



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

Volume 24, Number 6

June 2009

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The Hawthorn Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society Newsletter is published monthly. Send your submissions to:

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Future Activities

Watch email for reminders of activities and notices of changes. If you do not communicate by email and want to be notified, please call Paula to get on the phone list. You are strongly urged to make a reservation with Paula or Becky for an outing so we will wait for you, or call you immediately if there is a change the morning of a scheduled activity. Watch email for notices of impromptu walks. **Please offer suggestions of your favorite destinations** to Paula or Becky; we will get them posted as soon as weather permits. If you do not communicate by email and have a suggested destination or want notice of a walk, please call Paula to get on the phone list.

May 29-31: Summer Board Meeting – A joint meeting with the Arkansas Society in Springfield area. This is a stimulating opportunity to have a co-meeting with NPS of another state. Missouri visited Arkansas last spring; seven of Hawthorn joined the gathering. This summer we will host them at some of our premier prairies. This is an occasion not to be missed!! See Petal Pusher for reservation contacts.

June 6 Saturday: Community Rain Garden Workshop

The workshop will start with a 30 minute presentation on creating rain gardens as a tool for mitigation of storm-water runoff, then we will move outside to participate in creating a rain garden by digging, planting, mulching, etc... see article inside.

June 7: Dedication for Marge McDermott's Memorial in Rocheport Pocket Park, at First and Central, next to the Katy Trail. Dedication will take place at 1:00 pm and we will go to Jean Graebner's afterwards for refreshments. See Jean's invitation inside.

June 18: Bobwhite quail/Native Plant Field Day at Bradford farm. Please plan to help with our booth. We will sell both plants and books. (Note this activity supersedes the lunch usually scheduled on this day, See next item.)

June 25 Thursday: Lunch with Native Plant enthusiasts! 11:30 am at the Uprise Bakery at 10 Hitt Street, near Broadway.

June 27 Saturday: Prairie Mosey in Pettis Co (Please let Paula know your preferred destinations; if you don't speak up, we don't go.) Meet 8:00 am at the MDC Research Center (on College at Stadium) Late lunch in Sedalia at Patricia's Mexican. Bring a snack and plenty of water. Sun hat advised. Contact Becky or Paula if you plan to go.

July 13: Regular Meeting 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. John Dyer will speak on Heirloom Apples and Grafting Apple Trees

August: Wetland walk

For more information contact Paula at 573-474-4225.

Calendar Continued . . .

September [maybe October]: Fall prairie walk for seed collection; this is the first of the series of three propagation workshops.

September 19: A Taste of Lincoln Festival. During this event the new Lincoln University Cooperative Extension Outdoor Laboratory landscaped with native plants will be featured.

September 25-27: Fall Board Meeting and 30th Anniversary Celebration in Fulton. State Board has made extra efforts to bring together the founders and to make this a celebration. Fulton is only 30 minutes from Columbia, and you have 4 months' notice; please put this on your calendar now. Watch this newsletter and Petal Pusher for details.

October 3: In Touch with Nature, Field Day at Lincoln University Busby Farm in Jefferson City. Wagon tours and exhibits to discuss about uses of native plants in landscaping, conservation, and as alternative crops will be emphasized. We will be setting up the booth here. Please let us know you will be helping.

Add to your calendar:

Missouri River Communities Network is hosting a workshop series focused on healthy watersheds from January to June 2009. Local guest speakers will be giving presentations on watershed conservation and management issues. These workshops are **FREE** and open to the public, there is no registration required and seating will be on a first come first serve basis. For more information about this series please email Katrina Thomas missouririver@gmail.com or call us at 573-256-2602

Community Rain Garden Workshop Saturday, June 6

The workshop will start with a 30 minute presentation on creating rain gardens as a tool for mitigation of stormwater runoff, then we will move outside to participate in creating a rain garden by digging, planting, mulching, etc... in a new community rain garden site. The second part of this workshop will include an outdoor hands on component, so please dress accordingly. Presented by MRCN Missouri Stream Team AmeriCorps Assistants and the Columbia/Boone County Rain Garden Project

Jack voted as Vice President

Thanks goes out to Jack Beckett for accepting the nomination of Vice President. He will be completing Vanessa Melton's term which began January of this year and will continue until December of 2010 while she is serving as President. He is an excellent addition to the officers of the Hawthorn Chapter!

Thanks to Lynne Johnson, Vanessa Melton, Jean Graebner, Eric Bohl for their contributions this month.

Pinnacles Walk

Submitted by Vanessa Melton

Vanessa Melton led a walk at Pinnacles Youth Park on April 5th. Pinnacles is north of Columbia east of Highway 63 on Pinnacles Road. Six members came out to enjoy the splendor and several species were seen blooming including Virginia bluebells, red trillium, spring beauty, toothwort, rue anemone, Dutchman's breeches, bloodroot, yellow and purple violet, pussy toes, bellwort on a cave overhang, and hepatica. It was noted by a few attendees that the hepatica wasn't blooming as well as it had been the last few years, but it was there none-the-less. Apparently there is a larger patch of hepatica across Silver Fork Creek, but due to recent rains, we could not cross it. It was an excellent early Spring hike complete with a first of the year morel mushroom and lunch at Heuer's.



Nancy and Wanda inspect a patch of Hepatica VMelton

June 25

[this month lunch is a week later than usual]:
Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts!
11:30 am at Uprise Bakery
Hitt Street just south of Broadway

We [usually] meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

All are invited; please join us.

Memorial Dedication June 7

Submitted by Jean Graebner

The generosity of donors to our chapter's memorial fund honoring Marge McDermott has made it possible for the fund committee to purchase a very nice sized Tulip tree, an engraved memorial stone and a picnic table to enhance a small MKT trailside park in Rocheport (usually referred to as "the pocket park"). This site is located at the corner of First and Central Streets and is adjacent to the trail. Dedication will be held at **1 o'clock Sunday, June 7 at the site.**

Members of the memorial committee are Jean Graebner, Vanessa Melton, Nadia Navarrete, Paula Peters and Judy Turner. They invite all to attend the dedication program and social gathering following. Following the program the group will adjourn to Jean Graebner and Don Garvin's near-by home for refreshments.

Our address is 1800 Roby Farm Road. From Rocheport, drive south on BB Highway back to and across I-70. Beyond the intersection the blacktop becomes gravel; THAT is Roby Farm Road. Follow it for about four miles. You will pass the entrance to Boone Cave on your right. **The second mailbox [1800] on your left**, after a gated estate entrance on your left, will be ours. The house is not visible from the road but an old shed graces one pasture. Follow the long driveway and you will come to the house.

If you have any questions, call Jean at 573-698-2855.

May Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Jean Graebner, Secretary

President Vanessa Melton opened the Hawthorn chapter regular meeting at 7 o'clock Monday evening, May 11th at the Unitarian Church. She then introduced the speaker, Mike Currier, Naturalist Coordinator for State Parks, DNR. He presented a slide show demonstrating the purpose of the Natural Areas program: to manage these areas, which are the best remaining examples of our various terrestrial and aquatic communities, in order to preserve and perpetuate them.

"They are natural treasures," he said, "because it is through visiting them that people come to know what Missouri in all its diversity is about" The function of the coordinator and his staff is to identify and protect the best examples of natural terrestrial and aquatic communities remaining in Missouri—savanna, woodland, forest, prairie, glade, and wetlands. The designated Natural Area becomes a model of the larger area and a convenient site for conservation opportunities.

Currier said that preserving these small areas with all the different stresses on them is difficult but they have a toolbox of techniques that are helpful. These include prescribed burns, removal of exotic species, control of deer population and trail management.

A MO Natural Areas newsletter is available and there is an electronic version. The Natural Areas Association, formed as a 501 in 1978, publishes the Natural Areas Journal quarterly. (ed.note: for more information on Natural Areas go online to MO/DNR.. Select Natural Areas, to find a list of specific areas including location and acreage. There is also a link to the newsletter.)

A short business meeting followed. Jean Graebner reported that the Marge McDermott memorial stone is now in place under the Tulip Tree in the Pocket park in Rocheport. The tree, planted last Fall, is in full leaf. A memorial program is planned for 1 o'clock Sunday afternoon, June 7 followed by a wine and accompaniments gathering at Jean's.

Treasurer Paula Peters reported \$6,113.24 in the treasury.

Vanessa announced two new expenditures. The contribution to the Unitarian Church will go up from \$100 to \$200 a year. This is in consideration of the church allowing us to meet without charging a fee. A canopy cover with wheels will be purchased. This will make it much easier for those who store the canopy. They will be able to move it around with much more ease. (ed. note: The canopy is used whenever we set up a booth to sell books and plants.)

Vanessa then presented the name of Jack Beckett to finish out the term of vice president, which was vacated when Vanessa became President on the resignation of Nancy Langworthy. Jack was elected unanimously. The group adjourned for refreshments.

Some Thoughts About Our Green Menace – Bush Honeysuckle

Submitted by Eric Bohle

It's the second week of April, an otherwise pleasant time to be outdoors. To the oblivious multitudes this remains true. For me the early emergence of Asian Bush Honeysuckle instead reveals a springtime landscape of relentless devastation. This time of year (and in October) the Asian Bush Honeysuckle displays its ferocity as an unrelenting blanket of green monotony. Only large trees can poke through the smothering invasion.

Aesthetically, our new two tiered plant community (a layer of Honeysuckle and a layer of trees) looks sloppy and dull. More significantly, the onslaught of this invasive impenetrable pavement of brush represents the destruction of our plant diversity, the focal point of which is below the trees.

The crazy thing is, this invasion brings us no benefit. Its not like the Bush Honeysuckle is providing food or any other "value added". The other crazy thing is that this is happening right under are noses and no one seems to notice or care. Most homeowners save their vigilance for the crab grass while stressing over the piles of mulch around their Bradford Pears.

Also crazy is the effort it takes to get rid of the stuff. It's not easy, it's not fun, and it takes a continual effort to keep it away. Crazier still is the looks you get from people when you try to explain what is going on.

Well I have been watching this disaster unfold for a long time and don't expect much to change. Basically most people are oblivious to their natural surroundings and have other priorities. This needs to be emphasized: We honestly do not care about our natural environment or species diversity. Proof of this is all around. Especially in April! I am sure if I burned down a historic building or smashed a priceless work of art created by humans, outrage would be universal. Meanwhile as the age-old fabric of life around us slips through our fingers we fail to notice or even display a morsel of concern.

Pessimism aside, I have given a lot of thought to what could be done. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Create refugia zones in certain natural areas where a zero tolerance for Asian Bush Honeysuckle will be maintained. This will give people a chance to see how things are supposed to look and be a repository for plant diversity.
2. Lobby for state law to ban the importation of Asian Bush Honeysuckle. The effort might get media attention.
3. Require homebuyers to sign a document informing them of any invasive species on their new property. Require home sellers to create such a list.
4. Encourage homeowners to post signs in their yard indicating that their property is free of invasive vegetation. Perhaps audits could certify this, as a way to increase property values/sale appeal of property.
5. Encourage lawn care companies to offer Honeysuckle removal service, perhaps in conjunction with University Extension programs. In addition, flyers and advertising can be a part of a general education campaign.
6. Letter writing by informed concerned citizens / organizations and editorials/commentaries from experts in the field.
7. Post signs in parks and other public areas indicating areas of infestation and areas of restoration.
8. Have well publicized community volunteer efforts directed at Honeysuckle removal.
9. Increase controlled burning
10. Encourage people to at least strip the plants of flowers if they can't remove them.
11. Create forums for research and tips on efforts of removal/restoration.
12. Encouragement of native plants and gardens in general and showcased original ancient landscapes in each locality

As you can see, there is a lot that can be done. Mountains of information on identification and eradication can be found on line.

Photos from Earthquake Hollow – story on next page



Lady Slippers
photos



Lynne Johnson and Kevin & Jean Feltz on trail



Nodding White Trillium



Larkspur BERickson

Walk at Earthquake Hollow

Submitted by Lynne Johnson

A beautiful spring day was the perfect backdrop for the group's hike at the MDC Earthquake Hollow CA. The day started with a delicious lunch at Summit Lake Winery near Jefferson City. We then traveled a bit north on US54 to the Area, and with permission of the private landowner, were able to explore the rock formation's deep splits and huge boulders, topped by moss-covered open woods. The underlying geology of conglomerate chert rocks created a unique habitat, with coral fossils embedded in the rocks, and lush woods, with varied and abundant flowers and plants. The ferns were luxurious on the slope above the small stream, and included rattlesnake, ebony and silvery spleenwort, maidenhair, Christmas fern (which Ann pointed out have "thumbs"), broad beech, fragile, polypody, walking and marginal shield fern. Some yellow and orange slime mold, black cup fungus, and lizards made an appearance.

Blooming wildflowers included extensive patches of woolen breeches, May apples, white trillium with its nodding flower (one of which was embellished with a geometrid moth which blended perfectly with the petals), a blueberry bush, dewberries, sweet cicely, false Solomon's seal, wild geranium, green violets, yellow star grass, Jacob's ladder, some quite tall blue-eyed Mary, wild comfrey, Jack in the pulpit, Adam and Eve orchids, and the star of the day-- the yellow lady's slipper. One of the lessons learned about trees was that blue ash has square, winged twigs. We appreciated the efforts of Becky to obtain permission and set up the hike, and as always, the helpful and friendly attitude of fellow hikers, so that it was both enjoyable and educational. Earthquake Hollow was quite a treasure to discover in our own "backyard".

Here are additional species noted by Vanessa Melton: Cinquefoil, Ragwort, Dogwood, Pussy's toes, Violet wood sorrel, Native dandelion [Kregia], Wild sweet William, Goldenseal, Ginseng, False hellebore, black cohosh, 4-leaved milkweed, red Trillium; Birds heard were: Indigo bunting, Tufted titmouse, Blue-winged warbler, Eastern wood peewee, Blue-gray gnatcatcher, Northern parula.

All the participants felt they had been to one of those truly primordial untouched worlds.

MONPS 30th Anniversary – Fulton, Missouri

Friday Evening, September, 25 – Westminster College

Hunter Activity Center – Hermann Lounge

5:30 PM – Reception and Welcome

7:00 PM – MONPS Quarterly Board Meeting

Saturday Morning, September 26 – 8:00 AM to Noon

Field Trip – Prairie Garden Trust – 4 mi S of Fulton

Private preserve owned and managed by Lorna and Henry Domke

We'll meet at the Country Hearth & Inn parking lot at 8:00 AM

Saturday Afternoon, September 26 – Westminster College

Hunter Activity Center – Hermann Lounge

1:00-5:00 PM – Speaker Series

Doug Ladd, Paul Nelson, Bill Summers, Jim H. Wilson, & George Yatskievych

Saturday Evening, September 26 – 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Banquet Dinner – Sir Winston's Restaurant, Fulton

MONPS Awards

Possible keynote speaker?

Sunday Morning, September 27 – 8:00 AM to Noon

Field Trip – probably Tucker Prairie; suggestions are accepted.

Again, we'll meet at the Country Hearth & Inn parking lot at 8:00 AM

Lodging – in Fulton

Country Hearth Inn & Suites ~ \$80 with AAA or AARP – (573)642-0077

Lodging – Kingdom City – 10 mi N of Fulton

Super 8 ~ \$58 with Missouri Native Plant Society – (573)642-2888

(Contract # G0000863)

Additional Lodging

Fulton: Holiday Inn Express ~ \$86 – (877)863-4780

Kingdom City: Comfort Inn ~ \$90 – (573)642-7745

Note: It is a "Family Weekend" for Westminster College in Fulton. You may want to make reservations early

State Board has made extra efforts to bring together the founders and to make this a celebration. Fulton is only 30 minutes from Columbia, and you have 4 months' notice; please put this on your calendar now. Watch this newsletter and Petal Pusher for details.

More photos from outings on next page . . .



Lynn, Kevin & Jean, Paula at Earthquake Hollow photos



Large meadow of Shooting stars at Three Creeks B Erickson

Notes from Lost Pines

Submitted by Judy Turner

Attached are a couple of pictures you might find of interest. The first is of jack-in-the-pulpits whose seeds I put in a pot and brought with me to Bastrop. I didn't expect them to germinate, but since Blanna had broken off the seed heads, I took them. They have been in the same pot in the same location since July of last year (only a few hours of late morning sun and none after noon). I have no idea why they survived, but look at the leaves compared to my hand! They were never this large in Columbia! Jacks are actually native to Texas and this area sort of. I say sort of because their preferred habitat is the East Texas Pineywoods. Since my area here, called the Lost Pines, used to be connected to East Texas a long, long, long time ago, we have several similar plants - including the Loblolly Pines. So, I suppose jacks may be native to this area also. By the way, in Columbia the jacks were growing under the white pine in the back yard. So I'd say pines are the key. However, the soil here is much more acidic (sand and red clay) than Columbia.

The other picture is of a purple paintbrush, which I had never seen before. It was not labeled with a scientific name, but I think it is the *Castilleja purpurea* or downey. I photographed this one of hundreds at the 4th Annual Ft. Worth Prairie Fest in April. It is a 160 acre remnant prairie in the middle of Ft. Worth. Now called the Tandy Hills Natural Area. It was originally purchased in 1960 by the Ft. Worth Parks Dept and designated a natural area in 1987. There were lots and lots of people there. The only folks selling plants were, of course, the Native Plant Society! I got to visit with both the local chapter folks and the current president of the Texas NPS (actually called NPSOT). They were selling plants in quart/half gal pots for \$7! I guess we're not charging enough!

Judy



Jack in the pulpit and



purple downey paintbrush in Texas

Judy Turner

Be Watchful for Turtles!

With all the warm weather and rain lately, all kinds of turtles are on the move. A good basic rule is to NOT run over anything foreign in the road. And while you are a passenger in a car call a 'turtle alert!' to the driver. If you are totally safe on a little-used road and you can move quickly, it might save the turtle and give you a feeling of a deed well done if you move it off the road in the direction it was headed. These little guys do no harm and are part of our web of planet stability. Help them stay out of harm's way.



Dave Bedan Photo

Quail in Morning Sun

If you plant your garden/yard/extra acreage with natives, wildlife comes to your front door.



Ann Wakman photo

Milkweeds for Butterflies

Look these up in a reference book or on line:

Asclepias verticellata



Asclepias viridis



Asclepias tuberosa



B Erickson photos

Add them to your gardens!

Please Step Forward For Service

Please contact one of the officers ready to volunteer a little time to a very good environmental and educational service. We need people to grow plants for fundraising and we need people to man our information booth at events such as Earth Day.

___ Student (\$11.00)

___ Regular (\$16.00)

___ Contributing (\$26.00)

Includes both Chapter and State dues.

Make check payable to: **Missouri Native Plant Society.**

Send check and this form to: Paula Peters, 2216 Grace Ellen Dr., Columbia, MO 65202

MEMBERSHIP FORM Missouri

Native Plant Society—*Hawthorn Chapter*
July 1 through June 30.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: Evening _____

Day (or cell) _____

Email: _____

Do you want to receive email updates between newsletters?

Yes No

Method of receiving chapter newsletter:

(circle preference) **Email Regular mail**

(Email delivery brings you color photos and it saves NPS money)

Hawthorn Chapter Missouri Native Plant Society

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