



Summer Flowers in Missouri

Join me while I look for wild summer
flowers on our property.

It was a lot of work, but I admit it was a lot of fun putting together the slide presentation of Spring wild flowers a few months ago.

When they were younger, my sons, Joey in particular (my son who died 3 years ago), would bring their mother a bouquet of wild flowers at various times throughout the year, so our home has been graced by many of these flowers from a vase in the center of our dinning room table.


We work long, hard, hot hours cultivating the flowers in our flowerbeds around the house (a few of which may be seen later), and admittedly, they are beautiful. But there is something special, touching even, about wild flowers that bloom each year, without any effort from us, then reseed themselves in order for us to enjoy them again the following year. The only difference is that I have to go outside, and walk through the weeds, fields, ditches and woods to see them. A few grow near the house, but many force us to go into nature to enjoy them. And maybe, that is the whole idea, because you will always find YHWH by observing His nature.

Some of the spring flowers are still around at this time of year, so I focused on the flowers that bloom primarily during the summer months. Without further ado, will you join me for a walk on our property?



Flowering Spurge
Euphorbia corollata



A photograph of chicory plants. In the foreground, a single light blue flower is in sharp focus, showing its many petals and central stamens. Behind it, several other similar flowers are visible but are out of focus, appearing as soft blue shapes. The background is a dense, green, out-of-focus field of foliage.

Chicory
Cichorium intybus

This is a good look at the blue flower that was purposely not in focus in the photo from this spring.



A very wet summer has the earthworms out and about.
This is not the biggest we have ever found, but it is a
rather large one.



Wild Elderberry
Sambucas canadensis



From a spray of flowers (spring, see insert) to a cluster of small berries. The berry is small, and mostly seed, but there is a tiny bit of slightly bitter fruit that can be juiced and consumed in various ways. The entire plant has been used for thousands of years to treat many different ailments.

A photograph of a Michigan Lily (Lilium michiganense) plant in a field. The plant has a central green stem with several large, orange flowers that are heavily spotted with dark brown or black spots. The petals are recurved, and the stamens are long and prominent. There are also several unopened buds on the stem. The background is a lush green field with trees in the distance.

Michigan Lily
Lilium michiganense

I thought this was a domestic lily, but it is a 3-8 foot tall wild flower in Missouri. It was given to me by the owner of some land that was about to be cleared. It flowered the first two years, then did not come up again for over 10 years. Majestic plant now comes up every year.

Ironweed
Vernonia Baldwinii

One of the most
vivid purple
flowers in
Missouri that
really attracts
the eye when in
full bloom



Purple-headed sneezeweed
Helenium flexuosum

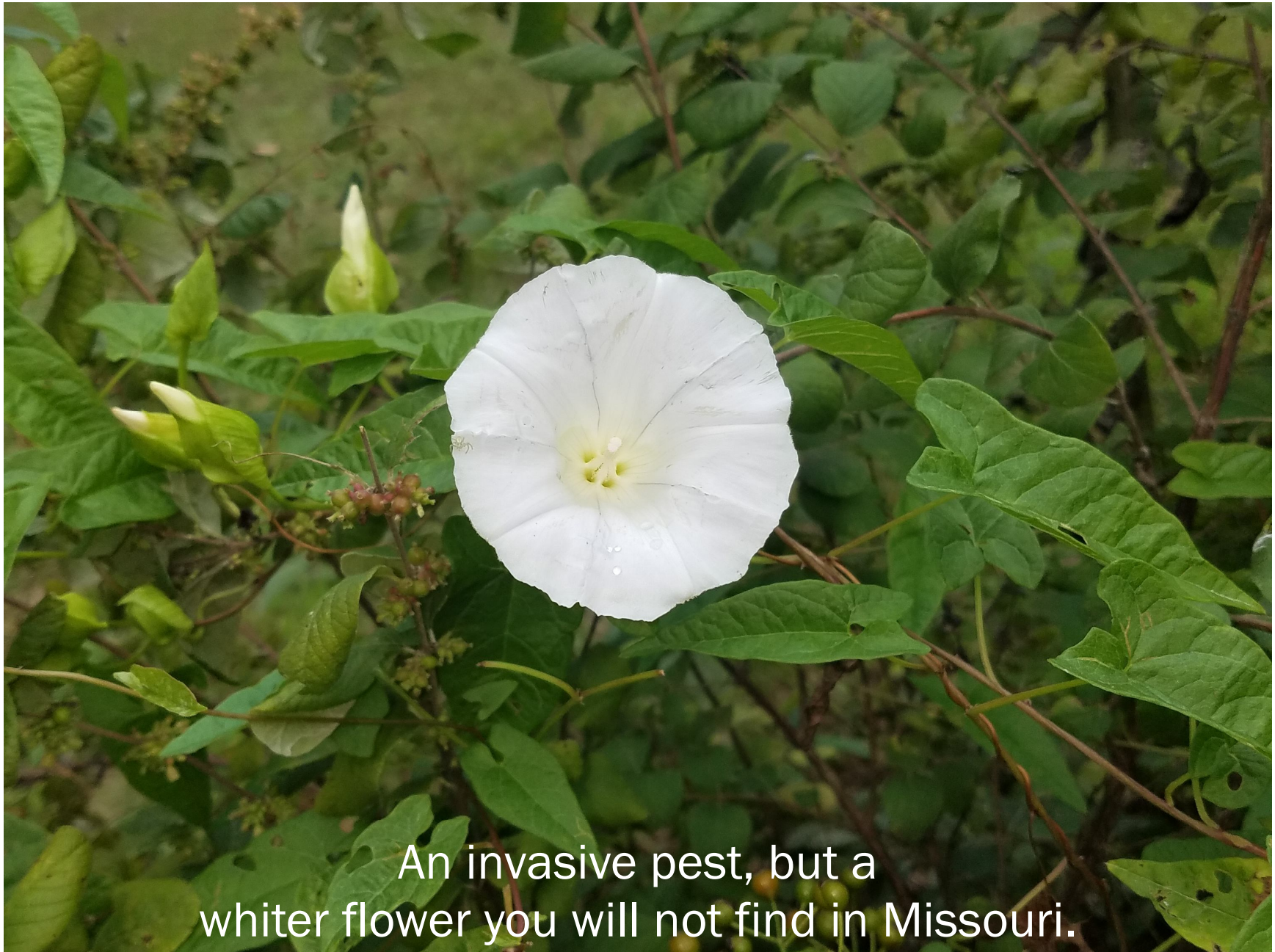
These flowers can grow all alone
like this example, or like this
(turn the page...)



Kind of breathtaking for a weed.



Hedge Bindweed, *Calystegia sepium*



An invasive pest, but a whiter flower you will not find in Missouri.
In the Morning Glory family.

Winged Sumac
Rhus copallinum



Remember the Sumac photo at the left? They are green buds in spring that open to white flower sprays in summer. I was shocked and pleased that the camera captured the rays of the sun as it did in this backlit photo .

You are familiar with the colorful hibiscus that grows in many tropical climates (seen at insert below). The Rose Mallow is a wild hibiscus that can survive cold winters.



Can be rose pink or white.

Rose Mallow
Hibiscus lasiocarpus

This plant is poisonous to cattle causing “milk-sickness” which killed many early American settlers who drank the poisoned milk, including Abraham Lincoln’s mother. Bumblebees don’t seem to be concerned.



White Snakeroot
Eupatorium rugosum

Spider Flower

Cleome hassleriana



This is another flower that I assumed was domestic, but it has escaped cultivation and is considered wild in Missouri. They reseed themselves every year. Come in white/pink, and a light and dark lavender.

Pokeweed
Phytolacca americana



Tiny white flowers turn to purple berries, poisonous to humans, that were used long ago as an important dye. As youngsters, my children used the berries to paint themselves, their faces and their horses.



Blackberry
Rubus allegheniensis

Remember, Black Raspberries ripen in late spring, but the larger (and much thornier) Blackberries ripen in the summer. My children love them.

A close-up photograph of a Partridge Pea plant. The plant features several bright yellow flowers with five petals each, some in full bloom and others as buds. The leaves are green and bipinnate, consisting of many small, oval-shaped leaflets. The stems are reddish-brown. The background is a soft-focus green field.

Partridge Pea
Chamaecrista fasciculata

The seeds are eaten by quail and many other birds.



Garlic Chives
Allium tuberosum

The bulb of this wild garlic is woody and unusable, but the greens can be used as chives in any cuisine but adds a delightful light garlic taste rather than onion.

Bull Thistle
Cirsium vulgare



From the intimidating, dangerous looking bulb (seen at inset left) this prickly plant produces this beautiful flower. An insect favorite and songbirds love when these go to seed.

Spiderwort
Tradescantia ohiensis



The herb I was searching for in the spring offers a cone shaped bud in summer that matures to these beautiful, tiny little white floral explosions. As you can see, these flowers are about the size of the period at the end of this sentence.



English Plantain
Plantago lanceolata



Eastern Red Cedar
Juniperus virginiana

In summer, the female eastern red cedar tree puts on these waxy green berries (that birds love to eat) that turn bluish-purple in winter. Not a true cedar, the eastern red cedar is actually in the juniper family.

All junipers are dioecious which means that there are separate male and female plants.

The tree is propagated primarily by bird droppings. Naturally. LOL

Early Goldenrod
Solidago juncea



A close-up photograph of a vibrant blue morning glory flower in full bloom. The flower has five distinct petals and a bright yellow center. It is surrounded by lush green leaves and other flowers, including a pink one in the upper left. The background shows a dense green foliage and a wire fence.

Blue Morning Glory
Ipomoea hederacea

The Morning Glory vine is a nuisance and tough to get rid of once established. Each flower lasts one day then wilts. A nuisance, perhaps, but a “beautiful” weed.

No Longer Mystery Flowers

I looked all over the internet and FINALLY found the names of these previously unnamed mystery flowers...



Yellow Rocket
Barbarea vulgaris



Milkwort
Polygala sanguinea

Mystery Flowers

Once again, I have discovered two flowers that I simply cannot identify. Interestingly enough, they are again yellow and purple, and I will again have fun giving them pretend names...



Grey button Cone Flower
Hoaryii Funnelflorae



Lacy Purple Dancers
Frillii BettyBoopus

Unique, beautiful flower on a NASTY prickly weed.



Horse Nettle
Solanum Carolinense

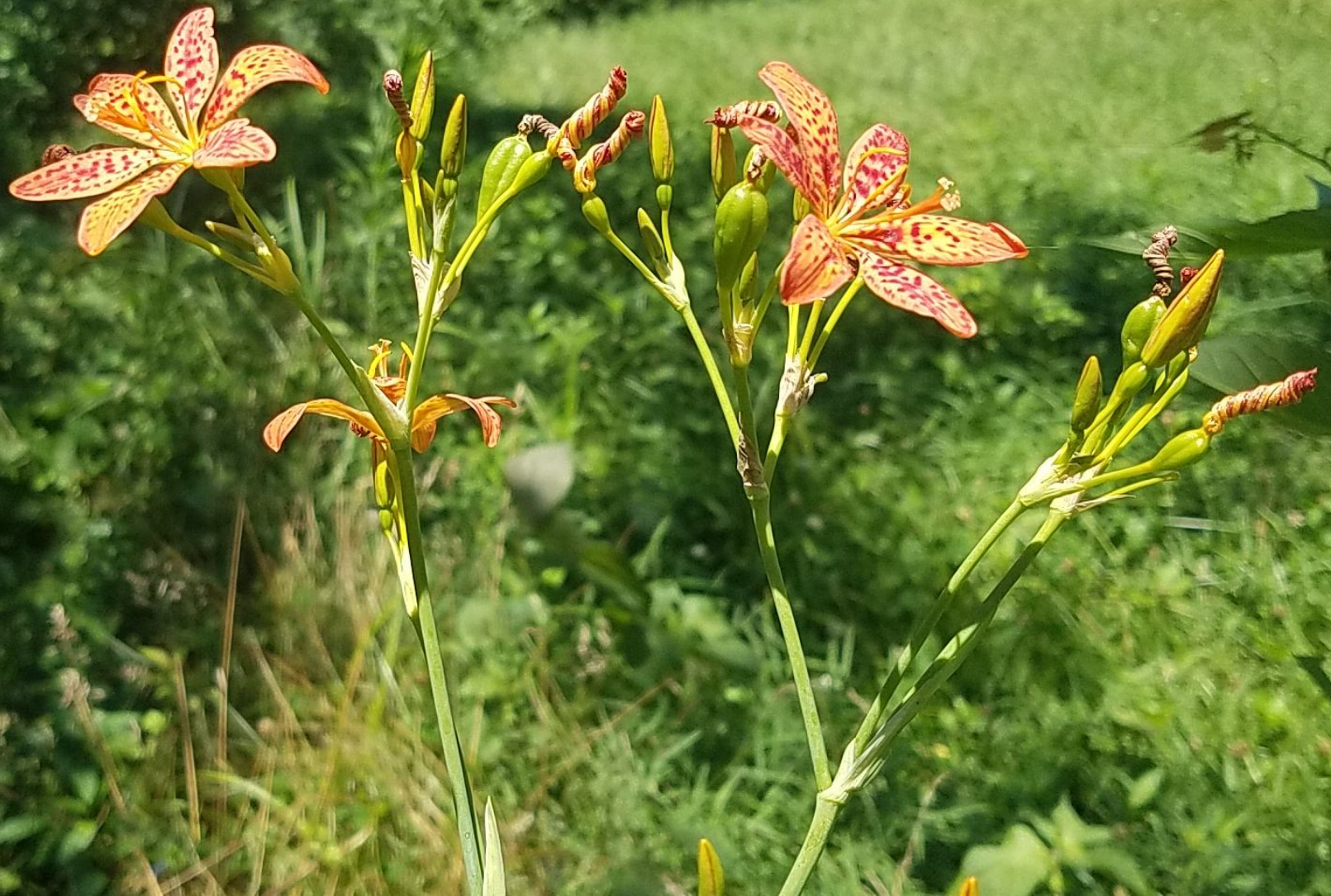
This is a tiny purple flower, see inset with photo next to my 4 year old son's hand.

Clammy Cuphea

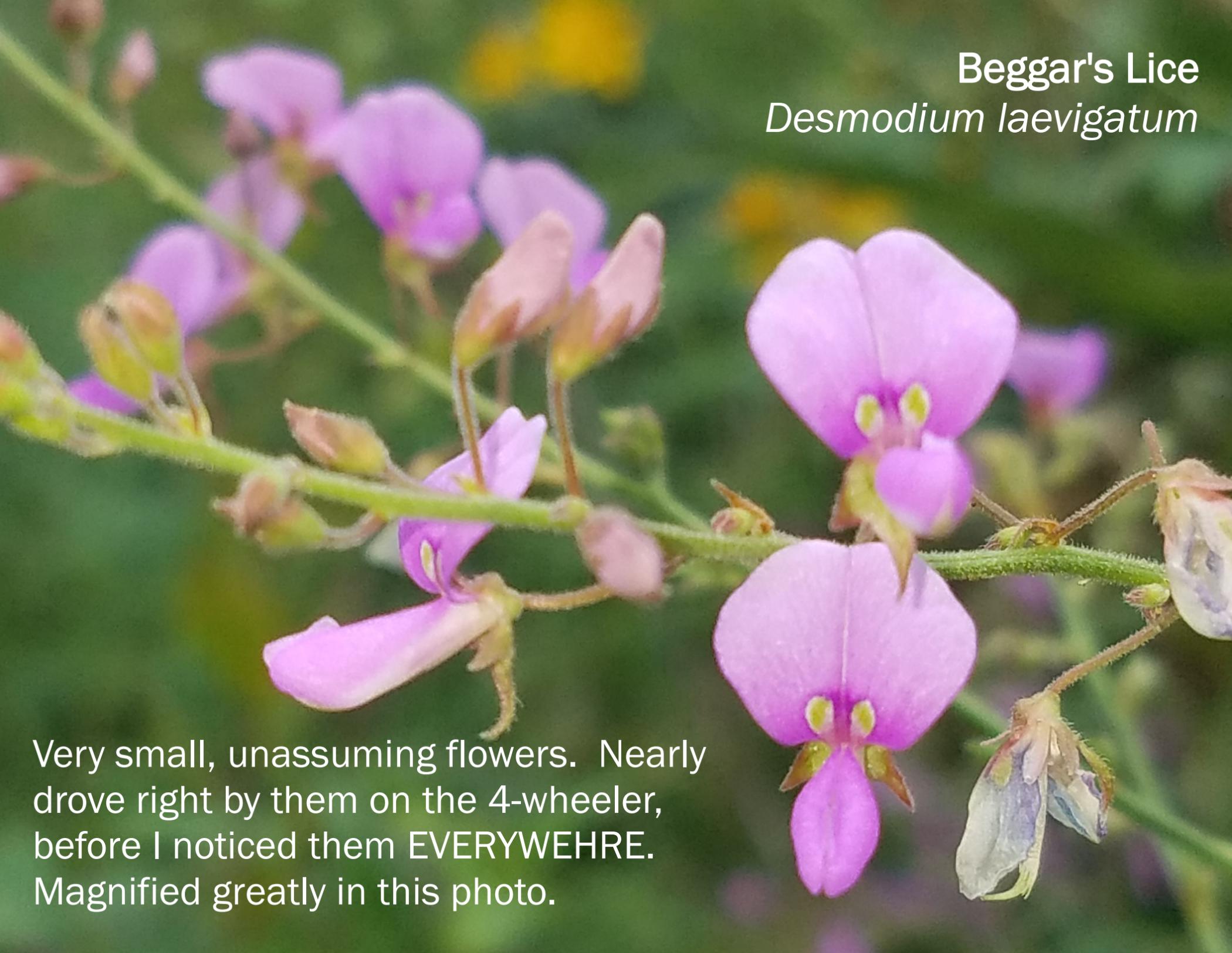
Cuphea viscosissima



Blackberry Lily
Belamcanda chinensis



Originated in India, probably arrived here on clipper ships from China. Is actually in the iris family.

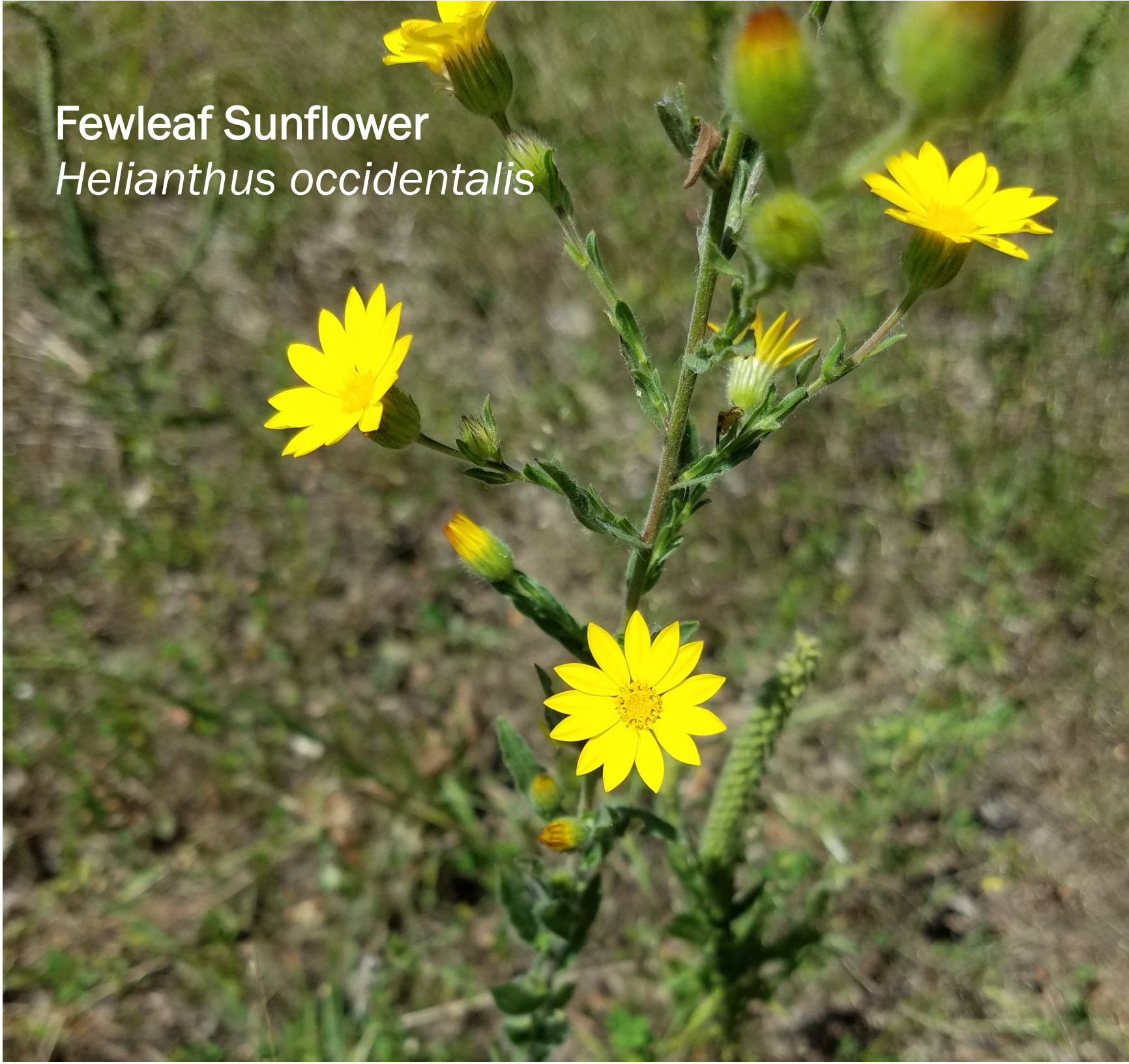
A close-up photograph of a flowering plant. The image shows several small, light purple flowers with a distinct two-lobed structure. The flowers are attached to a green, slightly hairy stem. In the background, there are more flowers, some in bloom and some as buds, along with blurred green foliage and a hint of yellow. The lighting is soft, highlighting the delicate texture of the petals.

Beggar's Lice
Desmodium laevigatum

Very small, unassuming flowers. Nearly drove right by them on the 4-wheeler, before I noticed them EVERYWHERE. Magnified greatly in this photo.

In the sunflower family, but VERY small and does not make seeds big enough for human consumption, but certainly makes a meal for the eyes. Flowers about an inch in diameter.

Fewleaf Sunflower
Helianthus occidentalis



Blue Curls

Trichostema setaceum

Amazing as it might sound, I have NEVER seen this strikingly blue flower before this year. I am certain it has been here all these years, but I have not been out looking for wildflowers. Just look at the unique, intricate design and wonder at the designer.



Hog Peanut
Amphicarpaea bracteata



Large Bracted Tick Trefoil
Desmodium cuspidatum



Climbing twisted-pea

Strophostyles umbellata



Another wild flower that I had never before seen until this year. Amazing what you can find when you are actually L@@KING for it, kinda like looking for truth in Yah's Word.



Tickseed Sunflower
Bidens aristosa

Once again captured a sun ray in this cool backlit photo.

Aromatic Aster
Symphyotrichum oblongifolium



Usually this lovely light purple, but sometimes is white (see inset at left).



Spiked Lobelia
Lobelia spicata



Woodland Sunflower
Helianthus strumosus



Wingstem
Verbesina alternifolia



And the cover flower
model is the...

Rose Gentian
Sabatia angularis

The End

I hope you enjoyed intentionally traveling with me by foot and four-wheeler to visit our yard, and the fields, pond, ditches and pastures on our property. Looking for wild flowers and herbs can be enjoyable, educational and inspirational.

Many of these wildflowers are less than an inch in diameter, some are only about a quarter inch (6-7mm) or less, making them hard to spot and even more difficult to capture on camera, especially if the wind was blowing.

I was intentionally looking for different wildflowers, ones that bloom in summer, and I stumbled upon a treasure trove of colors and textures that the Creator put here for our viewing (and smelling or tasting) pleasure along with a few critters out doing what critters do.

Due to the length of this I decided to I had to leave out 14 different (beautiful) wild flowers and 5 colorful fungi. Sorry.

Hope you enjoyed the journey.

Troy Miller