Victoria Glades (Nature Conservancy Side)

October 21, 2024

	BOTANICAL NAME (with genus pronunciation)	**FAMILY** [CC] = Coefficient of Conservatism	**COMMON NAME**
☐	*Amorpha canescens* (a-MOR-fuh)	Fabaceae (Faboideae subfamily) [CC8]	Leadplant
☐	*Aristida purpurascens* () (uh-RISS-tih-duh)	Poaceae (Aristidoideae Subfamily) [CC5]	Arrowfeather Three-awn Grass
☐	*Bouteloua curtipendula* (boo-tuh-LOO-uh)	Poaceae (Chloridoideae subfamily) [CC7]	Sideoats Grama
☐	*Clematis fremontii* (kleh-MATT-iss)	Ranunculaceae [CC10]	Fremont's Leatherflower
☐	*Cornus florida* (*Benthamidia florida*) (KOR-nuss)	Cornaceae [CC5]	Flowering Dogwood
☐	*Dalea purpurea* (DAY-lee-uh)	Fabaceae (Faboideae subfamily) [CC8]	Purple Prairie Clover
☐	*Eupatorium altissimum* (yoo-puh-TOR-ee-um)	Asteraceae (Eupatorieae tribe) [CC3]	Tall Boneset
☐	*Frangula caroliniana* (FRANG-goo-luh)	Rhamnaceae [CC6]	Carolina Buckthorn / Indian Cherry
☐	*Hypericum sphaerocarpum* (hy-PAYR-i-kum)	Hypericaceae [CC5]	Round-Fruited St. John's Wort
☐	*Liatris cylindracea* (ly-AY-triss)	Asteraceae (Eupatorieae tribe) [CC7]	Cylindric or Dwarf Blazing Star
☐	*Lobelia spicata* (lo-BEE-lee-uh)	Campanulaceae [CC5]	Pale-Spike Lobelia
☐	*Muhlenbergia capillaris* (myoo-len-BRR-gee-uh)	Poaceae (Chloridoideae subfamily) [CC9]	Pink Satin Grass
☐	*Quercus imbricaria* (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae [CC3]	Shingle Oak
☐	*Quercus marilandica* (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae [CC4]	Blackjack Oak
☐	*Rudbeckia missouriensis* (rood-BECK-ee-uh)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC6]	Missouri Coneflower
☐	*Schizachyrium scoparium* (shih-ZACK-ree-um) *or* (shih-zuh-KY-ree-um)	Poaceae (Panicoideae subfamily) [CC5]	Little Bluestem
☐	*Silphium terebinthinaceum* (SILL-fee-um)	Asteraceae (Heliantheae tribe) [CC5]	Prairie Dock
☐	*Solidago gattingeri* (so-lid-DAY-go)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC10]	Gattinger's Goldenrod
☐	*Solidago nemoralis* (so-lid-DAY-go)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC2]	Gray Goldenrod / Old Field Goldenrod
☐	*Sorghastrum nutans* (sor-GAS-strum)	Poaceae (Panicoideae subfamily) [CC4]	Indian Grass
☐	*Spiranthes magnicamporum* (spy-RAN-theez)	Orchidaceae [CC7]	Great Plains Ladies' Tresses
☐	*Spiranthes ovalis* (spy-RAN-theez)	Orchidaceae [CC8]	Oval Ladies' Tresses
☐	*Sporobolus heterolepis* (spor-O-bo-lus)	Poaceae (Chloridoideae subfamily) [CC6]	Prairie Dropseed
☐	*Stenaria* (Houstonia) *nigricans* (sten-AYR-ee-uh)	Rubiaceae [CC5]	Diamondflowers
☐	*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* (SIMM-fee-o-TRY-kum)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC3]	Calico Aster
☐	*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium* (SIMM-fee-o-TRY-kum)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC6]	Aromatic Aster
☐	*Symphyotrichum oolentangiense* (SIMM-fee-o-TRY-kum)	Asteraceae (Astereae tribe) [CC7]	Skyblue Aster
☐	*Tephrosia virginiana* (teff-RO-see-uh)	Fabaceae (Faboideae subfamily) [CC5]	Goat's Rue
☐	*Trichostema brachiatum* (try-ko-STEE-muh)	Lamiaceae [CC4]	Fluxweed / False Pennyroyal

NOTES

WHERE WE WALKED: We met in the shared "Nature Conservancy / Missouri Department of Conservation" parking lot. (Some had thoughtfully congregated earlier at the Russell House restaurant and carpooled to Victoria Glades so that the small parking area wouldn't get overfilled.) We entered the "Nature Conservancy" property at the marked trailhead (which was a break with tradition because we usually enter at the swinging, metal gate). When we crossed over to the glade, we mostly walked near the edge of the woods where the diversity was greatest.

KATHY'S PHOTOS: Kathy Bildner often sees things that the rest of us don't. Fortunately she takes photos of them which she later posts in a Google Drive folder. Among her contributions this week are several photos of Pinkgrass, and a side-by-side comparison of Goat's Rue (*Tephrosia virginiana*) with Leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*). You can view her photos HERE.

GLADE EFFECT: It must be a rough life on a glade. It's just October but the plants seem to have already packed-it-in for the winter. Almost everything is straw-colored. It appears that the annuals have already senesced and the perennials have already entered dormancy. There's an empty "sorry you missed us – see you next spring" vibe everywhere. The plants themselves seem to be stunted. Prairie Dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*) usually has huge leaves and towering flower stalks. But the ones we saw were downright puny. John found a short "Tall Boneset" (*Eupatorium altissimum*) and joked that it wasn't very "*altissimum*". So when things aren't going well for us, we can always look up at the glade and think "at least it's not *that* bad".

TRICHOSTEMA BRACHIATUM: Many of us might have walked right past this unassuming plant hadn't John stopped to introduce us to it. We've seen this "False Pennyroyal" in other glades when the plant was still green and still had its blue flowers. The flowers were pretty but not as eye-catching as its famous sibling "Bluecurls" (*Triostema dichotomum*). But one thing False Pennyroyal has that Bluecurls (presumably) doesn't is a wonderful fragrance. Penny knelt down to check whether its no-longer-green leaves were still worthy of its "pennyroyal" name. Yes! She found them to be richly fragrant.

SHORT OBSERVATIONS:

- PRAIRIE DOCK (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*) Looking at a Prairie Dock leaf, John invited us to feel the "pustular" remains of the "pustular hairs" that once covered the leaf. But this plant also once had a flowerhead. In looking at the now-tattered seedhead, John pointed-out that seeds can only be found **around the perimeter** where the ray florets had been. This seems important. With *Silphium*s, the ray florets are female (and therefore produce seeds) while the disc florets are male. This is different from the Sunflowers, of which the disc florets are bisexual (and therefore produce seeds) while the ray florets are "neuter" and function to attract pollinators.
- PINK GRASS (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*): Finding this grass was one of our objectives in coming here. John mentioned that this grass is very unlike the many other "Muhly" grasses we encounter on our walks. It's called "Pink Grass" and there was indeed a slight pinkishness to the panicles of this coveted C9 grass. Having just seen the Real McCoy, the advertisement photos found on the internet (like HERE) don't ring true. We didn't need to put on sunglasses to look at ours. It seems that the advertisement photos might have been doctored.
- GOAT'S RUE vs. LEADPLANT (*Tephrosia virginiana* vs. *Amorpha fruticosa*). We were lucky to have both lookalikes growing next to each other. John helped us see the differences. The leaflets of Goat's Rue have a tapered base that comes to a point (Goat's don't like to eat sharp things), whereas the leaflets of Leadplant have a rounded base. Also, the terminal leaflet at the tip of a Leadplant leaf has a cute little heart-shaped dimple at its tip (everybody loves Leadplant). [Kathy has some comparative photos in her Google Drive folder HERE.] If fruit is available, then differentiation is simple because Goat's Rue has green-bean-like legumes, whereas Leadplant has small, single-seeded modified legumes.
- 2 ORCHIDS: One of our objectives was to find the Great Plains' Ladies Tresses Orchid (*Spiranthes magnicamporum*). At the end the group was somewhat scattered, but Len found the much-sought-after Great Plains orchid and took a photo for the rest of us. Then to put a cherry on the top, Steve Bizub took a photo for us of a different orchid (*Spiranthes ovalis*) which had already flowered. It was a very successful morning!

PARTICIPANTS:
There were 11 of us botanists on this beautiful morning, who are (in alphabetical order):
Gisela Baner, Kathy Bildner, Steve Bizub, Wayne Clark, Penny Holtzmann, Michael Laschober, Len Meier, Burt Noll, John Oliver, George Van Brunt, and Steve Vogel.