



May - June 2015 NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSOURI NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY Volume 30 No.3

“ . . . 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 McKenzie, 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 Columbia MO 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.

Social Media Coordinator Job Description

Introduction

The Social Media Coordinator position with the Missouri Native Plant Society is an appointed position. This person is responsible for the maintenance of all social aspects of the Society's internet presence. The Social Media Coordinator is similar to the newsletter editor position except that "publication" of material occurs on our various internet outlets rather than in printed form. The Society maintains an internet presence primarily on a WordPress web site (www.monativeplants.org) and Facebook, but also on Twitter , Google+ , and Project Noah . Technology guidelines, including basic instructions for these sites, have been developed, and basic instructions for using WordPress have been created for www.monativeplants.org . The **Social Media Coordinator** is expected to manage and supervise the Society's presence on the internet, but they are *not* expected to do the job alone. In particular, representatives from each chapter should directly contribute news and event posts concerning their chapter. The webmaster is expected to do maintenance of the WordPress site, including upgrades, implementation of new features, troubleshooting problems, and strategizing about the Society's online presence. All Society members, especially board members, are responsible for suggesting content for distribution online, just as they are responsible for providing content for the printed newsletter.

Primary Duties

- Post news content ("Posts") about the Society to the web site (www.monativeplants.org). Content can originate from basic research, emails, posts on Facebook or other social media sites, *etc.*, but should be restricted to news of general interest to the Society, *not* just individual chapters.
- Post meeting and field trip content ("Events") about the Society to the web site (www.monativeplants.org). Events should be restricted to statewide activities and those of general interest to the Society, *not* individual chapters.
- Manage various documents, photographs, video, and other media on the web site.
- Monitor all content on the web site to ensure it meets publication standards, is free from typos and grammatical errors, misspellings, and formatting errors.
- Manage post and event categories and tags, ensuring they do not proliferate unnecessarily and are set appropriately for content generated by chapter representatives and others.
- Make *ad hoc* changes to static web pages on the web site (*e.g.* , changes in Board of Directors, new award winners, *Petal Pusher* editions, *etc.*).
- Monitor comments on both the web site (www.monativeplants.org) and Facebook , approving non-spam comments and removing spam and other abusive posts.
- Approve membership on Facebook. Criteria for this basically includes anyone with an obvious tie to Missouri or someone interested in natural history topics. Members can be easily removed if they post spam or other abusive comments so giving a membership request the benefit of a doubt is best policy.
- Ensure content posted in one medium is generally available in other media. Tools such as IFTTT can be used to accomplish this mostly automatically.
- Use various media to drive interested persons to sign up for a paid membership, contribute to the Hudson fund, participate in various Society activities, and other actionable items.
- Work with the newsletter editor to ensure all relevant content is published in the newsletter and posted online.
- Work with the webmaster to create online strategy, discuss issues, and manage the infrastructure of the web site.
- Work with the board to develop a desirable public image for the Society to display on its web site and other social media outlets.



The Missouri Plan for Conservation: *The following is an opinion column by Edge Wade, excerpted with permission. Read the full column in the March issue of the Audubon Society of Missouri's quarterly, The Bluebird, or online at: <http://mobci.net/opinion-20150210a/>*

Few if any human creations or accomplishments are perfect, but some come close enough to be held up as examples of what we can achieve. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is one of those exemplary endeavors.

In 1936 the people of Missouri overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment to create a new model for state conservation agencies. A politically independent conservation commission with authority to oversee a professional department was established. In 1976 we affirmed our support of that model by voting to tax ourselves with the Design for Conservation 1/8-cent sales tax to fund MDC in a manner independent of the political agendas of any governor or session of the state legislature.

These two voter-determined constitutional authorizations are the bases of a firm foundation to ensure the professional management and operation of MDC, allowing the agency to be free to function solely on science-based wildlife management principles and practices.

The "Missouri Plan" is the envy of wildlife conservation professionals throughout the U.S. and around the world. This foundation of political independence in oversight and funding is the critical factor in the department's ability to attract and retain the highest quality personnel available. The avant garde philosophy, ecosystem-based management, and habitat restoration accomplishments are examples others study and strive to equal.

Chiseling Away at a Firm Foundation

In recent years there have been several attempts to bring Missouri's conservation department under the control of the legislature by undermining that solid independent foundation. These efforts typically focus on ways to reduce MDC's funding or to require specific kinds of expenditures, thus crippling its ability to operate free of political agendas. The motivations and ramifications of some bills are less obvious, but are detrimental to sound conservation efforts, nonetheless.

Several bills have been introduced in this legislative session. You may see the full texts of these bills online at <http://www.senate.mo.gov/BTSSearch/Default.aspx> . Take the time to familiarize yourself with the content and intent of these measures

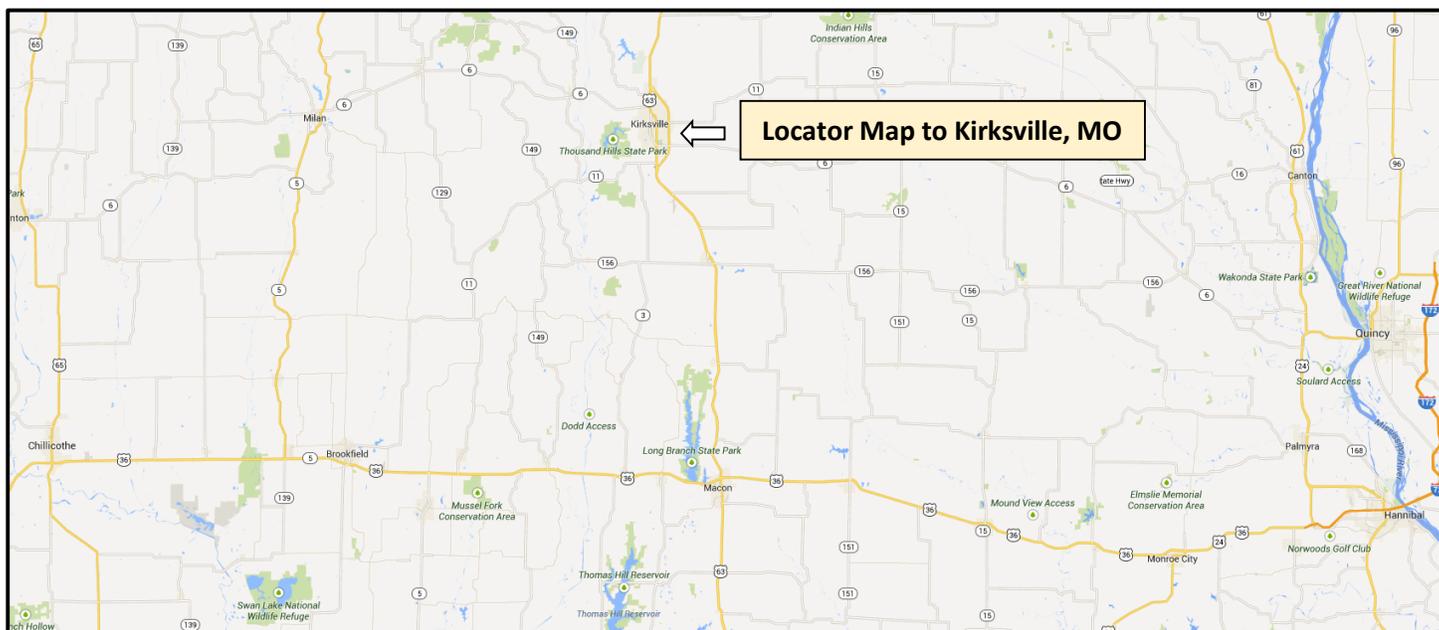
If these legislations pass, MDC will be punitively fined for assisting not-for-profit organizations. That means if an MDC employee gives a program for or gives a management opinion to a NFP [like us] they will be punished by the state legislative bodies.

Information on Events and Lodging for the MONPS Meeting

June 26-28, 2015

The **Missouri Native Plant Society Summer Meetings and Field Trips** will be held June 26-28, 2015 in and around **Kirkville, Missouri**. Our meetings will be held in the **Missouri Department of Conservation Classroom** in their Kirkville building. In addition to our quarterly Board Meeting, we will also have our **Annual General Meeting**, which will include the presentation of the **MONPS Awards**. There will also be a brief introduction and orientation program Friday night. Please join us! Our Field Trips will include some of Northeast Missouri's remaining prairie and woodland habitat, like Dark Hollow Natural Area, Morris Prairie Natural Area, Thousand Hills State Park, and Union Ridge Prairie Conservation Area.

For the most accurate and up-to-date details, please visit
[The Missouri Native Plant Society website](#) and our [Facebook Page](#).
 (or go to [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) and enter Missouri Native Plant Society in the search box.)



Directions: From the West (Kansas City): Take **I-35 N**, follow signs for **Interstate 35 N/Des Moines** 45.8 mi
 Take **exit 54** for **US-36** Turn right onto **US-36 E** 95.1 mi
 Take the **US-63** ramp to **Kirkville/Macon** 0.2 mi
 Turn left onto **US-63 N/N Missouri St**
 Continue to follow **US-63 N** and **Bus 63** ['Y' right] into town 28.6 mi

From the East (St. Louis):
 Take **I-64 W/US-40 W** 39.0 mi
 Continue onto **US-40 W/US-61 N** 0.5 mi
 Take the left exit onto **I-70 W/US-40 W** toward **Kansas City** 81.1 mi
 Take **exit 128A** toward **US-63 N** 0.2 mi
 Merge onto **Interstate 70 Connector N** 0.3 mi
 Take the ramp onto **US-63 N**; continue as above 86.6 mi

From the SW (Springfield):

Take your favorite way to **JC/Columbia**
 Exit onto **US-63 N** toward/through **Columbia** about **115 miles** from **JC**
 At **Kirkville** - Slight right toward **Business 63**; Continue to **Kirkville**
 See also the [Google Map Page](#) for this event which is self-updating:
http://bit.ly/MONPS_Summer150626

Tentative Schedule:
(We will optimize field locations and timing based on conditions; updates, as well as printable maps of field locations and plant lists, will appear on the websites.)

Early Bird Field Trip – Location TBA
Friday, June 26, 2:00 pm – Meet at MDC Office parking lot (see map below)
7:00 P.M. MDC Northeast Regional Office
 Program: **Orientation and Introduction to Northeast MO Communities – Krista Noel, of MDC.**

Directions to MDC Office: MDC NE Office is located 3500 S. Baltimore, Kirkville, MO 63501 Refer to the map below for navigation. **GPS: 40° 09' 32.9"N, 92° 34' 22.4"W or 40.159144, -92.572903**

Motels in the Kirksville area:

Holiday Inn Express Kirksville [2702 S Franklin St](#), Kirksville, MO 63501
Phone: (660) 627-1100; (660) 627-5876 (Fax) Website: [hiexpress.com](#)
GPS: **40.169905, -92.574624** or **+40° 10' 11.66", -92° 34' 28.65"**

**\$104/night (AAA or Senior Rate);
\$97/night (non-refundable
Advance Purchase)**

Super 8 Motel Kirksville [1101 Country Club Dr](#), Kirksville, MO 63501
Phone: (660) 665-8826 Website: [super8.com](#)
GPS: **40.171074, -92.571211** or **+40° 10' 15.87", -92° 34' 16.36"**

**\$57.60/night (AAA or Senior Rate);
\$54.40/night Advance Purchase**

Days Inn Kirksville [3805 S Baltimore St](#), Kirksville, MO 63501
Phone: (660) 665-8244 Website: [daysinn.com](#)
GPS: **40.159109, -92.570053** or **+40° 9' 32.79"N, 92° 34' 12.19"W**

**\$71.09/night (AAA or Senior Rate);
\$67.14/night Advance Purchase**

Comfort Inn [2209 N Baltimore St](#), Kirksville, MO 63501
Phone: (660) 665-2205 Website: [comfortinn.com](#)
GPS: **40.215897, -92.583383** or **40° 12' 57.2"N, 92°35'00.2"W**

**\$79.79/night (AAA or Senior Rate);
\$67.19/night Advance Purchase**

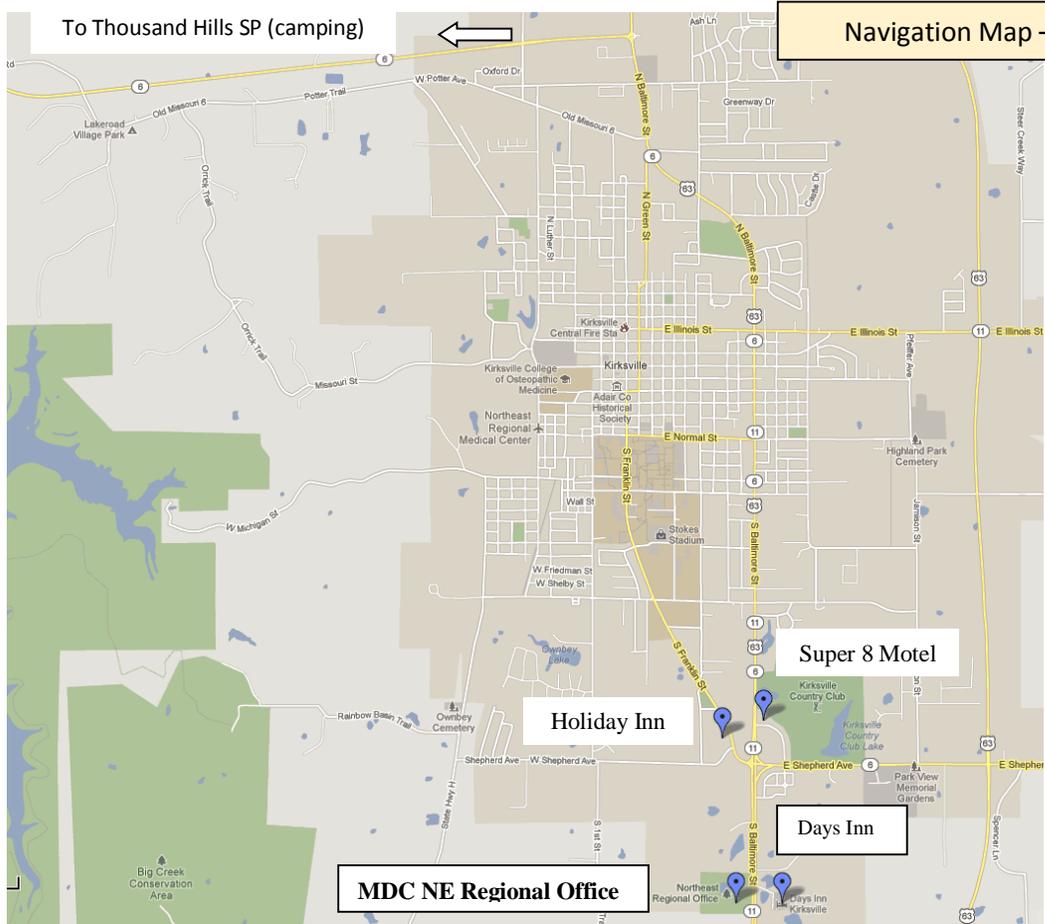
Camping is available at nearby [Thousand Hills State Park](#)

Saturday, June 27

- 8:00 AM – Meet at Holiday Inn parking lot. We will eat lunch in the field. Bring your lunch and pack out all trash.**
- 1:00 PM –Afternoon field trip – Location TBA**
- 7:00 PM – MONPS Annual Meeting and Board Meeting at MDC Office Classroom (see directions above)**

Sunday, June 28

- 8:00 A.M. – Meet at Holiday Inn parking lot – Location TBA**



Navigation Map – Kirksville, MO

MDC NE Regional Office



CHAPTER

St Louis Chapter

Submitted by Rex Hill, Chapter Representative

In February, Jonathan Myers, Assistant Professor of Biology at Washington University, spoke to the chapter. Unfortunately, Martha and I were on one of our jaunts out west, but in talking to a few people about the evening, I was able to get a brief synopsis where he discussed tree diversity and growth changes and the effects of climate change over long periods of time. I then, shamefully, lifted from the web, these two statements which summarize his research interests and those of his group at the Myers Lab for Ecology, Biogeography, and Biodiversity.

Our research focuses on the assembly, diversity, and dynamics of ecological communities across spatio-temporal scales. We are especially intrigued by the interplay of processes across ecological and biogeographic gradients, including evolutionary processes that create variation in biodiversity across biogeographic regions, environmental and spatial mechanisms of community assembly across natural and human-modified landscapes, and biotic and ecophysiological mechanisms that shape local community diversity and dynamics. To disentangle these processes, we combine field experiments, large-scale and long-term observational studies, and modeling approaches across a wide range of plant communities spanning temperate, sub-tropical, and tropical ecosystems. Through our studies, we strive to gain mechanistic insights into the relative importance of ecological processes that structure local communities within the broader context of biogeographic and evolutionary processes that shape regional biotas.

Our current field projects focus on local temperate oak-hickory forests at Tyson Research Center in St. Louis Country and across the greater Ozark Ecoregion of Missouri, biogeographic comparisons with species-rich tropical forests (e.g., western Amazonia), and hyper-diverse herbaceous plant communities within the threatened longleaf pine ecosystem of the southeastern United States.

On this Wednesday evening, at our March meeting Dr. Kyra Krakos gave an unusual and intriguing presentation titled **Bauhaus Botany**. Using the theme of combing crafts and fine arts, a principle of the Bauhaus art school in Germany, she employed students from the disciplines of both Biology and Fine Arts at Maryville University, where she is on the faculty, and put them to work on a creative project



involving the use of our friend from the list of scourge plants in Missouri, bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera mackii*). Through her encouragement and sponsorship, the school has had an ongoing battle with an abundance of the plant on campus and has used goats, student and community

volunteers, and a program of “enlightened encouragement” to maintain interest and even excitement in this activity. With an abundance of raw material, she tested her ideas with a multi-disciplinary group of Maryville students in developing useful, generally artistic, products from the plant.

REPORTS



Hawthorn Chapter

Submitted by Ann Wakeman and Lea Langdon

The bi-monthly membership meeting held **March 9, 2015** at the Unitarian Church was brought to order at 6:00pm by President Denny Donnell.

The program was presented by the advanced placement biology teacher at HHS, **Dr. Pam Close**, who received an education grant from Hawthorn Chapter. Her AP Bio class goes there every year, but our grant allowed them to have more time there, to do more exploring of the ideas & the area.

She presented the Honors Biology students’ project findings titled Explorations of Distribution and Density of several deciduous trees in Missouri. Steve Pallardy began with an overview of monitoring done at the Baskett Research Area. Thirty years of research conducted there is contributes to the Ameri-Flux network funded by Department of Energy tracking the carbon cycle throughout a 24 hour period. A 30 meter tower fitted with various instruments on the ground and on the tower measure the flow of carbon dioxide. Data shows a definite reduction in CO2 processing during drought.

Additionally, Dr. Close explained, research at Baskett Area is conducted periodically on permanent 1/5 acre plots set up in 1968. Woody components of these plots is monitored and contributed to PhenoCam Cooperative. PhenoCam is one of the tower instruments; it is set to photograph the forest canopy every half hour.

Students used Tree Finder book & leaf snap to ID trees on previous field trips to the Baskett Area used. They field learned monitoring techniques, and used math skills to create graphs for their data. The results of the students’ study found there is an increase in soil carbon in Missouri compared with other Investigating Forest Succession sites. This is leading to an increase in sugar maple (*Acer saccharinum*) in the upland forest. However, maple numbers are low close to Ashland Lake because night crawlers which are dumped after fishing at the [MDC] Ashland Fishing Lake at Baskett multiply and move up hill. Apparently this large alien species heave maple seeds so they cannot germinate. These two exercises illustrated to these students that not all science is done in a sterile lab or on a computer program.

Glenn Pickett reported on a grant proposal submitted by Holly Tatlow. Students of Agro Ecology are planning to pass along information of native plants, their propagation and interplanting of pollinator plants at the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture (CCUA). The students have defined this for support for birds and pollinators. After discussion, it was MSC to approve this proposal.

Becky Erickson, our nursery keeper, gave us a list of help needed this spring so potted wildflowers would be ready for sales in Apr and May. Help with moving plugs into pots, seedlings into plugs, and new tags will be needed throughout spring and early summer. You are encouraged to contact Becky to volunteer your help.

[STLouis cont . . .] With help from Martha Younkin, a well-known local artisan, famous for her use of natural plant fibers for creative, artistic, and utile products, she succeeded in inspiring the group and the results are striking. They include such items as jewelry, baskets, lamps, and an item that stimulated a lot of interest in our group – bee houses for solitary, native bees made from the hollowed stems of the planned configured in various ways.



Get the complete scoop:

<http://nativeplantwildlifegarden.com/whats-all-the-fuss-about-neonicotinoids/>



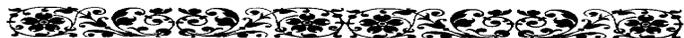
Southwest Chapter

Submitted by Michelle Bowe

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.

In February, we had a good crowd at the Library Station to hear Christine Chui discuss winter sowing. The idea is that you start seedlings in containers like 2 liter soda bottles or gallon milk jugs and then (after poking holes in the bottom and generously watering them), you let nature take its course. I am happy to report that some of mine have already germinated. It is a great way to get your garden started early. In March, Jeremy Keene substituted for Michelle and led a group around the Springfield Botanical Gardens to identify some common early weeds. He and Mike Skinner also helped folks identify plants they brought in. In addition to taking care of some of the native plantings at the Springfield Botanical Center, some of us are helping with a plant identification and mapping project at Smallin "Civil war" cave in Ozark.

I would also like to add a sad note. We received notice from the funeral home that Bob (Robert) Butin passed away in February. Eighty-five dollars in contributions were given to MONPS in his memory.



Kansas City

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

On March 3, we held our spring chapter meeting in Kansas City. Guest speaker and chapter president, **John Richter**, presented a lecture about the simple methods of selecting and **pressing plant specimens** suitable to herbarium standards. Attendees were entertained by the subject as Mr. Richter went through the process of mounting and labeling a specimen on a herbarium sheet. The highlight of the meeting was watching Mr. Richter calmly pen the scientific name of the plant onto the sheet using an old school fountain pen, all eyes watching. The secret is to label the sheet first if you choose to do this method for labeling, then glue the specimen to it.

Osage Plains

Casey Burks, Chapter Representative

There are no Osage Plains meetings scheduled during Dec., Jan., Aug. Starting Feb. 2015, regularly scheduled meetings are held the 4th Monday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Friends Room of the Henry County Library. Programs 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 or Chapter Representative Casey Burks mobugwoman@gmail.com.

The evening of **February 23rd** was the first Osage Plains meeting of 2015. It was great to see familiar faces again and we look forward to another season of seeing new areas, learning new plants. Sometimes we celebrate learning about nature with a diversity of program topics.

Roger Wombwell is a retired wildlife conservation agent. We asked him to share his knowledge of wetlands management for waterfowl. He was able to find his carousel of slides with thirty plus different ducks which he easily named. At the end, gave us a quiz. Missouri is in the migration corridor where they rest, refuel, socialize and often form their pair-bonds enroute. Roger said sometimes a wetlands area needs to be drained so annuals could be planted that produce more seed than perennials. The annuals also produce lots of biomass which in turn brings in hi-protein invertebrates the ducks eat for fuel.

At our March 23rd meeting, we enjoyed learning about bluebird habitat from our **guest speaker Carol Williams**. She gave excellent tips on placement of boxes to minimize wren, starling and house sparrow take-overs. She said boxes should be on plastic poles covered with grease to discourage snakes, raccoons etc. from climbing up and reaching in to get eggs. Wasps can be discouraged by rubbing the inside with a bar of soap.

Carol demonstrated a new style of bluebird box called a **Gilwood** which has a larger opening to let in more light but also has a bar across the opening to keep it bluebird size. Another item was an attachment to the top with strips of plastic that wave in the wind to shoo away house sparrows. These non-native birds are extremely aggressive, often killing adult bluebirds and destroying eggs in order to lay claim to the box.

She also mentioned, when monitoring bluebird babies, avoid opening the box after the babies are 12 days old or they might fledge long before they are really ready. Once they do fledge, the parents continue to feed them three to four weeks. Our OP chapter made blue bird boxes together as a craft project awhile ago and enjoy doing whatever we can to help blue birds regain population.

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

PLANT FOR MONARCHS

B Erickson Photo



Both nectar plants and milkweed need to be available. Adults will lay eggs on a few milkweeds if they find LOTS of nectar plants for their offspring to fuel up on.

Perennis Chapter

submitted by -Jamie Koehler, Perennis member

See calendar and Facebook page for upcoming activities

Several Perennis members attended the **2015 Native Plant Seminar on March 14** at the Cape Girardeau Nature Center.

The Seminar opened with Key Note Speaker Ken Porter, a self-described Yarb Man, telling tales of “Ozark Herbology”. Ken described plants that Native Americans and American Settlers used for food and medicinal purposes. Following the opening presentation, over 140 visitors attended breakout sessions at the Cape Nature Center on a wide variety of topics.

Sessions covered plant propagation, dealing with pests, using plant communities to guide our planting, and identifying mushrooms. Speakers were from the Missouri Department of Conservation, Southeast Missouri State University, Southern Illinois University, Missouri Botanical Garden, and Shaw Nature Reserve. Vendors offered many native plants, shrubs, and trees, and related products. Over 500 people visited the event during the day

Ozark Chapter

Submitted by Liz Olson, Chapter Representative

In March we were thrilled to welcome back a founding member of our chapter. **Pat French** grew up in the Irish Wilderness area of the Ozark Highlands in MO. She refers to herself as a “certified hillbilly.” She has given many workshops on edible plants in the Ozarks and has been featured in local magazines as the “Hillbilly Botanist.” As a child, she learned what plants were good to eat, which were poisonous, and the proper time to gather each one. She and her siblings would gather greens along the river banks in spring. An important lesson impressed upon them was to only take a few of the plants in an area, to never harvest an entire population.

Many plants have both edible and poisonous parts; for instance, the roots may be edible but the berries are poisonous. For this reason, this summary will not go into details about the many species that Pat discussed.

From Casey's Kitchen:

Submitted by Casey Burks

Redbud Jelly

4 or more cups of clean redbud blooms

4 plus cups of boiling water; enough to cover blooms. Let steep overnight then pour through coffee filter or cheese cloth to make clear. You will need 4 C total of juice.

(Add water if needed)

Pour 4 C juice into pan, stir in 1 box pectin, 1 Tbsp lemon juice, and 1 Tbsp butter.

Bring to rolling boil and let boil 1 minute. Then add 5 C sugar and bring back to rolling boil. Let boil 1 minute.

Remove from heat and pour into prepared jelly jars.



Photo credit: http://s1.hubimg.com/u/4342162_f520.jpg

And more information on our website

www.monativeplantsociety.org

[Ozark cont.] Pat was very explicit about warning our group that some plants are fatal if ingested, and it's important to do your research and learn from others who are experienced botanists.

You may have heard the term “pot-herb” used but weren't sure what it meant. This refers to any greens that are used to flavor or bulk up soups, such as from the mustard family or sorrel leaves which have a citrusy flavor. Many of these can also be salad greens; Pat was amused at her husband's first reaction to seeing her mother's salad creations – no boring store bought lettuce in their household!

Pat's coworkers used to be the beneficiaries (or guinea pigs) for her edible creations. She described a delicious cake made with rose water and rose hips. A coworker said it tasted just like a rose smells. The chicory coffee apparently was not as appreciated!

Pat generously brought us her homemade acorn flour muffins, which were delicious with her homemade honey butter.



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.

25 April Sat 10 am: Isley Park Woods Natural Area, Excelsior Springs. This is an easy access wildflower area that is open to the public, owned and managed by the City of Excelsior Springs. This area consists of a large north facing slope with an abundance of spring ephemeral wildflowers, including bloodroot, trout lily, and Dutchman's breeches. For car pools meet at 10 am at the Wal-Mart parking lot: I-35, Exit 16, Liberty. Please RSVP with John Richter jrichter@ene.com if you plan to attend, or contact him at 913-217-0432. Suggested items to bring are a camera, water, and snacks.

1 & 2 May – Powell Gardens Native Plant Sale. We need volunteers to staff a sale booth on Friday 3:30 pm to 7pm, and Saturday 10am to 5pm. This event comprises our annual fundraiser activity. Located at Powell Gardens, the KC MONPS Chapter makes a negotiated percent from the sale of plant material from the Missouri Wildflower Nursery, owned by Mervin Wallace. For information contact John Richter jrichter@ene.com, cell phone 913-217-0432.

5 May 7pm, MDC Discovery Center: Chapter meeting. Lenora Larson will present a fascinating presentation on native caterpillar host plants illustrated with many interesting photographs. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from Ms. Larson's experience on this subject. Please tell/bring a friend, open to everyone, no need to be a MONPS member. No RSVP required.

16 May Sat: Marais Des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge: For carpools: 9 am, Price Chopper parking lot at the NW corner of Metcalf & 119th in Overland Park, KS. We will visit some prairie restoration areas, a swamp white oak stand, a wet meadow that shows up as a prairie on historic General Land Office maps, and perhaps other sites. Please RSVP with Harold Draper h.m.draper@att.net, cell phone 816-872-8878. This will be a long field trip. Suggested items to bring are binoculars, water, lunch, tick/mosquito repellent, toiletries, compass, camera, and tree and flower identification guides.
Summer 2015 – Canoe trip? If anybody is interested please contact John Richter jrichter@ene.com, cell 913-217-0432.



Empire Prairie *from Steve Buback*

For future meeting times and dates contact Steve at steve.buback@mdc.mo.gov.

CALENDARS



Osage Plains *from Casey Burks*

There are no Osage Plains meetings scheduled during Dec, Jan and Aug.

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.

18 April Sat Join Theresa Cline and the Hi Lonesome Master Naturalists on a field trip to the **Bothwell Mansion** located north of Sedalia. Meet at 11AM at the Mansion for a tour. After a picnic lunch, the group will hike the beautiful grounds surrounding the Mansion. Theresa is an excellent resource for both the history and knowledge of the plants since she used to give tours of the Mansion.

16 May Sat Field trip to a Henry County **native prairie** with great variety of blooming plants. Current plan is to meet at the Henry County Library at 9am to car pool. Stay tuned for updates.

18 May Mon Regular OP meeting moved up a week due to Memorial Day on the 25th. Meet at the Henry County Library Friends Room at 6:30pm. Topic: **Edible Plants and Insects** of Missouri by speaker Paul Landkamer.



Perennis *from Andrew Braun*

Watch for announcements in your email or on the Facebook page. **Contact Andrew Braun** for information apbraun1s@gmail.com



Southwest *from Michelle Bowe*

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.

18 April Sat; two field trips scheduled. Michelle Bowe will lead a group to the Drury-Mincy Conservation Area to visit both a glade and a fertile riparian area. E-mail or call Michelle if you are interested Mbowe@MissouriState.edu The second trip will meet at the Kipfers' Bull Mills farm—E-mail Barb Kipfer for directions if you are interested in that trip: bkipfer@sbcglobal.net.

28 Apr Tues, 6pm Meet at the Springfield Botanical Center. Jeremy Keene will be giving a talk on Gesneriads (African violets) in the front meeting room. Jeremy is a former student of Michelle Bowe at MSU.

26 May Tues. 6pm Meet in our native garden at the Botanical Center, and then come indoors and meet in the back workshop room (the rest TBA).

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>

Friends and newcomers are welcome at meetings.

22 April Wed 7:30 PM: Speaker and Topic to be announced.

8 & 9 May: Spring plant sale at Shaw Nature Reserve.

27 May Wed 7:30 PM: Title and Topic to be announced.

24 June Wed 6:00 PM: This is the month for our annual evening wildflower walk, to be followed by dinner for those that wish to retire to a local restaurant after the walk. Watch Jack Harris' Emails and otherwise keep your ear to the ground for the location of this walk.



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. For more information, contact chapter president Susan Farrington at 417-255-9561.

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

April 21: We'll host Mike Doyen, President of the Ozarks Rivers chapter of the National Audubon Society, based in Rolla, MO. He will tell us about birds that migrate to the Ozarks each spring and how to attract birds to our backyards. Mike is passionate about birds and protecting our natural communities to provide the best habitat for them.

19 May: This meeting is traditionally a **field trip**; location to be determined.

16 June: In the summer months, we hold **Plant Identification** nights. Bring in specimens or pictures and we will all assist in identifying and learning about the plants you've found.



Web Links

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

"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 *from Ann Wakeman*

Chapter meetings held on odd-numbered months on the second Monday at Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia. 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.

Randall Clark will host his 35th year of spring wildflower walks every Thursday evening at 5:30 starting 26 March for 6 weeks. Meet at RBSP Devil's Icebox parking.

11 April Sat, 10am – 2 pm. Native Plant Sale at Bradford Farm. Our biggest sale of the year.

19 April Sun, 10am – 6pm. Booth at Columbia's Earth Day Fair. Sign up with Paula. See announcement in chapter newsletter www.columbianativeplants.org.

16 April Thursday: Lunch with native plant enthusiasts. 11:30 am. RagTag.

11 May Mon 7 pm Members Meeting Unitarian Universalist Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd, Columbia. Program TBA

10 or 14 May; Possible mosey to find orchids depending on weather.

16 May Plant Sale at Bass Pro, Columbia [US 63 north, exit Vandiver] Several other GN vendors will attend. GN will advertise. PLEASE call Becky to volunteer.



More Web Links

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

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/>

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/>

Wren Song: Weekly newsletter with links to several articles

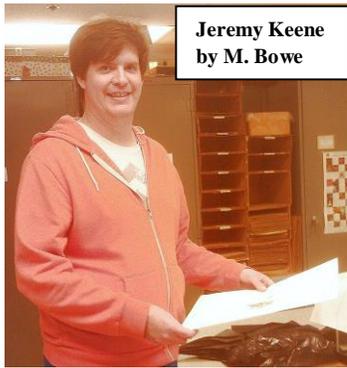
<http://www.ecosystemgardening.com/wren-song>

Curator's Corner:

The fifth 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.

Now that you've heard all about me and how I got into herbarium work (see previous Petal Pushers), I thought it was time to introduce the "current herbarium staff." By current, I mean folks who have done significant amounts of work in the last three or so years, and by staff, I mean volunteers who for one reason or other have decided to give their time to the herbarium.

All of the herbarium volunteers were students at Missouri State University at one time or another. Jeremy Keene and Shane Snider received their Bachelor's degrees at Missouri State, and both took my botany courses. Both also were graduate students in my lab almost ten years ago. Jeremy finished his Masters degree at Missouri State and this December, completed a Ph.D. in Gesneriad taxonomy (think African violets) at Ohio University. His Masters work



Jeremy Keene
by M. Bowe

involved the genetics and ecology of the federally listed Missouri Bladderpod. I have many fond memories of setting up and marking plots at Bois D'Arc and Rocky Barrens Conservation Areas.

During their field season, a group of us (that included both Jeremy and Shane) was walking through Bois D'Arc CA, and one of the undergraduates--the only one wearing shorts--was complaining of stinging on her legs. I am ashamed to say that we didn't take her very seriously. The next day, I was crouched down and reaching into a plot to identify plants, when I felt an intense stinging on the back of my hand. I looked down, and saw swollen marks where I had apparently been attacked by some super-venomous arthropod.

Upon further examination, we realized that the culprit was actually a plant with stinging hairs. Not a stinging nettle--this was a dry glade, not the usual stinging nettle habitat. This was a plant new to me, and we dubbed it "the evil plant from hell." It is actually a member of the spurge family (Euphorbiaceae) in the genus *Tragia* (aka "noseburn", but who the heck would let it touch their nose?!). The stinging pain lasted several hours, and none of us were immune. Despite this experience, Shane returns to the herbarium occasionally, and Jeremy frequently volunteers to help update the database and repair and file specimens.

Olivia Hunter is a current undergraduate Biology major who took my Woody Plant Identification class (we always make a few herbarium specimens). She began herbarium work over the winter break as part of her minor in Museum Studies (one of our first; she also has an anthropology minor).

Welcome to New Members!



Ozark

Don & Jeri Dias, West Plains

Osage Plains

Sondra Raper, Clinton

Hawthorn

Holly Sher, Columbia

Southwest

Clara Rutherford, Springfield

Kansas City

Susan Krueger, Lee's Summit

Caitlin Dix, Kansas City

Cathy Whitney-Vuchetich, Gladstone

St. Louis

Kathy Bildner, St. Louis

Kathy Walsh-Piper, St. Louis

Stephanie Paschall, Cadet

Susan Van de Riet, St. Louis

She worked really hard in January, and although she never complained, she definitely got to experience one of the things no one in the field of museum curation wants to talk about: the repetition and tedium that can accompany this work. Specimen after specimen gets checked, entered into the database, frozen (to kill potential bugs) and then filed into one of the numerous large grey moth-ball smelling cabinets.

Mike Skinner was a graduate student at "Southwest" Missouri State University back in the 1990s and finished his Masters under Grant Pyrah. Mike collected so many specimens that you cannot open a folder in any cabinet without running into some of them. In fact, he collected so many that he was unable to process them all as a student, but now that he is retired from MDC, he has returned and comes in almost every week to process his old specimens (that are now our new specimens) and help out in general with the database. In case you're curious, his thesis was entitled, "Botanical Survey of Seven Sites along the Jack's Fork River, Ozark National Scenic Riverways," so it's no wonder there are so many specimens!

In addition to their herbarium help, Mike and Jeremy assist me with plant ID (mostly in the context of teaching), and I am very lucky to have two expert botanists around for conversation, help with Chapter meetings and collegiality.

Monarch Waystations in MISSOURI - a Call to Action!

Submitted by Bill Ruppert [mailto: billr@rupehort.com]
www.kirkwoodinbloom.org/]

Dear supporters of conservation and Monarch butterfly habitat enhancement.

A recent conversation with our friends at [Monarch Watch](#) reveals the current fact that Missouri is lagging behind with registered [Monarch Waystation](#) sites. The following outlines the TOP 10 states with corresponding number of registered Monarch Waystations as of February 15, 2015:



1. MI – 804; 2. TX – 784; 3. IL – 647; 4. CA – 558; 5. PA – 530; 6. OH – 526; 7. VA – 512; 8. FL – 471; 9. WI – 387; 10. ON – 380. **Missouri currently has 254 registered Monarch Waystations.**

As purveyors of publications and e-newsletters, you are invited to consider inclusion of a “CALL TO ACTION” with your publication/communications to encourage Missourians to create and register their Monarch Waystation gardens and landscapes. Since Missouri is front-and-center along the Monarch migration corridor, our great state of Missouri should be in the TOP 5!

Here in Kirkwood, our Kirkwood in BLOOM team is collaborating with a variety of community organizations to create a registered Monarch Waystation in Downtown Kirkwood. On April 18th, as part of Kirkwood’s Earth Day Celebration, we will be planting “**The Pollinator Garden at Kirkwood’s Historic Train Station**”. To learn more, visit: <http://www.kirkwoodinbloom.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=whatsnew.detail&recID=57>

Please direct interested individuals and organizations with a possible Monarch Waystation registration opportunity to the official website located at: <http://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/>

Thank you for your consideration to elevate Missouri’s engagement with supporting the future of the Monarch! On a related subject: Special thanks to Bill McClellan, St. Louis Post-Dispatch columnist, for increasing community awareness of the Monarch issue in his February 10, 2014 column –

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/columns/bill-mcclellan/mcclellan-whose-karma-is-responsible-for-this-cold-weather/article_36c8b9dc-82a0-5dd3-87e9-78c76a28a96b.html

Tropical Milkweed and Monarch Parasites

Please DO NOT plant tropical [annual at this latitude] milkweeds thinking you are helping Monarch butterflies. See full article in [March Petal Pusher](#).

In spite of tropical milkweeds being sought for egg-laying straits, it cannot be emphasized enough that tropical milkweed does not 'cure' monarchs of infection. If this were true, we would not see such high levels of infection in monarchs sampled in the winter-breeding tropical milkweed patches in the

Asclepias curassavica can be all yellow and confused with yellow varieties of *A. tuberosa*. Leaf texture is very different.



wild. In some of these patches, every single monarch was heavily infected. Tropical milkweed, like other toxic milkweed species, reduces disease severity (spore load) in infected monarchs – sometimes by half – and thus allows infected monarchs to live longer. But living longer can give infected monarchs more time to spread parasites. In other words, feeding on toxic milkweeds is beneficial to *individual* infected monarchs because they have a better chance of surviving long enough to mate and lay eggs; but if they do reproduce, their offspring will also become infected. In this way, tropical milkweed could lead to high levels of infection in the wild.

What can gardeners do to support healthy monarchs?

Now that we understand that monarchs are healthier when milkweed is seasonal and not year-round, we can work to improve monarch habitat. Below are recommendations for gardeners interested in reducing monarch disease and non-migratory behaviors:

- Plant **native** milkweeds whenever possible. We recognize that native milkweeds can be challenging to find for sale in some parts of the country. We hope this will change eventually. Google the Grow Native and WildOnes Native Landscaping websites for guidelines and resources.
- Learn to identify native milkweeds and protect them.
- Ask local growers to produce native milkweeds.
- Participate in research efforts. There are several citizen science programs dedicated to studying monarch ecology and conservation, including: *Monarch Health*, where participants test wild monarchs for the protozoan parasite OE (<http://monarchparasites.org/>); *Monarch Larva Monitoring Project*, where citizen scientists monitor a milkweed patch for eggs and larvae (<http://mlmp.org/>); *Monarch Watch*, for which participants tag monarchs (<http://monarchwatch.org/>); and *Journey North*, where you can report monarch and milkweed sightings (<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/monarch/>) .Page 11

The Chickadee's Guide to Gardening: In Your Garden, Choose Plants That Help the Environment

By DOUGLAS W. TALLAMY, MARCH 11, 2015

[Douglas W. Tallamy](#), a professor of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware, is the author of "Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife With Native Plants." A version of this op-ed appears in print on March 11, 2015, on page A25 of the New York edition with the headline: The Chickadee's Guide to Gardening.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/11/opinion/in-your-garden-choose-plants-that-help-the-environment.html?_r=0

Photo illustrations for this article: [Playing God in the Garden](#): [By planting productive native species, we can create life.](#)

Photo Credit Courtney Wotherspoon



OXFORD, Pa. — I GREW up thinking little of plants. I was interested in snakes and turtles, then insects and, eventually, birds. Now I like plants. But I still like the life they create even more.

Plants are as close to biological miracles as a scientist could dare admit. After all, they allow us, and nearly every other species, to eat sunlight, by creating the nourishment that drives food

webs on this planet. As if that weren't enough, plants also produce oxygen, build topsoil and hold it in place, prevent floods, sequester carbon dioxide, buffer extreme weather and clean our water. Considering all this, you might think we gardeners would value plants for what they do. Instead, we value them for what they look like.

When we design our home landscapes, too many of us choose beautiful plants from all over the world, without considering their ability to support life within our local ecosystems.

Last summer I did a simple experiment at home to measure just how different the plants we use for landscaping can be in supporting local animals. I compared a young white oak in my yard with one of the Bradford pears in my neighbor's yard. Both trees are the same size, but Bradford pears are ornamentals from Asia, while white oaks are native to eastern North America. I walked around each tree and counted the caterpillars on their leaves at head height. I found 410 caterpillars on the white oak (comprising 19 different species), and only one caterpillar (an inchworm) on the Bradford pear.

Was this a fluke? Hardly. The next day I repeated my survey on a different white oak and Bradford pear. This time I found 233 caterpillars on the white oak (comprising 15 species) and, again, only one on the Bradford pear.

Why such huge differences? It's simple: Plants don't want to be eaten, so they have loaded their tissues with nasty chemicals that would kill most insects if eaten. Insects do eat plants, though, and they achieve this by adapting to the chemical defenses of just one or two plant lineages. So some have evolved to eat oak trees without dying, while others have specialized in native cherries or ashes and so on.

But local insects have only just met Bradford pears, in an evolutionary sense, and have not had the time — millennia — required to adapt to their chemical defenses. And so Bradford pears stand virtually untouched in my neighbor's yard.

In the past, we thought this was a good thing. After all, Asian ornamentals were planted to look pretty, and we certainly didn't want insects eating them. We were happy with our perfect pears, burning bushes, Japanese barberries, porcelain berries, golden rain trees, crape myrtles, privets, bush honeysuckles and all the other foreign ornamentals.

But there are serious ecological consequences to such choices, and another exercise you can do at home makes them clear. This spring, if you live in North America, put up a chickadee nest box in your yard. If you are lucky, a pair of chickadees will move in and raise a family. While they are feeding their young, watch what the chickadees bring to the nest: mostly caterpillars. Both parents take turns feeding the chicks, enabling them to bring a caterpillar to the nest once every three minutes. And they do this from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. for each of the 16 to 18 days it takes the chicks to fledge. That's a total of 350 to 570 caterpillars every day, depending on how many chicks they have. So, an incredible 6,000 to 9,000 caterpillars are required to make one clutch of chickadees.

And chickadees are tiny birds: just a third of an ounce. What if you wanted to support red-bellied woodpeckers in your yard, a bird that is about eight times heavier than a chickadee? How many caterpillars would that take?

What we plant in our landscapes determines what can live in our landscapes. Controlling what grows in our yards is like playing God. By favoring productive species, we can create life, and by using nonnative plants, we can prevent it.

An American yard dominated by Asian ornamentals does not produce nearly the quantity and diversity of insects needed for birds to reproduce. Some might argue that we should just let those birds breed "in nature." That worked in the past, but now there simply is not enough "nature" left. And it shows. Many bird species in North America have declined drastically in the past 40 years.

Fortunately, more and more gardeners are realizing that their yards offer one of the most empowering conservation options we have, and are sharing their properties with the nature around them.

By the way, you might assume that my oak was riddled with unsightly caterpillar holes, but not so. Since birds eat most of the caterpillars before they get very large, from 10 feet away the oak looked as perfect as a Bradford pear.

Native Milkweeds of Missouri

recommended for planting to benefit the Monarch butterfly by ecoregion or natural community type/s
(Paul McKenzie- March 2015)

Widespread species

1. Common milkweed- *Asclepias syriaca*- wide variety of habitats , rhizomatous
2. Butterflyweed- *A. tuberosa*- wide variety of habitats- common garden species
3. Swamp milkweed- *A. incarnata*- wet habitats but does well in planted gardens
4. Whorled milkweed- *A. verticillata*- wide variety of habitats including prairies, glades and dry upland forests
5. Four-leaf milkweed- *A. quadrifolia*- open woodland
6. Purple milkweed- *A. purpurascens*- moist, partly shaded, weakly rhizomatous
7. Green milkweed- *A. viridis*- prairies/glades, unglaciated. Aka – antelope horn.
8. Prairie or tall green milkweed- *A. hirtella*- bottom and upland prairies/glades/pastures
9. Smooth milkweed- *A. sullivantii*-also in W MO south of MO River- wide variety of habitats, moist soil.

Species not recommended due to their rarity or their non-native status

1. Mead's milkweed- *A. meadii*- federally listed species
2. Showy milkweed- *A. speciosa*- only known from one historical record
3. Poison milkweed- *A. subverticillata*- introduced and only known from one historical record
4. Poke milkweed- *A. exaltata*- rich bottomland forest- known only from Cape Girardeau Co.
5. [ed. note] Mexican milkweed- *Asclepias curassavica*- detrimental to Monarch health. Read article p 11.

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.



Dues are Due before July

From Ann Earley, Membership Chair

Membership renewals for the July 2015-June 2016 year are due. If you receive your newsletter by postal service delivery, please check the top line of your mailing label. If it shows the date 20150630, your dues are now payable. When renewing, please remember to include your contact information including email address, and your society and chapter dues preferences. Membership renewal online is also available via our website at www.monativeplants.org which offers the option of online payment via PayPal.

For those members receiving their newsletter by email without a mailing label, or for others with questions about their membership status, please contact me or your chapter representative (see back page for contact details) for information about your membership expiration date. We value our members and urge you to renew today!



Missouri Native Plant Society

PO BOX 440353

St Louis, MO 63144-4353

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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**

PRESIDENT

Paul McKenzie
2311 Grandview Circle
Columbia, MO 65203
573-445-3019
naulbeckvmo@mchsi.com

VICE PRESIDENT

John Oliver
4861 Gatesbury Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63128
314-487-5924
joliver02@earthlink.net

SECRETARY

Malissa Underwood
10665 CR 381
Holt's Summit, MO 65043
573-301-0082
Malissa.Underwood@mdc.mo.gov

TREASURER

Bob Siemer
74 Conway Cove Drive
Chesterfield, MO 63017
636-537-2466
aec623@prodiav.net

PAST PRESIDENT

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

BOARD MEMBERS

Justin Thomas ('14 - '17)
Rt 4 Box 946
Salem MO 65560
ithomas@botanvtraining.com

Robin Kennedy ('14 - '17)
University of Mo Herbarium
Columbia, MO 65211-3170
573-882-6519
kennedyr@missouri.edu

Bruce Schuette ('13 - '16)
678 St. Route 147
Troy, MO 63379
636-528-7247 (w)
basch@centurytel.net

Steve Buback ('12-'15)
MDC NW Regional Office
701 James McCarthy Dr
St. Joseph, MO 64507
816-271-3111
Steve.Buback@mdc.mo.gov

Michelle Bowe ('13 - '16)
901 S National Ave
Springfield, MO 65897
417-836-6189
Mbowe@MissouriState.edu

MISSOURIENSIS

CO-EDITORS
George Yatskiyevch
314-577-9522 (w)
george.yatskiyevch@mobot.org

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

PETAL PUSHER EDITOR

Becky Erickson
PO BOX 496
Ashland MO 65010
573-657-2314
beckyerick711@centurylink.net

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Lisa Hooper
Jay Raveill
Tim Smith

ARCHIVES

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

MEMBERSHIP

Ann Earley
P.O. Box 440353
St. Louis, MO 63144-4353
314-963-0103
aec623@prodiav.net

SOCIAL & MEDIA

Steve Buback

WEBMASTER

Brian Edmond
8878 N FR 75
Walnut Grove, MO 65770
417-742-9438
briannedmond@gmail.com

ENVIRON. AND EDUCATION

John Oliver [also Vice President]

**CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES
SOUTHWEST**

KANSAS CITY

Hilary Haley
204 South 15th Street
Bethany, MO 64424
(660) 867-3866
hhaley@tnc.org

PERENNIS

Andrew Braun
abbraun1s@gmail.com

EMPIRE PRAIRIE

Steve Buback [also on Board]

OZARKS

Liz Olson
MDC Ozark Regional Office
551 Joe Jones Blvd
West Plains, MO 65775
417-255-9561 Ext. 296 (w)
Elizabeth.Olson@mdc.mo.gov

OSAGE PLAINS

Casey Burks
914 SE Hwy ZZ
Deepwater, MO 64740
515-291-1550
mobugvoman@gmail.com

HAWTHORN

Ann Wakeman
5798 Windy Meadows Lane
Fulton MO 65251
573-642-6927
mike-ann@socket.net

ST. LOUIS

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

www.monativeplants.org
www.monativeplantsocietv.org



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