



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

Volume 24, Number 11

November 2009

Hawthorn Chapter Officers:

President

Vanessa Melton
573-864-3905
vanndawn@gmail.com

Vice President

Jack Beckett
607 Longfellow Lane
Columbia, MO 65203
jbeckett@socket.net

Secretary

Jean Graebner
1800 Roby Farm Rd.
Rocheport, MO
573-698-2855
jeangr@socket.net

Treasurer

Paula Peters
2216 Grace Ellen Dr
Columbia, MO 65202
573-474-4225
pieridael@gmail.com

Chapter Representative

Nadia Navarrete-Tindall
573-289-2018
navarrete-tindalln@lincolnu.edu

Web Master

Judy Ward
wardjud@gmail.com

Web site:

<http://columbianativeplants.missouri.org/>

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

Newsletter Editor

Becky Erickson
573-657-2314
beckyerick@socket.net

REMINDER: If you have not renewed your membership this fall, next month [December] will be your last newsletter. Please re-up to Paula immediately.

Future Activities

Watch email for notices of impromptu hikes. **Please offer suggestions of your favorite walking 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, call Paula to get on the phone list.

November is traditionally hunting season. **Anyone** [that includes **YOU** – don't think you are 'putting her out', Becky is offering!!!] who wants to go to wild places for seed collecting and dormant plant ID can **contact Becky for a weekday mid-day walks** at one of the public areas.

November 9 Monday: Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. **Our speaker will be Dr. Adrian Andrei**, professor of Wildlife Science in the Dept. of Agriculture and Environmental Science at Lincoln University. Dr. Andrei will discuss the economic and ecological importance of pollination. He will give examples of common pollinators in MO, and advice on planting and backyard management to help pollinators.

November 14 Saturday: Winter cookout and wreath workshop at K & Laura Ellifrit's house on Cedar Creek. 10 am to mid-afternoon. **See article on Page 2 for details.**

November 19 Thursday: Lunch with native plant enthusiasts! 11:30 am, Uprise Bakery, just south of Broadway on Hitt Street. Time to catch up with friends and plan for the next activities.

December 5: Winter Board Meeting – 10:00 am at the Dunn-Palmer Herbarium in Columbia

December 13: Winter Holiday Party at Vanessa Melton's near New Franklin. **See invitation on Page 4.**

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

Thanks to Paula Peters, Jean Graebner, Glenn Pickett, Laura Ellifrit, Nadia Navarrete-Tindall, Vanessa Melton and Allison Vaughn for their contributions this month.

September Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Jean Graebner, Secretary

Hawthorn President Vanessa Melton opened the regular meeting at 7 p.m. Monday evening, September 14, by introducing the evening's speaker, Ann Koenig, an Urban Forester of the Missouri Department of Conservation. Because of the subject of the evening's presentation, the meeting was being held at a different location than normal: Water's House which is part of the MDC Regional Office located at 1907 Hillcrest Drive.

Ann began her program on the basics of tree identification by giving us a list of where to look for "clues." A very important one is location in the habitat. Knowing what species to expect in a given environment can narrow the field considerably. Characteristics that should then be checked include bark, bud and twig, tree form, size, branch arrangement. If the season is right, additional clues are leaf, buds, flowers and fruits.

To help with information on all of the clues, Ann distributed two field guides which are available from MDC: Missouri's Oaks and Hickories and Fifty Common Trees of Missouri. She then utilized the last evening light to take us on a walk of the grounds where we used our senses of sight (twigs, leaves, bark), smell (sassafras, paw paw), and feel (leaf like leather, leaf like sandpaper) to nail the ID. It was a very instructive and enjoyable lesson from a very skilled teacher.

A business meeting followed the presentation.

Vanessa passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to work our booth at the Busby Farm Field Day on October 3 and the Chestnut Festival October 17 at the MU Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center [HARC] in New Franklin. The Financial Report was noted and members were asked to view it in the September newsletter. Jean Graebner asked for volunteers to give her suggestions for a native planting in the McDermott Pocket Park in Rocheport.

Members who, during the process of thinning or potting seedling, have plants to give away, could contact Jean and she will pick up the plants to deliver to a group in Rocheport who is working to beautify the park. The passing of one of our members, George Brakhage, was also mentioned and members will be notified once arrangements are made.

**November 19:
Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts!
11:30 am at Uprise Bakery
Hitt Street just south of Broadway**

MDC Natural Events Calendars can be had from Paula for \$6 [they retail for \$7]. She can take your orders and money at the November meeting or cookout or call her for other arrangements. 474-4225.

Cookout and Wreath Workshop

I'll have the garage set up for wreath making and fire up the "Pit" at 10:00 AM on Nov. 14th. Hopefully the weather will cooperate. I'll have the cedar cut. You all can bring anything you want to cook - feel free to do a chicken, but if you're short on time, hot dogs or hamburger will do. Call me if you need directions - 442-0777. The address is 8804 N. Millsite.. I have plates, utensils, cups and condiments. Will try to be as flexible as possible if we have weather issues. - Laura Ellifrit

[Editor's note: If you want to participate in the cookout, please bring a meat and a small dish to share and a chair. Judicious use of wine and beer is invited. Dogs with manners are invited (remember meat will be an easy target).

If you want to participate in the wreath workshop, you need to bring your own plant clippers, wreath form(s), and a spool of craft wire. Some dried plant material will be on hand, but it is suggested you add to the community collection with donations of plant materials that can make a wreath interesting.

Directions to Ellifrit's house: US63 south to AB Hwy (Deer Park Store is the Breaktime with the RED roof on the east side) Turn east - toward the store - go straight on AB (it will turn to gravel where it becomes "Barnes Chapel Road"). Turn right/south on N Mill Site Road (down thru the woods). At the "T" turn left and go STRAIGHT thru a gate. If there is not a wetland on your right and a woods on your left, you turned right at the gate or right at the T; back up for a do-over. Go to the end of the road.]



Wreath made by Paula last year *B Erickson photo*



Releasing the cooked chickens at last year's cookout *BE photo*

Set the Woods on Fire

Submitted by Allison Vaughn, Natural Resource Steward, DNR

*“Comb your hair and paint and powder
You act proud and I’ll act prouder
You sing loud and I’ll sing louder
Tonight we’re setting the woods on fire...” Hank Williams*

As dry leaves rain down from Missouri’s stately, high woodland canopy, many land managers and private landowners alike feel the crisp autumn air that ushers in the annual fire season. For thousands of years, Native Americans sent fires raging throughout Missouri, some starting in the far western prairies of the Osage Plains, sweeping through the post oak savannas of the western Ozarks, only extinguishing when they met patches of cool, moist forests in the coves of St. Louis and Current River country. Today, that annual tradition of dormant season fire continues, essential to the maintenance and longevity of our rich, biodiverse ecosystems.

Historically, regions due south of Columbia existed in a fire shadow: fires moving across the prairies of the Central Dissected Till Plains and fires moving north from the Ozark Highlands hit the moist climates of the Missouri River creating a landscape of a more forested character. Small traces of this historic forest community type exist today in and around Hartsburg. But Columbia’s woodlands are fire-mediated communities, dependent on frequent fire return intervals for the sustenance of their natural history. Without fire, dense layers of leaves keep light from reaching the woodland floor, suppressing the grassy and wildflower-rich understory upon which many animals depend.

Woodland birds such as scarlet tanagers, blue-gray gnatcatchers, and indigo buntings thrive in woodlands managed with fire. The healthy woodland understory, one filled with prairie grasses and native wildflowers, attracts a healthy suite of invertebrates upon which birds and small mammals alike can feed. Without the thriving insect community associated with the plant community, populations of the larger animals diminish.

Last fire season’s dry weather and warm climate provided the perfect backdrop for frequent prescribed fire events in Missouri. Columbia Parks and Recreation treated several woodlands with prescribed fire, joining the ranks of other municipalities who recognize the importance of protecting biodiversity through implementing natural processes. City, state and federal officials alike have grand plans for burning woodlands this season, and next spring, as warm rains gently fall on the newly burned ground, life will begin anew, offering brilliant wildflowers and grasses just as it has for millions of years.



Recent controlled burn at HaHa Tonka SP *A Vaughn photo*



Controlled burn at Erickson’s 2007 *B Erickson photo*

Educational Grants Update

Submitted by Glenn Pickett

Hawthorn NPS received two grant applications from teachers in the Columbia Public Schools for outdoor classrooms. Both applications were from high school teachers. They are being reviewed and evaluated by the grant committee. Committee members are Jean Graebner, Nancy Langworthy, and Glenn Pickett. Grant award notification will be made to a successful applicant by the end of October. The grant committee will make a brief report to the club at the November meeting.

Obviously, two applications do not represent an overwhelming response. However, it is a respectable start, given the recent inception of the program and the small amount of money involved. We will hope and expect that in future years the response will be greater.

Native Plant Society State Meeting

Submitted by Vanessa Melton, President

The annual fall Missouri Native Plant Society state-wide meeting was held in Fulton, MO on September 25th-27th. This year was the 30th Anniversary celebration which just so happened to take place in the same location it started 30 years ago. The Saturday morning field trip to Prairie Garden Trust started out cold and very rainy but ended up warm and sunny just a few hours later. Some of the species seen include sweet susan, old field goldenrod, rough blazing star, savannah goldenrod, elephant's foot, blue lobelia, spiderwort which was still blooming, and the best plant of the day for me was Indian pipe which I had been dying to see for four years. Saturday afternoon was filled with informative sessions by Bill Summers who talked about Missouri orchids, Jim H. Wilson, Paul Nelson who discussed "Biotic Homogenization", and Doug Ladd who was a fabulous speaker made us think about conservation – where it is now and where it is heading.

The evening concluded with a dinner at Sir Winston's Restaurant where memories were shared by long-standing members and three awards were given. Our own chapter members Nadia Navarrete-Tindall and Jim Whitley received awards that evening with the Erna Eisendrath Memorial Education Award going to Nadia and the Plant Stewardship Award going to Jim. Nadia was present to accept her award that evening, and Jim received his award later at a ceremony attended by 20 of his friends at Jim's favorite restaurant, Flat Branch. All in all it was a good weekend despite the inclement weather.



BE Photo

President Vanessa holds Jim's award for Stewardship. Nadia received the Education Award.

Holiday Party; All Are Invited

This year's Hawthorn Chapter Holiday Party will be Sunday, December 13th, 2 pm, at Vanessa's house close to New Franklin. Please bring a dish and your favorite beverage to share with the group. See directions below. This is your invitation, so call Vanessa to RSVP or if you have any questions at 573-698-3337, and don't forget to ask Santa for good weather that day!

I-70 W; Exit Old US40 Midway/Fayette and go north (right). After Hwy 240 (to Fayette) go right on CR 441 [If you go to a bridge, turn around.] On CR 441, turn down the 2nd driveway on the left and past a newly-built, fake-log house. Ignore the 'Keep Out' signs. Our house is woodland green at the end of the road.

'In Touch of Nature' field day.

Submitted by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

The Hawthorn Chapter participated in the second annual 'In Touch with Nature' field day hosted by the Native Plants Program (NPP) at Lincoln University on October 3. Our Chapter had a booth where native plants and books were sold. Visitors of all ages requested advice from our members about native plant establishment in their own gardens. A native plant garden, established by the NPP and designed by one of our members Becky Erickson, was visited by attendees.

Booth themes ranged from dying wool with native plants to exploration of MO native prairies to open fire cooking. Representatives from the Department of Conservation, University of Missouri Extension, Missouri Prairie Foundation, staff and faculty from Lincoln University Cooperative Extension and Cooperative Research were all present. An evaluation form was completed by attendees with many positive responses. Mark your calendars; this same event will be offered again next year on September 25!

Chestnut Festival in New Franklin

Submitted by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

Several members including Nancy Langworthy, Becky Erickson, John White, Jean Grabner, Janice Bryan, Paula Peters, Vanessa Melton, Jack Becket and Nadia met around 9 am to set up a booth during the Chestnut Festival at the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Farm in New Franklin to sell native plants grown by Becky, Janice, and Vanessa. The event was visited by several hundreds of people and the booth was constantly busy with people checking on books, buying native plants, and seeking advice about the right plant to grow in their yards. Particularly popular were false wild indigo, hairy mountain mint, little blue stem, Virginia iris, garden phlox and geranium. Nadia set up a booth for the NPP Lincoln University with the help of Matt Barnes to promote events hosted by Lincoln University. Nadia and Matt offered walking tours around farm to show a 5 year old prairie and a wildlife plot established with several species of native shrubs.



V. Melton photo

Lynn Johnson, Becky Erickson and John White enjoy our one sunny day on the trails in 3-Creeks.



Indian pipes seen by those who braved the rain at Prairie Garden Trust for the state field hike.

V Melton photo



Aster turbinellis is a welcomed bright spot on all of our fall walks.

V Melton photo



Flowering dogwood [*Cornus florida*] is colorful in any season!

V Melton photo

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 serve as officers, to grow plants for fundraising and we need people to man our information booth at events such as Earth Day and Chestnut Festival.

___ Local Chapter (\$6.00 no state information)

___ 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: _____

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(circle preference) **Email** **Regular mail**

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Hawthorn Chapter Missouri Native Plant Society
Newsletter editor, Becky Erickson
PO Box 496
Ashland MO 65010-0496

