"...to promote the enjoyment, preservation, conservation, restoration, and study of the flora native to Missouri."

**Budding Botanists... the education continues**
By: Emily Horner

Well, so began another year of secretly turning my two sons (Owen 3, Samuel 2) - my two love mud, play trucks, more play-doh, crayfish craving sons – into native plant enthusiasts. The Osage Plains Chapter field trip season began as it always does, a visit to a gem of a woodland in Henry Co. to ooh and awe over the beautiful spring ephemerals. The weather had finally turned warm, the snow at last melted. The Horners were ready to explore, even daddy Horner, despite the fact that the crappie were finally biting and his new boat was running good.

We made it a few minutes late as usual, so we quickly applied sunscreen and bug spray and headed out to the woods. We spied trillium, spring beauty and violets within seconds. It was going to be a great trip. As we hiked we saw Dutchman’s breeches. Owen, never one to let an opportunity go by to ask a question, “What are Dutchman’s breeches?”

The flower has a shape like pants that Dutch men used to wear. “What is Dutch?” That’s what you call people from the Holland. “Where’s Holland?” And so on... Samuel wanted to learn to. He discovered a pretty white flower with an interesting leaf. “Dis?” Well Samuel that is a trout lily, or at least it was until you pulled it out of the ground. Despite repeated explanations that we leave the flowers in the ground, several more made their way to freedom in the wide open air.

I knew from past experiences at the Peterman property that boys find old cars and jeeps and vans slightly more interesting then flowers. And indeed I was right again. Owen couldn’t wait to show Samuel all of the old VWs and mail trucks decomposing amongst the oaks.

But this time I had Paul to manage the side trips, so I could focus on plants. And thank goodness too,
As well, I headed out alone with all the native plant enthusiasts to the state meeting in Sedalia. But this was good, it gave Paul a chance to persuade the boys that animals in water are more interesting than plants on land. Prairie Day in Cole Camp marked the end of the season for the Osage Plains chapter. I knew what I was in for so I packed coloring books, cars, a lot of snacks and a blanket for Samuel to sleep on. We brought a load of materials and the Hi Lonesome Master Naturalists saved the day helping bring it all to our table. The Harlans and Casey “stinked” Burks brought wonderful displays that lured many a visitor to our table, including mushroom identification and milkweed plants with monarchs. I can’t thank them enough, for I wasn’t at the table 5 minutes when Owen and Samuel set off to spend the next hour looking at all of the interesting items of Prairie Day.

The animal pelts pleased the boys, as did getting their face painted. But truly it was love at first site when they saw Boomer – the prairie chicken. At first they were shy, staying a few feet back, not wanting to get their picture taken or talk to him. By the fifth visit, pictures were plentiful. “Where’s Boomy?” Samuel could be heard saying all day. After lunch a few reinforcements took over so I could help with the table. First Casey took the boys in search of giant caramel apples, then friends Kathy and Cindy whirled them in the wagon. The wagon morphed into a bed for a nap. that was not to be. I really can’t blame Samuel for not using it. Too much to do and see, plus Boomer was still walking about.

Once again the devil’s catclaws found Owen’s boots and pants, as did the blackberries. But he kept right on going, wanting to head over the hill with the other people meandering out on the prairie. Owen’s new best friend Elizabeth Middleton led Owen back, after I went to rise Samuel out of his sleep. We enjoyed the orchestra, the food and the company of like minded prairie friends. And after one last look over the expanse of grass we headed back to our home, exhausted but enthused with the day.

The Horners slowly are learning to appreciate native plants. We spent the fall and winter exploring our new surroundings in Polo, heading out to the nearest state parks, CAs and our own creek. We also took a day to go to Wah Kon Tah Prairie and to meet fellow MONPS folks at Powell Gardens. Not to mention, enlisting their help to plant a one acre prairie behind our house. I know when the creek thaws my days are numbered… the bugs and crayfish come back to the creek and daddy’s boat will hit the lake. But I will continue my efforts, not only because honestly they are my only audience, but because I hope to instill a land ethic that stays with them forever – one trip at a time.

April Board Meeting

13 April, Friday - Bull Shoals Field station Drury house (on the Drury Conservation area). This will also be the meeting place for Saturday and Sunday morning's field trips and Saturday evening's board meeting.

![Owen & Samuel with Boomer](image)

The Missouri Prairie Foundation held a reception at the Morton prairie outside Cole Camp. The day was long enough at this point, but Owen pleaded with me to go. I relented, thinking that Owen and Samuel would finally get on the prairie this year and see the last vestiges of blooms. Upon arrival Samuel was asleep in another world. So Owen and I left him the car and headed out onto the prairie.

From the North: Take Highway 65 south about 38 miles from Springfield, then exit at Highway 76 (Branson Landing/Shepherd of the Hills exit). Turn left (east) at the top of the exit ramp and follow 76 east past the Skaggs Hospital to the traffic circle. Take the Branson Landing exit off of the traffic circle. You will cross Lake Taneycomo. Turn left after the bridge (at the light, you will go through another roundabout). After the long hill and some curves, you will also pass a golf course and new developments on the right.*
April Board meeting directions - continued

From the South: Take Highway 65 north from Harrison and exit at Hollister/Business 65. Take Bus. 65 until it meets Highway 76 at an intersection just south of the Lake Taneycomo Bridge (on your right). Go straight through the roundabout onto Hwy 76 east. Your next turn will be about 5 miles from here.

Shortly after passing a small school (Kirbyville), turn right (south) onto county road J. Follow J for about 6 miles, and then go straight through the four-way intersection (a MO Department of Conservation sign points toward the Mincy Conservation Area for a turn to the right).

You should enter a gravel road and see yellow Department of Conservation signage at a first open barway/gate. You will later pass through a second bar gate, which is usually locked, but open for special events (Michelle Bowe will unlock it). Follow the gravel road for 4 miles until you reach the field station. You will see the field station sign and the large stone house (the Drury house) overlooking the lake.

There are two field station houses (the Mincy house is not actually on the conservation area), with sleeping space for 20-30 people, and camping in the area is also allowed. If you are interested in staying at one of the field station houses, please contact Michelle Bowe as soon as possible. A fee for staying at one of the houses is not required, but donations to the field station are encouraged. Michelle will plan to be there early on Friday, so she can meet you at the Drury House (directions above). Michelle's contact info is: Mbowe@missouristate.edu; cell phone (texts are fine): 417-414-8030.

There will be no charge for use of the field station houses, but they will accept donations for use (electricity, etc. does cost some money).

Hope to see everyone in April!
There is a refrigerator. People staying at the field station should bring coolers for drinks.

Field Plan

Saturday morning at 9am - we will meet at the first field trip site - Bear Cave trail (it will take about 5 minutes from the field station and about 20 minutes from Branson). To get there, follow the directions to the field station until you get to the cross road on Rt. J in Mincy where there is an MDC sign pointing to the Mincy Conservation area. Take a right at that cross-road (Gunnison Road; toward the Mincy CA). There will be a campground on the left. Go past that and past a dirt road on the right. Just past that, there is a small parking lot with a sign labeled, "Bear Cave Trail."

At lunch (around noon), we will meet at the campground in the Mincy Area (see above). Interested folks can head across the street and explore that glade. After lunch, we will head to Bee Creek. To get there, head further into the Mincy Area on the same road (Gunnison Road) until you get to the MDC building on the left. The entrance to the Bee Creek Area is on the left just past the building.

Sunday morning at 9am, we will meet on the College of the Ozarks Campus. To get to campus, take the Hwy. 65 Business Hollister Interchange exit to the West. This will take you onto the campus.

Directions to the glade at College of the Ozarks.

Once you get to campus, go through the main gate (Security knows we're coming) and then:
1. After entering the gate, go to the bottom of the hill
2. Take a sharp left and head back up the hill
3. Near the top of the hill the road forks; go straight.
4. The last portion of the road is gravel.
5. Park at the power line/fire line immediately past the RV pad (the RV may or may not be there).
6. Go west along the fire line, then south up the hill along the second power line.

Nominating Committee Announces Candidates for 2012 Board Elections

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the slate of candidates to replace at-large Board Members Sherry Leis and Ted Bolich who have chosen not to continue in their positions. We greatly appreciate their past service to MONPS and hope to see them at future quarterly fieldtrips, even though they don’t have to participate in the exciting Board meetings. Malissa Underwood and Steve Buback have accepted the nominations to those Board positions that run through 2015. Malissa is currently working as the State Botanist for the Missouri Department of Conservation and has previously held the position of Grassland Botanist for MDC. She earned a Masters Degree from the University of Nebraska in the ecology and biology field and we won’t hold it against her that this is now a Big Ten school. Steve is also working for MDC as the Regional Biologist in the northwestern part of the state, having replaced our friend Tom Nagel in that position. He also holds a Masters Degree from Duke University, in ecosystem science and management. He, however, never played for Coach K. Previously he served as Park Ecologist for Forest Park Forever in St. Louis and has worked for MDC as a Resource Science Technician on the MOFEP project in the Ozarks. Both of these fine young people bring excellent skills and credentials to our organization and will be most welcome additions to the MONPS Board.

Rex Hill, Chairman
CHAPER REPORTS

Hawthorn Chapter
Blazing Star Awarded

The Hawthorn chapter's annual Blazing Star award was given at the chapter holiday party on our President Vanessa Melton-Silvey's home on 11 December. Ann Wakeman was recognized as a wonderful teacher; for sharing her knowledge of the native prairie plant ecosystem, and her skills with seeds and plants. Acknowledged as an absolute pyro in her enthusiasm for burning as a management technique. And appreciated as a tireless worker helping natives and this chapter in any way needed.

Seven volunteers participated in a workday at the Chapters adopted spot on Stadium Blvd., across from MLK Park on Dec. 10. The area was cut with a brush hog, some locust trees were removed with a chainsaw and bush honeysuckle was removed along the forest edge. Orange milkweed seeds were planted and 6 bags of plant material with seeds was broadcast.

Our regular meeting was held at the Unitarian Church on Jan. 9. We discussed plant sale events and field trip possibilities and made a tentative schedule for the year. Our program was a seed exchange and thanks to several members a large variety of seeds were available to share.

John White, Chapter Representative

St. Louis Chapter

Dr. Kyra Krakos, Peter Raven's last graduate student, presented her research on the Evolution and Reproductive Ecology of Oenothera (Onagraceae) at our January meeting. As many of you know, there have been many changes to this family as we have lost the Genus names, Gaura and Stenosiphon in Missouri. They are now Oenothera species. Her work has led to some of those realignments to the Onagraceae nomenclature. Her talk was an interesting presentation about the trials and tribulations of a graduate student attempting to collect enough data from a mostly nighttime pollinated plant, many of which had to be observed in difficult circumstances near the increasingly dangerous Mexican border in Texas. Through her research, she was able to explain many of the diverse evolutionary changes in the plant and its reproductive habits.

At the meeting, Rex Hill volunteered to take the next stint as Chapter Representative, or maybe he happened to be out of the room when the call was made for someone to fill that position? We also learned of many upcoming events, where Martha Younkin will demonstrate the use of native plants in craft projects at our February meeting. Coming up also, are events sponsored by the Missouri Prairie Foundation that include a tour of Spurgeon Hollow Glade Natural Area near Eminence led by Susan Farrington on April 18 and a Sand Prairie fieldtrip in SE Missouri led by Bob Gillespie. The MDC Natural History Biologist from that area on May 5. A call was also made for volunteers to man the MONPS booth at the Shaw Nature Reserve native plant sale to be held on May 11.

St. Louis Chapter continued

We were also reminded of the upcoming MONPS quarterly fieldtrip, April 13-15, in the Branson area and the Grass Identification Workshop being taught by Paul McKenzie at Meramec Community College, May 18 and 19. Finally, on a personal note, even with the unusually mild winter, we still have not been fed by the beautiful Missouri springtime and the flowering of our wonderful spring ephemerals. Bring it on!

Rex Hill, Chapter Representative

Southwest Chapter Report

Our January meeting was a huge success! Dr Michelle Bowe conducted a workshop on identifying winter twigs. Approximately 20 people, in three different groups, set about identifying 34 different species of winter twigs, including poison ivy. The group had a lot of fun trying to figure out all of the twigs.

The Shaw Nature Preserve / Missouri Botanical Garden generously provided us with a seed donation for the Springfield Botanical Center rain garden. Included in the 1 1/2 pounds of seed are 64 species, including 18 species of Carex! We also have another batch that contains the seeds of 48 species of woodland and shade species. In May, we'll be receiving another donation from Sue Hollis that will be a perfect addition to the shade and woodland wildflower garden at the Botanical Center. With good weather this spring, we'll get all of these in the ground and the garden itself will benefit from a truly exceptional variety of native plants, including prairie, woodland, and wetland species.

Stan Parrish, president of the Missouri Prairie Foundation, generously provided us with a checklist of prairie species found on many of MPF's prairies. The checklist includes flowering times and our chapter will use the list in future seasons to plan field trips.

Brian Edmond, Chapter Representative

CHAPTER EVENTS

Hawthorn Chapter

12 March, Sunday, 2012 - 6:00 pm: Membership Meeting, Eaglebluffs, 6700 W. Route K, Vic Bogosian [MDC biologist] will give a program on turtles.
15 March, Thursday, 2012 - 11:30 am. Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts, RagTag, 10 Hitt St. Just south of Broadway.
24 March, Saturday, 2012 - 11:00 am: Mosey at Whitley’s Thicket. Leave MDC at 11am for lunch at Heuer’s, OR meet us at Heuer’s at 1 pm for the hike after lunch to see wild leeks and snow trillium. Difficult climb on one hill; wear knee boots for stream crossing.
CHAPTER EVENTS

Haworth Chapter - continued
29 March, Thursday, 2012 - 1:00 pm: Tentative Basket Area Ashland, or Pinnacles Park, North Boone Co: Serviceberry and other spring flowers. Leave MDC in Columbia at 1 pm. Easy/Moderate. Possible alternate dates are 31 March, Saturday or 5 April, Thursday, 2012.
14 April, Saturday, 2012 - 10:00 am – 2:00 pm: Plant Sale at Bradford Farm, 9:00 am Booth set up.
13-15 April, 2012 - State meeting, Branson area/Bull Shoals Reservoir, etc.
[16 April – 6 May = Turkey Season: can go in woods only after 1 pm; State Parks = OK any time]
19 April, Thursday, 2012 - 11:30 am: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts, RagTag, 10 Hitt St. Just south of Broadway.
22 April, Sunday, 2012 - 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm: Earth Day Columbia, Booth set up and plant sale.
26 April or 10 May, 2012 - impromptu mid-week: Shooting stars at 3-Creeks CA. Contact Becky for reservations. Easy walk.
28 April, Saturday, 2012 - 8:00 am: Pershing State Park [LaClede]. Easy boardwalks thru wetlands, wet forests and other habitats. Leave MDC in Columbia at 8 am. All-day outing; bring sun hat, bug spray, water, snacks. We will find someplace to eat.
4-6 May, 2012 - Camping weekend at Hawn SP: Friday evening thru Sunday noon. Must make reservations with Paula 573-474-4225 before 10 February to camp with group.

Kansas City Chapter
6 March, Tuesday, 2012, 7:00 pm - Chapter meeting at the Discovery Center, 4750 Troost Ave., Kansas City MO. Elmo Law will give a program on life cycles.
21 April, Saturday, 2012, 9:00 am - Field trip to Hobby Hill Park. The park is located at NW 76th Street and N. Main Street, Kansas City, MO. Bring water and snacks. We should see a number of fern species there.

Osage Plains Chapter
March: Field trip TBA.
19 March, Monday, 2012, 6:30 pm - Clinton, Tree City USA – find out how Clinton gained this recognition. Henry Co. Library. For more information contact April: Field trip TBA
16 April, Monday, 2012, 6:30 pm - Secret symbiosis: the role of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi on the, the prairie. Presented by Elizabeth Middleton, Grassland Botanist, MDC. Henry Co. Library.
21 May, Monday, 2012, 6:30 pm - Native and not so native plant swap. Bring extra plants you don’t need and go home with new. (NO invasives please). Henry Co. Library.
End of May – early June: Mead’s milkweed surveys TBA.
For more information contact Emily Horner, 660-351-2816, emily.horner3@yahoo.com

St. Louis Chapter
22 February, Wednesday, 2012, 7:30 PM – Martha Younkin will speak on the use of native plants as materials for cordage and practical craft projects. She will have examples of some of her work including baskets made from plant cordage and other natural sources. There will be a “hands-on” component to the program. Plant materials will be provided, and attendees will get an opportunity to try their hand at making something out of some commonly available plant fiber sources. The program will be held at Powder Valley Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO.
28 March, Wednesday, 2012, 7:30 PM – Kendra Swee will be our speaker. She is the Naturalist at Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park in Wildwood, Missouri. Her talk will present an overview of the park and some of the current challenges such as the tornado damage of last year and the continuing issue of over-browsing by the deer population. The program will be held at Powder Valley Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO.
25 April Wednesday, 2012, 7:30 PM – John Atwood of the Missouri Botanical Garden herbarium staff will speak on the Bryophytes of Missouri. These ubiquitous but often overlooked plants include mosses, liverworts and hornworts, and grow in a variety of habitats. John will show some of the common and not-so-common Missouri bryophytes and discuss their taxonomy and ecological significance. The program will be held at Powder Valley Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO.

Southwest Chapter
7 April, Saturday, 2012 - Field Trip to Kipfer's Bull Creek Farm. Watch our Facebook page for details!
24 April, Tuesday, 2012 6:00 pm: Monthly Meeting. Topic TBD. Arrive early and help the chapter assess our gardens and the work that will need to be done on them.
Late April - Field Trip to Jacks Fork Area, Led by Susan Farrington and Bill Summers. Watch our Facebook page for details!

Ozark Chapter
20 March, Tuesday, 2012, 6:30 pm - Chapter Meeting. Brad Hadley, MDC Conservation Agent (and biologist extraordinaire!) will present a program about feral hogs and the threat they pose to our native plant communities. MDC Ozark Regional Headquarters. 551 Joe Jones Blvd. West Plains.
1 April, 2012, Sunday, 11:00 am - Volunteer work day to kill Japanese honeysuckle and multiflora rose in the woods at Tingle Prairie. Bring pruners or loppers if you have them, and leather gloves (if not, we'll have some to supply volunteers). We'll also visit colonies of the rare Ozark trillium, and ensure that they aren't being swallowed by these nasty invaders! Bring the whole family!
Ozark Chapter continued

17 April 2012, Tuesday 6:30 pm - Chapter Meeting. Bob Cunningham will present a program covering the historical and social factors affecting pine management in the Ozarks during the late 1800’s through 1940. Bob is both a forester and a historian, and will show his great collection of historical photos of the Ozarks. MDC Ozark Regional Headquarters. 551 Joe Jones Blvd. West Plains.

21 April 2012, Saturday, 10:00 am - Join Missouri Prairie Foundation members for a hike to tour Spurgeon Hollow Glade near Eminence. The rare dwarf white lady slippers should be blooming, and the yellow paintbrush should be breathtaking. We will also tour other glades in the vicinity. Sturdy boots are recommended, as we will hike off-trail on rocky ground.

To register for Ozark Chapter events, contact Susan Farrington (see contact info on back).

Perinnis Chapter

Join Natural Resource Steward Chris Crabtree for early spring hikes at Big Oak Tree and Morris State Parks.

Contact the park office at 573.349.6149 for more specific details.

DNR recently treated the woodlands at Morris State Park, located on Crowley's Ridge, with prescribed fire. Visit the park in early April to see a flush of spring wildflowers! Visit www.semonps.org for any impromptu fieldtrips or meetings.

24 March, Saturday, 9:00-10:00 am - Nature Hike at Big Oak Tree

7 April, Saturday, 9:00-10:00 am - Nature Hike at Morris State Park

Missouri Institute of Natural Science

Missouri’s pre- eminent natural science institute, home of Riverbluff Cave, Springfield’s own Ice-Age Time Capsule, needs volunteers to help with their Prairie and Glade Restoration Project!

• Donate seeds, or organize seed collection of Missouri native plants
• Help with the re-seeding and/or recruit community/scout groups to assist
• Facilitate donations of live native plants in the springtime

Contact: Mary Rauzi, Museum Director, Missouri Institute of Natural Science
Email: maryrauzi@monatsci.com Mobile: 417.766.6746
2327 W. Farm Road 190, Springfield, MO call for spring hours, or an offer to assist!

New Members

Lisa Bakerink, Springfield; Iralee Barnard, Hope, KS;
Elizabeth Middleton, Clinton; Marc Bowers, High Ridge;
Elmo Law, Overland Park, KS; Peter VanLinn III, St. Louis;
Cassi Saari, Leland, IL; Andy Stahr, Leland, IL;
Bekki Galloway, Fayette

Ann Earley
MONPS Membership Chair
 aee623@prodigy.net

To conserve, protect, and restore the Natural Areas of the Kansas City Region by involving people in the stewardship of the land.

Kansas City WildLands

Kansas City WildLands (KCWL) accomplishments and successes in the restoration and conservation of the Kansas City area’s remnant natural communities have grown steadily over the past 10 years and continue forward on this successful path thanks to the commitment of KCWL’s Partners, sponsors and hard-working volunteers.
The success of KCWL’s restoration and outreach efforts continues to amaze!

2011 Restoration Highlights

• Kansas City WildLands conducted 20 workdays on 10 remnant natural community sites during 2011, despite several snow and rain workday cancellations in the early part of the year. 540 volunteers representing students, corporations and citizens donated over 2,100 hours of time and sweat to remove invasive plant species and plant seeds and seedlings.
• KCWL values education, formal and informal, as a key element in the long-term conservation of the WildLands. With that philosophy, all workdays included an educational component.

Prescribed burns were conducted on three fire-managed sites, with trained volunteers available through KCWL helping the land managers control fire lines.

• KCWL Partners pooled their substantial expertise to conduct wildlife and invasive plant surveys, treat exotic wintercreeper, photo monitor sites, educate the public about local wild lands through several venues, create and update management plans and work with land managers on remnant WildLands sites’ and non-remnant parks’ restoration goals and needs.

• KCWL’s Seed Team - a group of highly specialized independent volunteers - gave hundreds of hours of their time over the growing season marking plants, harvesting and processing a record amount of seed from 53 significant species on the Wild Lands. This seed will be grown into seedlings by Powell Gardens for spring planting, broadcast directly on the wild land sites or given to local community groups restoring their own neighborhood parks.

• Another 30 acres of Rocky Point Glades in Swope Park has been added to the original restoration focus area, and is well underway in the restoration process. KCWL hopes to nominate the site as a state-designated Natural Area within the next few years.

• Another 20 acres have been added to the Jerry Smith prairie restoration.

• The Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Prairie Foundation and the Partners For Plants (via Westport Garden Club) contributed funding to utilize large scale wild land restoration biologists - Sericea lespedea and thick stands of honeysuckle were treated at Jerry Smith prairie, Blue River Parkway and Rocky Point Glades thanks to this funding.

Other KCWL 2011 Highlights

• The Honeysuckle Academy initiated by KCWL in 2010 has proven a success - community groups trained last year to conduct their own restoration workdays in non-WildLands parks continued with their efforts through 2011. The KCWL Lending Shed lent out tools for at least 20 non-KCWl site restoration workdays this year!
• Jerry Smith Prairie (and KCWL’s restoration work there) was featured in KC Star and a Huffington Post articles.
• KCWL worked with KCMO Parks to finish the trails at Hidden Valley natural area, and continues to work with the Earth Riders Trails Association, focusing on invasives in Swope’s and Blue River Parkway’s trail corridor - ensuring the public has a safe, visually pleasing and biologically diverse access to the wild lands.

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• Several of KCWL’s long-term sites saw a substantial and consistent increase in visitors this year.
• KCWL was honored with the 2011 Kansas Recreation and Parks Association’s Distinguished Public Service Award.

With the continued support of its Partners, Kansas City WildLands looks forward to what we’ll accomplish together during the NEXT ten years!

Linda Lehrbaum is the Program Manager for Kansas City WildLands at Bridging The Gap. Her contact information: 816-561-1061 x116, linda@bridgingthegap.org.
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