



January - February 2015 NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSOURI NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY Volume 30 No.1
“ . . . to promote the enjoyment, preservation, conservation, restoration, and study of the flora native to Missouri. ”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nominations Sought for Vacant MONPS Officer and BOD Positions

Submitted by Paul McKinsey, President

The MONPS Nominating Committee (Paul McKenzie, Larry Morrison, Emily Horner) is seeking additional input on possible officer and Board of Directors positions. Below is a list of positions and nominees to date who have agreed to run for the various vacancies.

Officers:

President: Paul McKenzie's current two-year term expires in June 2015 and he will not run for a 3rd term; nominees who have agreed to run for this position: John Oliver

Vice President: John Oliver's current two-year term expires in June 2015 and is running for President; nominees who have agreed to run for this position: Dana Thomas

Secretary: Casey Burks stepped down from her position and Malissa Underwood agreed to fill out the remainder of Casey's term; she was nominated by Paul McKenzie and approved by the BOD via email vote. Malissa has been nominated and agreed to run for a two year term following the end of the current term that expires June 2015.

Two BOD positions: Steve Buback's position which will expire in June 2015, and a vacancy created when Malissa Underwood agreed to replace Casey Burks as Secretary when Casey stepped down- nominees who have agreed to run for these two vacant positions: Steve Buback and Rick Gray.

Any member of the MONPS who would wish to nominate another member for one of the vacant positions listed above should send the nomination to Paul McKenzie by email at paulbeckymo@mchsi.com or by regular mail at 2311 Grandview Circle 65203. The nomination should include a short justification why the nominee should be considered and his/her agreement to run for that position. In the event there is more than one nominee for various positions, a ballot committee will be developed and a ballot sent out to the membership for a vote.

Additionally, we need a volunteer to be the Petal Pusher Distribution Manager. For more information about this volunteer opportunity, contact Rex Hill or George Yatskievych [contact info on masthead]. The short description is that you need to pick up the paper copies from the printer, put on labels and edge tags, sort, and deliver to, for now, a Post Office in St Louis. This needs to be done during the third or fourth week of every even numbered month. When this contract runs out, mailing method or location could be changed.

2015 MONPS State Meetings and Fieldtrip Sites Chosen

At the December Board meeting, dates and locations were selected for our 2015 quarterly meetings and field trips. While plans for these events are in the preliminary stages, basic information and field trip sites under consideration are listed below. Complete details for each will be published in upcoming issues of *The Petal Pusher*. Reserve the following weekends so you can join us!

Spring: April 10-12, 2015 – In the Osceola/Clinton area: Possible field trip sites: Bona Glade NA, Corry Flatrocks, Taberville Prairie NA, Lichen Glade NA.

Summer: June 26-28, 2015 – Kirksville: Possible field trip sites: Dark Hollow NA, Morris Prairie NA, Thousand Hills SP, Union Ridge Prairie CA

Fall: September 18-20, 2015 – Jefferson City: Possible field trip sites: Spring Creek Gap NA, Clifty Creek NA, Paris Fork in MTNF, Auxvasse Glade in Reform CA.

Winter: December 5, 2015 – Columbia (Dunn-Palmer Herbarium)



CHAPTER

Kansas City

Submitted by Hilary Haley, Chapter Representative; John Richter, President; Harold Draper, Secretary

In September, members from the Kansas City chapter met at Crooked River Conservation Area in Ray County, Missouri to explore an unusual hilltop forest with large mature oak trees. Small groves of oak trees, which appeared to be 150 years old or more, had extensive branching patterns and led us to believe that some of this area might have once been a savannah.

After studying a variety of mature oak trees up close, we tried to identify them from a distance at which the leaf shape was not discernable, so we relied on growth form. With some confidence, we agreed that a certain tree on the horizon was a bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*). Upon arriving at the base of this tree, we found out it was a white oak (*Q. alba*). Try this game, it is humbling. The group identified eight species of oaks: Red oak section: 1. Shingle oak (*Quercus imbricaria*) 2. Black oak (*Q. velutina*) 3. Red oak (*Q. rubra*) White oak section: 4. Post oak (*Q. stellata*), 5. Chinkapin oak (*Q. muehlebergii*), 6. Bur oak (*Q. macrocarpa*), 7. White oak (*Q. alba*), 8. Dwarf chestnut oak (*Q. prinoides*).

Additional diversity of habitat was provided by a forested drainage with limestone outcrops along a rocky streambed which drains to the Crooked River. It was determined by following this creek that there is some fairly intact woodland/forest acreage occurring on north facing hillsides at this Conservation Area. The quality of the understory is likely considered somewhat poor due to deer browsing, and the presence of limited amounts of bush honey suckle (*Lonicera maackii*) and garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). Without eradication, these two species alone will continue to proliferate and impoverish the understory, and sadly, will contribute to spreading these species seeds onto adjacent private property and beyond. However, not beyond reason, there could be several common orchid species growing on this property. We were so impressed by some of the woodland/forest acreage at one area that we simply just stared at it, contemplating such dynamics as the tree spacing, size, crowns, species diversity, etc.

Other large mature trees noted were shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*) and basswood (*Tilia americana*). Finally, other trees on the plant list were bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*), slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), black locust (*Robinia pseudo-accacia*), honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), American ash (*Fraxinus americana*), Osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*), sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), black haw (*Viburnum prunifolium*), red mulberry (*Morus rubra*), hophornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), wild cherry (*Prunus virginiana*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), and rough-leaved dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*).

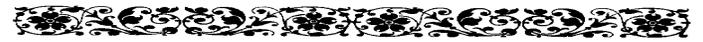
Of course, at this time of year, the numerous beggar lice (*Desmodium* spp.) plants found us while we walked around underneath the large mature oaks and elsewhere on the property. Other herbaceous-layer plants we noted in flower were numerous goldenrods (including *Solidago ulmifolia*), sunflowers, asters (*Symphyotrichum drummondii*, *S. pilosum*, and *S. lanceolatum*), native thistle (*Cirsium altissimum*), giant yellow hyssop (*Agastache nepetoides*), snakeroot (*Ageratina altissima*),

REPORTS



[KC cont.] jumpseed/smartweed (*Polygonum virginianum*), lopseed (*Phryma leptostachya*), blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*), and carpenter's square (*Scrophularia marilandica*). In the shady woods along the stream were grape fern (*Botrychium* sp.), *Cystopteris protrusa*, and bryophytes, as well as mushrooms such as eyelash cup, spiny puffball, and false turkey tail fungi.

I'd say it was a good exercise and a chapter effort identifying the diversity of plants growing in CRCA, Ray Co. We are looking forward to the same kind of exercise at another local area.



Osage Plains

Casey Burks, Chapter Representative

At our October 27th meeting Elizabeth Middleton led the business discussion on office positions for 2015 then turned the meeting over to her Botanical Research Assistant in the Resource Science Division of MDC, Jessica Needham. Members had been requested to bring samples of oaks with their acorns and Jessica taught us how to follow an identification key she had constructed. It was a fun and educational exercise where we learned that oak leaves can look very different depending if they grow in sun or shade and red oaks will have large acorns as well as tiny acorns since the tiny ones will mature the following year. Jessica and I discovered we have a common bond in vermiculture (composting worms).

For the last meeting of the year, our OP chapter has a tradition of doing a craft project. The idea that bubbled to the top for our November 24th meeting was making suet for winter bird feeders. Jo Mohr donated cedar logs which Roger Wombwell took to his shop and drilled holes then added eye bolts for hanging. Larry Lewis brought a wood and wire suet holder that his father-in-law made over fifty years ago (still in great shape!) and brought a large quantity of raw suet to share. Elizabeth previously had sent out a signup sheet for members to bring ingredients, utensils etc. for making for Jo's suet recipe. I learned that making suet in a crock pot is so much easier than my old method of doing it in pan on the stove! Microwave works, too.

With the food that everyone brought we had a family-style feast and brain stormed ideas for next year's programs. We looked back at the interesting and fun field trips in 2014 and look forward to new adventures in 2015. We wish everyone a Blessed Holiday season and a safe and warm winter.

Important Reminder: Members who would like to receive the Petal Pusher by email need to send a request to editor Becky Erickson beckyerick711@centurylink.net. Benefits of receiving the Petal Pusher by email include: earlier receipt of information; color pictures; savings in printing costs for MONPS.

St Louis Chapter

Submitted by Rex Hill, Chapter Representative

Our meeting in October was the last of the year as our fourth Wednesday of the month meeting time is in conflict with the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. At the October meeting, our tradition is to share photographs of plants seen on outings during the year; some from Missouri and some from wherever our members have traveled in the past year. This year we were treated to a variety of excellent plant (and other) photography.

Jay Fish had pictures of a recent trip to Nanjing China, the Chinese sister city to St. Louis. He and his wife visited the Nanjing Botanical Garden and also had some excellent photos of the 'medical garden' that surrounds the Nanjing Chinese Medicine Hospital. This unusual garden has both herbs used in healing, but also provides a peaceful surrounding where both patients and hospital personnel can for relief from mental and physical stress.

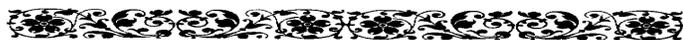
George Van Brunt had some macro photos of star-shaped glands or plant hairs on leaf surfaces. Scott George had pictures of shining ladies' tresses (*Spiranthes lucida*) that he had taken at property on Crane Pond Creek in Iron County. This is property that Scott has spent a great deal of time and effort in restoration over the last several years. Burt Noll had pictures of flowering plans and caterpillars he had seen on these plants.

We never limit ourselves to just plant pictures. Dianne Benjamin had a number of pictures of things she and Bill Knight had enjoyed with MONPS and other places they had visited. Bill had a broad diversity of interests and her presentation reminded us of how much **he will be missed**.

John Oliver did not disappoint, and provided us with a photographically excellent set of pictures of flowering Missouri plants over the course of the year. It was a bit unusual, however, in that he had less than his usual hundreds of photos and actually finished with time remaining for . . .

Richard Abbott, who had recently traversed the states in which he had not collected plants previously. He did this on a winding trip through the north central part of the US on his way home from the annual botany meeting which was held this year in Boise Idaho. Richard has a keen eye for the unusual and can apparently botanize the roadsides and empty fields when traveling at highway speeds.

Alas, there was not time for Rex and Martha Hill to present plant photos from their recent trip to Florida. That's one of the hazards of operating the projection computer and deferring to others. We look forward to starting a new botanical year full of fieldtrips and experiences with our friends and hope that everyone had a peaceful and joyful holiday this winter.



Perennis Chapter

submitted by Andrew Braun Chapter Rep

See calendar and Facebook page for upcoming activities

Ozark Chapter

Submitted by Liz Olson, Chapter Representative

On October 21st, David Hasenbeck, the Elk Coordinator with the Department of Conservation, spoke to our group about the status of the newly established elk herd in Missouri. David made the connection between the success of the elk and the successful management of their woodland habitat. There are three prongs to managing the habitat they require: enhancing open ground, prescribed fire, and forest harvest thinning. Use of these methods in concert work to create a heterogeneous habitat matrix to benefit elk along with the native plant communities. Elk tend to feed at dawn and dusk in open habitats, and take cover in the woods during the heat of a mid-summer day. Their diet consists of approximately one third grasses, one third woody browse, and one third forbs, thus a mixture of open to closed woodlands makes for great elk habitat.

Currently, the elk herd consists of about 125 individuals, including about 100 adults and 23 calves born in 2014. They will reproduce slowly and it is expected to take 20 years for the herd to grow to 400-500 individuals. To put this number in perspective, Colorado has 280,000 elk – this is the densest elk population in the country.

The elk restoration zone is in Shannon, Carter, and Reynolds counties in southeastern Missouri. This area was chosen because it contains the greatest density of public land and the lowest road density, and includes land owned by the National Park Service, US Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, Pioneer Forest, and the Missouri Dept of Conservation. The heart of the restoration zone is the 36 square-mile Peck Ranch Conservation Area; however, many of the adult male elk – who naturally spend most the year away from the females and calves – have been spending a lot of time to the northeast at the Current River Conservation Area. Driving routes for elk viewing have become a popular tourist activity in the area, although these shy creatures are wary of humans and keep their distance.

On November 18th the Ozark chapter members contributed many beautiful photos to make our first photo-sharing event a success. From close-up pictures of individual plants to wide landscape shots, we had a great variety of images to share and fun stories to go along with them!

**SHOUT OUT AND MANY THANKS TO
BRIAN EDMOND
WHO HAS COMPLETELY REBUILT OUR
WEBSITE!!**

Southwest Chapter

Submitted by Brian Edmond Chapter Representative

Our annual cookout at Pearl Creek Farm (Michelle and Brian's place) was a success, as always. We burned the remains of a large walnut tree along with the debris from this year's invasive plant removal. Several members showed up early, toured the prairie, and collected some seeds for their own farms.

The chapter does not have regular meetings during November, December, or January. See you in February. Spring is just around the corner!

Several local landowners have expressed interest in people from MONPS coming out to their farms and talking about native plants. If you are such a person and reading this, please plan to attend our February meeting or talk with me offline to make arrangements next spring. Our field trip calendar fills up fast at the beginning of the spring.

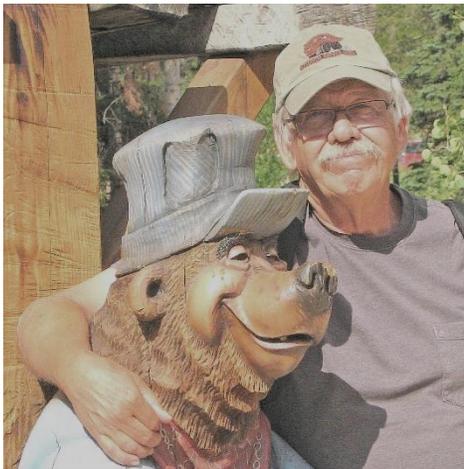
Check the calendar section for other upcoming events. Be sure to watch the Facebook Events page and your email inbox for details about upcoming trips and events! In case of bad weather, watch Facebook for cancellations or call ahead of time and we'll call back with more information.



Beating the Bushes of Wire Road CA

Submitted by Max Brown

Last year I made the suggestion to the Southwest Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society that perhaps we should do some sort of new project in 2014. I am not sure how it happened but this was translated by the group into **me** doing a plant inventory of a conservation area in southwest Missouri!



Wire Road Conservation Area, near Crane in Stone County was selected. The area consists of 818 acres of bottomlands (wooded and old fields) along Crane Creek (a Blue Ribbon trout stream), steep forested slopes, and an uplands composed of mostly old fields; the area also contains several homestead sites.

I allowed two days a week from late February to the end of October with time out for vacation, *etc.*, resulting in approximately 55-60 days in the field, 5-6 hours per day. For an amateur botanist, this was a humbling and daunting task but I have learned over the years as a geology teacher that if one wants to learn something go ahead and jump in. It may not be so good if students are involved but it will definitely be a learning experience for the teacher!

I survived and loved it! The result was a database with about 450+ species recorded and a minimum estimate of 500+ species for the area.

[*Beating the Bushes cont.*] I will continue to visit the area to work out a few species I had trouble with.

Walking the same areas from late winter through spring, summer and fall was a great experience except for seed tick season. But I must admit the blackberries were fantastic. Most of those did not get home. If I were to do this again I would definitely try to involve other people more and I would press those specimens that I had trouble with and those that were not officially recorded for that county. Hindsight of course is nearly perfect.

The results of my efforts will be shared with the Missouri Department of Conservation. I hear some people actually get paid for doing things like this?



Web Links

See our own newly rebuilt website! www.monativeplants.org
Thanks to Brian Edmond

Nadia's Yard: best place to start local resource searches.

<http://nadiasyard.com/>

Musings about suburban native gardening and links

Plant identification www.plants.usda.gov

Xerces Society: Information on Bees, Monarchs, and most other insects. www.xerces.org

Ozark Highlands of Missouri

Observations from the hills to the back yard

<http://allisonjvaughn.blogspot.com/>

Wild Ones Landscaping

Healing nature one yard at a time

<http://www.wildones.org/>

Local ecotype guidelines

<http://www.wildones.org/learn/local-ecotype-guidelines/>

Plant Conservation Alliance

Info from every agency and most botanical gardens

Edibles, aliens, ecosystems, fire, landscape mitigation, and more. www.nps.gov/Plants

Wren Song: Weekly newsletter with links to several articles

<http://www.ecosystemgardening.com/wren-song/>

Groton Open Space News

News from a community Nature park in CT

http://gosaonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/GOSA-News-Spring-2014.Final_1.pdf

Neonicotinoids please inform your gardening friends.

<http://www.xerces.org/2013/06/21/pesticide-causes-largest-mass-bumble-bee-death-on-record/>

Before you buy, ASK if plants were treated with neonics. Please do not purchase garden plants from nurseries who cannot tell you if plants are treated with neonics. They probably were. Please explain this issue to your friends who are avid gardeners.

Neonic product list for reference

<http://www.xerces.org/neonicotinoids-and-bees/>

Hawthorn Chapter

Submitted by Ann Wakeman, Chapter Representative

Bi-monthly meetings are at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Columbia.

Each third Thursday informal Native Plant lunch is held at the Rag Tag.

The 10 November meeting was convened at 6:00pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Columbia with 12 present including two new attendees, Sandy Burd and Lauren Svoma.

The program was an exercise in plant identification led by Anne Wakeman, Lea Langdon and Becky Erickson with group participation. Grasses, Asclepias, Silphium, Liatris, Lespedeza were emphasized plus other “what is this?” from the group. Sharing of this information engaged everyone and contributed to understanding of undesirable species. Herbicide recommendations directed to autumn olive, bush honeysuckle and serecia were to avoid Tordon [at all costs to the environment] and favor Pasture Guard on dicots as safer and stronger than glyphosate [generic Roundup]. Use glyphosate during strong growing season to eliminate all vegetation for habitat reconstruction. [We strongly recommend you ask a posted member for specific dilution on specific types of vegetation].

Bill Mees representing Columbia Audubon Society reviewed status of prairie restoration at Bonnyview property. Herbicide application twice completed and ongoing seed harvest continues anticipating planting one year from now. 120 hours at a grant credit of \$22.70 per hour [that is \$2724 credit toward the cost of spraying or seed.] Seeds are stored with Becky Erickson for the next year until planting date in December '15 TBT.[Much more seed will be collected next year. We will need YOUR help.

Wreath Workshop: We had a great day at Nancy's house. She had a cheery fire in the basement fireplace and several tables set up. We had plenty of room in a warm place to bring in many large sacks of plant materials to make some beautiful wreaths and not be worried about a mess on the floor. Ann Wakeman provided fresh cedar.

Lunch was totally satisfying. Several diverse dishes were offered: green salad, roast chicken, squash and apple casserole, fava beans, hummus and corn chips, lemon cake, pumpkin pie, apple pie, and cookies.

Lea, Paula, Vanessa, Nancy, Laura, Ann, and Becky benefitted from the activity and took home good memories and a festive holiday decoration for the door.

Outdoor Classroom Activities *Submitted by Lea Langdon:* This fall the Rock Bridge Elementary Adventure Club students have enjoyed taking part in stewardship activities in their Outdoor Classroom. They spent one afternoon removing Sericea lespedeza from their prairie area, making a small dent in what has become a problem area. Volunteers have been out there three other times working on the Sericea, once with a 4th grade class. A couple students were having so much fun they asked if they could do this during lunch recess, but unfortunately their recess is so short it was not possible. There are still more very seedy plants and one of the new Mo Master Naturalist volunteers has plans to get out there again this fall to take them out.

[Hawthorn cont.] I hope there is energy earlier next year to take out plants by the roots, before they seed, &/or to hit them with some herbicide.

Adventure Club also has worked two afternoons on reclaiming their native butterfly garden. It had been taken over by grass, weeds and tree seedlings, and this fall they worked on seedling removal and putting down cardboard & mulch over the weeds & grasses. After working hard, they enjoyed eating the persimmons that were growing there. The difference looks amazing! Many thanks to the volunteers who worked with the students to make these stewardship activities possible.

Next spring we plan to get some students involved in planting more native pollinator plants to add to what has been rescued from the brush.

If you would like to get involved in this project, we are working a couple hours about every other week. This is a good opportunity to see a few Missouri native plants and take home some seedlings. On the other hand, an additional opportunity to learn how to suppress alien invasive species. **If you have questions, please contact Lea** at langtrea@gmail.com or 854-7647.

From Casey's Kitchen:

It's time to cook for the birds.

Jo Mohr's Crock pot Suet Recipe: Great for attracting Woodpeckers, Cardinals, Nuthatches, Titmice, and other winter birds

Melt the following in a warmed crock pot: 1 C crunchy peanut butter, 1 C shortening (Crisco or lard or suet), 1/3 C sugar. If you don't want to get a measure cup all gooey, estimating is fine.

In meantime mix together: 2 C cornmeal, 2 C quick oatmeal, 1 C flour (eg: white, whole wheat, rye). Then Stir into the melted fat in crock pot. This works in a microwave, too.

Then stir in: 1 C birdseed, 1 C nuts, 1/2 - 1 C raisins. Mix well and pour into cake pan, or used plastic containers from store-bought suet for the mold. Pat down with spatula and let cool. When solid, cut to the size you need for feeders.



Persimmon Cookies

1 C persimmon pulp, 1 C sugar, 1/2 C soft butter, 1 egg beaten, 1 C raisins, 1 C English walnut pieces, 1/2 C shredded coconut.

Mix dry ingredients together and add: 2 C flour, 1 tsp baking powder, 1 tsp baking soda, 1/2 tsp salt, 1/2 tsp cinnamon, 1/2 tsp cloves, 1/2 tsp nutmeg

This is a stiff dough. Cookies can be placed close together on baking sheet since they spread very little. If you want to make them vegan or don't have an egg, just use 1 Tbsp ground flax seed mixed with 3 Tbsp water.



CHAPTER

Kansas City *from Hilary Haley, Chapter Representative*

For questions about upcoming field trips contact the field trip leader, otherwise contact John Richter via e-mail: jrichter@ene.com, or cell phone 913.217.0432. Please RSVP with the field trip leader or John Richter for all field trips. We use RSPV information to plan car pool logistics and if a field trip will have any attendance. This is important for making decisions based on severe weather, etc.

6 January 7:00 PM: Chapter meeting. MDC Discovery Center We will discuss field trips and meeting activities for the coming year. Please bring your ideas! We want to know what YOU want to do in the coming year. No RSVP required.



Ozark *from Liz Olson*

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.

We take suggestions for speakers at our meetings. Contact Chapter President Susan Farrington for more discussion: 417-255-9561.

No meeting in January.

February 17th, 2015: As we look forward to the coming growing season, we are excited to have member and chapter secretary Betty Queen share her rain barrel system to water her gardens.



St Louis *from Rex Hill*

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>

January 28, 2015 – 7:30 PM – Speaker and Topic TBA.

February 25, 2015 – 7:30 PM – Speaker Jonathan Meyers, Washington University.

Friends and newcomers are welcome at meetings.



Perennis *from Andrew Braun*

A field trip is planned for **Sat, Dec 20 at 10 a.m. at Horton Farm Conservation Area in Ste. Genevieve Co.** The parking lot is on Miller Switch Road, between Highway 32 and Highway 144. A map and more information about the area can be found on the Missouri Department of Conservation's Conservation Atlas online. In case of inclement weather, the field trip will be rescheduled – watch for announcements in your email or on the Facebook page. **Contact Andrew Braun** for information apbraun1s@gmail.com



Empire Prairie *Contact Steve Buback for information.*



Southwest *from Brian Edmond*

Meetings are usually held at Greene Co Botanical Center, Spgfld, 4th Tuesday, 6pm. In case of bad weather, watch Facebook for cancellations or call ahead of time and we'll call back with more information.

Tue 24 February 2014 6pm: Topic TBD – Don't miss the first meeting of the year! We'll discuss field trip plans for the year.

CALENDARS



Osage Plains *from Casey Burks*

There are no Osage Plains meetings scheduled during December and January (and August). Chapter meetings will begin again February 23rd, 2015.

Regularly scheduled meetings will be 4th Monday of February through November. 6:30pm, at the Henry Co. Library, Clinton. Meetings are open to the public and our purpose is to enjoy learning about and sharing information about native plants. For further information please contact President Elizabeth Middleton Elizabeth.Middleton@MDC.gov ; past President Emily Horner Emily.Horner3@yahoo.com , or Chapter Representative Casey Burks mobugwoman@gmail.com Contact Bernie Henehan berniehenehan@me.com or Dan Henehan danhenehan@embarqmail.com for fieldtrip information.

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Hawthorn *from Ann Wakeman*

Chapter meetings held on odd-numbered months on the second Monday at Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia: 12 Jan 6 pm. Third Thursday lunch at Uprise Bakery [RagTag] continues to be well attended by members for informal discussions about native plants and environmental issues. See www.columbianativeplants.org for postings of newsletters and activity details. For folks interested in hiking and wildflower sightings around the state, see chapter newsletter on the website for details. Otherwise you are encouraged to participate in outings with other MONPS chapters and MPF.

12 Jan 6 pm Members Meeting Unitarian Universalist Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd, Columbia. Program is planning for next year's activities. We also need to elect two officers. Please come to give us your ideas for your favorite wild area for a mosey to discover wild native plants. All new people and guests are welcome. In case of a blizzard, a reschedule date is Monday 19 January. Next meeting: 9 March, 6 pm.

15 Jan and 19 Feb: Thursday Lunch with native plant enthusiasts. **11:30 am.** RagTag – 10 Hitt St [just south of Broadway] Please join us as a break from shopping or as an uplifting chat among friends during the short days of winter. All are invited.

Ideas for Meeting Programs?

Please send any ideas for future meeting presentations to Nadia at navarrete-tindalln@lincolnu.edu .

Suggestions for presentation subjects from the meeting included: insect pollinators, mushrooms, and more environmental connections. Please send in what YOU want to learn about. Some topics presented in the past were, controlled fires, how to install a perennial garden, propagating natives, bring in specimens for identification, photography, mosses, tree id, , , the choice is yours



Curator's Corner:

The third in a series about herbarium curation by Michelle Bowe who is an Instructor and Curator of the Ozarks Regional Herbarium (SMS) at Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. She is also President and Treasurer of the SW Chapter of MONPS and is on the state MONPS Board. This is a regular column on herbaria and herbarium curation, written from her small, warm, windowless office next to the herbarium in Kings Street Annex. E-mail: mbowe@missouristate.edu.

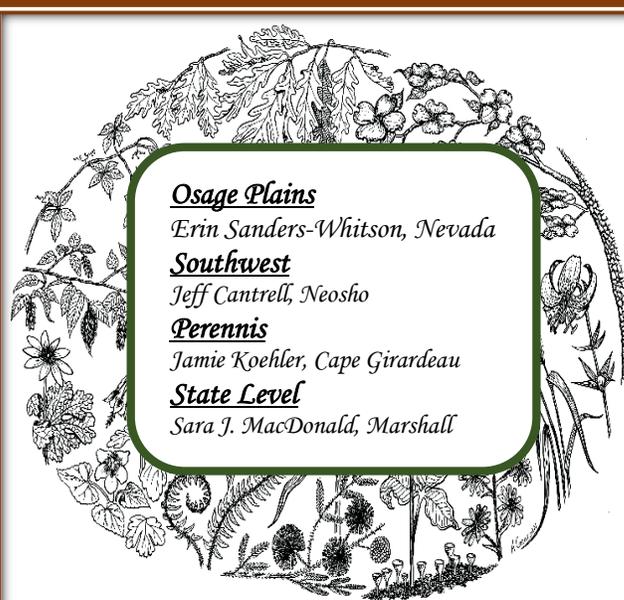
Herbarium Safety

Herbaria are not particularly dangerous places—not by a long shot—but you do want to know what you're getting yourself into. Hazards include, but are not limited to: the sky falling; okay maybe just herbarium cabinets (especially if they are the short stacking ones), or, more likely, things on top of the cabinets falling, organic toxins from glue (old time glue was really bad), and moth balls (naphthalene, or 1,4-dichlorobenzene). Other than that, I think the main hazards are from the plants themselves. If you touch a poison ivy or oak (*Toxicodendron* spp.) specimen, for example, you could end up with a rash. If you bump into a *Gleditsia triacanthos* specimen the wrong way, you might get gored. And also, if you touch a cactus specimen, you could end up with those short little spines in your hands. In fact, cacti are what prompted me to discuss herbarium safety in the first place. I opened up the cactus cabinet to check on a label for someone, and out fell a prickly pear pad. No, I did not catch it with my hands.

And that reminded me of the one piece of advice I wanted to give anyone who might do specimen data entry in their office. Never EVER bring cactus specimens into your office. The little spines are invisible and they stick around for months. Believe me, you do NOT want them on your desk, in your chair, or in your arm. And if you bring them into your office, they WILL leave little invisible spines. Cacti give a new meaning to the word 'unsightly.'

As an instructor, I have had several bad experiences with poison ivy. Well, my students had bad experiences. For legal reasons, I'll just tell you the funniest incident. Most of the quizzes I give in my Identification of Woody Plants class are field quizzes, but sometimes the weather is too bad to go outside. On those days, I give quizzes on twigs, fruit and/or herbarium specimens. When I put an herbarium specimen on a quiz, I paper clip some cards over the label information and I put the specimen in a clear plastic wrapper. Sure, this means you cannot manipulate the specimen (break/smell/feel), but sometimes this is in the students' best interest (see cactus discussion above). They always have dissecting microscopes available to look at hairs, etc. if they really need to. On a quiz a few years ago, there were quite a few herbarium specimens. Most students just looked at them (sometimes closely) and wrote down their answers. I tend to get suspicious when they start unwrapping the plastic (believe it or not, I do occasionally catch students trying to lift up the cards to see the label). One student was having an exceptionally difficult time identifying a particular specimen. The specimen had three leaflets that were somewhat hairy. She kept lifting the plastic and feeling the leaves, so I asked her what she was doing and she explained that she was feeling for hair.

Welcome to New Members!



Since she was the last student to leave after the quiz, as soon as she turned it in, I instructed her to go to the sink and wash her hands with a lye soap named Fels-Naptha laundry bar soap because it does a good job of removing poison ivy oil from skin. Crisis averted!

I learned this (Fels-Naptha) trick from former graduate student (pictured), Shane Snider, who wanted to study poison ivy. He is pictured here in hot, dangerous pursuit of hazardous material.



The only other danger I've heard of in an herbarium or Plant Taxonomy lab is that of the sharply pointed dissecting needles—they could be dangerous if misused. But, mostly, the herbarium is safe. And I encourage visitors—so feel free to contact me and come by for a visit.

"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.

Botanizing in the Nebraska Sandhills

Submitted by Paul McKenzie

On August 4-6, 2014, Drs. Marian Smith and Nancy Parker and I traveled to the Sandhills of northcentral Nebraska to search for Hall's (*Schoenoplectiella hallii*) and Rocky Mt. (*S. saximontana*) bulrushes. Dr. Smith and I have been studying these two species and a recently described hybrid (*S. xmagrathii*) for several years and we wanted to visit a site in Nebraska where both species were documented to determine if hybrids were present. Our trip was graciously hosted by Bob Steinauer and Steve Rolfmeier, both experienced veterans of Nebraska's flora. Our base camp was at Calamus Outfitters west of the small town of Burwell, NE (<http://www.calamusoutfitters.com/lodging.htm>). The cabins we rented were small but very comfortable, clean and at a reasonable price. The staff at Calamus was extremely accommodating, friendly, and very much interested in our botanical research. The facility is a hot spot for river rafters, hunters, fishermen, and individuals who enjoy the scenic views the area provides.



Calamus Outfitters sign, headquarters, and cabins. PM photos

[Sandhills landscape PM photo >>](#)

The Sandhills were spectacular native sand prairies that extended for miles. The only trees that occurred were on scattered windbreaks or along riparian corridors.

The diversity of flora was extensive and I was able to see many species new to me, including a few new sedges. We



recorded around 80 species during the two days we were in the field. While space would not allow me to provide the entire list, some species are worth highlighting. One of the most impressive species was four point evening primrose

[<< \(Oenothera rhomipetala NJParker photo\).](#)

This attractive species was scattered but common across the prairie landscape. This species is only known from historical records in Missouri and is a species of conservation concern (SOCC). Some locations this species was mixed with Hall's bromsedge (*Andropogon gerardii* var. *hallii*), and prairie sand grass (*Calmovilfa longifolia*). The latter species is a SOCC in Missouri that is only known from historical records. Another attractive species was bractless blazing star (*Mentzelia nuda*). This unusual plant has very sticky stems and only flowered in late evening or early morning.

This plant was uncommon and scattered in deep sand dunes. This species does not occur in Missouri. Another attractive plant that also occurs in Missouri was scaly gayfeather (*Liatris squarrosa* var. *glabrata*). This attractive composite was scattered throughout the Sandhills.



[< Mentzelia nuda. NJParker photos. Liatris squarrosa >](#)

Portions of the Sandhills had conspicuous blowouts. One species typical of this habitat that we did not see on our trip is the federally listed blowout penstemon or beardtongue (*Penstemon haydenii*). This large penstemon is known only from a few counties in northcentral NE and one county in Wyoming. Some have reported that this is perhaps the rarest species in the Great

Plains. The loss of blowout habitat due to plant succession is one of the main reasons for the species decline. Reintroduction and management efforts have increased population numbers but a decrease in blowout habitat remains a threat to the species' persistence.





Although we saw many attractive dicots, the main impetus for the trip was to look for Hall's and Rocky Mountain bulrushes. We were successful in finding two populations of Hall's bulrush but did not locate *S. saximontana* and no evidence of the hybrid *S. xmagrathii*. Nonetheless, the author excitedly collected two sedges new to him and three grasses.

The sedges were Drummond's halfchalf sedge (*Lipocarpha drummondii*) and awned halfchalf sedge (*Lipocarpha aristulata*). I have been looking for these two species for some time so the opportunity to collect both during our trip was a bonus. Interestingly, the type locality for *L. drummondii* is from the St. Louis area. The three new grasses were shortawn foxtail (*Alopecurus aequalis*), creeping meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus arundinaceus*), and northern reed (*Calamagrostis stricta* spp. *Inexpansa*). Shortawn foxtail is a SOCC in Missouri but common in states north and west of Missouri. In Missouri, it is likely overlooked for the very similar Carolina foxtail (*A. carolinianus*) which has longer awns. The second new grass is an exotic introduced from Eurasia and Africa that was introduced for forage and erosion control. It has been documented in multiple states west of Missouri and in Kentucky and is likely to show up here. In Nebraska it is found in moist prairie swales and is considered to be invasive. Northern reed grass is a SOCC in MO and scattered throughout the state but this was the first time I recognized it in the field.

During our searches for bulrushes, we were able to find some other rare species in Nebraska such as *Xyris torta*, *Carex conoidea* and *C. buxbaumii*. These three species are also SOCC in Missouri so it was good to see them in the field in another state.

Our trip to Nebraska was an exciting botanizing trip and look forward to a return visit. I was impressed with Steve Roflsmeier and Bob Steinauer's knowledge of Nebraska flora and it is hoped that Missouri botanists could return the favor in the future when they visit the Show Me State. Those who are interested in visiting the Nebraska Sandhills should definitely consider booking lodging with Calamus Outfitters as they are highly recommended. One interesting factoid about central Nebraska is that it is in area that supports some of the largest crops of popcorn in the United States.

I greatly appreciate the hospitality of the staff of Calamus Outfitters and Steve and Bob for accompanying us in the field. Most of the excellent photographs were taken by Dr. Nancy Parker. Photographs of Calamus Outfitters were reproduced from the company's website by permission. The photographs of blowout penstemon were provided courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Attendees

Brian Edmond (BEd)
Michelle Bowe (MB)
Paul McKenzie (PM)
John Oliver (JO)
Rex Hill (RH)
Casey Burks (CB)
Becky Erickson (BER)
Bruce Schuette (BSch)
Ann Wakeman (AW)
Bob Siemer (BSie)
Ann Earley (AE)
George Yatskiyevych (GY)
Andrew Braun (AB)
Malissa Underwood (MU)
Max Towler (MT)
Michael Rues (MR)
Theresa Cline (TC)
Liz Olson (LO)
Hilary Haley (HH)
Dug the Dachshund (DD)

Minutes of the Missouri Native Plant Society BOD Quarterly Meeting, 13 September, 2014

MDC Office- Jackson Exit north of Cape Girardeau, Mo

1. At 7:08PM, with a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by President Paul McKenzie (PM). The agenda was approved.
2. John Oliver (JO) volunteered to be the assignment recorder.
3. Minutes from the June 14, 2014 meeting in Bethany, MO were approved. Please note: Robin Kennedy, curator of the Herbarium, later wrote to the board that she will bring correct information regarding the Herbarium to the December meeting.
4. Salute and Tribute to Bill Knight

Michelle presented a power point display of memories and pictures of Bill which will also be sent to Diane Benjamin. JO told of the wonderful combination of Bill's friends and family who attended the funeral. He also told of how much money Bill had saved the organization by doing so many aspects of getting the PP sent out and how he brought new ideas to raise money for the Hudson Fund with selling his benches, the walnut ornaments, finding information on getting MONPS set up with AmazonSmile to receive a percent of purchases for the Hudson Fund. He was always willing to help and with a smile. He will be missed greatly but not forgotten. **GY moved that MONPS transfer Bill's lifetime membership to Diane. RH seconded; motion passed.** It is hoped that the Chinkapin Foundation will give a tribute to Bill for the memorial monies and his passion for that cause.

5. Treasurer's Report; Hudson Scholarship Fund? BSie: \$2700 input from dues. Have \$1200 ready cash and \$6400 CD; enough money to pay bills. However, account is still approximately \$4000 behind. T-shirt sale money comes in over 2 year period. Hudson Award: received a \$475 donation

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

6. MONPS Website Update- BEd working on search engine optimization and changing links to bring up new website. He said the new site needs calendar information, current events etc to get our site to pop up more at top. Also working on E-commerce aspect for people to buy things and pay dues using PayPal.
7. Missouriensis – GY It's done and going to printer! Takes approximately one week.
8. Social Media Committee- JO over 2,020 Facebook members posting question regarding plants.
9. Petal Pusher- Becky Erickson Reminded everyone that the deadline is the 27th day of odd numbered months. Submissions before the 27th makes her work a bit easier.

COMMITTEES & TASK FORCES

10. Membership — AE reported there are 17 new members bringing total to 344. Nonpaying will be purged in mid-December. Question was raised by TC regarding list of members, addressed and phone numbers ie is it available somewhere? Answer: BOD changed the rule of publishing this information due to privacy issues.

11. Hudson Awards- George: Notice of award and application will be sent out in November. There were no applicants last year. After discussion on ideas for more applicants **BSie motioned to made the award \$1000 and flex to offer a second award of \$1000 if we get two worthy applicants. RH seconded; motion passed.**

12. Awards Committee –PM said he had personally given Kurz his award. Need writeup on recipient of this year's awards. Rex volunteered to pull together information and send it to BER for the next PP.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

13. New volunteer needed for Distribution Chair to replace BK; printing hard copies of PP, bulk mailing, etc.
 - a. RH and GY are planning on getting the next 4 issues but looking for someone to take it over. Bulk mail permit is currently in St.L. but can be paid at a different location if closer to new person handling Distribution.
 - b. Things to know: There are only 3 locs that take Bulk Mail (St. L, KC and Spngfld) \$220 permit needs to be paid at location being used; was just renewed.
 - c. Do we need to pay someone to print, fold, staple, and take to bulk mailing site? Would a small print shop do it for less than KinKo etc? **GY motioned to do a review to see if its cost effective. MU seconded; motion passed.**
 - d. Other State Plant societies post newsletter on site; members and non-members can read it. JO thinks it's likely that people will be drawn in by having access to PP.
 - e. Revisited additional charge to members who want paper copy. Is \$5 a reasonable amt?
14. T-shirts- RH sales going good especially of blue long-sleeved shirts. Need to sell more sand shirts before ordering more.
15. Update on any new chapters: Andrew Braun is job hunting but volunteered to be Chapter Rep for the Cape Girardeau Chapter. Empire (St. Joseph) has 7 members.
16. MONPS sponsored workshops: Nels and George: current legume workshop well attended: twenty two students; 3 consecutive Saturdays plus field trips.
17. Wildflower poster project with MODOT: Status Tabled until next meeting.
Update on PBG field trip that was held at Diamond Grove Prairie earlier this month
 - a. Webster Grove was asked for public opinion on proposed study. Elizabeth Middleton of the MDC has proposed a 15 year study on paired sites to monitor effects on indicator plants.
 - b. Elizabeth also looking for input from MONPS on the study. Discussion followed.

UPCOMING MEETINGS and FIELD TRIPS- 2014

18. Fourth Quarter MONPS Meeting Winter: 6 Dec. Univ. of Missouri Herbarium in Columbia
19. Possible locations for 2015- thinking ahead before the Dec. meeting

a. Note: Last week of May and first week of June, Mead's MW surveys are going on.

b. Can we coordinate with Bioblitz this year?

c. Haven't been to NE Missouri for awhile. La Petite Gem?

New items/business/miscellaneous announcements?

20. BEr- upcoming propagation workshop- Blue Springs, MO-Signup with Susan Dyer of Burr Oak Woods.

21. PM- Carex id workshop- next spring probably last week of May through first of June. Will be studying wide range of grasses. Need 15 dissecting microscopes

22. BEd brought up the suggestion of MONPS becoming a Professional Member of the Grow Native site. Fee is \$100 but benefits would be getting published and listed on their website.

Also reported that Five guides need updating. Need to be meaningful and let people know we're a real organization.

23. Assignments/commitment Review by John Oliver – September 13, 2014

a. Brian and John should check for photos of award winners from June and send to Becky.

b. John will send information about the December meeting to Becky for the Petal Pusher.

c. Rex will get the information from Michelle and write a report on the 2014 Award winners.

d. Malissa will draft a message to members about the problem on the horizon of cost of mailing the paper Petal Pusher because of declining numbers of members requesting hard copies.

e. Rex will send report on t-shirt inventory and recommendations about reprinting.

f. John will contact Steve Bost of the Ozark Chinquapin Foundation about a possible tribute to Bill Knight.

At 9:30PM PM made motion to adjourn, RH seconded and motion passed.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by

Casey Burks

Casey Burks, Secretary of MONPS

Malissa Underwood, MDC State Botanist and MONPS Secretary, has an announcement:

ATTENTION TO MEMBERS RECEIVING HARD COPIES OF THE PETAL PUSHER!

The MONPS Board of Directors is currently reviewing the cost of sending hard copies of the Petal Pusher through regular mail. As printing and postal fees continue to rise, members who would like to continue receiving their copy on paper in the mail will be assessed a \$5 surcharge in the future. However, members can elect to receive electronic copies of the newsletter as an email attachment in PDF format and with the added advantages of full color photos and earlier delivery. Petal Pushers can also be viewed on the MONPS website: www.monativeplants.org

It is very important that members interested in receiving only the electronic version of the Petal Pusher give permission for the delivery conversion from paper to electronic. To make this conversion it is imperative to contact PP Editor Becky Erickson at beckyerick711@centurylink.net. Fortunately, about half of the members using email are already taking advantage of this opportunity, and they will continue receiving electronic version of the newsletter.

Sign Up for Membership Instructions

When signing up, please remember to include your contact information including email address, and your society and chapter dues preferences. Cut the renewal form from the bottom of this page. Or you can sign up on our web site: www.monativeplants.org. We urge you to use email delivery for your Petal Pusher [newsletter] by which you receive earlier delivery and color photos. Please indicate that preference to Ann [membership] on your form and email Becky [PP editor beckyerick711@centurylink.net] with your request.

If you know are viewing this form electronically, simply highlight and print the membership form at the bottom of the page. ***If you would prefer to not bother with annual renewal, we invite you to become a Life Member.***



Information on joining Missouri Native Plant Society

Society Dues

Circle all that apply

Chapter dues additional

Student = \$5

Regular = 10

Contributing = 20

Life = 200

Columbia = \$6

Kansas City = 5

Osage Plains = 5

Ozarks = 5

Southwest = 5

Perennis = 5

St Louis = 5

Empire Prairie 5

Contribution to Hudson Grant Fund _\$_____

All contributions are tax deductible

Request Paper copies of Petal Pusher \$5

Request Petal Pusher and appropriate announcements by email. **Include email address > > >**

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

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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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