PETAL PUSHER

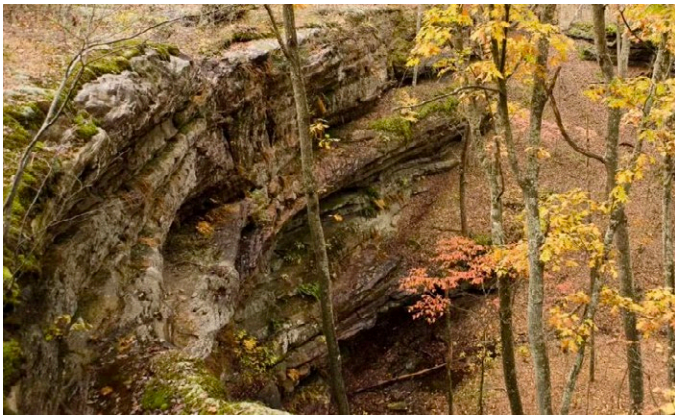
March-April 2026 Newsletter of the Missouri Native Plant Society Volume 41 No.2
"… to promote the enjoyment, preservation, conservation, restoration, and study of the flora native to Missouri."

In this issue

MONPS Spring Field Trip Weekend, April 17-19

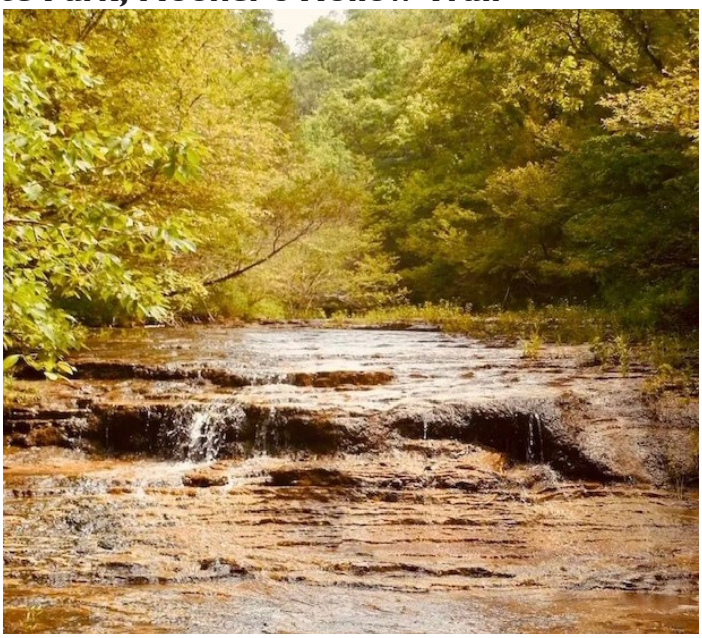
Join us for a fun and educational weekend of botanizing in the Farmington area!

Friday, April 17, 1:00 p.m. - Hickory Canyons Natural Area
Hickory Canyons Natural Area is in Ste. Genevieve County, northeast of Farmington. Owned by the L-A-D Foundation, this 1094-acre area is managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Defined by its box canyons and sandstone cliffs, Hickory Canyons NA harbors a number of unique plant communities, especially on the cool, moist cliff faces. These features support concentrations of partridge berry, various fern species and club mosses. In the bottoms grow spicebush, pawpaw, deciduous holly and numerous sedges. The bottoms are defined by mesic sandstone forest, an uncommon natural community in Missouri. This forest is dominated by northern red oak, white oak, and sugar maple. There is also dry mesic sandstone forest along the upper slopes and around the trailhead. There, and also on the dry sandstone cliffs, are shortleaf pine, white oak, black oak, blackjack oak, scarlet oak, post oak, and mockernut hickory. Understory trees and shrubs on the dry sites include azalea, flowering dogwood, farkleberry, and ironwood.



Friday, 7:30 p.m. - Speaker TBD
Meeting place: Farmington Public Library
Sarah Barton Murphy Community Room
101 North A St.**
Farmington, Missouri 63640
Please use the Liberty St. entrance on the south side of the building

Saturday, April 18, 9:00 a.m. - St. Francois State Park, Mooner's Hollow Trail



Mooner's Hollow Trail traverses Coonville Creek Natural Area. Along the upper reaches of Coonville Creek are unique and fragile wetlands known as fens. Ozark fens such as these are typically dominated by herbaceous plants and are kept open by both saturated soils and historically, occasional wildfires. The fens along Coonville Creek are created by groundwater moving down through dolomite formations and hitting a resistant layer, likely sandstone, along which the water then runs horizontally and seeps out onto the lower slopes along the valley.

Coonville Creek's fens include plant species considered "glacial relicts." That is, they are species that were common in Missouri 10,000 years ago when glaciers covered the upper midwest. In the intervening thousands of years Missouri's climate has gotten warmer and drier. The glacial relict species were able to persist in fens and along spring branches where cool groundwater provides appropriate habitat conditions. At Coonville Creek's fens, glacial relicts include interior sedge, marsh fern, and swamp thistle. Visitors to the area may spot the swamp metalmark, a butterfly species that is highly associated with fens and whose larvae feed primarily on swamp thistle. Although small, fens are hot spots of botanical and insect diversity.

Saturday, 12:00 p.m., BYO Lunch at St. Francois State Park, Shelter #1

Saturday, 1:30 p.m. - St. Joe State Park, Lakeview Trail

St. Joe State Park is located in the old "Lead Belt" region of southeast Missouri. The area's first successful mining venture began in the early 1700s when miners extracted lead by hand from shallow pits. Thanks to the introduction of the diamond-tipped drill by the St. Joe Lead Co. in 1869, the lead mining industry took off and the recovery of the world's richest known deposit of lead began in earnest. For more than 100 years, this area produced nearly 80% of the nation's mined lead. The discovery of rich new deposits in other areas led to the demise of mining at the site. In 1972, St. Joe Minerals Corp. ceased operations in the area and subsequently donated the land to the state in 1976. Maturing second-growth forests of oak and hickory that are natural to the area cover most of the park. The forests are interspersed with native grasslands and a number of intermittent streams and wetlands. Along the Lakeview Trail, we are likely to see yellow lady slipper orchids in bud and prairie iris.

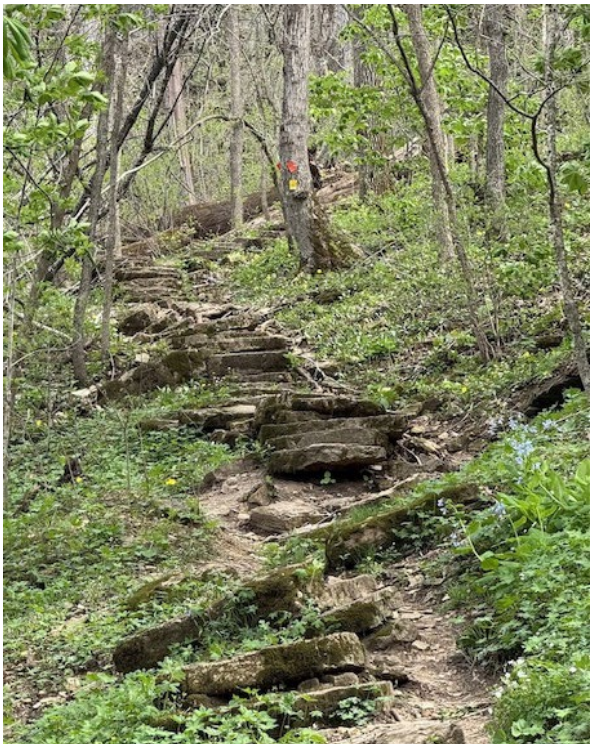
Saturday, Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Meeting place: Crown Pointe Lodge, 4245 Hunt Rd., Farmington, MO 63640

Sunday, April 19, 9:00 a.m. - Washington State Park, 1000 Steps Trail

Here on these north and east facing slopes above the Big River are stands of tall northern red oak, white oak,

and Kentucky coffee tree. Below them a mid-story of Ohio buckeye, sugar maple, pawpaw, spicebush and bladdernut thrives. In the spring, ephemeral spring wildflowers capitalize on the sunlight hitting the ground before the canopy trees fully leaf out. Toothwort, celandine poppy, bloodroot, bellwort, and wake robin grace the forest floor at this time. Many of these spring forest wildflowers such as wild ginger and Dutchman's breeches depend on ant species for their seed dispersal. The hiking trail known as the 1,000 Steps Trail passes through the natural area. This trail was constructed by Company 1743 of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1936. An even older history is recorded at this state park in the form of petroglyphs dating back to 1000 to 1600 A.D. It is likely that Native Americans traversed these hills during that time period.



Places to Stay
Crown Pointe Lodge
573-701-9747
4245 Hunt Rd.
Farmington, MO 63640
-A block of rooms is reserved at the rate of $120 per night plus tax and may be booked here.
Please make your reservation by March 27.

Camping at St. Joe State Park
Reservation Desk or 877-422-6766

Optional Dinner, Saturday, April 18, 5:30 p.m. TBD

Houstonia canadensis – Newish to the State Flora

by Steve Buback

One of the targets for our April field trip to Washington State Park and other sites is a diminutive little flower which is highly under-reported in the State of Missouri. Canada bluets were first reported from the State by Justin Thomas in *Missouriensis* Vol. 34 in 2016, but acceptance of this species within the State seems to be fairly slow, and there are currently no records of this species in iNaturalist or in the Heritage database, despite it being tracked as a S1 species by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

This species occurs on open dolomite glades in Eastern Missouri, and is likely at several sites we will visit as part of this Spring MONPS Field Trip. It is fairly easy to separate from other related species because of a persistent basal rosette that persists until flowering, whereas basal leaves have withered by anthesis in relatives. A long blooming season should make this fairly easy to find throughout the anticipated range, and getting familiar with Canada Bluets on an early Spring weekend may provide excitement to keep discovering new populations all summer long!

Using iNaturalist in a hybrid approach to plant identification

by Joanna Reuter

Reaching the end of a dichotomous key with a definitive, species-level identification of an unknown plant makes me feel all warm and fuzzy. However, I must confess: This doesn't happen often. Why? Part of the answer is that I take a hybrid approach to plant identification, employing a variety of techniques but only rarely keys—a confession I can get away since I'm a geologist, not a trained botanist. Here, I'll describe some of my plant ID strategies, with an emphasis on using iNaturalist. I've also learned over time that there's another reason at least some of my plant identification attempts don't yield black-and-white answers, a topic that fits the hybrid theme and something I'll touch on at the end of the article.

Flip-through-the-book technique: Some of us remember those days before iNaturalist when the only option was to consult the once-common entity known as a book (to think—an entity even made from plants!). The flip-through-the-book approach may not be considered a refined ID method, but I feel no shame in promoting it. This method comes with an assortment of perks. It's a great way to build awareness of the overall diversity of plants, and I enjoy getting distracted into reading many interesting descriptions, even if they aren't the target of my search. Brute-force searching may not get high marks in efficiency, but there's an important fringe benefit: the opportunity to absorb knowledge about families and taxonomic hierarchy, thus building a mental model that aids in future identification. And if volumes of *Flora of Missouri* are involved, don't forget that extra little perk of muscle-toning, especially when swapping between hefty tomes!

MACRO LENS: A clip-on macro lens (such as this Xenvo-brand lens) for a smart phone can help to capture fine details that are sometimes essential for identification.

Hang-out-with-others technique: Hiking with others who have knowledge to share can make plant identification easy. Attendees of MONPS field trips will recognize that plant identification can be as simple as asking: "Hey, what's this?" The answer rarely stops at a simple name, instead yielding a richer context of plant knowledge. This has been my favorite approach for learning mosses in recent years, when I've had the good fortune to hang out with a group of fellow moss enthusiasts, including an expert, Lorie Hetrick-Volenberg. She's the author of the new field guide *Mosses of Missouri Through a Hand Lens*, and anyone can hang out with her during the moss walks she leads around the state, announced on https://mossesofmissouri.com/. Building familiarity with mosses has been rewarding, especially for a geologist who revels in plants that are picky about their rocky substrates, as various mosses certainly are.

Watch-it-grow technique: It's one thing to be able to identify a plant at peak bloom, and another to get to know it throughout different life stages. To really learn plant identification, there's no education quite so thorough as that gained from working with plants through the seasons, whether in a native plant garden, vegetable garden, orchard, or wood lot. Managing plants for diversity, beauty, food, medicine, and warmth is time well spent when it comes to the opportunity for absorbing botanical knowledge.

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 "Plant ID 101." Enjoy!

Using iNaturalist to get an identification suggestion: While the above methods can be time-consuming, iNaturalist offers a shortcut to identification. Shortcuts—it should be remembered—usually save time but occasionally can lead one rather astray. Give iNaturalist a photo of a plant, and it returns suggestions about identification that are astonishingly good….mostly. Photos submitted to iNaturalist, along with the identifications provided by human users, are used to train a machine learning algorithm (a type of AI) that should improve with ever more data—assuming that human users keep feeding it good information and don't simply defer to its inevitable mistakes. It is imperative not to simply take iNaturalist suggestions at face value, but to check them and do the final legwork. This is where the opportunity arises to build one's own knowledge. It also guards against feeding the iNaturalist AI incorrect information that would undermine its value.

MOSSES: My former perception that mosses are indistinguishable fuzzy little green things no longer holds, thanks to a combination of in-person outings, iNaturalist identifications (though mosses aren't always its strong point), and now a book by Lorie Hetrick-Volenberg: *Mosses of Missouri Through a Hand Lens*. Clockwise from upper left: *Bartramia pomiformis*, *Polytrichum* sp., *Sphagnum* sp., *Thuidium* sp.

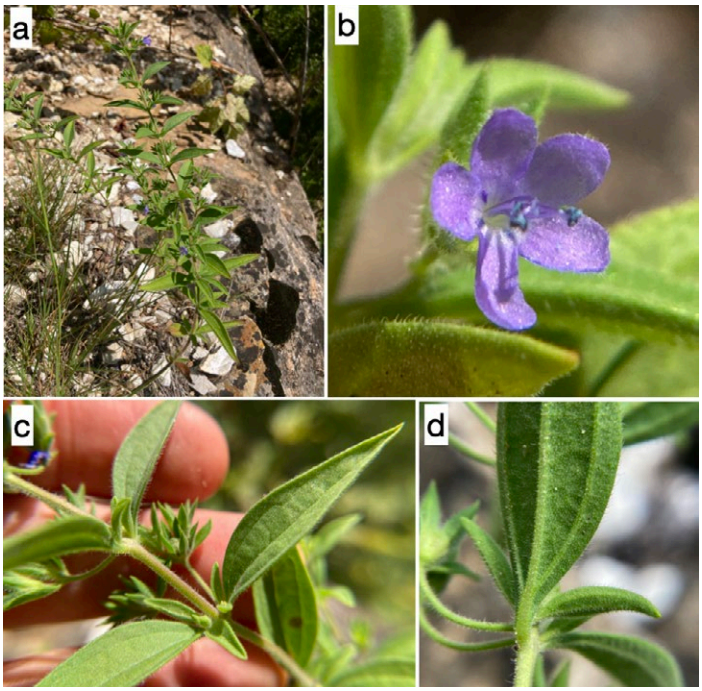
Here's my strategy for documenting a plant with iNaturalist. Let's assume a site where no physical plant collection is allowed, no internet connection is available, and I'm stumped with regard to ID. The goal is to take a set of photos that maximize my chances of capturing diagnostic details, even if I don't know what those are. Keep in mind that iNaturalist observations are meant to represent a single individual, so choosing a good specimen (perhaps one with flowers and seeds present, for example) can enhance the observation's quality. Once I've selected my subject, I'll take photos that collectively aim to document habitat context, overall plant structure, reproductive structures, and leaf characteristics (shape, margins, upper/lower surfaces, arrangement). If relevant, I also include photos of the stem/trunk and occasionally even the root system (e.g., an uprooted tree or a garden weed). Written notes can describe additional factors, such as aroma, geologic substrate, or the presence of stinging hairs. Even if not all of the photos are essential for identification, they contribute to a more thorough characterization of the plant that can benefit the algorithm and humans.

Following up on an iNaturalist identification suggestion: I treat iNaturalist suggestions not as definitive answers, but as working hypotheses. I like to use both online and print resources (especially *Flora of Missouri*) to follow up and see if I can verify, refute, or improve upon the suggestions. I'll consult a combination of resources including species descriptions, range maps, illustrations, photos, and maybe even keys. Before coming to a final conclusion, I always like to look at the species display page in iNaturalist and pull up the Similar Species tab (with a Missouri filter). This highlights common misidentifications, letting me judge if I should consider possible lookalikes. Perhaps I'll come to a confident conclusion about an identification at the species level, or perhaps I'll come away with a little more knowledge about what details I should pay attention to next time. iNaturalist itself contains a wealth of information, and drawing on knowledgable users of iNaturalist is always an option, either by actively seeking input or passively waiting for it.

A slight aside: When submitting an observation to iNaturalist, keep in mind that you'll be disclosing details of both the organism's location, and your location, at a particular date/time. For the protection of rare or vulnerable plants, or your own privacy from ever-more aggressive online data scraping, please consider options to obscure the location, but be aware that even this measure may not be fail-proof.

Taking a slew of photos certainly does not guarantee that diagnostic characteristics will be documented. Perhaps

it was the wrong season and diagnostic structures weren't present. Perhaps diagnostic details are microscopic or require the plant to be cut open. Perhaps wind gusts made it impossible to get in-focus photos. With experience, one can learn an assortment of taxa-specific features that are worth documenting for identification purposes. For example, if I encounter an unknown member of the Asteraceae family in bloom, I've learned to pay attention to features such as basal leaves and involucre bracts. Building a working knowledge of what characteristics are useful for identification is an admittedly challenging and iterative, but also rewarding, process.



MULTIPLE PHOTOS: For a plant I don't know, my strategy is to use a series of photos to document a variety of details. In this example, photos document: a) overall plant structure and habitat context; b) flower; c) stem, leaf shape and arrangement, upper leaf surface; and d) lower leaf surface, including details of hairs. See: https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/131796562, identified as *Trichostema coeruleum* (formerly *T. brachiatum*).

Accepting ambiguity: More often than I might have expected when I started on my iNaturalist plant-ID journey, I've ended up mired in ambiguity when trying to determine a species-level name. Over time, I've come to recognize that at least some of this ambiguity isn't a reflection of my failure to adequately observe or document given plant specimens, but rather an indicator of the prevalence of diverse genetic complexes and hybridization among plants. The assumption that all plants can be pigeonholed into nice, well-defined species is one that doesn't always hold up, as nicely addressed in the excellent book *Every Living Thing* by Jason Roberts. Recognizing that the species concept is a human construct that has real-world limitations also unleashes a whole host of interesting questions that relate to how plants adapt and change at various spatial scales and on time scales both short and geological. This realization also altered my perspective on plant identification in general: I'm less likely to be frustrated if I can't assign a scientific binomial to a given specimen, and more likely to enjoy pondering the reasons why.

HYBRID LOBELIA: This lobelia (*Lobelia* × *speciosa*), a hybrid of blue lobelia (*L. siphilitica*) and cardinal flower (*L. cardinalis*) represents my first encounter with a hybrid plant in a natural setting via iNaturalist, and it remains my favorite. See: https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/94468524

Joanna Reuter is a self-employed geologist and naturalist. She and her husband Eric work to study and interpret the geology, ecology, and history of the Ozarks through their business, Ozark Outsider. Check out their Ozark Outsider channel on YouTube.

What Is That "Plant?"

by Paul McKenzie

We have all been there. We come across a "plant" that looks unfamiliar to us. We run all the possibilities through our mind but nothing seems to match. Such was my situation on October 30, 2025, while looking for a rare damselfly [Spotted Spreadwing (*Lestes congener*)]. I had discovered this damselfly on the Grassland Trail along the edges of a small pond at Rockbridge State Park (RBSP) many years ago in October. In 2024 and 2025, Biologist Roxie Campbell of RBSP asked me if I was ever able to determine if the damselfly was still present on the park. While I have always assumed that the damselfly was still extant on the park, I was unable to resurvey the site until 28 September 2025. Not only was the species still present (Fig. 1), but it was present in the hundreds, perhaps thousands of individuals (many pairs mating) along a small pond south of the main Grassland Trail parking lot (observations added to iNaturalist records). Spotted Spreadwing is one of the easiest damselflies to identify due to the presence of two parallel spots on the bottom of the thorax. I subsequently was able to find the damselfly at two other ponds within the boundaries of Grassland Trail, but I was unable to survey a sinkhole pond along the edges of a woodland that occurs in the SW section on the trail until 30 October 2025.

Fig. 1. Spotted spreadwing. Rockbridge State Park-Grassland Trail. 28 Sep. 2025. Photo by Paul McKenzie.

When I got to the pond on 30 October, I noticed that it was mostly dried up due to the recent drought. The pond consisted of only wet mud and was covered with some unknown ground cover (Fig. 2). From a distance

Fig. 2. Unknown ground cover. Rockbridge State Park-Grassland Trail, 30 Oct. 2025. Photo by Paul McKenzie.

I thought that the ground cover was likely terrestrial starwort (*Callitriche terrestris*). When I got closer to the plant I noticed that the vegetative structure was too large (Fig. 3) for that species and assumed it must be mosquito fern [*Azolla caroliniana*, also known as fairy moss]. Both possible plant species are not uncommon on some Missouri ponds that have drying mud or moist soil. Upon further investigation, however, I noticed that

Fig. 3. Closer view of unknown ground cover. Rockbridge State Park-Grassland Trail, 30 Oct. 2025. Photo by Paul McKenzie..

the unknown entity lacked the overlapping scales typical of mosquito fern. In final frustration, I determined that I did not have a clue for the entity's correct identification, so I took photographs and sent the photos to multiple botanists in the state. Dr. Aaron Floden of the Missouri Botanical Garden quickly responded on 30 October 2025 and noted that my photos were likely of *Riccia*, a genus of liverworts in the family Marchantiales. Thus, embarrassingly, my photos were not of a vascular plant but instead of a non-vascular bryophyte! Wanting to know what species I had, I submitted my photos to multiple botanical id sites and one identified my unknown ground cover as fringed heartwort

(*Ricciocarpos natans*). While my photos resembled photos of fringed heartwort on the internet, I sent them to bryophyte expert Dr. John Atwood of the Missouri Botanical Garden. John confirmed the identification of the liverwort as *Ricciocarpos natans*.

Ricciocarpos is closely related to the genus *Riccia* and the two genera are the only members of the liverwort family Ricciaceae. Thus, Aaron's original suggestion was very accurate and I had photographed a life liverwort! The moral of the story: the next time you come across a "plant" that you cannot identify, it may actually be a non-vascular bryophyte! Good photographs can be submitted to multiple resources or experts who can assist in the correct identification.

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 (MONPS.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.

Hudson Fund Awardees

The Hudson Fund committee is happy to announce two awardees of the Stan Hudson Research Grant in 2026. 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 Hudson Grant program is supported through the on-going generosity of MONPS members and donors.

Maia M. Jones is currently a PhD Candidate at Washington University in St Louis where she is looking at exploring the whole genome diversity of Ozark chinkapin, *Castanea ozarkensis*. The goals of the project are to clearly define the species boundaries between *C. ozarkensis* and *C. pumila* using whole genome sequencing, combine this sequencing with a common garden experiment to link genomic and phenotypic expression, and design an *ex situ* collection to address specific conservation priorities.

Amy Barlow is pursuing a Master's of Science at Missouri State University. Her project aims to develop and document a novel, more efficient restoration method for river cane, *Arundinaria gigantea*. If successful, this research could lead to more efficient and effective establishment of river cane throughout its historic range in southern Missouri.

The Hudson Fund committee would like to thank all of those who applied, and encourage any interested parties to watch for the next announcement in the Fall of 2026.


Maia Jones

Nominations Due May 15 for 2026 MONPS Awards

The MONPS Awards Committee seeks nominations of people who have supported the preservation of Missouri's flora. MONPS offers seven awards:

1) Erna Eisendrath Memorial Education Award, recognizing individuals who, through teaching, writing, or other activity have conveyed to others a significant appreciation and knowledge of Missouri's native flora.

2) Arthur Christ Research Award, recognizing an individual's significant contribution in furthering the knowledge of Missouri flora.

3) Plant Stewardship Award, recognizing an individual or organization for the preservation of important elements of Missouri's flora through purchase, registry, and/or management practice.

4) The John E. Wylie Award, recognizing individuals who have provided exceptional service to the Society.

5) Plant Conservation Award, recognizing an individual or organization for outstanding contributions to the conservation or preservation of native plants or plant communities in Missouri. This award differs from the Plant Stewardship Award in that it is not tied to direct acquisition or management of tracts of land, but instead may recognize various types of outstanding achievements or efforts, such as conservation planning, advocacy, or new ways of looking at old problems.

6) Julian A. Steyermark Award, given to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to any and all aspects of Missouri botany.

7) Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing innumerable contributions to our knowledge of the flora of Missouri, years of dedicated service, commitment, and interest in the preservation and conservation of our state's rich botanical heritage.

The deadline for nominations is May 15. Nominations should contain the full name of the nominee and the name of the person making the nomination, and they should set forth the contributions of the individual or organization that merits recognition. Award recipients need not be members of MONPS.

Please submit nominations to Awards Committee Chairwoman, Michelle Bowe.

Michelle Bowe
901 S. National
Springfield, MO 65897
mbowe@MissouriState.edu

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.**

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 May 2026 Petal Pusher is "Hudson Fund Recipients" 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: April 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 (**MONPS.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.)

Chapter Reports and Events

PARADOXA

by Pam Barnabee, Chapter President

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 14, 10:00 -11:30 a.m. Moss Walk at Audubon Trails Nature Center, 550 Meriweather Court, Rolla. We'll meet in the parking lot and then meander through the woods, taking a closer look at the many moss species that populate the Nature Center and sharing some moss terminology to help you learn what to look for to identify them. The walk will be along a well-maintained path with some elevation change. Bring a hand lens if you have one and/or smart phone, in order to see the finer details of these tiny plants.

Saturday, April 11, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Spring Ephemeral Walkabout at Pam & Jerry Barnabee's property near Big Piney, about a one-hour drive from Rolla. We should see a variety of wildflowers in bloom: bluebells, rue anemone, bloodroot, etc. and hopefully *Phacelia covillei*, an S1 (critically imperiled) species of conservation concern in Missouri. We will walk mostly along a gravel road, leaving the road at some points to walk into the woods..

ST LOUIS

by Len Meier, Chapter Representative

Planning for 2026 STL Chapter Activities

On January 22, 2026, the St Louis Chapter began regular monthly meetings at the Commerce Bank Center for Science Education (CBEC), 4651 Shaw Blvd, St Louis. During the January 22 meeting, twenty-two St. Louis Chapter members and friends met to discuss revitalizing the Chapter and to begin planning 2026 activities. Many participants expressed great optimism regarding the potential for the organization in 2026.

The second monthly meeting was held at the CBEC on February 19. Thirty-eight existing and potential new members and friends enjoyed a fascinating presentation by James Faupel entitled, *All the Things You Didn't Know That You Needed to Know About the Catalpas (Bignoniaceae) in Our Region*. Additionally, John Oliver announced a Saturday, February 28, field trip to the Pea Ridge Conservation Area to view witch hazel populations in bloom. Caity Sims announced monthly presentations that she has lined up for March and April meetings, and we selected a committee to begin planning future field trips. We ended the meeting by listening to introductions from 6 or 7 of our participants. We hope to continue this each meeting until all who want to, get to provide a little information about themselves.

Botany Hikes:

The St. Louis Chapter, in conjunction with the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, conducts botany focused hikes on most Mondays. Beginning with the February Chapter meeting, a team of members began scheduling weekend botany hikes as well. Details of these will be coming out shortly. Below is a selection of the hikes this past quarter:

•Monday January 5, 2026, hikers met at the Daniel Boone Hayes House, located near Defiance MO on St. Charles County Parks land, and hiked a lovely loop, observing the winter landscape in its glory.

•Monday, February 9, 2026, hikers met at Klondike Park Boat Ramp on the Missouri River, and took the spur trail toward Klondike Park. We saw many Ozark witch-hazel shrubs in bloom, along with a good variety of still-dormant vines.

•Monday Feb 16, hikers met at the Governor Bates Trailhead at Faust County Park, off Olive Street Road. Hikers enjoyed a beautiful 60-degree mid-February day on the trails.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, March 19, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Chapter Meeting at the CBEC.

Thursday, April 23, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Chapter Meeting at the CBEC.

Thursday, May 21, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Chapter Meeting at the CBEC.

Open Invitation

If you are ever planning to be in the St Louis area on a weekend or a Monday, feel free to contact me, Len Meier, at 636-795-0804, or email me at lxmeier.meier@gmail.com and I will let you know what our hiking plans are.

HAWTHORN

by Elena Vega, Chapter Representative

Upcoming Events

Monday, March 9, 5:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Hawthorn Business Meeting and Presentation by Natural Resource Reclamation expert Dave Mosby on "Natural Resource Injury and Restoration" at the Daniel Boone Regional Library in Columbia.

Thursday, March 19, 11:30 a.m. Hawthorn Lunch at Love Coffee, 15 E. Business Loop 70

Sunday, March 22, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Rocky Hollow Nature Area Hike
Hike leader: Louise Flenner. This promises to be a relaxed, educational, and fun outing in a unique natural area - hope you can join us!

Join us for an early-spring exploration of Rocky Hollow Nature Area, a beautiful and rugged sandstone canyon located about an hour north of Columbia. This fascinating area offers rich geology and dramatic rock formations. Its shaded hollows provide an ideal habitat for mosses, lichens, and liverworts.

Early March is a great time to observe these bryophytes, as cool temperatures and lingering moisture help keep them vibrant. To get the most out of the experience, please bring a jeweler's loupe, magnifying glass, or binoculars to better appreciate these small but remarkable plants.

The terrain is rugged, so please wear sturdy hiking boots, dress for the weather, and bring water and a snack. We will spend a couple hours exploring the canyon and observing the landscape and seeking out bryophytes along the sandstone walls of the canyon and in the landscape.

Important Logistics:
• Meeting Time: 11:00 a.m. at the Advanced Radiology parking lot in Columbia.
• Carpooling: Parking at Rocky Hollow is limited, so carpooling from the meeting location is essential.
•Return: We plan to be back at the parking lot around 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 11, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Grow Native Plant Sale. MU Bradford Research Center at 4968 S. Rangeline Rd, Columbia. Hawthorn volunteers requested to help set up at 9am and help during the sale.

Thursday, April 16, 11:30 a.m. Hawthorn Lunch at Love Coffee, 15 E. Business Loop 70

Saturday, April 25. Exploring Paula Peters' native yard (Rain date: April 28)

Sunday, April 26. Hawthorn Native Plant, T-shirt, and Book Sale at Earth Day (Rain date: May 3). Elm Street in Downtown Columbia. Hawthorn volunteers requested to help set up and help during the sale.

Saturday, May 9, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Grow Native Plant Sale at Bass Pro at 3101 Bass Pro Drive, Columbia. Hawthorn volunteers requested to help set up at 9am and help during the sale.

Thursday, May 21, 11:30 a.m. Hawthorn Lunch at Love Coffee, 15 E. Business Loop 70

Missouri Native Plant Society Membership Form

Name	
Address	
City, State, ZIP	
Phone	
Email	

Membership Type (circle one): New Member Renewing Member

Membership Period (circle one): *1 2 3 4 5 year(s)*

Membership Level (check one):

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

Chapter dues (optional, check all that apply):

	Hawthorn (Columbia)	$5
	Kansas City	$5
	Osage Plains (Clinton)	$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	$

Make checks payable to the *Missouri Native Plant Society* and mail to:
Missouri Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 1121
O'Fallon, MO 63366

Missouri Native Plant Society

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O'Fallon, MO 63366

Please recycle!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

"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