

PETAL PUSHER

November-December 2022 Newsletter of the Missouri Native Plant Society Volume 37 No.6

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

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Invasive Species Control in Winter

by Malissa Briggler

Winter is a wonderful season to work on controlling invasive species. That may come as a surprise to some, but just consider how busy the other seasons can be. Spring, summer, and fall are filled with activities and family vacations. We plant and harvest gardens, enjoy time outdoors, and complete as many outdoor projects as we can before the quiet cold days of winter settle in. Winter is also the ideal season for the manual labor associated with invasive species control. Control efforts often consist of cutting, chopping, or digging and are activities preferably done in cool weather. Winter provides an opportunity to deal with dormant plants that have lost their leaves, making work easier. Also, there is a lack of stinging or biting bugs to contend with. While working in the dormant season involves limitations, a lot of progress can be made to control certain plants, primarily shrubs and trees.

While dormant herbaceous plants have lost their above ground growth during the winter, woody plants can be detected and treated throughout the year. Depending on your familiarity with identifying the plants in the winter, you may want to mark the tree or shrub in some way before the leaves have fallen off. An easy way to do this would be to tie brightly colored flagging tape around the trunk or mark the trunk with spray paint. When the time comes to treat the plants, these markings will stand out in the bleak shades of winter. Having a few plants marked in this way will help develop a search image for how they look in winter so that other plants can be more easily detected.



It's handy to mark your target plants with flagging tape or spray paint during the growing season so that they can be detected with ease during the winter. Photo Credit: AdamMartin.SPACe

Many invasive trees and shrubs are effectively killed during the winter using similar methods. Common species to target in the winter include autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), and shrub honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii* and *L. x bella*). These species have also been identified as some of the top invasive plants in Missouri by the Missouri Invasive Plant Council (www.moinvasives.org). They can all be killed by foliar application of herbicide during the growing season. However, this method poses the greatest environmental threat as adjacent non-target species are also likely to be killed and greater amounts of chemical are released. The most appropriate control method during the winter often depends on the size and number of plants to be killed or removed.



The hack and squirt application consists of cuts to the trunk made with a hatchet at approximately a 45° angle. The herbicide is then squirted into the cuts. It is important to complete this action at several places around the trunk. Photo Credit: University of Florida, Stephen Enloe

The hack-and-squirt method is useful for trees that are too large or condensed to be cut down. Cuts to the base of the stem are made by a hatchet at a downward angle. Immediately after one has cut around the trunk (this is called girdling), a high concentration of herbicide is applied to the cuts. This method is most used for invasive plants that grow relatively large such as callery pear and autumn olive. Buckthorn and shrub honeysuckle will also succumb with this method but are more often found with smaller diameter stems that make other methods more convenient.

For smaller diameter stems, or larger trees that can be cut down, the cut stump method is very effective. The stems are cut a few inches above the ground and immediately treated with a high concentration of herbicide. For larger trees, the cambium layer (the ring of the trunk just inside the bark) is all that needs to be treated as the herbicide will not be taken in by the inner part of the trunk. This situation exists for small stems as well but requires more precision and does not conserve as much herbicide than when treating large trunks. With this method, the tops of the plants can then be removed. It works well for large trees as the stumps are larger and more easily detected. Smaller stems leave stumps that can go unnoticed or overlooked when applying the herbicide treatment. However, those untreated stumps will show themselves in the growing season as they resprout. At that time, it is a good opportunity to apply a foliar application to treat the sprouts. While foliar application is not ideal, there is much less herbicide used and less environmental impact when applying to small resprouts instead of mature plants.

With the hack-and-squirt and cut stump treatments, it is important for the stem to receive herbicide within about 30 minutes after being cut or girdled. This is typically done using a spray bottle or squirt bottle. If a stump or girdle is not treated quickly enough, the plant is likely to resprout. For that reason, it is helpful to work in pairs where one person is doing the cutting and the other is applying herbicide. It is also helpful to add a dye to the herbicide so treated and untreated stumps are clearly distinguished. Common herbicides used for these methods are those that contain active ingredients of glyphosate or picloram. There are many products on the market that contain these active ingredients. Roundup is the most recognized product name for glyphosate and Tordon is a popular product for picloram. Both have their pros and cons for other methods of plant control but are usually considered equally effective with the cut stump and hack-and-squirt methods. Each product is going to have a specific concentration



Applying herbicide to the cambium layer (the area just inside the bark) is often essential in preventing resprouts after a tree or shrub has been cut. Photo Credit: OSU Extension

and label instruction regarding application rates. Read the label of your product for guidance on the appropriate mixture rate.

Unfortunately, by the time populations of invasive plants have been detected, the plants are often too large or too many to feasibly consider hand pulling. However, catching invasive plants when they're young, few, and far between is certainly done with most ease by simply hand pulling. There are also products available to make it easier or possible to pull larger plants. Tools that use crowbar-like leverage are made specifically to uproot shrubs and small trees. Most of these products use the word "popper" in the name such as Honeysuckle Popper, Tree Popper, Root Popper, etc. A drawback to hand pulling, in addition to the extra manual labor, can be the aftermath left behind. Uprooting large shrubs results in a lot of soil disturbance. The invasive plants are gone but ground that has essentially been rototilled could be left behind. It's important to consider what will replace the invasive plants after they are removed.

Another plant that is important to look out for and know how to identify in the winter is poison ivy. This plant gets much more attention in the growing season. Urushiol, the oil responsible for causing the itchy and oozing rashes, is present throughout all parts of the plant, at all times of the year. While poison ivy may have lost its leaves, particles of the stem, the aerial roots that cling to the tree trunks, and the little yellow berries will result in a rash just as miserable as one can get when encountering the plant in the summer months.

Finally, an important part of controlling invasive plants in the winter is to follow up when spring arrives to catch any resprouts or seed germination. Invasive plant control takes persistence and commitment to long-term gains. Keep in mind what will replace that invasive plant, too. Encouraging native plants should also be included in efforts to control invasive species in the long term.

Poison ivy can be identified in the winter by detecting aerial roots and pale-yellow berries. These parts of the plant also have Urushiol that will cause skin irritation.

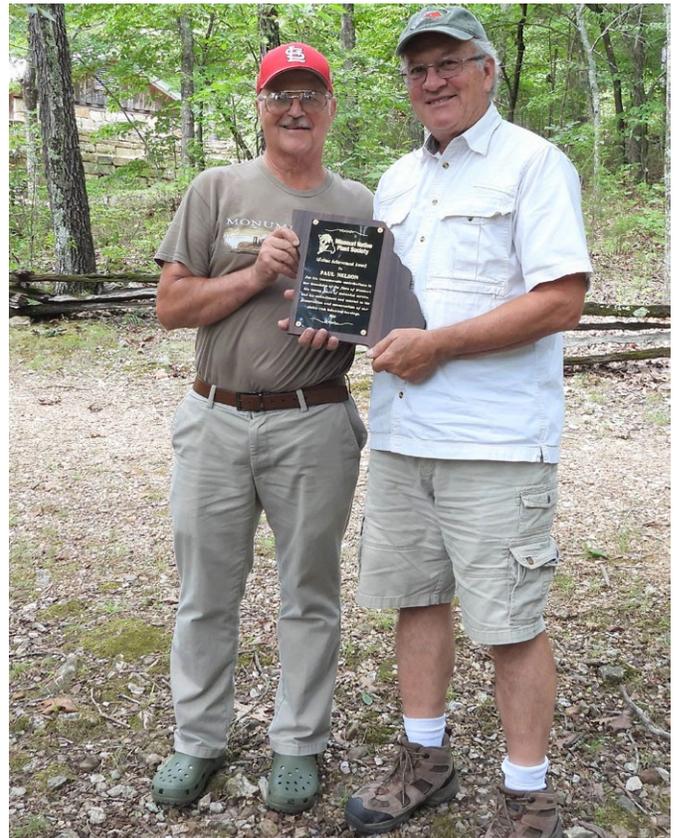


Photo: Paul McKenzie presents MONPS Lifetime Achievement Award to Paul Nelson

MONPS 2022 Lifetime Achievement Awardee: Paul Nelson

This year's Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes Paul Nelson's lifetime commitment to the protection, maintenance, and restoration of Missouri's highest quality natural communities and the preservation of hundreds of species of conservation concern. Paul has been a leading conservationist, ecologist, and natural areas manager for over 45 years. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Missouri Natural Areas Committee and the Missouri Natural Heritage Program. He is the author of *The Terrestrial Natural Communities of Missouri*, the premier natural community publication in the Midwest, and his detailed botanical drawings have illustrated numerous publications. Between 2012 and 2017, Paul conducted an extensive glade mapping project in Missouri and Arkansas where he identified over 97,000 glades totaling 182,465 acres in Missouri and 45,800 glades encompassing over 55,000 acres in Arkansas. This project resulted in the creation of shape files for identified glades in Missouri that is available on the Missouri Spatial Data Information Service.

Winter MONPS Board Meeting

The Winter MONPS Board Meeting will be held over Zoom on Saturday, December 4, at 10.00 a.m. In addition to discussing other business, this is the meeting where the Board sets locations for Spring, Summer, and Fall field trip weekends. Hope to "see" you there! An e-mail with the Zoom link will be sent to Board members and other interested parties. If you would like to attend, but are not on the Board list, please e-mail Malissa Briggler for the link, malissa.briggler@mdc.mo.gov.



Rubus parvifolius (small-leaf bramble) forms a dense thicket. Photo by J. Reuter.

Use of iNaturalist to identify a newly documented, mid-Missouri population of small-leaf bramble (*Rubus parvifolius*): An up-and-coming invasive? Or just another non-native?

by Joanna Reuter (iNaturalist user [chert_hollow](#))

Not too long after the announcement of the first Missouri Botanists' Big Year (BBY) iNaturalist project in the May–June 2021 issue of this publication, my husband and I took a hike at Rocky Fork Lakes Conservation Area (a former coal strip mine). With the BBY project in mind, and my attention especially tuned to plants, I noticed a sizable patch of brambles with a dense mat of canes smothering nearly all the other vegetation. It didn't look familiar, but it did look aggressive, and it certainly piqued my curiosity, so I took photos for an iNaturalist observation.

I followed my usual identification protocol (not necessarily in this order):

- Check the suggestions provided by iNaturalist's computer vision (artificial intelligence): Genus *Rubus* was self-evident in this case; I don't remember what the species suggestions were, but I remember easily ruling them out.

- Use iNaturalist's "Explore" tools to filter by genus in combination with a geographic extent of the relevant county and/or state. I like to look at how many and which species are possible options, work-

From the Editor

Greetings from the spooky streets of Springfield! I write this as goblins and fairies wander around the neighborhood asking for treats. Thank you to our Assistant Editor, Pam Barnabee for getting everything in good shape before it came to me. Thanks also to our Board members who proofread each issue and all authors, chapter representatives, and other contributors. Please consider making a submission for a future Petal Pusher! Here is some information for submissions:

A. The theme for the January 2023 Petal Pusher is "Parasitic plants" but other submissions are encouraged, especially Genus or Family descriptions ("Better know a genus/family"), Conundrum Corner, Invasive Tip of the Month, Name Change of the Month, Terminology, and Poetry Corner.

B. Send ONE email saying "here is my contribution on _____," and attach (don't embed) the following:

- 1) an article in Word format with photo captions at the end (no photos in the Word document) and your name in the text.
- 2) Images, in JPEG format--NOT in a document file.

C. Use only one space between sentences

D. Even short notes with pictures would be great!

E. Send to: pamela.barnabee@gmail.com (don't send them directly to me!)

F. Due date for the next issue is: December 20

**Thank you so much,
Michelle Bowe**

ing on the assumption that most species I encounter will already have been documented on iNaturalist by someone else in the state. That assumption turned out to be invalid in this case.

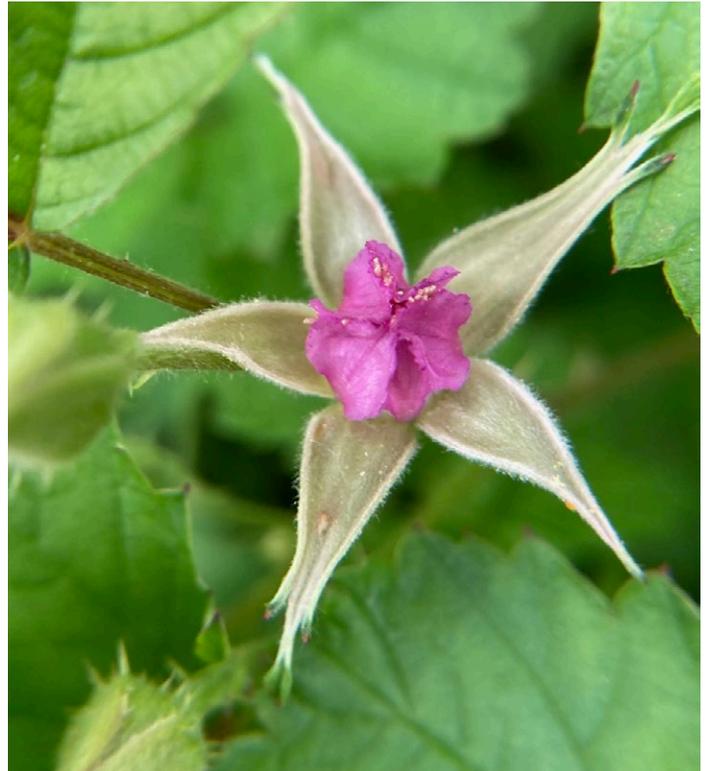
- Check *Flora of Missouri*. Often, this lets me check a suspected identification or find out what details I need to look for (or find out what I should have photographed). I didn't have fruits, and I again relied on invalid assumptions about range, so I managed to overlook my target species, even though it is included (but not illustrated) in the volume.

- Wait for someone else to chime in with an identification. This is one of the true powers of iNaturalist, and I am so appreciative of the numerous identifiers who have helped me out with taxa outside of my comfort zone. But in this case, a year of patience didn't pay off. Perhaps this is not a surprise as identification of *Rubus* by photo can be a little thorny.

Not quite a year later, I found an additional smaller patch with flowers, so I took another observation, and with renewed curiosity, I revisited the identification question. The method that finally worked for me was to use "Explore" on iNaturalist to consider species in the *Rubus* genus, and to expand the geographic range to the United States. I compared general appearance to photos, pursued a few dead ends, then finally came across *Rubus parvifolius*, the small-leaf bramble, also known as Japanese or Australian raspberry (don't let autofill confuse this with *Rubus parviflorus*). Careful study of the photos and descriptions on the Minnesota Wildflowers website (see resource list), combined with subsequent visits to study the plants again in person, bolstered my confidence in the identification.

It took about a year to identify this patch. The population in Springfield described in *Flora of Missouri* took nine years to identify, and a population in Iowa took four (see resource list). This demonstrates the value of iNaturalist in providing powerful tools for timely identification, especially in an invasive context where early detection is particularly valuable and initial observers may be citizen scientists like me rather than trained botanists.

One of the reasons I felt motivated to identify this plant was its invasive appearance and potential (and my husband and I manage property an easy bird's flight away). Based on a series of air photos over time, where the edges of the largest patch I've encountered are loosely visible, the patch seems to have very roughly



Rubus parvifolius flower. Photo by J. Reuter.

doubled in area every four years (2007, 2011, 2015, and 2019), with an area we now estimate in excess of 4,000 square feet. In addition to the vegetative spread, I suspect spread by seed, as I have found about ten discrete patches in the conservation area.

For more details on this newly identified central Missouri *Rubus parvifolius* population, including discussion of potential invasiveness, check out this video on our "Ozark Outsider" YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TiNeQfoopFg>

Additional resources

This Minnesota site provides multiple photos and other useful identification information:

<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/shrub/small-leaf-bramble>

Observations of small-leaf bramble at Rocky Fork Lakes Conservation Area on iNaturalist: https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?place_id=158201&sub-view=map&taxon_id=51645

An article from 2010 on small-leaf bramble in Iowa: <https://dr.lib.iastate.edu/server/api/core/bitstreams/cd88b26b-5f9a-43b1-9be5-c83bd8d3bfe/content>

Stan Hudson Research Grant Applications Deadline: 31 January 2023

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 grants program in his memory.

To qualify for the Stan Hudson Research Grant, 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(s), for up to \$1000, may be used for any non-salary expenses relating to the proposed research, including travel, equipment, and supplies. At the conclusion of the project, grant recipients will be expected to prepare research results for publication in a scientific journal, and to present their research at the Missouri Botanical Symposium.

Proposals should not exceed 5 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 Stan Hudson Research 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 electronically as e-mail attachments in Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format. Letters from the applicant's references may be submitted as e-mail messages. Proposals will be reviewed by the MONPS grants committee. Deadline for submissions is 31 January 2023, and announcement of winners will be made by 1 March 2023, with funds to be awarded by 1 June 2023.

Application materials should be sent to Justin Thomas at justin.thomas@naturecite.org.

We Welcome Member Submissions!

The Petal Pusher wants YOU ... to write articles for the newsletter.

Consider these possibilities to get your creative juices flowing:

- Conundrum Corner: Tips on how to distinguish between tricky, look-alike species.
- Invasive Tip of the Month: How to identify and eradicate a particular invasive species.
- What's Cooking: Recipes using native Missouri plants.
- Name Change of the Month: Latin names, they keep on a-changin'; help us all stay up-to-date.
- Poetry Corner or Quotation Corner: Give us your suggestions for poems or quotes, or submit your original poetry. (Note that for poems, we must have permission from the publisher.)

Fall field trip photo collage



Top: Group photo at Helton Prairie Natural Area, by C. Burks (Some of the folks pictured are Burt Noll, John Oliver, Ann and Bruce Schutte, Cindy Squire, Casey Burks, Megan Wiskur, Jerry and Pam Barnabee, Theresa Cline, Mike Skinner). Clockwise below that: Botanists lost in the prairie - Helton Prairie, photo by K. Bildner; *Gentiana alba* at Rolling Thunder Prairie, photo by P. Barnabee; A little ragged, but still stunning: downy gentian (*Gentiana puberulenta*) at Helton Prairie, P. Barnabee; Caught in the rain at Rolling Thunder Prairie, P. Barnabee; Dodder (*Cuscuta*) on sunflowers at Helton Prairie.

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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.

Seeking Donations for the Stan Hudson Research Grant

Could you help us support students who are conducting botanical research in Missouri? The Stan Hudson Research Grant is available to assist with funding for research projects conducted by college or university students under the supervision of a faculty member. The grant honors the late H. Stanton Hudson (1921–2002), a long-time 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 grants program in his memory. The grant is usually given annually.

To qualify for the Stan Hudson Research Grant, 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. At the conclusion of the project, grant recipients will be expected to prepare research results for publication in a scientific journal and to present their research at the Missouri Botanical Symposium, which is held in Rolla, Missouri each Fall. To learn more about the grant, check out this link to the **Missouri Native Plants website-Hudson Fund (button below)**.

[Click here to make a donation](#) to the Hudson Fund
Any amount is appreciated!

Not getting the Missouri Native Plant Society organizational emails?

Most email clients have a "safe senders" mechanism for you to make sure that your email server always sends mail from our MONPS server to your inbox.

*Some just have you add our server to your "Contacts"

*Some have you create "Rules".

*Some have an actual "Safe Senders/Domains" area in the settings.

To ensure that you get the organizational emails please add these two domains to whatever your email's "safe senders" process is: monps.org and webapps.monps.org

OR: You may simply need to update your email address with us. If so, click this link: <https://monativeplants.org/ask-a-question/>

New Members

St. Louis

Kelly Smith, O'Fallon

Thomas Kibby, Kirkwood

Jan Hanson, St. Louis

Hawthorn

Katherine Dodig, Columbia

Julie Peterson, Columbia

Gene Nuse, Fayette

Chris Larson, Jefferson City

Alicia Sparer, Jefferson City

Tony Sparer, Jefferson City

Kelly Wilson, Columbia

Southwest

Rita Toombs, Rogersville

Paradoxa

Marilyn Doyle, Rolla

CHAPTER REPORTS and EVENTS

HAWTHORN

by Cindy Squire, Chapter Representative

12 September. A program was given by Kate Dodig. Native plants were used to dye wool loops resulting in a rainbow of colors. Becky brought plants for identification. Business meeting followed.

15 September. Lunch at First Watch stadium location.

1 October. Chestnut Festival.

10 October. Potluck dinner featuring foods present in the western hemisphere from 400 years ago. We have amazing cooks and new foods were relished by all. The Hawthorn regular business meeting followed.

20 October. Lunch at First Watch stadium location.

Do You Have a Plant Story?

Learn more about Missouri native plants at the newest feature on the MONPS website (monativeplants.org): Plant Stories. Do you have a favorite Missouri native plant? A photo you're particularly proud of? Please submit your story to pamela.barnabee@gmail.com for posting.

Upcoming Chapter Events

14 November. No meeting.

Adopt a Spot Work Days are dependent on weather - check emails

17 November. Monthly group lunch, location TBA
Date TBA. Wreath/Ornament activity at Lincoln University

12 December. Regularly scheduled monthly meeting via Zoom.

15 December. Monthly group lunch location TBA

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

PARADOXA

by Kathy Gallagher, Chapter Secretary

This year's Bird & Pollinator Festival/ Native Plant Sale was held on September 10, at Audubon Trails Nature Center in Rolla and was a great success. Our Paradoxa Chapter booth featured a display on native versus invasive plants and their impacts on ecosystems; a butterfly-caterpillar-host plant matching game; and pressed plants for visitors to mount on cardstock and take home.

Our September 19 Chapter walkabout saw us visit the Missouri University of Science and Technology's Ozark Research Field Station at Mill Creek. The Station is an interdisciplinary field station located south of Newburg, Missouri. It's a nine-acre site nestled inside 300 acres of state-owned land in the Bohigian Conservation area, which is itself surrounded by an additional 6,000 acres of the Mark Twain National Forest. The Station features approximately five acres of water, and water-dependent research is conducted there. There are also many other educational activities offered. We explored the areas surrounding the main building and along the water's edge. Staff member Theo Sumnicht conducted us around, and talked about what's underway there and what's in the works. We identified over 35 species of native plants while there, including one new to us, an attractive plant with a not-so-attractive name: swamp lousewort (*Pedicularis lanceolata*).

Upcoming Events

Saturday, 10 December, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Our annual seed-and-plant swap/planning for next year/piz



Pam Barnabee chats with visitors at the September 10 Festival/Plant Sale. Photo by H. Johnston

za luncheon at Bray Conservation Area has been rescheduled to December. You don't need to bring seeds to participate, but please bring your ideas for things you'd like to do and areas you'd like to visit in 2023!



Swamp lousewort at Mill Creek. Photo by P. Barnabee.

ST. LOUIS

by Rick Gray, President

The St. Louis Chapter met via Zoom on September 28th and enjoyed a presentation by Dr. Aaron Floden of the Missouri Botanical Garden on his ongoing research into the Phylogenetics of the North American *Trillium*.

The Chapter met on October 26th via Zoom for our annual botanical photography Show-and-Tell.

Upcoming Events

Chapter meetings in 2023 are planned for the fourth Wednesday of each month (January – October) beginning at 7:00 pm at the Webster Groves Public Library. We also plan to broadcast the meetings live via Zoom

Missouri Native Plant Society Membership Form

Name	
Address	
City, State, ZIP	
Phone	
Email	

Membership Level (check one):

	Student	\$5
	Goldenrod	\$10
	Sunflower	\$25
	Bluebell	\$50
	Blazing Star	\$100

Chapter dues (optional, check all that apply):

	Empire Prairie (Saint Joseph)	\$5
	Hawthorn (Columbia)	\$5
	Kansas City	\$5
	Osage Plains (Clinton)	\$5
	Ozarks (West Plains)	\$5
	Paradoxa (Rolla)	\$5
	Perennis (Cape Girardeau)	\$5
	Saint Louis	\$5
	Southwest (Springfield)	\$5

Newsletter Delivery (normal delivery is via email):

	Check here if you prefer to receive your newsletters via postal mail!	\$10
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Other contributions (optional, check all that apply, specify amount, tax deductible):

	Hudson Grant Fund	
	Other contributions	

Total:

Total amount	\$
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To contact the Missouri Native Plant Society, please **click the "Have a Question" link** on our website.

"In nature nothing exists alone."

--Rachel Carson