flowering plants in the photographs brought to mind "ain't" time. The predominant flower blooming was the Meade's, and these were scattered plant groups.

As I was considering Emily's presentation and the beetles feasting on Meade's pollen,

it struck me that the Meade's milkweed is living in a precarious position. This population is the exclusive flowering plant on this hillside and should have exclusive attention of any pollinators searching for their nectar supply. On the opposing side are the ravenous beetles looking for a source of protein to supplement their reproduction processes.

During "ain't" time, the only protein source on this hillside was the blooming Meade's. The pollen that should be directed to propagation of the Meade's was a food source for the beetles.

This is all anecdotal and without statistical verification or comparisons to other populations of Meade's milkweed. To throw out a pun, this may be "food for thought" for systematic analysis of the affect of beetles on this endangered flower.

K.C. Chapter plans out-of-state field trip

Saturday, May 22: 8 a.m. Field trip to Lamoni, Iowa, to see the white lady slipper, *Cypripedium candida*.

Meet in the northwest corner of the Wal-Mart parking lot just off Hwy 152 on the west side of I-35 in Liberty for car pooling. After seeing the orchids, we will travel about 20 miles north to visit the Timberhill Oak Savanna

(www.timberhilloaksavanna.com).

Sybilla Brown will provide lunch and a tour of their restoration project. Bring water for the day.

Contact Sue Hollis, (816) 561-9419, fern-gro@att.net, if you plan to go for more information and so we won't run off and leave you. If you want to meet us in Lamoni, call for the meeting place.

Hawthorn Chapter

Submitted by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall, chapter representative from excerpts of Hawthorn Chapter newsletter

Jean Everett visiting from College of Charleston, S.C. Richly illustrated with gorgeous slides, including many photos of wildflowers, about the formerly extensive and diverse longleaf pine forest system in the Southeastern U.S.

With less than 3% remaining, this system consists of open forest land with scattered longleaf pine and carpeted with a very diverse herbaceous layer. This supports many birds, especially red-cockaded woodpecker, a diverse group of animals, and plants including pitcher plants and many other endangered species that depend on this ecosystem. Prescribed burning is necessary to maintain the health of this ecosystem but invasive species, especially cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrical*) and others like Russian olive have proven very hard to get rid of. For more information about this ecosystem see Dr. Everett's website: <http://everettj.people.cofc.edu/>

Nadia has stepped down as chapter representative and John White graciously has agreed to fill that position. Starting with the April-May board meeting, John will participate as the new representative, Many thanks to John.

For additional information about events and other activities of the Hawthorn Chapter contact Becky at 657-2314 or Paula at 474-4225

Kansas City Chapter

Submitted by Daniel Rice, chapter representative

Tuesday, March 2, was Kansas City Chapter's return to the Discovery Center for our meetings. The change of day seems to have been a good one, because we had a larger number of members in attendance than in the past. The meeting was primarily a planning session for upcoming events. We plan to man a display and information table at the Sprint Earth Day event in April.

Our first field trip was to the property of new members Lisa and John Richter near Knoxville, Mo., on April 18. Our second field trip was to the native plant garden at Linda Hall Library of Science and Technology in Kansas City, Mo. This is a garden started and maintained by member Sue Hollis, and she will be giving us a guided tour on Friday, April 23.

Our May meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 4, at the Discovery Center. We will start at 7 p.m. May will also be the time to travel north to Lamoni, Iowa, a nearly annual trek for the chapter. This will occur on Saturday May 22. In addition to our usual stops, we may even be stopping at a restored prairie on private property. Another good reason to attend!

For those members not attending the quarterly board meeting in Chillicothe, the Winns are conducting their annual Mead's milkweed count. This year is even more important, as the property is being included in a pollination study jointly conducted by St. Louis University and the Missouri Department of Conservation.

That is the latest from the Kansas City Chapter. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me,

either by telephone or e-mail.

Osage Plains Chapter

Submitted by Sharon Warnaca, chapter representative

The Osage Plains Chapter held their first meeting of the year at the Henry County Library, our new meeting home on Feb. 8. The program was presented by Sharon Warnaca on "The Many Benefits of Bats to the Environment."

Field trips were planned as follows: April 10, Peterman's property; May 22, Kathy Conrad's property; June 19, Wayne Morton's prairie property; July 10, Dale Jennings, annual pot luck and hayride around his property; July 24, Allen Appell's property.

At the March 15, meeting, The program was a "walk" through Missouri Wildflowers, a preview on what may be seen on the April 10 field trip.

Emily Horner is no longer with the Missouri Conservation Department but is contracting with them to do the Mead's milkweed survey, sometime at the end of May. Emily would appreciate people volunteering to assist in doing the count. Contact Emily emily.horner3@gmail.com.

Dale Jennings sowed pale purple coneflowers that appeared to hybridize with brown-eyed susans because of flowers on branched stems. Elzie Berry reported sighting a special native orchid on his farm at Tightwad, a first for Henry County.

Ozarks Chapter

Submitted by Susan Farrington, chapter representative

At our February meeting, Jacob Hadle, an MDC employee working on our MOFEP overstory crew, presented a winter tree identification program. In March, Mike Skinner, an MDC natural history biologist from Springfield told us about monitoring programs for three federally threatened species in Missouri: Geocarpon, Missouri bladderpod and Mead's milkweed. In April, Aaron Stevenson, MDC Forest Community Ecologist, presented a program spanning 4 ½ billion years of geologic history in the Missouri Ozarks. Thanks to all our speakers for these very interesting presentations!

We are enjoying the arrival of our late spring, and are looking forward to upcoming field trips!

Perennis Chapter

Submitted by Kent Fothergill, chapter president

On March 27, 2010 five intrepid botanical pioneers braved the wilds of Blades and Martin Luther King city parks in Malden, Mo.

Led by the robust and fearless Nels Holmgren, we searched through endless tangles of *Hedyotis crassifolia* Raf. for the elusive *Hedyotis australis* W.H. Lewis & D.M. Moore. Nels burned the lesser stature, white coloration, and shorter corolla tube of *H. australis* into our collective search images, so we had no choice but to find the sought after plant and in fair numbers. So we did.

Continued next page

From the previous page

St. Louis Chapter

Submitted by Pat Harris, chapter representative

Erica Wheeler was our presenter for the February meeting. She is a doctoral student at the University of Missouri-Columbia and a recipient of the MONPS Stanton Hudson Award for 2009.

Her field of study is on the varietal complex of *Allium canadense*. In Missouri we have *A. canadense* vars. *canadense*, *lavandulare*, *mobile*. There are three other natives in Missouri.

The majority of alliums are found in the Northern Hemisphere with approximately 750 species worldwide. Of the 87 species native to the US, there are two main groups, with 68 species generally west of the Great Plains. She spent some time in 2007 "stalking the wild onion" west of the Sierra Nevada and on the east side in 2008.

Our March Program was "Natural Areas of St. Charles County Parks" presented by Ben Grossman, forestry supervisor for St. Charles County Parks and Recreation.

In the last nine years, eight parks have been open to the public. All of the parks are passive. There are no swimming pools or athletic fields. Most of the land was originally old crop fields. They have 2,800 acres so far that are managed for prairie and wildlife. They already have a trail system through the prairies.

Some of the sites had quite a bit of woodland and forested tracts with the potential to be restored to savannas. They are removing an infestation of cedar trees and burning old fields and woodlands.

To take advantage of the areas cleared for utilities right-of-way, the parks are managing for grassland and glade restoration as appropriate. After a burn they seed with Missouri ecotype seed, up to 30-50 species per site.

Some of the activities the parks have to offer are: bird watching, fishing, biking and hiking. One park has a special site developed to facilitate the equipment and activities or astronomy aficionados.

They are continuing to add more acreage as the opportunity arises.

New members

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| ■ Leila Berryman,
Warsaw | Pennington, Columbia |
| ■ Beth Koebel, Pacific | ■ Vernon Max Brown,
Nixa |
| ■ Dorothy Bailey, West
Plains | ■ Daniel Lynn Creagor,
Willow Springs |
| ■ Steven F.
Donaubauer, Manchester | ■ Martha Evan, Ozark |
| ■ Josh & Sarah | ■ Emily Mientus,
Springfield |

Bobwhite Quail and Native Plant Field Day in Columbia

Bradford Research and Extension Center will host their annual Bobwhite Quail and Native Plant Field Day from 2-8 p.m. on June 17.

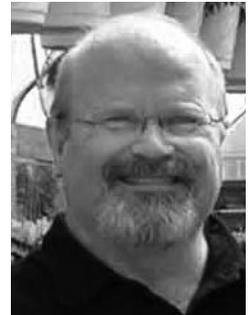
This field day will consist of indoor workshops and field and wagon tours that will give participants the opportunity to see bobwhite quail management demonstrations and research in progress and to see how native plants can be used for conservation. Participants will learn how native plants can be used for landscaping to provide habitat for native pollinators, butterflies, and other wildlife as well as to filter water runoff in rain gardens or provide food and shelter for birds.

Native plants can also be used for bobwhite quail habitat and participants will get to see firsthand how they can be incorporated in land use management such as edge feathering and native grass management. There will also be educational booths on native plants and quail management and the public will have an opportunity to purchase native plants.

This event is done in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation, Lincoln University and the Missouri Soybeans Association. For more information and directions please see Web site: <http://aes.missouri.edu/bradford/>.

May talk focuses on mosses

Steve Stacey from Jefferson City will be the guest speaker at the regular meeting of the Hawthorn Chapter on May 10. Steve will talk about moss identification, the beauty of incorporating moss in shade gardens, how moss propagate, and different methods to grow moss outdoors and indoors. During this presentation Steve will show us mosses up close and teach us to develop a whole new awareness about these charming but sometimes overlooked plants.



Steve Stacey

Steve Stacey has been gardening all his life and has been a Master Gardener since 2003. He was training coordinator for the Central Missouri Master Gardeners from 2005-07. Steve has been central Missouri Master Gardener chairman since 2007. Steve's study and interest in moss (known as bryology) goes back many years, and he has been nicknamed the Moss Man. He is a member of the American Bryological and Lichenological Society. Steve has offered the level II class to Master Gardeners since 2007. Steve is interested in other plants as well including wild edibles and other plants for landscaping and consumption.

Items submitted by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

Rare phloxes to look for this spring

By Susan Farrington
Ozarks Chapter representative

One of the pleasures of spring and early summer is getting out in the woods to look for rare plants. Here are two rare phloxes to keep an eye out for this spring and early summer.

Broadleaf phlox (*Phlox amplifolia*) is known so far from Barry, Dent, Reynolds, Shannon, St. Louis, Wayne and Webster counties. It could well be found in other counties in the state, so start looking! It typically blooms in June, but could bloom as early as late May, and I have seen one freak specimen in bloom in August. It is typically found on rich north-facing slopes, and from what I've seen it likes dolomite rock outcroppings. Its flowers look like most other phlox flowers, and are pale pink to lavender, but its leaves are much broader than other phloxes (up to 2 inches wide!). The main stems and the leaf margins have spreading hairs, and it is an upright plant, reaching up to 3 feet in height (unlike the common wild sweet William (*P. divaricata*), which trails along the ground). It is pretty tolerant of shade, but blooms better in canopy gaps.

Another even rarer phlox in our state is Carolina phlox (*P. carolina* ssp. *carolina*). It has been seen recently in Shannon County, and historically was also collected in Carter and Cape Girardeau Counties. It blooms in mid to late May, and is tall and upright (to about 3 feet tall) with intense pink flowers. It grows in dry-mesic woodlands or the roadsides through such habitats. Its leaves are up to an inch wide, and are smooth or minutely hairy. It is the only tall phlox that blooms so early in the year: downy phlox (*P. pilosa*) blooms about the same time in the same habitats with very similar hot pink flowers, but it is low growing and trailing, with very narrow leaves. Other tall phloxes do not bloom until mid to late summer.

If you see either of these plants, try to get some good photographs, note the location and notify either Malissa Underwood Malissa.underwood@mdc.mo.gov or George Yatskievych george.yatskievych@mobot.org.



Photos by Susan Farrington
Broadleaf phlox (*Phlox amplifolia*) blooms in June typically. It has leaves that are up to 2 inches wide. The plant can grow 3 feet tall.



Carolina phlox (*P. carolina* ssp. *carolina*) bloom in mid- to late May and grows 3 feet tall. Its leaves are an inch wide or less. It is the only tall phlox that blooms early.

Help needed to stop exotic invaders

By Susan Farrington
Ozarks Chapter representative

While we'd all rather be looking for rare plants this time of year, we also need to be on the keen look-out for nasty exotic invasive plants. Here are two to be on the look-out for during May and June:

I wrote about spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe* ssp. *micranthos*) early last year, but I want to remind everyone again to keep an eye out for it at this time of year. It is becoming a major problem in the southern part of the state, but there are also populations in central and northeast Missouri, and it is closing in on the St. Louis region.

The best time to stop an invasion is when it first appears, so please be alert! Once it gets a good hold on an area, it wages chemical warfare on other plants and becomes a monoculture. It invades roadsides first, but is very capable of invading and taking over pristine natural communities such as glades and prairies and open woodlands. Any place that it can get enough sunshine is suitable.

Look for the silvery green rosettes in April and May, and then for the expanding stems and blooms in June.

Very small invasions can be pulled, but be sure to get the whole roots. If the plants have already flowered in that area, the seeds will be in the ground, and pulling will often expose bare ground for new seeds to sprout in. Spot spraying is more effective: a strong concentration of glyphosate (generic Round-up) will usually work. Milestone is very effective and has some residual action to prevent seeds from sprouting, but it is expensive. It does not harm grasses grow-



Photos by Susan Farrington
Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe* ssp. *micranthos*)

ing beside the knapweed.

MoDOT and MDC have also released biological control agents (root borer weevils and seedhead flies) to attack the plants. Normally I am skeptical about biological controls, worried about the harm that they will do to other plants. But in this case, I am a believer. These insects have been used for almost 20 years, and have been tested well. They appear to be very specific to

knapweed. The small risk that the insects could cause unintended harm pales beside the certain havoc that this noxious weed will wreak upon our native plant communities. Unfortunately, these insects will take some time (5-10 years) to start controlling the plants, but it's a start!

Scabiosa alert

A new exotic invader on the horizon is pincushion flower (*Scabiosa atropurpea*), which the Arkansas Native Plant Society found in northern Arkansas in August of 2008. Linda Ellis reported in their newsletter that she also saw some in southern Missouri as they drove back from that field trip.

This plant comes to us from the horticultural trade (Alas, as a former horticulturist, I share the blame for growing some of these nasty plants that eventually became invaders! I am trying to right the wrong by spreading the word today.)

Pincushion flower is listed as invasive in Texas and California, and Linda observed it forming a monoculture along the roadside in Arkansas. Be on the lookout for this plant from June onward: it has a long season of bloom. The flowers are lavender, pink or whitish, appearing atop long flower stalks. The leaves are deeply dissected, silvery-green, and form basal rosettes prior to blooming. It is an annual or biennial.

This plant is in the same family (*Dipsacaceae*) as the invasive cut-leaved teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus*). Let's stop this new invader before it becomes a problem.

Because this plant is so new to the state, please alert either Malissa Underwood at malissa.underwood@mdc.mo.gov or George Yatskiyevych at george.yatskiyevych@mobot.org if you see it.

INFORMATION ON JOINING THE MISSOURI NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SOCIETY DUES

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

CHAPTER DUES

Columbia\$6
Kansas City\$5
Osage Plains\$5
Ozarks Native Plant\$5
Perennis\$5
St. Louis\$5

Make checks payable to Missouri Native Plant Society

Mail to: Missouri Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 440353
St. Louis, MO 63144-0353

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

(Circle all above that apply)

\$ _____ Contribution for student research award (Hudson Fund)

* All contributions are tax deductible *

Dec. 5 quarterly board meeting

By Ann Schuette
Secretary

Treasurer's Report – Due to complications following surgery, the treasurer was unable to provide a report. Rex Hill reported that the 30th Anniversary dinner ended up at minimal cost to the organization - the final cost was approximately \$1,850 with \$1,800 being received.

Publications and Media

Petal Pusher – Chuck Robinson asked for feedback from the board on the format, content, etc. of the Petal Pusher. The consensus was that it is done in a professional manner, looks great, and that it should be kept to a maximum of 12 pages. Nadia Navarrete-Tindall brought up the possibility of sending electronic copies rather than paper ones. It was decided that Chuck would send an e-mail of the final copy to each member of the board and they could forward it to those who want it. Chuck also noted he was always looking for articles. Susan Farrington said she would try to submit several short articles in the coming year on exotics or plants of interest to be looking for.

Distribution Chairman — Bill Knight thanked Jack and Pat Harris for getting out the last issue of the Petal Pusher while he was out of town. Bill will check on the minimum number needed to get the reduced postal rate. He reiterated the need for people to get articles and reports in on time so that the Petal Pusher done and distributed in a timely fashion.

Missouriensis — George Yatskievych stated that he had hoped to have the issue out by the end of the year, but since he hasn't received all the speakers' reports, that probably won't happen. There has been an editorial committee staff change. The new members will be Elizabeth Huper, Tim Smith and Jay Raveill. John Oliver made a motion to approve the change with Susan Farrington seconding. The motion passed.

Committee and task forces

Membership – Ann Earley sent her report stating we have 354 members, with eight new members since the September

board meeting. There was no word yet on whether there would be a Springfield chapter, but Max Towler said about 16 people were interested. There are only about 300 brochures left and they need to be updated and reprinted. It was decided to wait until the spring meeting to see if there is a new chapter to include. GY asked everyone to look at the current brochure to see if any changes need to be made and to let him know before the spring meeting.

Society business

Malissa Underwood – the new MDC botanist – was present and talked about her background.

2010 board/annual meetings — The spring meeting will be held the weekend of May 1st somewhere in the Farmington area. The summer meeting/annual meeting will be held the weekend of June 5th in north central Missouri to look at wetlands and prairies. The fall meeting will be the weekend of Sept. 11 in the Kansas City region. The winter business meeting will be held December 4th at the University of Missouri herbarium in Columbia. Additional information will be forthcoming in the Petal Pusher.

George Yatskievych noted that the quarterly meetings do not preclude additional field trips during the year. A tentative field trip was scheduled for May 22nd to see and inventory Carmen Springs in Howell county.

Awards Committee — Nadia Navarrete-Tindall was appointed to chair the awards committee. Steve Buback will be on the committee with Nadia choosing an additional member. An announcement soliciting award nominees will need to be in the January/February Petal Pusher.

Nominating Committee — Sherry Leis was appointed to chair the committee. The two board positions currently held by Bruce Schuette and John Oliver will be up for election in 2010. Calls for nominations will need to be in the January/February Petal Pusher.

T-Shirts/Ball Caps – There was a discussion about whether it would be a good idea to have new T-shirts or other logo items. Rex Hill said he would explore T-

shirt options while Martha Hill and Pat Harris will explore the possibility of other logo items and report back at the spring meeting.

Projects for 2010 — As mentioned earlier in the minutes there is a tentative Carmen Springs trip/inventory. Both the Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge and the Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge have shown interest in our doing an inventory such as was done for both the Mingo and Squaw Creek national wildlife refuges. After discussion Paul McKenzie volunteered to gather information and provide it to the chapters in preparation for possible field trips to inventory Swan Lake and units of the Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge. There was also a discussion over whether we would/could do an inventory of a sand prairie in southeast Missouri owned by Westvaco which is currently a cottonwood pulp farm up for sale, possibly to MDC. If anyone was interested they should let Paul know.

Photo Award — Paul presented a recommendation for a photography award in honor of Dan Tenaglia. After discussion it was decided that Paul would chair a committee to develop ideas for the award and report back to the board at the spring meeting.

Miscellaneous announcements

■ The Missouri Prairie Foundation will be having a "bioblitz" Memorial Day weekend. If anyone is interested in participating, contact Bruce Schuette.

■ The Mark Twain National Forest is developing a nonnative plant assessment. The actual plan should be available for comments in the spring.

■ The Natural Areas Association is holding their national annual meeting October 26 – 29 at the Lake of the Ozarks. MU is on the steering committee and may be contacted if anyone wants to get involved.

■ The Missouri Natural Areas committee is updating and reprinting Paul Nelson's "Terrestrial Natural Communities of Missouri" book within the year.

Missouri Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 440353
St. Louis, MO 63144-0353

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- Two rare phloxes to keep an eye peeled for

Missouri Native Plant Society Officers and Board Members

PRESIDENT

George Yatskievych
Missouri Botanical Garden
PO Box 299
St. Louis, MO 63166
(314) 577-9522 (w)
george.yatskievych@mobot.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Paul McKenzie
2311 Grandview Circle
Columbia, MO 65203
(573) 445-3019
paul_mckenzie@fws.gov

SECRETARY

Ann Schuette
303 Spring Church Rd.
Troy, MO 63379
(636) 528-6544
basch@centurytel.net

TREASURER

Bob Siemer
74 Conway Cove Drive
Chesterfield, MO 63017
(636) 537-2466
aee623@prodigy.net

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Rex Hill
4 Grantwood Lane
St. Louis, MO 63123
(314) 849-1464
rexhill@charter.net

BOARD MEMBERS

Allison Vaughn ('08-'11)
311 Ridgeway
Columbia, MO 65203
(573) 703-6448
allisonjv@yahoo.com

Robin Kennedy ('08-'11)
University of Missouri Herbarium
Columbia, MO 65211-3170
(573) 882-6519
umoherb@missouri.edu

John Oliver ('07-'10)
4861 Gatesbury Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63128
(314) 487-5924
joliver02@earthlink.net

Bruce Schuette ('07-'10)
678 St. Rt. 147
Troy, MO 63379
(636) 528-7247 (w)
basch@centurytel.net

Sherry Leis ('09-'12)
533 S. Forest Ct.
Springfield, MO 65806
(417) 836-8919
prairienut@hotmail.com

Ted Bolich ('09 - '12)
1201 S. 7th St.
Clinton, MO 64735
(660) 890-4983

MISSOURIENSIS

CO-EDITORS
George Yatskievych

Doug Ladd
The Nature Conservancy
2800 S. Brentwood Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63144
(314) 968-1105 (w)

PETAL PUSHER EDITOR

Chuck Robinson
6911 NW Blair Rd.
Parkville, MO 64152
(816) 507-8328
chuck@chuckrkc.com

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Bill Knight
5101 Dresden Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63116

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Huper
Jay Raveill
Tim Smith

ARCHIVES

Jack Harris
jahar@mac.com
9708 Green Park Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63123
(314) 368-0655

ENVIRONMENT AND EDUCATION

John Oliver, board member

MEMBERSHIP

Ann Earley
1425 Bobolink Pl.
St. Louis, MO 63144-1128
(314) 963-0103
aee623@prodigy.net

PUBLICITY

Kevin Bley
4 Zinzer Ct.
Grantwood Village, MO 63123
(314) 729-0335
bley435@yahoo.com

WEBMASTER

David Winn
7302 Rosewood Dr.
Prairie Village, KS 66208
(913) 432-4220
David@SouthForkPrairie.com

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES

HAWTHORN
Nadia Navarrete-Tindall
2116 Grant Lance
Columbia, MO 65203
navarrete-tindalln@lincolnu.edu

KANSAS CITY

Daniel Rice
815 W. 31st St.
Independence, MO 64055
(816) 461-0206
Drice95875@aol.com

OSAGE PLAINS

Sharon Warnaca
1201 S. 7th St.
Clinton, MO 64735
(660) 890-4983

OZARKS

Susan Farrington
MDC Ozark Regional Office
551 Joe Jones Blvd.
West Plains, MO 65775
(417) 255-9561 Ext. 307 (w)
Susan.Farrington@mdc.mo.gov

PERENNIS

Allison Vaughn
311 Ridgeway
Columbia, MO 65203
(573) 703-6448
allisonjv@yahoo.com

ST. LOUIS

Pat Harris
9708 Green Park Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63123
(314) 503-8558
paharris@mac.com

www.MissouriNativePlantSociety.org

