

Cuivre River State Park – Prairie Trail

July 8, 2024

	BOTANICAL NAME (with etymology & genus pronunciation)	FAMILY [CC] = Coefficient of Conservatism	COMMON NAME (with tips we learned)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Asclepias hirtella (Gk god of medicine + short-haired) (uh-SKLEE-pee-us)	Apocynaceae [CC4]	Tall Green Milkweed St. Louis has a whopping 14 different milkweeds [see list HERE]. 3 of them are named “green”. At least this one doesn’t have “viridi” (green) in its epithet like <i>A.viridis</i> and <i>A.viridiflora</i> . Our <i>A.hirtella</i> has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • multiple shiny umbels along its stem • many narrow leaves (alternately arranged) • habitat of prairies and glades
<input type="checkbox"/>	Baptisia alba (to dip [as in dyeing] + white) (bap-TIZZ-ee-uh)	Fabaceae [CC6]	White Wild Indigo The distal ends of the fruits are squared off (unlike the long-tapered ends of <i>B.australis</i>) St. Louis has 3 species of Baptisia: <i>B.alba</i> , <i>B.australis</i> , and <i>B.bracteata</i> .
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chamaecrista fasciculata (low crest + in bundles) (kam-ee-KRISS-tuh)	Fabaceae (Caesalpinioideae subfam) [CC2]	Partridge Pea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • leaves sensitive to touch and daylight (closing at night) • flower asymmetric, 5 yellow petals with some red in throat, with one side petal somewhat cupped over stamens • 10 stamens (9 smaller in bundle, 1 larger set apart) • has petiolar gland (extrafloral nectary) on its leaf stalk / • has much larger flowers than its sibling <i>C.nictitans</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dianthus armeria (divine flower + ancient name for Dianthus) (dy-ANN-thus)	Caryophyllaceae [intro]	Deptford Pink annual or short-lived perennial / <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEAVES: linear, opposite, from widely-spaced nodes • COROLLA: 5 serrated, deep-pink petals spattered with white / blooms close in late afternoon / • INFLORESCENCE: appears as clusters of slender ears of unhusked corn because each flower has a green pointy-lobed calyx which is subtended by a green pointy-lobed epicalyx, with the whole cluster subtended by green linear inflorescence bracts; This European plant is not aggressive / mistakenly named after an area of London which has a cultivated lookalike (<i>Dianthus deltoides</i>).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Elymus hystrix (millet + porcupine) (ELL-uh-muss)	Poaceae (Pooideae subfamily) [CC4]	Bottlebrush Wild Rye
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eryngium yuccifolium (= bristly plant + leaves like a yucca) (er-RIN-jee-um)	Apiaceae (Apioideae subfamily) [CC8]	Rattlesnake Master (hard to believe this plant is in the carrot family!)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hypericum punctatum (above + picture + marked with dots) (hy-PAYR-i-kum)	Hypericaceae [CC3]	Spotted St. John’s Wort (“spotted” because of the many black dots on the leaves and flower petals / distinguished from the non-native <i>H.perforatum</i> by its heavily dotted petals, distinct corymb, and black spots instead of clear spots on leaves / found to have more hypericin than <i>H.perforatum</i> [mnemonic: our native <i>punctatum</i> gives more of a “punch”] / both species used the same way medicinally for depression)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lechea tenuifolia (Swedish botanist + narrow-leaf) (LECK-ee-uh)	Cistaceae (Malvales) [CC4]	Slender Pinweed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PETALS: 3 dark red, but hardly ever seen because flowers rarely open [maybe early morning of sunny days], appearing budlike and secund (along one side of a branch)

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEPALS: 5 in 2 series, the inner with 3 red-green ovate sepals, the outer with 2 green linear sepals that are longer than the inner series;
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i> (pycnostachya = crowded spikes) (ly-AY-triss)	Asteraceae (Eupatorieae tribe) [CC6]	Prairie Blazing Star St. Louis has 5 species of <i>Liatris</i> [list HERE]. <i>Liatris pycnostachya</i> is distinguished by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> numerous linear leaves densely flowered spikes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Linum medium var. texanum</i> (cloth + middle) (LY-num)	Linaceae [CC5]	Stiff Yellow Flax perennial, usually on acid soil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LEAVES: sessile, ascending to nearly erect, narrowly elliptic, entire; FLOWER: 5 yellow petals, 5 green sepals, 5 stamens, 1 pistil
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i> (feverfew + leaf margins entire) (par-THEEN-ee-um)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC6]	Wild Quinine LEAVES: spring leaves somewhat resemble prairie dock / FLOWERHEADS: look like tiny snowballs with 5 ears spaced around their perimeters, which translates to many densely pubescent male disc florets encircled by 5 female ray florets
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i> (dense flowers + narrow leaves) (pik-NANN-thuh-mum)	Lamiaceae (Nepetoideae subfamily) [CC4]	Narrowleaf Mountainmint St. Louis has 3 species of mountainmint [<i>P.pilosum</i> , <i>P.tenuifolium</i> , and <i>P.virginianum</i>]. This <i>P.tenuifolium</i> is the easiest to identify because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> it has narrow, hairless leaves it has a mintless (and sometimes unpleasant) flavor.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Rhus copallinum</i> (sumac + gummy resin) (ROOS)	Anacardiaceae / Sapindales [CC2]	Winged Sumac (rachis has wings, but leaflets are toothless / compare with our <i>Rhus glabra</i> which has a wingless rachis, but has toothed leaflets. So you either get teeth or wings, but not both.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> (Swedish botanist & son + rough hairy) (rood-BECK-ee-uh)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC1]	Black-Eyed-Susan annual / <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STEM: scabrous w spreading to ascending hairs / LEAF: alternate, unlobed, mostly sessile / hairy FLOWERS: ray florets sterile, disk florets bisexual PHYLLARIES: lanceolate to linear / hairy
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Sabatia angularis</i> (Italian botanist + angular) (suh-BAY-tee-uh)	Gentianaceae [CC4]	Rosepink / Rose Gentian annual / <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STEM: square, slightly winged LEAVES: opposite, clasping, entire, ovate, glabrous FLOWER: 5 pink (sometimes white) petals with yellow throat / 5 green linear sepals /
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Senega [Polygala] sanguinea</i> (Seneca tribe + blood red) (SENN-eh-guh)	Polygalaceae [CC4]	Purple Milkwort / Field Milkwort INFLORESCENCE: like a red clover, but more densely compact and more cylindrical / LEAVES: linear or narrowly elliptic, smooth, alternate
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Silphium integrifolium</i> (= extinct Greek plant that was resinous and medicinal + undivided leaves) (SILL-fee-um)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC4]	Rosinweed St. Louis has 4 <i>Silphiums</i> (Rosinweed, Compass Plant, Cup Plant, Prairie Dock) – and they're all special with their scabrous leaves and intricate venation. The distinguishing features of Rosinweed include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> opposite, sessile in decussate pairs, oval with acutely tapered tip leaves feel sandpapery above but more silky below big, chunky, ovate phyllaries only the ray florets are fertile – the disk florets are sterile (which is the opposite with sunflowers) the ray florets produce an exerted split style, while the disk florets produce a column of brown stamens with long, stringy, style-like tips produces flowers before the sunflowers do a member of the tall-grass prairie

			Note that there are 2 variations that can grow next to each other: those with smooth stems, and those with rough stems.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Stylosanthes biflora</i> (pillar + flower + 2-flowered) (sty-lo-SAN-thees)	Fabaceae (Faboideae subfamily) [CC5]	Pencil Flower (trifoliolate bean-family plant with pencil-yellow, papilionaceous flowers that resemble those of Birdsfoot Trefoil)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Vernonia baldwinii</i> (English botanist + American botanist) (vr-NO-nee-uh)	Asteraceae (Vernonieae tribe) [CC2]	Western Ironweed St. Louis has 5 <i>Vernonia</i> species [list HERE]. Ironweeds hybridize easily creating a mixing of characteristics. Here are some features that point to <i>Vernonia baldwinii</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the involucral bracts are loosely ascending to recurved • discoid florets: 15-30 • leaf underside is pubescent

NOTES

WHERE WE WALKED: We met at Lincoln Lake and walked along part of the wonderfully diverse Lakeside Trail with hopes of finding the C8 plant “Featherbells” (*Stenanthium gramineum*) and the C7 plant “Upland Boneset” (*Eupatorium sessilifolium*). Although we were unable to find these particular plants, we found a treasure trove of other native plants. The trail was somewhat overgrown, so we only walked along a section of the trail (maybe ¾ mile) before turning back. Good thing, because had we continued, we would have needed a forklift to carry the species list. The trail was really that richly diverse!

After returning to our cars, we drove to the Prairie Trail. Going to the Prairie was more-or-less an afterthought, but we’re all happy that we went. It’s a much smaller, self-contained area that we were able to botanize more thoroughly.

Not to appear lazy (well, maybe a little) this report will only focus on the Prairie. However to make up for skipping the Lakeside Trail species, the prairie species list is well annotated.

PARTICIPANTS:

There were 10 of us botanists today, who are (in alphabetical order):

Rick Armstrong, Kathy Bildner, Wayne Clark, Michael Laschober, Sharon Lu, Pat Lynn, Len Meier, John Oliver, David Steinmeyer, and George Van Brunt