

# PETAL PUSHER

March-April 2024 Newsletter of the Missouri Native Plant Society Volume 39 No.2

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

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## MONPS Spring Field Trip Weekend, April 26 - 28

We hope you can join us for our Spring Field Trip Weekend! We'll be headquartered in Ava and traveling to botanically rich sites in that area. Registration isn't required and there's no cost. Bring a friend - our field trips are open to the public.

**Friday, April 26 at 1:00 p.m.** – Glade Top Trail in Ava Glades Natural Area  
[Site Info](#) and [Area Map \(MDC\)](#) [Area Info and Map \(Forest Service\)](#)

Glade Top Trail includes some of the largest glades under conservation management within the U. S. as well as some of the largest dolomite glades found anywhere on earth. From the MDC website, “This natural area is distinguished by its rugged character, outstanding vistas, and extensive dolomite glades, known locally as ‘bald knobs.’ The ridge tops are formed in residual chert of Mississippian era limestone while the open glades are formed from Cotter Formation Ordovician era dolomite. These glades are home to abundant wildflower species, along with native bees and butterflies... In the early spring look for shooting star and hoary puccoon blooms.”

There are several pull-off stops along the 23-miles of scenic byway to view the various glade areas and panoramic views. We will begin our field trip at the [Caney Picnic Area](#) and explore the area by foot before continuing on our drive towards the [McClurg Glade](#) pull-off.



Left: Ava Glades Natural Area

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 "Funny Botany" Enjoy!

## Field trip schedule, continued:

**Friday, 7:00 p.m.** – Evening Speaker, TBA

Meeting Place: Ava Lions Club (see photo on right)

309 North Jefferson Street

Ava, MO 65608

**Saturday, April 27 at 9:00am** – Bryant Creek State Park, Pike Hollow Trail

[Site Info](#) [Area Map](#)

From the website for Bryant Creek State Park, “Located in southern Douglas County, Bryant Creek State Park is home to impressively large oaks and shortleaf pines spanning rugged, steeply dissected river hills that front the stream for which it’s named. With over 2,900 acres, the park features many natural attributes, such as almost 2 miles of Bryant Creek frontage. Four tributary hollows go through uncut forest and sandstone outcrops, providing lots of character and scenic views. The park’s remote location, bountiful flora and fauna, and pristine creek make it a great place to experience the wonders of the Ozarks. Two hiking trails wind through the northern end of park, allowing users to see Missouri’s only species of native pine, and picnic tables provide visitors a place to relax and take in their surroundings.”

**Saturday, 12:00 p.m.** – Lunch at Bryant Creek State Park (see photo on right)

Following our hike of Pike Hollow Trail, we will meet back at the parking lot for lunch at the available picnic tables before continuing on to our afternoon field trip.

**Saturday, 1:30 p.m.** – Caney Mountain Conservation Area, Sprout Spring Trail (photo bottom right)

[Site Info](#) [Area Map](#)

According to MDC, “This 7,899-acre area is characterized by unusual geology, including the roughest parts of a precipitous range of hills. These hills are a remnant of an old elevated plateau that has been dissected by numerous feeder streams. From area roads, visitors can view numerous prominent peaks, including Bear Cave Mountain, High Rock Mountain, Morrison Knob, Long Bald, and Tater Cave Mountain. The area also includes unique plant communities. Glades, savannas, forest openings, and old growth forest cover the rugged terrain along the small creek bottoms. Several of the state’s rare and endangered species are being protected on the area.”

**Saturday, 7:00 p.m.** – Board Meeting

Meeting Place: Ava Lions Club

309 North Jefferson Street

Ava, MO 65608

**Sunday, April 28th at 9:00 a.m.** – Hercules Glades Wilderness Area, Hercules Tower Trailhead

[Site Info](#) [Area Map](#)





From the Forest Service, “Hercules Glades Wilderness Area is 12,413 acres of the most scenic and unique country in the Midwest. Its combination of open grassland, forested knobs, steep rocky hillsides, and narrow drainages offers unusual beauty and a measure of solitude within easy reach of wilderness lovers. The name comes from the limestone glades throughout the Wilderness and the nearby town of Hercules. The Hercules Trailhead is also home to the 100 foot tall Hercules Fire Tower, built in 1936 and still in use today.”

Places to stay in Ava, MO:

[Super 8 by Wyndham Ava](#)

1711 South Jefferson Street

Ava, MO 65608

Phone: (417) 683-1343

A block of rooms has been reserved under the group “Missouri Native Plant Society”. Please call to book your reservation by March 25th. The nightly rate is about \$75, or \$161.68 for both nights, including tax.

Optional Dinner Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m.

Los Mexicanos Family Restaurant

800 South Jefferson Street

Ava, MO 65608

(417) 683-4007

Contact info for questions related to the field trips and meeting places: Hilary Haley (816) 255-4805

## Botanists’ Emails

shared by Nels Holmberg

Paul McKenzie:

“I taught a nature camp this week to some intercity youth and was explaining the fruits of *Desmodium* - even with explanation, some of them did not understand that some legumes only live for the loment.....”

David Moore:

“Sigh. It’s a desmol world when we must loment such lack of botanical knowledge.”

Tim Smith:

“I guess they were blown away by the humor that is inherent in plant taxonomy.”

Paul McKenzie:

“Yep and it takes awhile for some fruit concepts to stick.”

David Moore:

“Whenever my mind decides to work these days, and I reminisce about botanical humor and puns, I must refer to the classic article on the genre.” (see “Goldie’s Fern and the Three Barren Strawberries” by Tim Smith)

Paul McKenzie:

“Yes, an all time classic that will forever go down in the annals of botanical punfuniery!”



Nels Holmberg and Rex Hill on the Flat Woods 6-9-2018 Missouri

# Goldie's Fern and the Three Barren Strawberries

by Tim Smith, reprinted from Volume 11, Number 2 of *Missouriensis*

Once upon a time deep in Missouri's dry-mesic chert forest there lived three barren strawberries. There was papa barren strawberry, or Waldo, who was related to an Indian duke named Duchesnea. There was mama barren strawberry, who was at anthesis and was the pome of Waldo's eye. And there was baby barren strawberry who was immature and who was just called "Rose" since her diagnostic morphological characters were not yet sufficiently developed. They all lived on the ledges of a moist sandstone cliff of the Roubidoux formation. One day some dolomite crashed down around them from an outcrop up above. Being acidophiles, they had to leave their niches which were rapidly becoming circumneutral. The barren strawberries were good runners so they ran away to wait for the pH to drop.

It just so happened that a rare fern named Goldie was migrating through the area in search of suitable habitat. Goldie found the moist sandstone cliff; and, since she was "frond" of moist rocky places, she decided to try the barren strawberries' rock ledges. Waldo's ledge was too hard because of accumulated chert residuum. Mama strawberry's ledge was too soft. But Rose's ledge had developed a crack during last winter's freezing rain and the turgid pressure in Goldie's roots caused the ledge to break.

Then Goldie noticed the nutrients that had accumulated in the strawberries' habitat. She tried Waldo's nutrients, but they were far too acidic. She tried mama strawberry's nutrients and they were a little acidic, too. Then she tried Rose's nutrients. They were just the right pH and she absorbed them all through osmosis.

By this time it was getting late in the season and Goldie started thinking about going dormant. She tried Waldo's niche, but it was too exposed to solar radiation. She tried mama strawberry's niche, and it was too drafty. Then she tried what was left of Rose's niche, and it was just right. So Goldie began to enter dormancy.

At about this time the barren strawberries came trailing home. They knew at once that someone had been there. Waldo said, "Someone's been growing on my ledge." Mama strawberry said, "Someone's been growing on my ledge." Rose said, "Someone's been growing on my ledge and they broke it!"

Then Waldo noticed a loss of nutrients and said, "Someone's been absorbing my nutrients," Mama strawberry echoed, "Someone's been absorbing my nutrients." Rose said, "Someone's been absorbing my nutrients and they're all gone."

In all the "diffusion" Waldo finally realized what had happened. "Someone's been occupying my niche!" he exclaimed, and he was nearly chlorotic with anger. If he had had a capsule rather than an aggregate of achenes, he would have dehisced right then and there. "Someone's been occupying my niche too!" said mama strawberry, and the chromoplasts in her leaves were flushed with carotenoids. Then Rose cried "Someone's been occupying my niche too, and the dirty cryptogram is still here!" With that outburst Goldie raised her fiddlehead and bolted. She was just able to release her tiny spores to the wind. Even though Goldie was protected by state law, she wasn't about to risk her genome to a hostile bunch of strawberries. She rode the wind far away and never returned to the moist sandstone cliff.

And the moral of the story is: If you're only a vascular cryptogram, don't debate niche-fidelity with angry angiosperms...or your status may change from rare to endangered.



# Help Us Wrap Up Missouri Botanists Big Year 2023

Our annual Missouri Botanists Big Year friendly competition, held on the online community science tool and website, iNaturalist, is coming to a close. You can help make this another successful year:

- If you're a participant in the 2023 contest, be sure you've posted all your 2023 photos of wild Missouri plants (native and non-native) to iNaturalist.
- If you're an expert in the field of botany in Missouri, please help us vet and identify the observations made. Log onto iNaturalist and help here: [2023 Plant IDs](#).

As the final identifications for 2023 are made, statistics compiled, and winners determined, [Missouri Botanists Big Year 2024](#) is already underway. Remember that each Big Year is a separate project, so you must join the current year's project in order to participate. If you haven't yet joined the fun, you can get started by creating an account on iNaturalist.org. Then visit [Missouri Botanists Big Year 2024](#) to join the project, read the rules, and see the observations that have been submitted so far.

The results for the 2023 competition and details on participating in 2024 will be posted on the MONPS website, [monativeplants.org](#), and in a future issue of the Petal Pusher.

## Miscellaneous!

"We can complain because rose bushes have thorns; or we can rejoice because thorn bushes have roses."  
Abraham Lincoln (submitted by Becky Erickson)

How do forests do their banking? Through their many branches! (submitted by Debbie Chapman)

Upon seeing a tall one: "I didn't know yew could grow that tall!" (from my students)

# A Punster Busted

by Paul McKenzie

While everyone knows how fun loving I can be and how much I enjoy puns, few people have me recorded in action - except one: Theo Witsell! I was in northern Arkansas with Theo one spring, monitoring Missouri bladderpod. We were searching some new dolomite glades in north-central Arkansas, looking for bladderpod, and the two of us got separated without my knowledge.

Walking onto an open glade I spotted the gorgeous *Phacelia purshii* (Miami mist) in full flower. Without thinking about it I started singing a twist on the old Simon and Garfunkel song; "Phacelia, you're breaking my heart. You're shaking my confidence daily. Oh, Phacelia, I'm down on my knees (and I was literally!) and I'm begging you please to come home. Phacelia you're breaking my heart....."

My singing was interrupted by Theo standing behind me: "Find anything?" "No," I responded. "Nothing new, but some beautiful patches of *Phacelia purshii*." "Yes," Theo responded. "I found the same thing a couple hundred meters east of you."

We finished our survey, documenting bladderpod in flower on sites that were already known but significant as the substrate was dolomite and not limestone or shale (Ouachitas). A few months passed and I got an email from Theo that he had copied others we knew. Theo explained in his email that it was his habit to record on a tape recorder field notes so he would not forget them. And he attached, as evidence, a small recording of his field notes with the comments: "Note the singing in the background! Busted!" The little rascal had taped me singing a new version of the Simon and Garfunkel hit!! It is a story we laugh about often.

The Bible says "A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance!" (Proverbs 15:13) and I will enjoy laughter from now until eternity!

# A Practical Joke

by Susan Farrington

Back in 2009 or so, I was working as a Plant Community Ecologist with MDC and a colleague had a vegetation crew working in northern Missouri. Our state botanist at the time, Tim Smith, and I were to train her crew to identify the plants there. Now, my specialty is Ozark flora, so I was out of my comfort zone up there... for example, they have different *Carex* species (e.g. *pennsylvanica* instead of *nigromarginata*).

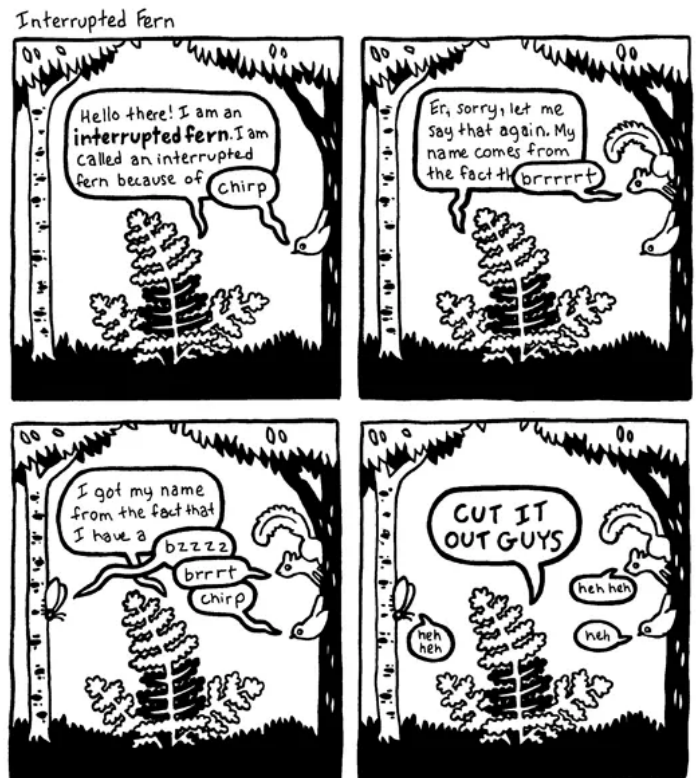
On the second day of training, Christine Dzurik (now Byrd) pointed out a plant and asked what it was. At first glance, I thought it was a cultivated *Impatiens* species! But that wouldn't be there, right? I am familiar with *Impatiens capensis* and *pallida* – it wasn't either of them. I said to Tim that all I could think of was an exotic *Impatiens*, and in his characteristic dead-pan straight face, Tim says, "I don't know, Susan, they have some different species up here." So I dutifully pull out Gleason and Cronquist (easier to carry to the field than the Flora of Missouri and none of us had smart phones yet) and look up *Impatiens*. Nope, just those two species. So I say, "I don't know how it got there, but that has GOT to be a cultivated exotic *impatiens* plant."

They all burst out laughing and confessed that Christine had bought it at Walmart the previous night and had snuck ahead to "plant" it in our path. If Tim hadn't gone along with it so convincingly (he is the perfect straight man!), I wouldn't have even bothered to look it up and consider other possibilities. They had fun trying to fool me!

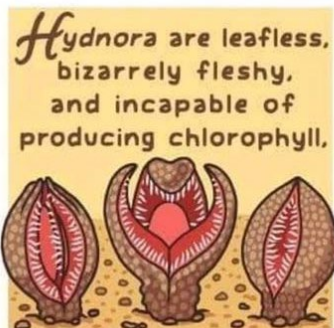
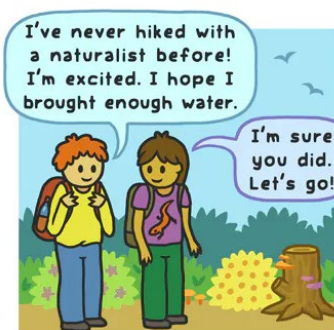


**Thank goodness my seed catalogs finally arrived. I almost starting cleaning the house**  
Above: Submitted by Casey Burks

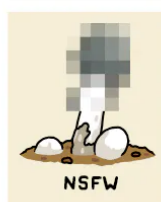
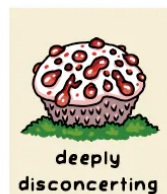
Comic strips below reprinted courtesy of Rosemary Mosco. See more of her work on her website, [rosem-arymosco.com](http://rosem-arymosco.com).







## Types of Mushrooms



## Yummy

by Robert Hendrickson

Looks like a potato...tastes like a banana... or mango... maybe pineapple... with a definite hint of citrus.

You've just tasted a pawpaw.

It might look and taste tropical... but Missouri pawpaw is as native as Missouri hills. It's the official state fruit tree. Who knew there was such a thing.

They're easy to grow... fun to say... Say pawpaw... (pawpaw). Pawpaw... (pawpaw) "But wait... there's more!"

Every fruit tastes better when homegrown. So plant a pawpaw. Or two... or three. And as they say in our Missouri hills... "Life don't get no better than that."

## Nominations Due May 15 for 2024 MONPS Awards

The MONPS Awards Committee seeks nominations of people who have supported the preservation of Missouri's flora. MONPS offers five 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, the Society's highest award, given to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to any and all aspects of Missouri botany.

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, Malissa Briggler.  
Malissa Briggler, State Botanist  
Missouri Dept of Conservation  
2901 W. Truman Blvd.  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
573-522-4115 ext. 3200

## Seeking Donations for the Stan Hudson Research Grant

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

To qualify for the Stan Hudson Research Grant, research must involve Missouri native plants in some way, but may have as its primary focus any pertinent subject area in plant biology, including conservation, ecology, physiology, systematics and evolution, etc. The grant may be used for any non-salary expenses relating to the proposed research, including travel, equipment, and supplies. At the conclusion of the project, grant recipients will be expected to prepare research results for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal, *Missouriensis* (the peer-reviewed journal of the Missouri Native Plant Society), or the society's newsletter *The Petal Pusher*. Alternatively, recipients can present their research at the Missouri Botanical Symposium as either a poster or oral presentation. The symposium is held each fall in Rolla, Missouri. To learn more about the grant, check out this link to the [Missouri Native Plants website-Hudson Fund](#) (button below).

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

### Not getting the Missouri Native Plant Society organizational emails?

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

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

\*Some have you create "Rules".

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

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

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



## 2024 Hudson Grants Awarded

The Stan Hudson Research Grant is awarded annually for research aligned with the mission of the Missouri Native Plant Society. This year, the committee for the Stan Hudson Research Grant has selected two recipients from a wonderful pool of applicants.

Anna Faust is an undergraduate at Missouri State University where she will be researching an infestation of mosquito fern (*Azolla* spp.) on Lake Springfield. Her research will use DNA barcoding to identify the *Azolla* species present, monitor the population and water quality parameters, and measure the growth of *Azolla* under a varying nitrogen regime in the lab.

Leidy Laura Arias Martinez is a PhD student at Southern Illinois University. Her research will be using chromosomal characterization to help explore species delimitation and hybridization within Venus looking glass (*Triodanis*).

At the conclusion of their projects, grant recipients will be expected to prepare research results for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal, *Missourien-sis* (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, held each fall in Rolla, as either a poster or oral presentation. So keep an eye out for these two up and coming researchers!

For more information about the Stan Hudson Research Grant, visit <https://monativeplants.org/hudson-award/>



## And More Puns from Paul...

Did you know a cactus without spines would be pointless?

Dana to Justin, "Can you pick up the groceries? I haven't botany."

What did the flower tell the taxi driver to make him go faster? "Floret, buddy!"

What did Shakespeare say to the trees in the spring forest? "To leaf or not to leaf - that is the question."

How do flowers whistle? With their tulips.

Why did the cabbage win the race? Because it was ahead.

What did the one plant tell the other to provide a little encouragement? "Thistle be one of the best days ever!"

## A Field Biology Credit

**In Memory of Jon Lawrence Hawker  
1944-2023 (photo by Dave Tylka on lower left)  
by Gwyn Wahlmann, Kirkwood, Mo**

In 1974 I was an art student looking through the Meramec Community College catalog for a science credit to sock away before transferring to Washington U. "Field Biology" seemed least dry, if nothing else, offering the possibility of getting out of the classroom now and then. Little did I know this chance occurrence would change my life.

A whole new world appeared in Jon Hawker's classroom. It was such a mind-blowing revelation to be privy to the exquisite framework of life on this planet, from geology and climate to evolution and natural selection, the interdependence of species, the functions of ecosystems, including "the 22 natural communities of Missouri." (That was the number of classifications at the time!) The truth was undeniable, the sheer elegance breathtaking. From then on, nature not only MADE SENSE, it made the grandest, most exciting sense in the world!

Ecology was such a new science, we didn't even have a textbook, but Hawker's knowledge and enthusiasm made the subject come vividly alive. I saved all my notes, and from then on everywhere I went I'd be seeking out the markers of natural communities, regaling companions with, "Look! A limestone glade!" or "An ox-bough slough!" Years later while in town for a holiday, I went over to Meramec and left a note of heartfelt gratitude on his desk.

I'm so glad I did. Yesterday when I heard the sad news of his passing, it made me a little teary-eyed to realize that.....every conservation issue I've ever been involved in, whatever species I can identify, the joys of hiking Missouri landscapes, the wonderful and inspiring people I've met and so many of my dearest friends.....all trace back to the chance occurrence of taking Jon Hawker's Field Biology class.

I only wish everyone, artists, journalists, economists, politicians, and everyone else, could experience this revelatory class. If they did, I feel certain they too would feel the call to love, respect, and protect this amazing planet we share.

## In Remembrance of First MONPS President Jon Hawker

by Dave Tylka

Jon Hawker recently passed away at his home in Arizona. It was an honor and a privilege to have been a friend and colleague of Jon for almost 50 years. He was one of the most learned biologists/ecologists/professors in the St. Louis area. Along with his intellect, he had a quick wit, a wonderfully weird sense of humor and a unique gift of being able to explain natural phenomena to his students. Jon taught at St. Louis Community College at Meramec for about 35 years.

Although he served as the Missouri Native Plant Society's first president, Jon tended to be more of an independent and private person who extensively read and traveled with his wife, Pat. They visited parks and nature reserves across the world from Australia to Alaska and Antarctica to Costa Rica/Ecuador, experiences which contributed greatly to his teaching

expertise. Along with other biologists at Meramec, he pioneered many field courses such as Field Botany, Field Zoology, Swamp Ecology with camping field experiences in the Okefenokee Swamp, Desert Ecology in Big Bend National Park, Marine Ecology in the Florida Keys and Mountain Ecology in the Absaroka Mountains of Wyoming. With his St. Louis Zoo experience, he started the live-snake educational collection at Meramec, which is still in existence after 40 years. Besides instilling environmental ethics in his students with his outstanding teaching abilities, he was an excellent nature writer with two books to his credit: *Missouri Landscapes: A Tour Through Time* and *Agaves, Yuccas and Their Kin—Seven Genera of the Southwest*. He loved visiting natural areas and actively supported their acquisitions by writing scientific articles on natural communities like upland sinkhole ponds, which appeared in the January 1979 issue of the *Missouri Conservationist* magazine. At his St. Louis home, he built a large glass-enclosed patio for his beloved cacti and succulents and did native landscaping around his yard before it became popular. Happy trails, old friend!!!

## In Memoriam, Nels Holmberg

Nels Holmberg, beloved husband, father, grandfather and all around interesting character, passed away peacefully at home on February 9, 2024, shortly after a diagnosis of cancer. He was born in 1941 and grew up on a farm in western Oklahoma.

After deciding he most definitely did not want to follow the family profession of farming, he attended Oklahoma State University, and in 1966 earned a Master of Science in biochemistry. In the same year he married Sandra Wingate of Wewoka, Oklahoma. They spent three years working in Oxford, England, and then both came to Washington University in St. Louis for careers in research. Unbeknownst to Nels, Sandra harbored the childhood dream of becoming a farmer, so in 1987 they bought a sheep farm in Franklin County which soon also became home to beautiful prairies and wildflower gardens under his dedicated care.

He was a founding member of St Louis Orienteering Club and spent decades running races through forests navigating with map and compass. He helped in map



Nels at Babler during a survey in a sea of wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*), May 2018. Photo by K. Bildner

ping new areas and organizing events so others could compete.

In 1998 Nels retired from Washington University to become a field botanist. He received his second Master's degree in Conservation Ecology from UMSL on his 60th birthday. Nels went on to become an expert in plant and bryophyte (moss) identification under the mentorship of the late Carl Darigo, discovering 10 bryophyte state records around the country and collecting more than 5,000 specimens of plant species for the Missouri Botanical Garden. For 18 years, Nels led botany field trips and hikes for nature study societies, reflecting his enduring passion for introducing people to the wonders of the natural world, especially small organisms like insects, mosses and lichen that are not often noticed or appreciated. He set up and taught courses in ecology at Meramec Community College. He was awarded the Missouri Native Plant Society Arthur Christ Research Award in 2006, MONPS John E. Wylie Award in 2018, and the Webster Groves Nature Study Society Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013. He was also a dab hand at setting a fine fence post and tossing sheep. Other hobbies he enjoyed included nature photography and wood carving.

He is survived by his wife Sandra, children Anne Jespersen and Jon Holmberg, and grandchildren David and Sarah Jespersen, and Samantha and Kate Holmberg.



## Shop Online for Embroidered MONPS Logo Apparel

Check out the “MONPS Logo Apparel” link on the menu bar of our home page ([monativeplants.org](https://monativeplants.org)), and 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.



### Do You Have a Plant Story?

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



## From the Editor

We were heart-broken to hear of the recent passing of our sweet friend and colleague, Nels Holmberg, so I am dedicating this issue to him. He was a consistent presence on our field trips and his sense of humor was profound. It is a gross understatement to say that he will be sorely missed. In this issue, we include his public obituary and some humorous contributions.

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 2024 Petal Pusher is "Plant Terminology" 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](mailto: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**

## 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.)

## New Members

### St. Louis

Anita Joggerst, Kirkwood

Matthew Broderick, Manchester

Kris King, St. Charles

Molly Rooney, St. Louis

### Hawthorn

Jennifer Baskett, Columbia

### Kansas City

Cheryl McCann, Liberty

Randy Rasa, Higginsville

### Paradoxa

Kris Vellema, Steelville

William Brewer, Rolla

### Empire Prairie

Carrie Windsor, St. Joseph

## Chapter Reports and Events

### HAWTHORN

by Cindy Squire, Chapter Representative

**8 January** - Annual Planning meeting via Zoom. Events, activities, moseys and were discussed and voted on.

**18 January** - Monthly group lunch at First Watch - Stadium location.

**12 February** - Zoom Meeting. Dr. Sougata Bardhan from Lincoln University gave a presentation on Forest Farming Practices for Farm Diversity, Income Generation, and Ecosystem Services. There were many good ideas for all landowners.

**15 February** - Monthly group lunch at First Watch, a larger group was present.

### Upcoming Events

**9 March** - Mosey at Capen Park. March 10 rain date. Tree ID.

**11 March** - Meeting at Universalist Unitarian Church. 2615 Shepard Blvd. Becky Erickson explains ecotypes and their benefits.

**16 March** - Mosey at Wildhaven-Columbia Audobon Society property. March 17 rain date. Moss walk.

**21 March** - Monthly group lunch at First Watch - Stadium location.

**Adopt a Spot Work Days** will resume in spring-time - check emails.

**8 April** - No meeting.

**13 April** - Plant Sale at Bradford Farms.

**18 April** - Monthly group lunch at First Watch - Stadium location.

**21 April** - Earth Day. Information and Plant Sales in Downtown Columbia.

**22 April** - Mosey at Pierpont South End. 5 pm. A glade walk.

See [www.columbianativeplants.org](http://www.columbianativeplants.org) for an updated posting of newsletters and activity details.

## PARADOXA

by Pam Barnabee, Chapter President

### Upcoming Events

**Thursdays, beginning in March**, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Phenology Walks will resume at Audubon Trails Nature Center as soon as the first Spring blooms appear. On these walks, we travel the same route every week, documenting every species of blooming plant we observe from the trail. No botany experience required! As we usually see many of the same plants for weeks in a row, this is a great opportunity to reinforce your plant identification skills.

**Tuesday, April 23**, 3:00-6:00 p.m., Callery Pear Buy Back. Chapter members are invited to assist at Rolla's first-ever Callery Pear Buy Back by handing out free trees to registered participants and staffing displays and activities.

**Monday, April 29**, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Kaintuck Hollow. For our first walkabout of 2024, we'll seek out Spring ephemeral wildflowers at Kaintuck Hollow, about a half hour west of Rolla.

For more information about Paradoxa Chapter activities, please contact us at [paradoxarolla@gmail.com](mailto:paradoxarolla@gmail.com)

## KANSAS CITY

by Cécile Lagandré, Chapter Representative

### Upcoming Events

The Kansas City Chapter announces its new permanent schedule for chapter meetings:

**3rd (third) Tuesday** of odd numbered months, except July. At the Anita Gorman Discovery Center (MDC), 4750 Troost Avenue, located in Kansas City southwest of Emanuel Cleaver Blvd and Troost Ave.

In 2024, Field Trips will all be conducted at River Bluff Nature Reserve Trailhead in northeastern Jackson County at 11:00 a.m. on the last Tuesday of April, July, and October.

### 2024 Calendar of Events:

**Tuesday, March 19** - 7:00 p.m. Chapter meeting, presentation on Oaks by Lee Ann Googe. Please bring a plus-one to this activity, you will all learn a lot about this subject!

**Tuesday, April 30** - River Bluff NRT. 11:00 a.m. Meet at the trailhead and hike the loop trail. Contact John Richter for more information: [richterjc@bv.com](mailto:richterjc@bv.com), cell 816-519-8201.

**Tuesday, May 21** - 7:00 p.m. Chapter meeting. Activity TBD.

**Tuesday, July 30** - River Bluff NRT. 11:00 a.m. Meet at the trailhead and hike the loop trail. Contact John Richter for more information.

**Tuesday, September 17** - 7:00 p.m. Chapter meeting. Activity TBD.

**Tuesday, October 29** - River Bluff NRT. 11:00 a.m. Meet at the trailhead and hike the loop trail. Contact John Richter for more information.

**Tuesday, November 19** - 7:00 p.m. Chapter meeting. Activity TBD.

# Missouri Native Plant Society Membership Form

Name	
Address	
City, State, ZIP	
Phone	
Email	

*Membership Level (check one):*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Student	\$5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Goldenrod	\$10
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sunflower	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bluebell	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/>	Blazing Star	\$100

*Chapter dues (optional, check all that apply):*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Empire Prairie (Saint Joseph)	\$5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hawthorn (Columbia)	\$5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kansas City	\$5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Osage Plains (Clinton)	\$5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ozarks (West Plains)	\$5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paradoxa (Rolla)	\$5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Perennis (Cape Girardeau)	\$5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saint Louis	\$5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Southwest (Springfield)	\$5

*Newsletter Delivery (normal delivery is via email):*

<input type="checkbox"/>	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):*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Hudson Grant Fund	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other contributions	

*Total:*

Total amount	\$
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Make checks payable to the *Missouri Native Plant Society* and mail to:

Missouri Native Plant Society

PO Box 440353

Saint Louis MO 63144-4353

*Visit us on the web ([monativeplants.org](http://monativeplants.org)) and join us on Facebook!*





# Missouri Native Plant Society

PO BOX 440353  
St Louis, MO 63144-4353

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## President

Malissa Briggler  
10297 CR 371  
New Bloomfield, MO 65063

## Vice President

Hilary Haley  
17376 West State Highway W  
Eagleville, MO 64442

## Secretary and Petal Pusher Assistant Editor

Pam Barnabee  
34653 White Oak Rd  
Plato, MO 65552

## Treasurer

Bob Siemer  
74 Conway Cove Drive  
Chesterfield, MO 63017

## Membership

Ann Earley  
P.O. Box 440353  
St. Louis, MO 63144-4353

## Past President

Dana Thomas  
1530 E Farm Rd 96  
Springfield MO 65803

## Board Members

Paul McKenzie (2023–2026)

Mike Skinner (2023–2026)  
167 South Peachtree  
Republic, MO 65738

Bruce Schuette (2022–2025)  
303 Spring Church Rd.  
Troy, MO 63379

Rick Gray (2021–2024)  
6 Montauk Court  
St Louis MO 63146

Steve Buback (2021–2024)  
MDC Central Region Office  
3500 E Gans Rd.  
Columbia, MO 65201

Meg Engelhardt (2022–2025)  
[Meg.engelhardt@mobot.org](mailto:Meg.engelhardt@mobot.org)

## Missouriensis Editor

Doug Ladd  
Missouri Botanical Garden  
4344 Shaw Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63110

## Petal Pusher Editor

Michelle Bowe  
901 S. National  
Springfield MO 65897  
[mbowe@MissouriState.edu](mailto:mbowe@MissouriState.edu)

## Distribution Manager

Rex Hill  
4 Grantwood Lane  
St. Louis, MO 63123

## Archives

Rex Hill  
4 Grantwood Lane  
St. Louis, MO 63123

## Webmaster

Jerry Barnabee  
34653 White Oak Rd  
Plato, MO 65552  
[www.monativeplants.org](http://www.monativeplants.org)  
[www.monativeplantsociety.org](http://www.monativeplantsociety.org)

## Environment and Education

John Oliver  
4861 Gatesbury Dr  
St. Louis, MO 63128

## Chapter Representatives

Empire Prairie  
vacant

Hawthorn  
Cindy Squire  
[cysquire@me.com](mailto:cysquire@me.com)

Kansas City  
Cécile Lagandré  
6040 Wornall Rd., KCMO 64113

Osage Plains  
Casey Burks  
1080 SE 915P Rd  
Deepwater, MO 64740

Ozarks  
Susan Farrington,  
Interim Rep.

Paradoxa  
Jerry Barnabee  
34653 White Oak Rd  
Plato, MO 65552

## Perennials

Stephen Sutter  
[stephen.sutter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stephen.sutter@sbcglobal.net)

Saint Louis  
Position open  
Interested?  
Contact Rick Gray

Southwest  
Michelle Bowe  
but help needed!  
901 S. National  
Springfield MO 65897

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

"In nature nothing  
exists alone."

--Rachel Carson