Lower Meramec Park

July 28, 2025

	BOTANICAL NAME (with genus pronunciation)	**FAMILY** [CC] = Coefficient of Conservatism	**COMMON NAME** ❀ = Flowering / 🫐 = Fruiting
☐	*Acer negundo* (AY-sr)	Sapindaceae [CC1]	Boxelder
☐	*Alisma subcordatum* (uh-LISS-muh)	Alismataceae / Alismatales order [CC3]	Water Plantain ❀ (buds)
☐	*Ampelopsis cordata* (am-pel-OP-sis)	Vitaceae [CC3]	Heartleaf Peppervine / Raccoon Grape 🫐
☐	*Apocynum cannabinum* (uh-POSS-i-num)	Apocynaceae [CC3]	Dogbane ❀ & 🫐
☐	*Arisaema dracontium* (ayr-eh-SEE-muh)	Araceae [CC6]	Green Dragon 🫐
☐	*Boehmeria cylindrica* (bo-MEER-ee-uh)	Urticaceae [CC4]	False Nettle ❀
☐	*Campanula americana* (kam-PAN-yoo-luh)	Campanulaceae [CC4]	Tall Bellflower ❀
☐	*Campsis radicans* (KAMP-sis)	Bignoniaceae [CC3]	Trumpet Vine / Trumpet Creeper ❀
☐	*Carex grayi* (CARE-x)	Cyperaceae [CC7]	Gray's Sedge or Mace Sedge 🫐
☐	*Celtis laevigata* (SELL-tiss)	Cannabaceae / Rosales [CC4]	Sugarberry
☐	*Commelina virginica* (kum-uh-LY-nuh)	Commelinaceae [CC5]	Virginia Dayflower (not yet)
☐	*Cornus drummondii* (KOR-nuss)	Cornaceae [CC2]	Roughleaf Dogwood 🫐
☐	*Diospyros virginiana* (dee-OSS-pr-us)	Ebenaceae [CC3]	Persimmon Tree
☐	*Elymus virginicus* (ELL-uh-muss)	Poaceae (Pooideae subfamily) [CC5]	Virginia Wild Rye 🫐
☐	*Euonymus fortunei* (yoo-ONN-i-mus)	Celastraceae [introduced]	Wintercreeper ❀
☐	*Glechoma hederacea* (gleh-KOE-muh)	Lamiaceae [introduced]	Ground Ivy / Creeping Charlie
☐	*Ilex decidua* (EYE-lex)	Aquifoliaceae [CC5]	Possumhaw / Deciduous Holly
☐	*Ipomoea pandurata* (I-po-MEE-uh)	Convolvulaceae [CC2]	Wild Sweet Potato ❀
☐	*Laportea canadensis* (luh-POR-tee-uh)	Urticaceae [CC4]	Wood Nettle ❀
☐	*Lespedeza cuneata* (less-peh-DEE-zuh)	Fabaceae (Faboideae subfamily) [intro]	Invasive Bush-Clover (not yet)
☐	*Mazus pumilus* (MAY-zus)	Mazaceae (Lamiales) [introduced]	Japanese Mazus ❀
☐	*Menispermum canadense* men-eh-SPERM-um	Menispermaceae [CC4]	Moonseed 🫐
☐	*Nekemias arborea* (neh-KEE-mee-us)	Vitaceae [CC7]	Peppervine ❀
☐	*Oxalis stricta* (oks-AL-iss)	Oxalidaceae [CC0]	Yellow Wood-Sorrel ❀
☐	*Persicaria longiseta* (pr-si-KAYR-ee-uh)	Polygonaceae [intro]	Long-Bristled Smartweed ❀
☐	*Phyla lanceolata* (Lippia) (FY-luh)	Verbenaceae [CC3]	Frog Fruit ❀
☐	*Phytolacca americana* (fy-toh-LACK-uh)	Phytolaccaceae [CC2]	Pokeweed ❀
☐	*Pilea pumila* (PY-lee-uh)	Urticaceae [CC4]	Clearweed ❀ (buds)
☐	*Populus alba* (POP-yoo-lus)	Salicaceae [introduced]	White Poplar / Silver Poplar

☐	*Pyrus calleryana* (PY-rus)	Rosaceae [introduced]	Callery Pear
☐	*Smallanthus uvedalia* (small-ANN-thus)	Asteraceae (Millerieae tribe) [CC8]	Yellow Bearsfoot (not yet)
☐	*Smilax tamnoides* [*S.hispida*] (SMY-lax)	Smilacaceae (Liliaceae) [CC3]	Bristly Greenbrier
☐	*Solanum carolinense* (so-LAY-num)	Solanaceae [CC0]	Carolina Horsenettle / Evil Tomato
☐	*Spermacoce glabra* (sperm-a-KOH-see)	Rubiaceae [CC5]	Smooth False Buttonweed
☐	*Stachys tenuifolia* (STAY-kees)	Lamiaceae (Lamioideae subfamily) [CC4]	Smooth Hedge Nettle
☐	*Teucrium canadense* (TOO-kree-um)	Lamiaceae (Ajugoideae subfamily) [CC2]	Germander
☐	*Toxicodendron radicans* (TOCK-see-ko-DEN-dron)	Anacardiaceae [CC1]	Poison Ivy
☐	*Verbena urticifolia* (vr-BEE-nuh)	Verbenaceae [CC2]	White Verbena
☐	*Vernonia baldwinii* (vr-NO-nee-uh)	Asteraceae (Vernonieae tribe) [CC2]	Western Ironweed
☐	*Vitis vulpina* (VY-tis)	Vitaceae [CC5]	Frost Grape
☐	*Wisteria frutescens* (wis-STEER-ee-uh)	Fabaceae (Faboideae subfamily) [CC4]	American Wisteria (developing)

NOTES

WHERE WE WALKED: Although we felt quite comfortable with a morning breeze from the Meramec River next to us, technically St. Louis was under an Excessive Heat Warning. So we played it safe by making this a short walk. We walked along the Meramec Greenway Trail as far as the *Smallanthus uvedalia* (Yellow Bearsfoot) plants with their large leaves. Then we turned around and headed back, making a short (but worthwhile) side trip to visit the nearby *Nekemias* and the *Mazus* plants on the Tall Timbers Trail.

SHORT OBSERVATIONS:

- We got the chance to compare several non-*Vitis* members of the Vitaceae to see if their vines produced tendrils in the same pattern as the *Vitis* (grapes) genus. John observed that Grape tendrils tend to form along the stem opposite the leaves, but only from 2/3 of the nodes. They form in a "YES-YES-NO" sequence, where every 3rd node has a leaf without an accompanying tendril. Ours was just a casual comparison and we were not rigorous, however it seems that the 2/3 pattern is not as consistent among the non-Vitis plants as it is among the grapes.
- We got the chance to compare side-by-side the hairiness of a Wintercreeper vine with the hairiness of a Poison Ivy vine which were climbing up the same tree together. "Hairy vine? No friend of mine!"
- We found a couple of Ash trees dying from Emerald Ash Borer damage. One of them (a Green Ash) had put out a side shoot which somebody in our group (sorry, don't remember who) described as "screaming for help".
- We were a bit mesmerized by the red coloration of Nekemias' new growth.
- We were lucky to have Ted with us to teach us about the insects that we found along the way.

PARTICIPANTS:

There were 8 of us botanists today, who are (in alphabetical order):
Prem Barton, Steve Bizub, Jerry Castillon, Michael Laschober, Ted MacRae, John Oliver, Mark Tolcou, and George Van Brunt.