



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

Volume 26, Number 12
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The Hawthorn Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society Newsletter is published monthly. Send submissions by the 26th to:

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December 2011

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. **PLEASE call or email Becky 657-2314 or Paula 474-4225 as soon as you know you will attend an activity.** We don't want to leave anyone behind if weather or plans change. Leave your name and PHONE # if you leave a message. If you do not communicate by email and have a suggested destination or want notice of a walk, call Paula 474-4225 to get on the phone list. Carpool meeting place, MDC Research Center, is on College just north of Stadium.

It is not too late to send your 2011-12 dues to Paula, our chapter Membership Chair. If you have not sent, and do not send your dues in this month, your name will be deleted from our roster; you will not receive any further information from this organization. Renewal form is the last page of this document.

3 December Saturday: State Meeting Columbia, 10 am: MU Herbarium.

From Stadium and College, go south on Rock Quarry Road one block. Herbarium building is on your right. This is your chance to visit with members from other parts of the state, suggest locations for state fieldtrips, volunteer to help a committee.

10 December Saturday: Workday at Stadium site, 10 am. North side of Stadium Blvd across from MLK Park. More information on Page 2.

11 December Sunday: Holiday Party at Vanessa and David's. Noon to 4. See Invitation inside.

15 December Thursday: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts 11:30 am RagTag, 10 Hitt St. Just south of Broadway.

9 January Monday: Regular Membership Meeting 6:00 pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Sheppard Blvd. Agenda: discussions on 2012 activities, officer elections. Bring ideas for mosey destinations. Program: seed exchange.

19 January Thursday: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts 11:30 am RagTag, 10 Hitt St. Just south of Broadway.

Call Vanessa or Paula for more information

Thanks to Ann Wakeman, Vanessa Melton-Silvey, Bob Kremer, Denny Donnell, Nadia Navarette-Tindall, and Randy Tindall for their contributions to the newsletter. Editor would like to hear from you, too.

Holiday Party

Invitation from Vanessa Melton-Silvey

This year's Hawthorn Chapter Holiday Party will be Sunday, December 11th, 12 pm, at Vanessa's and David's house close to New Franklin. We will have appetizers and wassail at noon with the main lunch being served around 1 pm.

Please bring a dish to share with the group. See directions below if you haven't been there before this. Call Vanessa if you have any questions at 573-698-3337.

I-70 W to Old 40/Midway/Fayette Exit; go north (right, really west) toward New Franklin.

After passing the second Hwy. 240 (to Fayette), go one mile to County Rd. 441 on the right. (Sign is still bent)

If you cross a bridge into the river bottoms you have gone too far.

On County Rd. 441, look for the 2nd driveway on the left. Turn left on the 2nd driveway and go straight into the woods past the log cabin house. Our house is woodland green at the end of the drive. Room for 4-5 cars in front of the garage. If you can walk, park at the edge of the woods. Ignore the "Keep Out" signs - they are not for you. :-)

December: Last chance to renew your membership

Mt Cuba Center is a native gardening educational center at Greenville DE. You can access their website at www.mtcubacenter.org. I received a card stating they have a distance learning program including topics on Ferns, Hummingbirds, Moss, Meadow plants. Of course you could learn these by accompanying us on our moseys, or by speaking with any of our long-time members. But if health or work prohibit these activities in your life, this website might be your source to fill your curiosity.

November Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Ann Wakeman, Secretary

The November 14, 2011 meeting of the Hawthorn Chapter of Missouri Native Plant Society was called to order at 6pm by president Vanessa Melton.

John George presented a program on Prairie Conservation. He started by giving an overview of how much of Missouri was once prairie, by searching for the word 'prairie' on the original land survey notes. Up to 30% of Missouri was covered by prairie. He showed photos of examples of common prairie plant species as well as photos of wildlife species found on prairies. He then showed plants that are less common, that are easily lost through plowing, or lack of pollinators. He stated there are no longer large areas of intact prairie to be able to function as prairies did prior to European settlement. Now are exotic species which can degrade prairie, further impacting its diversity.

John is now putting the pieces back together to reconstruct prairie at the Prairie Fork CA Expansion in eastern Callaway County. The first year they used \$30,000 to purchase seed for the first planting. After that he, a couple part-time employees, and volunteers started collecting seed from near-by prairie remnants like Tucker Prairie, and Whetstone Conservation Area. He is happy to report there are over 200 species found in the new plantings.

Treasurer's report. John George reported a balance of \$6997, with some bills outstanding.

Conservation calendars are available to purchase. They may be picked up at the Thursday lunches or the holiday party at Vanessa's.

A work day at the Stadium site will be set by Becky Erickson for Saturday 10 Dec at 10 am

The award committee received a nomination for the Hawthorn Award to go to the Missouri Conference Methodist Church Conference Center. Members voted unanimously to make this award.

There are problems with the grant applications which need a wider outreach. Lea Langdon agreed to help on the grant program committee to address this.

There was discussion on whether or not to invest some of the treasury. Some of the concerns included there may not be enough excess funds to be invested; stocks aren't appropriate, etc. Denny brought up appealing to the members to donate at the end of fiscal year which would be as good as return on investment. He will write up an appeal for the newsletter. Nancy Langworthy moved the chapter look into possible investing up to \$3,000 for the chapter. Jody S seconded the motion. Motion carried. A committee consisting of Lea Langdon, Becky Erickson and Nancy Langworthy will look into investing funds.

Next meeting will be January 14. There will be a native plant seed exchange. Meeting was adjourned about 7:15 pm.

Stadium Workday [please sign up]

December 10 at 10 am. On Stadium Blvd across from MLK Park.

Please dress for weather. Bring water and snack if needed. Safety vest is imperative if working near road [MODOT rules]. Please use gloves and safety glasses. Please bring clippers, loppers, a gasoline weedeater, a chainsaw [if proficient in its use]. Bush honeysuckle and other invasive trees need to be cut. Tall vegetation needs cutting. Trash needs to be picked up. We have several bags of seed to distribute. Becky 657-2314

Investing Chapter Money

Submitted by Vanessa Melton-Silvey, President

A member has suggested investing Chapter money to ensure that we have sufficient funds in the future. There are many questions to be answered when thinking about investing our funds. What is the purpose of investing our funds? What do we need Chapter funds for? Do we need more money than we currently have in our bank account and more than we currently usually make in a year? What are our plans for the future and how much money will we need to achieve these future goals? There are many ways to invest with different levels of risk, different possibilities for returns, and different costs attached to the process. How much cost are you willing to accept for what level of risk and what level of return? If we invest, what route should we take and who should we invest with? These are just some of the questions that should be answered, but first and foremost – should we consider investing an option?

This topic was discussed at the November meeting and a motion passed to form a committee who would look into investment options if need be. However, after the motion passed the whole idea came into question. We sort of put the cart before the horse. For this reason I feel it is important to take a vote in January on whether or not we should pursue this further. Keep in mind we will NOT be voting to invest money! We will just be voting on if this is something we should consider and pursue.

For those of you who were not at the November meeting this is your chance to speak up. Ponder these questions, come to the January meeting, and we will decide on pursuing this issue further. See you then!

Alternative to Investing

Respectfully submitted by Denny Donnell

The Hawthorn Chapter of Missouri Native Plant Society has about \$7000 in its treasury. We have a free checking account with Boone County National Bank, but earn no interest. Some have considered the concept of investing our money. The general feeling has been that we shouldn't expose our treasury to risk of loss, but the current option for earning interest pays very little. At the November meeting it was suggested that a relatively painless way to increase our treasury would be to encourage our members to consider giving an end of the calendar year donation of \$10 or more (not tax deductible). If even half of our members would rise to the challenge we would derive more benefit than we could reasonably expect to get in interest. The concept was approved. Donations can be sent at any time to John George at 1905 Tipton Terrace, Columbia, MO 65203.

Blue Sage (*Salvia azurea*): Better Late than Never

From Randy Tindall's blog "*Nadia's backyard – keeping it wild in the city*" <http://nadiasyard.com> If you take the email edition, you can try the web links [underlined blue].

She's a late bloomer, tall and stooped, but she's still the belle of the ball and extremely attractive. Just ask the butterflies and bees shopping around for a late-season snack before winter really sets in. Blue sage is where the party is.



Blue Sage (*Salvia azurea*)

RT photo

A member of the Mint (Lamiaceae) Family, *Salvia azurea* (our variety seems to be *grandiflora*) grows up to five feet tall in our yard, with spikes of beautiful, blue flowers in whorls. Also known as Pitcher Sage or Azure Sage, it blooms in summer to fall, sometimes late fall, as in our case. It has narrow lance-shaped leaves up to 3-4" long, coming off a somewhat spindly stem that can droop under the weight of the flowers, causing [some folks](#) to recommend cutting the stems at about half-height in the spring to promote more bushiness and less altitude. It can be propagated from seed, splitting the root ball, and from stem cuttings, but please don't take plants from the wild to do this. It's just not that common out there. Collect the seeds, instead, or buy some from a *local* native seed seller.

She has given us no trouble and makes no demands, cruising right through a brutally hot and dry summer with nary a complaint (and no watering!).

Threatened in Illinois and [listed](#) as "of special concern" in Tennessee, it is found widely distributed across the U.S., from the East Coast west as far as Utah, and from Texas north to Minnesota, which seems to form its western boundary that far north. In Missouri, it is [said](#) to dwell in limestone glades, prairies and open ground, mainly in the [southwestern](#) part of the state. In our yard, it grows next to a big rock in our front yard, in pretty much full afternoon sunlight. It seems quite happy.

[continued next page]

Euphorbia species – grow with caution

Submitted by Bob Kremer; a microbiologist with USDA-ARS and adjunct professor of soil science at the University of Missouri. A member of the Missouri Native Plant Society, he resides in Columbia, MO.

Euphorbia species have many unique characteristics that may be attractive to the casual gardener yet some species' invasive nature can threaten plant diversity over entire landscapes. The most familiar plants in this group include the poinsettia and various varieties of 'snow-on-the-mountain' (*E. marginata*), one of which is native to Missouri.

The most notorious and environmentally problematic member of the genus is leafy spurge (*E. esula* or *E. esula/virgata*) introduced into the Great Plains of North America as contaminants in wheat seed brought in by European settlers during the latter half of the 19th century. Leafy spurge thrives in the cool dry climate of this region and aggressively establishes through vegetative propagation and seed production. Each plant produces a network of underground rhizome-like horizontal stems with numerous buds from which new plants establish and increase stand density. Additionally, hundreds of seeds are produced by each plant and are disbursed through an explosive mechanism at maturity as seed capsules dry and forcefully break open, allowing seeds to be distributed 15 to 20 feet from the mother plant.

These invasive traits help explain why this plant has destroyed native plant diversity and changed land use in many areas of the Great Plains states of the U.S. and the prairie provinces of Canada. Typical of *Euphorbia* species, leafy spurge also has abundant milky latex within the plant making it essentially unpalatable to all animals including cattle. The unpalatable forage along with prohibitive costs required to control the plant with chemical herbicides caused many landowners to abandon large tracts rather than bear tax payments for land that could no longer sustain profitable cattle production. For these reasons the federal government has supported programs during the past 25+ years to develop cost-effective leafy spurge management programs to reclaim federally-owned lands and to help the private landowner as well.

My project with USDA-ARS during a 10-12 year period included discovery and development of potential biological control pathogens and insects for use on leafy spurge. Some biological control agents have been successful in damaging leafy spurge and retarding its growth and spread, however, time is required for the agents to establish and complete kill of the plant is often not achieved.

[continued on Page 5]

[Blue Sage continued . . .]

It caught our attention on Halloween day, a fairly warm and pleasant one for the end of October. We went outside to get in the car and run errands, and I noticed a flurry of activity around our blue blossoms. Closer examination revealed a gala of butterflies (mainly skippers and sulphurs), honey bees and native bees swarming over the plants. So much for the errands. Out came the camera, and [here are some results](#). Others are just below.



A Skipper [Zabulon or Hobomok] RT photo



Eastern Tailed Blue RT photo

To be fair, other plants were also fairly busy that day, such as goldenrod and a couple asters, but the blue sage was the headliner of the show, even after two freezes so far this year. She's also supposed to be attractive to hummingbirds—not surprising I suppose when you consider the tube-shaped flowers.

So what else is this pretty sage good for? [One herbalist](#) thinks quite a lot of her: “The Sages are perhaps my favorite and most used plants, I use local native Sages (*Salvia subincisa*, *Salvia greggii*, *Salvia azurea*), as well as the ones I grow in pots and my garden (*Salvia apiana*, *Salvia officinale*, *Salvia coccinea*). A top rate wound and burn remedy, great for toothaches and gum disease, anti-anxiety and anti-depressant, cooling and assisting with hot flashes and hormonal imbalance, it also calms upset tummies, works on many headaches & migraines, is a gentle diaphoretic when ingested hot as well preventing sweating and loss of bodily fluids when taken cold... I could spend my whole practice studying just Sage!” Well, really, what else do you need?

Now how much of this is our *S. azurea* and how much is the other sages is unknown to me at this point. The sage group is well known world-wide for medicinal and culinary properties, but there is almost no mention of Blue Sage being good at anything except attracting pollinators and looking pretty.



Pair of Monarchs on *Salvia azurea*. BE photo

LU Native Plants Program for Restoration

Submitted by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

The [Native Plants Program](#) (NPP) at Lincoln University and the U.S. Forest Service Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF) recently agreed on a partnership to enhance the MTNF native plant material program (NMP) by propagating native plants for use on National Forest System lands on the Mark Twain National Forest and to contribute to maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem health through use of locally adapted, populations of native species for restoration, rehabilitation and revegetation.

Lincoln University and the U.S. Forest Service along with other partners and volunteers will collect seeds from plant species of conservation concern, rare and conservative Ozark endemics, and important pollinator species located on the MTNF. Seedlings will be produced by the Native Plants Program to establish in areas under restoration, in demonstration gardens at LU campus and the offices of the US Forest Service in the Rolla and Ava regions.

Objectives include:

- 1) The production of genetically appropriate native plant material for conservation to enhance biodiversity on the MTNF including in Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation and other areas of disturbance that may require restoration. Seed and propagules will be sent for storage to the National Seed Laboratory.
- 2) To provide information to the public on the importance of native plants for wildlife and pollinator species.
- 3) Development of online publications.

In it is expected that this program will provide educational and curriculum opportunities to LU-students, faculty and staff, native plant enthusiasts and the public at large.

So far we had collected seed from two locations: the MO newest Natural Area, Western Star Savanna located near Rolla and a glade restoration area near Ava, Missouri (Big Greek, Three Sisters and McClurg within the Mark Twain National Forest.

Funding provided by the US forest Service is being used to hire a Lincoln University student while the NPP will provide facilities, materials, and other personnel's time.

The Native Plants Program would like to invite members of the Native Plant Society to be part of this exciting program. Visits to different wild locations will be planned throughout the year to identify species of concern while in bloom and later in the year, for seed collection. Some of the activities that volunteers could help with are gathering seed, seedling propagation, as well as establishing seedlings in demonstration gardens and restoration areas.

For more information please contact Nadia at 573-681-5392 or by email: navarrete-tindall@lincolnu.edu



Amy Gooding [LU] and Antoinette (Nettie) Sittler [Lia Perez HISES] searching for native plant seed in a glade in MTNF NN-T photo

[EUPHORBIA continued . . .]

At one point some concern arose regarding possible spread of leafy spurge into Missouri. We conducted several 'explorations' for leafy spurge within the state because if it did establish here, development of biological control based on organisms found in Missouri might be better adapted for effective control relative to agents found in the western states.

So far, reports of leafy spurge in Missouri have been sporadic. We documented a small stand along a railroad right-of-way near Laredo in Grundy County in the mid-1990's, which has since been destroyed. During a field test of some of the leafy spurge accessions I collected from various states, plants of which were contained in large PVC pipe sections driven into soil at a University farm, some escaped outside the secured site into the field plot. Those escapes survived about 3 years and eventually died out presumably because they were unable to withstand the wet conditions of the heavy clay soil at that site.

To bring this commentary to a close, an experience with a *Euphorbia* plant available at some retail garden centers is offered. My wife planted such an 'ornamental spurge' in a small area with of our native plants a few years ago. This plant has somewhat attractive purple foliage and is similar to a wood spurge (*E. amygdaloides*) found in plant catalogs, although not same as the Missouri native wood spurge (*E. commutate*) that has considerably more delicate foliage. Even though this is a 'domesticated' *Euphorbia*, the aggressive nature is still evident – we have found several smaller plants in our plantings up to 20 feet from the original planting, suggesting the projectile nature of seed dispersion associated with these plants.

Guidelines for managing these plants include cutting back after flowering to induce more colorful foliage – I now understand that if we followed this advice, seeds would not have been produced and infestations would likely have been minimized. Also, the plants are touted as 'deer tolerant' – obviously due to the latex in the plant sap. The gardener needs to take precautions for that as well. *Euphorbias* have interesting characteristics and may add a different dimension to gardens or landscapes, but one needs to be vigilant to keep these plants contained.

Send late renewals to Paula. . .

Form is the last page of this newsletter.

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 Bradford Plant Sale. If you get this only by mail, please consider requesting email delivery; it saves us money.

___ Regular (\$16.00)*

___ Student (\$11.00)

___ Contributing (\$26.00)* designate chapter or state

___ State Lifetime (\$200)

___ Chapter Lifetime (\$120 – you must also be a member of the state organization to utilize this option)

___ Chapter only (\$6.00 – this is for members who already belong to State and another chapter)

*Includes both Chapter (\$6) and State (\$10) dues.
Make check payable to: **Missouri Native Plant Society.**
Send check and this form to: Paula Peters, 2216 Grace Ellen Dr., Columbia, MO 65202

If you forgot to renew in July, you can still renew until mid December.

MEMBERSHIP FORM Missouri Native Plant Society-Hawthorn Chapter July 1 through June 30.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: Evening _____

Day or Cell _____

Email: _____

Method of receiving chapter newsletter:
(circle preference) **Email** **Regular mail**

Email delivery brings you color photos and it saves NPS money. With email delivery you also receive updates and announcements between newsletters. Regular Mail includes NO interim updates or reminders without request for phone contact.

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