

PETAL PUSHER

November—December 2018 Newsletter of the Missouri Native Plant Society Volume 33 No.6

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

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Bur oak acorns and their flour. Photo by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

Acorn Revival! Cooking Today with an Ancient Food.

By Nadia Navarrete-Tindall, Native Plant Specialist

Native Americans and other indigenous people around the world traditionally used a large variety of native edible plants in their regular diet in the past, and although much knowledge about their use has been almost lost or forgotten, some are still doing it. Today, there is a healthy and growing interest in recovering knowledge about using native edibles. Some that are still consumed in small quantities include paw paw (*Asimina triloba*), elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), persimmon (*Diospyrus virginiana*) wild plums (*Prunus* spp.), serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*), goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.), goldenglow (*Rudbeckia laciniata*), sunchoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*), ground nut (*Apios americana*), hog peanut (*Amphicarpaea bracteata*),



Leaching tannins from acorns occurs in five stages, as is exemplified by the jars of water used to leach the acorns. Photo by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

cup plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*), wild leeks (*Allium tricoccum*), nettles (*Laportea canadensis* and *Urtica dioica*) and various mints, to name a few, are also slowly being incorporated into small farming operations and gardens as specialty crops. Goldenglow or Sochan (*Rudbeckia laciniata*) and wild leeks or ramps (*Allium* spp.) are being reintroduced among families of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee in partnership with the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville, North Carolina.

One common Native American food was oak acorns, and although their use is much less common today, they are still useful and tasty when prepared in a number of ways, so I will discuss that a little in this article. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, raw oak acorns are rich in fat, protein and carbohydrates and also contain potassium, phosphorus, manganese, magnesium, calcium, and other minerals. According to the Missouri Department of Conservation and George Yatskievych in *Steyrmark's Flora of Missouri*, there are at least nineteen native species of oaks (*Quercus* spp.) and sixteen hybrids. They are divided into two groups: the white and the red-black oaks. The leaves of red and black oaks are lobed or entire with the major veins projecting as bristles. White oak leaves are lobed with no bristles. Oak trees are among the most important

trees in Missouri, being dominant species in woodlands, forests and savannas. Their acorns are a significant food for mammals, birds and insects, and even for domestic pigs. For humans, oak acorns can be used to make flour or added to regular meals for their nutty flavor.

Since I first became interested in native edible plants, I learned about the edibility of oak acorns. I read many books and articles and listened to personal accounts that acorns can be processed to make flour to replace or mix with wheat flour in desserts. However, I

always hesitated to go through the process myself because it sounded cumbersome and not worth the time. I hardly heard anything good about it, including that the flavor was not good or was too bland. Then, in September 2017, I went with Jen Sieradzki, landscaper and educator at the Shaw Nature Reserve, to the 'Midwest Wild Harvest Festival' in Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin. There, during a potluck style dinner, participants shared tasty dishes prepared with acorns including a persimmon cake and savory dishes. Jen had recently offered a class about Wild Native Edibles, and she said that, "...the acorn burgers..." that she had prepared for attendees were, "...the star of the show."

The event and Jen inspired me to experiment on my own, so I started collecting acorns from our pin oak tree (*Q. palustris*). However, they have lots of tannins and are very tiny, so they weren't worth all the work to me. Then I remembered a bur oak (*Q. macrocarpa*) tree in our neighborhood that is very productive. I have collected those acorns in the past to make ornaments. These past two years, acorn production has been very high, and there were so many that did not seem to be consumed by squirrels or other animals. Black walnuts (*Juglans nigra*) are

also abundant, so I don't feel too badly taking some of the squirrels' food. All acorns are edible, though tannins make them bitter, but white oak acorns have less tannins, and some white oak acorns are even naturally sweet.

As for almost every native edible plant that I write about, there are reports of toxicity in some cases. In the case of acorns, after leaching, they are edible for humans; however, because horses and cattle consume the acorns outdoors, the tannins can be toxic to them, especially during dry periods when no other forage is available. There are even some reports of death. Wild animals and pigs, however, are not known to be killed by acorns.

So, after reviewing a few references, including *Edible Wild Plants* by Thomas Elias and Peter Dykeman, *Adventures in Edible Plant Foraging* by Karen Monger, *Native American Food Plants* by Daniel Moerman, *Uses of Plants by the Indians of the Missouri River Region* by Melvin Gilmore, and several others, my husband, Randy, and I were ready for our first test.

Acorns can be collected as soon as they fall from the trees and stored in a cool place until just before processing. Acorns are parasitized by weevils and other beetles, so some may be damaged. A tiny hole



Salvadoran Quesadilla with an American Twist . Photo by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall



Try a warmed slice with ice cream and maple syrup. Photo by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

in the acorn means that the acorn had weevils and should be discarded. To be sure they are good for processing, eliminate the fused bracts (caps) and place the acorns in a bucket with water, saving those that sink and discarding the floaters.

To process, after removing the bracts, crack the nuts open (a hammer or an adjustable channel-lock-type pliers work well), then proceed to discard the pericarp (acorn shell). Remove the thin seed coat. If the seed skin is hard to remove, try drying the acorns until the skins become brittle and detach themselves from the acorns or are easily removed. To remove tannins to make them palatable for humans, leaching is necessary. If you are planning to use the acorns to make burgers, stews or other savory dishes, they can be cooked in hot water until soft.

If acorn flour is the final product, leaching should be done with cold water. To leach the acorns for flour, coarsely chop the acorns by hand or with a food processor, and proceed to leach them in a container with cold water. Initially the water will be light brown, so change the water daily for several days until the water is clear or the acorns are no longer bitter (see photo). In the past, leaching was done by placing the acorns in a basket in running water in streams. Depending on your acorns, this may take five days to two weeks. It took us only five days to leach bur oak acorns. After leaching, chop the acorns in smaller pieces in a food processor, until getting a 'corn meal-like' texture. Place the acorn meal on trays lined with

wax or parchment paper. Dry it in an electric oven overnight by just using the heat of the oven light or use a dehydrator. The acorn meal should be stored in containers in a cool place for a couple months or, for longer periods, store them at freezing temperatures to protect from deterioration.

This may sound like a lot of work, but we did not spend much time on each step. It takes a few days, but it is not difficult to do, and it is fun to eat something so abundant and easily found around us. If you are lucky to have access to bur oaks, or others like swamp chestnut (*Q. michauxii*) or overcup oak (*Q. lyrata*), it should be worth the try.

There are a number of cookbooks and websites with recipes calling for acorn flour. To get you started you can follow my own recipe for a traditional sweet bread called “quesadilla”, prepared in my native El Salvador. It is not a savory dish like the “Mexican quesadilla”, although both have cheese, or “queso” in Spanish, as one of the main ingredients. See the recipe as follows:

Nadia Navarrete-Tindall is a Native Plant Specialist. She offers training about native edible plants and other topics on native plants. She can be reached by email at nativeplantsandmore@gmail.com or on her Facebook page, [Native Plants and More](#).



Salvadoran Quesadilla with an American Twist

(Serves 12-16 portions)

Ingredients:

- ½ cup whole wheat flour (use rice flour for gluten free recipe)
- ½ cup oak ‘acorn meal’
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 3 large eggs or 4 small ones
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ cup butter melted
- Sesame and/or flax seed

Directions

- Heat the oven to 350° and butter a 9-inch pie pan. Set aside.
- Sift together the flour, acorn meal, cheese and baking

- powder in a large bowl.
- Incorporate melted butter into dry ingredients and mix with a blender. Add the eggs one at a time and continue mixing until the mix is creamy.
- Dispense this creamy mix into the pan and cover the top with sesame and/or flax seeds. Bake for 30 minutes or until a toothpick in the center of the dish comes out clean.

It is better to eat it warm. It can be served with vanilla ice cream with maple syrup on top.



Cut out and add to your recipes!

Stanton Hudson Memorial Fund Student Research Awards—2019

The Missouri Native Plant Society announces the availability of funding for research projects conducted by college or university students under the supervision of a faculty member. This award honors the late H. Stanton Hudson (1921–2002), a longtime member of the Missouri Native Plant Society whose passion for the flora of Missouri and its conservation inspired his friends and family to create a small grant program in his memory.

To qualify for the Hudson Fund, research must involve Missouri native plants in some way but may have as its primary focus any pertinent subject area in plant biology, including conservation, ecology, physiology, systematics, and evolution, etc. The grant may be used for any non-salary expenses relating to the proposed research, including travel, equipment, and supplies. For 2019, we anticipate awarding two grants in the amount of \$1,000.00 each. At the conclusion of the project, grant recipients will be expected to prepare research results for publication in a scientific journal and will be asked to present their research at the annual Missouri Botanical Symposium.

Proposals should not exceed five single-spaced typed pages and should include:

1. Description of the project;
2. How the project relates to native Missouri plants;
3. Estimated completion date;
4. Overall budget for the research;
5. How an award from the Hudson Fund would be used;
6. A list of other funding received or applied for toward the project.

Applicants should also include a current curriculum vitae. In addition, two letters of reference must be included, one of these being from the student's faculty advisor.

Materials may be submitted by mail (in triplicate) or, preferably, electronically as e-mail attachments in Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat (PDF). Letters from the applicant's references may be submitted as e-mail messages. Proposals will be reviewed by the MONPS grants committee.

Application materials may be sent to:

Missouri Native Plant Society
c/o Dr. Paul M. McKenzie
2311 Grandview Circle
Columbia, MO 65203
Email: paulbeckymo@mchsi.com.

For questions, contact Dr. McKenzie by phone at (573) 445-3019 or by email.

The deadline for submissions is January 31, 2019, and announcement of winners will be made by February 28, 2019, with funds to be awarded by June 1, 2019

From the Editor

Native plants are an important part of the heritage of Native Americans. Much of their years of cultural research and knowledge have been destroyed along with their culture. But what remains is a blessing to us all.

As we strive to protect native plants, we should also strive to protect those whose innate knowledge of them has passed down through millennia. As we utilize native plants for nutrition, medicine, or craft, we owe an unattainable debt of gratitude and respect to those who went before us experimenting and divining the secrets of each species.

Thank you again to our proofreading team, including Malissa Brigler, Dana Thomas, John Oliver, and board members. Thanks to our authors, chapter representatives, and other contributors. Thank you for your time, dedication, collaboration and support.

Enjoy folding the plant knowledge of Native Americans into your daily life and daily rituals.

Sincerely,



Erin Skornia, *Petal Pusher* Editor

Chapter Events

Hawthorn

12-20, 01-17: Chapter Lunches, 11:30 a.m.

Chapter lunches are held on the third Thursday of each month just south of Broadway Street in downtown Columbia at Uprise Bakery inside the lobby of the RagTag Theatre, 10 Hitt Street, Columbia, Missouri.

01-14: Bimonthly Chapter Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

Chapter meetings are held on odd-numbered months on the second Monday at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Boulevard, Columbia, Missouri. Newcomers and friends are welcome to attend.

See www.columbianativeplants.org for updated postings of newsletters and activity details.

Kansas City

01-08: Chapter Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

Exceptionally, this second Tuesday, due to foreseen circumstances, will be our 2019 planning session.

Our chapter meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every other month at the Anita B. Gordon Conservation Discovery Center, 4750 Troost Ave., Kansas City, Missouri.

Osage Plains

11-26: Chapter Meeting

Our last meeting to be held at the MDC building in Clinton. Bring plants you'd like to have identified, plus bring pictures from 2018 field trips you'd like to share.

There is no meeting in December or January.

02-25: Chapter Meeting

Please contact Elizabeth Middleton Elizabeth.Middleton@mdc.mo.gov, Bernie Henehan berniehenehan@yahoo.com, Dan Henehan henehandan0@gmail.com, or Casey Burks mobugwoman@gmail.com for further information or to be added to the Osage Plains distribution list.

Ozarks

11-20: Medicinal Plants Program, 7:00 P.M.

A program about medicinal plants will be presented by Ashley Johnson. Participants are welcome to bring plants for identification. Doors open at 6:30 P.M.

There are no meetings in December or January.

Paradoxa

**No meetings November—February.
See you in the Spring!**

Paradoxa schedules meetings and walkabouts at a variety of locations in the Rolla area. Watch our chapter page on the monativeplants.org website for updates, or email us at paradoxarolla@gmail.com, and ask to be added to our email list, as dates and locations may change.

Workdays for the Bray CA Botanical Collection and Herbarium Project are generally held on the first and third Thursdays of the month. We'll soon turn our attention from gathering specimens to mounting the plants we've collected this year. Please contact us at the above email if you would like to join the crew.

Perennis

Watch for announcements by e-mail, the MONPS Facebook page, and the MONPS website.

Saint Louis

01-23: Guest Speaker Ted McRae, 7:30 P.M.

Ted McRae will be our speaker. You may recognize his name as the author of a recent article in the *Petal Pusher* on pollination in Ozark witch hazel. Ted is an agricultural entomologist who specializes in several families of beetles and also has a keen interest in plant-insect relationships. You can learn a lot more about Ted and his interests by looking at his comprehensive and informative blog, *Beetles in the Bush* (<https://beetlesinthebush.wordpress.com/>).

02-27: Speaker and Topic TBD, 7:30 P.M.

Chapter meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Sunset Hills Community Center, 3939 South Lindbergh Boulevard, Sunset Hills, Missouri.

Southwest

There will be no regular meetings in November or December due to the holidays.

01-29: Winter Plant Identification, 6:00 p.m.

Michelle Bowe will present a workshop on winter plant identification at the Midtown Library in Springfield.

Please contact Michelle Bowe at mbowe@missouristate.edu if you would like to speak at our meetings or have ideas. Thanks!



AmazonSmile Donates to MONPS When You Shop!

AmazonSmile is an easy way to support MONPS. Every time you shop on smile.amazon.com, the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of your purchase of eligible products to MONPS.

Simply visit smile.amazon.com and search for Missouri Native Plant Society Inc. After you finish shopping, Amazon will automatically donate to MONPS. You may also click the AmazonSmile link on monativeplants.org.

Make sure to navigate to smile.amazon.com each time you shop. The default amazon.com will not result in a donation, and your smart phone application may not support AmazonSmile.

Visit [About AmazonSmile](#) to read more about the AmazonSmile Foundation.

We Want Your Ideas!

Is there a botanical topic you'd find interesting or informative? We want your ideas for *Petal Pusher* themes! Each issue will contain articles related to the theme.

So far this year, we've covered Pollination, Seed Dispersal and Uses of Native Plants. Email your great ideas to dana.thomas@naturecite.org, and we will compile a list to draw upon for future issues.



A finished bracelet of rattlesnake master cordage. Photo by Michael Smith

Native Plants for Cordage

By Michael Smith, Shaw Nature Reserve

When I was young, I often wondered what Native Americans used for rope. I remember experimenting with vines, but it was clear that this couldn't have been how it was done. It wasn't until considerably later in life that I came to know the man who would teach me about this and many more things that I value today. If you live in Missouri, value prairies, (have a fig plant) and know how to make cordage, you probably know Bill Davit. Bill has taught countless people, like myself, the art of cordage-making, and I'll try to share some of what I've learned from him.

In general, the term cordage refers to rope or the rigging on a ship. In regard to Native American cordage, we think in terms of cordage made from native plant materials. It seems like any plant with continuous fibrous strands can be used. That said, some are easier to prepare and work with than others. Some are used directly from the plant, and others require additional processing.

According to a 1943 New York Botanical Garden article by A. C. Whitford (*Fiber Plants of North America Aborigines*, Vol. 44 No. 518), Native Americans utilized at least fifty-five species of plants for cordage. These different types of plant fibers fall into two categories. There are plants used for *structural fibers* and plants used for *bast fibers*. Structural fibers come from leaves and stems of plants with veins and are primarily

monocotyledons. These typically make very strong, but coarse cords. Bast fibers come from just under the bark (the phloem) of dicotyledons and gymnosperms, and depending on the species used, can produce very fine fiber for delicate work.

In our cordage booth at Prairie Days at Shaw Nature Reserve, we mainly use rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*) (a parallel-veined dicotyledon) for our cordage demonstrations. This is also the plant that Bill first showed me how to use. The leaves of the rattlesnake master are gathered in the late fall or early winter and then dried. They are then remoistened when ready to use. Rattlesnake master makes an especially strong and beautiful cord. A sandal made from the leaves of rattlesnake master, known to be over 8,000 years old is the oldest shoe to be found in the Midwest. This sandal was found in Arnold Research Cave near Columbia, Missouri.

In the hot, dry parts of the Americas, the yuccas (*Yucca* spp.) were probably the main fibers used for structural cordage.

Other structural fibers include big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) which was known to be used by the Mound Builders who blended it with other fibers. Also, several different rushes were used as well as cattails (*Typha* spp.) for coarse products like mats.

One exceptionally fine, but strong bast fibers comes from wood nettle. Bob Dyer in his folk song, *The Battle of Booneslick* sings, “They made their clothes of nettles,” in reference to early Missouri pioneers. Dogbane (*Apocynum* spp.) is another source of very fine and strong fiber for cordage. The Native Americans commonly used this species for fishing line that was stronger than the fishing line brought by Europeans to the New World. Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) as well as other milkweed species were also sources of commonly used bast fibers.

Some trees were also sources of bast fiber. The most commonly used tree for bast was the basswood (*Tilia americana*). In fact, the name “bass”-wood comes from the word “bast”. This fiber was used for a variety of things from the strongest ropes to the finest fibers for cloth. Other trees used for bast fibers include the American and slippery elms (*Ulmus* spp.), black willows (*Salix nigra*), black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*), and others.



The basal leaves of rattlesnake master make fine cordage.
Photo by Michael Smith

The most interesting thing about cordage is in the making of the cordage itself. Instead of my going into the step by step process of preparing and the twisting of fibers, I would encourage you to do your own research. The internet is full of instructions and videos on the different processes, but the best part is learning about and working with the different plants.

Michael Smith is a volunteer naturalist at Shaw Nature Reserve in both the restoration and horticulture departments. He lives in Washington, Missouri.

Links on Cordage

Making Bracelets the Native American Way with Bill Davit: <https://bit.ly/2OJCxAE>

Making Cattail Cordage Video: <https://bit.ly/2OKmZMV>

St. Louis Community College: photos of shoes and Arnold Research Cave: <https://bit.ly/2DpXD4K>

New York Times Article: <https://nyti.ms/2B7elok>

Using Nettles for Cordage: <https://bit.ly/2OHPgDN>

Winter Board Meeting

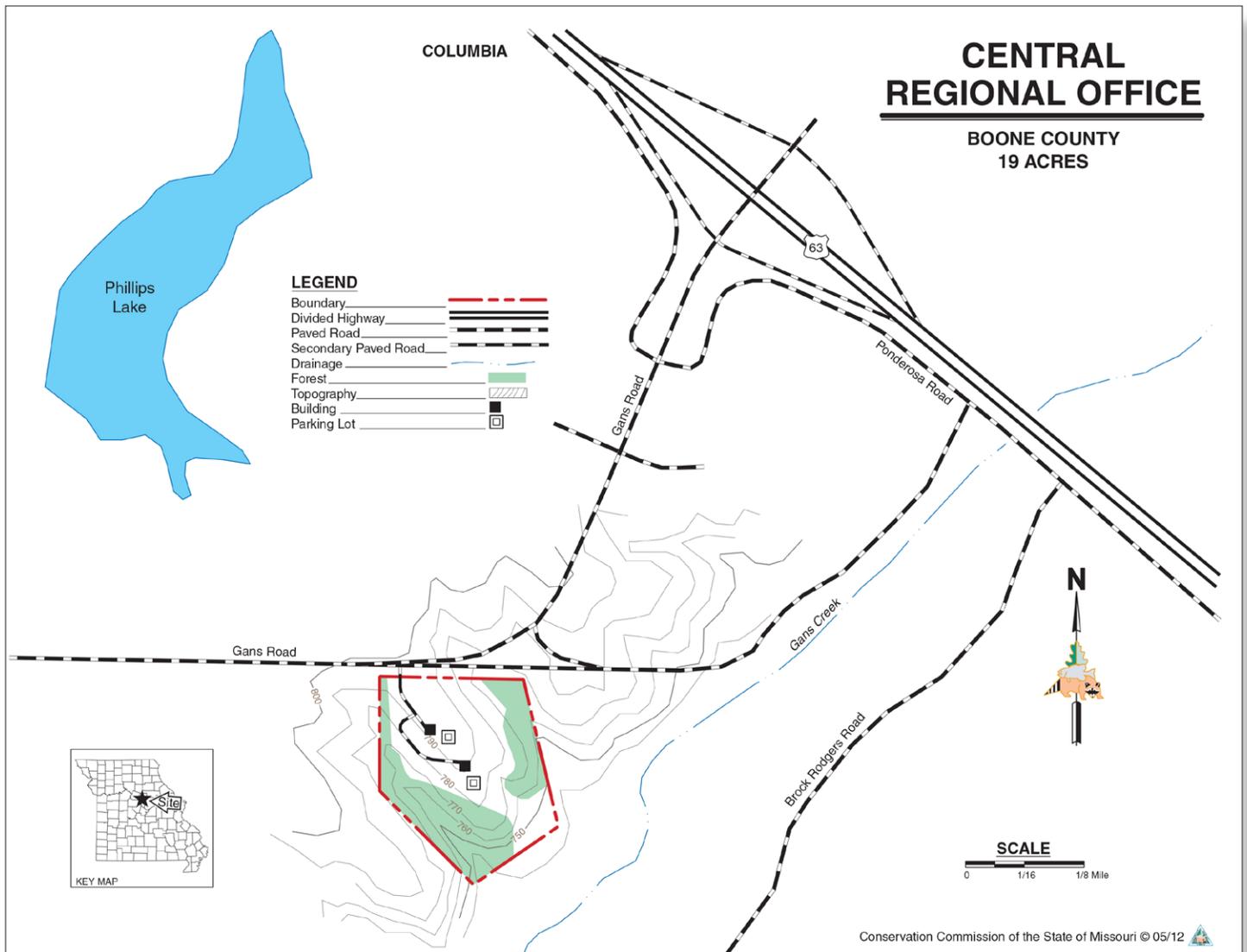
The winter board meeting will be held on December 1, 2018 at the MDC Regional Office in Columbia, Missouri. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. There are no field trips associated with this meeting. Anyone attending the meeting is welcome to suggest a 2019 field trip location or any other issue pertaining to MONPS business. All members are welcome to attend to voice suggestions on any subject.

The MDC Regional Office is at 3500 E Gans Rd, Columbia, MO 65201.

Directions: From Columbia, take Highway 63 south to Discovery Parkway exit and take East Gans Road west about 0.25 mile.

Interactive Google Map:
<http://bit.ly/ColumbiaMDC>

Download MDC Map:
<https://bit.ly/2BZ5dTr>



Chapter Updates



The Osage Plains Chapter witnessed late-blooming spreading aster at Wayne Morton's savanna . Photo by Casey Burks

Hawthorn

By Cindy Squire, Chapter President

Hawthorn Chapter is working in our new garden adoption site! We had two workdays, which were quite successful. The two beds and the rain garden are weeded and ready to sleep for winter. As we worked in the rain garden on October 18, monarchs swirled by catching a meal on the blooming asters as they headed south.

A Moss Mosey was held on Sunday, September 30. Five members took a two-mile hike and explored the moss growing at Three Creeks Conservation Area. It was a beautiful day, the moss was a little elusive due to lack of rain. Learning was had by all.

The Chestnut festival was held October 6 in New Franklin. It was a little wet, the folks came, and we sold plants and educational material about native plants. We were proud to participate in their twentieth anniversary.

Monthly lunches at the Uprise Bakery on 10 Hitt Street in Columbia were well attended. The food at the Uprise Bakery is wholesome. Conversation is focused on native plants and seeds are exchanged during winter months. Please join us!

Kansas City

By Cécile Lagandré, Chapter Representative

Smith Farm Park in Martin City, a neighborhood on the southeastern edge of Kansas City, was visited on May 11, July 13, and September 28, 2018. In the words of our secretary, Harold Draper, “The objective was to view the seasonal changes in the prairie, and we found that plants had responded to rains in August and September and recovered a bit from the drought of early 2018.”

This forty-acre park is the largest remnant of partly unplowed prairie in Jackson County, but its quality varies throughout. According to prevailing rumors that the park's southeastern part was the best, we met at the south end of Elks Lodge parking lot (13600 Arrington Rd, Grandview, Missouri) and followed a rough trail through honeysuckle infested woods, thankfully very brief. I was left rather unimpressed by our first visit, when we walked straight west from our unceremonious entry onto the prairie. Luckily, our own Justin Thomas from Springfield had conducted a botanical survey there in 2016 and, upon request, he indicated the best areas to, hopefully, not trample. How rewarded were we when we followed his tip and walked with care through the northern part of the first area behind the wooded curtain.

Osage Plains

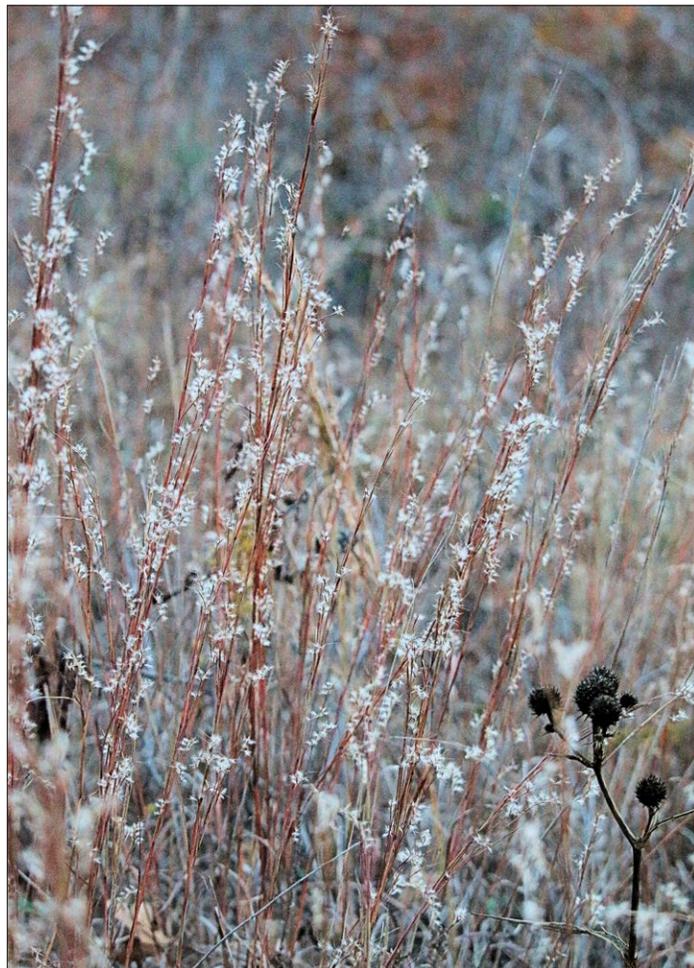
By Casey Burks, Chapter Representative

On October 29, Wayne Morton invited the Osage Plains group to return to his savanna by Osceola, since he had recently been seeing tarantulas and scorpions there. We didn't see any of those critters but did enjoy stretching our identifying skills on plants that had gone to seed. Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) was growing interspersed with bushy broomgrass (*Andropogon glomeratus*), which offered good comparison of the racemes. We gathered healthy seed pods of blue wild indigo (*Baptisia australis*) and felt the points on pods of common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*). Rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*) totally keeps its shape. Scaly blazing star (*Liatris squarrosa*) was still very easy to identify from gayfeather (*L. spicata*) even without any color. Blue-purple blooms of spreading aster (*Symphotrichum patens*) gave out lovely color in the sea of brown. One of the head-scratchers was a very tall compound seed head with large dried leaves. Fortunately, someone had brought the book, *Plants of the Tallgrass Prairie*, and we checked out our different guesses until wild quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*) made sense. For our small group of newbie-botanists that evening, it was a hallelujah moment!

On a side note: several years ago, in the fall, my husband and I were at the Truman Lake Marina parking lot and saw several tarantulas. My husband, who had lived in this area many years when young, had never seen one before. We asked several people, and they had never seen one before, either, but when we asked people in a small nearby bait shop, they

said, "Oh yes, the Boy Scouts come down from Kansas City this time of year to collect them!"

Editor's note: It is illegal to collect tarantulas on public land without an appropriate Wildlife Collectors Permit. For more information, please contact the Missouri Department of Conservation.



Little bluestem at Wayne Morton's savanna. Photo by Casey Burks

Paradoxa

By Pam Barnabee, Chapter President

Paradoxa Chapter's final meeting of the year was held on October 20 at Bray Conservation Area. Members brought over fifteen species of native plant seeds to share, including swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), prairie blazing star (*Liatris pycnostachya*), goldenglow (*Rudbeckia lacinata*), blue sage (*Salvia azurea*), Joe-Pye weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*), partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*), and shrubby

St. John's wort (*Hypericum prolificum*). Other shared favorites were heirloom veggie seeds, books (the Xerces Society Guide, *Attracting Native Pollinators*, *Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers*, by Harry R. Phillips, and *My Ozark Home* by Karen GoatKeeper—also known as member Karen Smith), keys to the goldenrods and purple asters of Phelps County drawn by member Linda Frederick, and two garden planning handouts: butterflies and moths with their host plants, and bloom times for plants that attract bees. The meeting continued outside, as we took a leisurely two-hour walk through Bray's woodland and glade communities, sharing tips for identifying the blooming and non-blooming plants we saw along the way and other fun facts. You knew that dittany (*Cunila origanoides*) leaves smell like oregano, but did you know that paw paw (*Asimina triloba*) leaves smell like green peppers? It was a beautiful day to botanize with friends, and a great way to end our 2018 season.

Saint Louis

By Rex Hill, Chapter Representative

Our October meeting provided the opportunity for chapter members to share their photographs from the past year. A number of members took the time to make presentations. Hugh and Carol Nourse shared pictures of plants from their trip to Glacier National Park and a few from local field trips. Larry Morrison had pictures of desert plants from Big Bend National Park in Texas. Nels Holmberg had pictures from Hickory Canyons Natural Area where he and John Atwood had done a bryophyte survey this year of recently added areas to the property. Steve Turner had many excellent photographs of unusual plants he had seen on MONPS and Webster Groves Nature Study Society (WGNSS) field trips during the past year. Wayne Clark had a few pictures, some identified, and some left for the audience to help with, that he and Nancy had taken on WGNSS field trips. Finally, John Oliver presented a series of photographs depicting plants seen chronologically through the year on many of the field trips he had attended. As usual, he had enough material to fill in the time (and then some) to the end of our meeting. This was the last chapter meeting of the year, as the fourth Wednesday of the month meeting time conflicts with the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Southwest

By Michelle Bowe

We had a nice crowd for our October meeting and seminar. Amanda Coleman, Missouri State University graduate student, spoke about some of her thesis research on prairie plantings and pollinators, in a talk entitled, *Choice prairie plant species for landscaping*. She included information about where and how to grow each species (sun/shade, wet/dry, etc.). During the talk, she and others noted how many species were still blooming despite the fact that it was late October.

Quotation Corner

Know the ways of the ones who take care of you, so that you may take care of them.

Introduce yourself. Be accountable as the one who comes asking for life.

Ask permission before taking. Abide by the answer.

Never take the first. Never take the last.

Take only what you need.

Take only that which is given.

Never take more than half. Leave some for others.

Harvest in a way that minimizes harm.

Use it respectfully. Never waste what you have taken.

Share.

Give thanks for what you have been given.

Give a gift, in reciprocity for what you have taken.

Sustain the ones who sustain you and the earth will last forever.

Excerpt from *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer (Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions, 2013). Copyright © 2013 by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Reprinted with permission from Milkweed Editions. milkweed.org

New Members

Kansas City Chapter

Janice Lee, Independence

Ozarks

Judy Rhine, West Plains

Perennis

DeVonne Glastetter, Jackson



It's Time to Pay Your Dues

Fee Increases for Hardcopy

Petal Pusher Delivery

By Ann Earley, Membership Chair

The Missouri Native Plant Society Board voted at their June 9 meeting to increase the fee for postal service delivery of the hardcopy *Petal Pusher* going forward to \$10.00 per year from \$5.00 per year. This increase reflects higher costs for paper, printing, and mailing the hardcopy of the newsletter. This fee is in addition to the state Society and Chapter membership dues. Members who choose to receive their newsletter by email delivery, which is included with payment of membership dues, can avoid paying this additional fee. Members with questions about the hardcopy fee may contact me or your chapter representative for further information, using the contact info on the back page of this newsletter.

Membership renewals for the July 2018–June 2019 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 20180630, 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 <https://monativeplants.org/membership/>, 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 the back page for contact details) for information about your membership expiration date. We value our members and urge you to renew today!

Join Us! Become a New Member or Renew

You may become a member online at <https://monativeplants.org/membership/>, or you may fill out this form and mail to:

Missouri Native Plant Society
PO BOX 440353
St. Louis, MO 63144-4353

.....
First Name _____ Last Name _____

Street _____

City, State ZIP Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Company/Organization _____

Membership Status

Choose one: New member Returning member

State Membership

(Choose one):

- Student (\$5.00)
- Regular (\$10.00)
- Contributing (\$20.00)
- Life (\$200.00)

Chapter Membership

In addition to society dues:

- Empire Prairie (Saint Joseph) (+\$5.00)
- Hawthorn (Columbia) (+\$6.00)
- Kansas City (+\$5.00)
- Osage Plains (Clinton) (+\$5.00)
- Ozarks (West Plains) (+\$5.00)
- Paradoxa (Rolla) (+\$5.00)
- Perennis (Cape Girardeau) (+\$5.00)
- Saint Louis (+\$5.00)
- Southwest (Springfield) (+\$5.00)
- None

Optional Contributions:

Hudson Fund:

I wish to donate an extra amount to the Hudson Research Grant Fund.

\$ _____

Other Contribution:

I wish to donate an extra amount to general Society business.

\$ _____

Newsletter Delivery:

- I wish to receive the complimentary email newsletter
- I wish to receive my newsletter by postal mail (+\$10.00)

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Total Membership/Donation Amount: \$ _____

Make check payable to: Missouri Native Plant Society



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monativeplantsociety.org
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The *Petal Pusher* is printed on recycled paper.

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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