

# Meramec Hills

## Upcoming Chapter Events

October 5: VOQ Workday at the Truman Elementary Outdoor Classroom

October 20: Executive Board Meeting at Alex's Pizza

October 28: Monthly Chapter Meeting at Land Survey Building

## Native Knowledge...

By Pat Perry

### Slender Bush Clover

*(Lespedeza virginica)*

This bushy perennial is usually unbranched and often curves over under the weight of the foliage and flowers. It can attain a height of three feet.

It blooms from May until September in Missouri. The flowers are on very short stalks coming out at the leaf axils. They occur on the mid and upper part of the stem. The flowers are small, pink and pea shaped.

The leaves are alternate, stalked and divided into three leaflets. Each leaflet is 1 1/2 inches long and 1/4 inch wide. You can distinguish slender bush clover from the invasive serecia lespedeza by looking at the leaf venation. These leaves have a netted appearance



when held up to the light as opposed to an arrow fletching or fish wishbone pattern found in the serecia lespedeza leaves.

Slender bush clover is found throughout Missouri except in the far northwestern counties. It grows in dry, open woods, prairies, fields, stream sides and roadsides.

The seeds are eaten by a

variety of birds including bobwhite quail and wild turkey. Deer, rabbits, wood chucks and livestock graze on the foliage. It is a legume so it enriches the soil with nitrogen.

## Sew Native Continues into 2020

By Pat Perry

The Meramec Hills Chapter has been having a successful year with the All Creatures Great and Small series of Sew Native. We have been blessed with great speakers, and wish to thank Bob and Pat Perry, Emily Brown, Helen Johnston, Pam Barnabee, and John Johnston for generously giving of their time and talents again in 2019.

We lost our connection with the Pulaski county Extension office early this year as a result of budget cuts. Our new location at the Pulaski County Library in Waynesville has allowed us more space and the ability to accept a larger number of class participants, as well as a limited number of our own members to



attend. Classes remain free of charge, thanks to our chapter volunteers and the fact that the library waives the rental fee for our organization. Schedules remain the 2nd Tuesday of each month, and class time is scheduled from 10:45 to 12:15.

In 2020, Missouri will celebrate our bicentennial. We have chosen The Great Rivers as our theme for next year, as we think it embarrassed our Great Rivers State. Likewise, our quilt blocks patterns, will reflect back... *continued on page 5*

## We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.meramechills.org/>  
and

<https://www.facebook.com/MMNMeramecHillsChapter>

## October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## Upcoming Activities

### October 5 (Saturday)

VOQ Workday - Truman Clean Up, 8:00am - Noon, Truman Outdoor Classroom. Join parents & teachers as we remove invasives and work to tidy up the outdoor classroom for the new school year. See the article on page 4 for more info.

### October 8 (Tuesday)

Bray Workday, 1:00pm - 5:00pm, Bray CA. Come out and join the Bray Bunch! Dress for the weather and bring work gloves, hat, drink and a snack. For more info, contact [pamela.barnabee@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.barnabee@gmail.com).

### October 9 (Wednesday)

MDC Wild Webcast, 12:00pm - 1:00pm. Get information on seeing free-ranging wild elk in Missouri and on Missouri's first upcoming elk-hunting season, possibly starting as soon as next year. Register at [short.mdc.mo.gov/ZMb](http://short.mdc.mo.gov/ZMb).

### October 9 (Wednesday)

Forestry Webinar: Oak Decline, 12:00pm - 1:00pm. This webinar will provide a general overview of symptoms, range, impact and possible management strategies for oak decline in the US. [To participate, log in 15 minutes prior to the start time here.](#)

### October 17 (Thursday)

Kids Fishing Day, 5:30pm – Dark, Bray CA. Volunteer to help families enjoy an evening of fishing at Bray! Poles and worms will be provided for families to use if they can bring their own. A small pool with plastic fish will be available for the youngest! For more info or to volunteer, contact Mitch Cottrell at [cottrell.m.scott@gmail.com](mailto:cottrell.m.scott@gmail.com).

### October 20 (Sunday)

Executive Board Meeting, 5:30pm - 8:00pm, Alex's Pizza Palace (122 W 8th St, Rolla). All Chapter members are welcome to attend. Arrive at 5:30 to order food or drinks with the meeting to begin at 6:00pm.

### October 22 (Tuesday)

Webinar - [Jewels of the Night: Conservation of Fireflies in the U.S. and Canada](#), 1:00-2:00pm. Learn about fireflies ecology and life history needs, population status and threats, value for farm management and recommendations for their conservation.

### October 26 (Saturday)

Tri-County Field Day, 9:00am – 5:00pm, Shaw Nature Reserve. Join Master Naturalists from other Chapters for a day of learn and fun at the Shaw Nature Reserve in Gray Summit. Visit <http://www.miramiguoa.org/field-day> to learn more.

### October 28 (Monday)

Regular monthly meeting of the Chapter, 6:00pm, Land Survey Building (1251A Gale Dr., Rolla). Topic: TBD. Social hour & help session for questions regarding activities and entering hours from 5:00-6:00pm.

### November 2 (Saturday)

St. James Glade Workday, 9:00am – 1:00pm, St. James Park. Clear invasives and cedars with a potluck lunch with meat provided. Come on out and join us! For more information, contact Don Walker at [donwalks1u.7@gmail.com](mailto:donwalks1u.7@gmail.com).

### November 8 (Friday)

MO Botanical Symposium, 8:00am – 3:00pm, MS&T. Register & learn more at [www.missouribotanicalsymposium.org](http://www.missouribotanicalsymposium.org).

### November 12 (Tuesday)

Bray Workday, 1:00pm - 5:00pm, Bray CA. Come out and join the Bray Bunch! Dress for the weather and bring work gloves, hat, drink and a snack. For more info, contact [pamela.barnabee@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.barnabee@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Activities, continued

### November 25 (Monday)

Regular monthly meeting of the Chapter, 6:00pm, Land Survey Building (1251A Gale Dr., Rolla). Topic: Show & Tell (bring your favorite book, tools, etc to show & tell). Social hour & help session for questions regarding activities and entering hours from 5:00-6:00pm.

### December 10 (Tuesday)

Bray Workday, 1:00pm - 5:00pm, Bray CA. Come out and join the Bray Bunch! Dress for the weather and bring work gloves, hat, drink and a snack. For more info, contact [pamela.barnabee@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.barnabee@gmail.com).



# 2019 MISSOURI BOTANICAL SYMPOSIUM

**JOIN US IN ROLLA, MO FOR A DAY OF BOTANICAL  
PRESENTATIONS BY REGIONAL EXPERTS!  
LUNCH INCLUDED.**

**NOVEMBER 8, 2019**

**REGISTER AT  
[WWW.MISSOURIBOTANICALSYMPOSIUM.ORG](http://WWW.MISSOURIBOTANICALSYMPOSIUM.ORG)**



## Fall Family Fun Day Report

By Pam Barnabee

Our chapter held another thoroughly enjoyable Fall Family Fun Day on Saturday, September 21, at beautiful Round Spring in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Members started gathering at the pavilion there in mid-morning, and soon the fish cookers and barbecue grill were heating up. Head cook Dale Carpentier, assisted by Jerry Barnabee, Scott Mueller, and Don Walker, served up mouth-watering catfish and all-beef hot dogs. These were supplemented by a wide assortment of salads and sweets prepared by the 18 members attending. Neal Humke of the L-A-D Foundation was our guest, and park ranger Dave Tobey stopped by to welcome us and take our photo to post on the ONSR Facebook page.

After lunch, we carpooled a few miles down Highway 19 to the 500-acre Virgin Pine/Randolph Tract Pine-Oak Ecological Management Area. Neal told us some of the very interesting history of Mr. Leo A. Drey (pronounced "Dry") and Pioneer Forest. Beginning in the 1950s, Mr. Drey acquired over 150,000 acres of forest in the Missouri Ozarks. At the time, clear cutting of timber was the norm in this country, but Mr. Drey looked for a way to sustainably harvest trees while leaving the forest intact for wildlife habitat and for people to enjoy. In Germany, he studied the single tree selection method of uneven-aged forest management, and that became the method used on his lands, the Pioneer Forest, ever since. Mr. Drey was especially interested in shortleaf pine, and when he negotiated land purchases, he paid landowners to leave the old-growth pine to provide a seedbank. Mr. Drey formed the L-A-D Foundation and donated all his land to it. Today, 140,000 acres are managed by Pioneer Forest. Other Foundation lands include Clifty Creek Natural Area, Dillard Mill State Historic Site, Grand Gulf State Park, and many more.

The Randolph Tract is managed as shortleaf pine woodland, using



prescribed fire and single tree selection timber harvest. A grant from the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative helps to fund restoration in this area where the pine-dependent red cockaded woodpecker was last seen in Missouri in 1946. Neal also spoke about the extirpated brown-headed nuthatch and the possibility of reintroducing it when the habitat is sufficiently restored.

Next, we walked a short way to the Virgin Pine Stand. As Missouri's pine forests were falling to the ax in the early 1900s, the Missouri Highway Department bought a narrow strip of land along either side of the newly-constructed Highway 19 to save its scenic character; the acreage is now owned by L-A-D. Some of the trees here are 200-300 years old. Neal told us you can tell the age of the pines more by their shape than their diameter. Younger trees have a conical shape at the top while the old ones have broad, flat tops and gnarly branches.

We ended the day by walking along the edge of the county road, paper bags in hand, collecting seeds from native plants such as pasture rose and white prairie clover. Neal will use these to seed other areas of the woodland.

Thank you to committee chair Carolyn Schlauch and committee members Jerry Barnabee, Pam Barnabee, Dale Carpentier, and Tom Schlauch for arranging this great event!





## Bray Update

By Pam Barnabee

At our September workday, our small but hardworking group cleared out weeds and brush from the Nature Discovery Area. The eagle's nest, sandbox, construction zone, observation table, action zone and tree house are now ready for play. Please consider joining our group; our next workday will be Tuesday afternoon, October 8.



## Sew Native, continued...

...upon many of the traditional blocks used throughout our states history while still remaining true to the nature interpretation.

The theme of Great Rivers opens up a vast array of monthly topics from which to choose, and could include birds, aquatic life, trees, plants, fish,

water ecology, or even history of the river. Helen Johnston has already put her name on the schedule for February with Lewis and Clark on the Missouri River. If you would like to teach a class, visit our class, or learn more about it, contact Alice Sampe at 573-528-2209 or [sewngrow@gmail.com](mailto:sewngrow@gmail.com).



## Dark Sky Event at Bray CA

By Helen Johnston



On Friday, September 27, our family event brought twenty people out to Bray to look up at the night sky. Susan Wrasmann introduced the activity, directing us not only to where we should look, but then helping us understand what we were seeing. It was a beautiful and clear evening, and we saw more than I think we expected.

Each participant was given a planisphere to help "find their way" through the night sky. Not only were we able to see and identify several individual stars and some constellations, but we also could see a little better than faint view of the Milky Way. We detected some satellites moving across the sky, as well as the International Space Station.

Based on the guidelines we had, the group determined that we were able to see a limit "magnitude 6" of our night sky (based on a "magnitude 7" scale)...on that night...looking up at the night sky...thinking about our vast universe.



## Ramorum Blight (Sudden Oak Death) Detected in Missouri

*Missouri Department of Agriculture*

The Missouri Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, has detected the presence of ramorum blight, (also known as Sudden Oak Death when affecting oak trees), on rhododendrons shipped to some retail nurseries in Missouri. Ramorum blight is caused by a fungus-like pathogen known as *Phytophthora ramorum*. Shipment of these rhododendrons has been traced back to a common out of state nursery, and were shipped to 18 states. The plant disease has caused mortality in some types of oak trees in California and Oregon since the 1990s and has a host list of over 100 species of trees and shrubs.

### Where were the plants shipped to?

The rhododendrons were shipped to Wal-Mart and Rural King stores throughout Missouri, as well as the Springfield Home Depot, Stark Bros. Nursery Garden Center and the Fort Leonard Wood PX. These plants were shipped from Park Hill Plants in Oklahoma and may have originated from nurseries in Washington State and Canada.

### What is the Missouri Department of Agriculture and USDA doing?

Working together with USDA APHIS PPQ, the Missouri Department of Agriculture has visited these retail locations, collected samples, and placed plants on hold until lab results are confirmed. Any plants confirmed with ramorum blight, and any host species comingled with the confirmed positive plants will be destroyed. USDA has worked with Wal-Mart to organize a voluntary recall of the impacted plants, while the other locations have already isolated or destroyed the affected plants.

### How do I know if I have an infected plant?

If you purchased rhododendrons or lilacs from these stores between March and June of 2019, labeled from Park Hill Plants, these plants may be infected with ramorum blight. Specific rhododendron varieties that

have tested positive so far in destination states include: Cat Cunningham Blush, Firestorm, Holden, Nova Zembla, Percy Wiseman, Roseum Elegans, and Wojnars Purple. Investigations are ongoing, so other varieties may be at risk.

### What should I do if I have an infected plant?

Varieties that have been determined to be infected should be disposed of immediately to prevent further spread of the disease. Plants may be destroyed by burning on site, deep burial or by double bagging the plant and its root ball in heavy duty trash bags and disposing into a sanitary landfill (where allowed).

Consumers SHOULD NOT mulch or compost the plants, or dispose of these plants in municipal yard waste curbside pick-up or drop off sites. This would cause further spread of the disease. Garden tools used to dig up any affected plants should also be sanitized before they are used again. For more information on how to sanitize your garden tools.

### What if I don't know the source or variety of my rhododendrons?

Consumers who purchased rhododendrons or lilac plants labeled Park Hill Plants from these stores between March and June of

this year should look for wilting or browning leaves, leaf spots and twig dieback. If consumers notice these symptoms, they should contact the Department's Plant Pest Control team at (573) 751-5505. The University of Missouri Plant Diagnostic Clinic can also be reached at (573) 882-3019 or by email at [plantclinic@missouri.edu](mailto:plantclinic@missouri.edu).

### What are the symptoms of Ramorum Blight?

Symptoms include wilting or browning of leaves, leaf spots and twig dieback. See images [here](#).

### Is Ramorum Blight harmful to humans or animals?

No. Ramorum Blight has not been shown to cause any harmful effects to humans or animals.

Hosts of this pathogen include: Camellia, Rhododendron, Pieris, Viburnum, Kalmia (Mountain laurel), Syringa (Lilac), Pyracantha, Honeysuckle, Yew, and Douglas-fir.



inner bark

outer bark

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**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

<http://www.meramechills.org/>  
and

<https://www.facebook.com/MMNMeramecHillsChapter>



**Volunteer Outlets Profile:  
Chapter Executive Board: The President**

The role of the president for the Meramec Hills Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalist has a defined list of duties that generally require 3-5 hours of time per month. Much of this is coordination of meeting locations, specific events and acting as liaison between the Chapter and other organizations such as University of MO Extension and MDC.

The full duties include:

1. Appoint At-Large Members to the Executive Board. The Board is made up of all Officers, Past President, Committee Chairs, Newsletter Editor, Web Master and 3 to 4 At Large Members.
2. Develop Chapter and Executive Committee Meeting agendas. Preside at the meetings

3. Insure that meeting sites are confirmed and available.
4. Review minutes from meetings. Send out meeting reminders with the minutes attached in pdf format.
5. Order awards semi-monthly, based on automated email notifications. This includes initial certifications, re-certifications and milestone pins. Give out awards at the meeting or see that they are mailed out timely.
6. Respond to all inquiries received on the website.
7. Coordinate Chapter activities with the State Coordinators and Chapter advisors.
8. Provide support & guidance for all Chapter

9. Appoint Committee Chairs when current chairs resign/retire.
10. Get approval for expenditures of Chapter finances per the Chapter policy.
11. Prepare the Annual report – get input from the Executive Board and Chapter advisors- see that the report is filed timely.
12. Appoint Nominating Committee for Chapter elections with input from the Chapter Executive Board.
13. Provide information for the newsletter.
14. Serve as the contact/signatory on the charter for BSA Venture Crew 84.

***About the Master Naturalists...***

The Missouri Master Naturalist™ program is a community-based natural resource education and volunteer service program for adults sponsored by Missouri Department of

Conservation and the University of Missouri Extension. Our mission is to engage Missourians in the stewardship of our state's natural resources through science-based

education and volunteer community service. Our chapter is comprised of residents primarily from Phelps, Pulaski and Dent County. Meetings are held once a month in Rolla.

**A High Five to our Members!**

Initial Certification: Mitch Cottrell, Norma-Gene Cottrell  
2019 Re-Certification: Judy Cavender, Lorely Lather, Janet Miller  
Pewter (500): Judy Cavender