MISSISSIPPI NATIVE PLANTS

Newsletter of the Mississippi Native Plant Society

VOLUME 37, NUMBER 2: SUMMER 2022

Mission: The MNPS was formed in 1980 to provide a forum for learning about our state's ecosystems and the plants that exist within them. Our goal is to provide educational opportunities and to encourage the conservation and utilization of native plants.

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SOWING SEEDS OF LOVE

Nadine Phillips, MNPS Vice President

Do you recall the first native plant that captured your attention? For me, as a child roaming the woods in southern Mississippi, it was the sweet little woodland violet. And still today, I LOVE them! Violets adorned the forest floor where I spent much of my time as a child, and I found myself especially enamored by their deep green heart-shaped leaves. There were almost always clusters of dark green hearts popping out to see, dotting the landscape. Of course, their tiny flowers are fascinating too, being so small and yet, upon closer inspection, so notable in appearance. Eye-catching blue-purple petals are so striking against the deep green leaves, and I recall the urge to inspect every single one I saw up close. Many times, I was able to catch the faintest whiff of sweetness granted those who come close enough. Wondrous moments spent on my belly in the leaves like these have lodged themselves firmly in my heart and bring me such joy when I recall them. The beauty and wonder I experienced surveying the forest floor as a child still bolster my connection to the earth and the wonderful web of life.

Friends, we have much to celebrate. At last, the importance of native plants is becoming widely recognized! Native Plant Month is a great jumping off point for continued action to promote native plants and keep the momentum going. I believe it is essential for us, as members of the Mississippi Native Plant Society, to find ways to actively share what we know about native plants with those around us. Our earth loving society represents more than 40 years' worth of loving efforts toward conserving and promoting the native plants of Mississippi. By reaching out to others, we are planting seeds for a better world for the future, supporting the web of life and a healthier planet. We more than many others understand the urgency to increase our endeavors of care. Recently I discovered another word for stewardship: cherishing. Stewardship is a fine word yet cherishing truly touches the heart of the matter. I prefer this word as it better describes my own — **(continued p. 2)**

Woodland violet John Gwaltney

(cont. from p. 1) … SOWING SEEDS OF LOVE

relationship with the natural world. Cherish is defined as "to hold or treat as dear; to care for tenderly; to nurture". Clearly, so many of us feel this depth of abiding affection for the earth and are working in our unique ways to help and share currently. And yet, so many new and valuable practices are still waiting to emerge. Whether you are a lifelong lover of wildflowers like me, or fresh to the journey of wonder, I ask you to consider the value of digging ever deeper into your own affection for nature for the sake of actively cherishing the earth.

Why not use your own connection to native plants to help others see nature through new eyes? A shared sense of wonder can provide powerful means to communicate the message of native plants and biodiversity. We native plant lovers already understand, appreciate, and connect with the benefits and beauty of native plants. Who better than us to share the good news with our fellow humans? To this end, I ask you to actively take time to deepen your own unique connection to nature and share a revitalized message of cherishing with others. Growing scientific research has proven that qualitative time in nature can enhance your health and well-being. Spending time in nature just being present, moving at a slow pace or sitting still while immersing your senses allows your nervous system the chance to calm and reset. The more often you can do this, the better the results.

So, here is what to do: wander outside to your favorite place, leave your phone behind or silence it, and let yourself be drawn to an accessible place to sit. Let yourself sink into stillness, and just be there. You can meditate, or not, let your senses guide you…just see what arises in the moment. You might find yourself flat on your belly, maybe inspecting the leaves, or even on your back, perhaps gazing at an interwoven tree canopy above. Let nature speak to you and rejuvenate your spirit. I encourage you to let your heart fill with gladness and gratitude at giving yourself the gift of such a moment. In stillness we find connection and in connecting, we grow in love. Next, I propose, let's gather in solidarity with our loving, enlivened spirits to make things happen. In this native plant society, we are interconnected, everyone has value to offer, and every action to promote native plants counts. Environmental maven Joanna Macy says we live in a time that will bring forth the "biggest courage and creativity of humanity and where you put your energy matters!" All over Mississippi, our local habitats are calling to us for active cherishing and, together, we can surely find ways to answer these calls. I urge you to reach out with ideas and current projects if you want to connect with others. As a network, we can link like-minded folks together and increase support for a variety of projects that will restore habitats and promote biodiversity. It takes all of us doing something to actively cherish and better protect the native flora of our state. Our beautiful, local web of life needs us.


Purple passionflower – John Gwaltney


Rose mock-verbena – John Gwaltney


Southern grape fern fronds – Joey Shaw


Southern grape fern fertile frond – Joan Knapp


Flat-top goldenrod – David McCorquodale

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SUMMER TRIP REPORT: HARRELL HILL PRAIRIE, SCOTT COUNTY, MS

Gail Barton, State Field Trip Chair

Heather Sullivan, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks (MDWFP) Botanist, led a field trip Saturday, June 18, 2022, to Harrell Hill Prairie. Our small group of 7 stalwart individuals met in Forest, Mississippi, early in the morning and proceeded to the prairie in the nearby Bienville National Forest.

Harrell Hill contains the largest and least disturbed example of the Jackson Prairie in Mississippi. The Jackson Prairie is a disjunct of the Blackbelt or Black Prairie physiographic area which occurs in Mississippi and Alabama.

The alkaline soils with pH above 7.5 ensure a unique plant ecology unlike the nearby loblolly pine-dominated woodlands. Since prairies are fire-driven ecosystems, Bienville National Forest personnel conduct annual (usually) prescribed burns which deter the intrusion of woody species.

Our partial plant list for the day included the following (those species in bloom are marked with *): purple coneflower* (*Echinacea purpurea*), butterfly milkweed* (*Asclepias tuberosa*), green antelope horn* (*Asclepias viridis*), bee balm* (*Monarda fistulosa*), New Jersey tea* (*Ceanothus americanus*), Prairie coneflower* (*Ratibida pinnata*), black-eyed Susan* (*Rudbeckia hirta*), narrowleaf mountain mint* (*Pycnanthemum tennuifolium*), rattlesnake master* (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), white prairie clover* (*Dalea candida*), purple prairie clover* (*Dalea purpurea*), yellow puff* (*Neptunea lutea*), butterfly pea* (*Centrosema virginianum*), flowering spurge* (*Euphorbia corallata*), wild petunia* (*Ruellia caroliniana*), hairy ruellia* (*Ruellia humilis*), man of Earth* (*Ipomoea pandurata*), and dodder (*Cuscuta* spp.)

The sun was intense and we moved on to a nearby shady trail adjacent to red cockaded woodpecker habitat. A few interesting plants at this site included: narrowleaf obedient plant* (*Physostegia angustifolia*), coral bean* (*Erythrina herbacea*), meadow beauty* (*Rhexia mariana*), common boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*), pencilflower* (*Stylosanthes biflora*), and rattlebox (*Crotalaria sagittalis*).

The annual trip to Harrell Prairie on Father's Day weekend has almost become a MNPS tradition. It is extremely hot at this time of year, but it is a prime time to catch a lot of wildflowers in bloom as evidenced by the large number of * in the plant list above.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE FALL MNPS MEETING

The Mississippi Native Plant Society will hold a Fall Meeting on November 19 at Clarkco State Park located in Quitman about 20 miles south of Meridian, MS.

Highlights will include:

- **Native plant propagation with horticulturist Gail Barton**
- **Butterfly host plants with naturalist Joe McGee**
- **Update on the Louisiana Certified Habitat Program with Dr. Phyllis Griffard & Tammany Baumgarten**
- **Native plant swaps**
- **Botany ramble on the park nature trail**

Stay tuned to our Facebook Group page and the MNPS website for additional information!!

To learn more about the park, visit the website at: https://www.mdwfp.com/parks-destinations/state-parks/clarkco or contact the park at: Clarkco State Park, 386 Clarkco Road, Quitman, MS 39355, (601) 776-6651 clarkcostatepark@wfp.ms.gov

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CONTAINER GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Nate Venarske, MNPS Webmaster, Student, Mississippi State University

My first container grown native plant was *Passiflora incarnata* (purple passionflower). I grew it in a pot because I read that it would spread. I followed all the conventional wisdom of container gardening—I got a large pot with a single hole in the bottom and stuffed it with rocks for extra drainage. You laughed at that sentence if you've ever grown passionflower. The passionflower immediately found the hole, shimmied under the concrete sidewalk, and made itself at home in a rose bed twenty feet away from the original pot.

Figure 1. Gulf Fritillary caterpillar on a potted purple passionflower

Nate Venarske

If all you have is a few square feet of patio space, can you support pollinators? Can native plants be "thrillers, fillers, and spillers" in formal container designs? Yes. You just have to choose the right plants.

A good container plant is tolerant of scalding soil and subzero temperatures, dry spells and seasons of well-intentioned overwatering. Liriope, English ivy, Nandina, and creeping Jenny are popular container plants because they meet these requirements. These exotic plants are invasive in MS due in part to the characteristics that make them great container plants.

Fear not, there are native plants that are also up to the task of thriving in pots. And unlike exotic container plants that are remarkably sterile, native container garden plants include some of our most important host and nectar plants. *Heterotheca subaxillaris* (yellow camphorweed, Figure 2) is a host to eight of our obligate bee species in MS, as well as a number of stem-boring and leaf-eating moths and other insects. *Passiflora incarnata* (Figure 1) is a host to the iconic *Dione vanilla* (Gulf Fritillary). They eat my passionflower to the roots in good years. If all you have is a balcony, you can still watch Gulf Fritillaries pupate on your windowsill.

Figure 2. Yellow camphorweed with a bee visitor

Nate Venarske

So far, I've grown more than 30 native plants in containers, and that's not counting the 100+ species I've grown in black plastic pots. I've had a lot of success, with a few key failures.

I've only grown one native plant indoors for a prolonged period with any success, *Sceptridium biternatum* (Southern grape fern). "Phineas the Fern" flowered twice over three years before finally succumbing to the harsh indoors. Native plants much prefer to be outside and in the ground.

I like to nest short pots among other plants in my garden (as in Figure 3). The leaves and stems of nearby plants provide shade from the sun and insulation from freezing temperatures. Some plants, like *Heterotheca subaxillaris* (Figure 2), will flower profusely in a dark colored pot in total afternoon sun. But if you try to grow *Sagittaria latifolia* in the sun as I did, you'll find that it disintegrates into — **(continued p. 5)**

(cont. from p. 4) … CONTAINER GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS


Figure 3. Wood oats

Nate Venarske

black ashes (It's now much happier in a small pot in my shade garden). I've come to view pots as an opportunity to grow something that wouldn't normally grow in my yard, mixing sand, perlite, and potting media for plants that prefer well-draining soil and using buckets of wet organic matter for aquatic plants. You don't notice the stench unless you stick your nose in it.

The next question is how to arrange plants in containers. There are several complementary philosophies. The most popular template is "thriller, filler, and spiller" (Figure 4). A tall, upright plant, such as *Yucca filamentosa* 'Color Guard' (Adam's needle) fills the space above the container; a trailing plant, such as *Glandularia canadensis* (rose mock-verbena) hangs over the side of the container; and a low growing plant, such as *Heuchera americana* (coral bells), fills any voids in-between. You have the choice to either use plants that bloom at the same time for maximum effect or use plants that bloom at different times to spread out the season of interest. If you use plants with different root systems and growing seasons, they will build on each other. For instance, the shallow, stoloniferous roots of *Euthamia* (flat-top goldenrod) will not compete with the deep, fibrous roots of little bluestem (LBS, *Schizachyrium scoparium*). Because *Euthamia* greens up before LBS kicks into gear, it will help to insulate the soil and retain moisture. When you're using multiple species, larger pots are almost always better.

Another template is to fill a pot with a single plant. This is my go-to design when I'm using a small pot. It's a great option for aggressive species like *Chasmanthium latifolium* (wood oats) and *Juncus effusus* (soft rush) that might outcompete neighbors. The downside is that the container will look sad in the plant's dormant season. You can work around that by placing the pot among other plants in your garden. Use tall pots to bring low-growing plants closer to eye level or to increase the effect of tall species like *Verbesina walteri* (Walter's wingstem).


Figure 4. Autumn-themed design with *Schizachyrium scoparium* as the thriller, *Symphyotrichum pratense* as the filler, and *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* as the spiller

Keep in mind that some plants, such as LBS, are allelopathic, meaning they release chemicals into the soil that attack or inhibit other plants. There are plenty of plants that are naturally resistant to LBS allelopathy, but if you try to grow pansies alongside LBS, they may not last long.

I would be remiss if I did not correct my earlier misinformation. Adding stones or water bottles to a pot does not increase the drainage of the pot. That was counterintuitive to me when I first heard it, so here's an experiment that helped me: set up a wet sponge on the countertop and watch it closely while it dries. Eventually an equilibrium forms between gravity and the sponge, and the water stops draining. After you've spent a few hours watching that, spread a layer of gravel on the countertop, wet the sponge again, and place it on the gravel. If you sit there, you'll realize that the sponge is draining at the exact same rate as before. This is a great activity for children, and it can be coupled with "the quiet game" for a particularly relaxing afternoon and evening. Soil retains water through capillary action just like a sponge. You can, however, increase the drainage by mixing perlite or gravel evenly throughout the potting media.

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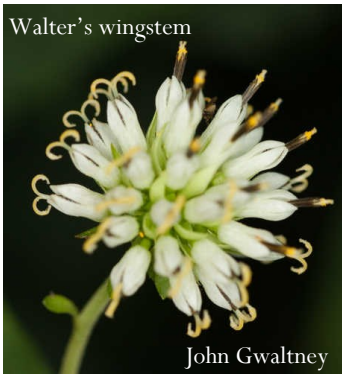
Plants I've grown with success:

Scientific Name	Common Name	Conditions
Asclepias viridis	green antelope horns	Sun; dry or moist
Passiflora incarnata	purple passionflower	Sun; dry
Stokesia laevis	Stoke's aster	Sun; medium
Eryngium prostratum	creeping eryngium	Shade; moist
Tradescantia ohiensis	Ohio bluejacket	Sun or shade; dry or moist
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamot	Sun; dry or moist
Echinacea purpurea	purple coneflower	Sun; dry
Echinacea pallida	pale coneflower	Sun; dry
Juncus effusus	soft rush	Sun; moist or wet
Gonolobus suberosus	angelpod	Sun or shade; moist
Sisyrinchium angustifolium	blue eyed grass	Sun or shade; moist
Campsis radicans	trumpet creeper	Sun; dry
Glandularia canadensis	rose mock-verbena	Sun or part shade; dry
Chasmanthium latifolium	wood oats	Part sun or shade; moist
Sagittaria latifolia	broadleaf arrowhead	Sun or shade; wet
Mitchella repens	partridgeberry	Shade; moist
Phlox divaricata	woodland phlox	Sun or shade; medium to wet
Prunella vulgaris	heal-all	Sun or shade; dry to wet
Blephilia	downy pagoda mint	Sun; dry to moist
Eurybia hemispherica	prairie aster	Sun; dry to wet
Carex tribuloides	blunt broom sedge	Sun or shade; moist to wet
Lobelia cardinalis	cardinal flower	Sun or shade; moist to wet
Solidago jacksoni	Jackson goldenrod	Sun; dry to medium
Heterotheca subaxillaris	yellow camphorweed	Sun; dry
Pluchea camphorata	marsh fleabane	Sun; moist to wet
Euthamia	flat-top goldenrod	Sun or shade; medium to moist
Verbesina walteri	Walter's wingstem	Sun or shade; medium to wet.
Ipomopsis rubra	standing cypress	Sun; dry
Rudbeckia laciniata	cutleaf coneflower	Sun or shade; moist to wet
Ipomoea pandurata	man-of-the-earth	Sun; medium
Conoclinium coelestinum	blue mistflower	Sun or shade; medium to moist
Bryophyta	mosses	Shade; moist


Barrens silky aster
Doug Haass


Walter's wingstem
John Gwaltney


Standing cypress
Shutterstock


Woodland phlox
John Gwaltney

Things I want to try:

Scientific Name	Common Name	Conditions	Scientific Name	Common Name	Conditions
Cynanchum laeve	honeyvine milkweed	Sun	*Packera anonyma*	anonymous ragwort	Sun
Fragaria virginiana	Virginia strawberry	Sun or shade	*Croton monanthogynum*	prairie tea	Sun
Pycnanthemum tenuifolium	narrow leaf mountain mint	Sun	*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*	coralberry	Sun or shade
Desmodium rotundifolium	round leaf tick trefoil	Shade	*Elephantopus caroliniana*	leafy elephant foot	Shade
Euphorbia cyanthophora	fire on the mountain	Sun	*Chamaecrista fasciculata*	partridge pea	Sun
Euphorbia dentata	green poinsettia	Sun	*Eryngium yuccifolium*	rattlesnake master	Sun
Bouteloua curpendicula	sideoats grama	Sun	*Callirhoe invulcrata*	winecup	Sun
Monarda punctata	spotted horse mint	Sun	*Symphyotrichum pratense*	barrens silky aster	Sun
Penstemon digitalis	foxglove beardtongue	Sun or shade	*Mimosa microphylla*	cat's claw briar	Sun
Solidago nemoralis	old field goldenrod	Sun	*Schizachyrium scoparium*	little bluestem	Sun
Oenothera filiformis	longflower beeblossum	Sun	*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*	Virginia creeper	Sun or shade

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WHAT IS THAT PLANT? AN OVERVIEW OF MISSISSIPPI PLANT ID APPS

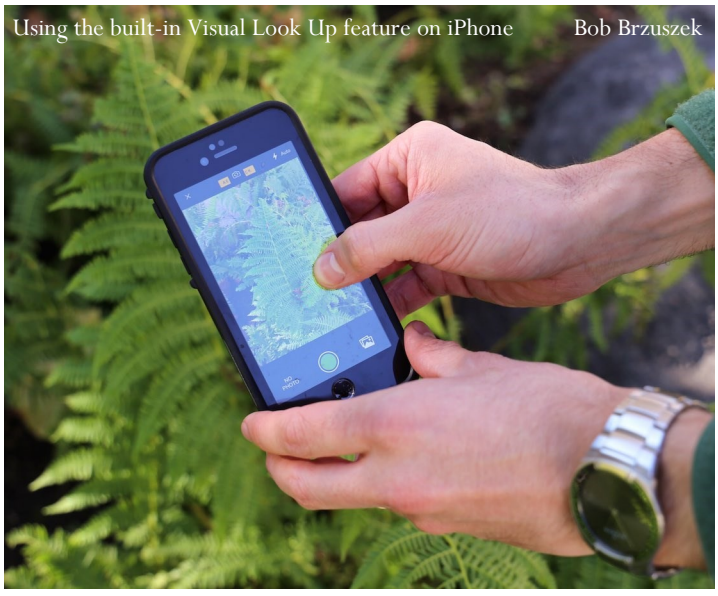
Bob Brzuszek, Professor of Landscape Architecture, Mississippi State University

"What plant is this?" is by far the most common question posted on the MNPS Facebook page. If you aren't on Facebook, there are a few other options at your fingertips. One that I discovered recently on my iPhone 11 is a plant identification feature. Once you take a photo, pull it up in photos, click on the "i" button on the bottom row, and under the photo is "Look Up-plant". I tried this on 10 plant pics and it was accurate 10 out of 10 times!

There are plenty of other phone apps out there for plant identification, and like anything else, some are better than others. That's because there are not a lot of apps developed specifically with MS plants in mind; we sort of get lumped into a general Deep South combo of LA/MS/AL/GA. But if you're in MS, *iNaturalist* is probably the best free plant app to use. That's because it has contributions that are uploaded by users across the state, and nation. No matter where you go there are naturalists just like you tracking what they find. You can type in a species and view a map showing where the people in your area have recorded it. To use *iNaturalist*, click on the camera icon to use your phone camera and take a picture. A Details page pops up and you can view the most likely suggestions, and if nothing else, you can at least get it to genus. I prefer a related app called *Seek* by iNaturalist. The *Seek* app doesn't record and upload your location information but it uses the same photo identification process as described above. Once you verify the species it shows its taxonomy, seasonality, and similar species.

Another good app for MS is appropriately titled *Mississippi Wildflowers* and contains 2700 plant species and includes wildflowers, shrubs, trees, vines, grasses, ferns, moss, seaweed, and lichens. Just enter the location, flower color, and time of year and the app will pull up a list of plants that match your selections. The Mississippi Forestry Commission has an app for woody plants called *Mississippi Trees*, which is basically an upload of their Mississippi Trees guide with tree species profiles and photos organized by genus type. So, if you think you are looking at an ash you can go to the Ash section and hunt and peck your way down the list to match up similar photos.

Other apps to try include *PlantSnap*; *PictureThis* plant identifier; *PlantNet*; *NatureID: Plants*; *Plant Identification*. If you're looking for more plant use or growing characteristics, here are a few regional websites that I go to for good plant information: the *NC Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox* is chock full of coastal plain plants (both exotic and native) filled with photos and great information. The *Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder* is another excellent regional website that boasts 7500 plants suitable for the upper South. It also lists wildlife uses, tolerable soil or shade conditions, and various plant characteristics. Another website that I use for native plants is the *Lady Bird Johnson Native Plants of North America*. You can go to the Mississippi Plants section that has a wonderful search section where you can enter plant types you're interested in, their sun and soil requirements, bloom times, colors, heights, etc.; and it will pull up anything with those features. Great sets of images as well.



Using the built-in Visual Look Up feature on iPhone Bob Brzuszek

Tell us some of your favorite apps and websites out there by posting them on the MNPS Facebook page. While we have some great amateur and professional botanists on the Facebook page, we encourage you to upload pics of flowers, fruit, leaves, and habitat type/location for most accurate ID. Happy identifying!

Editor's note: In addition to phone apps, there are also some excellent websites including southeasternflora.com by John Gwaltney.

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NATIVE PLANT SPOTLIGHT: MAGNOLIA: A FORCE OF NATURE

Gail Barton, State Field Trip Chair

Stop–take a deep breath. If you're lucky, you'll inhale the enticing aroma of magnolia flowers.

Here in Meridian, the fragrance is wafting through almost every neighborhood as we near the end of magnolia flowering season.

Even though seven species of magnolias occur in Mississippi, the most common and most likely to be the source of this powerful scent is our own state flower. Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) can be found in moist hardwood forests, maritime forests, perched on steep river banks and bluffs, and at the edges of bottomlands throughout most of the state. It is also frequently planted in landscapes. This bodacious, coarse-textured evergreen tree is sometimes known as bull bay.

One of bull bay's cousins is bigleaf magnolia or cowcumber (*Magnolia macrophylla*). Cowcumber is an understory tree found in steep, wooded ravines. This beauty has huge leaves averaging a yard long and flowers up to almost a foot wide. Generally, the lovely ivory blossoms have some rosy purple markings.

And then there's the sweet bay magnolia–usually found in wet areas along the edges of creeks or swamps. Like many other swamp residents, sweetbay adapts well to an average garden soil and can be planted in landscaped areas. The European settlers thought sweetbay had great potential as a landscape plant. In 1688, sweetbay was the first native American magnolia to be introduced into Europe. Sweetbay has diminutive flowers averaging 3 inches across. The flowers are small but are usually borne in large numbers. All three of these magnolia cousins have intensely fragrant flowers. Sweetbay is especially enticing because it carries a hint of lemon.

Early in the morning and in early evening, the magnolia flower scent is especially strong. Over the years I've noticed that right around 6:30pm the scent of sweetbay moves from the swampy area nearby and fills the air around my house with its intoxicating aroma.

Scientists say that magnolias are among the oldest flowering plants. Cousins of modern magnolias have been preserved in fossils dated at 100 million years old. Magnolias have been around longer than bees and most other flying insects. The only reason any flower releases such a strong scent is to beckon a pollinator. During their entire time on this earth, magnolia flowers have been releasing their enticing scent to attract beetles.

The magnolia flower is perfectly designed for beetle pollination. It is large, light colored and cup shaped. The most common beetles that pollinate magnolias are tumbling flower beetles (Mordellidae) and sap beetles (Nitidulidae). They are tiny–usually less than 1/2 inch long and dark colored. These beetles feed on pollen, and magnolia flowers are full of it. The blooms have no nectar but their fragrant sugary secretions lure the beetles as they head out for a nightly prowl.

The beetles bumble around in the flowers gorging on the pollen. Southern magnolia blooms close for the night sequestering the beetles as they thrash around and munch on any flower part that gets in the way. During this feast, each beetle becomes covered with the pollen. When she moves on to another flower, the pollen is transferred with her.

I suggest that right now all good and loyal Mississippians should sit outdoors around 6:30 in the evening to experience this force of nature which is our state flower. As you sit and inhale the delicious aroma, remember that over your head in the magnolia canopy tiny beetles are crawling all over the flowers. They are bumbling around seeking as much tasty pollen as possible. As they debauch, a process begins that will end when the flowers mature into cone-like aggregates of red pulpy follicles.

SUMMER TRIP BOTANICAL NOTES: BLACK CREEK, FORREST COUNTY, MS

On July 9, a group of 18 MNPS members from central and south Mississippi met at Black Creek Canoe Rental in Brooklyn, MS. Our plan was to kayak and botanize a 5-mile section of Black Creek from Big Creek to Brooklyn. Heather Sullivan was our botanist on board. The mixed woodland community along the banks was dominated by water oak (*Quercus nigra*) and river birch (*Betula nigra*). We saw lots of wax myrtle (*Morella cerífera*) and titi (*Cyrilla racemiflora*). Highlights included blooming sourwood* (*Oxydendrum arboreum*), yellow passion vine* (*Passiflora lutea*), and shrubby St. John's wort* (*Hypericum prolificum*) (those species in bloom are marked with *).

Other plants that we observed included the following:

Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name
Ilex opaca	American holly	*Vitis rotundifolia*	muscadine grape
Rhus copallinum	winged sumac*	*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*	Virginia creeper
Aralia spinosa	devil's walkingstick*	*Campsis radicans*	trumpet creeper*
Magnolia grandiflora	southern magnolia*	*Sesbania herbacea*	coffee weed*
Nyssa biflora	swamp tupelo	*Hypericum galioides*	bedstraw St. Johnswort
Catalpa bignonoides	southern catalpa	*Eutrichum fistulosum*	Joe Pye weed
Taxodium distichum	bald cypress	*Erianthus* spp.	plumegrass
Carpinus caroliniana	ironwood	*Chasmanthium latifolium*	river oats
Quercus alba	white oak	*Juncus* spp.	rush
Pinus taeda	loblolly pine	*Bignonia capreolata*	cross vine
Pinus glabra	spruce pine	*Sambucus canadensis*	elderberry
Acer rubrum	red maple	*Selaginella apoda*	meadow spike-moss
Kalmia latifolia	mountain laurel	*Coreopsis major*	greater tickseed
Rhododendron canescens	Piedmont azalea	*Eriocaulon decangulare*	hat pin
Cliftonia monophylla	buckwheat titi	*Gelsemium sempervirens*	Carolina jessamine
Illicium floridanum	Florida anise	*Cephalanthus occidentalis*	buttonbush
Ditrysinia fruticosa	Gulf sebastian bush	*Symplocos tinctoria*	horse sugar

It was delightful to see relatively few invasive exotics in comparison to other rivers in central and south Mississippi. We saw one patch of cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*), some Chinese tallow tree (*Triadica sebifera*), a few Chinese parasol trees (*Firmania simplex*), and a good many tung trees (*Aleurites fordii*). Chinese privet, Chinese wisteria, and kudzu were noticeably absent.

It was a delightful day. The water was cool and the current moved swiftly. We floated and conversed, enjoying the scenery. It was truly a pleasant place to botanize on a hot July day. Our only regret was the tall stately yellow composite that we couldn't see closely enough to identify. We narrowed it down to *Rudbeckia* spp. or *Helianthus* spp. Maybe we'll get to go back and solve the mystery!

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS!

We love input, so please consider writing something of your choosing about native plants or native MS habitats. Email to: elpolzer@gmail.com.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

FALL (Sep-Nov): Aug. 15
WINTER (Dec-Feb): Nov. 15

Mississippi Native Plant Society Membership Application

Renew or Join Today!

Name_____

☐ **New** ☐ **Renewing**

Address_____ , _____ , _____

PO or Street Address **City** **Zip Code**

Email_____

Phone_____ **Cell**_____

☐ **Individual or Family $10** ☐ **Student $7.50**

☐ **Sustaining $15** ☐ **Contributing $35** ☐ **Life $125**

Newsletter preference: ☐ **Email or** ☐ **Regular mail (USPS)**

Return form to: Dr. Debora Mann, 114 Auburn Drive, Clinton, MS 39056-6002

The MNPS is dedicated to the study, appreciation, and preservation of native wildflowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees. Check out our Facebook Group and join us!! You can also become a member at https://www.mississippinativeplantsociety.org/.

The MISSISSIPPI NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
c/o Dr. Debora Mann
114 Auburn Drive
Clinton, MS 39056-6002
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