

PETAL PUSHER

September-October 2026 Newsletter of the Missouri Native Plant Society Volume 41 No.5

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

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MONPS Fall Field Trip Weekend, September 25-27

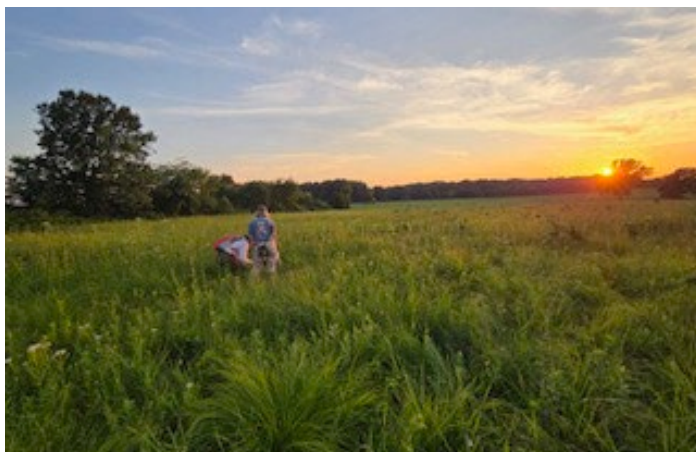
MONPS' fall field trip weekend will take us to diverse sites of botanical interest in the Rolla area: restored and remnant prairie, woodland, glade, sinkhole, and even a small fen. Please join us for any or all of our weekend activities. All are open to the public with no fee or registration required. Be sure to check back on our website for additional details, maps, and directions.

Friday, September 25, 1:00 p.m. - Triangle Prairie

This site, located in the small community of Elk Prairie, a short distance from Rolla, contains a small, remnant Ozark prairie as well as prairie reconstruction undertaken by owner John Cable. Yes, there were prairies in the Ozarks once upon a time, but unplowed tracts like this one are now rare.

Friday evening - 7:30 p.m. - Evening Speaker: Nathan Aaron, field botanist for the Institute for Botanical Training, will give a presentation on The Flora of Phelps County.

Location: Bray Conservation Area, 14220 County Road 7000, Rolla



Triangle Prairie at sunset, photo by E. Starbuck

Saturday, September 26, 9:00 a.m. - King Sink

King Sink is a natural sinkhole and karst basin located in Mark Twain National Forest, about 30 minutes west of Rolla. There are no trails here, but the woods surrounding this deep, forested sinkhole are easy to traverse. The bottom of the sinkhole might not be accessible to lesser-abled folks, but the margins around the sinkhole are quite scenic and floristically interesting.

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

We'll drive to our afternoon destination and enjoy a tailgate lunch. The nearest restroom is at the Road Ranger truck stop, just off I-44 at Exit 163 (Hwy 28). There is also a Subway restaurant at that exit.

Saturday, 1:00 p.m. - Western Star Flatwoods Natural Area

Upland flatwoods such as those found here develop on level ridges with soils developed from loess (silty wind-blown soil deposits) over a residuum weathered from dolomite bedrock. These soils have a fragipan at a depth of 20-30 inches, impeding water movement and root growth. Because of this the trees in the flatwoods are stunted in growth and must be adapted to conditions of saturated soils in spring followed by droughty soils in summer. The interior of this Natural Area contains a mosaic of floristically diverse and interesting communities. We will park along the main entrance road, then hike west through the flatwoods and follow the drainage south. This hike takes us through xeric to dry-mesic chert and dolomite woodlands before arriving at a small fen next to a glade complex. You can trace your steps back out, or hike out the drainage to the east and follow the road back to the cars. Either way, it will be about a two mile hike with no trail. Lesser-abled folk who do not wish to partake in this hike could explore the flatwoods and the sinkhole pond community next to the parking area.

Saturday, 5:30 p.m. - Dinner

Location: Tater Patch, 103 Bridge School Road, Rolla

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

Location: Bray Conservation Area, 14220 County Road 7000, Rolla

Sunday, September 27, 9:00 a.m. - Indian Trail Natural Area

The name "Indian Trail" comes from the history of this area as one of the routes of the Trail of Tears. This area features a mix of high-quality dolomite glade and dry to dry-mesic woodlands on cherty and dolomite derived soils that are characteristic of the Meramec River Hills region. Large dolomite glades on south and west facing slopes are ringed by post and chinkapin oaks some of which are 200 years old. The glades sup-

port an array of wildflowers including yellow and red flowering forms of Indian paintbrush, Missouri evening primrose, and silky aster. Also using the glades are the striped bark scorpion and Texas brown tarantula. North facing slopes support cherty dry-mesic forests with white and northern red oak, flowering dogwood, and black cohosh. Rather than strict delineated edges, there is much "feathering" of communities here and a myriad of interesting niches.

Lodging

A block of rooms is reserved at the Best Western Coachlight Motel, 1403 Martin Springs Dr, Rolla, at \$94 per night. Call 573-341-2511 to make your reservation and say you're with Missouri Native Plant Society. Reservations must be made by September 21.

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 "Rare Plant Conservation." Enjoy!

The CPC National Collection: A Model for Effective Collaborative Conservation

by Shannon Fowler, Director of Communications & Public Programs

The [Center for Plant Conservation](#) (CPC) is a national nonprofit organization founded in 1984 dedicated to preventing plant extinctions and preserving the biodiversity that sustains life on Earth. CPC helps save plants from extinction by advancing the science of plant conservation, connecting and empowering conservationists, and inspiring action to protect imperiled plants. Through science-based best practices, educational training, tools, and collaborative programs, CPC helps conservationists and organizations work more effectively to safeguard rare plants.

At the heart of this work is [CPC's Network of Conservation Partners](#)—a growing community of leading botanical gardens, arboreta, universities, natural heri-

tage programs, state and federal agencies, and conservation organizations working together to prevent plant extinctions. As a convener and hub for the 85-member Network, CPC plays a unique role in bringing partners together, aligning priorities, and coordinating collaboration. This collaborative model is central to how CPC approaches plant conservation: by connecting people and resources across institutions, regions, and disciplines, the Network collectively achieves more for imperiled plants than would ever be possible alone.

This collaborative approach is best illustrated by one of CPC's long-term core programs: [The National Collection of Rare and Endangered Plants \(National Collection\)](#).

A Model Conservation Strategy

For over 40 years, CPC's National Collection—a meta-collection of North America's most imperiled native plants—has served as a model for effective plant conservation, unifying *ex situ* conservation (protecting plants outside their natural habitats) and *in situ* conservation (protecting plants in the wild) to maximize impact and outcomes. Stewarded by CPC's Conservation Partners, the National Collection currently safeguards more than 2,740 rare plant species (out of 4,400 target species) preserved in seed banks, living collections, field genebanks, cryopreservation facilities, tissue culture collections, and greenhouses across the United States and Canada. CPC administers and coor-



Seed collection of *Lasthenia macrantha* ssp. *prisca* made by the Oregon Department of Agriculture as part of the CPC-DOI seed collection initiative. Photo credit: Danielle Marshall (ODA).

dinates the National Collection, while the long-term storage and care of plant material are entrusted to botanical institutions across the Network. This distributed meta-collection model keeps collections in, or as close as possible to, their region of origin and places their stewardship in the hands of experts with specialized knowledge of the species and ecosystems they represent. This model also provides an added layer of protection for collections: plant material is maintained both at the stewarding institution and at the USDA's National Laboratory for Genetic Resources Preservation (NLGRP) in Fort Collins, Colorado, creating a safety duplication safeguard against unforeseen loss, damage, or destruction at any single location.

But far from being simply shelved away, these plant collections are actively used to advance conservation science and best practices while preserving irreplaceable genetic diversity. Rare plant species safeguarded in the National Collection are part of a full-circle conservation lifecycle that integrates both *ex situ* and *in situ* practices—from field monitoring and seed collection to research, propagation, and long-term stewardship, and ultimately reintroduction and restoration in the wild. At every stage, CPC's Conservation Part-



Hinkley's oak (*Quercus hinckleyi*) growing in vitro. Photo credit: Max Winkeljohn.

ners work with the species in their care to advance conservation science, inform best practices, support education and outreach, and contribute to species recovery—ensuring these plants are not only safeguarded, but actively used to drive meaningful conservation outcomes.

To track these conservation efforts, CPC and its partners maintain web-based Plant Profiles for all National Collection species, which serve as a historical record of conservation actions taken to preserve these species, both past and present. Conservation practitioners, citizen scientists, advocates, and others interested in plant conservation can search the National Collection database and explore Plant Profiles using [CPC's Rare Plant Finder Tool](#).

Growing the National Collection

In recent years, a primary source of growth for the National Collection has been collaborative seed collection initiatives. Across the United States, the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) works alongside 35 of its Conservation Partner institutions, government

agencies, and conservation organizations to facilitate collaborative seed collection initiatives in regions of exceptional plant diversity and urgent conservation need. State-based programs like [California Plant Rescue \(CaPR\)](#) and [Florida Plant Rescue \(FLPR\)](#) bring together each region's local botanical community to protect their unique flora through coordinated, partner-driven action. In the western and intermountain United States, CPC partners with federal land management agencies to expand seed collection efforts on public lands, prioritizing rare plant species threatened by increasingly frequent and severe wildfires. Together, these initiatives strengthen the conservation safety net for at-risk species—securing thousands of species in the National Collection that were not yet safeguarded—while preserving the genetic diversity needed to support future research, restoration, and recovery efforts.

CPC helps spearhead these initiatives by recruiting partners, identifying target species, facilitating permitting agreements, and developing database tools that help partners share data, identify priorities, and build collective capacity to create successful conservation outcomes. Together, these seed collection initiatives demonstrate the power of CPC's collaborative conservation model. By pairing regional expertise with coordinated national action, CPC and its partners are protecting rare plants more effectively than any single organization could accomplish in isolation.

Advancing the Science of Rare Plant Conservation

As the National Collection continues to grow with new species accessioned every year, CPC is also using the collection to advance the science of rare plant



Savannah gayfeather (*Liatris savannensis*) growing in situ in southwest Florida. This species was collected as part of the Florida Plant Rescue initiative. Photo Credit: Wade Collier.



Savannah gayfeather (*Liatris savannensis*) bagged for seed collection. Photo Credit: Bruce Holst.



Reintroduced Pyne's ground-plum (*Astragalus bibullatus*) plants in cages to protect them from small vertebrate herbivores. Photo credit: Missouri Botanical Garden.

conservation. One example is CPC and NLGRP's collaborative Seed Longevity Study. This four-year study, which concluded in 2024, was funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services and aimed to advance our understanding of how long rare plant seeds remain viable in frozen seed bank conditions. Because seed banking is the primary *ex situ* strategy for the preservation of National Collection species, understanding the optimal storage conditions and collection management methods with which to steward these invaluable collections is a pressing conservation question. Conducted by CPC and NLGRP in collaboration with 21 Conservation Partners, this research study represents one of the most comprehensive evaluations of rare wild plant seed aging to date.

The study tested over 100 National Collection species, using innovative metrics proven effective in crop plant research—including RNA Integrity Number (RIN), germination-based viability, and lipid biophysics—to compare long-stored seeds (15+ years in frozen storage) with newly collected or regenerated samples from the same wild populations. These insights help inform more accurate seed curation and storage management strategies for rare species. Encouraging-

ly, early findings showed that most of the long-stored seeds remain viable—reaffirming seed banking as a powerful tool for *ex situ* conservation. The lead researchers also identified trends in seed longevity tied to plant families and ecological traits, which could guide future predictions across rare species.

Study collaborators have produced several peer-reviewed publications summarizing results and practical recommendations for seed conservation, which will also be used to inform updates to CPC's Best Practices Guidelines. The study's final outcomes are expected to strengthen seed banking practices across CPC's Network and beyond—equipping conservationists with the knowledge needed to safeguard rare plants well into the future.

Conclusion

By safeguarding imperiled plants today while advancing the science needed to protect them into the future, the National Collection demonstrates an effective conservation model that prioritizes collaboration, evidence-based science, and knowledge-sharing—showcasing what is possible when we work together to save plants from extinction



Atlanta Botanical Garden's Florida team took to the Wakulla River in search of the Florida spider-lily (*Hymenocallis rotata*) as part of the Florida Plant Rescue initiative. Photo credit: Kelly Coles & Marcella DiBrino.

Conserving for the future: How Botanical Gardens Conserve Imperiled Plants

by Sarah Herzog, Wen-Hsi Kuo, Christy Edwards

While many people imagine leisurely strolls through lush, manicured gardens and ornamental flowers when thinking of botanical gardens, botanical gardens are foundational to achieving successful conservation of native plant species. The Missouri Botanical Garden (MoBot) is at the forefront of conservation in Missouri and globally, with over 50 full-time researchers and conservation practitioners employed at the Gardens in Missouri, in addition to many more working in Africa, Madagascar and Bolivia. Together, the researchers at MoBot aim to describe new plant species, investigate the best approaches to conserve imperiled plant species, and develop management plans in partnership with state and federal agencies to manage and protect species.

Conserving a species is rarely as simple as keeping a few individuals alive in a zoo or botanical garden and assuming they will continue to reproduce. Many plants cannot successfully self-fertilize due to factors such as self-incompatibility (genetic or physical) or separate sexes (dioecy), or heterostyly. These are clever evolutionary mechanisms that prevent self-fertilization and inbreeding, which help to promote genetic diversity. However, for endangered plants, it can also make conservation more difficult: saving several plants may not be enough if they are too closely related. Successful conservation therefore means more than preventing the last individuals from dying. Plants need enough diversity to cope with challenges such as a changing climate, habitat degradation and loss, human disturbance, disease, and invasive species. For this reason, the most valuable conservation collections capture genetic and functional trait diversity from many populations, ideally representing a wide range of habitats across the species' natural range. Preserving that diversity gives a species more possibilities for surviving, reproducing, and adapting to whatever comes next.

The best method of conservation is to protect plants in their natural wild populations, called *in situ* ("in-place") conservation. *In situ* conservation is generally accomplished by protecting, managing, and restoring the sites where the plants naturally occur. However, in some cases, the threats experienced by a species in its native range are so great that we must safeguard them in off-site locations such as botanical gardens (or zoos for animals) to ensure their survival. This is called *ex situ* conservation, or "off-site" conservation.

Ex situ collections may take many forms. *Ex situ* collections can be living collections where plants are grown and maintained in gardens or greenhouses. Seed banking is another form of *ex situ* collections, where seeds are dried, frozen, and maintained for up to hundreds of years until they can be taken out and grown into adult plants. *Ex situ* collections can also be tissue collections where portions of plant tissue are grown on sterile media, or pollen collections (rather than seeds), which contain an abundance of genetic diversity. The ultimate goal for *ex situ* collections is to store representative individuals until a time when they can be used to re-establish or help augment wild populations. As such, we must be mindful of what individuals are put into the collections to meet future conservation goals.



Figs 1&2. MoBot researcher Dr. Wen-Hsi Kuo standing by some of the *Boltonia decurrens* plants grown at the MoBot. Photos by Ethan Coble.

Successful conservation depends on plants (and animals) being well equipped to handle as many challenges as possible (changing climate, changing human disturbances, new introduced species, etc.), thus, we want to conserve individuals showing the greatest diversity of traits and collected from the widest variety of habitat types possible. As such, our goal is to maximize this variation when building our *ex situ* collections. Furthermore, because maintaining collections requires both time and money, we want to ensure that our collections conserve diversity as efficiently as possible. At MoBot, we are gathering information about the genetic, phenotypic, and environmental diversity that imperiled plant species exhibit so that we can design collections that can efficiently conserve all of the species' diversity.

To quantify phenotypic diversity, we first need to understand the full range of traits of a species. At MoBot, we are growing plants in a greenhouse under controlled conditions and measuring physical and functional traits. This information is being used to understand which traits are important to facilitate a species' ability to survive and reproduce in a changing world. Quantifying genetic diversity can be an expensive and challenging process but provides highly detailed and informative data. The uses of genetic data in conservation can be grouped into three major categories. First, genetic data can help us define the species or populations we are trying to protect. Genetic analyses can help determine whether a species is unique and deserving of protection or instead whether it is a subpopulation of a more widespread relative. Second, genetic data can be used to reconstruct a species' demographic history and population structure. Demographic history can tell us whether a species experienced recent declines and, in some cases, whether the timing of that decline coincides with environmental change or human activities. Population structure tells us how populations are connected and can reveal signs of habitat fragmentation or reduced gene flow. Third, genetic data can help us measure inbreeding and genetic load, the burden of harmful genetic variants carried by a population. In small and isolated populations, mating among relatives becomes more common, which can increase the expression of harmful mutations and potentially reduce survival, reproduction, or the ability to compete in the wild. Together, genetic data provide robust and quantitative measures of the health, history, and connectivity



Figs 3&4. *Boltonia decurrens*, Decurrent False Aster, growing at MoBot. Photos by Christy Edwards.

of species.

Overall, research suggests that maintaining long-term genetic diversity and evolutionary potential may require hundreds or even thousands of reproductive individuals. Maintaining collections on this scale is extremely challenging for any zoo or botanical garden. The challenge becomes even greater when we consider the many endangered species that need protection. For this reason, conservation scientists, including those at the MoBot, are developing scientific approaches to make conservation more effective by determining which populations and individuals should be protected, how much genetic and ecological diversity needs to be represented, and when plants should be moved, propagated, or returned to the wild.

We would ideally be able to select individuals from wild populations that maximize the diversity of the species in our *ex situ* collections. One example of a species that MoBot is currently working with to build *ex situ* collections is *Boltonia decurrens*, Decurrent False Aster, a threatened plant that only occurs along the banks of the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers in Missouri and Illinois. Researchers at MoBot have grown over 400 *Boltonia decurrens* plants from across the species' known range in the greenhouse, measured physical traits such as leaf size and the day the plants started to flower, and sequenced the entire genome for each

plant (a ton of data! Figs. 1-4). What we found was that the genetic diversity is highest in the southern end of this species' range, near St. Louis, but the populations in the northern end of the range contain traits that enable a species to occupy a cold environment, which we also want to capture in the *ex situ* collection. Which individuals do we pick? We are currently exploring using optimization algorithms, computational procedures that find the best possible solution to select individuals to maximize diversity in our *ex situ* collection given a limited sample size.

Ex situ collections are an integral part of conservation; however, the question remains: how do we make the best choices when we cannot save everything? At MoBot, researchers are combining fieldwork, genetics, ecology, and computational tools to answer that question. The goal is not simply to fill a greenhouse or freezer with as many plants as possible, but to build collections that preserve the diversity a species needs to survive an uncertain future (such as those shown in Figs. 5-6). For *Boltonia decurrens* and countless other threatened plants, that means thinking carefully about which individuals we save today to give them a chance tomorrow.

This work has been funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (grant #: MG-253252-OMS-23)



Fig. 5: *Dalea foliosa*, leafy prairie clover; an endangered plant from IL, TN, and AL being studied at MoBot. Photo by Wen-Hsi Kuo.



Fig. 6: *Physaria globosa*, globe bladder pod, a rare plant from Tennessee, Kentucky, and Indiana being studied at MoBot. Photo by Wen-Hsi Kuo.

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](http://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.



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

Many thanks 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 2026 Petal Pusher is "Featured Taxonomic key," 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 ([MONPS.org](https://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

Story and photos by Edie Starbuck, Chapter Secretary

On July 2, Paradoxa Chapter visited Triangle Prairie, a privately-owned prairie at the community of Elk Prairie, south of Rolla. The property is an interesting mix of both remnant and restored prairie and includes an area of remnant mesic prairie, unusual for this area. Owner John Cable, graciously led the tour and described how he restored and cares for his property. A large variety of plants were observed and the group kept going until after sunset. A highlight of the tour for many was celestial lily, *Nemastylis nuttallii*, considered imperiled in Missouri.



Nemastylis nuttallii, celestial lily



John Cable with Paradoxa members

On August 8, Paradoxa Chapter toured Missouri Wildflowers Nursery at Brazito. Members of the Hawthorn Chapter, based in Columbia, also attended. The tour was led by nursery founder, Merv Wallace, who took us on a very interesting visit of the facilities, including

a look at different types equipment used for seed collecting, drying, and cleaning. We also got to see where and how seed is stored, planted and grown. Perhaps the most fascinating part was listening to him describe the history of the nursery, the Missouri Native Plant Society, and the native plant movement in Missouri. The nursery was started in 1984 to fill a need that Merv saw for native seeds and plants for wild land restoration as well as landscaping. Merv also talked about many of the things he has learned along the way and emphasized the importance of preserving genetic diversity and using local seed.



Members listen as Merv talks about landscaping with native plants.



Merv describes one of the types of seed-cleaning machines



Members tour a seed-drying facility

Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 12, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Fall Nature Festival & Native Plant Sale at Audubon Trails Nature Center, Rolla. Paradoxa will have a display and also lead wildflower walks. Read more about the activities, exhibitors, and vendors at [FallFestival.monature.org](https://fallfestival.monature.org)

Saturday, October 10, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Walkabout at Edgars' restored prairie, south of Rolla.

Saturday, November 7, 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Seed Swap & Annual Meeting at Bray Conservation Area, 14220 County Road 7000, Rolla.

ST LOUIS

by Len Meier, Chapter Representative

St. Louis Chapter Activities

The St. Louis Chapter conducts regular monthly meetings at the Commerce Bank Center for Science Education (CBEC), 4651 Shaw Blvd, St. Louis, Missouri 63110.

At the August 20, 2026 meeting, the St. Louis Chapter elected three new officers for two-year terms. Also at the August meeting, Steve Buback, State Botanist at Missouri Department of Conservation, gave a fascinating presentation on Hawthorns in Missouri.

New officers are: President – Caity Sims, Vice-President – Ben Berger, Secretary – Nicole Liu

Continuing Officers whose terms expire in 2027 are: Treasurer – John Oliver, Membership – Kathy Bildner, Chapter Representative – Len Meier

Botany Hikes:

The St. Louis Chapter, has conducted botany hikes one weekend a month over the summer including: Bellefontaine Arboretum in St Louis on June 25, 2026, and at Shaw Nature Reserve on August 1, 2026. Participation ranged from 11 to 14 members per trip. Members also participated in Webster Groves Nature Study Society Monday botany hikes.

In addition, many members attended the State MONPS field trips associated with our summer meeting.

Open Invitation

Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings and hikes. If you wish to learn more, feel free to contact us.

Upcoming Events: Future 2026 meetings are scheduled at 6:30 to 8:30 PM on September 17 and October 15, 2026.

Contact Info:

Len Meier, Chapter Representative
636-795-0804, lxmeier.meier@gmail.com

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

☐	Hudson Grant Fund	
☐	Other contributions	

Total:

Total amount	\$
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To contact the Missouri Native Plant Society, please [click the "Have a Question" link](#) on our website.

"We can't just hope for a brighter day, we have to work for a brighter day." — Dolly Parton