



# Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

Volume 26, Number 2  
*Hawthorn Chapter Officers:*

**President**

Vanessa Melton  
573-864-3905  
[vanndawn@gmail.com](mailto:vanndawn@gmail.com)

**Vice President**

Nancy Langworthy  
[nancylangworthy@hotmail.com](mailto:nancylangworthy@hotmail.com)  
573-874-2463

**Secretary**

Ann Wakeman  
5798 Windy Meadows Lane  
Fulton, MO 65251  
573-642-6927  
[mike-ann@socket.net](mailto:mike-ann@socket.net)

**Co-Treasurer**

John George  
573-234-1784  
[John.George@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:John.George@mdc.mo.gov)

**Co-Treasurer**

Paula Peters  
2216 Grace Ellen Dr  
Columbia, MO 65202  
573-474-4225  
[pieridael@gmail.com](mailto:pieridael@gmail.com)

**Chapter Representative**

John [Rusty] White  
573-886-8698  
[rstywhit@yahoo.com](mailto:rstywhit@yahoo.com)

**Web Master**

Doug Miller

**Web site:**

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

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

**Newsletter Editor**

Becky Erickson  
573-657-2314  
[beckyerick@socket.net](mailto:beckyerick@socket.net)

February 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.

**5 February Saturday: MPF Member tour of MoBOT herbarium.** Guided by George Yatskievych. Group limited to 50; must RSVP 573-356-7828.

**17 February Thursday: Lunch** with Native Plant Enthusiasts! 11:30 am at the Uprise Bakery (RagTag Theater) 10 Hitt Street, just South of Broadway.

**18 February 2011 7:00 PM: Douglas Tallamy** will be speaking at Southern Illinois University at the Browne Auditorium in Parkinson Lab Building 1259 Lincoln Drive. **See article page 3**

**14 March Monday: Regular Membership Meeting** at 5:30pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Speaker TBA.

**17 March Thursday: Lunch** with Native Plant Enthusiasts! 11:30 am at the Uprise Bakery (RagTag Theater) 10 Hitt Street, just South of Broadway.

**9 April Saturday: Plant Sale** at MU Bradford Farm 2 mi south on Rangeline. In spite of the early date, this sale is well attended. Please sign up with Paula to help with our booth.

**17 April Sunday: Earth Day Festival** [rain date 1 May] in Columbia next to Peace Park. Booth and plant sale. This is one of our best opportunities to connect with people. Please sign up with Paula to help with the booth.

**State Field Trips**  
**30 Apr-2 May Joplin**  
**10-12 June Ironton**  
**9-11 Sept Sedalia**

State field trips are always to some of the BEST wild places we have in Missouri and the contiguous states. The ones lined up for this summer are very intriguing. Mark your calendars and plan to join us

The Hawthorn field trip committee has not met yet to arrange dates for moseys. They need to work around festival dates and figure on the best time of year for the locations chosen. We don't usually start with moseys until 1 April so look for those dates in the March newsletter. There is still a little time to send your choice for destinations in to Paula or John White.

**BIG THANKS to Doug Miller** for reviving the web site. Hopefully all members will visit our website to see the exciting information available to the public. Use it as a tool to invite new members.

**Call Paula for more information 474-4225**

**Thanks to Vanessa Melton, John White, and Paula Peters for their submissions to the newsletter.** The more diversity I get for submissions, the richer will be the content of this newsletter. Everyone can write, just go for it! Editor

# Hawthorn Chapter Financial Report 2010

Submitted by Paula Peters Co-Treasurer

## Income

\$176.00 Calendars and dues  
\$778.50 Bradford, Earth Day and dues  
\$601.00 Bradford, dues and plants  
\$300.00 Dues deposit  
\$1063.54 Chestnut Festival, Busby, Eco/Art fest and dues  
**\$2919.04 = Total Income**

## Expenses

\$925.35 Books and Calendars  
\$105.00 Booth Fees  
\$227.31 Newsletters and stamps  
\$490.00 State dues  
\$547.50 Travel – chapter Rep  
\$200.00 UU Church  
\$200.00 Grant  
\$508.92 Misc – frames, potting soil, display table, book boxes, canopy bag  
**\$3204.08 = Total Expenses** (this includes about \$400 in one time expenses)

Balance in the checkbook at the end of the year was **\$5937.96**

Helianthus  
tuberosus  
[Jerusalem  
artichoke]

BE photo



# New Officers in Place

Submitted by Vanessa Melton, President

Elections were held at the January meeting and I want to congratulate our new officers. Here are the new team members who were elected:

**Vice President: Nancy Langworthy**

**Treasurer: John George**

**State Representative: John White**

I know they will all do well in their positions.

Congratulations again!

Also, Paula Peters will still be keeping track of members of our chapter, so if you have questions about your membership please contact her. Thanks.

# Blazing Star Awarded

Submitted by Vanessa Melton, President

As you know, the Blazing Star Award was to be given out at the Holiday Party in December, but since our award recipient could not attend it was instead presented to Becky Erickson at our regular January meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>. She has, and continues to do so much for our chapter. Thank you Becky, and congratulations! Below is what was stated on her award.

*The Hawthorn Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society thanks Becky Erickson for her ongoing zeal as seed collector and plant propagator, provider of plants and hours of work at our booths and our outings, for her energy and commitment in establishing the Stadium Blvd site. We value her dedication to botanizing, fighting invasive non-natives, and to supporting the chapter's school grant program. We respect her willingness to share what she knows and openness to learning more whether of local ecotypes or prairie habitat; and we appreciate her forthright acceptance of the role of newsletter producer.*

***SAVE TREES, SAVE NPS MONEY:  
SIGN UP FOR THE EMAIL  
NEWSLETTER.***

## Tallamy Speaking at SIU

Dr. Douglas Tallamy, author of the award winning book, [Bringing Nature Home](#):

[How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants](#) will be speaking at Southern Illinois University February 18, 2011 7:00 PM at the Browne Auditorium in Parkinson Lab Building 1259 Lincoln Drive.

Don't miss this presentation! Nadia and Randy are organizing transportation and overnight stay for anyone interested in joining them 234-2088 [Navarrete-TindallN@lincolnu.edu](mailto:Navarrete-TindallN@lincolnu.edu) . Or the SIU information contact is [botanizer@gmail.com](mailto:botanizer@gmail.com) 217-417-4145. This presentation is sponsored by the *Southern Chapter of Illinois Native Plant Society*

Comment from Jean Everett, Ph.D., [Nancy Brakhage's daughter] Senior Instructor, Department of Biology, College of Charleston: **Hey friends – I've heard Doug speak** and he is absolutely inspiring! He brings together in such an eloquent way the things we all know but may never have synthesized. His focus is on the links between native plants, native caterpillar-making insects, and native songbirds. I was enthralled throughout his entire lecture, and he's now inspired one of my students to begin "The Great American Corridor Project" – using the energy of college students to motivate communities to move back towards a more sustainable urban and suburban landscape. Doug is definitely worth the trip to Carbondale! Or, get him to come to Missouri – his fees are reasonable and he's a truly wonderful speaker. Take care. Jean.

"Tallamy communicates a hopeful message: It's not too late to save the ecological community of fauna and the answer is as simple as replacing foreign plants with natives." —*Garden Compass*

*From the Foreword of Tallamy's bestselling book:*

"As development and subsequent habitat destruction accelerate, there are increasing pressures on wildlife populations. But there is an important and simple step toward reversing this alarming trend: Everyone with access to a patch of earth can make a significant contribution toward sustaining biodiversity. There is an unbreakable link between native plant species and native

wildlife — native insects cannot, or will not, eat alien plants. When native plants disappear, the insects disappear, impoverishing the food source for birds and other animals. In many parts of the world, habitat destruction has been so extensive that local wildlife is in crisis and may be headed toward extinction. [Bringing Nature Home](#) has sparked a national conversation about the link between healthy local ecosystems and human well-being, and the new paperback edition — with an expanded resource section and updated photos — will help broaden the movement. By acting on Douglas Tallamy's practical recommendations, everyone can make a difference."

Douglas Tallamy is professor and chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology and Director of the Center for Managed Ecosystems at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware. He has authored 73 research articles and has taught Insect Taxonomy, Behavioral Ecology, and other courses for more than 20 years. His research focuses on the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. His book "Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in our Gardens" was published by Timber Press in 2007 and was awarded the 2008 Silver Medal by the Garden Writer's Association.



BE photo

Structure of native plants provides beauty any time of year.

## BOTANICAL NOTES

### Venus Flytrap (*Dionaea muscipula*)

Submitted by John R. White

Carnivorous plants, family Droseraceae, are a fascinating group in the plant kingdom. They are found worldwide, have adapted to low nutrient environments and have the ability to trap and ingest insects and arachnids, as well as small frogs, lizards and rodents in Southeast Asian pitcher plants. Trapping mechanisms include sticky sundews, pitcher plants and snap traps among others. Many are species of concern or are rare, with some listed in CITES.

The Venus flytrap (*Dionaea muscipula*) is a remarkable plant. It is a snap trap, endemic to select boggy coastal areas in North and South Carolina. The plants live in poor soil and obtain nutrients from the soil and air but lack of soil nutrients and minimal photosynthesis is supplemented by captured prey. New plants can grow directly from rhizomes or from seeds and depend on periodic burning to suppress competition. Delicate white flowers on 12 inch stems sprout in late May or early June and rely on bees, flies and wasps for pollination (ironically, some of their prey).

The leaf blade is divided into a flat, heart-shaped petiole, providing some photosynthesis, and a pair of terminal lobes, hinged at the midrib, forming the trap or true leaf. The leaves are used to trap insects, and therefore harvest sunlight inefficiently, which stunts their growth. When a leaf is modified into a trap it limits the ability to be a normal plant, so the native plants are only a few inches tall. They need sun, water and prey. One of the most amazing adaptations of the Venus flytrap is the system of triggering response. The upper lobes of the trap contain six trichome trigger hairs. When an insect is attracted by nectar glands and enters the trap, two hairs touched at once will close the trap; touching one will not close the trap unless it is touched again or another trigger is touched within 20 seconds; if neither happens it will not close. It appears to work like a binomial logic circuit with a time delay. It can even distinguish between living prey and non-prey stimuli such as debris or raindrops. Scientists still do not understand fully how the closing mechanism works. It is theorized that it moves from fluid pressure activated by an actual electrical current that runs through each lobe. Once prey is captured digestive enzymes are released so the plant can absorb the nutrients.

The insect exoskeleton is not absorbed. It desiccates and blows away after the trap opens in five to twelve days. After three or four closings the trap turns brown and dies. Charles Darwin considered the North American *Dionaea muscipula* “one of the most wonderful plants in the world”. Darwin was fascinated with carnivorous plants and published “Insectivorous Plants” in 1875.

Venus flytrap is not found in Missouri. The flytraps are rare and in North Carolina are designated as a “species of special concern” but they are not on the federal threatened or endangered species list. As with most rare native plants and animals habitat loss is a significant factor in their decline. In addition, poachers collect them from protected areas and private lands. In South Carolina, development is the main danger to flytraps. The Myrtle Beach resort community is rapidly engulfing the flytrap zone.

Venus flytraps are the most commonly recognized and cultivated carnivorous plant. Large quantities of plants are raised for commercial markets through tissue culture, locally and in the Netherlands and South America. However, there is no evolutionary future with imported houseplants where artificial selection is replacing natural selection. You are encouraged to know the plant source before you purchase one.

James Luken, a botanist at Coastal Carolina University, is one of a few scientists to study flytraps in the wild (A. Tucker, 2010). He believes flytraps are gaining a few footholds due to man made niches and mowed power line corridors. Luken has experimented with scattering *Dionaea muscipula* seeds when he encounters their preferred habitat.

#### References

Tucker, Abigail; “The Venus Flytrap’s Lethal Allure”. Science & Nature, Smithsonian magazine, February 2010, Smithsonian.com.

Botanical Society of America; “The Mysterious Venus Flytrap. <http://botany.org/bsa/misc/carn.html>.

Wikipedia; “Venus Flytrap”; [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venus\\_Flytrap](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venus_Flytrap).



©Jane Villa-Lobos. Courtesy of [Smithsonian Institution, Dept. of Systematic Biology, Botany](http://www.smithsonian.org).

**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. 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

**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.**

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

