Field trips for 2010

The Missouri Native Plant Society chose three areas for 2010 board meeting/field trips as well as another field trip. For the spring field trip and board meeting, on the weekend of May 1-2, the board decided to explore the Farmington, Mo., area. Farmington is about 60 miles south of St. Louis in St. Francois County. It is close to Hawn State Park and the Pickle Creek Natural Area and also St. Joe State Park.

For the summer field trip and board meeting, on weekend of June 5-6, plans are being made to visit north-central Missouri near Chillicothe. The MONPS Annual Meeting is scheduled for this weekend, when officers will be elected to the MONPS board. Also in conjunction with this trip, a plant inventory for Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge is being considered.

For the fall field trip and board meeting, the board is looking at the Kansas City area for the weekend of Sept. 11-12. Another spring expedition is in the planning stages as well, to conduct a plant inventory at Carmen Springs Wildlife Refuge Management Area near Willow Springs, Mo., in Howell County on May 22.

Awards Committee

At the 30th Anniversary celebration of the founding of the Missouri Native Plant Society on Sept. 27, the society conducted its annual awards ceremony. Some of the awardees were unable to be present at that gathering to receive their award.

On Oct. 3, Steve Buback, 2009 MONPS Awards Committee Chairman, acting on behalf of the society, attended the Ozark Regional Land Trust's 25th Anniversary celebration. Steve was there to present the MONPS Plant Stewardship Award 2009 to Gregg Galbraith (see citation in the Petal Pusher, Vol., 24, No. 6, pg-3) as a part of the formal ceremonies.

The celebration took place at the stately residence of the most gracious of hosts Jarvis and Abby Lambert in the Central West End of St. Louis. About 75 land trust members and supporters of the natural history values of the greater Ozarks sampled the excellent hors d'oeuvres, cakes and drinks, while greeting their many friends and associates.

We wish to extend our many thanks to Steve for relaying this well-deserved recognition of the awards program.

Nominations sought for 2010 MONPS awards — Page 3
The Missouri Native Plant Society makes a point of identifying and recognizing the efforts of people and organizations that have shown commitment to the conservation of the state’s flora and to educating others about Missouri’s native plants and the communities where they are found.

To that end, Hawthorn Chapter representative Nadia Navarrete-Tindall has agreed to chair the 2010 Awards Committee.

The committee seeks nominations of people who have supported the preservation of Missouri’s flora. MONPS offers five awards:

- Erna Eisenhardt 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.
- Arthur Christ Research Award, recognizing an individual’s significant contribution in furthering the knowledge of Missouri flora.
- 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.
- The John E. Wylie Award, recognizing individuals who have provided exceptional service to the Society.
- 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 Awards Committee will consider all nominations received by April 1.

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 the Awards Committee chairwoman. Her contact information is on the back page of the Petal Pusher.

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### Calendar of Events

#### Hawthorn Chapter

**Monday, Jan. 11:** Regular membership meeting, 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Election for President and Secretary are on the agenda. Planning discussions for 2010 activities. Please come with ideas.

**Thursday, Jan. 21:** Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts 11:30 am at Uprise Bakery; Hitt Street just south of Broadway.

**Saturday, Jan. 23:** Pot Luck Lunch and Propagation Workshop – 11:30 to 3 p.m. at Laura Hillman 7900 Cave Creek Drive.

**Monday, Feb. 8:** Regular bimonthly meeting, speaker to be announced.

#### Kansas City Chapter

**Thursday, Jan. 15:** Chapter meeting. 7 p.m. Location TBA. This is our annual planning meeting, a time when we schedule the field trips for the coming year. Everyone is welcome to come and join us in this fun endeavor. For further information contact Daniel Rice  (contact info on back)

#### Osage Plains Chapter

The club will not meet in December and January, and will resume meeting in February. The program will be “Bats,” presented by Sharon Warnaca.

#### Ozarks Chapter

**Tuesday, Feb. 16:** Chapter meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the MDC Ozark Regional Office, 551 Joe Jones Blvd, West Plains. “Winter tree identification” presented by Susan Farrington. For more information, contact Susan Farrington (contact info on back).

#### Perennis Chapter

No dates submitted. Check for upcoming events at www.semonps.org

#### St. Louis Chapter

**Wednesday, Jan. 27:** 7:30 p.m. Program to be determined. The program will take place at the Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Dr., Kirkwood (off Geyer between Watson and Big Bend, just N of bridge over I-44.

**Wednesday, Feb. 17:** 7:30 p.m. Please note a change in meeting date due to scheduling conflicts. Erica Wheeler will present on phylogeny and hybridization in the Alliums of North America. Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center.

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**Board candidates sought**

At the December state board meeting, Sherry Leis agreed to chair the Nominating Committee for upcoming state Missouri Native Plant Society elections.

For 2010, we are required to hold an election for all of the officers (president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer), as well as for two three-year board member positions.

The MONPS membership will vote on candidates at the June board meeting.

Leis returns to the Nominating Committee post, having served in the position last year.

“I would be delighted to serve again,” she told the MONPS board.

Please send nominations by e-mail or snail mail to:

Sherry Leis  
533 S. Forest Ct.  
Springfield, MO 65806  
E-mail: prairienut@hotmail.com

For more information on the duties of any office, please contact board President George Yatskievych, the person filling that position or Sherry.
Sabatia angularis

By Ted C. MacRae

During my explorations of the glades in the White River Hills (a subregion of the Ozarks) in southwestern Missouri in July, I noticed large populations of a flower that I couldn’t recall having ever seen before. Vivid, striking pink petals with contrasting yellow anthers and a curiously recurved style, it seemed difficult to believe that I had simply overlooked it during my many previous visits to the area over the past 25 years.

Perhaps it was the time of year — I’ve generally avoided these glades during the month of July since they are normally hot, dry and baked to a crisp then. This year and the last, however, have been different, with timely rains resulting in unusually lush July vegetation.

I also had no clue as to the identity of the plant. The square stems and opposite branching suggested a mint of some kind, but the flowers were definitely not “minty.” I would have to simply take photographs and hope that I captured enough key characters to allow its identification once I returned home.

As it turns out, I was able to easily identify the plant as Sabatia angularis (rose pink, rose gentian) using the late Dan Tenaglia’s excellent Missouri Plants Web site (www.missouriplants.com), and I wasn’t the only person to notice an apparent population explosion of this beautiful species across the Missouri Ozarks (see Justin Thomas’ excellent online essay, “A Sabatia-induced Rant” at http://thevasculum.blogspot.com/2009/07/sabatia-induced-rant.html).

As suggested by the common name, this species is in the family Gentianaceae, but it doesn’t resemble other gentians in general appearance, especially the iconic Gentianopsis crinita (greater fringed gentian) and, closer to home, Gentiana puberulenta (downy gentian), that usually come to mind upon mention of this plant family.

The botanical name Sabatia is for Liberato Sabbati, an 18th century Italian botanist, and angularis, is Latin for angular, referring to the angled stem.

This plant occurs in the eastern U.S. west to Wisconsin in the north and Texas in the south. Denison (1978) and Kurz (1999) both mention a preference by this species for acid soils, usually in rocky open woods, glades, old fields, and upland ridges — habitats that occur primarily across southern Missouri.

The opposite pattern of branching distinguishes this species from the alternately branched, somewhat smaller, and much less commonly encountered S. careerists (prairie rose gentian), which is most commonly encountered in the unglaciated plains of west-central Missouri.

These plants were common throughout the many glades that I visited during my two trips to the White River Hills in July, adding a vibrant splash of color to the glades after most of the other flowering plants found in these habitats have flowered out and contrasting beautifully against the green background of uncommonly lush July grasses.

References

Hawthorn Chapter
Submitted by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall, chapter representative

There were a few activities during this period.

The first of three workshops about native plant propagation was offered early in October by Becky Erickson. Participants visited Bennett Conservation Area and a site in north Boone County to collect seed and to spot late-blooming plants like closed gentian. The second session will cover hands-on demonstration about stratification. It will be a workshop in collaboration with Wild Ones and Master Naturalists in Columbia. During the last session in May, participants will be potting the plants from stratified seeds.

On Oct. 17, the chapter had a booth at the seventh annual Chestnut Roast hosted by the University of Missouri Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center in New Franklin. The event was attended by more than 3,000 people and our booth was very busy. Visitors enjoyed the variety of nature books and purchased plants raised by members and donated by Lincoln University. We sold many books and plants.

On Oct. 24, several members visited Tree Creeks in Columbia to enjoy the fall colors.

On Nov. 8 during the regular meeting our guest speaker was Adrian Andrei, an assistant professor at Lincoln University. He discussed about the ecological and economical importance of native pollinators in Missouri and what one can do to provide habitat in urban gardens or rural areas such as leaving unmowed areas or wood pile in backyards or rural areas.

On Nov. 14, Laura and Paul Ellifrit hosted the chapter’s annual wreath-making workshop, which was followed by a cookout. Several very original wreaths were created by members, and we enjoyed eating outdoors. Some of the materials to make these wreaths included red cedar and white pine; dried flowers, leaves and fruits of goldenrods, asters and compass plants; and grasses, like broomsedge, river oats, little blue stem and more.

In its annual wreath-making workshop on Nov. 14, Hawthorn Chapter members used dried compass plant leaves and other materials to make holiday decorations.

Kansas City Chapter
Submitted by Daniel Rice, chapter representative

The Kansas City Chapter held its final meeting of 2009 on Nov. 19. Dave and Kathy Winn were gracious to allow the chapter to meet at their home. This was a meeting to finish any business for the year and to nominate the slate of officers for the coming year. We are fortunate that the present officers were more than willing to continue in their respective offices for another term. Many thanks to Dave Winn, Kathy Winn, Lance Jesse, Ed O’Donnell and Dan Rice.

We are still in search of a home, i.e. a permanent meeting place. Several options were put forward, and Kathy Winn will be looking into them. Until a place is found, we will be announcing a meeting place either through e-mail or the local newsletter. I, or any of the officers, also can be contacted by telephone about the meeting place. Our next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 15. This is our annual field trip planning meeting, and I know that we will have some great places to visit this year!

That’s it for now. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me!

Osage Plains Chapter
Submitted by Sharon Warnaca, chapter representative

The 12 present at the October meeting were President Emily Horner, Brian & Jo Mohr, David Lindell, Jim & Dorothy Harlan, Elzie Berry, Dale Jennings, Marlene Miller, Larry Lewis, Sharon Warnaca and Ted Bolich.

Everyone brought something to participate in an art contest. The winners were Emily Horner, photo of a pale purple coneflower on a prairie, Jim Harland’s mushroom photos and Elzie Berry’s snowman sweater. The group all chipped in and presented a gift card to Emily Horner for her new baby boy, Samuel.

Our November meeting was rather informal. We discussed a new meeting place, as we no longer can meet at the Missouri
C H A P T E R  R E P O R T S

From the previous page

Department of Conservation, due to losing Emily from our group. We then moved on to programs and field trips for 2010. Eight attending were Emily Horner, Dale and Rick Jennings, Ted Bolich and Sharon Warnaca, Jim and Dorothy Harlan and Elize Berry.

Ozarks Chapter
Submitted by Susan Farrington, chapter representative

At our October meeting, Bill Summers treated us to a presentation about Missouri’s orchids (the same great presentation that he presented at the state chapter’s 30th anniversary meeting). Thank you, Bill! Most of our members were not able to attend the Fulton meeting, so they enjoyed getting to see Bill’s beautiful and interesting presentation.

The local extension office scheduled a presentation about native plants that happened to conflict with our scheduled November meeting, so we all decided to attend their talk instead.

Elizabeth Hamilton of Hamilton Native Outpost Seeds gave a very informative talk about growing native plants in settings as small as a little garden to conversions of large fescue fields. It was a great talk, and we also had the opportunity to tell some new people about our organization, so it was a win-win for all.

The “winter tree ID” presentation that we had scheduled for November has been moved to our February meeting. We will be taking December and January off.

Perennis Chapter
Submitted by Allison Vaughn, chapter representative

Wardell Elementary in Wardell, Mo., (near Portageville) has been chosen as a pilot school for the Perennis Chapter’s native plant outreach project.

The chapter will be developing curriculum items and Citizen Science material for the third grade class at Wardell to teach students the importance of native plant diversity to pollinating insects.

Students will work with the chapter to grow native plants on site and install a large native plant garden at the elementary school. This project will build on resources dedicated to a native plant bed before the severe ice storm derailed the project in early 2009. Perennis president Kent Fothergill and Kelley Tindall have planted hundreds of milkweed seeds in individual pots in a greenhouse in Dorena, Mo., which they are growing to distribute to schools in the local area.

Plans are under way to add a photo uploading feature to the Perennis Web site that will allow members to upload native plant photos for Web site visitors to view. Also new to the Perennis Web site will be a weblog feature that members will be able to post to for native plant discussions and field trip planning.

St. Louis Chapter
Submitted by Pat Harris, chapter representative

Six people attended Nels Holmberg’s Amazing Plant Tricks workshop, at the new Wildwood campus of the St. Louis Community College. The field trip on Oct. 3 was to Long Ridge Conservation Area, in Franklin County. Six, including the leader, attended. Nels pointed out some unusual characteristics and folklore associated with the plants growing along the route. Some of the plants seen were: Botrychium dissectum (cut-leaf grape fern), Solidago petiolaris (downy goldenrod), Oenothera filiformis (large-flowered gaura), Brasenia schreberi (water shield) and Lemna minor (lesser duckweed).

Jack Harris and Steve Buback manned a booth at the Systematics Symposium on Oct. 10. They sold eight T-shirts and two caps. They had a few visitors who expressed interest in the society and were curious about the display and the people photos of the first meeting.

On Oct. 28, representatives of environmental, state and civic organizations joined Friends of LaBarque Creek Watershed, who convened at the LaBarque Creek Conservation Area for a signing ceremony.

They were there to sign as supporters of a plan for the preservation and nature-friendly development of the area. Rex Hill signed the agreement for MONPS. The gathering concluded with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new bridge across the creek. This will provide easy access to a trail on the conservation area. No more wet feet! A very short walk beyond the bridge, Martha Hill found a winter leaf of Aplectrum hyennale (Adam and Eve orchid).

October’s chapter meeting was Show and Tell. Steve Turner started us off with some photos of Mentzelia nuda (sand lily). He found it blooming in the lead mine tailings at Missouri Mines State Historic Site in St. Francois County. Several members made trips to see it for themselves. When Jack and I went, we saw hundreds of them mostly in various stages of bloom. Some discussion arose on if it was new to the state and/or if it was introduced. According to Missouriensis (Vol. 15 No. 2, 1994), it was first discovered in Missouri by Doug Ladd on Sept. 17, 1994, in the adjoining St. Joe State Park. It has been introduced in Missouri but is native to the U.S.

Others who shared their photos were Nancy Clark, who showed a variety of her images; Nancy Morrison, showing pictures of her and Larry’s trip to Glacier Bay; Ted MacRae, who wowed us with close ups of Spiranthes magnicaprum (Great Plains ladies’ tresses); Mary Smidt, showing pictures of her trip to Rocky Mountain National Park; and Jack Harris challenged the group to identify plants by their winter remnants;

John Oliver, compared some similar plants from different locations; Phlox maculata ssp. pyramidalis (meadow phlox) with Phlox carolina ssp. carolina (Carolina phlox) and Camassia scilloides (wild hyacinth) with Camassia angusta (wild hyacinth). He also showed a few images of the Johnson Shut-Ins State Park scour area and ended with some delightfully captioned images of the MONPS 30th anniversary banquet.

Our Oct. 31 field trip, led by Nels Holmberg, was to Don Robinson’s property in the Jefferson County Big River Watershed. After 1½ miles into the remote back side of the property, seven hardy hikers were rewarded with sandstone cliffs with a rock face 10-15 feet high. There were also hoodoos 2-4 feet high with flowing water. They were able to add seven species to the list, for a total of 476 species.
Author offers guide to natural wonders

By Chuck Robinson
Petal Pusher editor

In “Missouri’s Natural Wonders Guidebook,” Don Kurz has created a useful guide for any of us planning hikes for ourselves or for groups.

The book highlights 100 areas that represent the best of Missouri’s natural world. Kurz checked out more than 1,600 public lands to create this list.

Among the wonders listed in the book are prairies, waterfalls, shut-ins, caves, wildlife areas, geologic features, springs, trails, swamps and nature centers.

The areas featured are listed in the table of contents at the front of the book and also on the back cover. Just inside the back cover is a map of Missouri that shows the general location of the featured areas.

For the tech savvy or gadget blessed among us, the guide provides GPS coordinates. He also includes rudimentary maps.

Kurz has also included some beautiful photographs in the book, many so wonderful to look at that they belong on a wall mounted and framed.

Kurz’s name is a common one on many MONPS members’ bookshelves. He was awarded the Erna R. Eisendrath Education Award in 1998 by MONPS. Kurz has been a professional botanist, writer and nature photographer for more than 30 years. Kurz is a former employee of the Missouri Department of Conservation, where he was natural history chief.

His other titles include “Trees of Missouri Field Guide” “Trees of Missouri,” “Illinois Wildflowers,” “Ozark Wildflowers,” “Shrubs and Woody Vines of Missouri,” “Shrubs and Woody Vines of Missouri Field Guide” and “Scenic Driving the Ozarks Including the Ouachita Mountains.”

Other useful guides in planning hikes:

- Kurz’s “Scenic Driving the Ozarks,” a Falcon Guide from The Globe Pequot Press.
- “Public Prairies of Missouri,” published by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Has maps and descriptions for 79 prairie areas. Published in 2003.
- Paul Nelson’s “The Terrestrial Natural Communities of Missouri.” Published by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Detailed information on 89 types of natural communities. Revised in 2005.

KCWildlands deploys hundreds of volunteers

By Daniel Rice
Kansas City chapter representative

The KCWildlands Partnership Council met Dec. 1 to discuss our past workdays and to set future public workdays. I thought that I might pass along a few of the highlights.

In July, we had 300 volunteers from SkillsUSA work on trail building at several of our sites. When they had finished, they donated $10,000 worth of trail-building equipment to KCWildlands.

Nov. 7 was our annual Honeysuckle Death Day. We had 260 volunteers on four sites, plus a lengthy waiting list. We did a lot of honesuckle damage at the site where I was the leader, and the other leaders reported the same.

Nov. 14 saw a group of 90 students from Rockhurst University cut honeysuckle at Rocky Point Glades. We are expanding our efforts at this site, hoping to open up the entire area in the future. We also hope to begin using fire as a control/eradication tool for honeysuckle at this site.

Dec. 5 is our annual Christmas (red cedar, Juniperus virginiana) tree cut. We have had up to 400 people attend each event in the past, taking nearly 300 cedars home for use as Christmas trees each year. We are hoping for an even bigger turnout this year.

That’s it from KCWildlands for now. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. If I don’t know the answer, I can direct you to the person who does!
Quarterly board meeting

By Ann Schuette
Secretary

The Missouri Native Plant Society board of officers convened a meeting Sept. 25 in Fulton, Mo.

Vice President Paul McKenzie called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Treasurer's Report — Bob Sierer relayed the information that CD's were coming due at the end of the year and that he would need direction as to what the board wanted him to do.

Publications and Media

Distribution Chairman — Bill Knight stated everything was going fine. Rex Hill said he had helped with the last issue's distribution and that it was a lot of work. He thanked Bill for all his work.

Publicity Chairman — There was an article in the Fulton Sun and the Columbia paper about the 30th anniversary event this weekend. Rex Hill said he received several calls from nonmembers about the event.

MONPS Web site — Dan Rice passed along that David Winn felt he still had things to work on.

Committees and task forces

Membership — Ann Earley reported that since May we have 14 new members making a total of 346. Included was one new life member, for a total of 49 life members. Chapter rosters were sent to the representatives.

Hudson Award — After discussion Rex Hill made a motion to skip awarding the Hudson Award in 2010 in order to build up the principal so that a larger amount might be provided and revisit the action in the fall of 2011. The motion was seconded and passed. There is no obligation to make an award each year.

Society business

Rex Hill said there were several people trying to get a chapter started in Springfield and that he had recommended they come to the December meeting.

30th Anniversary Costs — The meeting room was provided by Westminster College free of charge as long as we cleaned up. The big cost was the banquet at Sir Winston's. Award recipients, speakers and a few others were not charged. Approximately $1,650 was collected from members to cover the $2,000 meal.

MOBCI Grant Partners — Mike Leahy is involved in writing grants for the research of SW MO prairies. A discussion was held to see if MONPS might be interested in volunteering to monitor vegetation in the St Francois mountains and SW prairies twice a year for the next two years. Susan Farrington moved and John Oliver seconded a motion for George Yatskievych as president to write a letter saying we will do this. Rex Hill will contact Leahy to ask him to write an article for the Petal Pusher explaining the project.

Address Change — Our post office box number has changed. Rex Hill has prepared labels for brochures and other publications and the Petal Pusher and website have been updated. John Oliver has Googled the old address to find any Web sites that need to be updated. The new P.O. Box number is 440353, and the ZIP plus four code is now 63144-0353.

Miscellaneous announcements

■ Rex Hill plans to teach a class through Meramec Community College on Missouri's forests in the spring at the Wildwood campus.
■ Paul McKenzie may do another grass identification class, possibly in the fall of 2010.
■ McKenzie related that his office is involved in a spotted knapweed program using biological controls. A discussion ensued about whether the program would negatively affect native plants.
■ Rex Hill planned to attend the MDC Wetland Plan Revision meeting Sept. 29 as the MONPS representative. Paul McKenzie also planned to be there.
■ Appreciation was given to Larry Morrison — the force behind the 30th anniversary celebration — and all those who helped with the organization of the festivities. More than 80 people registered for the banquet.

New members

■ Jodi Beder, Mount Rainer, Md.
■ Meg Liston, Sedalia, Mo.
■ Joe Driscoll, West Plains, Mo.

INFORMATION ON JOINING THE MISSOURI NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Make checks payable to Missouri Native Plant Society
Mail to: Missouri Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 440353
St. Louis, MO 63144-0353

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(Circle all above that apply)

$______ Contribution for student research award (Hudson Fund)

* All contributions are tax deductible *

Petal Pusher

January-February 2010