Shaw Nature Reserve – Wetland Trail

October 14, 2024

	BOTANICAL NAME (with genus pronunciation)	**FAMILY** [CC] = Coefficient of Conservatism	**COMMON NAME**
☐	*Agastache nepetoides* (AGG-uh-STACK-ee)	Lamiaceae (Nepetoideae subfamily) [CC4]	Yellow Giant Hyssop
☐	*Agrimonia parviflora* (ag-grim-MO-nee-uh)	Rosaceae [CC5]	Small-Flowered (or Swamp) Agrimony
☐	*Amorpha canescens* (a-MOR-fuh)	Fabaceae (Faboideae subfamily) [CC8]	Leadplant
☐	*Andropogon gerardi* (an-dro-PO-gon)	Poaceae (Panicoideae subfamily) [CC5]	Big Bluestem / Turkeyfoot
☐	*Aralia spinosa* (uh-RAY-lee-uh)	Araliaceae [CC6]	Devil's Walking Stick
☐	*Arnoglossum atriplicifolium* (awr-no-GLOSS-um)	Asteraceae (Senecioneae tribe) [CC4]	Pale Indian Plantain
☐	*Boltonia asteroides* (bol-TOH-nee-uh)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC4]	Doll's Daisy
☐	*Cephalanthus occidentalis* (seff-uh-LANN-thus)	Rubiaceae [CC3]	Buttonbush
☐	*Chamaecrista fasciculata* (kam-ee-KRISS-tuh)	Fabaceae (Caesalpinioideae subfam) [CC2]	Partridge Pea
☐	*Cirsium discolor* (SR-see-um)	Asteraceae (Cardueae tribe) [CC3]	Field Thistle
☐	*Cirsium muticum* (SR-see-um)	Asteraceae (Cardueae tribe) [CC10]	Swamp Thistle
☐	*Diospyros virginiana* (dee-OSS-pr-us)	Ebenaceae [CC3]	Persimmon Tree
☐	*Eupatorium altissimum* (yoo-puh-TOR-ee-um)	Asteraceae (Eupatorieae tribe) [CC3]	Tall Boneset
☐	*Eupatorium perfoliatum* (yoo-puh-TOR-ee-um)	Asteraceae (Eupatorieae tribe) [CC3]	Perfoliate Boneset
☐	*Euthamia graminifolia* (yoo-THAY-mee-uh)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC3]	Grassleaf Goldenrod
☐	*Gentiana andrewsii* (jen-chee-AY-nuh)	Gentianaceae [CC9]	Bottle Gentian
☐	*Helianthus grosseserratus* (hee-lee-ANN-thus)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC4]	Sawtooth Sunflower
☐	*Helianthus mollis* (hee-lee-ANN-thus)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC6]	Ashy Sunflower
☐	*Heliopsis helianthoides* (hee-lee-OPP-sis)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC5]	Ox-Eye Sunflower / False Sunflower
☐	*Hibiscus laevis* (hy-BISS-kuss)	Malvaceae [CC4]	Halberd-Leaved Rose Mallow
☐	*Hibiscus lasiocarpos* (hy-BISS-kuss)	Malvaceae [CC5]	Hairy-Fruited Rose Mallow
☐	*Lactuca floridana* (lack-TOO-kuh)	Asteraceae (Cichorieae tribe) [CC3]	Woodland Lettuce
☐	*Ludwigia alternifolia* (lood-WIG-ee-uh)	Onagraceae [CC4]	Seedbox
☐	*Nyssa aquatica* (NISS-uh)	Nyssaceae (Cornales) [CC10]	Water Tupelo
☐	*Oenothera filiformis* (ee-no-THEER-uh)	Onagraceae [CC1]	Longflower Beeblossom or Gaura
☐	*Pedicularis lanceolata* (peddick-yoo-LAYR-iss)	Orobanchaceae [CC9]	Swamp Lousewort
☐	*Persicaria sagittata* (pr-seh-KAYR-ee-uh)	Polygonaceae [CC4]	Arrowleaf Tearthumb
☐	*Physostegia virginiana* (fy-so-STEE-jee-uh)	Lamiaceae (Lamioideae subfamily) [CC5]	Obedient Plant
☐	*Pycnanthemum virginianum* (pik-NANN-thuh-mum)	Lamiaceae (Nepetoideae subfamily) [CC6]	Virginia Mountainmint

☐	*Quercus macrocarpa* (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae [CC4]	Bur Oak
☐	*Ratibida pinnata* (ruh-TIBB-i-duh)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC4]	Gray-Headed Coneflower
☐	*Rhus copallinum* (ROOS)	Anacardiaceae [CC2]	Winged Sumac
☐	*Rhus glabra* (ROOS)	Anacardiaceae [CC1]	Smooth Sumac
☐	*Rudbeckia subtomentosa* (rood-BECK-ee-uh)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC5]	Sweet Coneflower
☐	*Rudbeckia triloba* (rood-BECK-ee-uh)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC3]	Brown-Eyed Susan
☐	*Schizachyrium scoparium* (shih-zuh-KY-ree-um) *or* (shih-ZACK-ree-um)	Poaceae (Panicoideae subfamily) [CC5]	Little Bluestem
☐	*Senna marilandica* (SENN-uh)	Fabaceae (Caesalpinioideae subfam) [CC4]	Maryland Senna
☐	*Silene regia* (sy-LEE-nee)	Caryophyllaceae [CC9]	Royal Catchfly
☐	*Silphium integrifolium* (SILL-fee-um)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC4]	Rosinweed
☐	*Silphium perfoliatum* (SILL-fee-um)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC3]	Cup Plant
☐	*Sium suave* (SY-um)	Apiaceae [CC6]	Water Parsnip
☐	*Solidago altissima* (so-lid-DAY-go)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC1]	Tall Goldenrod
☐	*Solidago gigantea* (so-lid-DAY-go)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC3]	Giant Goldenrod
☐	*Solidago patula* (so-lid-DAY-go)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC10]	Swamp Goldenrod
☐	*Solidago rugosa* (so-lid-DAY-go)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC6]	Roughleaf Goldenrod
☐	*Solidago speciosa* (so-lid-DAY-go)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC7]	Showy Goldenrod
☐	*Sporobolus heterolepis* (spor-O-bo-lus)	Poaceae (Chloridoideae subfamily) [CC6]	Prairie Dropseed
☐	*Symphyotrichum lanceolatum* (SIMM-fee-o-TRY-kum)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC3]	White Panicled Aster
☐	*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* (SIMM-fee-o-TRY-kum)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC3]	Calico Aster
☐	*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae* (SIMM-fee-o-TRY-kum)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC4]	New England Aster
☐	*Symphyotrichum pilosum* (SIMM-fee-o-TRY-kum)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC0]	Hairy Aster, Frost Aster, Awl Aster
☐	*Symphyotrichum praealtum* (SIMM-fee-o-TRY-kum)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC6]	Willowleaf Aster
☐	*Symphyotrichum puniceum* (SIMM-fee-o-TRY-kum)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC10]	Swamp Aster, Purplestem Aster
☐	*Taxodium distichum* (tax-O-dee-um / DIS-tick-um)	Cupressaceae [CC8]	Bald Cypress

NOTES

WHERE WE WALKED: We met at the Visitor's Center to get our gate tokens and then caravanned to the newly enlarged parking area near the Wetland Trail. On our way to the Boardwalk, we took a little sidetrip (a richly rewarding sidetrip) to a wet area just beyond the Observation Deck. And later, after finishing the Boardwalk, Kathy Bildner led us into another richly diverse area. We saw plenty of plants today – some so uncommon that we had trouble identifying them! It was a fun day.

SOLIDAGO GIGANTEA vs. SOLIDAGO ALTISSIMA:
How lucky we were that these two lookalike Goldenrods were so near each other on the trail! John invited us to compare the feel of their leaves. The Giant Goldenrod had slick leaves. The Tall Goldenrod had rough leaves. The difference was so noticeable that none of us are likely to ever confuse them again.

SMARTWEED GONE BAD:

Well, this was a surprise. We saw at least 3 smartweeds today. That in itself is no big deal. We saw the familiar reddish-pink one (probably *Persicaria longisetta*), and on the Boardwalk we saw a white one (probably *Persicaria hydropiperoides*, the Swamp Smartweed).

Although they can be weedy in our gardens, the *Persicaria* genus generally has a "friendly" reputation. We invite children to run their fingers along the "Virginia Jumpseed" infructescence to watch the seeds jump. We enjoy looking for the darkened "Lady's Thumbprint" at the base of *Persicaria* leaves. We enjoy looking for the ochrea (sheathlike fused stipules) on the stem at the leaf petiole. And although we don't eat the smartweed leaves (they're said to "smart" the mouth), they do look enticingly smooth and peach-leaf-like ("*persicum*" means "peach" in Latin).

So with all these positive associations, we were not prepared for the 3rd smartweed that Kathy Bildner found: *Persicaria saggitata*. Run your thumb along the stem of this ornery fellow and its curved prickles will tear into your skin. It's even called "Tear Thumb". (We weren't sure whether to pronounce "tear" as the present tense of "tore" or as the result of crying. They both make sense.) It's as bad as Japanese Hops. One plant can really besmirch a genus name. The "Arrowleaf Tearthumb" does it bigtime.

SHORT OBSERVATIONS:

- False Sunflower: When we were having trouble deciding whether or not a yellow composite flowerhead was a *Heliopsis helianthoides*, John joked: "I wish we could find one of Father Sullivan's "Heliopsis Bugs" on it. It's a better botanist than we are." (Photos and descriptions are on pages 72 and 73 of Fr. Sullivan's book: "*Insects and their Plants*")
- Royal Catchfly: We were surprised to see a vibrantly red flower all alone in a sea of straw and green. *Silene regia* is usually found on dry rocky soil. That plant had the wrong address for sure because we were on the "Wetland Trail". John walked out to look at it. It looked up at John and asked: "How in the world did I get here?"
- Cirsium x2: We found 2 thistle plants that looked starkly different from each other. The first thistle we found was right next to the trail. It was the prickly native "Field Thistle" (*Cirsium discolor*) for which John always points out the difference in color between the adaxial and abaxial sides of the leaf. The other thistle we found was in the area beyond the Observation Deck. It was the "Swamp Thistle" (*Cirsium muticum*), a C10 native, which is much shorter and has comparatively very few prickles.
- Rhus x2: We were fortunate to have 2 lookalike sumacs on the same trail. John taught us a trick for identifying them at a distance. The "Winged Sumac" (*Rhus copallinum*) has fruit clusters that HANG DOWN (because they're tired from flying and want to take a rest). The fruits of the Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*) stand upright. No longer is it necessary to look for the wings of *Rhus copallinum* or the teeth of *Rhus glabra*! John also mentioned (if I heard correctly) that the St. Louis Zoo used to harvest sumac leaves from Shaw Nature Reserve to feed to their Red Pandas.
- Decurrent: Burt was the first to use the word "decurrent". Later John referred to the *Boltonia* plant we found as being the "non-decurrent" type. For those of us who forget its meaning over time, a decurrent leaf has blade tissue that extends like wings down the petiole and down onto the stem. If water is poured on the tip of the leaf, de "current" will flow down the leaf, down the petiole, and down the stem. (You can pay me later for that one.)
- Hibiscus x2: Yet another chance to see 2 lookalikes on the same trail. The "Hairy-Fruited Rose Mallow" (*Hibiscus lasiocarpos*) is a hairy plant with hairy fruit – but its seeds aren't hairy. The "Halberd-Leaved Rose Mallow" (*Hibiscus laevis*) is just the opposite. It's a glabrous plant with glabrous fruit – but its seeds are hairy.
- Watching Sunflowers while Driving to Kansas City: We saw very tall "Sawtooth Sunflowers" (*Helianthus grosseserratus*) near the Boardwalk. At Forest Park a few weeks ago we saw very tall "Maximilian Sunflowers" (*Helianthus maximiliani*) which looked quite similar. John explained that their ranges are such that if we were to drive to Kansas City, we could theoretically watch the populations change from "Sawtooth" to the more western "Maximilian" from our car windows.
- Seedbox Color: It's still a bit too early for the tree leaves to change color, but the Seedbox (*Ludwigia alternifolia*) plants that we found had leaves that were already a bright red.

PARTICIPANTS:
There were 17 of us botanists today, who are (in alphabetical order):
Brenda Adams, Rick Armstrong, Gisela Baner, Kathy Bildner, Steve Bizub, Jerry Castillon, Tom Hardy, Alan Hopefl, Michael Laschober, Burt Noll, John Oliver, Anne Rankin, David Steinmeyer, Tayebeh, Kathy Thiele, George Van Brunt, and Laura Yates.