

Information on events and lodging for the MONPS meeting April 12-14, 2013:

The Missouri Native Plant Society Spring Meeting and Field Trips will be held April 12-14, 2013 in McDonald County, Missouri. Our Meetings will be held in the **Hometown Bank Meeting Room**, located on U.S. Hwy 71 about a mile from the Arkansas border. Our Field Trips will be in and around **Big Sugar Creek State Park** nearby. Among other botanical treats, we hope to locate some of the remaining examples of *Castanea pumila* var. *ozarkensis* (Ozark chinquapin). All information is correct at time of publication, but may change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Note: This area is remote and the state park is a day-use only area with minimal facilities. Two lodging options are listed below. The Neosho area is a shorter drive for most people, has more restaurants, and is about a half hour away from the field trip sites. The Booneslick Lodge is closer to the field trips, less expensive, and the meetings will be held there. If you intend to come to the meetings (looking at you Board Members), this would be the preferred location.

Schedule: Friday, April 12

7:00 P.M. Hometown Bank Meeting Room, located next door to the Booneslick Lodge. Program: **Orientation and Introduction to Big Sugar Creek State Park** – Allison Vaughn, Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Directions to Hometown Bank:

From the North: (Best Western Big Spring Lodge)

1. Head **east** toward **Lusk Dr** 0.2 mi
2. Take the 1st right onto **Lusk Dr** 150 ft
3. Take the 1st right onto **US-60 W/US-71 Alt S** 1.2 mi
4. Turn left onto **I-49/US-71 S** toward **Ft. Smith, AR** 18.3 mi
5. Continue onto **US-71 S** 8.5 mi
6. Turn left first traffic light after “**Gordon Hollow Cr.**” sign

Sharp right on outer road heading south

Both **Booneslick Lodge** and **Hometown Bank** will be on the right (< 0.2 mi)

See also the **Google Map Page** for this event which is self-updating: <http://goo.gl/maps/5VsvK>

Saturday, April 13

8:30 AM – Meet at **Booneslick Lodge parking lot (or trail head parking area at 9:00 A.M.) Caravan to Big Sugar Creek State Park trail head parking area.** Directions:

1. Head northwest on **US-71 N**; 6.3 mi
2. Turn right onto **US-71 BUS N**; 2.3 mi
3. Turn right onto **S. Jesse James Road (Hwy W)**; 0.1 mi
4. Continue on **Jesse James Rd** (stay left at fork); 0.3 mi
5. Turn right onto **8th St** 0.3 mi
6. Turn left onto **Big Sugar Creek Rd (Co Rd Sew24)**
7. Turn right to stay on **Co Rd Sew24**

Continue to follow **Co Rd Sew24**; 3.6 mi

Trail Head parking will be on the left
1:00 PM – Afternoon field trip – Location to be announced
7:00 PM – **MONPS Board Meeting at Hometown Bank Meeting Room**

Sunday Morning:

8:30 A.M. – Meet at **Booneslick Lodge parking lot** – Field location to be announced.

Motels in the Pineville area:

Booneslick Lodge

21140 US Highway 71, Jane, MO 64856

Phone: (417) 226-1888

Website: <http://www.booneslicklodgejane.com/>

The Booneslick Lodge is offering MONPS a group rate of \$55 per night. In order to get this rate, you must call the number above and identify yourself as part of the group. Online bookings will be charged a higher rate.

GPS: N 36.511159, W 94.281858
+36° 30' 40.17", -94° 16' 54.69"

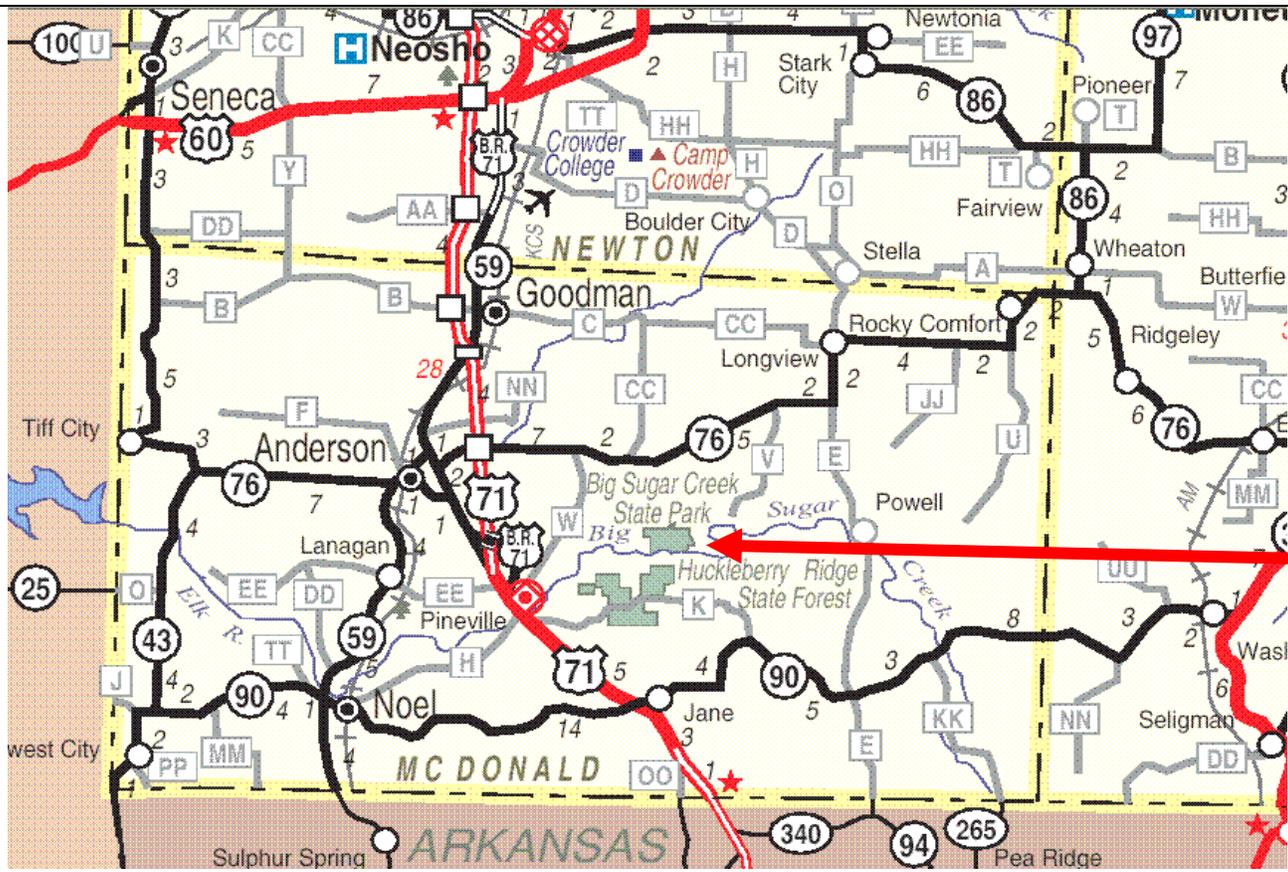
Best Western Big Spring Lodge

1810 Southern View Drive. Neosho, Missouri, 64850-2912, United States Phone: (417) 455-2300

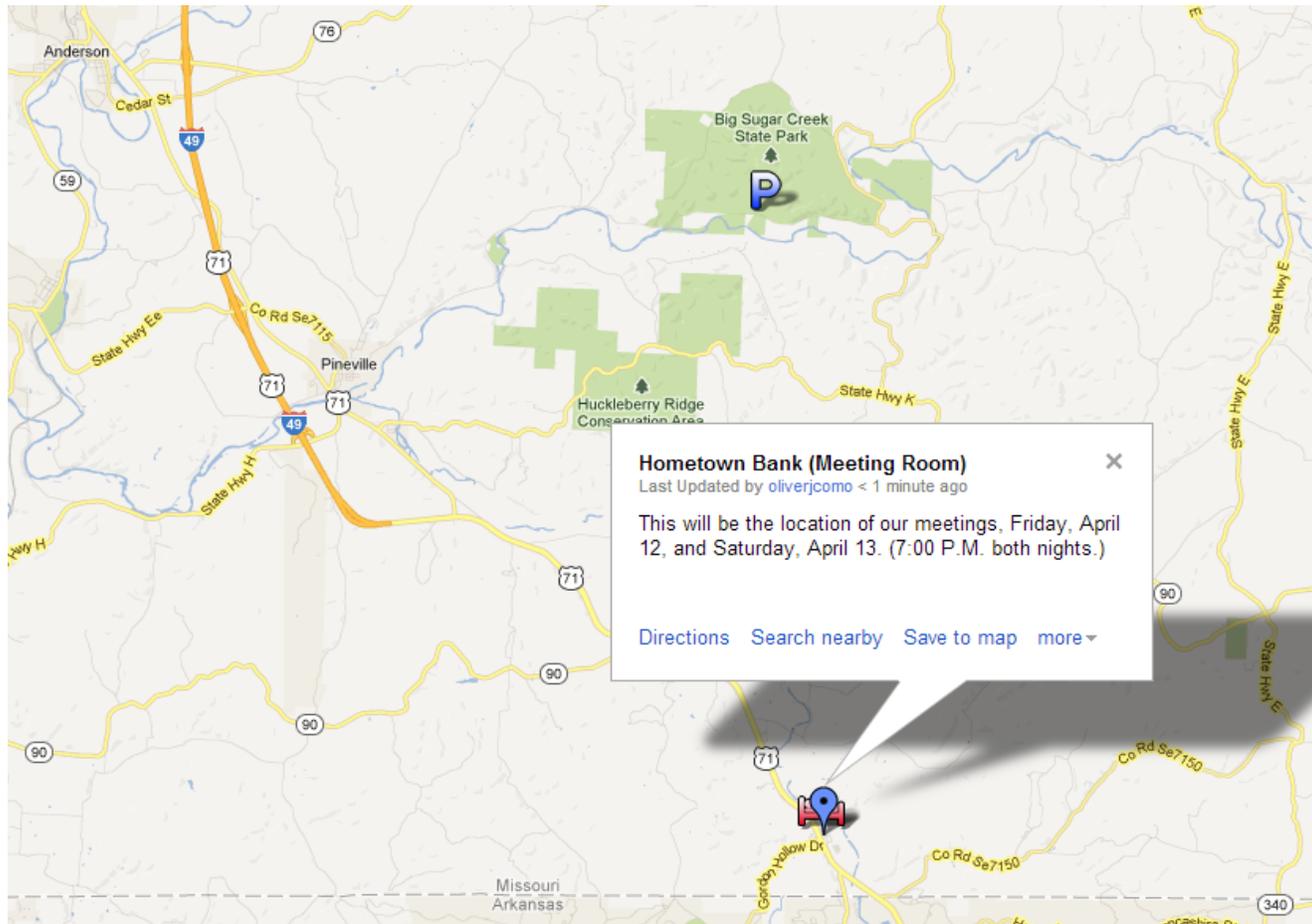
Website: <http://bit.ly/YgkEJY>

GPS: N 36.842229, W 94.398119
+36° 50' 32.02", -94° 23' 53.23"

For the most accurate and up-to-date details,
please visit
[The Missouri Native Plant Society website](http://www.missourinativeplantsociety.org/)
and our [Facebook Page](#).



Look on Google Earth or Google Maps or the Delorme Missouri Atlas.



Kansas City Chapter

Submitted by John C. Richter, KC Chapter President.

The results of the Kansas City Chapter officer elections is as follows: All current officers elected by acclamation with the following exception – John Richter declined to run as Chapter Representative and Hilary Haley nominated herself and received several nominations to fill the position. Hilary Haley was then unanimously elected to the position as Kansas City Chapter Representative. John Richter had been serving as both Chapter Representative and President in 2012 and is excited about this change of duties.

Sue Hollis is encouraging persons to purchase T-shirts from our Chapter inventory. T-shirts can be sold for \$18/shirt. Sue Hollis has a paypal account that other people with paypal may use. As an alternative, a hard copy check will work. For purchase information please contact Sue Hollis:

ferngro@att.net.

Please see the KC Chapter Calendar and note that we are tentatively planning a canoe trip in July on the Eleven Point River. If persons from other chapters are interested please contact Sue Hollis. We had a very successful 2013 field trip planning session with lots of great ideas.

Osage Plains

Casey Burks, Chapter Representative

Dec 1st, 2012: Members Emily Horner, Theresa Cline and Casey Burks attended the 4th Quarter MONPS meeting in Columbia. Emily presented an update on the wildflower brochure. The 4th Quarter meeting is the time to assess the various areas of the State offering great opportunities to see plant diversity during the spring, summer and fall quarterly meetings. Many factors are weighed such as time interval since last meeting at the site, conflicts with other botanical meetings, facilities to accommodate a large group etc. Usually a Southern location is chosen for the spring meeting, a Central location for the summer, and a more Northerly area for the fall meeting. Some meetings have been held across the border into Arkansas and Illinois. Rex Hill has kept a journal of all the MONPS quarterly meeting locations since 1979! This coming spring meeting (April 12-14) will be in SW MO with field trips to Big Sugar Creek SP plus other special areas nearby. You all are invited to come, share and fill your senses with beauty.

Perennis Chapter

Submitted by Allison Vaughn, Chapter Representative

The esteemed bryologist Nels Holmberg has offered to give a presentation on his bryophyte work for a Perennis meeting in the near future. We are also investigating a joint fieldtrip with the St. Louis NPS chapter in the spring or early summer. Check with semonps.org for impromptu hikes and upcoming information that may be posted. Please contact Allison at allisonjv@yahoo.com for more information.

Southwest Chapter

Submitted by Brian Edmond Chapter Rep

We started our inaugural 2013 meeting in January with a review of botanical terms (for keying) and a survey of several "winter botany" specimens. While we're all used to getting out during the growing season, there is lots to see and do (and identify) during the winter months. Michelle Bowe passed around several specimens from winter-persistent herbaceous plants. She also talked about the characteristics of each species.

Then, we got down to business. Michelle pulled out several twig specimens for discussion and identification. Much twig identification depends on characteristics such as bud characteristics and leaf scars that aren't used much during the growing season. Like a dendrological purist, Michelle stated that trees are often easier to identify in the winter without the leaves there to distract you! While this just sounds like crazy talk to me, I will have to admit that identification of winter trees has become much easier in the past several years. Maybe some of that purity has rubbed off on me.

Julian and I spent some of that time learning to pronounce names during this workshop. He picked up two new genera for the evening--*Gleditsia* and *Robinia*--both figuratively and literally and the thorns and spines didn't seem to bother him much. Like me, he freely intermingles scientific and common names and often cannot remember both names for any single species. This leads to an awkward and confusing mixture of names when talking to someone about an assemblage of plants. I'm getting older and more tired every year, so I blame mine on mental fatigue. I'm not sure about Julian's excuse.

As usual, we're watching the weather and waiting for spring. We'll plan some field trips for spring wildflowers and some local prairies, weather permitting. Watch the Facebook Events page and your email inbox for more details!



Wild sweet William

photo-drawing BE

Ozark Chapter

Submitted by Liz Olson, Chapter Representative

No new news at this time as we do not meet in mid-winter

St Louis Chapter

Submitted by Rex Hill, Chapter Representative

Ozark Chinquapin Restoration – Some people accept what they've been told to be true, others go out and find for themselves the truth of the matter. Such is the case with our **January speaker, Stephen Bost**, currently working as the Naturalist at Montauk State Park. He and a number of very dedicated volunteers have found enough evidence of Ozark chinquapin trees that are resistant to the chestnut blight in Missouri and states to the south and east that they have taken as their mission to restore these once magnificent trees to their native range. They have done this using intensive methods of first locating and isolating trees, collecting pollen, and then hand pollinating other remnant trees. The offspring are then tested for resistance to the viral chestnut blight. Then through distribution of seeds, cuttings, and saplings to volunteers to plant and nurse the offspring to maturity, they hope to establish viable populations throughout the native range for this tree. This seems to be a quixotic task, but his enthusiasm and dedication to this project was infectious. His story of this once vital species is simultaneously sad, compelling, and hopeful. He is the principle leader of the Ozark Chinquapin Foundation (OCF), a similar group to the American Chestnut Foundation (ACF) that has been working for many years in an attempt to restore those once dominant trees in eastern forests. While many of ACF's efforts have been to accomplish restoration through hybridization with non-native chestnut species, apparently resistant to blight, Mr. Bost's group is attempting to restore the pure native strain of Ozark chinquapins.

The talk was very informative with so many interesting and revealing details about this native tree, that I cannot hope to do justice by repeating them here. However, I encourage each of you to visit their very comprehensive website at ozarkchinquapin.com, or simply 'Google' – Ozark Chinquapin Foundation. Suffice it to say, that this native keystone species which has a high mast production, with very protein rich and delicious fruit is dearly missed by both human and wildlife populations. It would be warmly welcomed back from the brink of extinction through the restoration efforts of the OCF. In April, the spring MONPS fieldtrip will take our members to McDonald County in the far southwestern corner of the state where a number of Ozark chinquapins have been found. We should all brush up on our tree identification skills in hopes that we might discover another one (or more) of these surviving trees for Mr. Bost to add to a growing inventory.



“Go my Sons, burn your books. Buy yourself stout shoes. Get away to the mountains, the valleys, the shores of the seas, the deserts, and the deepest recesses of the Earth. In this way and no other will you find true knowledge of things and their properties.” Peter Severinus, a 16th Century Dane educator

Hawthorn Chapter

Submitted by Becky Erickson

Lea Langdon gave us a newsletter item in December explaining her leadership role with Columbia Outdoor Classrooms. She has worked a couple of days every week with several of the schools to install and maintain water gardens, butterfly gardens and small native plantings. One of those plantings was burned this fall and another was enhanced with flower plugs. She has a plan in place to install more milkweeds and include education on Monarchs at several schools.

Lunch at RagTag in December was cancelled due to slick roads. But, the January lunch drew nine members. We had a lively exchange about ways to control invasive plants, insects and mammals.

The January meeting is the chapter's time to vote for officers and discuss and plan the year's activities. John George was re-elected Treasurer. Vanessa agreed to stay on for the remainder of her term as President and will delegate duties to the membership to be carried out. The position of Vice-president is left open for the present time. Ann Wakeman agreed to be Chapter Representative. Lea Langdon volunteered to finish the Secretary's term.

Activities for the coming year include setting up the booth at Spring native plant sale at Bradford Farm, April 13, Columbia's Earth Day, April 21, and Quail Day at Bradford Farm June 20. Fall native plant day at Lincoln University Busby Farm September 28.

Paula suggested members volunteer as field trip leaders where they would like to hike. Since there won't be any calendared field trips, will be informal, short notice for these. A list was passed around for anyone wanting to be notified. [Ed note: please call/email Paula or Becky to be added to this list.]

Nadia suggested hosting brunches or 'happy hours' for a social gathering, just send out an email as an invitation. Becky offered to have one later this spring associated with a mosey at Baskett Area. Watch your email.



Camassia sp.

BE photo

**Perennis**

16 March, Saturday: 9:00am. Early Spring Hike at Big Oak Tree SP, East Prairie: Meet at the parking lot for the now-closed Big Oak Tree SP Visitor Center. We will walk the boardwalk and the Bottomland Hardwood Trail located across the road. Besides diversity of native plants the area is also an Important Bird Area and it often harbors interesting species of all kinds this time of year. Bring binoculars for birding. terrain is level, possibly a little muddy. After the hike, we may repair to a local winery for a short meeting. For more details, weather restrictions, rescheduling visit <http://www.semonps.org/> or contact Allison at allisonjv@yahoo.com

Kansas City

5 March, Tuesday 7:00 PM, MDC Discovery Center: Chapter meeting with guest speaker Doug Martin. Presentation titled “**Growing Hardy Orchids**”. Mr. Martin is enthusiastic for this subject and will provide a very entertaining evening.

23 March, Saturday – Dave Rock Conservation Area: Car pool location and meeting time TBD. Contact person is Cathy Bylinowski: cbylinowski@hotmail.com. The trip will include a visit to a nearby public highway right-of-way that contains native prairie. This prairie is available for salvage activities as the prairie will be lost this summer to construction activities. Bring a camera for Dave Rock, and a shovel for the right-of-way. Prior to the field trip we will confirm the salvage operations are allowable, I understand that at this time a verbal agreement has reverberated around interested parties that this is allowed by the county/state agencies involved.

27 April, Saturday – Unity Village Natural Bridge: No car pool required, but meeting time and location TBD. Contact John Richter: jack_0_lantern@hotmail.com. The trip will be a woodland walk through many **spring ephemerals** to a partially collapsed limestone **natural bridge** geologic formation featured in *Geologic Wonders and Curiosities of Missouri* (Beveridge 1978). Amazing book, find a copy.

3-5 May, Fri-Sun– Powell Gardens Native Plant Sale: One of our best fundraiser events. We need volunteers to help us sell plants. For information contact Sue Hollis:

ferngro@att.net or Dan Rice: drice95875@aol.com.

7 May, Tuesday 7:00 PM, MDC Discovery Center: **Chapter meeting**, activity TBD.

11 May Saturday – CVS Pharmacy Plant Sale: KC Chapters’ biggest fundraising event. Contact John Richter: jack_0_lantern@hotmail.com If you have any plants to donate, start planning now so your plant donations are in good condition to sell.

18 May, Saturday – Crooked River Conservation Area: Car pool location and meeting time TBD. Contact person is John. This area in Ray County has some nice woodlands where timber harvests have relaxed some since the early 1900’s.

1 June, Saturday – South Fork Prairie Meads Milkweed Count: Car pool location and meeting time TBD. Contact person is David or Kathy Winn. This is the annual Meads-mw count, important population growing on their property.

Osage Plains

Regularly scheduled chapter meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month, 6:30pm, at the Henry Co. Library, Clinton, except for special dinner meetings. For info, contact Emily Horner emily.horner3@yahoo.com, Jim & Dorothy Harlan jdharlan@socket.net or Casey Burks mobugwoman@gmail.com

25 Feb, Monday: 6:30pm Chapter Meeting. Viewing of video “The Tallgrass Prairie”. Business meeting to follow.
18 March, Monday: 6:30pm Get out your rubber boots and get ready to plant a rain garden. Learn how to build a rain barre just in time for spring showers. One lucky person to go home with a ready to use barrel. Elections to follow. Henry County Library Friends Room.

March TBD Doc Morton invites you to hear booming of the Greater Prairie Chicken on his property in St. Clair Co.
March TBD First plant i.d. field trip of ‘13! Contact Emily.

15 April, Monday: 6:30pm MDC Grassland Botanist Elizabeth Middleton educates and excites on prairie plants. Followed by business meeting. Henry County Library Friends Room.

April TBD Field trip to Theresa Cline’s to view flowering dogwoods and more. Contact Emily.

20 May, Monday: 6:30pm Our own MO Bugwomen, Casey Burks, presents on how to build a butterfly garden. Take home a few plants and start your own. Henry County Library Friends Room.

May TBD. Field trip. Contact Emily Horner

St Louis

Chapter meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Sunset Hills Community Center, 3915 South Lindbergh Blvd., Sunset Hills, MO 63127. Google Map: <http://goo.gl/maps/K3PR>

27 March Wed – 7:30 PM – Allen Casey, of the USDA Plant department in Elsberry, MO will speak on **Pollinators and the Plants They Use**. Native plants are important food to pollinating animals. Research suggests that native plants are four times more attractive to native bees than exotic plants are. This presentation will discuss flowers and plants that pollinators need, from small urban backyards to large natural areas. Joint meeting with the St. Louis Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association.

17 April Wed– 7:30 PM – Details TBA Richard Abbott from Missouri Botanical Garden, talk about **Polygalaceae**.

Southwest

Green Co Botanical Center, Spgfld, 4th Tuesday, 6pm

26 March Tue 6 pm: Garden Maintenance. Speaker TBD.

23 April Tue 6 pm: Garden Maintenance. Speaker TBD.

28 May Tue 6 pm: Garden Maintenance. Speaker TBD.

Hawthorn

11 March Monday Regular Membership Meeting, 6 PM
Unitarian Universalist Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Program
TBA in chapter newsletter.

16 March Saturday: with Wild Ones, clean up and planting
of Capen Park and Forum Gardens in Columbia. Call Ann
573-642-6927 for more information.

21 March Thursday: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts,
11:30 at RagTag, 10 Hitt St [Just south of Broadway].

12 – 14 April Fri – Sun: State Field Trip [SW] Pineville,
Big Sugar State Park/Huckleberry Ridge State Park. More info
in Petal Pusher.

**13 April Saturday, Spring Native Plant Sale, Bradford
Farm, 10 to 2.** Booth sets up at 9. Call Paula 474-4225 or
Becky 657-2314 to volunteer. Need help for various projects
throughout three weeks before and during sale.

**18 April Thursday: With WildOnes for Plant ID in the
Field** – Rudolph-Bennit CA in NW Boone County. Leave at
9:30, Lunch at Heuer's. More in chapter newsletter.

18 April Thursday: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts,
11:30 at RagTag, 10 Hitt St [Just south of Broadway].
Informal exchange of ideas and information.

21 April Sunday Earth Day Columbia: booth and plant sale
noon to 6. Booth set up 9-10 am. Call Paula 474-4224 or
Becky 657-2314 to volunteer. Need help for various projects
before and during sale.

Schizachyrium scoparium BE photo/illustration



Grass Morphology Workshop

**Paul McKenzie will instruct
grass identification
workshop held at Missouri
State University- Kings
Street Annex 308 and 309,
on June 6-7, Th & F (8am -
4:30pm each day).** The
workshop will include a
presentation on grass
morphology, keying exercises
in teams of two and field trips
to learn tips on identifying
grasses in a natural setting
(Max capacity: 44).

To register (first come,
first served), contact: Dr.
Michelle Bowe:
MBowe@missouristate.edu;
417-836-6189. Michelle will
send directions and parking
information once everyone
has "registered."

Places to stay: Springfield has a wide variety of hotels and
motels, but the most convenient may be those at the
intersection of Glenstone Ave. and I-44 (Drury Inn is one;
their number is: 1-888-253-1628).

Ozark

The Ozark chapter meets at 6:30 pm on the third Tuesday
of each month at the Missouri Department of Conservation
Ozark Regional Office, 551 Joe Jones Blvd, West Plains,
MO 65775.

19 February Tues: Bob Cunningham will present "How to
manage your forest: the good, the bad, and the ugly." Bob
has seen it all in terms of beneficial and detrimental forest
management. Hopefully his insight will help us with
sustainable forest management.

19 March Tues: our chapter secretary Betty Queen will
present photographs from her trip to the Dallas Arboretum
and Botanical Garden.

16 April Tues: our chapter president Susan Farrington will
present photographs from her recent vacation to Costa Rica.
We'll learn about poison frogs, bullet ants, and kinkajous.

**4 May, Saturday, Noon to roughly 5 pm. Join Missouri
Prairie Foundation** hike to see the glades of Indian Trail
Natural Area (at Indian Trail CA, north of Salem). We'll
tour the very impressive Big Glade and a glade or two at
Plank Hollow. Highlights should include *Silene caroliniana*
(wild pink) which is only known from a few counties in the
central Ozarks and the yellow variant of *Castilleja coccinea*
(Indian paintbrush), plus a full complement of the usual
beautiful glade flora. Plank Hollow is scheduled to be
burned, so it should have a great flush of new growth and
color. Please register to get meeting place details. Contact
Susan Farrington at susan.farrington@mdc.mo.gov or (314)
402-3345

Kansas NPS Web Links

The Kansas Native Plant Society (KNPS) offers electronic
distribution of the KNPS Newsletter to all native plant
societies in the United States and to regional organizations
with missions complementary to that of KNPS.

The mission of the Kansas Native Plant Society
(KNPS) is to encourage awareness and appreciation of the
native plants of Kansas in their habitats and in our
landscapes by promoting education, stewardship, and
scientific knowledge. Our home page is
<http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/>

The latest issue of the KNPS newsletter is available at:
[http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/newsletter_current
.php](http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/newsletter_current.php).

You can become a paying member of KNPS and
receive the printed newsletter at
<http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/membership.php>

From: Mike Leahy, Natural Areas Coordinator
Missouri Department of Conservation

**The 2012 Missouri Natural Areas
Newsletter** is now available on-line at:
<http://mdc.mo.gov/node/20281>

Nominations Needed for Annual Awards due 1 April

Submitted by Malissa Underwood, Awards Chairman

The MONPS Awards Committee seeks nominations of people who have supported the preservation of Missouri's flora. MONPS offers five awards:

- 1) Erna Eisendrath Memorial Education Award, recognizing individuals who, through teaching, writing, or other activity have conveyed to others a significant appreciation and knowledge of Missouri's native flora.
- 2) Arthur Christ Research Award, recognizing an individual's significant contribution in furthering the knowledge of Missouri flora.
- 3) Plant Stewardship Award, recognizing an individual or organization for the preservation of important elements of Missouri's flora through purchase, registry, and/or management practice.
- 4) The John E. Wylie Award, recognizing individuals who have provided exceptional service to the Society.
- 5) Julian A. Steyermark Award, the Society's highest award, given to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to any and all aspects of Missouri botany.

The deadline for nominations is 1 April. Nominations should contain the full name of the nominee and the name of the person making the nomination, and they should set forth the contributions of the individual or organization that merits recognition. Award recipients need not be members of MONPS. Please submit nominations to Awards Committee Chairman, Malissa Underwood, MDC, P.O. Box 180 Jefferson City, MO 65102 malissa.underwood@mdc.mo.gov

2013 Nomination Slate for Officers and Board Members

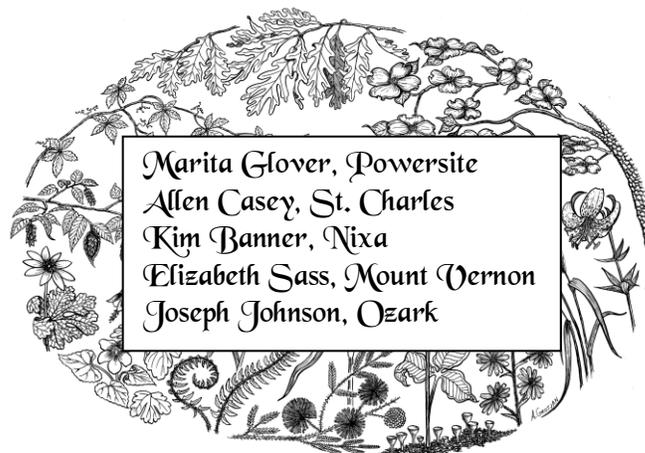
Submitted by Rex Hill, Committee Chair

The Nominating Committee is pleased to offer the following slate of nominations for 2013. With the exception of Ann Schuette, who has decided to step down as Secretary, all other officers have agreed to serve for another two years. We are happy to report that Casey Burks of the Osage Plains Chapter has agreed to be placed in nomination for the open Secretary position. In addition, the two at-large Board Members whose term expires in 2013, have agreed to serve for another three years. The slate is as follows:

Paul McKenzie – President
 John Oliver – Vice President
 Bob Siemer – Treasurer
 Casey Burks – Secretary
 Michelle Bowe – Board Member ('13 – '16)
 Bruce Schuette – Board Member ('13 – '16)

Additional nominations for any of these positions can be made from the membership by submitting them to Rex Hill by March 31 – Email: RexLHill@charter.net or by mail: Rex Hill; 4 Grantwood Lane; St. Louis, MO 63123.

Welcome to New Members!



Information on joining Missouri Native Plant Society

Society Dues	Chapter Dues
Circle all that apply	Columbia = \$6
[Chapter dues additional]	Kansas City = 5
Student = \$5	Osage Plains = 5
Regular = 10	Ozarks = 5
Contributing = 20	Perinnis = 5
Life = 200	St Louis = 5
	Southwest = 5

Contribution to Hudson Grant Fund _\$ _____

All contributions are tax deductible

Make checks payable to MO Native Plant Society

Mail to: Missouri Native Plant Society
 PO BOX 440353
 ST. Louis MO 63244-4353

Name _____

Address _____

9-digit zip _____

Sometimes activities are changed at the last minute so we need a way to notify you.

Phone _____

Email _____

Frost Flowers

Submitted by Rex and Martha Hill

This has been a great winter for frost flowers. So I am inspired to share some photos and write a short paragraph on them. If you are lucky enough to live at Jack Harris' house, you need only go out in the yard to see them. He keeps a stable of frost flower producing plants handy. We even had some in Martha's garden this winter on a cold frosty Christmas morning.

It's not that they're everywhere, and not that you don't have to invest some time and effort to see them, but they do appear in the right locations and under the special conditions. So, after a cold night in the 20's, and early in the morning, before the sun has had a chance to melt them, go to a bottomland area where white crownbeard (*Verbesina virginica*) thrives, or a cherty hillside where the acidic soil conditions encourage dittany (*Cunilla originoides*) to grow, and take a short walk, or a longer hike. Keep your eyes to the ground and look for these delicate ice structures peering out amongst the fallen leaves near where last year's plant stem meets the ground. The freezing water in the root systems and stems of the now dormant plants force exquisite twisting and curling extrusions of ice from the base of the plant.

On the eastern side of the state, Martha and I have seen these winter 'flowers' at Hawn, Cuivre River, Washington, Meramec, and St. Francois State Parks. Closer to home in St. Louis County, Rockwoods Reservation, West Tyson County Park, Babler State Park, and the Shaw Nature Reserve all have habitats, either wet bottomland or cherty, acidic soils where frost flowers appear.



Winter Treasures Off the Trail

Submitted by Rex and Martha Hill

The winter offers other unique visual rewards for the hearty hiker. Without the clutter of brush and growing ground forbs, it's a great time to get off the trail, with a good map and compass of course, and see things not visible to the casual walker.

Hiking in the snow reveals the tracks of animals, and it's always fun to try to determine what creature made those tracks. Tiny bird feet, or large turkey tracks, or a mouse tail dragging amidst its footprints are always great discoveries. You are given the opportunity to see the signs of their foraging and learn what plants or fruits they may be trying to obtain, where they live, or even who's after them.

Fruits, seeds, and structures of dormant plants are laid open for inspection and identification and you can mark in your mind, or on the map, the locations to which you might return when those plants will be flowering. Recently, on an off-trail hike at Weldon Spring Conservation Area we saw clusters, upwards of fifty, of the leaves of the **putty root orchid (*Aplectrum hyemale*)** *RH photo* > > > photosynthesizing in the winter sun. We marked the spot with our GPS unit so we can return when the plants might be flowering in late May.

Often, when we are winter hiking in the sandstone backcountry at Hawn State Park or Pickle Springs Natural Area, we see the leaves of the rattlesnake plantain orchid (*Goodyera pubescens*). In the winter, the 'lay of the land' is open to you and you see the canyons and



marker way off trail.
RH photo

hillsides and glade openings and tree formations that are obstructed from your view when the forest is leafed out, giving you a map of potential habitats to be explored in different seasons.

Martha displays appropriate layered equipment for winter hiking. And a boundary

Some might say: "It's too cold to be out hiking". Our advice is to bundle up, but take a daypack with some water, for after a few uphill climbs you will be shedding layers, and you'll need a place to carry those clothes.

Persimmon Experience

Submitted by Becky Erickson and Casey Burks

As a child, I grew up on some acreage in 'rural' Jackson County. It is now under the parking lot of the Chiefs' Stadium. Wild persimmons grew on the place. We picked them off the trees. Not realizing they were not completely ripe, we never relished this harvest [you know = blecht-pffft]. Besides, the horses usually got them before we did. They reacted the same way we did when we bit into a green persimmon: they slobbered profusely from the high alum concentration.

About 20 years later I moved to rural Cass County. I watched a fence row of persimmons and waited until we had at least several frosts and a freeze before I stopped to harvest them. I wasted WAY too much brown sugar on them before I just had to throw out the batch I tried to cook. At this point I was convinced persimmons were inedible and would leave them for 'coons and 'possums.

Twelve years ago I moved to the end of the road in southern Boone County. There is a persimmon tree in my yard and another just up the road. When the soft little orange fruit fell at my feet, I was tentatively tempted to try again. OMG! What a treat! Now I am convinced their edibility/palatability depends on genetics, or soil, or some combination. I DO know you have to be there to pick them up off the ground before they start to spoil; the ones still on the tree are not ready. Like grapes, the dryer the summer, the sweeter they are, and frost has nothing to do with their ripeness. I hope this lifetime of trials and experiments will help you know when to enjoy one of our forest's natural treats.

A Persimmon Tradition Preserved

From Kitchen Notes, Marcia Vanderlip; Columbia Daily Tribune, 27 Nov 12, P8A.

Lindsey Smith of Columbia sent in a family recipe that is "both seasonal and local — as things were 100 years ago. My grandmother, Mary Smith, used to gather persimmons in Kirkwood Park in the St. Louis area to make this for my grandfather every year. Now that she is 92, my children and I gather persimmons in Stephens Lake Park every year and make it to share with her. This original recipe is from Dora (Mom-Mom) Smith, my great-grandmother, who lived in Oblong, Ill."

PERSIMMON PUDDING

2 cups persimmon pulp (less if very thick); 2-1/4 cups sugar; 2 eggs; 1 teaspoon salt; 1 teaspoon soda; 2-1/2 teaspoons baking powder; 1 tablespoon cinnamon (and allspice if desired); 1 quart milk; 2 cups flour.

Melt large spoon of butter in a 9-inch-by-13-inch pan for baking. Pour off and save until last. Mix pulp, sugar, eggs until well-beaten. Mix soda, salt, baking powder and cinnamon with flour. Gradually add to pulp mix, alternating with milk. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until knife in center comes out clean.

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Casey Burks in Osage Chapter was in the same mind set. **Completely unsolicited**, she sent another persimmon story: And now to share with you Casey's latest joy ... persimmon cookies. I had always heard the best time to eat persimmons was after a frost, but on one of the Cuivre River field trips last fall I saw some persimmons on the ground. This was before any frost so I timidly ate one, then another then another and they were amazingly sweet.

I started finding out that there are some persimmon trees that ripen much earlier than others; that some drop their leaves and others hang onto them much longer. Back at home, I noticed one persimmon tree along Z road on the way to Warsaw that was loaded, with branches drooping under the weight. I finally stopped to ask if, by chance no one else was going to use them, could I have them. The owner gave me a hearty "have at 'em" permission and I began the first of several gatherings. My neighbor told me to use a ladder and a hard rake to shake the high limbs with bounteous results.



Persimmon photo from internet by Pan Demin of China

Then came the problem of separating the seeds and skins from the pulp. Some nights I was up after midnight squishing pulp through a sieve. Two cups of pulp became quite precious! I began baking cookies to share with family, neighbors, take to meetings etc. It has been so much fun to see people surprised at how good persimmons can be. So here is the recipe I used: 2 Cup sugar, 1 Cup butter, 2 eggs, 2 Cup persimmon pulp, 2 Cup raisins, 2 Cup nuts (English walnuts or pecans). After these are all mixed then stir in mixture of dry ingredients: 4 Cups flour, 1 teaspoon each of salt, cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg and 2 teaspoons each of baking powder and baking soda. Drop cookies on greased cookie sheet. They hardly spread so they can be close together on the cookie sheet. Depending on size, bake 12-15 min at 350. I made mine large so it usually took 15 minutes. They freeze wonderfully. Yes, I gave a large batch of cookies to the owner of the tree. I hope he'll let me have next year's crop so I can try Persimmon Pudding!

In the Eastern U.S., Spring Flowers Keep Pace With Warming Climate, Blooming Up to a Month Earlier

Story is reprinted from [materials](#) provided by [University of Wisconsin-Madison](#). Original article by Terry Devitt Jan. 16, 2013

Using the meticulous phenological records of two iconic American naturalists, Henry David Thoreau and Aldo Leopold, scientists have demonstrated that native plants in the eastern United States are flowering as much as a month earlier in response to a warming climate. The new study is important because it gives scientists a peek inside the black box of ecological change. The work may also help predict effects on important agricultural crops, which depend on flowering to produce fruit. The study was published online Jan. 16 in *PLoS One* by a team of researchers from Boston and Harvard Universities and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Compared to the timing of spring flowering in Thoreau's day, native plants such as serviceberry and nodding trillium are blooming 11 days earlier, on average, in the area around Concord, MA, where Thoreau lived and worked. Nearly a thousand miles west in Wisconsin, where Leopold gathered his records of blooming plants like wild geranium and marsh marigold, the change is even more striking. In 2012, the warmest spring on record for Wisconsin, plants bloomed on average nearly a month earlier than they did just 67 years earlier when Leopold made his last entry.

Stan Temple, a co-author of the study and an emeritus UW-Madison professor of wildlife ecology. Temple is also a senior fellow at the Aldo Leopold Foundation in Baraboo, Wis., a stone's throw from the iconic shack where Leopold made many of his observations. "Both Thoreau and Leopold were part of the 19th century naturalist movement in which individuals often kept meticulous daily journals recording the things they observed in nature," notes Temple. "Most of those journals have been lost over time, but Thoreau and Leopold were famous writers, and their journals have been preserved, providing us with unparalleled historical data."

Comparing modern observations with those gathered by Leopold shows that in 1942, when the mean spring temperature in southern Wisconsin was 48 degrees Fahrenheit, black cherry bloomed on May 31. In 2012, with a mean spring temperature of 54 degrees Fahrenheit, black cherry blooms were observed as early as May 6. In 1942, Leopold's notes show the woodland wildflower bloodroot blooming on April 12. In 2012, bloodroot was first observed blossoming March 17.

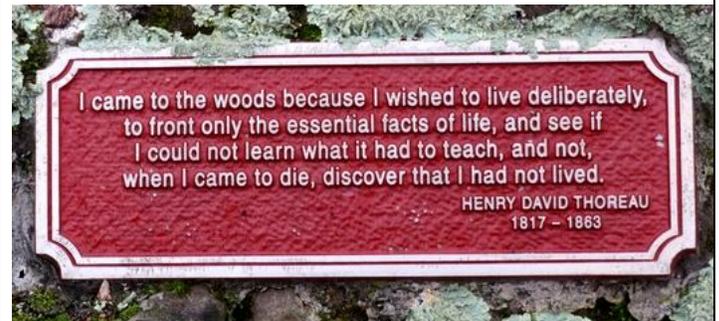
"These historical records provide a snapshot in time and a baseline of sorts against which we can compare more recent records from the period in which climate change has accelerated. Together, these two data sets provide a unique record of flowering trends in the eastern United States over a 161-year period", says Temple. "Leopold and Thoreau had no idea their observations would help us understand responses to human-caused climate change."

But Leopold knew his records might be useful in retrospect when he wrote: '**Keeping records enhances the pleasure of the search, and the chance of finding order and meaning in these events.**' Leopold and his students gathered their data in Dane and Sauk Counties between 1935 and 1945. From 1977 until she died in 2011, Aldo Leopold's daughter Nina Leopold Bradley resumed the collection of phenological records near the Leopold Shack.

[Ed note: [By signing up with Budburst on line you can add your backyard observations to this set of data. You need to start soon.](#)]

The results give scientists a peek into the subtleties of ecological change in response to climate change. Flowering of native plants, a harbinger of spring in the world's temperate regions, signals the start of the growing season. Changes in the timing of flowering have broad implications for the animals and insects that depend on the plants. "Earlier blooming exposes plants to a greater risk of experiencing cold snaps that can damage blossoms and prevent fruiting," says Temple. [Ed note: 'fruiting' of both wild and agricultural crops. It can also change the relationship between insects and plants.]

The new study keyed on the detailed phenological records of 32 native plant species in Concord, Mass., kept between 1852 and 1858 by Thoreau, a pioneering naturalist best known as the author of "Walden," as well as later records. A second data set of flowering times for 23 species in southern Wisconsin was compiled by Leopold, a renowned wildlife ecologist at the University of Wisconsin and author of "A Sand County Almanac."



RH photo

"[W]e seem ultimately always thrown back on individual ethics as the basis of conservation policy. It is hard to make a man, by pressure of law or money, do a thing which does not spring naturally from his own personal sense of right and wrong."

Leopold, Aldo: *Conservationist in Mexico*, American Forests, March 1937. Reproduced in [Aldo Leopold's Southwest](#), edited by David E. Brown & Neil B. Carmony, University of New Mexico Press, 1990, pg. 207.

Native Species Fight Back: First Evidence of Coevolution Between Invasive & Native Species

The story is reprinted from [materials](#) provided by [University of Georgia](#).

The original article was written by Sam Fahmy, *June 28, 2012* The research was supported by the National Science Foundation.— Invasive species such as kudzu, privet and garlic mustard can devastate ecosystems, and, until now, scientists had little reason to believe that native plants could mount a successful defense. [Ed note: the defensive transition discussed here is very slow. The study involved only the two species mentioned. Please don't stop fighting invasive species because this study implies natives can fight for themselves.]

A new University of Georgia study shows that some native clearweed plants have evolved resistance to invasive garlic mustard plants -- and that the invasive plants appear to be waging a counterattack. The study, published in the early edition of the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, is thought to provide the first evidence of coevolution between native and invasive plant species.

"The implications of this study are encouraging because they show that the native plants aren't taking this invasion lying down," said study author Richard Lankau, assistant professor of plant biology in the UGA Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. **"It suggests that if you were to take a longer view -- a timescale of centuries -- that exotic species could become integrated into their communities in a way that is less problematic for the natives."**

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) was introduced to the U.S. from Europe roughly 150 years ago first in New York and Virginia and then to the Chicago area. The noxious plant continues to spread rapidly throughout the Northeast, Midwest and Southeast. "It's a pretty well-hated plant," Lankau said, because it can form dense carpets in forest understories and, even after being physically removed from an area, can reestablish itself within a year.

Much of the plant's success is a result of the chemical warfare it wages with a compound known as **sinigrin**, which kills fungi that help native plants extract nutrients from the soil. The chemical is relatively new to North America, and this novelty gives garlic mustard a huge competitive advantage.

Through a series of greenhouse and field experiments conducted over three years in five states, Lankau has shown that invasive garlic mustard produces more sinigrin in areas where more local plants are present. He found that native **clearweed (*Pilea pumila*)** plants, which were chosen for the study because they occupy the same forest understory habitat, show higher levels of resistance to sinigrin in areas where the two species have a longer history of coexistence.

It looks like the native plants have evolved in response to the traits of the invader," Lankau said.

In addition to transplanting clearweed seeds back to their sites of origin, Lankau also planted them in all of the other study sites and monitored their growth. Each site has its unique soil chemistry and climate, and Lankau said he expected the plants to exhibit a home-field advantage. Instead, he found that native plants resistant to the invader did best in heavily invaded sites, regardless of where they originated.



© G.A. Cooper

Garlic mustard [*Alliaria petiolata*] from USDA Plant Database

Surprisingly, he found that plants resistant to sinigrin actually did worse than their less-resistant-plant counterparts in areas where there was little or no garlic mustard.

"It's not all good for those populations that are evolving tolerance," Lankau said. "Because they are less successful in the absence of garlic mustard, their resistance to the invasive species comes at a cost."

Taken together, the findings suggest that the native and invasive species could reach equilibrium over a long period of time. Lankau said the study also raises the possibility that humans can help speed the adaptation of ecosystems to invasive species. He explained that removing invasive species and replanting natives often results in failure but replacing invasive species with native plants from an area where the plants have had time to adapt to the invader could be more effective. Rather than replanting clearweed from a recently invaded site in Michigan, for example, land managers could use plants from New York that are more likely to be resistant to garlic mustard.

"When people talk about evolution, it's usually in the past tense," Lankau said. "But one of the important messages from this study is that it's an ongoing process that can happen fast. And this study suggests that we might be able to jumpstart that process through evolutionarily informed management."



Canadian clearweed [*Pilea pumila*] from USDA Plant Database

Botanists Gather: 2013 Heritage Plant ID Workshop

Submitted by Malissa Underwood

There are 466 flowering plants that are considered imperiled or vulnerable in Missouri. It is important to know where these plants are located for protection and conservation purposes. To document these locations along with other information pertaining to populations of rare plants, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) manages the Natural Heritage Database. The database is populated by biologists that report the occurrence and population characteristics of plants, animals and natural communities that are of conservation concern. In addition to reporting new locations, biologists also use the database to revisit known locations to update the status of particular populations.

A list of rare plants, animals and natural communities known as the Species and Communities of Conservation Concern (SOCC) Checklist is released each year by MDC. The species and communities on the list are tracked in the Natural Heritage Database. When a species on the checklist is observed, an Element Occurrence Record form is filled out and submitted to the Heritage Program. The form is reviewed and once verified, the information is entered into the database.

A two-day workshop was recently held in Columbia to focus on the identification of plant species that are tracked by the Heritage Program. Several agencies and organizations were represented, including US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW), US Forest Service, National Park Service, MDNR, MDC, MO Botanical Garden (MBG), University of Missouri, Institute of Botanical Training (IBT), MO Native Plant Society and Webster Groves Nature Study. Attendance was limited to professional and amateur botanists likely to contribute to the Natural Heritage Database. The overall purpose of the workshop was to enhance the botanical component of the Natural Heritage Database by sharing identification tips, providing new information and updates regarding rare plants, discussing important components of the Heritage Program and encouraging coordination among agencies and organizations.

[Photo, next page] Attendees were divided into small groups by region and had opportunity to view herbarium specimens provided by the Dunn-Palmer Herbarium at MU and MBG. Susan Farrington (MDC), Alan Brant (private consultant), George Yatskievych (MBG), Justin Thomas (IBT) and Paul McKenzie (USFW) provided expert training in identification. The day was made possible their contributions and by the effort and coordination of the MU herbarium curator, Dr. Robin Kennedy and her assistant Baadi Tadych.

More information on the Heritage Program. The SOCC checklist is available online at:

<http://mdc.mo.gov/your-property/greener-communities/heritage-program>

Petal Pusher Editor Needs Cooperation

THANK YOU Most submissions came in before the due date this time. Don't slack off. Late submissions will not be published. Send submissions when you are inspired. NOT at 11:59 before deadline.

Becky Erickson has been an active member of Hawthorn since about 2002. She has been on several committees, always helps at the local booth 4 times each year, grows and maintains the chapter nursery for booth sales, and for the last 7 years has edited the Hawthorn newsletter. At the present she is writing and editing much of the text for the Roadside Wildflower Poster soon to be available from MODOT. Because she won't be dropping any of her work with Hawthorn, it will make everyone happier and bring you the best possible publication **if you would please follow these guidelines when sending submissions to her:**

Send all communications to beckyerick711@centurylink.net .
Most submissions did not follow the guidelines requested. It takes me 20 to 30 % longer to edit the PP – to make sure all the formatting is uniform. I am working on other projects for MONPS so PLEASE follow the following guidelines to the letter.

These are the biggest problems I have to fix:

Use MS Word for documents, Single line spacing, 11 point, Times New Roman, Single space after ALL punctuation, Single space and indent paragraphs. Indent using tab [don't use space bar]. YES – too bad – you have to go to the tool bar to change line spacing, paragraph spacing and font type and size. If you find yourself touching the space bar twice – DON'T. Go back and delete one of the double spaces.

So far = OK on titles and typos "Title, and Submitted by . . ." [Don't make me figure this out. It might not be what you want.] Have a friend proof your writing so you are sure it follows good logic and grammar rules. Check for typos like of/off, you/your, is/if, top/pot, for/fro, he/the/them/they and other flying fat finger flubs you might chronically do. Spell check will not catch these. And I need your permission to edit your piece. Otherwise it will go in mistakes and all.

And the rest is a reminder -

Use J-peg [.jpg] format for photographs, 1 - 2.5MB is best.
I will reduce them to about 300KB. DON'T reduce them for me in case I have to fix them. Be sure they are good quality clear and sharp with distinguishable contrast. I can fix some technical problems but I need a photo of at least B quality to start with. Give me a caption/title/name.

ATTACH documents and photos. Do not embed photos.
The only way I will accept documents typed into the body of an email is **if you do not have Word.** If you do this – PLEASE – use HTML/rich text format according to the font and point requirements above. Word cannot change font and point from plain text email. So I have to type it all over again. When I pull a message off email and insert it into Word, there are odd little spaces and other formatting I must detect and correct.

Due dates. Just put it on your calendar now that your submissions must be finished and to me **before** the 27th of January, March, May, July, Sept, and two days after the December meeting. If you are writing an editorial or species account, **don't wait – send it early.** Write your chapter reports right after your last activity. Then send them to me. If you have a regular report due for PP, I will send a reminder around the 20th of the month, after that it's up to you to get your submissions in the Petal Pusher on time.



At Heritage Workshop: Justin Thomas discusses some key identifying characteristics of a rare plant found in Missouri.”

Contribution Received in Honor of Jack and Pat Harris

MONPS has received a contribution from Linda Virga and Elaine Fortner of St. Louis in honor of Pat and Jack Harris and their “wonderful work regarding preserving our native flora...and fauna.” Jack reports that he and Pat were deeply honored and surprised to receive this tribute. Thank you to Linda and Elaine for their generosity and thoughtfulness!

Making a donation to MONPS in honor of or in memory of someone is a great tribute and also promotes the conservation and study of Missouri’s native plants. All contributions to MONPS are tax deductible.

Back to Nature, the Charms and Uses of Indigenous Flora

2013 Native plants classes series Sponsored by
Lincoln University Native Plants Program



- Jefferson City [JC] classes at Lincoln University at 900 Chestnut Street at Allen Hall in room 100 unless noted.
- Marshall [Mar] classes at The Center located at 1985 S. Odell, Marshall, MO 65340.
- Cost \$5 or \$10 per class or \$25 for the whole series. Advanced registration is encouraged. Space is limited.
- Send check payable ‘Lincoln University/Native Plants Program’ to Ms. Shirley Downing at 900 Chestnut St., Jefferson City, MO 65101
- *Scholarships are available. For additional information please contact Amy Hempen at HempenA@LincolnU.edu*

Title	DATE	Cost	DESCRIPTION
Introduction to Landscape Design and Principles of Plant Propagation. Participants will form teams for group project.	Mar-Feb 19 JC-Feb 21 2-5 p.m.	\$5	Participants will be introduced to landscape design; form teams to create a design for a given site at Lincoln University. Participants will also learn methods to propagate plants by seeds. Hands-on activities. Indoors
Garden Maintenance at Lincoln University Native Plant Outdoor Laboratory and other native plant gardens.	Mar-Mar 5 JC-Mar 7 2-5 p.m.	\$5	In addition to learn to maintain a native plant garden, participants will be able to collect seed for their own gardens. Bring your pruners. Hands-on maintenance experience on existing gardens. Learn while you exercise and enjoy the outdoors.
Native Plants Identification (Wildflowers, grasses and small woody plants). More about Native Plant Propagation. Teams will present garden designs.	Mar-Apr 27 JC-Apr 25 2-5 p.m.	\$5	Identification and propagation of most popular native plants for pollinators, butterflies and for food. Check seed-seedlings established during first class. Participants will help to lift seedlings from gardens to take home.
Guided field tour at a nearby prairie and woodland	Mar-May ? JC-May 22	\$10	Training session about meadowscaping and woodland gardens followed by walking tour. Low impact activity. Lunch included.
Landscape Design. Installing the native plant garden	Mar & JC June 6 2-5 p.m.	\$5	Creating a Garden with native plants using design developed by the teams (see above). Teams will take turns to water while plants get established.
Native Plant Edibles class. Tour of Native Plant Outdoor Laboratory	Mar & JC August 15 10a.m. to 1 p.m.	\$10	Garden tour followed by indoor class and cooking demonstrations using native plant ingredients at certified kitchen at Lincoln University campus.
Check our website for fall classes or other events later in the year or call us at: 573-681-5392.			http://www.lincolnu.edu/web/programs-and-projects/native-plants



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"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community.
It is wrong when it tends otherwise." Aldo Leopold

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