

Where the Ozarks Meet the Delta – A Regional Field Workshop for Natural Area Practitioners

May 17-18, 2017 – Doniphan, Missouri

Co-Sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission and the Natural Areas Association

This will be a field based workshop focusing on identification and stewardship of natural communities (both rare and more common types) and rare, threatened or endangered species; field identification and keying of vascular plant species including harder to identify groups such as sedges (*Carex* species); and songbird identification by song and sight (songbirds related back to habitat types/conditions). Field trips will be led by a cadre of state and federal program ecologists, botanists, foresters, and wildlife biologists including staff who manage the sites we will be visiting.

May 17

Meet at the Mark Twain National Forest district ranger's office at 9:30 a.m. [Click for map](#)

Eleven Point District Ranger
#4 Confederate Ridge Road
Doniphan, MO 63935

9:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. Introductions, Logistics, Brief Overview of Region's Natural History

10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Travel to Bald Hill Glade Natural Area

10:45 a.m. – 1 p.m. Tour Bald Hill Glade Natural Area

1 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch and water provided as we cool off in the shade

1:30 – 2:45 p.m. Travel to Sand Ponds Natural Area

2:45 p.m. – 5 p.m. Tour Sand Ponds Natural Area

5 p.m. depart back to Doniphan

6:30 p.m. Picnic dinner along the Current River at Float Camp Picnic Area and Campground (Mark Twain NF)

Evening socializing and botanizing at Float Camp Picnic Area and Campground

May 18

Meet at the Mark Twain National Forest district ranger's office in Doniphan, MO at 9:30 a.m.

9:45 a.m. Depart for Little Black Conservation Area and Overcup Fen Natural Area

10 a.m. Arrive at Little Black Conservation Area, Tour Oak-Pine Woodland Restoration Sites

12 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. Picnic lunch provided at the archery range picnic ground

12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Tour fens and riparian and bottomland forest communities at Overcup Fen Natural Area

2:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. Return to Doniphan

3 p.m. Optional field trip to Cupola Pond Natural Area or early departure

3 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Travel to Cupola Pond Natural Area

3:45 p.m. – 5 p.m. Tour Cupola Pond Natural Area

5 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Return to Doniphan

Field Trip Site Descriptions:

Bald Hill Glade Natural Area (Mark Twain National Forest)

This dome-like glade is formed from Ordovician aged dolomite of the Jefferson City formation of the Ozark Highlands ecoregion. The Mark Twain NF has been working on applying prescribed fire to this glade and dry chert woodland natural community complex to restore its ecological integrity. The glade flora is diverse with over 160 native species observed including the Ozark-endemic, *Scutellaria bushii*. The surrounding woodlands support gnarled old-growth post and chinquapin oaks.

Sand Ponds Natural Area (Missouri Dept. of Conservation, The Nature Conservancy-Missouri)

Stateline Sand Ponds Natural (Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission)

View federally listed pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*) and a bevy of Missouri and Arkansas state-listed species from corkwood (*Leitneria floridana*) to the mole salamander (*Ambystoma talpoideum*) in unusual eolian dune and swale communities of the Mississippi delta. Discuss management and monitoring of the pondberry, other rare taxa and the hydrology of the site. Discuss management of a pipeline corridor through a natural area. Natural communities include: dry-mesic sand forest, and wet-mesic and wet bottomland forests.

Little Black Conservation Area and Overcup Fen Natural Area (Missouri Dept. of Conservation)

Tour mixed oak (white, post, black, scarlet, southern red) – shortleaf pine Ozark woodlands that are being restored via a mix of non-commercial thinning, commercial timber harvests and prescribed fire at Little Black Conservation Area. This site is only seven miles south of where the company town of Grandin was established by the Missouri Lumber and Mining Company in the late 1800s. Between 1880 and 1910 this area was heavily cut over for its extensive old growth shortleaf pine stands. At one point the sawmill at Grandin was reportedly the largest in output in the U.S. Today conservationists are attempting to recover the Ozark oak-pine woodland community type. We will learn about these efforts and the changes in the plant and bird communities that have occurred with the restoration efforts.

Overcup Fen Natural Area conserves a population of the federally listed Hines Emerald Dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*) along with a diverse Ozark fen flora including two-state listed plant species. We will discuss the hydrogeology of fens and the challenges involved in their management. We will also tour bottomland forest communities and discuss the challenges of invasive, exotic plant species in these situations.

Cupola Pond Natural Area and National Natural Landmark (Mark Twain National Forest)

This ancient Ozark sinkhole pond occurs in a sink formed in the Ordovician aged Roubidoux formation. Here we find a sinkhole flatwoods and pond swamp communities with species having coastal plain affinities, including epiphytic sedge (*Carex decomposita*) and tupelo gum (*Nyssa aquatica*). The pond is also important for a variety of amphibians including the state-listed wood frog. A graduate student, E. Smith, of Hazel and Paul Delcourt collected fossil pollen data from this site and constructed a 15,000 year pollen chronosequence of vegetation change in the Ozarks.