

Harris Branch Area (St. Joe State Park)

July 15, 2024

	BOTANICAL NAME (with genus pronunciation)	FAMILY [CC] = Coefficient of Conservatism	COMMON NAME
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Agave [Manfreda] virginica</i> () (uh-GAH-vay)	Asparagaceae / Asparagales [CC7]	American Aloe
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Agrimonia pubescens</i> (ag-grim-MO-nee-uh)	Rosaceae [CC4]	Downy Agrimony
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Amelanchier arbora</i> (am-uh-LAN-kee-er)	Rosaceae [CC6]	Serviceberry
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Arnoglossum atriplicifolium</i> (awr-no-GLOSS-um)	Asteraceae (Senecioneae tribe) [CC4]	Pale Indian Plantain
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Asclepias verticillata</i> (uh-SKLEE-pee-us)	Apocynaceae [CC2]	Whorled Milkweed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i> (bo-MEER-ee-uh)	Urticaceae [CC4]	False Nettle
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Brachyelytrum erectum</i> (brack-ee-ell-LY-trum)	Poaceae [CC5]	Long-Awned Woodgrass
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Carex lurida</i> (KAYR-ex)	Cyperaceae [CC6]	Sallow Sedge
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> (car-PY-nus)	Betulaceae [CC6]	Musclewood Tree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Centaurea stoebe</i> (senn-TAWR-ree-uh)	Asteraceae (Cardueae tribe) [intro]	Spotted Knapweed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i> (kam-ee-KRISS-tuh)	Fabaceae (Caesalpinioideae subfam) [CC2]	Partridge Pea
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Clinopodium arkansanum</i> () (cly-no-PO-dee-um)	Lamiaceae [CC7]	Limestone Calamint
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Commelina erecta</i> () (kum-uh-LY-nuh)	Commelinaceae [CC4]	Whitemouth Dayflower / Slender Dayflower
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Corylus americana</i> (KOR-ill-luss)	Betulaceae [CC4]	Hazelnut
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Dalea purpurea</i> (DAY-lee-uh)	Fabaceae (Faboideae subfamily) [CC8]	Purple Prairie Clover
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Dasistoma macrophylla</i> (da-sis-STO-muh)	Orobanchaceae [CC5]	Mullein Foxglove
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Desmanthus illinoensis</i> (dez-MAN-thus)	Fabaceae (Caesalpinioideae subfam) [CC3]	Illinois Bundleflower
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Diodia virginiana</i> () (dy-O-dee-uh)	Rubiaceae [CC5]	Virginia Buttonweed (found in restroom lawn)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i> (er-RIN-jee-um)	Apiaceae (Apioideae subfamily) [CC8]	Rattlesnake Master
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Euonymus alatus</i> (yoo-ONN-i-mus)	Celastraceae [intro]	Burning Bush / Winged Euonymus /
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Eupatorium altissimum</i> (yoo-puh-TOR-ee-um)	Asteraceae (Eupatorieae tribe) [CC3]	Tall Boneset
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Frangula caroliniana</i> (FRANG-goo-luh)	Rhamnaceae [CC6]	Carolina Buckthorn / Indian Cherry
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Frasera carolinianus</i> () (FRAY-zr-uh)	Gentianaceae [CC7]	American Columbo
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Galium concinnum</i> (GAY-lee-um)	Rubiaceae [CC4]	Shining Bedstraw
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Galium pilosum</i> (GAY-lee-um)	Rubiaceae [CC6]	Hairy Bedstraw
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Helianthus helianthoides</i> (hee-lee-OPP-sis)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC5]	Ox-Eye Sunflower / False Sunflower
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Heliotropium tenellum</i> () (hee-lee-o-TRO-pee-um)	Boraginaceae [CC8]	Pasture Heliotrope
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Hylodesmum glutinosum</i> (hy-lo-DEZZ-mum)	Fabaceae (Faboideae subfamily) [CC3]	Pointed-Leaf Tick Trefoil
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Hypericum hypericoides</i> (hy-PAYR-i-kum)	Hypericaceae [CC8]	St. Andrew's Cross

<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Hypericum sphaerocarpum</i> (hy-PAYR-i-kum)	Hypericaceae [CC5]	Round-Fruited St. John's Wort
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Impatiens capensis</i> (im-PAY-shenz)	Balsaminaceae [CC3]	Orange Jewelweed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Ipomoea pandurata</i> (eye-po-MEE-uh)	Convolvulaceae [CC2]	Wild Sweet Potato
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Iris domestica</i> (EYE-riss)	Iridaceae [intro]	Blackberry Lily
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Lactarius indigo</i> () (lack-TAYR-ee-us)	Russulaceae [short VIDEO]	Indigo Milkcap / Blue Milk Mushroom
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Lactuca canadensis</i> (lack-TOO-kuh)	Asteraceae (Cichorieae tribe) [CC3]	Canada Wild Lettuce
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Liatris aspera</i> (LY-a-triss)	Asteraceae (Eupatorieae tribe) [CC6]	Rough Blazing Star
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Liatris cylindracea</i> (LY-a-triss)	Asteraceae (Eupatorieae tribe) [CC7]	Cylindric or Dwarf Blazing Star
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Lobelia spicata</i> (lo-BEE-lee-uh)	Campanulaceae [CC5]	Pale-Spike Lobelia
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Matelea decipiens</i> (muh-TEE-lee-uh)	Apocynaceae [CC5]	Climbing Milkweed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Nostoc commune</i> [a cyanobacterium] (NOSS-stock)	Nostocaceae / Nostocales [short VIDEO]	Sky Jelly
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Oxypolis rigidior</i> (ox-i-PO-liss)	Apiaceae [CC7]	Cowbane
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Parmotrema</i> (cup + perforation) (par-mo-TREE-muh)	Parmeliaceae	Ruffle Lichen / Eyelash Lichen
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Passiflora lutea</i> (pass-i-FLOR-uh)	Passifloraceae [CC4]	Yellow Passionflower
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Pedicularis canadensis</i> (peddick-yoo-LAYR-iss)	Orobanchaceae [CC5]	Wood Betony / Lousewort
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Phlox pilosa</i> (FLOCKS)	Polemoniaceae [CC6]	Downy Phlox
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i> (pik-NANN-thuh-mum)	Lamiaceae (Nepetoideae subfamily) [CC6]	Virginia Mountainmint
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i> (ruh-TIBB-i-duh)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC4]	Gray-Headed Coneflower
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Rhus copallinum</i> (ROOS)	Anacardiaceae [CC2]	Winged Sumac
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Rudbeckia missouriensis</i> (rood-BECK-ee-uh)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC6]	Missouri Coneflower
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Ruellia humilis</i> (roo-ELL-ee-uh)	Acanthaceae [CC3]	Hairy Wild Petunia
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Sabatia angularis</i> () (suh-BAY-tee-uh)	Gentianaceae [CC4]	Rosepink / Rose Gentian
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Salvia lyrata</i> (SAL-vee-uh)	Lamiaceae [CC3]	Lyreleaf Sage
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Scutellaria incana</i> (skoo-teh-LAYR-ee-uh)	Lamiaceae (Scutellarioideae subfamily) [CC5]	Downy Skullcap
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Silene csereii</i> (sy-LEE-nee)	Caryophyllaceae [intro]	Balkan Catchfly
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Silene stellata</i> (sy-LEE-nee)	Caryophyllaceae [CC5]	Starry Champion
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Silphium integrifolium</i> (SILL-fee-um)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC4]	Rosinweed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Silphium terebinthinaceum</i> (SILL-fee-um)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC5]	Prairie Dock
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Smilax bona-nox</i> (SMY-lax)	Smilacaceae [CC3]	Saw Greenbriar
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Solidago radula</i> (so-lid-DAY-go)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC6]	Rough Goldenrod
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Solidago rigida</i> (so-lid-DAY-go)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC5]	Stiff Goldenrod
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Spigelia marilandica</i> (spy-JEE-lee-uh)	Loganiaceae [CC8]	Indian Pink
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Stenaria nigricans</i> (sten-AYR-ee-uh)	Rubiaceae [CC5]	Diamondflowers

<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Symphotrichum laeve</i> (SIMM-fee-o-TRY-kum)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC7]	Smooth Aster
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Taenidia integerrima</i> (teh-NIDD-ee-uh)	Apiaceae [CC6]	Yellow Pimpernel
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Thalictrum revolutum</i> (thuh-LICK-trum)	Ranunculaceae [CC5]	Waxy-Leaf Meadow Rue
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Thaspium barbinode</i> (THASS-pee-um)	Apiaceae [CC7]	Hairy-Jointed Meadow Parsnip
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Tragia betonicifolia</i> () (TRAY-gee-uh)	Euphorbiaceae [CC4]	Noseburn
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Ulmus alata</i> (UL-muss)	Ulmaceae [CC4]	Winged Elm
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Vernonia baldwinii</i> (vr-NO-nee-uh)	Asteraceae (Vernonieae tribe) [CC2]	Western Ironweed

NOTES

WHERE WE WALKED: 4 months ago on one of the last days of winter, we met here at the same “Harris Branch Trailhead” parking lot. Back then we just botanized along the paved bicycle trail heading north. We never actually went into the woods to explore the botanically rich area around the Harris Branch Stream (a tributary of the Flat River). But this time we did. Only a few steps from the parking lot, we walked directly into the thick and often trailless woods, heading in a southwestwardly direction.

WHORLED MILKWEEDS (*Asclepias verticillata*): We saw quite a few of these attractive plants throughout the morning. Len was the first to identify one just steps from the parking lot. St. Louis has 18 members of the “Dogbane Family” (list [HERE](#)). 14 of those members are in the “Milkweed Subfamily” (if we include “Honeyvine” and the “Climbing Milkweed”). Like most (but not all) of those milkweeds, our Whorled Milkweed has the characteristic features that make milkweed flowers so special:

- a perianth of **5 reflexed sepals** and **5 reflexed petals**
- a **corona** (crown) of 5 nectar-holding **hoods** and **5 horns** (both appendages to the filaments)
- a **gynostegium** (structure enclosing the fused anthers and stigmas), around which **stigmatic slits** might be visible (into which insects accidentally put their foot and pull out a pollinia sac)

Here’s a Nature Institute article that explains milkweed pollination: [MILKWEEDS](#)

VIRGINIA AGAVE (*Agave virginica*): These odd-looking plants with their basal leaves and tall flowering stalks were really special. John had heard that the male flowers had a different fragrance from the female flowers. Although we couldn’t detect a difference, it was fun trying. Having different male and female flowers on the same plant means, by definition, that the plant is monoecious. The terms “monoecious” and “dioecious” only apply to plants with unisexual (non-perfect) flowers. But Steve’s webpage ([HERE](#)) clearly states that the flowers are “perfect” (bisexual). How to explain? Kathy Bildner suggested that the flowers are probably perfect, but that the stigmas and anthers might mature at different TIMES. In other words, the flowers are bisexual, but because of time delays they’re functionally unisexual. As for the plant’s name, at St. Joe we were calling it by its synonym “*Manfreda virginica*”. Its most popular common name seems to be “False Aloe”. But Father Sullivan would probably want to dissuade us from using the word “False”. As for the “Aloe” part, our plant isn’t even in the same family as aloes. Agave is in the Asparagus Family. Aloe is in the Asphodelus Family.

BLUE MILK MUSHROOM (*Lactarius indigo*): Wow, this was a surprise! Somebody (probably Sharon or June) noticed an unusual mushroom at the very start of our walk. When it was cut open, everybody exclaimed “Oh!” at the same time, surprised to see such a vivid blue color inside. Here’s a pleasant little video by somebody who is familiar with the mushroom: [INDIGO](#).

AMERICAN COLUMBO (*Frasera caroliniensis*): We don't notice these conservative [C7] plants from the Gentian family very often. They grow as rather ordinary basal rosettes for many, *many* years. Then one year these monocarpic plants put up a tall, beautiful flowering stalk – and then die! Since we so seldom find them in bloom, it was startling to look around and see them everywhere! Standing at one spot, John quickly counted 20 of them before being overwhelmed by the many that were left to count. Does this mean that all the American Columbo plants were somehow triggered to bloom this year? No. We looked down and found that young basal rosettes were blanketing the ground everywhere. So even if they only bloom once after a couple of decades, we should be able to enjoy a similar flower display for years and years to come.

PARTICIPANTS:

There were 9 of us botanists on this very hot (will later reach 100°) day. We are (in alphabetical order): Kathy Bildner, June Jeffries, Michael Laschober, Sharon Lu, Len Meier, John Oliver, Anne Rankin, and Mark & Deb Tolcou.