



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

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We would like to read about announcements, impressions, species accounts, photos, poems, links to scientific articles or other creative nature writing from you, too. Please submit during the second half of every month.

This is the 36th year Hawthorn has supplied a newsletter to chapter members.

July 2021

Future Activities Calendar

Our traditional meeting time is second Mondays at 6:30. At the June meeting, attending members voted to not have a formal meeting in July. Be aware – if weather moderates we will announce a mosey but only a few days in advance. Read emails from us.

"Go my Sons, burn your books. Buy yourself stout shoes. Get away to the mountains, the valleys, the shores of the seas, the deserts, and the deepest recesses of the Earth. In this way and no other will you find true knowledge of things and their properties." Peter Severinus, 16th. century Dane educator.

There are many professional, in-person planted garden tours available from MPF. The Grow Native! Native Gardens of Excellence sites are located in a variety of settings ranging from multi-acre plantings associated with commercial properties; to formal, urban gardens; and even small community plots.

All sites in this program share two attributes: each garden has been carefully planned and is regularly maintained. Both of these attributes are fundamental to ensure the long-term functioning and appearance of any native planting. [Read more here, and peruse all the inaugural sites featured in the program.](#) Many thanks to Grow Native! volunteer Erica Ballard who coordinated many aspects of this new program.

Below:

- New! Grow Native! Pollinator Garden "Menu" Card
- July 7: Grow Native! Master Class: Pondscaping with Scott Woodbury
- July 16: FINCA Tour at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, MO
- July 16, 17, 18: Kansas City KS Monarchs baseball games: buy tickets & support MPF
- July 21: MPF Webinar: Prairie Strips for improved soil retention, water quality, and habitat creation with Timothy Youngquist
- July 24: Dedication of MPF's The Rae Letsinger Prairie near Sarcoxie, MO
- Save the dates: August 20: MPF Virtual Annual Dinner & more summer events

Excellent info from GN . . .

- [Native Landscape Care Calendar](#) -- for professionals and homeowners. We also have a brief [one-page care overview](#) as well.
- And, just added to the GN website - extensive [Butterfly Host Plant list](#)



Announcements

Greetings to new members in Columbia: Howard Fenster and Cindy Hestir. We all want to get to know you at activities.

Thanks to Karen, Joanna, Michelle, and Louise for their well expressed and inspiring submissions on a diversity of topics this month.

Any time soil is wet is a very good time to pull bush honeysuckle seedlings.

GOLD LINKS

All new MPF/GN events posted here:
<https://grownative.org/events/>

Sign up for MO Prairie Journal

<https://moprairie.org/mission/missouri-prairie-journal/>

Find links to educational webinars every Wed afternoon on the MPF site.

Don't forget to keep up with your **BudBurst** data. Record early emergence, date flowers open and later, seeds
<https://budburst.org/>
They need your data!!!

The Naturalist's Notebook used to record phenology is available from storey.com for \$19.95. Here is the link to the calendar you can print yourself:
https://www.storey.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Naturalists_Notebook_Calendar_01.pdf

Elena offered to share this article on **butterfly identification** from MPF:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/189ztcJixsQVxgoNYqfUyKUUSbzCAfJzI/view?fbclid=IwAR2k4EU_qu40bPIjBNDBNJd4tOT_yxWleS8VZSSxf1NE6PnRkAW5oqkpz84

You can now subscribe to **National Geographic Magazine** on line for \$19/year:
https://ngmdomsubs.nationalgeographic.com/pubs/NG/NGM/ngm_email_3_Feb21_annual_and_monthly.jsp?cds_page_id=257182&cds_mag_code=NGM&id=1624414833517&lsid=11732118110022982&vid=4

"Talking to plants is one way of talking directly to the Great Spirit" Rosemary Gladstar

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Many of you have expressed interest in helping to manage the myriad of native plant gardens around town and at Columbia Public Schools as a reason to get outside and a process of education. Doing this community service is applicable to your MMN re-pay requirements. Even if you have not had MMN training, working in these gardens will help you learn how to recognize good native plants from undesirables. Lea is the leader for this volunteer group [named Volunteer of the Month by City of Columbia last summer].

Activities are announced weekly, so sign up now to know when and where to get started. Lea knows where all the gardens are and offers a schedule, received from her by email, when group weeding parties occur. If you have confidence in your knowledge of species recognition, don't be shy! – ask [Lea for a garden](#) and do what you can to remove 'bad plants' when you want to work. If you need assistance with id and technique, go with a group several times before you strike out on your own. langtrea@gmail.com call or text 864-7647.

Lifted from an Endangered Species Coalition newsletter 22 June 2021,
to prompt awareness of **Pollinator Week**.

Phenology is a term describing the timing of seasonal cycles of plants, animals and ecosystems. Bees have evolved behaviors to match the bloom time of wildflowers. As a result of impacts such as climate change and habitat loss, these natural cycles are disrupted.

There are more than 4,000 species of native bees in North America; but nearly 1 in 4 of these bees is at risk of extinction. When thinking of bees, we tend to imagine common honey bees who live in hive structures. In fact, most of our native bees actually live in a variety of spaces such as: alpine habitats, the soil of farm fields, burrowed holes in wood, or the grassy patch between your home and the urban street corner. Providing more early- and late-blooming plants to extend the flowering and feeding season for bees is one of the most effective ways that individuals can support bees in their own neighborhoods and backyards.

Specific information to implement bee habitat can be found on the Xerces Society page <https://xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center/south-central>. And from USDA-NRCS: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/plantsanimals/pollinate/gardeners/>

Want to help pollinators? In addition to supporting The Nature Conservancy's work protecting and restoring habitat, the best thing you can do is to make your home, school, workplace or neighborhood pollinator friendly. Whether you live in a city high-rise, a suburban cul-de-sac or on a farm, you can create an oasis of pollinator habitat. Put your DIY skills to use with one of these simple projects that will attract birds, bees and butterflies. Before you know it, the oasis you've created will be abuzz with pollinator activity.

Articles Planting for Pollinators

See many illustrations of Artist Lisel Jane Ashlock [in PP illustrations file]

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/magazine/magazine-articles/planting-for-pollinators/>

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/magazine/magazine-articles/pollinator-paradise/>

Book Review

Louise said, "I really loved this book and think it would speak to a lot of our members."

Some of you may have noticed the link to an article in the NY Times in last month's Chapter newsletter. It was an essay by Margaret Renkl. I admit I didn't pay it much attention until I became familiar with her writing in the book, *Late Migrations: A Natural History of Love and Loss*.

I don't quite know how to describe her writing. I find it soothing, interesting, touching, relevant, more like poetry than prose. I created the word, "proetry", for the combination of prose that is poetic. The Love and Loss part of the title refers to the death of her mother and others in her family, but also captures

Public Enemy #1



Perfectly camouflaged, this oriental mantis waits on flowers to eat EVERYTHING that lands on it: all beetles, butterflies, bees, other mantids, hummers, and finches who come for seed. It is imperative to rid your area of this ecological menace. Catch and kill the bird-sized adults. Egg cases look like a tan foam golf ball stuck on any vertical twig or wire. Put them in a jar over a year, or soak them in something flammable and light on fire to be sure they are dead before disposing in the trash.

Missouriensis - On Line Now!

Sent from Dana our MONPS President.
Great news! Not only is 2020 almost behind us, but your newest issue of *Missouriensis*, the journal of the Missouri Native Plant Society, is now available! Volume 38 (2020) of *Missouriensis* can be accessed on our website at <https://monativeplants.org/publications/missouriensis/>.
This issue is packed with fascinating topics, including current research about a new (and colorful) lichen in Missouri, a new and potentially invasive *Viburnum*, new occurrences

the love and loss found in nature. I don't want to make this sound like a sad book, because it is not. It is a book full of the thoughts and feelings of a person who is clearly very connected to nature. She expresses ideas that feel familiar. She describes the soaring of a vulture to be as equally majestic as the more celebrated soaring of an eagle. The book's setting is Alabama, but it shares many of our Missouri flowers, birds, and animals so it feels very familiar. It is a compilation of essays that come together to tell a story. It is short - only took 3 1/2 hours to read. In one story she expresses joy at seeing a lady bug tucked into a leaf and wonders what a group of lady bugs is called. The answer is a delightfully descriptive word. Read the book to find out what it is.

TNNPS Offers Open Webinars

Why am I posting zooms offered by TNNPS? Because Many of the same habitats occur there as occur in MO. Although they are a long way east, they are on the same latitude. And Many similar species occur in both places. If you see the presenter focus on a plant you like, note the genus and look up the species of that genus that live in MO.

Webinar date/time: Every third Tuesday; 6:30-7:30pm ****CT**** Duration: 1 hour

No pre-registration required, no cost to attend.

More info and join link: <https://www.tnps.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2021Seminars.pdf>

Webinar presented by [Tennessee Native Plant Society](#)

What will you learn? Speakers are drawn from their most knowledgeable membership, from professionals across the state, and from the professors and students studying Tennessee native plants. A range of topics will be covered that may include plants that are currently blooming, native plants in your yards, current research on native plants, protections for native plants, and so much more.

Presenters:

July 20: Meredith Clebsch, Native Plant Propagation

August 17: Bart Jones, Pollination Strategies of Native Orchids

September 21: Pandy Upchurch, Edible Natives

October 19th: TBA

November 16: Margie Hunter, Invasive Plants of Tennessee

January 18: Dave Walters and Dr. Cindi Smith-Walters, Winter Plant Identification



Growing Native Edibles

Text and photos submitted by Karen

I moved back to Missouri from Wisconsin in November 2017. I wanted to landscape the new to us 11 year old house with 1/2 acre in native plants. I had some experience starting about 1/4 acre prairie in Wisconsin about 20 yrs ago.

I found Becky on the internet with her pond business but she had a picture standing next to a Silphium so I sent her an e-mail. I'm so lucky I connected with her.

I started a prairie planting area in 2018. Was reading a lot of books on landscaping and using natives, permaculture, growing edibles in landscape. Some not native some native. So far I have planted 12 Hazelnut bushes from MDC bare root stock in 2019. Last year I got one nut; this year I have nuts forming on more than one bush. Also have planted Elderberry bush, *Aronia*, wild strawberries and cup plant.

I recently learned from a Zoom class by Nadia for MO Prairie Foundation that cup plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*) is edible. I tried the young leaves in the spring. They were ok. Then I saw on FaceBook The Forager Chef had a recipe for Wild rice bowl with Silphium shoots. >>>>>

Here is link

<https://foragerchef.com/silphium-cup-plant/>

He uses the top of the shoot when it is about to make the flower. This was more tender and milder than the first leaves I had tried. My daughter tasted it too and liked it.

We have made Elderberry liquor last summer, this summer we are making << Elder flower flavored liquor by steeping the flowers in 100% alcohol for 2

weeks, which we are not to the end of yet. Then you strain and add some water to make it drinkable. The berry flavor was very good, it was berry syrup mixed with vodka and red wine. Will be making that again too.



of two critically imperiled sedges, characters to help identify a confusing group of *Desmodium*, clarification of a moss nomenclatural issue, and more.

Links to two of our Chapter Autumn Zoom Presentations

Lea's Outdoor Native Plant Classrooms <https://1drv.ms/p/s!AjscdYpHSUkgccDCmcryKAdfIsk?e=3YWx6d>

Becky's Pollinator ID & Garden Plants: <https://1drv.ms/p/s!AjscdYpHSUkgc3nMcng4S-pzkVU?e=qvUOJL>

(the NOTES show up in the bottom, but you might need to click "notes" at the bottom of the screen to see verbiage).

St Louis chapter presentations are posted on the state website

To learn more about Deep Roots KC or to view previous educational webinars, visit <https://deeprootskc.org/>

Essay by Margaret Renkl, NY Times, 26 February 2021

Link to full article: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/26/opinion/winter-gardening-wildlife.html>

Link to **Braiding Sweetgrass** by Robin Wall Kimmerer. If you want to assist Robin's cause with a purchase of one or more of her books, please do. If you cannot afford this purchase at this time, this is a gift of a free download: https://pdfforall.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Braiding-Sweetgrass-PDFORALL.COM_.pdf

Viewing *Veratrum*

Text and photos submitted by Joanna

Early summer is bloom time for two showy members of the Lily family in the genus *Veratrum*; one prefers prairie habitat, the other woodland habitat. If you make it a goal to seek out these two plants, the habitats they'll take you to should guarantee encounters with other good stuff along the way.



Virginia bunchflower (*Veratrum virginicum*, also known as *Melanthium virginicum*) is a stunning prairie plant that I recently encountered on a trip to Paintbrush Prairie Natural Area south of Sedalia. The flower stalk, not too different in height than I am, hosts an abundance of white flowers, which in full bloom emit a scent somewhat reminiscent of vanilla. The lone plant we examined near the roadside was magnificent on its own, so when I spotted a whole stand of them through binoculars, I couldn't resist setting off cross country to get a closer look despite the setting sun's fading light. Sure enough, a low swale hosted many dozens of flower stalks, complete with the distinctive scent filling the evening air.

Where else to find this plant? A look at iNaturalist shows that observations of Virginia bunchflower tend to be associated with high-quality prairies; Tucker Prairie currently has the closest observations to Columbia. Based on iNaturalist photos from Missouri, blooming seems to peak in late June and starts to fade in July. *Ed note: we saw abundant populations this weekend at Lamb's private prairie [Warrensburg] and Snowball Hill MPF prairie [Harrisonville].

A second member of the genus is *Veratrum woodii*, known as false hellebore (according to *Flora of Missouri*) or Wood's bunchflower (according to iNaturalist). Both bunchflowers have tall flower stalks, but the flowers of this woodland species are maroon and do not bloom every year. The distinctive leaves come up along with the spring pulse of wildflowers, but for years the identity of the plant remained a mystery to me because I never saw flowers. Then, finally, many plants on our property bloomed synchronously. The exciting news: 2021 is a bloom year here, and the flower stalks are just starting to develop (as I write this in late June). I don't know whether bloom years apply to local populations or a broader region; what triggers blooming remains a bit of a mystery. But I do think that the potential to see these flowers is a worthy motivation for a July outing.

Where to find this plant? Mature woods are a good place to look, particularly on north-facing slopes. Rock Bridge SP and Three Creeks CA both host this species, according to iNaturalist. If you do see Wood's bunchflower blooming, please submit observations to iNaturalist, as those observations could enhance understanding about broader patterns of bloom time in this fascinating species.



One final comment about these two species: Both are reportedly quite toxic. Thus, I was surprised to see a collection of Wood's bunchflower plants that had been munched, presumably by deer, early this spring. Indeed, this spring I saw signs of herbivory on a number of species that I thought were toxic enough to be deer-immune, including Jack-in-the-pulpit, larkspur, and Mayapple. Birth defects are cited among the effects of the *Veratrum* toxins (http://www.missouriplants.com/Veratrum_woodii_page.html) copy and paste in search line. Perhaps this is nothing more than coincidence, but it occurred to me to wonder whether ingestion of toxic plants could relate in some way to the aborted fawn carcass found on our property this spring (warning: not for the squeamish, <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/81948565>).

Insecticides Found in Milkweed Samples

Synopsis from *Xerces Society Wings* 43:2, Fall 2020, P30.

They collected and tested 225 samples of milkweed from California Central Valley [ag field edges, wild areas, plants from nurseries, suburbs] during June of 2019. Retail nurseries and ag field samples had more insecticides. They found 64 different chemicals. 32% of the samples contained levels of harmful insecticides known to harm butterflies. Five were contained in 80% of all samples. Two which were found in 90% of the 225 samples: chloranthraniliprole and methoxyfenozide.

[Ed. Note] PLEASE!!

Take this data into consideration when purchasing plants. If you don't get them from a reputable native plant dealer – please consider propagating natives from local-sourced wild seed or *insitu* [seed in ground].



HUMMERS

Hummingbirds are here!

Boil 1 qt of cold water with 1 cup of white sugar [or 2 and 2]. Store extra sugar-water in liter water bottles on the counter. Do not hang feeders in the sun – it will spoil fast. Rinse all feeder parts at each filling. Songbird Station has water ant traps [\$6] to hang with your feeders. I smear Vaseline mixed with neem oil and cinnamon on the feeder top.

My Experience with Queen of the Prairie *Filipendula rubra*

Text and photos submitted by Louise

A few years ago, a neighbor brought me a start of a plant she called Queen of the Prairie. I had to look it up online to know what to expect. Since then I have come to realize what a special gift this plant is. I have never seen it blooming anywhere except in my garden. Though I'm sure other gardeners have it too. It is a prairie species, but requires some special conditions that not all prairies can provide. According to the Missouri Botanical Gardens website it is only found in several "swampy, calcareous meadows in Reynolds County". [Ed note: has been found in a wooded glade in Mule Shoe CA in Hickory Co.]

It needs full sun to part shade, medium to wet soil. It is deer tolerant and likes clay soil. It has been listed as a rain garden plant. I planted it like I do most of my new natives. I put it in two different locations. I put one set of roots in my native plant garden where I watch new species until they establish themselves and I get to know them. Then they can either stay or get transplanted to a new home in the meadow. I put another set of roots somewhere else to see if that location is better. In this case I put some in my rain garden. The first growing season the rain garden one did beautifully and put on a gorgeous bloom. The next year it was gone. Over the next few years I tended the one in the native plant garden, but never a bloom- until this year!

The leaves are spectacularly large and healthy looking. It has spread to fill a 3-foot space. It is living next to my other signature plant that I love - Spider Lily [*Hymenocallis occidentalis*]. This part of my garden has rich soil and although it does not have run off water like many rain gardens, it is at the lower end of a gentle hillside and the water seems to flow down to it underground keeping it moist. I watered it once during this recent drought period.

The flower stem is as tall as I am. I look straight across to the bloom that opens from the bottom forming a frilly pink ballerina's tutu. The tiny round pearls that adorn the top of the bloom glisten in the sun. They start out white then blush



pink before opening up into more of a tutu. Some people compare the bloom to cotton candy, but to me a Queen should have a more royal description. The genus name comes from the Latin word *filum* that means thread and *pendulus* means hanging. This refers to the root tubers that hang together with threads. It reminds me of the expression, "hanging by a thread".

The flower has a strong fragrance. It smells like roses to me. They say the leaves also have a fragrance, but no matter how much I sniffed them, I couldn't smell anything.

Now that this plant has established itself in the native plant garden location I hope to enjoy it for years to come. With native plants, patience is key.



Tiny Native Garden Library in Michelle's Yard.



Last fall I installed a native plant garden on a sunny east-facing slope where the grass was continually thin and weedy. The hill was a challenge to mow and the grass needed frequent watering just to survive. An edging of boulders about ten feet from the sidewalk helps to create a clear delineation between the lawn and the flower garden, and lets passersby who might be afraid of bees (as my daughter is) stay a safe distance away. I posted my "Native Plant Garden" sign from Missouri Prairie Foundation next to a boulder. Although the garden isn't much to look at yet, during this recent summer heat my husband (who was initially less-than-thrilled about this idea) mentioned how much less work it is to mow the yard now. That's a win!

When I first became interested in native plants, I was frustrated by the bad advice most traditional gardening books give. Plant selection is just the most obvious problem; double-digging and enriching the soil always seemed very destructive to me and it never made sense that Mother Nature didn't do any of those things and her gardens always looked better than artificially constructed ones

anyway. Now I'm on a mission to re-educate traditional gardeners.

So my husband made me a small cedar library and installed it next to the sidewalk. I have been stocking it with gardening books that emphasize the importance of natives (and a few potboilers and beach

reads) and slipping MONPS propaganda pamphlets between the pages as bookmarks. While I'm out there weeding and spraying deer repellent, I've had several lovely conversations with neighbors who are as excited as I am for the flowers to grow and bloom and hopefully they're seeing for themselves how much more alive a garden is when it's full of native plants.

Ecoprinting: a Fun Project Michelle offers for the Summer

Last year I ran across the technique of "ecoprinting" which uses leaves and flowers to transfer images to fiber substrates like fabric and paper and I was intrigued. I tried it once and I was smitten. I've made scarves, notecards, journals and wall hangings.

Although many exotic plants make excellent fabric dyes, I choose to use only locally native species of trees and wildflowers for printing---oaks, hickory, redbud, wild hydrangea and others---to showcase the natural wealth we have right here in Mid-Missouri.

Ecoprinting is a slow process. First I collect the leaves (usually right after a storm there are many twigs and branches on the ground in my neighborhood) and then I press and dry them. The dried leaves are soaked, arranged on prepared paper or fabric, tightly wrapped with twine to ensure contact between the leaves and material, and then steamed for several hours and cooled overnight. During the steam bath, the house smells like a walk in the woods after a rain.



The most exciting part is opening the bundles like birthday presents to see the always unexpected results! Although time consuming, prints made this way have wonderful earthy colors and layered patterns.

<<< The finished scarves hanging to dry reveal the final colors and shapes which are always a surprise. Each piece is a one-of-a-kind, non-repeatable, happy accident.



Wrapped bundle ready to steam

Michelle wants to share this photo of a breathtaking landscape of redbuds at Stephens Lake Park in April.



Topics for This Years' Petal Pusher

the state MONPS newsletter

You don't need to be an expert, but if you have good repeatable experience as a naturalist on any of these subjects, you are welcome to offer your knowledge to the rest of us.

If we have members who are experts on any of these topics, Michelle Pruitt [on masthead] is willing to do an amateur proofread for you if that would be helpful.

The submission deadline for the Sept/Oct issue is 20 August.

ALWAYS - 20th of even numbered months. If you don't understand subjects, parameters, or submission format, contact Michelle Bowe, PP editor MBowe@MissouriState.edu.

- Focus on a Plant Family could be used every year. Louise Flenner of Hawthorn chapter wrote a good article on this topic in 2019. Would be good to study that as a template.

- Potential Emerging Invaders. **Have you seen a new plant invader?** Someone from MoIP as contributor; Malissa Briggler volunteered. Any one of us could study invasive plants; MPF Journal featured invasives during 2020. Just search 'invasive plants' and pick one to report on.

- Favorite Natural Areas. Suggested to also have chapters solicit articles from their members. This means YOU can write about your favorite Natural Area

- **Historical Botanists.**

- Better Know a Genus. These are species accounts. You observe/research a species or genus and describe the whole life cycle including preferred habitat and vectors/predators.

Regular Recurring Columns:

Conundrum Corner Contributors needed!

Invasive Tip of the Month Tips to identify and eradicate invasives, with a different species in each issue. Contributors needed!

Other Recurring Columns: **Casey's Kitchen** Casey Burks

Name Change of the Month Justin Thomas. Other volunteers welcome.

Poetry Corner or Quotation Corner Send suggestions for poems or quotes for inclusion. Note that for poems, we must have permission from the publisher.

Where are we going Features we will see on the next field trip. Malissa Briggler?

And here's where you can become newsletter famous by submitting your questions: <https://monativeplants.org/ask-a-question>.

Ask a question Questions from website, answered. Facilitated by Jerry Barnabee.

Please Step Forward For Service Membership and Service

Please contact one of the officers to volunteer a little time to a very good environmental and educational service. We need people to serve as officers, to grow plants for fundraising, to man our information booth at events such as Earth Day and Bradford Plant Sale, and to care for native gardens in public places. We send communications and the newsletter by email.

State Membership Level (check all that you request):

____ Student \$5

____ Goldenrod \$10

____ Sunflower \$25

____ Blue Bell \$50

____ Blazing Star \$100

____ Surcharge for paper state Petal Pusher by mail \$10

Minimum required annual membership per household is \$10 for students or \$15 for non-students [state+chapter]

Chapter membership:

____ Hawthorn Chapter \$5

Hawthorn requires chapter newsletters by email = no charge

____ Hawthorn life membership \$120

Make check payable to: **Native Plant Society.**

Send check and this form to:

Paula Peters, 2216 Grace Ellen Dr., Columbia, MO 65202

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Missouri Native Plant Society-Hawthorn Chapter
Fiscal year is July 1 through June 30.

How were you attracted to join MONPS?

*Name _____

*Address _____

Phone: Evening _____

Day or Cell _____

*Required
Email: _____

As of July 2018, Petal Pusher printed on paper in grayscale, sent by post, will cost an additional \$10 more than standard membership. Email delivery brings you color photos, and instant delivery. It saves natural resources, pollution, and MONPS' and your money.