

Don Robinson S.P. (LaBarque Hills Glade Areas)

September 9, 2024

	BOTANICAL NAME (with genus pronunciation)	FAMILY [CC] = Coefficient of Conservatism	COMMON NAME
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Agalinis tenuifolia</i> (agg-uh-LY-niss)	Orobanchaceae [CC4]	False Foxglove / Gerardia
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Ambrosia bidentata</i> (am-BRO-see-uh)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC0]	Lanceleaf Ragweed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Amelanchier arbora</i> (am-uh-LAN-kee-er)	Rosaceae [CC6]	Serviceberry
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Ariolaria grandiflora</i> () (awr-ee-o-LAYR-ee-uh)	Orobanchaceae [CC6]	Large-Flowered False Foxglove
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Arnoglossum atriplicifolium</i> (awr-no-GLOSS-um)	Asteraceae (Senecioneae tribe) [CC4]	Pale Indian Plantain
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i> (bo-MEER-ee-uh)	Urticaceae [CC4]	False Nettle
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Cirsium discolor</i> (SR-see-um)	Asteraceae (Cardueae tribe) [CC3]	Field Thistle
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Cunila origanoides</i> (KOO-nil-lah)	Lamiaceae [CC6]	Dittany
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Helenium autumnale</i> (heh-LEE-nee-um)	Asteraceae (Helenieae tribe) [CC5]	Autumn Sneezeweed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Hypericum hypericoides</i> (hy-PAYR-i-kum)	Hypericaceae [CC8]	St. Andrew's Cross
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Lespedeza hirta</i> (less-peh-DEE-zuh)	Fabaceae (Faboideae subfamily) [CC7]	Hairy Bush-Clover
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> (lo-BEE-lee-uh)	Campanulaceae [CC4]	Great Blue Lobelia
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> x <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> (lo-BEE-lee-uh)	Campanulaceae [garden]	Magenta-Colored Natural Hybrid
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Oenothera filiformis</i> (ee-no-THEER-uh)	Onagraceae [CC1]	Longflower Beeblossom or Gaura
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Opuntia cespitosa</i> (o-POON-tee-uh)	Cactaceae [CC4]	Eastern Prickly Pear
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Osmunda spectabilis</i> (oss-MUN-duh)	Osmundaceae [CC7]	Royal Fern (American)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Phemeranthus calycinus</i> () (femm-r-ANN-thus)	Montiaceae [CC8]	Fame Flower
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Polystichum acrosticoides</i> (po-LISS-tick-um)	Dryopteridaceae [CC5]	Christmas Fern
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium</i> (soo-doh-naff-AY-lee-um)	Asteraceae (Gnaphalieae tribe) [CC2]	Rabbit Tobacco / Sweet Everlasting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Rudbeckia missouriensis</i> (rood-BECK-ee-uh)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC6]	Missouri Coneflower
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i> (pik-NANN-thuh-mum)	Lamiaceae (Nepetoideae subfamily) [CC4]	Narrowleaf Mountainmint
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Solidago ulmifolia</i> (so-lid-DAY-go)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC4]	Elmleaf Goldenrod
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Solidago hispida</i> (so-lid-DAY-go)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC6]	Hairy Goldenrod
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Solidago nemoralis</i> (so-lid-DAY-go)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC2]	Gray Goldenrod / Old Field Goldenrod
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Solidago petiolaris</i> (so-lid-DAY-go)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC8]	Downy Ragged Goldenrod
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Symphotrichum anomalum</i> (SIMM-fee-o-TRY-kum)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC6]	Manyray Aster
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Symphotrichum patens</i> (SIMM-fee-o-TRY-kum)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC5]	Spreading Aster or Late Purple Aster
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Tephrosia virginiana</i> (teff-RO-see-uh)	Fabaceae (Faboideae subfamily) [CC5]	Goat's Rue
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Trichostema dichotomum</i> (try-ko-STEE-muh)	Lamiaceae [CC6]	Bluecurls

□	<i>Vaccinium pallidum</i> (vack-SINN-ee-um)	Ericaceae [CC4]	Lowbush Blueberry
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NOTES

WHERE WE WALKED:

Of the two main trails at Don Robinson, we took the “LaBarque Creek Trail”. It begins with an “entrance trail” that leads to a big loop trail. When we reached the loop we made a left turn as if to walk the loop in a clockwise direction. But we didn’t. We went off-trail to botanize in some exposed rock and glade areas. But it hadn’t rained for so long that *everything* looked like a glade – and *everything* looked like it might be a trail. There was a crunching sound beneath our feet – it was really that dry. So where did we go? You’ll have to ask John.

ST. PETER SANDSTONE:

Don Robinson is treasured by botanists because it has a different mix of plants due to its acidic soils. Its soil is acidic because it sits on a bedrock of St. Peter Sandstone. This sandstone was once near the shore of an ancient sea. The sand itself consists of fine to medium-sized, round, frosted grains of quartz. It’s used for making glass, for molding, for making filters, and for abrasives. (We’ll leave out its use for fracking.) Here in the St. Louis area, the quartz sand is 99.4% pure silica!

Although the acidic soils of Don Robinson may seem special to us, New Englanders would roll their eyes and say: “You ain’t that special.” That’s because much of the eastern (not the western) part of the country also has acidic (low pH) soil. You can find a pH soil map [HERE](#).

MAGENTA LOBELIA:

Forget the Blue Curls. We’ll probably be remembering the magenta-colored lobelia all winter long – and maybe even for years to come. John hypothesized that the plant might be a natural cross between a Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*) and a Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*).

Thanks to those discerning, sophisticated people who were able to describe the flower’s color as “magenta”. For those of us who haven’t yet graduated beyond “purple”, a “magenta” color reference can be seen [HERE](#). And if you want to compare it to Kathy Bildner’s photo of the actual flower, click [HERE](#).

We’re not the first to discover this kind of *Lobelia* hybrid. Cultivars have been available for a long time under the name “*Lobelia x speciosa*”. But it still feels magical.

PARTICIPANTS:

It was a big group. There were 22 of us botanists today, who are (in alphabetical order):

Brenda Adams, Gisela Baner, Prem Barton, Renee Benage, Kathy Bildner, Steve Bizub, Jerry Castillon, Wayne Clark, Tom Hardy, Michael Laschober, Len Meier, Burt Noll, John Oliver, Mary & John Parks, Tina Richardson, Tayebbeh, Kathy Thiele, Mark & Deb Tolcou, Steve Vogel, and Laura Yates