

Shaw Nature Reserve (Whitmire)

June 23, 2025

	BOTANICAL NAME (with genus pronunciation)	FAMILY [CC] = Coefficient of Conservatism	COMMON NAME ☼ = Flowering / 🍓 = Fruiting
<p style="text-align: center;">NOTES</p> <p>Since we were in the Whitmire Wildflower Garden where many of the plants are already labeled, it didn't seem necessary to record a species list. At least that's my excuse.</p> <p>This week we again hosted several high school students from UMSL's "CLIMB" program, designed to give opportunities to high school students from schools which lack opportunity. We've done this for the past several years. Last year's notes (which <i>does</i> contain a species list) can be found HERE.</p> <p>Even though our area was under an Excessive Heat Warning, it was a most pleasant morning. There were 6 high school students, each more charming than the other, accompanied by their pleasant teacher Dr. Trey Kidd from the UMSL Biology Department. Our own Rich Thoma organized it all, so you know everything proceeded without any major hiccups.</p> <p>John Oliver led the way, stopping to talk about any plant the students might find interesting. A master at this sort of thing, his clear voice is always easy to hear, even in the back of the group. His well-practiced explanations always seem fresh and full of life.</p> <p>It was interesting that the students seemed to have a fear of nature – even showing a reluctance to taste a gooseberry or a blueberry. Where did this fear come from? The fear was even more pronounced when they found an insect. Fortunately our entomologist Ted MacRae was with us to answer their questions and allay their fears.</p> <p>The rest of us were encouraged to chime-in and answer student questions. And we did. It was enjoyable – and even touching – to hear so many knowledgeable voices explaining things with such patience, warmth, and humor.</p> <p><u>PHOTOS</u>: Kathy Bildner took some beautiful photos which she shares with us on our Google Drive HERE.</p> <p><u>PARTICIPANTS</u>: There were 9 of us botanists on this very hot day. We are (in alphabetical order): Kathy Bildner, Michael Laschober, Ted MacRae, Burt Noll, John Oliver, David Steinmeyer, Kathy Thiele, Rich Thoma, and George Van Brunt</p>			