

**MISSOURI & ARKANSAS:
THE OZARKS & TALLGRASS
PRAIRIES
MAY 4–13, 2018**



Canoeing the Buffalo River, Arkansas. Photo: S. Hilty

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MISSOURI & ARKANSAS
THE OZARKS & TALLGRASS PRAIRIES
A Natural History Odyssey
May 4–13, 2018

By Steve Hilty

Our visit to Prairie State Park in western Missouri started with “...a Barred Owl perched in the open on an electric wire at dawn.”

I wrote that sentence last year. But exactly the same thing happened again this year. In early morning light, about 0610 a.m., we watched this same owl (presumably) hunting, staring downward intently, once dropping to the ground, and then moving to a slightly different location on the wire to continue staring down at the grass in the ditch!

A little background regarding the spring weather this year adds some perspective to what follows. Much of south Missouri-northern Arkansas experienced record-setting cold temperatures in April, but near normal rainfall. However, the rains abruptly stopped at the beginning of our trip, and suddenly we were experiencing near record high temperatures—close to 90F some days. With clear skies and high temperatures, migratory birds moved northward quickly. Prairie State Park teemed with birds—migrating Eastern Kingbirds, Summer Tanagers, Baltimore Orioles, and many warblers. Resident breeders such as Dickcissels, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Brown Thrashers, Bell’s Vireos, and other prairie birds were much in evidence. We coaxed a curious little Henslow’s Sparrow into view and even found a little Sedge Wren in the prairie. But, because of previous cold temperatures, prairie flowers were late. We did not see great displays of flowers, although we did find reasonably good floral diversity—Yellow Star Grass, Wood Betony, Rose Verbena, False Garlic, and Cream Wild Indigo among many others. By late afternoon we were in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, with time for a brief tour of this unusual city, which boasts more than 90 natural springs and some of the most ornate old Victorian homes to be found anywhere (plenty of employment for painters).

The next day, at Roaring River State Park in Missouri, we turned up Blue-winged, Black-and-white, Kentucky, Chestnut-sided, and other warblers, along with flowering Paw-paws, green trilliums, larkspurs, and our first introduction to the remarkable diversity of oaks in the Ozarks. At a “bald” (natural bare hilltop), we enjoyed a Prairie Warbler and our first views of the sprawl of Branson’s music theater district.

Because of the broad natural history focus of this trip and the varied activities each day, a review of trip highlights reveals much more than birds. Over succeeding days there were hikes to waterfalls and into beautiful valleys such as the Hide-out-Hollow and Lost Valley, a remarkable natural (sandstone) bridge, and the beauty and peacefulness of canoeing the Buffalo River.

At Mountain View we visited Blanchard Spring and descended twenty stories below

ground for a walking trip through the lovely upper level of Blanchard Caverns where spritely cave guide Alex (or was it Alexa?) spotted an immature Grotto Salamander (it never leaves the cave) and a small unidentified snake near the cave entrance. The limestone Ozark hills are honeycombed with caves, the result of water working its way through the limestone over eons of time. This water reappears in the form of thousands of springs that dot the region, some mere seeps on hillsides, others ranking among the largest in the world. We visited Mammoth Spring, which pours out over 9 million gallons of water an hour; Greer Springs about half that; and much smaller Blue Spring, by comparison a mere 3 ½ million gallons an hour. In the following days we would see a sample of the remarkable diversity of springs in the Ozarks, spend an afternoon learning about traditional pioneer crafts, and enjoy an evening of old-time folk music at Mountain View.

We spent two pleasant mornings birding, botanizing, and simply enjoying beautiful places along sections of Sylamore Creek in Ozark National Forest. There were Ozark Chinkapin trees, Smoke trees, Venus' Hair Ferns, Ninebark, a Worm-eating Warbler, giant Short-leaf Pines, and dozens of other birds and plants. We concluded the day at historic Mammoth Spring, accompanied by a young local news reporter (curious about what we were up to) as we walked around the spring lake looking for birds among some immense old White Oak and Southern Red Oak trees.

We concluded the trip with an exciting morning in the Eleven Point River campground—Swainson's Warblers chipping and singing, along with American Redstarts, a Prothonotary Warbler, and a Wilson's Warbler. Then it was off to Greer Springs, part of which flows from a cave and even more of which issues from a great boil of water further down the spring branch—all in all ranking among the top ten largest springs on the continent. We had lunch at Falling Spring, and then a short walk to Blue Spring before returning to Springfield, but not before an all-important ice cream stop in the little town of Eminence, Missouri, itself a well-known starting point for canoeists and kayakers on the spring-fed Jacks Fork River just north of town.

Our lists reflect the wide range of activities on this trip—birds, plants (a lot of plants), butterflies (not many around this year), mammals, reptiles, a crayfish or two, traditional Ozark crafts and music, a little geology, a cave trip, and a canoe trip—all of which, I hope, provided an introduction to the beauty and charm of this fascinating region. With all of the natural history, this is a full-packed trip, and we hope it will leave you with fond memories of one of North America's loveliest but often-overlooked regions. *"Ya'all come back, ya hear!"*



Violet Collinsia, Roaring River SP, & Prairie Warbler near Branson, Missouri. Photos: S. Hilty 2018

ITINERARY:

- May 5. Prairie State Park; afternoon drive to Eureka Springs
- May 6. Roaring River State Park in morning along with picnic lunch; afternoon at Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area before entering Branson, Missouri (or is it Missoura'?)
- May 7. A.M. at Drury-Mincy Conservation Area and Bee Creek followed by a drive to Harrison, Arkansas. Afternoon on the Hide-out-Hollow trail near Compton, Arkansas
- May 8. Upper Buffalo River country including Lost Valley (and lots of school kids) and Alum Cove State Park; and an evening sunset on Baker Prairie in Harrison, Arkansas
- May 9. Buffalo River float trip from *Dillard's Ferry (Highway 14 bridge) to the ghost town of Rush. Late afternoon drive to Mt. View. Evening attempt to search for Whip-poor-wills (no vocalization).
- May 10. Morning at Blanchard Spring campground in Ozark National Forest followed by a visit to the spring and a late morning tour of Blanchard Cave; afternoon at the Ozark Folk Center craft grounds in Mountain View; old-time music at the Folk Center tonight
- May 11. Morning along Sylamore Creek and picnic lunch at the Gunner Pool campground. Late afternoon at Mammoth Spring park.
- May 12. Early morning birding along the Eleven Point River and the balance of the day visiting and birding on trails to springs—Greer Springs (two openings) Falling Spring and Blue Spring; afternoon drive from Blue Spring (Mark Twain National Forest) across the Current River to town of Eminence and then back to Springfield, Missouri for conclusion of trip. Dinner at hotel.
- May 13. Departures for home

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: I want to especially thank Winnie for spotting many birds on this trip, and for pointing out and inquiring about many plants. I also wish to thank David for carrying his “trusty” telescope throughout the trip, making it freely available to everyone. And, I’d like to thank all of you for your interest, your many questions, and for your curiosity about the birds, plants, and wildlife of this often-overlooked region of our country.

A NOTE ABOUT THE LISTS: The lists include all of the birds, and most (but probably not all) of the plants, animals, butterflies, and reptiles that were mentioned, or noted somewhere. With a natural history as broad-based as this one, there are bound to be omissions here and there.

*The name Dillard shows up frequently in Ozark history, most recently in the form of *The Dillards*, a Bluegrass Music band originally from Salem Missouri, that was inducted into the Bluegrass Hall of Fame (did I even know there was a Bluegrass Hall of Fame?).



Mountain Azalea, Alum Cove, and canoeing the Buffalo River, Arkansas. Photos: S.Hilty, 2018

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

Canada Goose, Prairie State Park and other sites

Wood Duck, various singles, pairs and small groups throughout trip; females with ducklings (very cute) at Mammoth Springs as well as numerous males

Lesser Scaup, **1** (presumably this species) on Mammoth Spring Lake; any scaup present at this time of year is quite unusual; curious occurrence

*Northern Bobwhite, Prairie State Park

[we saw no Greater Prairie Chickens; staff at Prairie State Park now report no sighting of this species during the last 4 years so it is presumably not extinct here, as well as everywhere else in Missouri]

Wild Turkey, singles and a small group along roadsides the first couple days

Rock Dove, Feral birds in Mammoth Spring

Eurasian Collared Dove, several in towns including Eureka Springs, Branson, Harrison etc.

Mourning Dove, daily

Yellow-billed Cuckoo, seen at Roaring River State Park; also Bee Creek (brief); heard along Buffalo river

Greater Roadrunner, 1 along the edge of road just south of Missouri/Arkansas border

Common Nighthawk, 1 spotted (not easy to do) by Peter Beuret at Drury-Mincy

Conservation Area as it dozed on a high White Oak branch

*Whip-poor-will, we did hear it both mornings at Mt. View but, of course, the morning

we assembled early to look for it the bird was calling far away and did not come
 Chimney Swift, small numbers
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird, seen on most days
 Killdeer, Prairie State Park and near Mammoth Spring
 Sandpiper, *Calidris* sp. a single in flight near Prairie State Park
 Spotted Sandpiper, 15+ along Buffalo River where they breed; also along Sylamore Creek
 Great Blue Heron, singles most days; several along Buffalo River
 Little Blue Heron, possible seen by a couple people the first day near Prairie State Park
 Green Heron, Prairie State Park; Buffalo river, etc.
 Black Vulture, daily from near Eureka Springs onward
 Turkey Vulture, daily in large numbers (plenty of road-kill armadillos to eat)
Bald Eagle, 3 (presumably) along Buffalo River; 2 adult birds seen and an immature with partly white tail
 Cooper's Hawk, 1 in a line of riparian trees at Prairie State Park
 Red-shouldered Hawk, heard on several occasions; 1-2 seen
 Broad-winged Hawk, more numerous than Red-shouldered Hawk; almost daily in forested Ozark region
 Red-tailed Hawk, almost daily
Barred Owl, 1 perched on an electric wire (0610 hrs.) just after dawn as we drove west of Lamar Missouri en route to Prairie State Park
 Belted Kingfisher, along Buffalo River and Sylamore Creek
Red-headed Woodpecker, 2 in trees adjacent to Eleven Point River in southern Missouri
 Red-bellied Woodpecker, heard or seen daily
 Downy Woodpecker, heard or seen several times
 Northern Flicker, Eleven Point River campgd. (1 heard); also 1-2 en route to Lost Valley
Pileated Woodpecker, heard or seen most days except the first day at Prairie State Park but we never had an extended view of one; best was along Sylamore Creek Trail (Gunner section)
Olive-sided Flycatcher, 1 observed in scope at Drury-Mincy Conservation area (an uncommon migrant)
 Eastern Wood Pewee, several sites
Acadian Flycatcher, heard almost daily in forested areas; seen at Lost Valley in upper Buffalo River Valley and once or twice thereafter
 Eastern Phoebe, daily near creeks and rocky areas; bridges; old buildings; above springs
 Great Crested Flycatcher, heard almost daily; seen at various sites
 Eastern Kingbird, Prairie State Park and along roadsides elsewhere; some migratory birds across Prairie state Park
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, trees and fences in open areas; Prairie State Park (in scope) and roadsides on most days thereafter including the parking lot of Shorty's BBQ in Mountain View, Arkansas
 White-eyed Vireo, heard or seen almost daily; sassy voice
Bell's Vireo, seen at Prairie State Park
 Yellow-throated Vireo, heard distantly most days; seen at Roaring River State Park
 Warbling Vireo, Prairie State Park (hd); seen at Mammoth Spring where singing constantly

Red-eyed Vireo, daily; commonest bird in the Ozarks (along with Indigo Bunting)
 Blue Jay, daily
 American Crow, daily
Fish Crow, daily except not at Prairie State Park; in most towns including Branson and along rivers
 Purple Martin, seen around martin houses on several days, mostly as we were driving
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow, along rivers and cliffs; pair probably nesting in a cliff cavity near Buffalo Point on Buffalo River
 Cliff Swallow, nesting under bridges in many areas but curiously none nesting on bluffs overlooking the Buffalo River
 Barn Swallow, almost daily; cute pair on wire by Eleven Point River bridge
 Carolina Chickadee, daily; birds at Prairie State Park may be hybrids in a zone where this species and Black-capped Chickadees occur; only Carolina's are found southward throughout Ozarks
 Tufted Titmouse, all areas
 White-breasted Nuthatch, seen or heard daily
Sedge Wren, 1 in Prairie State Park; quite unusual at this time of year because few are seen until mid-July when northern birds apparently reposition southward to breed (again?)
 Carolina Wren, heard and/or seen in all areas; common voice
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Roaring River and most days thereafter; a pair building lichen-covered nest at Roaring River State Park
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1 at Prairie State Park
 Eastern Bluebird, daily
 Swainson's Thrush, singles or up to 10+ seen or heard on first 5 days of trip but none thereafter
Wood Thrush, we heard the lovely song of this species in several areas with 1-2 being heard in the forest surrounding our cabins at the Ozark Folk Center in Mt. View; seen well along Greer Springs trail
 American Robin, daily and in full song
 Gray Catbird, Prairie State Park (where we saw a half dozen or more)
 Brown Thrasher, numerous at Prairie State Park, few afterwards
 Northern Mockingbird, daily in towns and country
 European Starling, urban areas
 Cedar Waxwing, *Bombycilla cedrorum*, small flocks on at May 6, 7, and 9
 House Sparrow, in towns throughout
 House Finch, around Hotel at Harrison, Arkansas
 American Goldfinch, seen most days; common
 Eastern Towhee, Prairie State Park (several seen); thereafter mostly heard
 Chipping Sparrow, almost daily around parking lots, campgrounds and woodland borders
 Field Sparrow, Prairie State Park; Drury-Mincy Bald; melancholy song
 Savanna Sparrow, numerous at Prairie State Park
Henslow's Sparrow, Prairie State Park (1 bird seen at very close range)
 Lincoln's Sparrow, 2-3 at Prairie State Park; rather late date for this species
 White-throated Sparrow, Prairie State Park
 White-crowned Sparrow, 8a couple at Prairie State Park (immature and 1 adult plumage)

bird)

House Finch, from Harrison Arkansas onward (in towns)

Yellow-breasted Chat, seen at Prairie State Park and Eleven Point River Campground; heard along Buffalo River; **this species has been shown to be more closely related to Icterids (Blackbirds) than to wood-warblers**

Red-winged Blackbird, daily

Eastern Meadowlark, daily

Common Grackle (“bronzed” form here), almost all areas but mainly in or near towns and settled areas

Brown-headed Cowbird, daily (too many)

Orchard Oriole, several at Prairie State Park

Baltimore Oriole, several at Prairie State Park; a few later

Ovenbird, heard daily except at Prairie State Park; seen at Roaring River and Lost Valley

Worm-eating Warbler, pair seen at along Sylamore trail (second day) and at Greer Springs

Louisiana Waterthrush, seen or heard daily except Prairie State Park; exceptional views along the Blanchard Spring branch

Golden-winged Warbler, 1 male seen quite well along Bee Creek, Missouri; stayed high, very active and repeatedly hung upside down from emerging leaves

Blue-winged Warbler, 1 at Roaring River State Park

Black-and-white Warbler, heard or seen (males and females) almost daily (except Prairie State Park)

Prothonotary Warbler, 1 high on an open sycamore branch in the Eleven Point Campground

Swainson’s Warbler, pair seen well near Eleven Point River

Tennessee Warbler, heard and seen a few times early in the trip, mainly Prairie State Park and Roaring River

Nashville Warbler, Prairie State Park

Kentucky Warbler, seen best at Roaring River State Park; heard at a couple other sites; numbers seemed fewer this year

Common Yellowthroat, seen at Prairie State Park; heard along Buffalo River; also Eleven Point river

Hooded Warbler, heard daily in Ozarks and seen on several occasions including Lost Valley; Buffalo River; Gunner Trail; and Eleven Point River and possibly elsewhere; one of the commonest breeding warblers in the Ozarks

American Redstart, another common Ozark breeder seen or heard daily (except Prairie State Park); quite easy to see from the Highway 74 bridge near Lost Valley and also along Eleven Point River

Cerulean Warbler, much has been made of its decline of this species and, sadly, this also is true in the Ozarks; we saw a pair in a relatively large tree near the Buffalo Wilderness Area (above Ponca); also it was heard at the Highway 14 Bridge (canoe put-in); at least once along the river on the float; and again at the Rush take-out point (brief response to playback but not seen at latter site)

Northern Parula, heard and/or seen daily; many excellent studies

Magnolia Warbler, 1 at Prairie State Park; another at Roaring River State Park

Yellow Warbler, 8-10 seen at Prairie State Park, mainly in campground woodland

Chestnut-sided Warbler, 2 seen at Roaring River State Park

Blackpoll Warbler, 1 male seen well at Drury-Mincy Conservation area

Palm Warbler, 1 in brushy semi-open roadside at Prairie State Park; another at Roaring River State Park; a species that usually migrates through Missouri earlier in Spring

Pine Warbler, Blanchard Spring campground (pair seen very close)

Yellow-rumped Warbler, numerous in wooded campground at Prairie State Park; also at Roaring River and a single at Drury-Mincy Bald

Yellow-throated Warbler, first seen at Roaring River; thereafter heard/seen at various sites including especially well from the Hgwy 74 bridge over the Buffalo River; also heard and/or seen on Buffalo River float; Blanchard Campground and Eleven Point Campground



Yellow-throated Warbler in Sycamore, Buffalo River, Arkansas. Photo: S.Hilty, 2018

Prairie Warbler, west of Branson (seen beautifully) at the Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area

Black-throated Green Warbler, 1 seen by some of group at Prairie State Park

Wilson's Warbler, 1 in willow thicket on sandbar of Eleven Point River (Missouri)

Summer Tanager, numerous in wooded picnic area at Prairie State Park; also 1 seen flying over the prairie (obviously migrating); scattered birds elsewhere on trip

Scarlet Tanager, a common breeder in oak-hickory forest on slopes and ridges but little in evidence this year; we saw 2 males along the Greer Springs trail

Northern Cardinal, all areas; males often perching very high when singing

Rose-breasted Grosbeak, our only sightings were at the Drury-Mincy Bald (3 males together);

Blue Grosbeak, male perched up high and singing in treetop near Buffalo River Wilderness area above Ponca

Indigo Bunting, daily but not as numerous either by sight or voice as in previous years
Dickcissel, common to abundant at Prairie State Park; also at Baker Prairie in Harrison,
Arkansas

MAMMALS:

Virginia Opossum, one raiding the dumpster at the River Bend Restaurant in Mammoth
Springs at around 0615 a.m., then scurried away like a thief when it was spotted
Armadillo, dozens and dozens of road kills; none actually seen alive
Gray Squirrel, throughout Ozarks
Eastern Chipmunk, Skillet Restaurant at Ozark Folk Center; another along road north of
Mammoth Springs
Common Muskrat, 3-4 at Mammoth Springs State Park
Eastern Cottontail, Prairie State Park; the Ozark Folk Center and elsewhere
Big Brown Bat (presumed this sp.), 1 seen sleeping in a small enclosure above the rear
walkway at Blanchard Caverns
Raccoon, 1 along Buffalo River
White-tailed Deer, 2s and 3s a few times
American Bison, Prairie State Park (we saw about 35 or so)
DOR's, a surprising number; in addition to the Armadillos, we noted a coyote, Northern
Raccoon and White-tailed Deer and numerous others to flat for identification

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS:

Frogs:

- *Blanchard's Cricket Frog, *Acris crepitans blanchardi*, heard along Buffalo River (did I point this one out?)
- *Cope's Gray Treefrog, heard along Buffalo River float and at Ozark Folk Center (very loud call)

Salamanders:

Ozark Blind Salamander (Grotto Salamander), *Eurycea spelaea*, Blanchard Cavern (1 immature that was dark in color; they become colorless or whitish with age.
Endemic to Ozark region

Turtles:

Red-eared Slider, Mammoth Springs
Common Snapping Turtle, 1 seen the first day by a few people (also others DOR?)
Common Map Turtle, *Graptemys geographica*, this is the common turtle on the Buffalo
River; we saw many; rather thick necked and large headed with numerous narrow
yellow stripes on greenish heads
Three-toed Box Turtle, seen at several sites and on road several times

Skinks and Lizards:

Eastern Fence Lizard, *Sceloporus undulatus*, Ruth and Paul Henning State Park (Bald;

Ozark Folk Center and elsewhere
Five-lined Skink, *Eumeces fasciatus*, a blue-tailed young one seen by part of group; also at least 1 adult seen

Snakes:

Black Rat Snake, 1 (by SH only) at Falling Springs; another on road
Garter Snake, 1 on road near the Gunner Pool campground at Sylamore Creek
Northern Water Snake, *Nerodia sipedon*, 3 at Mammoth Springs
Pygmy Rattlesnake, 1 fully grown one showed to us by Rattlesnake Joe (of Granby Missouri); and Joe, despite appearances to the contrary, was surprisingly knowledgeable about snakes as well as birds, plants and many other living things; and he was certainly a colorful character! The next day we another Pygmy Rattlesnake . . well, Linda Beuret saw it just a couple steps in front of her, so we all had close views.

Crayfish:

Burrows of Prairie Crayfish seen in the prairies
One photographed by David at Falling Spring but I am unable to identify it (there are more than 30 species of native species as well as many others sold by bait shops to fishermen). This one had a largely blackish rear body and was fairly large.

BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS: we did not identify many butterflies, in part because there were few around this year, perhaps because of the remarkably cold temperatures that persisted throughout April; the following short list includes a few species that I recall being discussed (and there were surely others)

Swallowtails (Papilionidae)

Easter Tiger Swallowtail
Spicebush Swallowtail (common)

Whites and Sulphurs

Clouded Sulphur

Brushfoots (Nymphalidae)

Red-spotted Purple
Monarch

Skippers (Hesperiidae)

Silver-spotted Skipper

TREES, SHRUBS AND VINES IDENTIFIED

Note that the taxonomy of numerous plants on this list at both the generic and species level, and sometimes also at the family level, has changed. Most books and popular guides, and even most web-based sites, however, have not caught up to the newest taxonomy. The nomenclature used here is that found in most older (and more familiar)

references. Newer taxonomy (if you are interested) can be found on several internet sites.

Some newer Apps available if you don't want to carry a library of books:

Wildflowersearch.com (also *wildflowersearch.org*) has free apps for a large number of states (e.g. Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, etc.) Also on internet see: Missouri Flora (www.missouriplants.com)) and for Kansas Flowering Plants and Grasses (www.kswildflower.org)



Wild Hyacinths in bloom on Baker Prairie (Tallgrass Prairie), Harrison, Ark., Photo: S. Hilty 2018

Ash Family (Olaceae)

White Ash, *Fraxinus americana*, (U-shaped leaf scar); I demonstrated this feature on a small tree along Sylamore Creek Trail (near Gunner Pool)

Blue Ash, *Fraxinus quadrangulata*, Gunner Pool; Blue Springs; this ash has bluish sap that will tint a glass of water pale blue

Bean (Pea) Family (Fabaceae)

Lead Plant, *Amorpha fruticosa*, gravel bar at Eleven Point bridge

Redbud, *Cercis canadensis*, common

Yellow Wood, *Cladrastis kentukea*, Lost Valley; Blanchard Springs parking lot and other sites

Honey Locust, Prairie State Park and other sites

Mimosa, *Albizzia julibrissin*, Gunner Pool Trail

Black Locust, throughout but not in flower

Oak Family (Fagaceae)

American Beech, *Fagus grandifolia*, Lost Valley

Ozark Chinkapin, *Castanea ozarkensis*, Gunner Pool entrance road; above Ponca (large tree); maybe also Ruth and Paul Henning state park (still not absolutely sure about the one there)

Eastern White Oak, *Quercus alba*, all Ozark areas

Bur Oak, *Quercus macrocarpa*, several areas

Post Oak, *Quercus stellata*, Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area

Chinkapin Oak, *Quercus meublenbergii*, many areas beginning with Roaring River state park

Northern Red Oak, *Quercus rubra*, various areas; especially Hide-out-Holler' overlook

Southern Red Oak, *Quercus falcata*, Blanchard Campground etc.

Pin Oak, *Quercus palustris*, Prairie State Park; also a couple at Mammoth Springs (where surely introduced)

Blackjack Oak, *Quercus marilandica*., "Hide-out-Holler" trail; Drury-Mincy Conservation Area

Black Oak, *Quercus velutina*, all areas

Birch or Hazel Family (Betulaceae)

River Birch, *Betula nigra*, Buffalo River

American Hornbeam or Musclewood), *Carpinus caroliniana*, Blanchard area (smooth ropy bark)

Eastern Hophornbeam, *Ostrya virginiana*, Roaring River; Blanchard area (rough bark)

Bladdernut Family (Staphyleaceae)

Bladder-Nut Family, *Staphylea trifolia*, Lost Valley; many other sites

Buckeye Family (Hippocastanaceae)

Ohio Buckeye, *Aesculus glabra*, Roaring River State Park and many other areas; common;

Horse chestnut, the huge tree out back at Blanchard Cave visitor center (I have been told this one was an Ohio Buckeye by the Forest Service people but this surely cannot be correct because Ohio Buckeyes are small understory trees)

Red Buckeye, *Aesculus pavia*, behind Skillet Restaurant at Ozark Folk Center; red flowers; Mammoth Springs

Buckthorn Family (Rhamnaceae)

Carolina Buckthorn, *Rhamnus caroliniana*, Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area & elsewhere

Cashew Family (Anacardiaceae)

American Smoketree (*Cotinus obovatus*, Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area; along Sylamore Creek at Gunner Trail

Fragrant Sumac, Ruth and Paul Henning State Park; Gunner Pool; Sylamore campground

Smooth Sumac, all areas

Poison Ivy, abundant everywhere (apparently one or two of you got a rash from some of it but (my theory) is that it is less potent in spring; a very hot water shower on the affected area will eliminate the itching for 6-8 hours)

Cedar Family (Cupressaceae)

Eastern Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginianus*, all areas

Ash Juniper, *Juniperus ashei*, Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area; bluffs along Buffalo River etc.; multiple trunks that "stool" rather than growing with a single trunk

Citrus Family (Rutaceae)

Hop Tree (Wafer-Ash), *Ptelea trifoliata*, Blanchard Campground bridge; and other sites

Custard Apple Family (Annonaceae)

Pawpaw, *Asimina triloba*, Roaring River State Park etc (maroon-colored flowers; also many other areas)

Dogwood Family (Cornaceae)

Rough-leaved Dogwood, *Cornus drummondii*, Blanchard Campground bridge; also Prairie State Park

Eastern Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus florida*, throughout Ozarks but only 1 or 2 trees in flower (these at Hide-out-Hollow)

Ebony Family

Persimmon, *Diospyros virginiana*, Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area and other area; Blanchard Campgd, and other sites

Elm Family (Ulmaceae)

Northern Hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis*, all areas and especially at Prairie State Park
Dwarf Hackberry, *Celtis tenuifolia*, Ruth & Paul Henning Conservation Area (not sure I pointed this one out)

Rock Elm, *Ulmus thomasi*, Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area; Lost Valley and bluffs elsewhere (looks like next species but leaf stems longer than ¼ inch!

Winged Elm, *Ulmus alata*, Ruth and Paul Henning Conservation Area etc; rocky areas

Slippery Elm, *Ulmus rubra* (common everywhere); rough upper surface

Figwort Family (Scrophulariaceae)

Empress Tree (Paulownia), in flower in parking lot of hotel in Eureka Springs and Mammoth Sproings

Ginseng Family (Araliaceae)

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

Virginia Creeper, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, everywhere

wild grape, *Vitis* spp., common; none specifically identified to species; the commonest species are Summer Grape (*V. aestivalis*); Graybark Grape (*V. cinerea*); and Winter Grape (*V. vulpina*). Muscadine Grape may also have been seen.

Heath Family (Ericaceae)

Sparkleberry (Farkleberry), *Vaccinium arboreum*, Hide-out-Holler' and a few other dry rocky areas; I may not have pointed out this one

Deerberry (High bush Huckleberry), *Vaccinium stamineum*, a few flowering at Hide-out-Holler' Trail

Low-bush Huckleberry, *Vaccinium pallidum*, Hide-out-Holler' trail (very common; less than ca. 15" high; seemed to have buds or immature berries)

Honeysuckle Family (Caprifoliaceae)

Buckbrush or Coral Berry, *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*, Prairie State Park etc; all areas

Common Elderberry, *Sambucus canadensis*, various places

Japanese Honeysuckle, *Lonicera japonica*, lots of areas throughout

Yellow Honeysuckle, *Lonicera dioica*, we saw some with yellow flowers on Hide-out-Hollow trail

Southern Arrow-wood, *Viburnum dentatum*, walkway to Blanchard Springs; Gunner Trail

Rusty Black Haw, *Viburnum rufidulum*, Roaring River State Park and other sites;

shiny leaves and reddish petioles

Laurel Family (Lauraceae)

Spicebush, all forested areas; first noted at Roaring River State Park

Sassafras, all areas but only saplings

Leatherwood (Mezereum) Family, Thymeleaceae

Leatherwood, *Dirca palustris*, numerous areas (a smallish bush with extremely flexible branches; apparently very long-lived); Gunner trail; Greer Trail; Blue Spring trail etc.

Lily Family (Liliaceae)

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

Linden Family

American Basswood *Tilia americana*, Blanchard Spring foot trail

Magnolia Family (Magnoliaceae)

Yellow-Poplar, Tulip Tree, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, 1 flowering at the Blanchard springs parking lot turn around (where the 4 monks approached us!)

Cucumber Magnolia (tree), *Magnolia acuminata*, Lost Valley; Gunner Trail etc. (not flowering)

Umbrella Magnolia, *Magnolia tripetala*, Alum Cove State Park (large flowers and leaves)

Southern Magnolia, *Magnolia grandiflora*, not native but planted in towns.

Maple Family (Aceraceae)

Box Elder, all areas (leaves like Poison Ivy but opposite, not alternate)

Silver Maple, *Acer saccharinum*, Prairie State Park; towns; along Buffalo River

Sugar Maple, *Acer saccharum*, widespread in bottomlands

Red Maple, Hide-out-Holler' Trail etc.; various other areas as well; a small tree

Mulberry Family (Moraceae)

Osage Orange, *Maclura pomifera*, Prairie State Park

Red Mulberry, *Morus rubra*, Lost Valley; Gunner etc. (a native species); rough upper leaf surface

White Mulberry, *Morus alba*, widespread around settled areas and towns; Mammoth Spring

Pines Family (Pinaceae)

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

Plane Tree Family (Platanaceae)

Sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis*, along rivers

Rose Family (Rosaceae)

Downy Serviceberry, *Amelanchier arborea*, various areas but especially Hide-out-Hollow trail

Wild Plum, *Prunus americana*, Prairie State Park (Bell's Vireos in this thicket)

Black Cherry, Prairie State Park; various areas but especially in prairie zone

Prairie Rose, *Rosa carolina*, unfortunately we did not see this plant in flower (so not definitely identified)

Multiflora Rose, introduced; widespread and common; flowering everywhere

Blackberry, *Rubus* sp., in bloom along fence rows in Arkansas; tall canes to 6 feet or more

Dewberry, *Rubus* sp, Prairie State Park and elsewhere; grows or rambles mostly along the ground and seldom more than a foot high; mainly Prairie State Park
Ninebark, *Physocarpus opulifolius*, just a few days short of flowering in sandy bank of Sylamore Creek (beautiful spotted flowers when in flower)

Sapodilla Family

Gum Bumelia, *Bumelia lanuginosa*, various areas; we noted one at Ruth and Paul Henning conservation area near Branson; occurs in Prairie State Park and many other dry rocky areas

Black Gum, *Nyssa sylvatica*, many along Hide-out-Hollow trail; also just about all Ozark areas

Saxifrage Family (Saxifragaceae)

Wild Hydrangea, humid, shady ravines; common especially along lower part of Green Springs trail and elsewhere; not in bloom

Missouri 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 etc.

Trumpet Creeper, *Campsis radicans*, invasive

Walnut Family (Juglandaceae)

Mockernut Hickory, *Carya tomentosa*, I pointed out one along Greer trail (fragrant leaves; the leaves and petioles are fuzzy/hairy)

Pignut Hickory, *Carya glabra*, Ruth & Paul Hemming conservation area; also along Gunner Pool trail and elsewhere; almost all leaves have only 5 leaflets (no other hickory here has so few leaflets except Shagbark Hickory but it is easily identified by its bark)

Black Hickory, *Carya texana*, dry upland forests such as Hide-out-Holler' where we saw several; an indicator of poor soil

Bitternut Hickory, *Carya cordiformis*, widespread and common in humid Ozark valleys and along streams where the soil is moist; much less so on dry upland ridges; usually 7-9 leaflets that are virtually hairless; has bright yellow buds and rather tight finely reticulated bark

Shellbark Hickory, *Carya laciniosa*, has shaggy bark (but usually less so than Shagbark Hickory) and very large leaves (up to 24"); usually 7 leaflets. Similar Shagbark Hickory is more numerous north of Missouri River; not sure we saw this one?

Black Walnut, *Juglans nigra*, Hide-out-Holler' Trail (greenish leaf stems); Highway 74 bridge and other places; walnuts do not produce leaves until quite late in the spring

Willow Family (Salicaceae)

Eastern Cottonwood, Prairie State Park

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)

Common Witch Hazel, *Hamamelis virginiana*, Bee Creek (common); Blanchard; Buffalo etc.; riversides; has rather broad roundish leaves with wavy teeth; I also pointed out Vernal Witch Hazel, *Hamamelis vernalis*, a spring-blooming relative

along the Gunner Pool section of Sylamore Creek trail; it has narrower leaves than previous species and we saw the tiny yellowish flowers
Sweet Gum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, all forested regions; woody and spiky seed balls

HERBACEOUS PLANTS IDENTIFIED; 2005 (not a complete list and many plants were identified only to genus). As in the woody species, the taxonomy of many forms has changed. The taxonomy used here is that of most older but more widely used and popular guides.

Arum Family, *Araceae*,

Jack-in-the-Pulpit, *Arisaema triphyllum*, Lost Valley and most other Ozark areas

Barberry Family, *Berberidaceae*

May Apple, *Podophyllum peltatum*, all wooded areas

Aster (Sunflower) Family, *Asteraceae*,

Pussy's Toes, *Antennaria plantaginifolia*, all areas; Hide-out-Holler'; Gunner etc.

Giant Ragweed, *Ambrosia*, roadsides (not flowering); Blanchard Campground

Common Ragweed, *Ambrosia artemisifolia*, roadsides (not flowering); roadsides; parking lots; dissected leaf; also noted at Blanchard Campground

Compass Plant, *Silphium laciniatum*, leaves present; Prairie State Park; Ruth & Paul Henning State Park; roadsides

Prairie Dock, *Silphium terebinthinaceum*, glades; NF (plant with huge arrowhead leaves); roadsides

Tickseed Coreopsis, *Coreopsis grandiflora*, Mt. View; yellow disk flowers; thread leaves; roadsides

Tickseed (Lance-leaf) Coreopsis, *Coreopsis lanceolata*, Mincy etc.; the commonest *Coreopsis* here; many species of *Coreopsis* are generally difficult to separate and there were likely other species

Ox-eye Daisy, *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*, the "white daisies" along roadsides everywhere (alien)

Daisy Fleabane (Prairie), *Erigeron annuus*, prairies/roadsides (long narrow leaves); Blanchard Spring parking lot

Ashy Sunflower, *Helianthus mollis*, none in flower but this one is very common on tallgrass prairies; has a broad fuzzy and simple leaf; pointed out at Baker Prairie

Potato Dandelion, *Krigia dandelion*, Prairie State Park; also seen in Lost Valley (the flower stems have NO leaves);

Dwarf Dandelion (or Two-flowered Cynthia), *Krigia biflora*, Roaring River; Lost Valley; Alum; Gunner;

Greer etc; commonest in wooded areas (not prairie); has 1-2 clasping leaves mid-way on stems;

Common Dandelion, *Taraxacum officinale*, all areas

Leaf-Cup, Small-flowered, *Polymnia (Smallanthus) canadensis*, many areas (not flowering); rather fuzzy stems and petioles with prominent toothed stipules at base of

petioles

Leafcup, Yellow, *Polymnia (Smallanthus) uvedalia*, (none in flower); roadsides; has large deep-cut leaf shape with points; lacks the leafy stipules at base of petioles that are prominent in previous sp.; abundant on roadsides especially at Bee Creek; also has large deep-cut leaf shape with pointed tip;

Golden Ragwort, *Packera* (formerly *Senecio*) *pauperculus* or sp.?, prairies; narrow lanceolata-shaped leaves at base

Yarrow, *Achillea millefolium*, Baker Prairie; roadsides (alien) etc.

Wingstem, *Verbesina helianthoides*, seen in several places; prominent “winged” stems; not flowering; called Frost Flower in Texas; a nice one was views along the Gunner Pool trail (almost in a little wash)

Preanthes spp.. with odd triangular leaves (Lost Valley)

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

Blue Wild Indigo, *Baptisia australis*, roadsides especially in Branson area

Cream Wild Indigo, *Baptisia leucophaea*, Prairie State Park; Baker Prairie

Tick Trefoil, Stick Tight, *Desmodium* spp., common almost everywhere in woodland areas including Lost Valley; Alum Cove State Park; Greer etc (not in flower)

Black Medick (small yellow clover), *Medicago lupulina*, roadsides; especially Prairie State Park

Red Clover, *Trifolium pratense*, roadsides everywhere; a native of Europe

White Clover, *Trifolium repens*, roadsides everywhere; a native of Europe

Crimson Clover, *Trifolium incarnatum*, planted in a wildlife food field along Bee Creek (a native of Europe)

Wood Vetch, *Vicia caroliniana*, Roaring River (individual white blossoms) etc

Bellflower Family, *Campanulaceae*,

Large-flowered (or as very similar Perfoliate) Bellwort, *Uvularia grandiflora*, Lost Valley trail; Blanchard Spring etc.; has perfoliate leaves (slightly zig-zag stem goes through leaf); none of these were in flower; seen in many wooded humid areas

Birthwort Family, *Aristolochiaceae*,

Wild Ginger, *Asarum canadense*, Roaring River (flowering but the flowers hard to find!); moist woodlands

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

Wild Comfrey, *Cynoglossum virginianum*, Lost Valley; Gunner Pool trail

Buttercup Family, *Ranunculaceae*

Columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*, Lost Valley; Gunner; Greer etc.; these are mostly red in color

Leather Flower, *Clematis* spp., Blanchard Campground (near bridge); Gunner trail above Sylamore Creek; none noted in flower

Carolina (Tall) Larkspur, *Delphinium exaltatum*, Roaring River; Drury-Mincy and many other areas

Round-lobed Hepatica, *Hepatica nobilis*, Lost Valley (not in flower but leaves distinctive)

Early Buttercup, *Ranunculus fascicularis*, Prairie State Park (probably this species but not specifically identified to species)

Buttercup, *Ranunculus spp.*, several seen daily but not identified to species; the common ones are Hispid Buttercup, *Ranunculus hispidus*; and Hooked Buttercup, *Ranunculus recurvatus*, normally common throughout Ozarks

Rue Anemone, *Thalictrum thalictroides*, Roaring River and a few other sites; a small plant; several still blooming; has a whorl of about 6 leaves right below flower

Meadow Rue, *Thalictrum sp. (dasycarpum or dioicum)*, Gunner Pool trail; a few quite tall plants with small mitten-like leaflets and small whitish flowers; drooping over in the rain

Cactus Family, *Cactaceae*,

Prickly Pear, *Opuntia compressa*, a few noted on arid cliffs on Buffalo river float

Day-Flower Family, *Commelinaceae*,

Ohio Spiderwort, *Tradescantia ohiensis*, esp. prairies; also throughout Ozarks; blue flowers

Ozark Spiderwort, *Tradescantia ozarkana*, Roaring River (white flowers that have more rounded sepals and petals than previous species and narrower leaves

Dogbane Family, *Apocynaceae*,

Blue Star, *Amsonia ciliata*, one plant in flower at Ruth and Paul Henning conservation area

Evening Primrose Family, *Onagraceae*,

Showy Evening Primrose, *Oenothera speciosa*, patches of pink flowers on roadsides in many places and photographed by most of you when we stopped at the overlook en route to Lost Valley

Geranium Family, *Geraniaceae*

Carolina Cranesbill, *Geranium carolinianum*, I saw this one only along the Greer Spring trail (but surely it was elsewhere); small pinkish flower and more toothed leaf

Wild Geranium, *Geranium maculatum*, Roaring River; Lost Valley and other sites; this one was common and has a large flower

Grass Family, *Poaceae*,

Big Bluestem, *Andropogon gerardi*, prairies; forms stools or clumps; pointed out at Baker Prairie

Broomsedge Bluestem, *Andropogon virginicus*, Prairie State Park; Baker Prairie; Drury-Mincy Glade

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

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

Panic Grass, *Panicum sp.* some of this interesting looking grass along the Sylamore Creek Trail at Gunner Pool; it has little knobby seeds in a cluster at the top

Honeysuckle Family, *Caprifoliaceae* (see under woody plants also)

Japanese Honeysuckle, *Lonicera japonica*, common; flowering

Yellow Honeysuckle, *Lonicera flava*, semi-woody vine seen mainly along the Hide-out-Holler' trail; yellow flower; others we met on this trail asked about this plant

Honwort Family, *Ceratophyllaceae*

Coontail (Honwort), *Ceratophyllum demersum*, Mammoth Springs; Blue Spring etc.; common aquatic plant (one of about sixty spp.) unique to the cold water of Ozark spring branches

Iris Family, *Iridaceae*,

Crested Iris, *Iris cristata*, Lost Valley (but not with flowers); Alum Cove (a few flowering on lip of natural bridge fissure)

Blue-eyed Grass, *Sisyrinchium (exile) campestre*, Prairie State Park; Rush; Gunner Trail

Lily Family, *Liliaceae*,

Wild Onion, *Allium c. var. canadense*, Ozarks (not flowering)

False Garlic, *Nothoscordum bivalve*, Prairie State Park and very common; all of them in flower

Wild Hyacinth, *Camassia scilloides*, Prairie State Park; Baker Prairie (remarkable display at Baker)

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

Solomon's Seal, *Polygonatum biflorum*, Roaring River; Lost Valle; Gunner etc.

False Solomon's Seal, *Smilacina racemosa*, wooded areas; Roaring River; Bee Creek; Gunner trail; Greer; only a couple with flowers (of the dozens seen)

Green Trillium, *Trillium viridescens*, Roaring River; Lost Valley (sepals erect)

Purple Trillium, *Trillium recurvatum*, Lost Valley; sepals recurved (bent downward)

Spanish Bayonet *Yucca sp.*, cultivated in yards, cemetery at Falling Spring Falls

Soapweed Yucca (or Arkansas Yucca), *Yucca glauca var. mollis*, roadside near Gunner Pool and Sylamore Creek

Madder Family, *Rubiaceae*,

Long-leaved Bluet, *Hedyotis longifolia*, Hide-out-Hollow Trail; Gunner Trail and elsewhere; tiny white flowers with four petals and long thin leaves; we may have also seen Small Bluets, which are even smaller than *H. longifolia*

Bedstraw, *Galium aparine*, roaring River; Lost Valley; all areas

Bedstraw (on the Prairie), *Galium obtusum*, Prairie State Park

Milkweed Family, *Asclepiadaceae*

Four-leaved Milkweed, *Asclepias quadrifolia* , Lost Valley; Gunner Trail

Mint Family, *Labiatae*,

Ohio Horse Mint, *Blephilia ciliata*, Gunner trail (near the parking lot at Blanchard Springs); rings of flowers

Bee Balm; or Horsemint; or Wild Bergamot, *Monarda russeliana*, Gunner Pool

Lyre-leaved Sage, *Salvia lyrata*, Roaring River and everywhere else thereafter but surprisingly few flowering

Moonseed Family, *Menispermaceae*

Moonseed sp., (prob. Carolina Moonseed), *Menispermum* sp., Bee Creek; Lost Valley; Gunner Trail; numerous places; a small vine; also called Moonvine.

Mustard Family, *Cruciferae (Brassicaceae)*

Winter Cress or Yellow Rocket, *Barbarea vulgaris*, everywhere (yellow fields everywhere)

Field Cress (Pepper Grass), *Lepidium campestre*, tiny white flowers; prairies; roadsides; Prairie State Park

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;

Nettle Family, *Urticaceae*,

False Nettle, *Laportea canadensis*, Blue Spring trail (alternate leaves and looks much like Stinging Nettle but this one does not have stinging hairs)

Oxalis* or Wood Sorrel Family, *Oxalidaceae

Yellow Wood Sorrel, *Oxalis stricta*, Prairie State Park and throughout trip

Violet Wood Sorrel, *Oxalis violacea*, Prairie State Park and elsewhere throughout trip

Parsley Family, *Umbelliferaceae (or Apiaceae)*,

Yellow Pimpernel, *Taenidia integerrima*, Lost Valley; delicate plant with 3-finely toothed leaflets; yellow carrot-like umbels

Poison Hemlock, *Conium maculata*, Bee Creek; has twice- or thrice-pinnate leaf

Rattlesnake Master, *Eryngium yuccifolium*, Baker Prairie (not flowering; yucca-like leaves)

Prairie Parsley, *Polytaenia nuttallii*, rather thick stems; common at Prairie State Park; thick stem; yellow umbels

Meadow Parsnip, *Thaspium trifoliatum*, thinner more delicate plant than previous; roadsides in Ozarks; also yellow umbels

Phlox Family, *Polemoniaceae*,

Prairie Phlox, *Phlox divaricata*, prairies etc. (or maybe *P. pilosa*; this not identified beyond genus); pinkish color

Downy Phlox, *Phlox* sp. (prob. *pilosa* or *carolina*), the common one in Ozarks but there are surely others; some with pink flowers, other with bluish- to lilac-colored flowers

Jacob's Ladder, *Polemonium reptans*,; Lost Valley and Sylamore Creek (a few in flower)

Pink (Carnation) Family, *Caryophyllaceae*,

Plantain Family, *Plantaginaceae*,

English Plantain, *Plantago lanceolata*, Baker Prairie and one or two other places; has

fairly thin lanceolate basal rosette of leaves and very tall central spike with whorl of tiny flowers at tip; apparently not a native species
Rugel's Plantain, *Plantago rugelii*, the common plantain with shiny broad leaves; grows along sidewalks, lawns, waste areas; very common
We also saw other unidentified *Plantago*

Pokeweed Family, *Phytolaccaceae*,

Pokeweed, *Phytolacca americana*, seen in various localities; rather small at this point and not flowering

Poppy Family, *Papaveraceae*,

Bloodroot, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, moist damp woodlands; Lost Valley (not flowering)

Primrose Family, *Primulaceae*,

Shooting Star, *Dodecatheon meadia*, Prairies (we saw only 1 and that was at Baker Prairie in Harrison); normally many in flowering by this time but few this year because of the cold spring temperatures

Purslane Family, *Portulacaceae*

Spring Beauty, *Claytonia virginica*, Prairie State Park, a few on our prairie walk (usually flowering earlier)

Rose Family, *Rosaceae*,

Five-finger Cinquefoil, *Potentilla simplex*, Prairie State Park; Diamond Grove prairie
Wild Strawberry, *Fragaria virginianum*, scattered places; white flowers

Saxifrage Family, *Saxifragaceae*,

Alumroot, *Heuchera americana*, cliffs; Lost Valley; Blanchard; Gunner; Greer and other sites; root has powerful astringent qualities; used in herbal medicine

Sedge Family, *Cyperaceae*

Plantain-leaved Sedge, *Carex plantaginea*, Lost Valley (common); also along the Greer trail

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" but none were in flower
Curly Dock (or Sour Dock), *Rumex crispus*, leafy bases of these seen in almost all areas but not flowering; noted along roadsides and parking lots; waste areas

Snapdragon Family, *Scrophulariaceae*,

Indian Paintbrush, *Castilleja coccinea*, Prairie State Park (small numbers)
Wood Betony, *Pedicularis canadensis*, Roaring River; Lost Valley; Baker Prairie
Prairie Beard-Tongue, *Penstemon tubaeflorus*, Prairie State Park; beard-tongue sp.,

Penstemon sp.? elsewhere throughout Ozarks, probably *Penstemon tubiflorus/digitalis*
Violet Collinsia, *Collinsia violacea*, I called these Blue-eyed Mary, a very similar species,
at the time (Roaring River) but on checking distributions these were likely *C. violacea*.
They were very common and flowering abundantly along the roadside where we
walked

Woolly Mullein, *Verbascum thapsus*, Roaring River and many other areas (not flowering);
an alien; really large fuzzy-soft leaves

Spurge Family, *Euphorbiaceae*,

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

Stonecrop Family, *Crassulaceae*,

Widow's Cross, *Sedum pulchellum*, rock ledges at Lost Valley; Blanchard Campground;
and Greer Spring

Touch-Me-Not Family, *Balsaminaceae*,

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

Valerian Family, *Valerianaceae*,

Corn Salad, *Valerianella* sp., Prairie State Park and other sites (tiny white flowers on
delicate plant)

Ozark Corn Salad, *Valerianella* sp. Blanchard campground (across the stream in camping
area)

Vervain Family, *Verbenaceae*,

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

Violet Family, *Violaceae*,

Canada Violet, *Viola canadensis*, Lost Valley; Gunner etc.; common in wooded areas;
white flowers on stem that also has leaves; some already with seed heads at Lost
Valley

Common Blue Violet, *Violet sororia*, roadsides and waste areas; common and invasive (as
in my lawn)

Waterleaf Family, *Hydrophyllaceae*,

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

Virginia Waterleaf, *H. virginianum*, Roaring River; Lost Valley

Yam Family, *Dioscoraceae*,

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

Ferns: seen at various times during the trip

Christmas Fern, *Polystichum acrostichoides*, almost all forested areas; large fronds in groups

Ebony Spleenwort, *Asplenium platyneuron*, a few along trails; Lost Valley; small; a single black stem

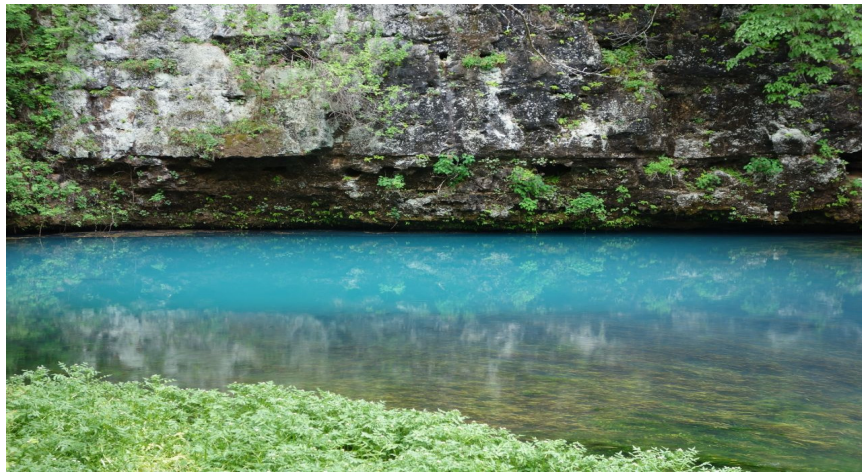
Maidenhair Fern, *Adiantum pedatum*, Lost Valley, Greer, etc.

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)

Purple Cliff-break Fern, *Pellaea atropurpurea*, Gunner Trail; along cliff etc

Bracken Fern, *Pteridium aquilinum*, big patches along roadside in a couple places, especially in Mark Twain National Forest along Highway 19 north of Eleven Point River



Blue Spring, Missouri. What it looks like on a clear day. Photo S. Hilty