

# Hughes Mountain Natural Area

October 20, 2025

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Smilax tamnoides</i></a> [ <i>S. hispida</i> ] (SMY-lax)	Smilacaceae [CC3]	Bristly Greenbrier
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Solidago altissima</i></a> (so-lid-DAY-go)	Asteraceae (Asteraceae tribe) [CC1]	Tall Goldenrod
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Solidago hispida</i></a> (so-lid-DAY-go)	Asteraceae (Asteraceae tribe) [CC6]	Hairy Goldenrod
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Solidago nemoralis</i></a> (so-lid-DAY-go)	Asteraceae (Asteraceae tribe) [CC2]	Gray Goldenrod / Old Field Goldenrod
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Solidago petiolaris</i></a> (so-lid-DAY-go)	Asteraceae (Asteraceae tribe) [CC8]	Downy Ragged Goldenrod
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Symphotrichum anomalum</i></a> (SIMM-fee-o-TRY-kum)	Asteraceae (Asteraceae tribe) [CC6]	Manyray Aster
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Symphotrichum pilosum</i></a> (SIMM-fee-o-TRY-kum)	Asteraceae (Asteraceae tribe) [CC0]	Hairy Aster, Frost Aster, Awl Aster
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Trichostema brachiatum</i></a> (try-ko-STEE-muh)	Lamiaceae [CC4]	Fluxweed / False Pennyroyal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Ulmus alata</i></a> (UL-muss)	Ulmaceae [CC4]	Winged Elm
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Vaccinium arboreum</i></a> (vack-SINN-ee-um)	Ericaceae [CC6]	Farkleberry
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><i>Vaccinium pallidum</i></a> (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!

## SERVICEBERRY, WINGED SUMAC, and FALSE GARLIC:

Last year when we botanized here at Hughes Mountain, we were surprised to find that the Winged Sumacs (*Rhus copallinum*) were inexplicably resprouting! And we were amazed to find a Serviceberry Tree (*Amelanchier arborea*) that was actually flowering! This year we had our radars set on those 2 plants and were delighted to find the exact same botanical oddities happening again. And to make it even more of a Groundhog Day, on the way up the trail we found some False Garlic plants (*Nothoscordum bivalve*) with closed flowers. Like last year, John mentioned that we might find the flowers open later in the morning. Sure enough, on our way down the mountain we found the flowers again open!

## SHORT OBSERVATIONS:

- 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".
- The Hairy Lip Ferns (*Myriopteris lanosa* – formerly *Cheilanthes lanosa*) were very distinctive-looking and easy to identify.
- In showing us the differences between a "Sugar Maple" leaf (*Acer saccharum*) and a "Red Maple" (*Acer rubrum*) leaf, John pointed-out that the Red Maple had a noticeably longer petiole (even longer than the leaf itself) – and a rougher (almost toothy) leaf margin with V-shaped (instead of U-shaped) sinuses.
- Kathy Bildner has kindly posted her Hughes Mountain photos [HERE](#).

## PARTICIPANTS:

There were 21 of us botanists today, who are (in alphabetical order):

Brenda Adams, Kathy Bildner, Steve Bizub, Adalee Chaffee, Tina Cheung, Wayne Clark, Mike Colegrove, HD Key, Michael Laschober, Len Meier, Burt Noll, John Oliver, Mark Peters, David Steinmeyer, Kathy Thiele, George Van Brunt, Gwyn Wahlmann, Elaine Wolshock, Matthew Wolshock, Richard Wolshock, and Laura Yates.