PETAL PUSHER

May-June 2026 Newsletter of the Missouri Native Plant Society Volume 41 No.3
"… to promote the enjoyment, preservation, conservation, restoration, and study of the flora native to Missouri."

In this issue

MONPS Summer Field Trip Weekend, June 19-21.....1

Can Native Bamboo Help Clean Heavy Metal Contaminated Soil?.....3

A Plant's View of Genetics 4

Model Plants.....6

Shop Online 6

2026 MONPS Board Elections 6

Nominations for 2026 MONPS Awards 7

Seeking Donations for the Stan Hudson Research Grant.....8

From the Editor.....8

We Welcome Member Submissions! 8

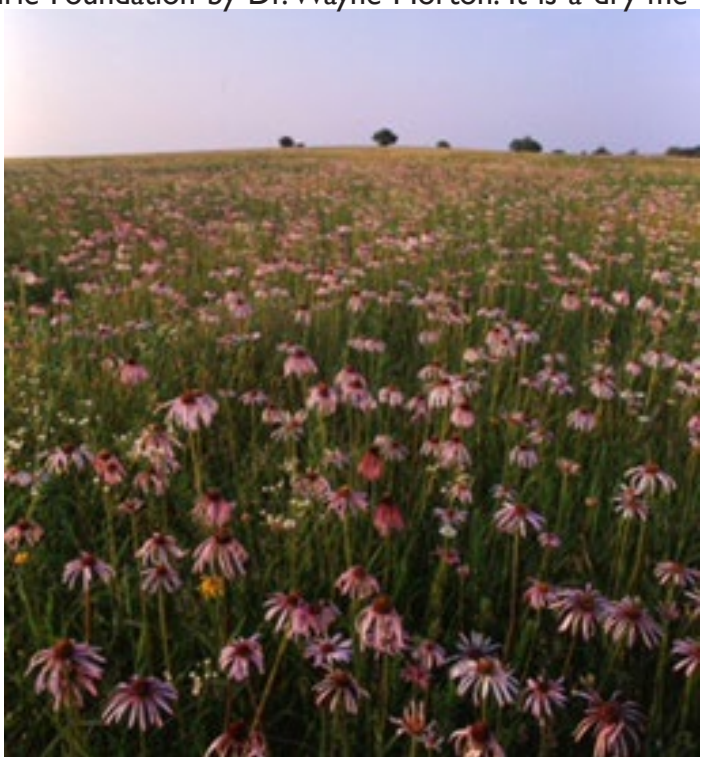
Chapter Reports and Events.....9

MONPS Summer Field Trip Weekend, June 19-21

MONPS' summer field trips will take us to remnant prairies in the Sedalia area, as well as prairie restorations in progress. For a change of scene, we'll also visit forest and fen habitats on Sunday. Please join us for any or all of these activities. All are open to the public with no fee or registration required. Be sure to check back on our website for additional details and directions.

Friday, June 19, 1:00 p.m. - Morton Family Prairie

The Morton Family Prairie is a 380-acre tract in Benton County, generously donated to Missouri Prairie Foundation by Dr. Wayne Morton. It is a dry-mesic chert prairie and includes 178 acres of unplowed, remnant tallgrass prairie. There is a small pond in one of the prairie swales. Surveys at site acquisition revealed Morton Family Prairie supporting at least 79 native plant species with an average coefficient of conservatism (CC value) of 4.84 and 15 species with a CC value of 7 and higher. Thus far, the prairie has been found to support three species of conservation concern: Mead's milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*),



Morton Family Prairie, photo by Frank Oberle

the regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*), and the prairie mole cricket (*Gryllotalpa major*).

Friday evening - 7:30 p.m, Evening Speaker TBD
Location: Sedalia MDC Office

Saturday, June 20, 9:00 a.m. - Paint Brush Prairie Conservation Area

The Conservation Department acquired this native remnant prairie in 1978. It is currently 529 acres in size. This area is a remnant of a once vast prairie ecosystem that provides habitat for a diverse group of plants and animals. Because less than one-half of one percent of our original prairie remains, some of these species have become increasingly rare. Slightly raised circular mounds measuring up to 12 feet in diameter, known as mima mounds or prairie mounds, are found on the area. Their origin is still open to debate.

The northwest portion of the area has been designated a natural area, which protects a diverse plant community of over 200 tallgrass prairie plants, including the federally endangered Mead's milkweed. MDC has implemented a Mead's milkweed restoration project on this prairie.

Lordi Marker Prairie

Missouri Prairie Foundation (MPF) purchased this 400-acre tract of a Missouri Century Farm in December 2020, thanks to a generous donation from Susan Lordi Marker and Dennis Marker, for whom the property is named. The tract includes nearly 100 acres of original, unplowed prairie.

The Lordi Marker Prairie is located in Pettis County, linking two MPF properties—the 40-acre Friendly Prairie, and the 80-acre Drovers' Prairie—creating 520 acres of prairie and native grassland habitat just 14 miles south of Sedalia, Missouri.

The original prairie at Lordi Marker is mostly dry-mesic chert prairie with some hardpan prairie. MPF's restoration work at this property includes removal of encroaching trees on the remnant prairie, conversion of tall fescue to native prairie plantings, restoration of a riparian corridor, and creation of small ephemeral wetlands to support grassland amphibians and migrating shorebirds. MPF is also establishing wildflower plots on a portion of the property for seed collection, to support restoration efforts throughout the Cole Camp Conservation Opportunity Area.

Saturday, 12:00 p.m. - BYO Lunch, Markers'

Saturday, 1:00 p.m. - Private property

Susan Lordi Marker and her husband Dennis Marker have a botanically-rich property adjacent to Paint Brush Prairie.

Saturday, 5:30 p.m. - Dinner, Location TBD

Saturday, 7:30 p.m. - Annual Meeting, followed by Board Meeting
Location: Sedalia MDC Office

Sunday, June 21, 9:00 a.m. - Big Buffalo Creek Conservation Area

Big Buffalo Creek Conservation Area is in east-central Benton and west-central Morgan counties. This 3,612-acre, mostly forested area contains three springs and 3.0 miles of Big Buffalo Creek. Big Buffalo Creek Conservation Area was acquired in 1964. Currently, the area is managed for the long-term health and sustainability of the diverse forest resources. Forest management activities that can be observed on the area include timber stand improvement, tree planting, commercial thinning, even-aged and uneven-aged commercial harvests, woodland restoration, and glade/savanna restoration. Management also includes the preservation of several old growth areas. Big Buffalo Creek Conservation Area has one designated natural area, Big Buffalo Creek Fen Natural Area.

The fen is a 40-acre portion of the conservation area with natural features that include a small, spring-fed fen, a spring branch and creek, dolomite glades, and forest. Sedges dominate the fen vegetation, and blue flag, marsh coneflower, Riddell's goldenrod, willow, and the rare bushy aster are found here.

Lodging

A block of rooms has been reserved at Hotel Bothwell, 103 East 4th St., Sedalia, at a price of $132 per night. Reservations must be made by June 5. You can make a reservation by clicking on this link or by calling 660-826-5588. Group name is Missouri Native Plant Society and group number is WQ61K1.

Can Native Bamboo Help Clean Heavy Metal Contaminated Soil?

by Jordan Murray

Historic mining practices in Missouri have caused a significant spread of heavy metal contamination, particularly lead (Pb), throughout the state. These sites include the Southeast Missouri Lead District ("Old Lead Belt") and Tri-State Mining District, which is partially in Southwest MO. Pb contamination poses severe risks for the health of humans and wildlife. Current methods for remediating heavy metal contaminated soil are expensive, labor-intensive, and can cause secondary environmental issues. Finding more cost-effective and environmentally friendly clean-up methods is of great importance.

Phytoremediation is an emerging technology that uses plants to either extract, stabilize, or break down contaminants from soil and water. This involves planting known phytoremediator species in contaminated areas, which also provides added benefits such as soil stabilization and increased wildlife habitat. Different species of plants take up contaminants to varying degrees and have different physiological tolerances. Knowing the effectiveness and tolerance of various plant species is important for choosing the appropriate plant for a location's specific remediation needs.

I investigated the phytoremediation ability of giant cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*) on Pb contaminated soils. Giant cane is a species of temperate bamboo native

to Missouri and 21 other states. Giant cane provides many ecological benefits including reducing soil erosion, capturing nutrients and other chemicals from the water, and providing important native habitat for over 70 species of wildlife. Historically, giant cane occurred in large, dense, monotypic stands called canebrakes typically found along waterways and floodplains. Habitat destruction, agriculture, and other land use changes have drastically reduced canebrakes to just 2% of their original area. Reestablishing canebrakes would help to restore crucial native habitat, provide effective riparian buffers, improve ecosystem functioning, and potentially remove harmful contaminants like heavy metals from the soil.

I used funding from the Stan Hudson research grant to execute a greenhouse experiment in which I grew giant cane in Pb contaminated soil. Soil for this experiment was collected from St. Francois County, which is near the Old Lead Belt mining district in Missouri. Pb concentrations in this soil ranged from 597 to 1148 mg kg-1, which greatly exceeds the EPA's recommended screening level of 200mg kg-1 in residential areas. I tested various physiological processes to determine how the plant responded to heavy metal stress and analyzed tissue samples to determine the Pb concentration in the plant. The results of this study were encouraging (see figure below). Giant cane proved to be highly resilient: Photosynthetic rates, transpiration rates, chlorophyll concentrations, and macronutrient concentrations were largely unaffected by high levels of Pb in the soil. Giant cane accumulated around 116

mg kg–1 of Pb in its roots during the 60-day trial period, though translocation to shoots and leaves was low (4.0 to 12.7 mg kg-1). While the uptake of Pb was lower than what would be considered a "hyperaccumulator", the high growth rate and tolerance that giant cane exhibited still make it a promising candidate for phytoremediation of Pb contaminated soils in Missouri. At the very least, giant cane could provide stabilization of heavy metals in the soil in addition to the other

ecological benefits that this plant provides to riparian areas and bottomland forests.

Thank you again to the Missouri Native Plant Society for helping make this project possible. Finding ways to restore and repair our ecosystems is important work, and being able to do so with native plants is an even bigger win.

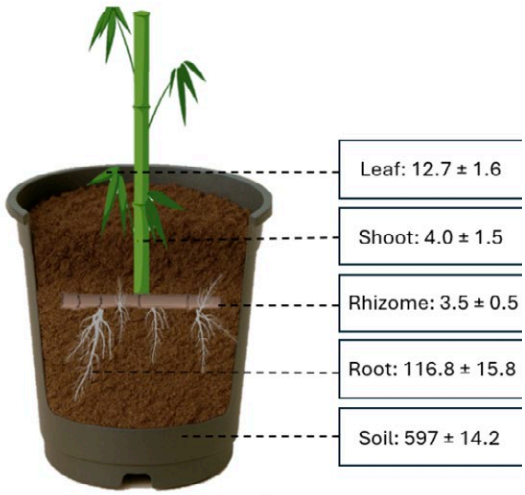


Diagram showing Pb concentrations in mg kg^{-1} in measured plant tissue

A Plant's View of Genetics

by Kathy Morris

I, *Pisum sativum,* the common pea plant, reigned supreme in genetics for over 50 years. After careful observation, Gregor Mendel chose me for my fast growing, short lifespan, many offspring, control of pollination and seven distinct inheritable traits. He developed the three laws of inheritance to explain how traits are passed from one generation to the next: the law of dominance, the law of segregation, and the law of independent assortment. Luckily for him, I had no paramutation, although some of my kin do. (See Maize's explanation of this genetic weirdness, below.) Also, although monk Mendel assumed the seven traits he studied were independent (I have seven paired chromosomes), the genes for two of those traits are located on the same chromosome. Luckily, because my chromosomes are so large, the genes are far apart and sort like unlinked genes. Just think of the chaos Mendel would have faced if some of my traits he studied acted in fact like linked genes! P.S. I do have some jumping genes, although Maize (below) likes to act as if he alone has them. For me, they can affect my flower and seed color and disease resistance.

I, Maize, more properly known as *Zea mays*, developed in Mexico from the wild grass teosinte. I was domesticated by Native Americans through selective breeding for large kernels. I also have many of the same traits that make me attractive as an experimental genetics plant, for ex-

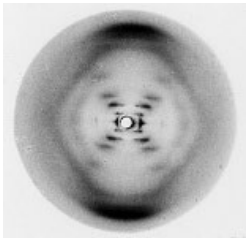
Each issue, the Petal Pusher attempts to coordinate a theme for all of the articles as sort of a fun way to get information to you, the reader. This issue's theme is "Hudson Fund recipients." Enjoy!

ample each cross provides high seed numbers, and the attachment of the kernels on the cob allows estimation of fertility. Each kernel on my cob is an embryo produced by individual fertilization. Also important is the availability of kernel color variants which are easy to score on the ear in my first generation progeny. I was one of the first plants used to show "hybrid vigor" (1917) as a result of dominant traits in crossed varieties. I was often used to show Mendelian patterns of inheritance, except the crosses sometimes did not work out with the expected percentages. Not to brag, but I am an exciting plant to work with. Scientists began investigating this and discovered linkage between genes and the concept of paramutation in the 1920s, although they did not understand the mechanism until the 1950s. This phenomenon is where one allele (gene variant, e.g. for plant color) at a locus changes the expression of another allele, and that changed expression is inherited through the generations, even though the DNA itself is not changed. Dr. Barbara McClintock in the 1930s also discovered that I have jumping genes, or transposons, which can change locations on the same chromosome or even move to another chromosome! Of course, no one believed her for many years, but she eventually was awarded a Nobel Prize in 1983.

I, *Arabidopsis thaliana*, known as thale cress or mouse ear cress, a plant in the mustard family, have no commercial value, and in fact am known as a weed. So why am I important to plant genetics? I am one of the most widely studied plants and am considered ideal for studying plant genetics because I have one of the smallest genomes in the plant kingdom. Of course, I was first picked to be studied in the 1940s because I have many of the characteristics peas have: I'm small, highly fertile, have a short generation time, a lot of natural variation, and am easily cross- pollinated, although I am originally self-pollinated. After they discovered my small genome in the 70s, the race was on! I was the first plant to have my entire genome sequenced, and it was done in 2000. It was discovered I have only five paired chromosomes, 135 million base pairs of DNA, and almost all my DNA is used to code my 27,407 genes! For comparison, *Pisum sativum* has seven pairs of chromosomes and 430 million base pairs of DNA, and *Zea mays* has ten paired chromosomes and approximately 2 billion, 700 million base pairs of DNA.

I am a tiny fern named *Tmesipteris oblanceolata* from New Caledonia, and I was found in 2024 to have the largest genome ever discovered, with 416 chromosomes and 160 billion base pairs of DNA. That's more than 50 times the DNA you humans have! (Humans have three billion base pairs.) Ha! I bet you thought that as an ancient fern I would have less DNA. Have you heard of junk DNA? Well, I have almost none. Of course, junk DNA was a term coined in the 50s and popularized in the 70s that referred to any DNA that appeared to be non-functional. As scientists have learned more about genomes, the amount of DNA classified as junk has decreased, and other categories/functions of DNA besides coding proteins have emerged.

I am *Physcomitrella patens*, a spreading earthmoss, found in mud around the edges of pools of water in many temperate climates, except in South America. I am the only non-vascular (primitive) plant with its genome completely sequenced. I have 27 chromosomes and 500 million base pairs. Humans study me because I am the only land plant found so far with efficient gene targeting that enables gene knockout (gene deactivation or deletion).



Unfortunately, we plants cannot claim the honor of being the first to have our DNA structure recorded. Rosalind Carter recorded the DNA structure in an x-ray diffraction of her graduate student's DNA. This photo was critical in Watson and Crick's work on the double helix structure of DNA.

We plants are proud to announce that over 1800 plant species have been genetically sequenced with publicly available genomes since 2000.

Model Plants

by Kathy Morris (with all due respect to Gilbert and Sullivan)

We are the very models of a model plant biology.
We've information chromosome, base pair counts, heredity
You know our genes in detail and can list each one historically
From Mexico to Melanesia in order categorical
You're well acquainted also with our matters mathematical
From five to ten to 416 the chromosomes are practical
A bryophyte and tracheophytes with base pairs so fantastical
We feed the world and also hide in places unimaginable
We are the very models of a model plant biology.

Ophioglossum engelmannii at Rocky Barrens CA. One species of *Ophioglossum* has the highest chromosome count of any known species: over 1,000! Photo by MBowe

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.

2026 MONPS Board Elections

The governing body, or Board of Directors, of the Missouri Native Plant Society consists of the elected Officers, six Directors elected by the general membership, the Chairpersons of standing committees, Chapter Representatives, the Editors of Missouriensis and Petal Pusher, and the immediate Past President. Two of the six Directors are elected each year and they serve a three-year term.

Nominations to fill this year's expiring director positions may be made by the membership with a written nomination by one member and a written second by another member. Each nomination must be accompanied by a written confirmation of willingness to serve by the nominee. Nominations must be sent to Hilary Haley, no later than June 1. Elections will be held at the MONPS Annual Meeting on June 20.

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 July 2026 Petal Pusher is "Plants of Dolomite glades," 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: June 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

Moss Walk

Story and photos by Edie Starbuck, Chapter Secretary

On Saturday, March 14 the Paradoxa Chapter conducted a moss walk at Audubon Trails Nature Center in Rolla. Chapter president Pam Barnabee led the walk, and brought along the books, "Mosses of Missouri Through a Hand Lens" by Lorie Hetrick-Volenberg, and "Plant Identification Terminology, An Illustrated Glossary" by James G. Harris and Melinda Woolf Harris, to reference. Pam gave a brief overview of moss terminology and life cycle before we started. The location provided us with several different types of mosses to examine, and with nine interested participants, two of whom had also brought their own copies of "Mosses of Missouri", there was plenty of discussion. In addition to the book, several members also looked to the iNaturalist app for identification suggestions, as mentioned by Joanna Reuter in her article in the March-April Petal Pusher.

The following mosses were at least tentatively identified: *Plagiomnium* sp. (thyme moss), *Ditrichum pallidum* (golden thread moss), Thuidium sp. (fern moss), *Dicranum scoparium* (broom fork moss or windswept moss), *Atrichum altecristatum* (ridged smoothcap moss), and *Fungaria* sp. (cord moss).

Thuidium sp. (fern moss)

Ditrichum pallidum (golden thread moss)

Plagiomnium sp. (thyme moss)

Spring Ephemeral Walk

by Pam Barnabee, Chapter President, photos by Tammy Harper

Paradoxa's April walkabout was held at Pam and Jerry Barnabee's property in Pulaski County. Seven intrepid plant enthusiasts joined Jerry and me at our somewhat remote location by the Big Piney River. We have wooded bottomland, hillside and bluff habitats that support a variety of early spring-blooming wildflowers. I always provide participants with a list of plants we took note of after our walks, but on our own property I'm also able to share a pre-walk list. I like to sort the lists by family to see those relationships. It's interesting to me that the blooms we see in April are often in the buttercup and violet families (Ranunculaceae and Violaceae). Rue anemone (*Thalictrum thalictroides*) and false rue anemone (*Isopyrum biternatum*) look very similar; they're both Ranunculaceae, as are other plants we saw: columbine, dwarf larkspur, round-lobed hepatica (past bloom), golden seal, bristly buttercup, Harvey's buttercup, and small crowfoot. We found five species of violet in bloom: *Viola pubescens, V. sororia, V. sagittata, V. striata*, and *Cubelium concolor*. (*Viola rafinesquei* had just finished blooming a few days before.) Of course, as you can see from the photos, other plant families were also represented!

Lonicera flava, yellow honeysuckle

Adiantum pedatum, northern maidenhair fern

Mertensia virginica, Virginia bluebells

Upcoming Events

Monday, May 4, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Sedges Workshop at Audubon Trails Nature Center, 550 Meriweather Court, Rolla. Nathan Aaron, field botanist with the Institute of Botanical Training will lead this walk at Audubon Trails Nature Center to show us what to look for in identifying sedges. Participants are encouraged to bring samples of sedges they are curious about.

Wednesday, May 13, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Paradoxa Chapter is hosting a free screening of the documentary film from Bee City USA, "The Little Things That Run the World" at the Phelps County Courthouse, 200 N. Main St., Rolla. Over millennia, humanity has mastered agriculture, raised monumental bridges and temples, walked on the Moon, but do we truly run the world? In this captivating documentary, filmmakers Dru Carr and Doug Hawes-Davis refocus their lens on a far more powerful force: insects. By zooming in on the reality of bees, butterflies, beetles, and their kin—tiny, alien-like architects of life—they reveal how these distant cousins on our evolutionary tree sustain ecosystems and, ultimately, our own survival. As they face unprecedented decline, their fate becomes a stark warning: without them, neither we nor the planet can endure. Even still, there is hope!

Saturday, May 16, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Spring Native Plant Sale at the Saturday Rolla Farmers Market in the JC Penney parking lot, 1050 S. Bishop, Rolla. This annual sale is cohosted by Paradoxa and Meramec Hills Chapter, Missouri Master Naturalists. Our plant vendors will be Doolittle Gardens and Prairie Hill Farm. Paradoxa will sell shrubs from the MDC Nursery at cost of pots and soil. We'll also be joined by SJ Nature Shop, offering handmade birdhouses and specialty seed mixes.

Paradoxa chapter in the woods

Volunteers will be needed beginning at 6 AM to set up canopies and tables and unload plants. During the sale (8am-Noon), volunteers will assist customers with plant selection, answer questions, and deliver purchased plants to cars. From noon to 1PM, volunteers will load up unsold plants and take down tables and canopies.

Thursday, June 11, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Walkabout at Imes Property in Vichy. Treva and Jeff Imes have a large variety of native plants on their property. We identified over 70 species when we walked there last October, but most were out of bloom. We should see more flowers this time! Contact Pam at Pamela.barnabee @ gmail.com for directions.

ST LOUIS

by Len Meier, Chapter Representative

Planning for 2026 St. Louis 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. 2026 meetings are currently scheduled at 6:30 to 8:30 PM on: April 23, May 21, (June 25 evening field trip,) July 23, August 20, Sept 17, and October 15.

Membership and Meeting Attendance

The Saint Louis Chapter did not meet in the second half of 2024 and all of 2025. The 2026 Meeting attendance has increased steadily from 22 people in January, to 39 in February, to 44 plus two zoom attendees in March. We are beginning to solicit a slate of officer candidates for election in August, 2026. St Louis Chapter membership has also grown steadily during that time.

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.

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

Saturday, May 9, 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. plant sale at Bass Pro

Saturday, May 16, 9:00 a.m. 100 Acre Woods tour, rain date May 17

Friday, May 15, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Adopt a spot

Thursday, May 21. Hawthorn lunch

Friday, May 29, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Adopt a spot

Monday, June 8. Hawthorn Meeting Location TBA

Friday, June 12, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Adopt a spot

Thursday, June 18. Hawthorn lunch

There will be a mosey in June. TBD

OSAGE PLAINS

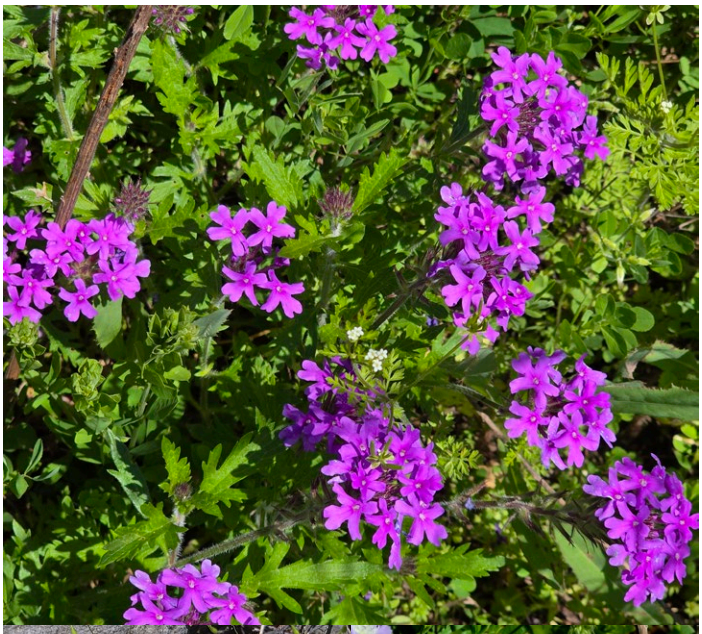
by Casey Burks, Chapter Representative

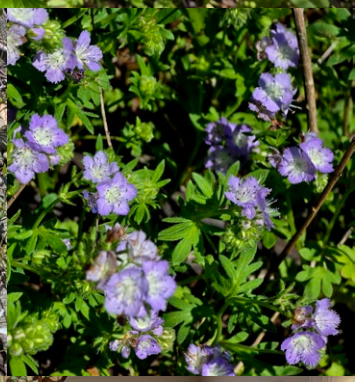
April 19th, 2026. The Osage Plains chapter met at the home of Sondra Raper. Sondra recently lost her husband after a long illness.

She and her twin sister Sharon took us on their favorite walk close to Truman Lake. We saw large, gorgeous groups of blooming rose verbena, rock sandwort, and Phacelia. Sericea lespedeza was thick in places which made for slow progress but it was a good field trip with lots of plant diversity. Back at her home we had a lively meeting.

Wayne Morton owns the property where Lone Rock is located. He said he was in process of donating it to the National Archeological Society. The rock has several fine petroglyphs.

This is the first we've been together since last fall at Carrol Eagelfield's home. We shared stories of items we were given from his estate, many from Nigeria. Sharon was wondering what cleaner she should use to get poison off an arrow tip!





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
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	Southwest (Springfield)	$5

Newsletter Delivery (normal delivery is via email):

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Other contributions (optional, check all that apply, specify amount, <u>tax deductible):</u>

	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