

Hughes Mountain Natural Area

October 28, 2024

	BOTANICAL NAME (with genus pronunciation)	FAMILY [CC] = Coefficient of Conservatism	COMMON NAME
<input type="checkbox"/>	Acalypha monococca (ack-uh-LY-fuh)	Euphorbiaceae [CC3]	Slender One-Seeded Mercury / Copperleaf
<input type="checkbox"/>	Acer rubrum (AY-sr)	Sapindaceae [CC5]	Red Maple
<input type="checkbox"/>	Acer saccharum (AY-sr)	Sapindaceae [CC5]	Sugar Maple
<input type="checkbox"/>	Agalinis tenuifolia (agg-uh-LY-niss)	Orobanchaceae [CC4]	False Foxglove / Gerardia
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amelanchier arborea (am-uh-LAN-kee-er)	Rosaceae [CC6]	Serviceberry
<input type="checkbox"/>	Andropogon virginicus (an-dro-PO-gon)	Poaceae (Panicoideae subfamily) [CC2]	Broomsedge
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anemone virginiana (uh-NEMM-o-nee)	Ranunculaceae [CC4]	Tall Thimbleweed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Asplenium platyneuron (uh-SPLEE-nee-um)	Aspleniaceae [CC4]	Ebony Spleenwort
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aureolaria flava (awr-ee-o-LAYR-ee-uh)	Orobanchaceae [CC8]	Smooth Yellow False Foxglove
<input type="checkbox"/>	Carya texana (KAYR-ee-uh)	Juglandaceae [CC5]	Black Hickory
<input type="checkbox"/>	Carya tomentosa (KAYR-ee-uh)	Juglandaceae [CC5]	Mockernut Hickory
<input type="checkbox"/>	Croton willdenowii (KROH-ton)	Euphorbiaceae [CC4]	Willdenow's Croton
<input type="checkbox"/>	Euonymus alatus (yoo-ONN-i-mus)	Celastraceae [introduced]	Burning Bush / Winged Euonymus /
<input type="checkbox"/>	Glandularia canadensis (gland-yoo-LAYR-ee-uh)	Verbenaceae [CC5]	Rose Verbena
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hieracium scabrum (hy-RAY-see-um)	Asteraceae (Cichorieae tribe) [CC7]	Rough Hawkweed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hypericum gentianoides (hy-PAYR-i-kum)	Hypericaceae [CC5]	Orangegrass
<input type="checkbox"/>	Juniperus virginiana () (joo-NIPP-pr-russ)	Cupressaceae [CC2]	Redcedar / Red Juniper
<input type="checkbox"/>	Myriopteris lanosa (my-ree-OPP-tr-riss)	Pteridaceae [CC7]	Hairy Lipfern
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nothoscordum bivalve (no-tho-SKOR-dum)	Amaryllidaceae [CC4]	False Garlic
<input type="checkbox"/>	Opuntia cespitosa (o-POON-tee-uh)	Cactaceae [CC4]	Eastern Prickly Pear
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pycnanthemum tenuifolium (pik-NANN-thuh-mum)	Lamiaceae (Nepetoideae subfamily) [CC4]	Narrowleaf Mountainmint
<input type="checkbox"/>	Quercus alba (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae [CC4]	White Oak
<input type="checkbox"/>	Quercus marilandica (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae [CC4]	Blackjack Oak
<input type="checkbox"/>	Quercus stellata (KWERK-us)	Fagaceae [CC4]	Post Oak
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rhus aromatica (ROOS)	Anacardiaceae [CC4]	Fragrant Sumac
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rhus copallinum (ROOS)	Anacardiaceae [CC2]	Winged Sumac
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sceptridium dissectum (skep-TRIDD-ee-um)	Ophioglossaceae [CC5]	Grape Fern
<input type="checkbox"/>	Schizachyrium scoparium (shih-ZACK-ree-um)	Poaceae (Panicoideae subfamily) [CC5]	Little Bluestem
<input type="checkbox"/>	Smilax tamnoides [<i>S.hispida</i>] (SMY-lax)	Smilacaceae [CC3]	Bristly Greenbrier

<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>Trichostema brachiatum</i> (try-ko-STEE-muh)	Lamiaceae [CC4]	Fluxweed / False Pennyroyal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Ulmus alata</i> (UL-muss)	Ulmaceae [CC4]	Winged Elm
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Vaccinium arboreum</i> (vack-SINN-ee-um)	Ericaceae [CC6]	Farkleberry
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Vaccinium pallidum</i> (vack-SINN-ee-um)	Ericaceae [CC4]	Lowbush Blueberry

NOTES

WHERE WE WALKED: Well there's not much choice in picking a trail. There's only "up" and "down" (to steal John's joke). Yet it's surprisingly easy to get disoriented, especially above the "treeline" when the trail dissolves into a rhyolite glade. We've been lost on hilly glades before, so it wouldn't have been something new. But none of those other glades were as spectacular as this one.

Imagine standing on top of volcanic rock – *pink* volcanic rock! Imagine that the volcanic rock (rhyolite) cooled some 1.5 billion years ago (a time when the only form of life on Earth were the single-celled Eukaryotes). Imagine that when the rhyolite cooled, it cracked into a honeycomb pattern! And imagine standing on this ancient honeycomb rock at an altitude of 1,200 feet in perfect weather where you could turn around 360° and view beautiful Missouri as far as your eyes can see! No need to imagine – we were there!

TWO OAKS WITH CROSS-SHAPED LEAVES:

The leaves of Post Oak (*Quercus stellata*) can look confusingly similar to the leaves of Blackjack Oak (*Quercus marilandica*). Both leaves tend to display a "cross" shape. (The crosses often look rather melted – especially the Blackjack – as if they were drawn with crayons and then pressed with a hot iron.) The two trees often share the same habitat (as we saw today). Although there are several distinguishing characteristics between the two trees (size, bark, acorn), John focused our attention on one feature: **whether or not the lobes end in a bristle**. This seems important.

- The POST OAK is in the "White Section". The White Section oaks do NOT have bristle-tipped lobes. Oaks in the White Section have acorns that mature in the 1st year and root in the Fall. The acorns are often larger and sweeter (less tannin) than the "Red Section" oaks. Other St. Louis oaks in the "White Section" include the "White", "Swamp White", "Overcup", "Bur", "Swamp Chestnut", and "Chinkapin" oaks.
- The BLACKJACK OAK is in the "Red Section". Red Section oaks DO have bristle-tipped lobes [think "red" because the sharp bristles can draw blood; not really]. Oaks in the Red Section have acorns that mature in the 2nd year and root in the Spring. The acorns are often smaller and more bitter (more tannin so they can survive on the ground over winter and germinate in the Spring). Other St. Louis oaks in the "Red Section" include the "Scarlet", "Northern Red", "Southern Red", "Shingle", "Water", "Cherrybark", "Pin", "Willow", "Shumard", "Nuttall", and "Black" oaks. [mnemonic: to link "Blackjack" with "*marilandica*", remember that Washington D.C. is nestled next to Maryland. The politicians can escape there to play Blackjack.]

INEXPLICABLE:

Among the oddities we found today, some of the Winged Sumacs (*Rhus copallinum*) were resprouting! Their new, fresh, spring-green leaves looked quite out-of-place amongst the dry, straw-like colors of the plants around them. And just as bizarre was a blooming Serviceberry Tree (*Amelanchier arborea*). We just stood there and looked at it in amazement, not quite sure what to say.

SHORT OBSERVATIONS:

- We didn't find any Collared Lizards today (nobody was looking for them), but we did find an Eastern Comma Butterfly and several Lichen Grasshoppers (which were very difficult to see on the lichen-covered rocks).
- The crushed leaves of the *Croton willdenowii* plants that we found (they were plentiful on the glade) had a very pleasant fragrance. On other walks we noticed that its sibling (*Croton monanthogynus*) is similarly fragrant and has the common name "Prairie Tea".
- There's no fragrance to *Nothoscordum bivalve* (False Garlic), but its Allium-like flower is pretty. On our way up the mountain the flower was still closed. John speculated that it might be open on our return. Sure enough, on our way down the flower was open!
- Waiting all summer to see the copper-color of Copperleaf? June found the resplendent *Acalypha monococca* which certainly lived-up to its name.
- In trying to differentiate "Sugar Maple" (*Acer saccharum*) from "Red Maple" (*Acer rubrum*), John observed that the Red Maple had noticeably long petioles – even longer than the leaf itself!
- Kathy Bildner has graciously posted her Hughes Mountain photos [HERE](#).

PARTICIPANTS:

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

Kathy Bildner, Steve Bizub, Wayne Clark, June Jeffries, Michael Laschober, Burt Noll, John Oliver, David Steinmeyer, Kathy Thiele, and George Van Brunt.