PETAL PUSHER

September-October 2025 Newsletter of the Missouri Native Plant Society Volume 40 No.5
"… to promote the enjoyment, preservation, conservation, restoration, and study of the flora native to Missouri."

In this issue

Fall MONPS Field Trips to Arcadia/ Ironton area: September 5-7

See the MONPS website for more details and directions.

Friday, September 5, 1:00 p.m. Royal Gorge Natural Area at Ketcherside Conservation Area
Site Info Area Map
Royal Gorge Natural Area features igneous glade natural communities that are unique to the St. Francois Mountains. It also features a shut-in where a stream flows through softer sedimentary bedrock such as dolomite but encounters more resistant rhyolite rock, causing a broad stream to be "shut in" to a narrow canyon-like valley. It was designated as a Natural Area in 1973 and consists of 80 acres.

Friday Night Speaker, 7:00 p.m. Harlee Scherrer, DNR Division of State Parks. Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park Visitor Center, 148 Taum Sauk Trail, Middle Brook

Saturday, September 6, 9:00 a.m. Johnson's Shut-Ins Fen Natural Area
Site Info Site Map

Johnson's Shut-Ins Fen Natural Area protects a small but environmentally critical Ozark fen – a wetland fed by groundwater rather than rainfall or surface streams. This sensitive wetland supports species such as arrowhead, queen of the prairie, wild sweet William,

four-toed salamander and devil crayfish. Located in the flood plain of the East Fork of the Black River, the fen was heavily damaged by the reservoir breach. It is uncertain to what extent it might recover. An interpretive pavilion provides information about this unique resource.

This natural area is small and has changed significantly given the impacts of the breach and beavers. It is in the process of a long recovery, so we will also visit the dry-mesic/ mesic woodlands nearby. This area is a short jaunt away from the Fen.

Saturday, 12:00 p.m. Lunch Break at a picnic area in the park

Saturday, 1:30 p.m. Johnson's Shut-Ins Natural Area
Site Info Site Map
Part of the park is included in the 7,028-acre St. Francois Mountains Natural Area, which is the state's largest natural area and designated in recognition of its outstanding natural and geologic features. The 18-acre Johnson's Shut-Ins Dolomite Glade Natural Area is home to a different array of plants and animals. This sedimentary glade is a rare occurrence in the igneous St. Francois Mountains. The signature feature of the park is the shut-ins with its spectacular chutes and waterfalls confined within the canyon-like gorges of the East Fork of the Black River. It is one of Missouri's most outstanding examples of a shut-in and is the principal feature of the 180-acre Johnson's Shut-Ins Natural Area. A walkway leads to an observation deck overlooking the scenic pothole shut-ins and gives great views of the shut-ins and valley.

Saturday, 5:30 p.m. Dinner (optional), Baylee Jo's Barbecue, 1351 MO-21, Ironton

Saturday, 7:30 p.m. MONPS Board Meeting, patio area of Baylee Jo's Barbecue

Sunday, September 7, 9:00 a.m. Mina Sauk Falls Trail at Taum Sauk Mountain State Park
Site Info | Site Map
Mina Sauk Falls Trail provides access to two of Missouri's most important geologic wonders - its highest point and its tallest waterfall. From the parking area, a short walk along a wheelchair-accessible trail leads to the top of Taum Sauk Mountain and the highest point in the state at 1,772 feet above sea level. Beyond this point, the trail becomes rocky and rugged and is not considered accessible to wheelchairs. The trail passes through oak-hickory woodlands that give way to rocky, open glades with expansive and impressive views of the St. Francois Mountains. The trail passes along the top of Mina Sauk Falls, the tallest waterfall in Missouri. Cascading 132 feet over a series of ledges into Taum Sauk Creek, this wet-weather waterfall flows best after a rain. A hike back up the mountain ends at the trailhead. This is a strenuous and challenging trail so be prepared for the rugged, rocky climb and carry plenty of water.

Lodging
Shepherd Mountain Inn & Suites
1321 North Hwy 21, Ironton
Website / Phone: 573-546-7418

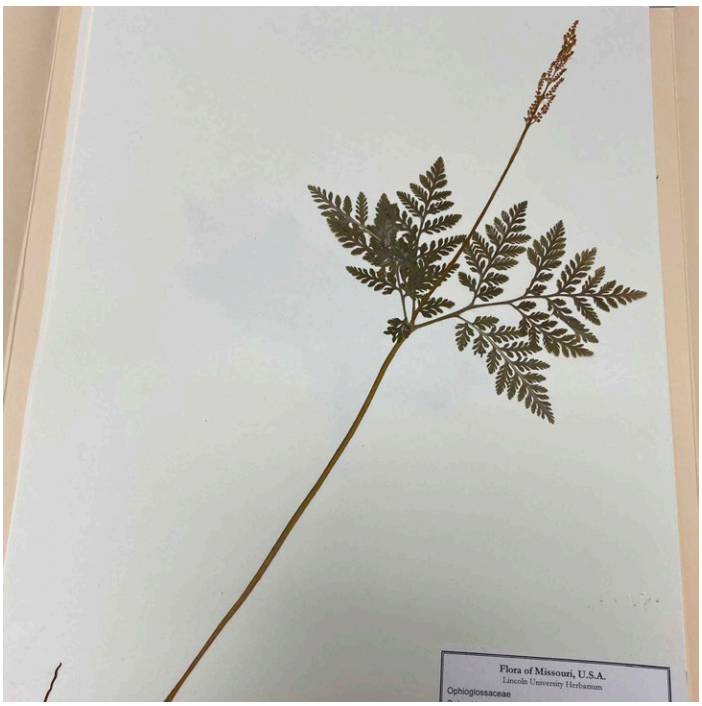
Each issue, the Petal Pusher attempts to coordinate a theme for all of the articles as sort of a fun way to get information to you, the reader. This issue's theme is "Ferns and fern allies." Enjoy!

Native Ferns in Missouri

by Dr. Nadia Navarrete-Tindall, State Extension Specialist, Lincoln University of Missouri.
Email: Navarrete-tindalln@lincolnu.edu
Edited by Randy Tindall

Ferns and fern allies, including club mosses, horsetails, and quillworts, belong to the Phylum Pteridophyta. They are all vascular plants that lack flowers, fruits and seeds, and their roots are adventitious, which are roots that emerge from any part of the plant, except from the roots. They reproduce from spores formed in structures called sporangia and sporangium (plural and singular). In ferns sporangia are produced on the underside of modified leaves or on separate stalks.

The underside of a fertile modified leaf of Christmas fern showing the sori. Randy Tindall photo.



Fertile leaf stalk in rattlesnake fern herbarium specimen by Erin Skornia

Clusters of sporangia are called sori and sorus (plural and singular). The shape and position of the sori can help with fern identification. Ferns are diverse in form, they can produce a single entire leaf like adder's tongue ferns (*Ophioglossum* spp.), to deeply divided leaves or fronds like in royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*). Before unfolding, the leaves are called fiddleheads and are protected with hair or scales. For more information on fern structure visit the US Forest Service website. Most native ferns can be propagated asexually by division of the rhizomes or sexually from spores. To protect fern diversity, they should be grown from spores which requires patience and special skills. (For more

Fiddleheads of ostrich fern showing scales. Sue Bartelette photo

Part of a rhizome of a sensitive fern showing adventitious roots and fiddleheads. Randy Tindall photo.

on fern propagation, see article in this newsletter.)

My interest in ferns was triggered five years ago when I realized that we only have four native ferns in our garden in Columbia: maidenhair, Christmas, fragile, and ostrich ferns, and none were doing great. We have many native plants in our yard in Columbia and ferns are mostly missing. Also, when I looked for other native ferns from nurseries in Missouri, they didn't have them or were sold out, and, to make things worse, the ferns available for sale in other venues are typically introduced tropical species.

Habitat

Most native ferns in Missouri are understory species in woodlands and forests, since most of them need shade to grow; however, there are some species that grow well in dry and open woods, like the bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and wetland species like mosquito fern (*Azolla* sp.).

Azolla sp competes well with duckweed. Nadia Navarrete-Tindall photo

Importance and Uses

In natural ecosystems, ferns, like other native plants, provide shelter for wildlife, protect soil from erosion, especially along streams, and create microhabitats for other plant species and wildlife. They have been used for chemical sequestration and in our urban world, ferns add diversity and beauty to native plant gardens. One good landscaping characteristic is that many are not eaten by deer; however, we have found that someone forages on our Christmas ferns at the Finca at Lincoln in demonstration gardens.

Ostrich ferns at the Native Plant Outdoor Lab at Lincoln University. NNT Photo

Culinary uses

The fiddleheads of four species of ferns are used in recipes by chefs and others: sensitive fern, ostrich fern, lady fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*, *Matteuccia struthiopteris*, *Athyrium filix-phemina*), and bracken fern. Alan Bergo (2021) describes fiddlehead ferns as a delicacy food in his book. Be aware that fiddlehead ferns may be toxic and should be cooked before consumption.

Species Richness Globally

There are more than 10,000 species of ferns around the world, with about 75% found in tropical regions and 25% in temperate areas. Of this temperate 25%, only 1% are native in Canada and the United States. Yatskievych (1999) describes 11 families, 25 genera, and 54 species (Table 1) in Missouri, but according to Andre (2003) and Justin Thomas (personal communication), there are close to 70 fern species. Whatever the number is, it requires time and dedication to learn to identify all these ferns!

Table 1. Ferns in Missouri described by Yatskievych in the Flora of Missouri (1999).

Families	Common family name	Genera	No. species per genera
Aspleniaceae	Spleenwort	*Asplenium*	8
Azollaceae	Water ferns	*Azolla*	2
Blechnaceae	Chain fern	*Woodwardia*	1
Dennstaedtiaceae	Braken fern	*Dennstaedtia, Pteridium*	2
Dryopteridaceae	Wood fern	*Matteuccia plus 8 genera*	17
Marsilaceae	Water clover-pepperwort	*Marsilea (intro), Pillularia*	2
Ophioglossaceae	Adder's tongue	*Botrychium, Ophioglossum*	6
Osmundaceae	Royal fern	*Osmunda*	3
Polypoidaceae	Polypodi	*Polypodium*	2
Pteridaceae	Maindenhair	*Adiantium, Argyrochosma, Chellanthes, Pellaea*	9
Thelypteridaceae	Marsh ferns	*Phegopteris, Thelypteris*	2

Fern Outreach and Education Project at Lincoln University

As an Extension Specialist I promote native plants as specialty crops in sustainable farming. Ferns have potential for producers and growers for the nursery trade and for landscaping. I am asked frequently what native plants can be grown in containers indoors, especially for people that lack garden space. I thought some native ferns may do well indoors in containers and our program could offer the opportunity to small farmers, native plant producers and native plants enthusiasts to increase their knowledge about native ferns, grow delicacy food in their own yard or farms, and with proper marketing increase their income by selling them for container gardening.

Bluntlobed cliff fern (*Woodsia obtusa*) growing indoors in a ceramic container. NNT photo

To accomplish this, we received a specialty crops outreach and education grant from the Missouri Department of Agriculture in collaboration with the Grow Native! program, growers, small farmers and local chefs. The 2.5-year grant has three main objectives: to assess interest in buying or growing native ferns; to identify what native ferns are easy to propagate; and to develop publications to help people learn to identify and propagate some ferns. We conducted two surveys for consumers and producers that helped us determine their interest in native ferns.

The results showed high interest from both groups to learn to identify and propagate ferns. Justin Thomas and colleagues from the Institute of Botanical Training offered Native Fern ID classes in May and in August this year as part of the grant and are gathering material about the ecology and identification of 27 of the most common ferns in Missouri.

In Missouri, nurseries selling ferns include Missouri Wildflowers Nursery, Forrest Keeling Nursery, Papillon Perennials, CritSite, and the Lincoln University-Native and Specialty Crops Program, but inventories are still limited.

This project will be completed this year with the first Ferntastic Fair at the Finca EcoFarm at Lincoln University on Thursday, September 11, to highlight the importance of ferns in ecosystems including fern propagation demonstrations.

Selected references

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Growing Ferns from Spores

Story and photos by by Kathy Bildner

Every time I tell someone I am growing ferns from spores, they look at me like I am crazy. I prefer to think I am curious. Why did I decide to do this curious crazy thing? A friend gave me an old gardening book. The book had a section on ferns and described how to grow ferns from spores. This was a new idea to me. I have grown plants from seeds for many years. I loved ferns, so why not try it.

I found easier instructions on the internet. Basically, put damp potting soil in small pots; sterilize them in the microwave 3 to 4 minutes; wet it again with tap water; let it cool off; spread spores across the top of the pot; put it in a labeled zip lock bag; set it in your window; then wait.

I suggest only spreading spores one pot at a time to avoid cross contamination. The spores are so fine, they fly through the air unseen. It happened to me once.

Zip lock bags with fern spores in flower pots in my north window

The first thing to do is collect the spores. If you are lucky, you collect part of a fern leaf with sori on the back of it, lay it sori-side down on a white piece of paper, cover it with another piece of paper, lay a heavy book on top of it and by morning you will have a spore print. At times I was lucky with the first try. Other times, I had to try multiple times over a couple of months during the Summer before the spores were ripe enough to fall out. I am lucky to have many ferns in my yard already, so I could keep trying.

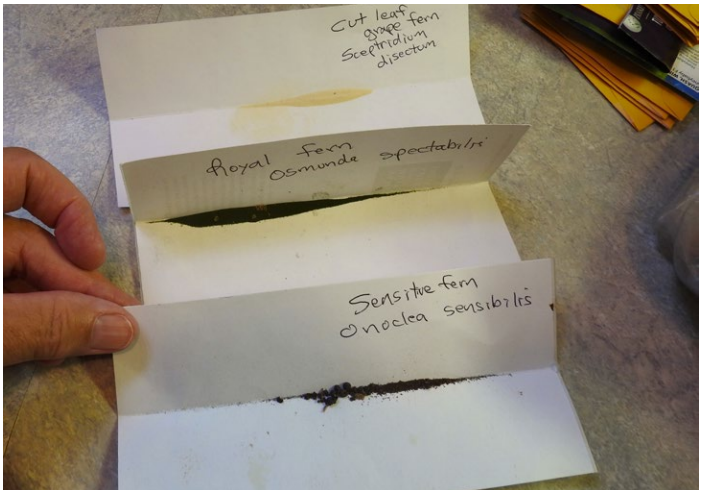
Homalosorus pycnocarpos fern leaf spore print

Most ferns have sori on the back of their leaves but there are a few that have fertile spikes or sporangia at the end of a leaf or on separate fertile leaves. For example; the royal fern (*Osmunda spectabilis*) has ripe spores at the end of a leaf. They are ripe inside a narrow window in May. You can tap this structure and many spores will fall into your waiting envelope. Make sure you have taped the corners of the envelope and label and date it.

Royal fern (*Osmunda spectabilis*) sporangia at the tip of the leaf

Marginal shield fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*) sori with indusia (a protective covering)

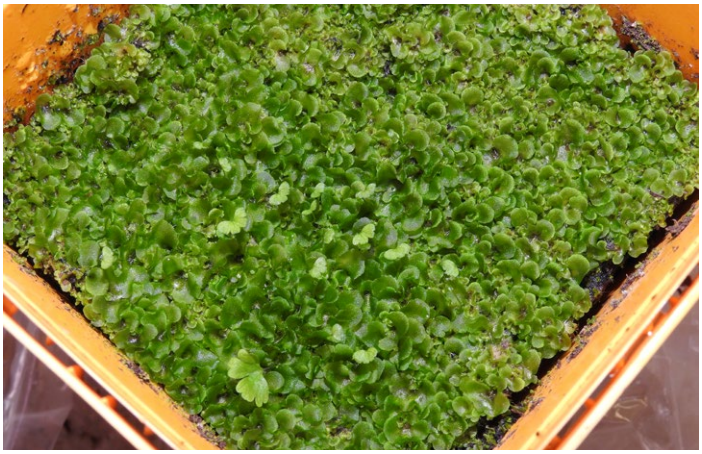
Once you have the spores on paper, fold the paper in half, to collect the spores in the "v" of the paper. This folded paper helps to spread them across the top of the flower pot. Make sure to clean out any debris that is not a spore. The extra plant material could grow mold.



Three different ferns' spores, 3 different colors

It takes patience waiting for something to happen in these spore planted flower pots. It takes an average of six weeks of waiting. The fastest germination was both the royal fern and the woodsia fern at two weeks. The longest waiting was 4 months, the cinnamon fern. When the spores first germinate, the top of the dirt in the flower pot will look greenish. This green will eventually take a form you can see. The gametophytes look like tiny hearts. It is this structure that has the reproductive parts that will create a fern. It has archegonium (female) and antheridium (male) structures. The eggs and sperm of these structures must meet in order for there to be a new fern (sporophyte). There needs to be enough moisture for the sperm to swim, so you may need to open the zip lock bags and spray some water on top of the pots.

Waiting for sporophytes requires more waiting. The fastest baby fern to appear was the maiden hair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*) in 5 weeks. The longest gametophyte to sporophyte was the cinnamon fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*), grown from spores given to me by my friend Betty. It took them 15 months. The average is about 3 months.



Maiden hair fern gametophytes and the first sporophytes (lighter green)

Once you have baby ferns, let them grow to several inches in the pots before removing them to other pots. You can't just take them out of the zip lock bag. They need to be acclimated to the environment outside the pots. Your house has less humidity than the zip lock world. Open the bag for an hour several times a day.

Christmas ferns (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), 3 months old

The timing never seemed right for moving the ferns outside. It was often mid-winter when they were ready to be transplanted. I don't know how to control that.

They just have to wait inside until it warms up outside.

Woodsia obtusa subdivided into 2x2 and 3x3 pots, all from one 3x3 pot

It has been fun trying different types of ferns. The only ferns I have not had success with are rattlesnake fern (*Botrypus virginianus*) and cut leaf grape fern (*Sceptridium dissectum*). It turns out they have subterranean gametophytes and it could take years for a sporophyte to emerge.

I have been very patient, but those beat me and after a year I dumped them out into my yard. I hope someday they just appear in my back yard.

I find this a fun and exciting experiment. Try it yourself. It costs almost nothing in money, just takes some time (most of which is just watching them sit in your window) and a lot of patience.

Clematis virginiana (virgin's bower) flowers

Botanizing with the Webster Groves Nature Study Society (WGNSS) Botany Group at La-Barque Creek Conservation Area – 18 August 2025

Story and photos by Ted C. MacRae

Lying in the heart of the LaBarque Creek watershed southwest of St. Louis, LaBarque Creek Conservation Area harbors several unique natural communities in the rugged hills and narrow canyons carved into its underlying St. Peter sandstone. Numerous rare and unusual plant species find refuge on its moist bluffs and seeps, but the small sandstone glades that can be found there were this week's objective.

Even before leaving the parking lot the group took an interest in *Clematis virginiana* (virgin's bower), its showy white flowers splashing across the foliage of the forest edge. The blooms of this native species resemble those of a couple of other species in the genus, but this one is characterized by its three leaflets (the native *C. catesbyana* has five or more) bearing teeth along the margin (the introduced *C. terniflora* has the leaflets entire).

Another plant with charming flowers also found in bloom in the area of the parking lot was *Scrophularia marilandica* (eastern figwort). Its small, tubular flowers—2-lipped and reddish on the inside—are tiny in relation to the size of the plant but are nevertheless unmistakable.

As we walked the trail, the tiny white blossoms of *Lobelia inflata* (Indian tobacco) and *Persicaria virginiana* (Virginia knotweed, or "jumpseed") alternately dotted the trail side. The flowers of *L. inflata* are characteristic for the genus but are oriented upside-down with an evidently 2-lobed upper lip and 3-lobed lower lip.

The name "Indian tobacco" originates from its historical use by First Americans for smoking and chewing. In *P. virginiana*, it is the seeds and their unique dispersal


Scrophularia marilandica (eastern figwort)

mechanism rather than the flowers that are unusual, being capable of launching several feet when disturbed. Also along the trail at the edge of a deep gully sat the largest *Plantago rugelii* (Rugel's plantain) I've ever seen, its large, broad-bladed leaves easily 6" in diameter and its multiple inflorescences ascending upward to nearly 3' tall. Evidently this individual has found an optimum site!

Reaching one of the smaller of several sandstone glades that can be found in the area, we quickly found the object of our desires—the native orchid *Spiranthes tuberosa* (little ladies' tresses). Missouri lies at the northwestern limit of the species' distribution, and although not uncommon in the southern half of the state, it does prefer acicidic substrates—such as this small sandstone glade—and is thus accorded a CC (conservation coefficient) value of 6. One of about a dozen species in the genus in Missouri, the species can be recognized by its single spiral of small flowers with no green on the lip, the smooth, glabrous stem, and the absence of leaves during flowering.


Spiranthes tuberosa (little ladies' tresses)

Other plants characteristic of sandstone glades and the acidic substrate that it provides were found as well. Several *Hypericum gentianoides* (pineweed) were found, their tiny yellow flowers—unusually small for the genus—sitting atop many-branched wiry stems.

A much larger-flowered relative, *H. prolificum* (shrubby St. John's-wort) shows less habitat fidelity than *H. gentianoides* and can be recognized not only by its numerous yellow pompom-like flowers but also its shrubby habit and shiny, leathery, opposite leaves. A non-vascular acid-specialist present was *Cheilanthes* (*Myriopteris*) *lanosa* (hairy lip fern). Compared to more typical ferns, which live in damp places, this species, like many other lip ferns, is adapted to dry habitats and forms relatively large colonies that look like a miniature "forest."

The showiest of the acid specialists present, however, was *Trichostema dichotomum* (blue curls), a member of the mint family (Lamiaceae) whose common name refers to the long, arching filaments that give the flowers a striking appearance. Like *S. tuberosa*, this plant is accorded a fairly high CC value of 6.


Trichostema dichotomum (blue curls)

Other plants seen blooming in the glade were *Diodia teres* (rough buttonweed), *Stylosanthes biflora* (pencil flower), and *Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium* (fragrant cudweed). Apparently handling the latter plant leaves the hands perfumed with a distinctive aroma that becomes more noticeable as the day progresses and is said to resemble maple syrup.

With several desirable sightings already in hand and temperatures quickly soaring, the group called an early end to the day's outing and opted to enjoy lunch (and the comfort of air conditioning!) at Joe Boccardi's Ristorante in nearby Eureka.

Ferntastic Fair at Lincoln University

Please join us for an educational and fun event to learn about native ferns in Missouri, their uses, importance, how to propagate and more.

Botanist Justin Thomas will join us to answer questions about Fern ID and Ecology. Native and Specialty Crops Program staff will offer demonstrations about fern propagation.

Thursday, September 11, 2025
4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Location: Finca Eco-farm, 1204 Chestnut St., Jefferson city, MO
Lincoln University campus

Activities
Fern themed crafts for sale.
Food samples prepared with fiddlehead ferns.
Card making with pressed ferns.
Walking tours.
Display of native ferns in containers.
Mosquito fern (*Azolla* sp.) exhibit.

For more information, please contact W. Sue Bartelette at X/ BarteletteW@LincolnU.edu

Register to win one of 3 beautiful potted native ferns by September 10
By using this QR code or this link:

https://forms.office.com/r/g6CqsBMuxR

This event is hosted by the Native and Specialty Crops Program at Lincoln University in collaboration with the Grow Native! Program and the Institute of Botanical Training with funds from the Missouri Department of Agriculture and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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 peer-reviewed scientific journal, Missouriensis (the peer-reviewed journal of the Missouri Native Plant Society), or the society's newsletter The Petal Pusher. Alternatively, recipients can present their research at the Missouri Botanical Symposium as either a poster or oral presentation. The symposium is held each fall in Rolla, Missouri. 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/

From the Editor

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 November 2025 Petal Pusher is "Winter Botany" 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: October 20

Thank you so much,
Michelle Bowe

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.

We Welcome Member Submissions!

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

Consider these possibilities:

-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.)

Shop Online for Embroidered MONPS Logo Apparel

A new feature has been added to the MONPS website: from the "MONPS Logo Apparel" link on the menu bar of our home page (monativeplants.org), you'll be able to access our online store. Short-sleeved and long-sleeved t-shirts, sweatshirts, and ball caps with embroidered MONPS logos are available in five colors. There's also a booney hat with embroidered logo, in dark brown. The tote bag has a direct-to-garment print of our logo. Our vendor, Fast Yowi, is located in Columbia, so you can pick up your order there if it's convenient, or have it shipped.

Chapter Reports and Events

HAWTHORN

by Elena Vega, Chapter Representative

Lincoln hosted a fern workshop in August and a Fantastic Fern Fair on August 7. This event was open to all.

11 August - Monday - Presentation/Business Meeting - Unitarian Universalist Church, 6:30 p.m.
Cindy Squire showed how to utilize native plants in the home including an elderberry spritzer, real witch hazel and other native plant uses. Recipes and samples included. A short business meeting followed.
15 August - Friday - Adopt a Spot 9:00 -11:00 a.m. - 3601 S Providence Rd, Columbia, located at the recycling center. Thank you to all who helped weed!
21 August - Thursday - Monthly Lunch at Ragtag at 11:30 a.m. These luncheons are open to all; we have lively discussions about native plants and some folks may have seeds or plants to share.

Upcoming Events

6 September - Saturday - Grow Native Plant Sale at Bass Pro in Columbia, 9:00a.m.-1:30 p.m.
12 September - Friday - Adopt a Spot 9:00-11:00 a.m.
14 September - Sunday - Canoeing at Finger Lake and hike
18 September - Thursday - Monthly lunch at First Watch (at Stadium & Worley in Columbia) 11:30 a.m.
28 September - Sunday - Prairie Walk, Place TBD - Our moseys are inclusive events so please bring friends and family including children.

PARADOXA

by Pam Barnabee, Chapter President

On **July 14,** we returned to John and Elaine Edgar's property south of Rolla; we do this trip about every year in July to see the prairie blazing star at its peak. The Edgars' latest project is thinning and doing prescribed burns on their woodland acreage. The newest plant to put in an appearance is willow-leaved sunflower, *Helianthus salicifolius*; we found several stands.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 13, Fall Nature Festival & Native Plant Sale, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Audubon Trails Nature Center, Rolla. Paradoxa Chapter will have a booth with display, handouts, and activities. Visit Fall-Festival.MoNature.org for festival details.

Monday, September 15, Walkabout at St. James Park Glade, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Restoration of this 4-acre dolomite glade was the capstone project of the local Missouri Master Naturalist chapter in 2019. A combined list of plants observed on previous Paradoxa walks and walks led by MDC biologists can be found here.

Saturday, October 11 (tentative), Field Trip to Treva & Jeff Imes property about 10 miles north of Rolla, 10:00 a.m. to Noon. The Imes's prairie has many native plants.

Saturday, November 1, Bray Conservation Area, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Our last meeting of the year is the annual seed/plant swap, planning meeting, and pizza lunch in the Bray house

ST LOUIS

by Len Meier, Chapter Representative

Recent News

I am sorry to report the passing of Nancy E. Clark, wife of Wayne Clark, on July 26, 2025. Nancy was a long-time member of the St Louis Chapter of MONPS, and the Webster Groves Nature Study Society. She and husband, Wayne, were active volunteers at the Missouri Botanical Garden. A memorial service was conducted on August 16, 2025, at the Maplewood United Methodist Church in Maplewood, Missouri.

Recent Botany Walks

•**On June 16**, St. Louis botany walkers visited Don Robinson State Park near Byrnesville, Missouri, where we hiked a portion of the Sandstone Canyon trail.

•**On June 23**, chapter walkers visited Missouri Botanical Garden (MOBOT) Shaw Nature Reserve, where we were joined by interns participating in University of Missouri St. Louis's CLIMB ("Collaborative Laboratory Internship and Mentoring Blueprint") program. The program director, Lon Chubiz, Ph.D., had asked our help by taking some of the program's high school students on one or more of our field trips.

•**On June 30,** Monday botany walkers visited St. Francois State Park, and explored one of the less-visited portions in the northern part of the park.

•**On July 14,** Monday walkers visited various areas at the MOBOT Shaw Nature Reserve, to view Missouri summer wildflowers, including some not regularly seen in the St. Louis area.

•**On July 21**, Monday walkers visited portions of the sandy terrain on Ellis Island in the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary at West Alton, Missouri.

•**On July 28**, Monday walkers met at Lower Meramec County Park. This was at least a week earlier than our most recent visit at this time of the year, two years ago. This close-in suburban county park has considerable frontage along the Meramec River and contains some surprising and interesting species.

•**On August 4**, St. Louis Chapter botany walkers took a chance that a recent dip in nighttime temperatures would spur orchid activity at Dr. Edmund A. Babler State Park in St. Louis County. We were pleasantly surprised to find many blooming three-bird orchids, and a good variety of other late summer wildflowers in bloom.

•**On August 10 and 11**, Monday walkers visited a unique region with swamp and sand prairie habitat containing plant species we don't see in the St. Louis area. On Sunday, walkers traveled to Mingo Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and other wetland public areas near Puxico, MO. On Monday, walkers visited Sand Prairie Conservation Area near Benton, and the Edgar W. Schmidt Sand Prairie.

•**On August 18**, walkers met at Labarque Creek Conservation Area. We walked a portion of the Labarque Creek Trail looking for several species that thrive in the sandstone and acidic soil found there.

Planned Events

A number of St. Louis Chapter members plan to attend the upcoming Quarterly meeting and field trip, September 5-7, 2025, at Arcadia Missouri.

Monday Botany Walks will continue.

Open Invitation

If you are ever planning on being in the St Louis area on a Monday, feel free to contact any of our chapter members, or reach out to me, Len Meier, at 636-795-0804 or email me at lxmeier.meier@gmail.com and I will let you know what our plans are. Hiking sites are usually chosen by the Saturday before the Monday hike.

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

Other contributions (optional, check all that apply, specify amount, tax deductible):

	Hudson Grant Fund	
	Other contributions	

Total:

Total amount	$

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"It is good to realize that if love and peace can prevail on Earth, and if we can teach our children to honor nature's gifts, the joys and beauties of the outdoors will be here forever."
-Jimmy Carter