

**Ozarks and Tallgrass Prairies Tour
A Natural History Odyssey
May 4-13, 2007**

Leader: Steve Hilty

This was a stormy spring in the Midwest and the rainy weather held up migrants somewhat, providing the best warbler show in years. Eighteen species of breeding warblers were seen, most of them repeatedly, including the rare Swainson's Warbler. Our total of 29 species of warblers was one of our highest ever. We enjoyed a spectacular morning at Prairie State Park with migrants streaming across the prairies and filling woodlots alike. Highlights included Bell's Vireo, Henslow's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, flocks of Orchard and Baltimore orioles, migrating groups of Yellow Warblers, a Killdeer performing a nest distraction display, and a tiny male Ruby-throated Hummingbird that came from far across the prairie, flying low and pausing momentarily at a *Castilleja* (Paint brush) before continuing. But, it wasn't entirely an avian show. Spring flowers on the prairies were spotty but locally good with Yellow Star Grass, Spring Beauty, Rose Verbena, and others dotting the prairie in abundance.

Ozark highlights included Scarlet Tanagers, Prairie Warblers, Cerulean Warblers, Blue Grosbeaks, and a surprising number of migrant warblers including Golden-winged, Chestnut-sided, Canada, Mourning, Black-throated Green, Tennessee, and Wilson's among others. Dozens of Wood Ducks, some with downy ducklings, at Mammoth Springs, as well as Red-headed Woodpeckers, were also highlights. For botanists we found Lily Twayblade Orchids, flowering Mt. Azalea, Smoke Trees, Ozark Chinkapins, Climbing Milkweeds, two species of Wild Yams, Showy Penstemon, Shooting Stars, Green Dragons, Fire Pinks, and many others.

Seated comfortably in Wild Bill's canoes we drifted lazily down the Buffalo River one morning, listened to a serenade of warblers, vireos and thrushes, and looked up at splashes of yellow coreopsis and blue spiderworts decorating little shelf-like openings above cliff faces. A day later, near Mountain View, our group entered Blanchard Cave and descended 20 stories underground into the marvelous and largely unseen world of darkness beneath the Ozark plateau. Caves honeycomb the Ozarks and their architects are the tens of thousands of springs that dot the region; some are mere seeps on hillsides, and others, ranking among the largest in the world, are big enough to supply populations of our largest metropolitan areas. Everywhere there were warblers and a great many new plants, and in Mountain View traditional crafts and music were on display, as well as plenty of delicious blackberry-cobbler. We concluded the trip with a pleasant visit to historic Mammoth Springs and obligatory dinner at Fred's Fish House. The last day we saw three dramatically different springs—one that boils up with great force, one that issues from a cliff, and one that flows silky-smooth and blue as sky.

This trip offers a window into a distinctive American culture too, where things move a bit slower, incomes are lower, and people still take life a day at a time, mostly thankful for what each day brings. When the big fellow loading our canoes at the designated take-out site was asked how much the canoes weighed, he hefted one high over his head and answered slowly, "I really don't

know how much they weigh, I just grab ‘um and pick ‘um up.” Continuing, he added, “It’s a little easier now than when I started though.”

And he knew his snakes too. After learning we’d seen a small snake swimming in the river, his female companion piped up, informing us it might have been a cottonmouth, or maybe a water moccasin. “Probably ain’t that,” he said. “Besides, a cottonmouth and a water moccasin are the same thing. Them moccasins got a white mouth inside. That’s why some people call ‘um cottonmouths. Most likely these folks just saw a little water snake.” Eyes betraying doubt, his companion seemed unsure. “Well, they’s the same,” he added, putting the matter to rest.

Our lists reflect the wide range of activities on this trip—birds, plants, butterflies, mammals, and herbs, as well as traditional Ozark crafts and music, and even a little geology, but they hardly do justice to the beauty and charm of this region. With all of the natural history, it’s a full-packed trip and we think it will leave you with fond memories of one of North America’s loveliest and gentlest regions.

THE ROUTE:

- May 5. Prairie State Park; afternoon drive to Eureka Springs.
- May 6. Roaring River State Park in morning; picnic lunch and the White River Bald (Ruth Henning State Park) before entering Branson, Missouri.
- May 7. A.M. at Mincy Conservation area and Bee Creek and drive to Harrison, Arkansas. Afternoon on the Hide-out-Hollow trail near Compton, Arkansas.
- May 8. Upper Buffalo River country including Lost Valley and Alum Cove State Park.
- May 9. Buffalo River float trip from Buffalo Point to Rush Landing (old Zinc Mining town). Late afternoon drive to Mt. View. Evening music at Mt. View.
- May 10. Early morning birding and botanizing in Blanchard campground; late morning tour of Blanchard Cave; afternoon at the folk center and evening looking for Whip-poor-wills.
- May 11. Morning at Gunner Pool Trail in Ozark National Forest; afternoon drive to Mammoth Springs.
- May 12. A day of springs—Greer Spring, Falling Spring and Blue Spring. Early morning birding along the Eleven Point River; afternoon at Current River, and drive back to Springfield Missouri for conclusion of trip.

A NOTE ABOUT THE LISTS: The lists include all of the birds, and most (but probably not all) of the plants, animals, butterflies, and herps that were mentioned, or noted somewhere. There are bound to be omissions here and there.

LIST OF BREEDING & MIGRANT BIRDS SEEN: Species only heard are marked with a double asterisk (**). Boldface indicates uncommon, local, or of special interest. SH = S Hilty

Canada Goose, Prairie State Park; Table Rock Lake

Wood Duck, Lost Valley (brief from road); Buffalo River; Mammoth Springs (25-30 including males, females and many downy ducklings)

Mallard, a few at Mammoth Springs which now seem to over-summer and breed

Wild Turkey, 2 along roadside in Ozark National Forest near Mt. View were only ones

Northern Bobwhite, Prairie State Park and pair crossing road near Mt. View

Great Blue Heron, almost daily

Green Heron, Prairie State Park (at least 6 over prairie); Buffalo River

Black Vulture, Roaring river (beside road); Lost Valley; Buffalo River and Mammoth Springs (perched in trees across RR tracks)

Turkey Vulture, daily

Cooper's Hawk, 1 soaring briefly at Roaring River; possibly another across road east of Springfield

Red-shouldered Hawk, at Bee Creek (surprisingly scarce this trip).

Broad-winged Hawk, Bee Creek; Buffalo River; possibly elsewhere

Red-tailed Hawk, Prairie State Park

[we saw no Greater Prairie Chickens and, sadly, learned that the species is now also disappearing from Prairie State Park, one of its last strongholds in Missouri]

Killdeer, several at Prairie State Park including nesting pair; Mammoth Springs etc.

Spotted Sandpiper, several along Buffalo River where they breed

Rock Dove, Feral birds daily in towns

Mourning Dove, daily

Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Bee Creek; heard along Buffalo River and in Blanchard Campgd.

Common Nighthawk, several including over hotel in Harrison; Springfield; etc.

Whip-poor-will, 1 seen repeatedly at Mt. View, Arkansas

*Chuck-wills'-widow, heard at Mt. View, Arkansas

Chimney Swift, almost daily

Ruby-throated Hummingbird, also seen almost daily; male at *Castelleja* in prairie was unforgettable

Belted Kingfisher, heard or see along most rivers

Red-headed Woodpecker, one at Prairie State Park; 4 at Mammoth Springs

Red-bellied Woodpecker, heard or seen daily

Downy Woodpecker, heard or seen most days

Hairy Woodpecker, heard once or twice by SH; not seen

Northern Flicker, pair in nest hole at Prairie State Park; also Roaring River and Bee Creek

Pileated Woodpecker, heard or seen almost daily; up to 6 seen in flight on Buffalo River

Eastern Wood Pewee, Blanchard Campgd; Gunner Campgd; heard along Eleven Point River

Acadian Flycatcher, heard almost daily in forested areas; seen at Roaring River State Park, and Lost Valley in upper Buffalo River Valley, and several times later

Least Flycatcher, 3-4 first day at Prairie State Park; heard at Mincy; a migrant through the Ozarks

Eastern Phoebe, daily, near creeks and rocky areas; bridges; old buildings; SH watched one capture a Red Admiral butterfly at Hideout Hollow falls;

Great Crested Flycatcher, heard almost daily; seen at Bee Creek and Eleven Point River

Eastern Kingbird, Prairie State Park; Mincy; Lost Valley and along fence wires during our drives

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Prairie State Park (SH only); roadside near Ash Flat, Arkansas

Loggerhead Shrike, one seen in Prairie State Park

White-eyed Vireo, heard or seen almost daily; sassy voice

Bell's Vireo, seen well at Prairie State Park

Yellow-throated Vireo, heard almost daily; seen at Prairie State Park where one came very close

Warbling Vireo, seen well at Mammoth Springs

Philadelphia Vireo, one seen along Buffalo River; two along Eleven Point River; rather scarce migrant

Red-eyed Vireo, daily; commonest birds in the Ozarks

Blue Jay, daily
 American Crow, daily
Fish Crow, Roaring River (several); Buffalo River; Mammoth Springs
 Horned Lark, up to a dozen or more at Prairie State Park but difficult to see well
 Purple Martin, finally seen in numbers around Mammoth Springs
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow, almost daily
 Tree Swallow, Prairie State Park (SH); 2 at Mammoth Springs
 Cliff Swallow, many seen at big bridges including Table Rock Lake; etc.
 Barn Swallow, almost daily
 Carolina Chickadee, not seen at Prairie State Park (a hybrid zone); seen at Diamond Grove Prairie and all other areas
 Tufted Titmouse, all areas
 White-breasted Nuthatch, seen daily except Prairie State Park
 Carolina Wren, heard all areas incl. one seen at Roaring River; also Gunner Pool etc
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Roaring River and most days thereafter
 Eastern Bluebird, almost daily
 American Robin, daily
 Swainson's Thrush, Prairie State Park; Roaring River; heard at Bee Creek and Lost Valley; one confronting a Downy Woodpecker along Greer Springs trail
Gray-checked Thrush, one at Roaring River was frightened when an alarmingly large dead limb broke and fell to the ground between the bird and us
 Wood Thrush, seen at Roaring River; last day at Blue Springs; heard daily
 Gray Catbird, heard daily; seen at Prairie State Park; Roaring River and probably elsewhere; singing every morning behind hotel in Harrison, Arkansas
 Northern Mockingbird, daily
 Brown Thrasher, numerous at Prairie State Park, thereafter few or none
 European Starling, urban areas
 Cedar Waxwing, *Bombycilla cedrorum*, Springfield (seen by G. Martin); Buffalo River; Eleven Point River (perhaps a dozen)
Blue-winged Warbler, seen well at Roaring River State Park; and Bee Creek; heard along the lower
Golden-winged Warbler, one female at Roaring River; another female at Lost Valley
 Tennessee Warbler, seen at Roaring River; Bee Creek; Lost Valley; Gunner Pool area; heard last day
 Nashville Warbler, 1 at Mincy (possibly seen only by SH); migrant in low numbers through Ozarks
 Northern Parula, heard and seen daily; many excellent studies
 Yellow Warbler, 7-9 (or more) at Prairie State Park; pair along Eleven Point River
Chestnut-sided Warbler, Roaring River (at least 2); Lost Valley (heard); Buffalo River (heard); Eleven Point River (2); a surprisingly number noted this trip
Magnolia Warbler, one female seen at Roaring River; male briefly above Gunner Pool
 Yellow-rumped Warbler, one hd at Prairie State Park by SH (most have already passed northward)
 Black-throated Green Warbler, female above Gunner Campgd; male along Eleven Point River
 Yellow-throated Warbler, seen at Bee Creek; hd most other areas; seen at Eleven Point River
 Pine Warbler, seen in Eureka Springs; Hide-out-Hollow trail; hd Gunner; seen Greer Springs
 Prairie Warbler, west of Branson (seen beautifully) Mincy (also seen close); hd. along Buffalo River.
Blackpoll Warbler, two (male and female or molting imm) along Eleven Point River
Cerulean Warbler, much has been made of its decline and this seems to be occurring in the Ozarks as well however we saw a male (singing) at dawn from the large overlook southwest of Harrison, Arkansas; hd at least 4 along Buffalo River (two between 0900 and 0930 a.m.; I suspect that had we been on the river at dawn we would have heard many more); also saw a male and a female (possibly a pair) along Eleven Point River
 Black-and-white Warbler, heard or seen (males and females) almost daily
 American Redstart, another breeder seen or hd. daily including Prairie State Park
 Prothonotary Warbler, gorgeous bird at Prairie State Park

Worm-eating Warbler, pair seen at Lost Valley; another along Sylamore Creek and another at Eleven Point River

Swainson's Warbler, one along Eleven Pt. River sang right over our heads

Ovenbird, seen or hd. almost daily except Prairie State Park

Louisiana Waterthrush, seen or hd. daily except Prairie State Park

Kentucky Warbler, another warbler seen or hd. almost daily and often several in a morning

Mourning Warbler, one male (of two) seen well at Bee Creek; another hd. at Eleven Point River

Common Yellowthroat, hd. and/or seen in most areas; seen well at Prairie State Park

Wilson's Warbler, two males seen at Bee Creek

Canada Warbler, one male (of two) seen very well along Bee Creek

Hooded Warbler, hd. daily in Ozarks and seen repeatedly

Yellow-breasted Chat, seen at Prairie State Park; above Gunner Pool campground etc.

Summer Tanager, seen at Roaring River; Bee Mincy; Lost Valley and Gunner Pool and heard elsewhere

Scarlet Tanager, after hearing them frequently we finally saw one along Sylamore Creek and another above Greer Springs. Common breeder in oak-hickory forest on slopes and ridges.

Eastern Towhee, Prairie State; Lost Valley; Buffalo and Eleven Point River

Chipping Sparrow, seen daily around parking lots, campgrounds and woodland borders

Clay-colored Sparrow, one rather briefly at Prairie State Park; scarce migrant

Field Sparrow, Prairie State Park (many); Mincy; heard a few other places

Grasshopper Sparrow, one seen well on prairie walk at Prairie State Park

Henslow's Sparrow, Prairie State Park (1 bird seen well in scope)

Savanna Sparrow, several at Prairie State Park

Lincoln's Sparrow, one at Prairie State Park (seen only by SH); late migrant

White-throated Sparrow, Prairie State Park (2-3) and Roaring River (1 or 2)

White-crowned Sparrow, at least 4 at Prairie State Park

Northern Cardinal, all areas

Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 3 or more at Prairie State Park; Roaring River; hd. along Buffalo; hd. along Eleven Point River and elsewhere

Blue Grosbeak, male at Mincy Prairie; hd. along Buffalo River; hd. at Falling Springs Falls

Indigo Bunting, daily in amazing numbers (the sound of the Ozarks!)

Painted Bunting, male studies close up for several minutes at Ruth Henning State Park

Dickcissel, common to abundant at Prairie State Park

Bobolink, three males seen (in scope) along roadside between Prairie State Park and Lamar

Red-winged Blackbird, daily

Eastern Meadowlark, daily

Common Grackle, daily

Brown-headed Cowbird, daily

Baltimore Oriole, 20+ at Prairie State Park; also hd. or seen at almost every site in Ozarks

Orchard Oriole, 12+ at Prairie State Park; also Mincy; Lost Valley (bridge); Buffalo river; Mammoth Springs and Eleven Point River

House Finch, Springfield; Branson; Mt. View and probably other urban areas

American Goldfinch, daily (brilliant yellow males)

House Sparrow, all towns

LIST OF MAMMALS:

Armadillo, many road kills (won't they ever learn?); none seen alive

Eastern Cottontail, one at Lost Valley

Eastern Chipmunk, Lost Valley and almost all other Ozark sites; notably bright rufous rump

Gray Squirrel, throughout Ozarks (smaller in size than next species)

Fox Squirrel, Bee Creek; Lost Valley; Buffalo etc (fewer than Gray Squirrel)

Coyote, three at Prairie State Park

White-tailed Deer, three at Prairie State Park; two near Hide-Out-Hollow Trail

Elk, 19-20 in Prairie State Park; 9 along Buffalo River below Lost Valley (a reintroduction)

Beaver pond in upper Buffalo Valley (below Lost Valley) but no beavers seen
Muskrat, a dozen or more in pond at Mammoth Springs, Arkansas

LIST OF REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS:

American Toad, *Bufo americanus*, heard at several sites including Buffalo River float trip
Blanchard's Cricket Frog, *Acris crepitans blanchardi*, heard along Buffalo River
Cope's Gray Treefrog, *Hyla chrysoscelis*, hd at Eureka Springs
Bullfrog, *Rana catesbeiana*, seen at Falling Springs Falls
Green Frog, *Rana clamitans*, one seen at Blue Springs
Northern Fence Lizard, *Sceloporus undulatus*, Sylamore Creek
Broad-headed Skink, *Eumeces laticeps*, the notably large skink with weakly defined pale stripe along sides and prominent buffy orange head; at Gunner Pool campgd
Common Snapping Turtle, *Chelydra serpentina*, along roadsides etc.
Common Map Turtle, *Graptemys geographica*, this is the common turtle on the Buffalo
Three-toed Box Turtle (Tortoise), *Terrapene carolina*, several along roads
Ornate Box Turtle, *Terrapene ornata*, one seen at Prairie State Park
Midland Water Snake, *Nerodia sipedon*, Buffalo River canoe trip (genus of this snake may now be changed)
Rough Green Snake, *Ophedrys aestivus*, Prairie State Park (scarce and hard to find; this one was crossing the driveway near our picnic site)

BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS: (thanks to David and Pat Davidson for help with butterfly identification)

Total 44 species (16 skippers)

Swallowtails (Papilionidae)

Zebra Swallowtail
Giant Swallowtail
Easter Tiger Swallowtail
Spicebush Swallowtail
Pipevine Swallowtail

Whites and Sulphurs (Pieridae)

Cloudless Sulphur
Checkered white
Cabbage white
Southern Dogface

Gossamer-wing butterflies (Lycaenidae)

Gray Hairstreak
Eastern Tailed Blue
Spring Azure, common

Brushfoots (Nymphalidae)

Great spangled Fritillary
Pearl Crescent
Question mark
Red Admiral
Common Buckeye
Red-spotted Purple
Hackberry Emperor
Little Wood-Satyr
Monarch

Skippers (Hesperiidae)

Silver-spotted Skipper
Golden-banded Skipper
Northern Cloudywing
Fiery Skipper
Sachem
Lacewing Roadside Skipper

Moths

Luna Moth, one on back of our van at Dry Creek
Lodge in Mt. View

LIST OF TREES, SHRUBS AND VINES IDENTIFIED

Our tree list is smaller this year because a severe late spring freeze damaged the leaves of many trees (especially oaks and hickories); many still did not have leaves, or had only very immature leaves even at the conclusion of the trip, making identification of trees impossible this year

Ash Family (Olaceae)

White Ash, *Fraxinus americana*, in all riverbottom areas (U-shaped leaf scar)

Green Ash, *Fraxinus pensylvanica*, Sylamore Creek trail overlook

Blue Ash, *Fraxinus quadrangulata*, limestone bluff above Sylamore Creek (squarish stems)

Bean (Pea) Family (Fabaceae)

Redbud, *Cercis canadensis*, common; noted at Blue Springs

Yellow Wood, *Cladrastis kentukea*, parking lot at Blanchard Springs

Black Locust, a few noted at Prairie State Park

Honey Locust, several areas including parking lot at Blue Springs

Bristly-Locust (or Rose Acacia), *Robinia hispida*, Eleven Point River

Beech Family (Fagaceae)

Ozark Chinkapin, *Castanea ozarkensis*, Gunner Pool; Hide-out-Hollow etc

Carolina Beech, *Fagus grandifolia*, Lost Valley; Blanchard; Greer etc

White Oak, *Quercus alba*, all areas

Bur Oak, *Quercus macrocarpa*, Eleven Point River

Post Oak, *Quercus stellata*, Ruth Henning State Park

Chinkapin Oak, *Quercus meublenbergii*, many areas

Southern Red Oak, *Quercus falcata*, Mammoth Springs Park

Northern Red Oak, *Quercus rubra*, various areas but most were without leaves

Pin Oak, *Quercus palustris*, Prairie State Park

Blackjack Oak, *Quercus marilandica*, "Hide-out-Holler" trail etc.

Black Oak, *Quercus velutina*, all areas but almost none with leaves

Willow Oak, *Quercus phellos*, Blanchard Springs Cave parking lot

Birch or Hazel Family (Betulaceae)

River Birch, *Betula nigra*, Buffalo River; Mammoth Springs

American Hornbeam or Musclewood), *Carpinus caroliniana*, Blanchard area.

Eastern Hophornbeam, *Osrya virginiana*, Blanchard area

Bittersweet Family, (Celastraceae)

Burning Bush, *Euonymus atropurpureus*, Blanchard Springs Parking lot; etc (green twigs; small flower that looks like it is plastic)

Bladdernut Family (Staphyleaceae)

Bladder-Nut Family, *Staphylea trifolia*, Blanchard Springs, Greer, etc.

Buckeye Family (Hippocastanaceae)

Ohio Buckeye, Roaring River State Park

Buckthorn Family (Rhamnaceae)

Carolina Buckthorn, *Rhamnus caroliniana*, Ruth Henning State Park

Cashew Family (Anacardiaceae)

Smoketree (*Cotinus obovatu*, Ruth Henning State Park; small one by visitor overlook

Fragrant Sumac, Ruth Henning State Park; Gunner Pool etc

Smooth Sumac, all areas

Poison Ivy, abundant everywhere (but nobody was affected by it)

Cedar Family (Cupressaceae)

Eastern Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginianus*, all areas

Ash Juniper, *Juniperus ashei*, Ruth Henning State Park; bluffs over Sylamore Creek etc

Citrus Family (Rutaceae)

Hop Tree (Wafer-Ash), *Ptelea trifoliata*, shrub hanging over Blue Springs (a few tiny flower; perhaps our last new plant of the trip and one whom name I couldn't recall at the time)

Custard Apple Family (Annonaceae)

Pawpaw, *Asimina triloba*, Roaring River State Park etc (very little flowering because of freeze)

Dogwood Family (Cornaceae)

Eastern Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus florida*, throughout Ozarks
Rough-leaf Dogwood, *Cornus drummondii*, Prairie State Park etc

Elm Family (Ulmaceae)

Hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis*, all areas
Dwarf Hackberry, *Celtis tenuifolia*, rocky bluffs; balds; above Sylamore Creek
Winged Elm, *Ulmus alata*
Slippery Elm, *Ulmus rubra*

Grape Family (Vitaceae)

wild grape, *Vitis* spp., common; none identified to species
Virginia Creeper, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, everywhere

Ginseng Family (Araliaceae)

Hercules' Club or Devil's Walking-Stick, *Aralia spinosa*, Blanchard area

Heath Family (Ericaceae)

Mountain Azalea, *Rhododendron prinophyllum*, Hide-out-Hollow; Alum Cove
Farkleberry, *Vaccinium arboreum*, Hide-out-hollow; Gunner Pool Trail etc
Deerberry (High bush Huckleberry), *Vaccinium stamineum*, Hide-out-Hollow
Low-bush Huckleberry, *Vaccinium pallidum*, Hide-out-Hollow trail (common)

Holly Family (Aquifoliaceae)

American Holly, Blanchard Springs Visitor Center
Deciduous Holly or Possumhaw, *Ilex deciduas*, Blanchard Campgd (distant one)

Honeysuckle Family (Caprifoliaceae)

Buckbrush or Coral Berry, *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*, Prairie State Park etc
Japanese Honeysuckle, *Lonicera japonica*, lots of areas throughout; not flowering
Southern Arrow-wood, *Viburnum dentatum*, walkway to Blanchard Springs
Rusty Black-Haw, *Viburnum rufidulum*, Roaring River State Park etc

Laurel Family (Lauraceae)

Spicebush, all forested areas
Sassafras, all areas

Leatherwood (Mezereum) Family, Thymeleaceae

Leatherwood, *Dirca palustris*, various areas including Lost Valley; Gunner trail; Greer etc

Lily Family (Liliaceae)

Common Greenbrier *Smilax rotundifolia*
greenbrier sp., *Smilax* spp.

Linden Family (Tiliaceae)

American Basswood, *Tilia americana*, Blanchard Springs trail; Greer

Madder Family, (Rubiaceae)

Buttonbush, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, shrubs along Bee Creek

Magnolia Family (Magnoliaceae)

Umbrella Magnolia, *Magnolia tripetala* (flowers destroyed by freeze), Alum Cove
Southern Magnolia, *Magnolia grandiflora*. Not native but planted in several towns.

Maple Family (Aceraceae)

Box Elder, all areas (leaves like Poison Ivy but opposite, not alternate)
Silver Maple, *Acer saccharinum*, towns; along Buffalo River
Sugar Maple, *Acer saccharum*, widespread in bottomlands
Red Maple, Alum Cove, Blanchard, Blue Springs etc.

Mulberry Family (Moraceae)

Osage Orange, *Maclura pomifera*, Prairie State Park; Roaring River

Pines Family (Pinaceae)

Short-leaf Pine, *Pinus echinata*, throughout Ozark highlands

Plane Tree Family (Platanaceae)

Sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis*, along rivers

Rose Family (Rosaceae)

Hawthorn, *Crataegus* sp., Prairie State Park
Downy Serviceberry, *Amelanchier arborea*, various areas
Black Cherry, Prairie State Park, etc.
Prairie Rose, *Rosa carolina*, Prairie State Park
Unidentified rose along road above Gunner Pool Campground (native or ?)
Multiflora Rose, introduced; widespread and common
Blackberry, *Rubus* sp., many in bloom along fence rows; almost all areas
Dewberry, *Rubus* sp, possibly this along road above Gunner Pool Campground
Ninebark, *Physocarpus opulifolius* (not in flower), Bee Creek

Sapodilla Family

Gum Bumelia, *Bumelia lanuginosa*, Prairie State Park; Blanchard etc
Black Gum, *Nyssa sylvatica*, one noted on trail to Alum Cove

Saxifrage Family (Saxifragaceae)

Wild Hydrangea, common; not in bloom
Gray Mock Orange, *Philadelphus pubescens*, Eleven Point River Parking lot; large white flowers that looked like dogwood flowers
gooseberry, *Ribes* sp., common everywhere, incl. Prairie State Park

Trumpet Creeper Family (Bignoniaceae)

Northern Catalpa, *Catalpa speciosa*, native to a few northeastern Arkansas counties; Blanchard

Walnut Family (Juglandaceae)

Shagbark Hickory, *Carya ovata*
Mockernut Hickory, *Carya tomentosa*, various forested areas (fragrant leaves)
Black Walnut, *Juglans nigra*

Willow Family (Salicaceae)

Eastern Cottonwood (Prairie State Park & Eleven Pt. River)
Prairie Willow, *Salix humilis*, along creek in Prairie State Park
Sandbar Willow, *Salix exigua*, and/or other willow spp, Buffalo River

Witch Hazel Family (Hamamelidaceae)

Vernal Witch Hazel, *Hamamelis vernalis*, Bee Creek; Blanchard; Buffalo etc; riversides
Sweet Gum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, all forested regions

LIST OF HERBACEOUS PLANTS IDENTIFIED; 2005 (not a complete list)

Acanthus Family, Acanthaceae,

Hairy Wild Petunia, *Ruellia humilis*, Gunner; Greer etc

Arum Family, Araceae,

Jack-in-the-Pulpit, *Arisaema triphyllum*, Lost Valley etc
Green Dragon, *Arisaema dracontium*, Bee Creek (forest with gravel soil)

Aster (Sunflower) Family, Asteraceae,

Pussy's Toes, *Antennaria plantaginifolia*, all areas; we looked at it at Gunner along Sylamore Creek
Giant Ragweed, *Ambrosia*, roadsides (not flowering)
Pale Indian Plantain, *Cacalia* (*prob. atriplicifolia*), roadside at Roaring River (not in flower)
Common Ragweed, *Ambrosia artemisifolia*, roadsides (not flowering); roadsides; parking lots; dissected leaf
Tickseed Coreopsis, *Coreopsis grandiflora*, Mt. View; yellow disk flowers; thread leaves; roadsides
Tickseed Coreopsis, *Coreopsis tinctoria*, Mt. View; brownish red disk flowers; thread leaves; roadsides
Tickseed (Lance-leaf) Coreopsis, *Coreopsis lanceolata*, Mincy (photographed) beside road; prairies; leaves more basal and broader than previous two species; the many species of *Coreopsis* can be difficult to separate
Ox-eye Daisy, *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*, roadsides everywhere (alien)
Daisy Fleabane (Prairie), *Erigeron annuus*, prairies/roadsides (long narrow leaves); seen last few days of trip
fleabane sp, *Erigeron* sp., roadsides; species with tiny flowers (not identified)

Woodland Sunflower, *Helianthus divaricatus*, a few along Greer Springs trail; only 2 with blossoms
Potato Dandelion, *Krigia dandelion*, Prairie State Park; look much like next species
Dwarf Dandelion (or Two-flowered Cynthia), *Krigia biflora*, Roaring River; Lost Valley; Alum; Gunner; Greer etc;
Leaf-Cup, Small-flowered, *Smallanthus (Polymnia) canadensis*, many areas (not flowering); not pointed out
Yellow Leafcup, *Smallanthus (Polymnia) uvedalia*, Many roadsides (not in flower); has deep-cut leaf shape and lacks the leafy stipules at base of petioles that are prominent in previous sp.; not pointed out but abundant on roadsides especially at Bee Creek
Golden Ragwort, *Senecio pauperculus* or sp.?, prairies; narrow lanceolata-shaped leaves at base
Round-leaf Ragwort, *Senecio aureus* (believed this sp); seen a couple places in Ozarks; decidedly round leaves
Prairie Dock, *Silphium terebinthinaceum*, glades; NF (plant with huge arrowhead leaves); roadsides
Compass Plant, *Silphium laciniatum*, leaves present; Prairie State Park; Ruth Henning State Park; roadsides
Yarrow, *Achillea millefolium*, Prairie State Park; roadsides (alien)

Bean Family, *Fabaceae* (*Legumes*),

Wild Bean, *Stropohostyles sp.*, common bean-like understory plant almost everywhere
Blue False Indigo, *Baptisia australis*, roadsides; especially Branson area
Long-bracted Wild Indigo, *Baptisia leucophaea*, Prairie State Park
Tick Trefoil, Stick Tight, *Desmodium spp.*, Lost Valley; Alum Cove State Park; Greer etc (not in flower)
Sampson's Snakeroot, *Psoralea sp.*, Blanchard; Gunner
Sensitive Briar, *Schrankia (Mimosa) nuttalli*; pink balls of stamens with gold tips (Gunner trail)
Black Medick (small yellow clover), *Medicago lupulina*, roadsides everywhere
Yellow Sweet Clover, *Melilotus officinalis*, roadsides throughout
Red Clover, *Trifolium pratense*, roadsides everywhere
Crimson Clover, *Trifolium incarnatum*, Mammoth Springs (near visitor center)
White Clover, *Trifolium repens*, roadsides everywhere
Crown Vetch, *Coronilla varia*, Roadsides (pink clumps of blossoms)
Wood Vetch, *Vicia caroliniana*, Roaring River (individual white blossoms) etc
Yellow Wood Sorrel, *Oxalis stricta*, Prairie State Park and throughout trip
Violet Wood Sorrel, *Oxalis violacea*, Prairie State Park (a few noticed before rain)

Barberry Family, *Berberidaceae*,

May Apple, *Podophyllum peltatum*, woodlands everywhere; none flowering

Bellflower Family, *Campanulaceae*,

Spiked Lobelia, *Lobelia spicata*, small patch along roadside pull-out at Mincy
Venus' Looking Glass, *Triodanis perfoliata*, trail above Sylamore Creek

Birthwort Family, *Aristolochiaceae*,

Wild Ginger, *Asarum canadense*, moist woodlands

Borage (Forget-Me-Not) Family, *Boraginaceae*,

Wild Comfrey, *Cynoglossum virginianum*, Lost Valley; Gunner; Greer

Buttercup Family, *Ranunculaceae*,

Doll's Eyes (Baneberry), *Actaea pachypoda*, Greer (not flowering)
Columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*, Lost Valley; Gunner; Greer etc
Leather Flower, *Clematis spp.*, Gunner trail above Sylamore Creek (some were flowering)
Dwarf Larkspur, *Delphinium tricorne*, Roaring River etc; no other larkspurs were seen in flower
Round-lobed Hepatica, *Hepatica nobilis*, Lost Valley; Greer etc (NF)
Hispid Buttercup, *Ranunculus hispidus*, buttercup (photographed) in parking lot at Eleven Point River
Hooked Buttercup, *Ranunculus recurvatus*, common throughout Ozarks; roadsides etc
Buttercup, *Ranunculus spp.*, several seen but not identified to species

Rue Anemone, *Thalictrum thalictroides*, one plant seen flowering on Gunner trail (normally an early flowering species)

Buckthorn Family, Rhamnaceae

Rattan-vine; Supple Jack, *Berchemia scandens*, Gunner trail above Sylamore Creek

Cactus Family, Cactaceae,

Prickly Pear, *Opuntia compressa*, Gunner trail (growing atop a large flat rock)

Day-Flower Family, Commelinaceae,

Ohio Spiderwort, *Tradescantia ohioensis*, esp. prairies; also throughout Ozarks

Ozark Spiderwort, *Tradescantia ozarkana*, Roaring River (white flowers)

Dogbane Family, Apocynaceae,

Blue Star, *Amsonia ciliata*, Roaring River etc.

Evening Primrose Family, Onagraceae,

Missouri Primrose, *Oenothera missouriensis*, Mincy area (none in flower)

Geranium Family, Geraniaceae

Carolina Cranesbill, *Geranium carolinianum*, Roaring river (a few)

Wild Geranium, *Geranium maculatum*, Roaring River

Grass Family, Poaceae,

Big Bluestem, *Andropogon gerardi*, prairies

Broomsedge Bluestem, *Andropogon virginicus*, Prairie State Park

Giant Cane, *Arundinaria gigantea*, Bee Creek; Eleven Point and Current River (riverbanks)

Fescue grass, *Fescue sp. (prob rubra etc)*, roadsides where escaped

Honeysuckle Family, Caprifoliaceae,

Yellow Honeysuckle, *Lonicera flava*, semi-woody vine seen throughout but not in flower

Honwort Family, Ceratophyllaceae

Coontail (Honwort), *Ceratophyllum demersum*, Falling Springs Falls; Blue Spring etc; common aquatic plant (one of about sixty spp) growing in Ozark spring branches

Iris Family, Iridaceae,

Crested Iris, *Iris cristata*, Lost Valley; Alum Cove (not flowering)

Blue-eyed Grass, *Sisyrinchium exile (campestre)*, Falling Spring Falls; Blue Spring;

Lily Family, Liliaceae,

Wild Onion, *Allium c. var. canadense*, prairies and woodlands (not flowering)

False Garlic, *Nothoscordum bivalve*, Roaring river (not flowering)

Wild Hyacinth, *Camassia scilloides*, prairies (common in low wet areas)

Yellow Star Grass, *Hypoxis hirsute*, prairies etc; abundant at Prairie State Park

Solomon's Seal, *Polygonatum biflorum*, mainly noted at Roaring River picnic site

False Solomon's Seal, *Smilacina racemosa*, wooded areas; Roaring River; Gunner trail; Greer

Green Trillium, *Trillium viridescens*, Roaring River; Gunner; Blue Springs

Perfoliate Bellwort, *Uvularia perfoliata*, Lost Valley; Blanchard; Sylamore Creek etc

Arkansas Yucca, *Yucca arkansana*, on the limestone cliffs above Buffalo River

*Spanish Bayonet, *Yucca sp.*, cultivated in yards

Soapweed Yucca, *Yucca glauca var. mollis*, Gunner Pool Trail along Sylamore Creek

Madder Family, *Rubiaceae*,

Small Bluet (or Least Bluet), *Hedyotis crassifolia*, lawns everywhere; minute blue flowers
Long-leaved Bluet, *Hedyotis longifolia*, Mt. View (trail to restaurant); Gunner trail etc
Bedstraw, *Galium aparine*, roaring River; Lost Valley etc.
Bedstraw (Prairie), *Galium obtusum*, Prairie State Park

Milkweed Family, *Asclepiadaceae*,

Milkweed sp., *Asclepias sp.*, NF (roadsides and various waste areas; broad leaves; not yet in flower)
Four-leaved Milkweed, *Asclepias quadrifolia*, Alum Cove; Blanchard; Gunner; Greer etc. (common)
Climbing Milkweed, *Matelea decipiens*, Blanchard Springs roadside; Gunner (purple flowers)

Mint Family, *Labiatae*,

Ohio Horse Mint, *Blephilia ciliata*, Gunner trail (several places); rings of flowers
Bee Balm; or Horsemint; or Wild Bergamot, *Monarda russeliana/fistulosa*, Bee Creek; Lost Valley; Gunner;
Greer etc; white flowers with tiny black dots
Lyre-leaved Sage, *Salvia lyrata*, everywhere but few in flower; first noted in Lost Valley; common at blue
Spring parking lot
Self-Heal, *Prunella vulgaris*, along path on far side of Mammoth Springs (2 plants); identified later from photo
Hairy Skullcap, *Scutellaria elliptica*, fairly common along Gunner trail above Sylamore Creek

Moonseed Family, *Menispermaceae*

moonseed, *Menispermum sp.*, seen near Blanchard Springs; also Greer (?); not identified; three-lobed leaf

Mustard Family, *Cruciferae (Brassicaceae)*

Rock Cress, *Arabis laevigata (or canadensis)*, not flowering; Roaring river picnic area
Erysimum, *Erysimum (prob. capitatum)*, Bee Creek (photographed); tall mustard with conspicuous yellow
flowers in spike at top and slightly toothed, lanceolata leaves mostly on lower half of plant; identified
from photo
Winter Cress or Yellow Rocket, *Barbarea vulgaris*, everywhere (yellow in fields everywhere)
Water Cress, *Nasturtium officinale*, near spring branches i.e. Mammoth Springs; Greer
Field Cress (Pepper Grass), *Lepidium campestre*, tiny white flowers; prairies; roadsides; Bee Creek
Mustard sp., *Thlapsi (perfoliatum or arvense) ?*, like previous species but larger; tiny white flower; heart-shaped
seeds; Bee Creek in the wildlife plantings
Field Mustard (Rape), *Brassica rapa*, tall plant with large leaves and yellow flowers; Bee Creek wildlife
plantings
Shepard's Purse, *Capsella bursa-pastoris*, a few along roadsides at Prairie State Park
Dame's Rocket, *Hesperis matronalis*, tall purple flowering plants that escape from gardens; roadsides; Prairie
State Park

Nettle Family, *Urticaceae*,

Wood Nettle, *Laportea canadensis*, woodlands (alternate leaves; not flowering)
Nettle (stinging), *Urtica dioica*, opposite leaves; seen somewhere but not sure where; immature plants that have
not yet developed stinging hairs; no flowers present

Nightshade Family, *Solanaceae*,

Ground Cherry, *Physalis longifolia*, gunner tail above Sylamore Creek; the only one we saw

Orchid Family, *Orchidaceae*,

Lily Twayblade Orchid, *Liparis liliifolia*, Greer Springs (alongside trail)

Parsley Family, *Umbelliferaceae (or Apiaceae)*,

Yellow Pimpernel, *Taenidia integerrima*, Gunner (delicate plant)
Hemlock sp., *Conium maculata?*, RoaringRiver; Blanchard; roadsides; not sure of genus but believe it is *Conium*
(also known as Poison Hemlock)

Rattlesnake Master, *Eryngium yuccifolium*, prairies (not flowering but with characteristic yucca-like leaves)
Prairie Parsley, *Polytaenia nuttallii*, rather thick stems; common at Prairie State Park; yellow umbels
Meadow Parsnip, *Thaspium trifoliatum*, thinner more delicate plant than previous; roadsides; also yellow umbels
Sweet Anise, *Osmorhiza longistylis*, several (believed this sp. and not *O. claytoni*) near walkway leading to roaring River Springs (identified from photo); small white umbellets of flowers

Phlox Family, Polemoniaceae,

Blue Phlox, *Phlox divaricata*, prairies etc.
Downy Phlox, *Phlox pilosa*, the common one in Ozarks
Glade Phlox, *Phlox bifida* (prob. this sp), a few places in Ozarks; like previous sp but petals narrow and pale; reclining' grows in clusters
Jacob's Ladder, *Polemonium reptans*, Roaring River; Bee Ck; Lost Valley (already flowered)

Pink (Carnation) Family, Caryophyllaceae,

Sandwort, *Arenaria patula*, Mincy Glade (tiny and delicate white flowers)
Fire Pink, *Silene virginica*, many areas; first noted in Eureka Springs
Mouse-eared Chickweed, *Cerastium sp.*, Bee Creek (in wildlife plantings); tiny white flowers; sprawling plant

Plantain Family, Plantaginaceae,

English Plantain, *Plantago lanceolata*, Folk center (by our cabins); disturbed areas elsewhere
Plantain, *Plantago sp.*, other spp. noted in lawns etc (not identified)

Pokeweed Family, Phytolaccaceae,

Pokeweed, *Phytolacca americana*, seen in several areas but still small; probably not mentioned

Poppy Family, Papaveraceae,

Blind Eyes (Orange Poppy), *Papaver dubium*, Bee Creek; roadsides
Bloodroot, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, Most damp woodland areas (none in flower)

Primrose Family, Primulaceae,

Shooting Star, *Dodecatheon meadia*, Prairies (only a few noted but we saw both white and lavender ones)

Purslane Family, Portulacaceae

Spring Beauty, *Claytonia virginica*, Prairie State Park (common)

Rose Family, Rosaceae,

Five-finger Cinquefoil, *Potentilla simplex*, everywhere
Rough-fruited Cinquefoil, *Potentilla recta*, roadsides between Blanchard and Calico Rock; also Missouri; we never stopped to examine it
Pasture Rose, *Rosa carolina*, seen in Prairie State Park (a native species; not in flower)
*Multiflora Rose, *Rosa multiflora*, common in most roadsides and woodland edges; alien and invasive

Saxifrage Family, Saxifragaceae,

Alumroot, *Heuchera americana*, cliffs; Gunner; Greer; etc; root has powerful astringent qualities; used in herbal medicine

Sedge Family, Cyperaceae

Plantain-leaved Sedge, *Carex plantaginea*, Lost Valley (common); etc
False Nutgrass, *Cyperus strigosus*, growing at north end of Mammoth Springs lake (not pointed out)

Smartweed Family, Polygonaceae,

Virginia Knotweed, *Polygonum virginianum*, Lost Valley; Gunner and at Greer; identification provisional; may be this or a related sp. (i.e. *P. persicaria*); has prominent dark thumb prints on center of leaves hence often called "Lady's Thumb" (NF)

Curly Dock (or Sour Dock), *Rumex crispus*, all areas (NF); noted along roadsides and parking lots; waste areas

Snapdragon Family, *Scrophulariaceae*,

Indian Paintbrush, *Castilleja coccinea*, Prairie State Park (very little in bloom)

Blue-eyed Mary, *Collinsia violacea/verna*, Roaring River (small blue and white flowers)

Wood Betony, *Pedicularis canadensis*, PSP; Roaring River etc. (not much of it flowering)

Arkansas Beard-Tongue, *Penstemon arkansanus*, all over the Ozarks; white flowers

beard-tongue sp., *Penstemon sp.?*, larger white-flowering species at edge of Mammoth Springs Lake may have been the next species or another sp.

Prairie Beard-Tongue, *Penstemon tubaeiflorus*, Prairie State Park

Showy (Purple) Beard-Tongue, *Penstemon cobaea*, Yellville; one of the showiest plants in the Ozarks and quite local; I called it Arkansas Beard-Tongue which isn't quite correct; this purple one also occurs in a few counties in Missouri and a white variety occurs in eastern Kansas and northeastern Oklahoma (on a day of scouting following the tour I found several groups of "white" ones in northeastern Oklahoma

Woolly Mullein, *Verbascum thapsus*, Roaring River and many other areas (not flowering); an alien

Moth Mullein, *Verbascum blatteria*, one along roadside near Blanchard Campground; tall; yellow flowers; alien

Spurge Family, *Euphorbiaceae*,

Flowering Spurge, *Euphorbia corollata*, Prairie State Park; a thin delicate plant with two opposite leaves at each branching of stem

Wood Spurge, *Euphorbia commutata*, Roaring River; Gunner trail; almost round leaves that are sessile and surround stem

Stonecrop Family, *Crassulaceae*,

Widow's Cross, *Sedum pulchellum*, rock ledges at Blanchard Campgd; Gunner trail

Touch-Me-Not Family, *Balsaminaceae*,

Jewel-Weed, *Impatiens capensis*, many wooded areas (not flowering)

Valerian Family, *Valerianaceae*,

Corn Salad, *Valerianella sp.*, prairies etc (tiny white flowers on delicate plant)

Vervain Family, *Verbenaceae*,

Rose Verbena (Vervain), *Verbena Canadensis*, Prairie State Park

Violet Family, *Violaceae*,

Pale Violet, *Viola striata*, woodlands

Bird's Foot Violet, *Viola pedata*, Prairies

Waterleaf Family, *Hydrophyllaceae*,

Woolen Breeches (Appendaged Waterleaf), *Hydrophyllum appendiculatum*, Roaring River

Virginia Waterleaf, *H. virginianum*, Roaring River etc.

Hairy Phacelia, *Phacelia hirsute*, Buffalo River Bridge near Lost Valley/Ponca area

Water Lily Family, *Nymphaeaceae*,

Spadderdock (Yellow Pond Lily), *Nuphar luteum*, pond by prairie; Falling Springs Falls (many in flower)

Yam Family, *Dioscoraceae*,

Wild Yam, *Dioscorea quaternata*, woodlands (common throughout; opposite leaves usually 3-5 in whorls)

Wild Yam, *Dioscorea villosa*, roadside near Blanchard Springs parking lot (2 opposite leaves, not whorls)

Horsetail; Scouring Rush, *Equisetaceae*,

Common Horsetail, *Equisetum arvense*, Blue Springs trail (these are not flowering plants; more closely related to ferns)

Ferns: seen at various times during the trip

Christmas Fern, *Polystichum acrostichoides*, almost all forested areas

Ebony Spleenwort, *Asplenium platyneuron*, a few along trails; one pointed out at Greer

Maidenhair Fern, *Adiantum pedatum*, Lost Valley, Greer, etc.

Venus'-hair Fern (or Southern Maidenhair Fern), *Adiantum capillus-veneris*, hanging down beneath cliffs along Sylamore Creek; same genus as Maidenhair Fern

Walking Fern, *Asplenium rhizophyllum*, Greer Springs (many on rocks)

Lip-Fern sp, *Cheilanthes sp.*, Gunner cliff