

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc.

**THE OZARKS AND TALLGRASS PRAIRIES
A NATURAL HISTORY ODYSSEY**

May 6 -15, 2005

Guide: Steve Hilty

Few tours that we operate offer such a wide range of activities as this trip—birds, lots of botany, traditional Ozark crafts and music, some Ozark geology, a spectacular cave trip, visits to several springs and two tallgrass prairies, all running through the itinerary. Few travelers know much about the Ozark region. Although this forested limestone plateau, now deeply dissected into a series of scenic valleys and honeycombed with caves and springs, occupies half of the states of Missouri and Arkansas, it remains to this day poorly known to most North Americans and even to many who live within a few hours of this fascinating region.

Because the western side of the Ozarks opens abruptly onto the once vast tallgrass prairies we begin this trip with a day in the prairies—a day that usually coincides with migrant birds crossing the prairies, and with many of them pausing at scattered islands of trees that now dot this region. On our first morning we flushed an Upland Sandpiper and enjoyed many early morning sounds of the prairie, among them chattering songs of Dickcissels and the “hick-upping” of Henslow’s Sparrow’s perching on dry weed stems. The songs of Eastern Meadowlarks drifted across the rolling prairie while brushy streams sheltered Bob Whites, Eastern Kingbirds, Brown Thrashers, Bell’s Vireos, Common Yellowthroats, Yellow-breasted Chats, Baltimore and Orchard orioles, Indigo Buntings, Field Sparrows, even a Prothonotary Warbler, all contributing to the morning chorus.

A spring day on the prairie is paradise for botanists. Scattered across an undulating sea of prairie grasses were *Camassia*, *Castilleja*, *Hypoxis*, *Claytonia*, *Baptisia*, *Tephrosia*, *Oxalis*, *Viola*, *Eryngium*, *Polytaenia*, *Dodecatheon*, *Phlox*, *Verbena*, *Linaria*, *Valerianella*, *Senecio* and *Tradescantia* all with species flowering or preparing to flower, sometimes in clumps, sometimes scattered, some humble in stature, others tall and showy. The carpet of prairie flowers in early May was an inspiration, and a reminder of what once was one of North America’s most distinctive biomes. But for all of the excitement of our prairie visit it was but a prelude to the diversity of the Ozark plateau to come.

For the birders we saw and heard all of the eighteen regularly breeding warblers in the Ozarks—many of them repeatedly. We had exceptionally good studies of almost all of the warblers, including especially Blue-winged, Kentucky, Prairie, Cerulean and Swainson’s warbler, as well as numerous migrant warblers, Yellow-throated Vireo, Scarlet and Summer tanager, and a gorgeous male Painted Bunting. For the botanists there were flowering Mt. Azaleas, Umbrella Magnolias, Fringe Trees, the spectacular Snowy Penstemon (*Penstemon cobare*) and a long list of lesser flowering plants in river bottom floodplains, flint rock ridges, limestone ledges, and hills, holler’s and trails in between. Memorable were such oddities as Rattan Vine, Climbing Milkweed, Hop-Tree (Wafer-Ash), Smoke Tree, Leatherwood, and others large and small, showy and plain.

We enjoyed a warm sunny day for our canoe trip and a symphony of bird songs almost the entire morning along the Buffalo River. *Coreopsis* decorated limestone ledges beneath high walled bluffs and Wild Bill's fiberglass canoes were perfect, as we glided smoothly over deep bass pools and down quick-running riffles. Map Turtles basked on logs, herons flushed ahead of the canoes or watched stolidly as we passed and, for a few hours, the rest of the world seemed not to exist.

The Blanchard and Mountain View areas offer something for everyone--caves, springs, warblers, a great diversity of plants, traditional crafts and music and lots of food. We finished up the trip in Missouri with a stop at Mammoth Springs, and a day visiting three different kinds of springs—Greer, which boils up with great force, Falling Spring which issues from a cliff, and Blue Spring, with silky smooth water as blue as a coral sea issuing from an impossibly deep throat. We hope you enjoyed the trip and will tell your friends about this “best-kept secret” of ours.

The lists include all birds and mammals and most (but probably not all) of the plants, and other things that were mentioned, or noted somewhere. There are bound to be omissions.

THE ROUTE:

May 6. Arrival in Springfield.

May 7. Prairie State Park; afternoon drive to Eureka Springs.

May 8. Roaring River State Park in morning; picnic lunch and the White River Bald (Ruth Henning State Park) before entering Branson, Missouri.

May 9. A.M. at Mincy Wildlife Area and Bee Creek and drive to Harrison, Arkansas. Afternoon on the Schemerhorn trail to Hide-out-Hollow southeast of Compton, Arkansas.

May 10. Upper Buffalo River country incl. Lost Valley and Alum Cove State Park. Late evening at Baker Prairie.

May 11. Buffalo River float trip from Dillard's Ferry (highway 14) to Rush Landing (old Zinc Mining town). Late afternoon drive to Mt. View. Sleep tonight.

May 12. This morning we birded and botanized in the Blanchard campground, visited the springs, watched a short film on the Blanchard area and toured the cave. Spent the afternoon at the folk center and an evening (part) at their music show and a memorable, if futile, search later for Whip-poor-wills.

May 13. Breakfast at Joshua's, morning at Gunner Pool Trail in Ozark National Forest, and afternoon drive to Mammoth Springs. Night in Mammoth Springs, Missouri.

May 14. A day of springs—Greer Spring, Falling Spring and Blue Spring. Early morning birding along the Eleven Point River (great!); late afternoon drive back to Springfield Missouri.

May 15. Departure for home.

LIST OF BREEDING & MIGRANT BIRDS SEEN:

(**) Species only heard are marked with a double asterisk. Boldface indicates uncommon, local, or of special interest.

[] brackets indicates a bird seen only by Steve Hilty

Pied-billed Grebe, pond near Lost Valley

Great Blue Heron, almost daily

Cattle Egret, Prairie State Park (1); near Mt. View (ca. 5)

Green Heron, Sylamore Creek

Canada Goose, first day

Wood Duck, many at Mammoth Springs (15+ adults; 10-15 babies)

Turkey Vulture, daily

Red-shouldered Hawk, seen on Buffalo River; hd.; Sylamore Creek etc.

Broad-winged Hawk, over Buffalo River

Red-tailed Hawk, Prairie State Park; Bee Creek; last day

Wild Turkey, seen on at least 4 days

Northern Bobwhite, Prairie State Park; se of Branson
 Killdeer, several days; 1 w/2 babies at Mammoth Springs
 Spotted Sandpiper, along Buffalo River
Upland Sandpiper, 1 flushed at Prairie State Park (unusual here)
 Rock Dove, feral birds in towns
 Mourning Dove, daily
 **Yellow-billed Cuckoo, hd at several places
 **Barred Owl, hd. at Gunner Pool (no response)
 Common Nighthawk, over parking lot at Harrison
 (Chuck-wills-widow, 1 male dead on road near Bee Creek)
 Chimney Swift, almost daily
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird, almost daily
 Belted Kingfisher, a few along Buffalo River
Red-headed Woodpecker, several in Mammoth Springs Park
 Red-bellied Woodpecker, hd. or seen in almost all areas
 Downy Woodpecker, hd/seen on 2-3 days
 Hairy Woodpecker, hd often; pr. seen at Eleven Pt. River
 Pileated Woodpecker, seen in several areas including Eleven Pt. River
Olive-sided Flycatcher, Roaring River State Pk (a migrant)
 Eastern Wood Pewee, hd. and seen in various places
Acadian Flycatcher, seen well at Lost Valley; heard in other areas
 Least Flycatcher, [Prairie State Park], also Eleven Pt. River
 Eastern Phoebe, daily, near creeks and rocky areas; very common.
 Great Crested Flycatcher, heard daily; seen at Roaring River
 Eastern Kingbird, daily
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Prairie State Pk*; pr. at Baker Prairie; roadsides
 Red-eyed Vireo, daily; commonest bird in Ozarks
 Warbling Vireo, seen at Mammoth Springs
 White-eyed Vireo, hd. or seen almost daily
Bell's Vireo, seen repeatedly in Prairie State Park; Baker Prairie*
 Yellow-throated Vireo, seen at Bee Creek; hd. several other areas
 Blue Jay, daily
 American Crow, daily
Fish Crow, seen on Buffalo River (Buffalo Pt.) and Mammoth Springs; hd. at Mincy Natural Area; upper Buffalo
 River; Eleven Pt. River
 Purple Martin, seen at martin houses in Arkansas
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow, daily
 Cliff Swallow, many seen at big bridges throughout the trip
 Barn Swallow, daily
 Tufted Titmouse, all areas
 Carolina Chickadee, all areas including Prairie State Park
 White-breasted Nuthatch, mainly Mt. View and Blanchard
 Carolina Wren, hd all areas; seen Mincy Natural Area
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, almost all areas
 Eastern Bluebird, pairs almost daily
 American Robin, daily
 Swainson's Thrush, several on first 4 days; few thereafter
Wood Thrush, hd. throughout forested Ozarks; seen well at Gunner Pool
 Gray Catbird, seen on half of days
 Northern Mockingbird, seen about half of days
 Brown Thrasher, Prairie State Park, Mammoth Springs
 European Starling, urban areas
 Northern Parula, hd. or seen almost daily
 Tennessee Warbler, *Vermivora peregrina*, first 4 days; last day

Blue-winged Warbler, seen well at Roaring River State Park; Bee Creek; and Buffalo River bridge; heard most other places in Ozarks

Nashville Warbler, one at Roaring River State Park

Yellow Warbler, 1 Prairie State Park; heard along Buffalo

Chestnut-sided Warbler, Eleven-point River (seen by part of group)

Magnolia Warbler, 1 seen by part of group at Eleven Point River bottomlands

Cerulean Warbler, 2 heard along Buffalo River; 1 at Eleven Point River; pr. at Blue Springs

Yellow-rumped Warbler, one at Bee Creek (late migrant)

Prairie Warbler, one male was waiting for us at White River Bald

Pine Warbler, Sylamore Creek Campgd; others heard and seen

Blackpoll Warbler, 2-3 seen at Prairie State Park; heard 2-3 at Roaring River and at Bee Creek

Yellow-throated Warbler, heard daily; seen at Roaring River; Sylamore; Eleven-point

Worm-eating Warbler, seen at Lost Valley; Gunner Pool; Greer Springs

Prothonotary Warbler, *Protonotaria citrea*, Prairie State Park

Black-and-white Warbler, almost daily

American Redstart, another breeder seen or hd. almost daily

Swainson's Warbler, one seen beautifully by all at Eleven Point River (scarce in Missouri)

Ovenbird, hd. daily; seen best at Lost Valley

Louisiana Waterthrush, seen or heard daily

Kentucky Warbler, another warbler heard almost daily; seen particularly well at Roaring River; also Bee Creek; Lost Valley and Blue Springs

Common Yellowthroat, heard and/or seen in most areas; Prairie State Park; Baker Prairie

Wilson's Warbler, 2 on Eleven Point River

Hooded Warbler, hd. daily in Ozarks; seen Lost Valley; Sylamore Creek

Yellow-breasted Chat, seen well at Prairie State Park; heard elsewhere

Summer Tanager, seen at Roaring River and Bee Creek; heard elsewhere

Scarlet Tanager, hd. most days; seen at Lost Valley; female at Greer; common breeder in oak-hickory forest on slopes and ridges.

Northern Cardinal, all areas

Rose-breasted Grosbeak, male at Roaring River

Blue Grosbeak, male seen at Mincy natural area glade;

Indigo Bunting, daily in numbers

Painted Bunting, gorgeous male at Ruth Henning State Park near Branson (early arrival)

Dickcissel, many (abundant) in Prairie State Park; also Baker Prairie

Rufous-sided Towhee, glimpsed at Prairie State Park; one hd. at Mammoth Springs Hotel

Field Sparrow, seen at Mincy Natural Area; hd. Prairie State Park

Chipping Sparrow, scattered individuals on several days in Ozarks; one flushed off nest at Mincy (nest ca. 8 ft. up on branch of oak tree)

Grasshopper Sparrow, one seen well at Prairie State Park roadside

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

Savanna Sparrow, several at Prairie State Park (late migrants)

[White-crowned Sparrow, 2+ at Prairie State Park; SH only; late winter residents]

White-throated Sparrow, 1 at Blue Springs (late migrant) seen by some

Lincoln's Sparrow, 1 at Eleven-point River (late migrant); 1 at Harrison (behind hotel) by SH

Eastern Meadowlark, almost daily

Brown-headed Cowbird, daily

Common Grackle, daily

Red-winged Blackbird, daily

Baltimore Oriole, at least 4 at Prairie State Park

Orchard Oriole, 6+ at Prairie State Park; heard/seen in several other areas include Eleven Pt. River

House Finch, 1 or 2 in Mt. View (mainly seen by SH); elsewhere ?

American Goldfinch, almost daily

House Sparrow, all towns

LIST OF MAMMALS :

Armadillo (many road kills; won't they ever learn)
Eastern Cottontail, Prairie State Park; near Lost Valley
Muskrat, 2-3 in pond at Mammoth Springs, Arkansas
Eastern Chipmunk, several at Skillet Restaurant, Mt. View
Gray Squirrel, most areas
White-tailed Deer, Prairie State Park (1 seen distantly)
Bison, *Bison bison*, Introduced to Prairie State Park; ca. a hundred

LIST OF REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS:

Blanchard's Cricket Frog , heard along Buffalo River
Common Map Turtle, this is the common turtle seen basking on the Buffalo River
Three-toed Box Turtle (Tortoise), *Terrapene carolina*, Prairie State Park; Gunner
Midland Water Snake, *Natrix sipedon*, spring branch at Roaring River; Buffalo River
Prairie ring-necked Snake, *Diadophis punctatus*, 1 on Schemerhorn trail to Hide-out-Hollow
Northern Fence Lizard, *Sceloporus undulatus*, various campgrounds
Broad-headed Skink, *Eumeces sp.*, Gunner
Grotto Salamander, *typhlotriton spelaeus*, Blanchard Cave exit

BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS: *Only a few commoner ones noted*

Swallowtails (Papilionidae)

Zebra Swallowtail, common
Giant Swallowtail, several areas including Bee Creek
Easter Tiger Swallowtail, common
Spicebush Swallowtail, common (i.e. Roarin River State Park)

Whites and Sulphurs (Pieridae)

Orange Sulphur - common

Gossamer-wing butterflies (Lycaenidae)

Spring Azure , common at Bee Creek

Brushfoots (Nymphalidae)

Red-spotted Purple, many at Roaring River State Park

LIST OF TREES, SHRUBS AND VINES IDENTIFIED (probably not complete)

Prairie State Park; Gunner=Gunner Pool Trail on Sylamore Creek, Arkansas; Branson=White River Bald (Ruth and Paul Henning State Park, Branson, Missouri); Hide-Out-Hollow=Buffalo River drainage south of Harrison; Bee Creek=conservation area southeast of Branson

Ash Family

White Ash
Blue Ash

Olaceae

Fraxinus americana
Fraxinus quadrangulata

Mincy (keyed via leaf scar)
Gunner Pool

Bean Family

Redbud
Yellow Wood
Honey Locust
Bristly-Locust (Rose Acacia)
Black Locust

Fabaceae (*Legumosidae*)

Cercis canadensis
Cladrastis kentukea
Gleditsia triacanthos
Robinia hispida
Robinia pseudo-acacia

all areas
Lost Valley; Blanchard etc
Prairie State Park etc.
Eleven Pt. River
flowering everywhere

Beech Family

American Beech
Common Alder, Tag Alder
Ozark Chinkapin
White Oak
Bur Oak

Fagaceae

Fagus grandifolia
Alnus serrulata
Castanea ozarkensis
Quercus alba
Quercus macrocarpa

Lost Valley etc
river banks
Hide-out-Hollow; Gunner
All areas
Bee Creek

Post Oak	<i>Quercus stellata</i>	White River Bald
Chinkapin Oak	<i>Quercus meublenbergii</i>	Hide-out-Hollow etc.
Northern Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	All areas
Pin Oak	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Prairie State Park
Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>	Hide-out-Hollow etc
Southern Red Oak	<i>Quercus falcata</i>	widespread in Ozarks
Blackjack Oak	<i>Quercus marilandica</i>	Mincy; Hide out Hollow
Willow Oak	<i>Quercus phellos</i>	Blanchard Cave lot
Birch Family	Betulaceae	
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	Buffalo River etc
Ironwood (Musclewood)	<i>Carpinus carolinana</i>	Lost Valley; Blanchard etc.
Bladdernut Family	Staphyleaceae	
Bladdernut	<i>Staphylea trifolia</i>	Lost Valley; Big Spring etc
Buckeye Family	Hippocastanaceae	
Ohio Buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	Roaring River, etc.
Buckthorn Family	Rhamnaceae	
Carolina Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus caroliniana</i>	Common understory
Supple-Jack, Rattan Vine	<i>Berchemia scandens</i>	Gunner Pool trail
Cashew Family	Anacardiaceae	
American Smoke Tree	<i>Cotinus obovatus</i>	Branson; Gunner
Fragrant Sumac	<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	White River Bald etc
Smooth Sumac	<i>Rhus glabra</i>	everywhere
Winged Sumac	<i>Rhus copallina</i>	numerous areas
Poison Ivy	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>	everywhere (abundant)
Cedar Family	Cupressaceae	
Eastern Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	everywhere
Ashe Juniper	<i>Juniperus ashei</i>	seen near Gunner
Citrus Family	Rutaceae	
Hop Tree, Wafer-Ash	<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	Sylamore Campgd.
Mahogany Family	Meliaceae	
Pawpaw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Roaring River etc.
Dogwood Family	Cornaceae	
Rough-leaved Dogwood	<i>Cornus drummondii</i>	PSP and edges
Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>	Ozarks (some flowering)
Ebony Family		
Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Prairie State Park
Figwort Family	Scrophulariaceae	
Empress Tree, Paulownia	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>	Eureka Springs
Heath Family	Ericaceae	
Mountain Azalea	<i>Rhodendron prinophyllum</i>	Alum Cave etc
Deerberry (High bush Huckleberry)	<i>Vaccinium (sp.?) stamineum</i>	Hide out Hollow
Low-bush Huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium pallidum</i>	Common in understory

Elm Family Northern Hackberry Dwarf Hackberry Winged Elm Slippery Elm	Ulmaceae <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> <i>Celtis tenuifolia</i> <i>Ulmus alata</i> <i>Ulmus rubra</i>	Gunner Pool trail (cliffs) prob this sp. White River Bald prairie areas etc.
Ginseng Family Hercules' Club	Araliaceae <i>Aralia spinosa</i>	Blanchard etc.
Grape Family Frost Grape/Graybark Grape Virginia Creeper	Vitaceae <i>Vitis spp.</i> <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	“wild grapes” everywhere
Holly Family American Holly	Aquifoliaceae <i>Ilex opaca</i>	Blanchard Cave lot
Honeysuckle Family Buckbrush (Coral Berry) Japanese Honeysuckle Trumpet Honeysuckle Yellow Honeysuckle Common Elder-Berry Southern Arrow-Wood Rusty Black Haw	Caprifoliaceae <i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i> <i>Lonicera japonica</i> <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> <i>Lonicera flava</i> <i>Sambucus canadensis</i> <i>Viburnum dentatum</i> <i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>	everywhere everywhere widespread pest Butler Holler’ roadsides etc. Blanchard Spring etc Roaring River etc
Lily Family Common Greenbrier greenbrier spp.	Liliaceae <i>Smilax rotundifolia</i> <i>Smilax spp.</i>	widespread Widespread
Laurel Family Spicebush Sassafras	Lauraceae <i>Lindera benzoin</i> <i>Sassafras albidum</i>	everywhere locally throughout
Linden Family American Basswood	Tiliaceae <i>Tilia americana</i>	scattered in Ozarks
Magnolia Family Cucumber Tree Umbrella Magnolia Southern Magnolia*	Magnoliaceae <i>Magnolia acuminata</i> <i>Magnolia tripetala</i> <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	Lost Valley; Gunner Alum Cove towns
Maple Family Box Elder Silver Maple Sugar Maple Red Maple	Aceraceae <i>Acer negundo</i> <i>Acer saccharinum</i> <i>Acer saccharum</i> <i>Acer rubrum</i>	river edges; common mostly towns richer soil forests commoner in upland forests
Mezereum Family Leatherwood	Thymelaeaceae <i>Dirca palustris</i>	Lost Valley; Gunner etc.
Mistletoe Family Mistletoe	Loranthaceae <i>Phoradendron serotinum</i>	Buffalo River
Mulberry Family Red Mulberry	Moraceae <i>Morus rubra</i>	many areas

Osage Orange	<i>Maclura pomifera</i>	Prairie State Park
Pine Family Short-leaf Pine	<i>Pinaceae</i> <i>Pinus echinata</i>	scattered; largest at Gunner
Plane Tree Family Sycamore	<i>Platanaceae</i> <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	rivers
Rose Family Serviceberry Hawthorns sp. Ninebark Black Cherry Wild Plum Multiflora Rose Dewberry Blackberry Southern Dewberry (bristles hairs; new to me)	<i>Rosaceae</i> <i>Amelanchier arborea</i> <i>Crataegus sp.</i> <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> <i>Prunus serotina</i> <i>Prunus americana</i> <i>Rosa multiflora</i> <i>rubus flagellaris</i> <i>Rubus sp.</i> <i>Rubus trivialis</i>	widespread Mincy Natural Area (1) Bee Creek; Gunner Pool prairies; edges prairie edges escaped at prairie edges flowering everywhere flowering end of trip Butler Holler (the “blackberry” covered with red
Sapodilla Family Gum Bumelia	<i>Sapotaceae</i> <i>Bumelia lanuginosa</i>	many areas
Saxifrage Family Wild Hydrangea Missouri Gooseberry Gray Mock Orange	<i>Saxifragaceae</i> <i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> <i>Ribes missouriense</i> <i>Philadelphus pubescens</i>	Prairie State Park (prob. also this in Ozarks) Eleven-point River
Trumpet Creeper Family Northern Catalpa Trumpet Creeper Cross Vine	<i>Bignoniaceae</i> <i>Catalpa speciosa</i> <i>Campsis radicans</i> <i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	Sylamore Campgd. urban areas Gunner Pool
Tupelo Family Black Gum	<i>Nyssaceae</i> <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	several areas
Walnut Family Mockernut Hickory Pignut Hickory Black Hickory Bitternut Hickory Black Walnut	<i>Juglandaceae</i> <i>Carya tomentosa</i> <i>Carya glabra</i> <i>Carya texana</i> <i>Carya cordiformis</i> <i>Juglans nigra</i>	several areas dry rocky ridges dry rocky ridges (much like previous sp.) Mammoth Spgs (prob.this) Blanchard Springs trail
Willow Family Eastern Cottonwood Prairie Willow Sandbar Willow	<i>Salicaceae</i> <i>Populus deltoides</i> <i>Salix humilis</i> <i>Salix interior</i>	Prairie areas Prairie State Park Buffalo River
Witch Hazel Family Common Witch Hazel Sweet Gum	<i>Hamamelidaceae</i> <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Buffalo River etc. throughout Ozarks
unknown family Beauty Bush	<i>Kolkwitzia amabilis</i>	Roaring River Fish hatchery

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

NF=not flowering; Alum=Alum Cove State Park, Arkansas; Baker=Baker Prairie in Harrison, Arkansas; Bee=Bee Creek southeast of Branson, Missouri; Schermerhorn (Hide-out-Hollow)=trail in upper Buffalo National River Wilderness, Arkansas; Greer=Greer Springs; Gunner=Gunner Pool Campgd, Ozark Nat'l Forest, Arkansas; Lost Valley=Lost Valley in Buffalo National River, Arkansas; Mincy=Mincy Conservation Area southeast of Branson, Missouri; PSP=Prairie State Park north of Joplin, Missouri; Roaring River=Roaring River State Park, Missouri; Rush=Rush mining town on Buffalo River, Arkansas

Flowering was generally behind schedule this spring, perhaps due to cold weather earlier, and some species were not yet flowering this year, most notably the orchids, *Echinaceae*, some mints (Labiatae), and *Delphinium*. On the other hand early flowering species such as flowering dogwoods and the azaleas provided a better show for us than in previous years.

Arum Family	Araceae	
Jack-in-the-Pulpit	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	woodlands
Green Dragon	<i>Arisaema dracontium</i>	Gunner Pool trail
Barberry Family	Berberidaceae	
May Apple	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	woodlands everywhere
Bellflower Family	Campanulaceae	
Venus Looking Glass	<i>Triodanis perfoliata</i>	Schermerhorn trail (NF)
Buttercup Family	Ranunculaceae	
Doll's Eyes (Baneberry)	<i>Actaea pachypoda</i>	Greer (NF)
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia Canadensis</i>	Lost Valley; Gunner
Leather Flower	<i>Clematis spp.</i>	Blanchard; Gunner (NF)
Dwarf Larkspur	<i>Delphinium tricorne</i>	Roaring River
Round-lobed Hepatica	<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	Lost Valley etc. (NF)
Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus spp.</i>	Many areas
Hispid Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus hispidus</i>	
Prairie Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus spp.</i>	Prairie State Park
Rue Anemone	<i>Thalictrum thalictroides</i>	several woodland areas
Borage (Forget-Me-Not) Family	Boraginaceae	
Wild Comfrey	<i>Cynoglossum virginianum</i>	Lost Valley; Gunner
Orange Puccoon	<i>Lithospermum canescens</i>	Baker Prairie
Cactus Family	Cactaceae	
Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia compressa</i>	Gunner
Day-Flower Family	Commelinaceae	
Ohio Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	everywhere; esp. prairies
Ozark Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia ozarkana</i>	Roaring River (white flowers)
Dogbane Family	Apocynaceae	
Blue Star	<i>Amsonia ciliata</i>	Roaring River etc.
Evening Primrose Family	Onagraceae	
Missouri Primrose	<i>Oenothera missouriensis</i>	Mincy (only 1 plant)

Grass Family

Big Bluestem
 Broomsedge Bluestem
 Giant Cane

Poaceae

Andropogon gerardi prairies
Andropogon virginicus
Arundinaria gigantea riverbanks

Heath Family

Mountain Azalea

Ericaceae

Rhododendron prinophyllum Hide Out Hollow; Alum

Iris Family

Crested Iris
 Blue-eyed Grass

Iridaceae

Iris cristata Lost Valley; Alum Cove
Sisyrinchium exile (campestre) woodlands

Lily Family

Wild Onion
 False Garlic
 Wild Hyacinth
 Yellow Star Grass
 Solomon's Seal
 False Solomon's Seal
 Purple Trillium
 Green Trillium
 Large-flowered Bellwort
 Arkansas Yucca
 Spanish Bayonet*

Liliaceae

Allium c. var. canadense prairies and woodlands
Nothoscordum bivalve Roaring river
Camassia scilloides prairies etc.
Hypoxis hirsute prairies etc.
Polygonatum biflorum all wooded areas
Smilacina racemosa all wooded areas
Trillium recurvatum Lost Valley
Trillium viridescens Roaring River etc.
Uvularia grandiflora wooded areas
Yucca arkansana Yellville cliff; Gunner
Yucca smalliana cultivated in yards

Bean Family

Hog Peanut
 Wild Bean
 Blue False Indigo
 White Wild Indigo
 Long-bracted Wild Indigo
 Crown Vetch
 Tick Trefoil, Beggar's Lice
 Black Medick
 Sampson's Snakeroot
 Goat's Rue
 Red Clover
 White Clover
 Common Vetch
 Wood Vetch
 Scurfy Pea

 Yellow Wood Sorrel
 Violet Wood Sorrel
 Carolina Cranesbill
 Wild Geranium

Fabaceae (Legumes)

Amphicarpa bracteata forest ground cover; Greer
Stropohostyles sp. Like prev. but taller; Gunner
Baptisia australis roadsides Branson area
Baptisia leucantha roadsides Branson area
Baptisia leucophaea prairies
Coronilla varia roadsides
Desmodium spp. Lost Valley etc (NF)
Medicago lupulina roadsides everywhere
Psoralea psoraloides Gunner roadside
Tephrosia virginiana PSP (NF)
Trifolium pratense everywhere
Trifolium repens everywhere
Vicia sativa Butler; notably large size
Vicia caroliniana Roaring River
Psoralea esculenta Mincy glade (fuzzy plant with 5 leaflets;
 like a lupine; seen by DM and SH)
Oxalis stricta PSP etc.
Oxalis violacea Roaring River etc.
Geranium carolinianum many roadside areas
Geranium maculatum many wooded areas

Madder Family

Bluet sp
 Bedstraw
 Bedstraw (Prairie)
 Bedstraw sp.

Rubiaceae

Hedyotis (crassifolia) lawns
Galium aparine Roaring River etc.
Galium obtusum Prairie State Park
Galium sp. unid. sp. at Falling Spr.

Milkweed Family	Asclepiadaceae	
Milkweed sp.	<i>Asclepias</i> sp.	NF
Four-leaved Milkweed	<i>Asclepias quadrifolia</i>	Alum Cove; Gunner etc.
Climbing Milkweed	<i>Matelea decipiens</i>	Gunner
Mint Family	Labiatae	
Ohio Horse Mint	<i>Blephilia ciliata</i>	Gunner etc.
Horsemint, Wild Bergamot	<i>Monarda russeliana/fistulosa</i>	Mincy etc
Lyre-leaved Sage	<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	everywhere
Dead Nettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	prairie, roadsides
Self-Heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	seen by some early in trip
Morning Glory Family	Convolvulaceae	
Hedge Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus</i> (prob. <i>sepium</i>)	Bee Creek
Mustard Family	Cruciferae (Brassicaceae)	
Yellow Rocket	<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	everywhere
Water Cress	<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	near spring branches
Pepper Grass	<i>Lepidium campestre</i>	prairies; roadsides
Unidentified mustard	<i>Arabis</i> sp. or ?	Gunner Pool (photo'd but cannot identify)
Nettle Family	Urticaceae	
Wood Nettle	<i>Laportea canadensis</i>	woodlands (altern. leaves)
Nightshade Family	Solanaceae	
Ground Cherry	<i>Physalis longifolia</i>	Baker Prairie
Parsley Family	Umbelliferaceae (Apiaceae)	
Honewort (Wild Chervil)	<i>Cryptotaenia canadensis</i>	Gunner (larger <i>Taenidia</i> look-alike; larger,
serrate, trifoliolate leaves)		
Yellow Pimpernel	<i>Taenidia integerrima</i>	Gunner (delicate plant)
Hemlock sp.	<i>Cicuta</i> sp. <i>maculata</i> ?	RoaringRiver etc.
Rattlesnake Master	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	prairies (NF)
Sweet Cicely	<i>Osmorhiza claytonii</i>	all areas
Prairie Parsley	<i>Polytaenia nuttallii</i>	Prairie State Park
Meadow Parsnip	<i>Thaspium trifoliatum</i>	Roaring River
Phlox Family	Polemoniaceae	
Blue Phlox	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	prairies etc.
Downy Phlox	<i>Phlox pilosa</i>	this common in Ozarks
Phlox sp.?	<i>Phlox</i> (<i>paniculata</i> ?)	Gunner Pool (on bluffs; white flower)
Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemomium reptans</i>	Roaring River etc.
Pink (Carnation) Family	Caryophyllaceae	
Sandwort	<i>Arenaria patula</i>	Mincy Glade
Fire Pink	<i>Silene virginica</i>	many areas
Plantain Family	Plantaginaceae	
English Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	all disturbed areas
Pokeweed Family	Phytolaccaceae	
Pokeweed	<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	NF

Poppy Family Blind Eyes (Orange Poppy) Bloodroot	Papaveraceae <i>Papaver dubium</i> <i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	south of Yelleville many moist woodland areas
Primrose Family Shooting Star	Primulaceae <i>Dodecatheon meadia</i>	prairies
Rose Family Wild Strawberry Five-finger Cinquefoil Blackberry	Rosaceae <i>Fragaria virginianum</i> <i>Potentilla simplex</i> <i>Rubus</i> spp. (<i>prob. occidentali and pensilvanicus</i>)	prairies etc. everywhere
Saxifrage Family Alumroot Wild Hydrangea	Saxifragaceae <i>Heuchera americana</i> <i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	cliffs; Greer; etc all wooded areas (NF)
Snapdragon Family Indian Paintbrush Blue-eyed Mary Blue Toadflax Wood Betony Arkansas Beard-Tongue Showy (Purple) Beard-Tongue Prairie Beard-Tongue Woolly Mullein*	Scrophulariaceae <i>Castilleja coccinea</i> <i>Collinsia violacea/verna</i> <i>Linaria canadensis</i> <i>Pedicularis canadensis</i> <i>Penstemon arkansanus</i> <i>Penstemon cobaea</i> <i>Penstemon tubaeflorus</i> <i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Roaring River Prairie State Park PSP; Roaring River etc. all over the Ozarks Yellville (1 flowering) Prairie State Park; Baker Roaring River (NF)
Smartweed Family Virginia Knotweed	Polygonaceae <i>Polygonum virginianum</i>	Lost Valley; Gunner etc; identification provisional; may be this or a related sp. (i.e. <i>P. persicaria</i>); has prominent dark thumb prints on center of leaves hence often called “Lady’s Thumb” (NF)
Curly Dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	all areas (NF)
Spurge Family Wood Spurge	Euphorbiaceae <i>Euphorbia commutata</i>	Roaring River; (NF)
Birthwort Family Wild Ginger	Aristolochiaceae <i>Asarum canadense</i>	moist woodlands
Stonecrop Family Widow's Cross	Crassulaceae <i>Sedum pulchellum</i>	rock ledges
Sunflower (Aster) Family Yarrow* Giant Ragweed Common Ragweed Pussy's Toes Western Daisy Daisy Fleabane (Prairie) Berlandiera Ox-eye Daisy* Lance-leaved Coreopsis Coreopsis sp.	Asteraceae <i>Achillea millefolium</i> <i>Ambrosia</i> <i>Ambrosia artemisifolia</i> <i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i> <i>Astranthium integrifolium</i> <i>Erigeron strigosus/ annuus</i> <i>Berlandiera texana</i> <i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i> <i>Coreopsis lanceolata/spp.</i> <i>Coreopsis</i> spp.	in flower last day Roadsides (NF) Roadsides (NF) all areas; already flowered Baker; Rush prairies/roadsides Baker roadsides everywhere Roadsides; common Doubtless others present

Woodland Sunflower	<i>Helianthus divaricatus/spp.</i>	Gunner etc.
Potato Dandelion	<i>Krigia dandelion</i>	prairies
Dwarf Dandelion	<i>Krigia biflora</i>	also Two-flowered Cynthia
Amer. Feverfew, Wild Quinine	<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>	Hide-out-Hollow
Leaf-Cup, Small-flowered	<i>Polymnia canadensis</i>	many areas (NF)
Woolly Ragwort	<i>Senecio tomentosus</i>	the one in Ozarks
Golden Ragwort	<i>Senecio aureus</i>	Prairies (much like prev.)
Prairie Dock	<i>Silphium terebinthinaceum</i>	glades; NF
Compass Plant	<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>	Baker Prairie (NF)
Goat's Beard	<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>	Bee Creek (1 along roadside)
Touch-Me-Not Family	<i>Balsaminaceae</i>	
Jewel-Weed	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	NF
Valerian Family	<i>Valerianaceae</i>	
Corn Salad	<i>Valerianella sp.</i>	prairies
Vervain Family	<i>Verbenaceae</i>	
Rose Verbena (Vervain)	<i>Verbena Canadensis</i>	Prairie State Park
Violet Family	<i>Violaceae</i>	
Canada Violet	<i>Viola Canadensis</i>	woodlands
Bird's-Foot Violet	<i>Viola pedata</i>	Alum Cove
Arrow-leaf Violet	<i>Viola sagittata</i>	Prairie State Park
Waterleaf Family	<i>Hydrophyllaceae</i>	
Woolen Breeches	<i>Hydrophyllum appendiculatum</i>	Roaring River etc.
Virginia Waterleaf	<i>H. virginianum</i>	Roaring River etc.
Hairy Phacelia	<i>Phacelia hirsute</i>	Buffalo River (Ponca junction)
Water Lily Family	<i>Nymphaeaceae</i>	
Spatterdock (Yellow Pond Lily)	<i>Nuphar luteum</i>	pond by prairie;
Yam Family	<i>Dioscoraceae</i>	
Wild Yam	<i>Dioscorea quaternata</i>	woodlands

Ferns: seen at various times during the trip

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

Ebony Spleenwort, *Asplenium platyneuron*, a few along trails

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;

Smooth Cliffbrake Fern, *Pellaea glabella*, a few along limestone cliffs at Gunner

Walking Fern, *Asplenium rhizophyllum*, Lost Valley; Greer Springs

A book you might want to read: John Madson. 1982. *Where the Sky Began*. Sierra Club. A superbly written treatist on tallgrass prairies.

Total miles driven: ca. 1100

Miscellaneous: Eleven Point River. Appears on frontier maps as the Levé Pont River from the early French explorers and settlers. Still haven't found the origin of the eleven points, however.

Town of **Fifty Six** was so named in 1918 for the Fifty Six school, which was so named because it was in school district number fifty six, or so it is said. Today it is in Stone County School District.