Three honored for native plant service

Three people were chosen for recognition at the annual meeting of the Missouri Native Plant Society on June 5 in Chillicothe, Mo.

Mike Leahy, natural areas coordinator for the Missouri Department of Conservation since 2006, received the Plant Stewardship award.

In the past four years as natural areas coordinator, Leahy has coordinated the nominations of eight new natural areas, expanded six natural areas and removed four natural areas to improve the integrity of the system.

Leahy also wrote the “Missouri Natural Areas Guidebook,” which is in press, and supplied content on 180 natural areas for the MDC website.

This is Leahy’s second stint with MDC. From 1997-2001, he was natural history biologist for the central MDC region. During that time, he helped get the Danville Glades Natural Area expanded from 40 acres to 340 acres. He also helped develop management plans the Danville Boone, Little Lost Creek, Blue Lick and other conservation areas.

Leahy came to his present position with MDC after working for the Virginia Division of Natural Heritage from October 2001 to March 2006. There he managed 5,624 acres of natural area preserves in the Appalachian Mountains.

In his spare time while working in Virginia, Leahy co-wrote with Paul Nelson major portions of the biogeography, forest, woodland, prairie and wetland sections of the 2005 edition of the book “The Terrestrial Natural Communities of Missouri.”

Leahy was nominated by Gene Gardner, wildlife diversity chief for the MDC.

The other two people recognized at the meeting were given John Wyle Service Award honors.

Hawthorn Chapter member Jean Graebner was unable to attend the meeting. Her award was to be presented at a Hawthorn Chapter function.

Graebner has been deeply involved with the chapter since 1989. She is serving her fifth term as secretary, and has hosted workshops, meetings and field trips at her home and participated in plant and book sales for the chapter. Nancy Brakhage nominated Graebner.

Graebner also has been active in the community educating the public and officials about the importance of conserving our natural flora. Recently she helped establish a memorial park in Rocheport, Mo., to honor another MONPS member. Acting as liaison between the chapter and the city, she guided the selection of native plants in park plantings.

Mike Ledhy accepted the Plant Stewardship Award and Paul McKenzie accepted the MONPS Service Award on June 5.

Over the years, two projects working with the Columbia, Mo., Parks and Recreation Department stand out. In the first, she and Marge McDermott designed a pamphlet listing native plants that can be found at Grindstone Natural Area, 200 acres inside Columbia’s city limits. The parks department published the pamphlet, crediting the Hawthorn Chapter, and made them available to the public.

In the second project, Graebner was co-chairwoman of a committee responsible for designing and funding a permanent kiosk display of native plant pictures by local photographers. The kiosk for many years was a focal point at the Forum Boulevard Trailhead of the MKT Nature Trail in Columbia.

Paul McKenzie was on hand to accept his service award. Currently vice president of the MONPS board since 2009, he has been involved with the society for nearly 20 years and on the board since 2000.

He has been deeply involved in designing and scheduling statewide MONPS field trips. He has conducted numerous workshops and seminars on grasses and sedges. He also has written 11 technical articles for “Missouriensis” and several articles for the “Petal Pusher.” He has served on the H. Stanton Hudson Memorial Education Grants review committee from 2005 to 2010.

He is a biologist and endangered species coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
MONPS tote bags

A tote bag emblazoned with the MONPS logo is newly available from chapter representatives. The bags were distributed during the June 5 MONPS board meeting. MONPS members Pat Harris and Martha Hill managed the creation of the tote bags, which cost $12. Proceeds from the sale of the tote bags is split between the state organization and the chapter selling them.

Dues Are Due!

By Ann Earley, Membership chairwoman

Membership renewals for the July 2010-June 2011 year are due. Please check the top line of your mailing label. If it shows the date 20100630, your dues are now payable.

To renew, please look for the renewal envelope in this issue of the Petal Pusher. Please remember to complete your contact information and your society and chapter dues preferences.

If you have questions about your membership status, please contact me (see back page for contact information).

We value our members and urge you to renew today!

New members

- Cynthia Strickland, St. Louis
- Sharon Smithey, St. Louis
- Carolyn & Boyd Terry, Columbia
- Ben & Virginia Duffield, Tuscumbia
- Marlyss Simmons, Aurora
- Ina Rea Bicknell, Rolla

Calendar of Event

Hawthorn Chapter
July 12 at 7 p.m. — Regular membership meeting at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd.

Kansas City Chapter
Picnic planned for July but date not set.

Osage Plains Chapter
No calendar items submitted.

Ozarks Chapter
Tuesday, July 20 at 6 p.m.: Field trip in lieu of our regular chapter meeting – location to be determined. Meet at the MDC Ozark Regional Office, 551 Joe Jones Blvd, West Plains. Contact Susan Farrington for more information (contact info on back).

Tuesday, Aug. 17, 6:30 p.m.: Chapter meeting at the MDC Ozark Regional Office, 551 Joe Jones Blvd, West Plains. For more info, contact Susan Farrington.

Perennis Chapter
July 17 at 9 a.m.: the Terrestrial Natural Communities of Trail of Tears State Park: Join us on a hike through the Indian Creek Wild Area at Trail of Tears State Park to see dry and dry mesic woodlands, a host of ferns and wildflowers in the forest, and the riparian zones of Indian Creek. Meet at the Visitor Center for a brief discussion before setting out on the yellow loop of the wild area trail (3.4 miles).

Look for other dates at www.semonps.org.

Southwest Missouri Chapter
No calendar items submitted.

St. Louis Chapter
Wednesday, July 28 at 7:30 pm. — Jennifer Picker will present a program on the effects of water table elevation change upon vegetation at Big Oak Tree State Park. The program is scheduled at Powder Valley Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, Mo.

Wednesday, Aug. 25 at 7:30 pm. — Jennifer Hopwood of the Xerxes Society will present a program on pollinator conservation and other invertebrate initiatives. The program is scheduled at Powder Valley Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, Mo.
Database project suggested for MONPS

An idea to bring together the assorted area plant lists, herbaria data, field notes and local existing databases into an Internet-based resource was floated at the June 5 board meeting of the Missouri Native Plant Society.

Brian Edmond, chapter representative of the newly-minted Southwest Missouri Chapter of MONPS, presented the proposal. He also is a senior systems analyst in the Computer Services Department of Missouri State University, Springfield.

The board voted to form a committee headed by Edmond to investigate the idea. MONPS President George Yatskievych said the idea has potential for a valuable resource.

Edmond said current documentation of data is decentralized and unorganized.

While Missouri Department of Conservation biologists gather a great deal of information, often that information is lost when a biologist retires or takes another position.

“This database will serve as a clearinghouse for plant locations throughout the state on public and private land,” Edmond said.

The database could be used to generate plant lists for botanizing hikes across the state. The data could also be compared to known voucher specimens to determine taxa or areas of the state that would benefit from actual specimen collections.

The database would take advantage of information from MONPS members, area managers, professional botanists, teachers and citizen scientists.

Edmond is managing a similar project collecting herpetological data, the Atlas of Missouri Amphibians and Reptiles. It can be found at http://atlas.moherp.org/. On the home page of that website is the sentence, “Our goal is nothing less than a clearinghouse for all information related to Missouri’s native amphibians and reptiles.”

Other models for the proposed native plant database is the Tropicos database run by Missouri Botanical Garden, a scholarly botanical information database of more than 3.7 million records documenting the occurrence and taxonomy of the world’s plants species, and the Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants, a similar project for only herbaria specimens (http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/).

E-mail alert equals field botany

By Pat Harris
St. Louis chapter representative

A report from Bill Summers, relayed by e-mail to other interested parties by George Yatskievych, triggered an impromptu field trip to Holly Ridge Conservation Area on April 17.

Bill reported that he had just confirmed the return of the sole known live Missouri specimen of *Listera australis* (Southern twayblade) that was discovered last year on a MONPS field trip (see Petal Pusher vol. 24, No. 4, July-August).

John Oliver and Pat Harris departed early the next morning on the 140-mile trip to Holly Ridge. Within a few minutes of arriving the now famous plant was again located and subjected to a two-paparazzi photo engagement.

*Isotria verticillata* (large whorled pogonia) was also noted in the immediate vicinity and received similar treatment. In the same area, we found *Aronia melanocarpa* (black choke berry) and *Itea virginica* (Virginia willow) in bud.

Unable to find the other population of *Isotria, we walked down the road to the sand blow-out. There we saw *Krigia virginica* (dwarf dandelion) and *Nutallanthus canadensis* (blue toadflax) in good bloom.

Thanks, Bill. Thanks, George.

Second location found for *Coeloglossum veride*

By Lance Jessee
Kansas City Chapter

Last spring while helping with the Mead’s milkweed survey at South Fork Prairie, Doug Keever mentioned to me that he had found a plant on his land that looked like an orchid, but that he couldn’t identify it. He submitted a picture to the MONPS Plant Identification Forum on the MONPS website. I responded to Doug and told him that it looked like *Coeloglossum veride* (the long-bracted frog orchid), but that it was hard to be sure from the photo.

Doug e-mailed me on May 4 of this year, that it was up and in bloom again and that he had found two more plants. I was off work on May 5, so I drove up to Worth County to have a look. It definitely was *Coeloglossum veride*. We took pictures and looked for more plants. We eventually found five plants: four in a north-facing woodland edge and one along a path near a stream in the woods.

After Doug’s e-mail I did a little research and found that this plant had only been found in Missouri one prior time and that it had an S1 or critically imperiled status in Missouri.

Doug’s land has some deep woodland draws along some intermittent streams. These are rich in woodland plants. While looking for more *Coeloglossum* we saw many *Galearis spectabilis* and many ferns. Doug is working on restoring some of his land to native prairie and hopes to clear some trees to create some savannah-like areas.
Hawthorn Chapter
Submitted by John White, chapter representative

The Hawthorn Chapters first field trip for the year was March 7, at Audubon Wild Haven, for winter tree identification. It was led by Becky Erickson and everyone had a chance to become more familiar with the winter twig key.

The next trip was March 27 to Jim Whitley’s 100-acre woods to find some early blooming plants. Becky led us to the highlight of this trip, an area where snow trillium (Trillium nivale) was spread across a steep hillside and was in full bloom. Jim had rescued these trilliums, saving them from a fateful death under the Mark Twain Reservoir. We also found Jim’s large patch of daffodils, which were also blooming profusely, and those with sharp eyes found harbinger of spring in the floodplain.

Then, on April 3, several members met at the Basket Wildlife Area and found downy serviceberry (Amelanchier arborea) on a west-facing wooded slope, and trout lily, Trillium sessile, rue anemone, and bluebells, among others.

Our Booth was set up at the Bradford Farm Plant Sale on April 10, where 30 books, many plants and one T-shirt were sold and brought in $418.50.

Steve Stacey, guest speaker at the May 10 meeting, presented an interesting and enlightening program “The Wonder of Mosses (Bryophytes),” an introductory class. In addition to a history, background, uses, anatomy, growing and killing moss, he showed us how to make your own moss terrain (mossarium). Steve also displayed several terrariums and many moss samples for close inspection. For additional information and background see the article on Steve Stacey in the May-June 2010 Petal Pusher submitted by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall.

It was voted to offer a $40 donation for booth space at the next Chestnut Festival.

About 11 hearty souls bravely removed their shoes and socks and forded a cold, rocky creek to reach Warren Taylor’s private property on May 22.

There are over 400 acres of wooded hills with at least two streams running through it, small glades and a large area of formerly grazed grassland; great habitat diversity.

Some plants I enjoyed were Hydrastis canadensis (goldenseal), Pellaea atropurpurea (purple cliffbrake), Scutellaria incana (skullcap), Aplectrum hyemale (adam and eve orchid), Dodecatheon media (shooting star), and I always like to see wild ginger and green dragon.

There were also some interesting rocks and fossils along the stream edge.

Many thanks to Warren for allowing us to visit his property and for his time given to lead us to some choice sites.

Kansas City Chapter
Submitted by Daniel Rice, chapter representative

Kansas City Chapter has had a busy late spring. Our May meeting took place on May 4 at the Discovery Center. Besides discussing the usual chapter business, we talked about having a potluck in July at Burr Oak Woods Nature Center, and the September MONPS board meeting in Kansas City. Lance Jesse gave a brief report on the planting that KC Wildlands did on various sites May 1. Kathy and Dave Winn reported on the annual Powell Gardens plant sale on April 30 to May 2. It went extremely well, as the weather cooperated (for the most part).

K.C. members donated about 300 plants from their own gardens for a plant sale held at the CVS parking lot, 75th and Wornall in Kansas City. The sale was on May 15, in a cold rain. Surprisingly, we sold close to half the plants despite the rain! Thanks to Sue Holli and Dan Rice for manning the sale.

Saturday, May 22, was the day for our field trip to Slip Bluff Park in Decatur County, Iowa. For the first time in a long while, the weather was perfect! No rain, and not too hot. We searched the bluff for the small white lady’s slipper orchid, but could locate none. This is with nine members looking! There was a recent slip (hence the name slip bluff), and we think that was where the orchids were the last time we visited the area. We did, however, locate one clump of the large yellow lady’s slipper orchid, so the time spent was not wasted.

We left Slip Bluff for our next stop outside of Leon, Iowa. This was at the savannah restoration of Bill and Sibylla Brown. They were gracious hosts, serving a great lunch with great conversation. After lunch, we were given the history of the site, and then the tour. It is a 200-acre savannah that is being restored through thinning and fire, nothing else. Among the plants that have increased are a large stand of lily twayblade orchid, and three separate clumps of the small yellow lady’s slipper orchid. Even though they still have more work to do, the Browns have done an exceptional job of restoration!

We had another plant sale at the Green Fair on the Square in Liberty, Mo. May 29. This time the weather was with us! We were able to sell nearly all the remaining plants from our previous plant sale, donating the remaining four flats to the Martha Lafitte Thompson Nature Sanctuary, which had the booth space next to ours. (Proceeds from the plant sales, $462, were donated to the Hudson education grant fund.)

That is all there is to report at this time. Our next meeting is in September.

Osage Plains Chapter
Submitted by Sharon Warnaca, chapter representative

Our April meeting consisted of organizing for the coming year, along with the election of officers.

The Osage Plains Chapter first field trip of the year was held in April, at the Petermans property west of Clinton, with fourteen attending. Twenty-seven different species were identified.

At the May meeting we had a presentation from Gary French, from the Henry County Health Office. The program was titled “Ready in Three.” Informative information on what to have on hand in case of power failures, severe storms or any long-time emergency.

Our May field trip again had a group of 14. It took place at the Conrad-Neuenschander Prairie, with 41 species identified. Our greatest find, grass pink orchid, Calopogon tuberosus.

Elzie Berry, found a coral root, Corallorhiza wisteriana Conrad,
From the previous page

on his property in Tightwad, Henry County. Elzie, sent a specimen and photo to George Yatskievych, he confirmed the identification and said it was the first documentation of the coral root in Henry County.

For additional information on joining our group, contact Sharon Warnaca, (660) 890-4264.

Ozarks Chapter
Submitted by Susan Farrington, chapter representative

Our May meeting was a field trip to see the restored glade and woodlands on Peggie Skinner’s property just south of West Plains. Bill Summers was a wonderful tour guide, as always. Thanks to Peggie and Bill for being outstanding hosts.

A few of our members attended the state field trip to see the showy lady slippers in the Carmen Springs area of the Mark Twain National Forest. We saw a lot of rare species (including Carex laxiflora, C. timida, and C. woodii), and the orchids were lovely! We also found a new site for the rare Carolina phlox (Phlox carolina) at Knoblett Lake.

St. Louis Chapter
Submitted by Pat Harris, chapter representative

Rex Hill was the instructor at a Wildwood Community College workshop on Missouri Forests in April. The workshop consisted of one evening class and two field trips. There were 11 in attendance.

The first field trip was to Babler State Park on a day that threatened rain. The whole class was in attendance. He took us on a trail that had bottomland trees, and then we walked up a hill to an area that had upland species. As an added attraction, blue phlox, Jack-in the pulpit, dwarf larkspur, geraniums, violets and Miami mist were seen. The May apples outdid themselves. There were several patches that had stems 2 feet tall with the flowers 2½ inches across. We also saw one ginseng with three stems.

George Yatskievych gave a presentation on “Reflections on the Flora of Missouri” for our April meeting. He was going to give this presentation in Fulton for MONPS 30th Anniversary, but was stuck in Nepal. So he modified it to include a brief summary of his trip and a few comparisons to Missouri. Then he gave an illustrated overview of the history of the botanical explorations and study in Missouri. This led to an update of the current status of the Flora of Missouri project. The original Julian Steyermark’s Flora of Missouri, was published in 1963. George was hired in 1987 to do an update. Volume I was published in 1999 as Steyermark’s Flora of Missouri, followed by Volume II in 2006. He expects Volume III (the final volume) to be published ca. 2012. He closed with a very brief suggestion of a possible future Missouri field guide growing out of the three-volume set.

The Confluence Chapter of the Master Naturalists (MDC Program) invited Jack Harris to their meeting of May 11. The purpose was to present a one-hour program on Summer Wildflowers of Missouri. The selected images represented species found in Woodlands, Prairies, and Glades.

The images, by Jack Harris and Pat Harris, were grouped and briefly related to the descriptions in Paul Nelson’s book “The Terrestrial Natural Communities of Missouri,” and the companion atlas by Tim Nigh and Walter Schroeder, “Atlas of Missouri Eco-regions.”

A companion field trip scheduled for the following Saturday was rained out. The trip was placed on hold pending future joint schedule agreements.

On Friday, May 7, and Saturday, May 8, the St. Louis
Ozark Chinquapin moves closer to endangered status

The Ozark chinquapin is a step closer to being considered an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

A status review of the species Castanea pumila var. ozarkensis has been initiated. The service is seeking scientific and commercial data and other information regarding this species.

The Center for Biological Diversity had petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to change the status of the Ozark chinquapin.

This is the sixth decision the agency has issued since the center filed a lawsuit to force protection for 93 species on Feb. 17, including decisions on whether to protect the striped newt, Mohave ground squirrel, Tuscon shovel-nosed snake, Berry Cave salamander and Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly, according to a center news release.

The Ozark chinquapin was first proposed for protection in 1975 based on a recommendation by the Smithsonian Institute, but that proposal was never finalized, the center reports.

The chinquapin is primarily threatened by the introduced fungus known as chestnut blight, which has decimated a number of tree species in the Eastern United States, most notably the American chestnut. Because of the blight, the chinquapin no longer reaches maturity or produces seed. Instead, the species is limited to sprouting from roots.

Missouri bans walnut products

The threat of thousand cankers disease to Missouri forests has prompted the Missouri Department of Agriculture’s Plant Industries Division on April 12 to ban the transport of walnut products from nine Western states into Missouri.

The threat of thousand cankers disease to Missouri forests has prompted the Missouri Department of Agriculture’s Plant Industries Division on April 12 to ban the transport of walnut products from nine Western states into Missouri.

The nine states affected by the ban: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah and Washington. Northern Mexico also is included in the ban.

Products covered by the ban include any firewood from hardwood trees and walnut nursery stock, green lumber or any other walnut material, living, dead, cut or fallen. Products exempt from the ban include nuts, nutmeats, hulls and bark-free, kiln-dried lumber with squared sides. Finished products, such as furniture and gunstocks, also are allowed.
Help sought to track garlic mustard

Help in Missouri is requested to help track on the abundance and distribution of garlic mustard (Alliaria petiolata) across its native and introduced ranges.


In their first field season last year, the researchers received measurements and seed samples from 65 populations, mostly from Europe, which Colautti said was already one of the largest systematic field surveys of an invasive species. The goal this summer is 150 or more, with a stronger emphasis on the Southern and Midwest to Western United States.

He said he is hoping to attract educators, land managers and citizen scientists to participate. The survey involves a simple protocol that can be followed directly or incorporated into field courses and nature surveys. A population takes two people about 2-4 hours to measure.

The sampling protocol, along with contact information is available at the Global Garlic Mustard Field Survey website: www.GarlicMustard.org. You do not need to log in to the site to participate.

The ideal sampling time is 2-4 weeks after flowering finishes and ranges from early June in Southern states and lower altitudes to mid- to late July in Northern states, higher altitudes and Canada.

Colautti can be contacted at rob.colautti@duke.edu.

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State field trips

Larry Morrison, Nancy Morrison, Pat Harris and Ann Schuette pause June 5 at Wayne Helton Memorial State Wildlife Area in north-central Missouri, where western fringed prairie orchid teased the group by being in bud but not in bloom.

Susan Farrington offers a quick note before a hike May 1 at Hawn State Park. A large clump of yellow lady slipper, Cypripedium parviflorum, was the queen of the hike.

Photos by Chuck Robinson

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INFORMATION ON JOINING THE MISSOURI NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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$______ Contribution for student research award (Hudson Fund)

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July-August 2010

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