



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

Volume 26, Number 9
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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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September 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.

9-11 Sept, Friday -Sunday: State Meeting Sedalia: Most outstanding prairies in the region. Watch Petal Pusher for details.

~~**11 September Sunday North Village Farmer's Market** [possible and tentative] If willing to help with this booth, call Paula so she can call you with details closer to date. Watch email for announcements. Attendance cancelled~~

12 September Monday Regular Membership Meeting 7:00pm at the Unitarian Church, 2615 Sheppard Blvd. Program will be Butterfly Gardening 101: common butterfly identification and host plants.

17 September Saturday Prairie Botany workshop at Tucker Prairie. Sign up two weeks prior with Carol Davit in MPF

18 September Sunday Sustainable Living Fair: Columbia College Student Commons 11 am to 6 pm. Please contact Paula to confirm your time to volunteer. Set up time 10 am. Bring potted plants for sale.

~~**24 September Saturday: In Touch With Nature Booth** at LU Busby Farm 10am to 2 pm. 9 am is set up time. Bring potted plants ready for sale. Contact Becky to get directions and to confirm your time to volunteer. Attendance cancelled~~

1 October Saturday HaHaTonka State Park. Meet for carpools at 8am. This will be an all day outing; do not count on being home "early". Bring a snack and water. We will eat at a winery on the way home mid afternoon.

15 October Saturday Fall Color walk. **Send us your idea for a destination.** Watch for details.

[15 October Chestnut Festival is cancelled due to lack of MU funding.]

Call Vanessa for more information 864-3905

If you have a favorite destination for a mosey this fall, send it in NOW so we can get it calendared. October and November are open. If no one offers suggestions, we won't know what you want to do.

Thanks to Ann Wakeman, Vanessa Melton-Silvey, Wanda Parscal, Nadia Navarrete-Tindall for their contributions to the newsletter.

Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Ann Wakeman Secretary

The July 11, 2011 meeting of the Hawthorn chapter of Missouri Native Plant Society was called to order at 7pm by president Vanessa Melton-Silvey.

April Sulze and Kerri Graham reported on their use of grant funds. They are honors biology teachers from Rock Bridge High School who received a grant from the Hawthorn Chapter. They pretest for student's knowledge, help them create a glossary of species including ones covered in class as well as ones they hadn't. Then a field trip to Rock Bridge State Park for a 'scavenger hunt' to take photos to create a power point presentation. This coming fall season, the teachers will shift to edible and medicinal uses of native plants. They were considering having someone like Pat French (the hillbilly botanist) come give a presentation, but due to expenses of an out-of-town speaker, it wasn't likely. There was some discussion to share those expenses with the Chapter as a possibility. Becky Erickson asked what the teachers what would help encourage more teachers to apply for grants, such as general biology classes.

Treasurer's report. John George sent in report of balance of \$7074.34. No checks were written in the past month. Everyone was reminded that dues were due in July, submit them to Paula Peters.

School Grants Program: Glenn Pickett stated plans to publicize the grant program better. Nancy Langworthy suggested they need to rework the brochure to target elementary and middle school teachers. She thought a larger grant amount may get more attention. There was discussion of another model for education of summer workshops and after school hours for students, like a program in Connecticut. Nancy L. moved to set up a fund of \$600 to be used as the school grants program sees fit, and additional \$150 to revise and distribute information on the program. Glenn seconded. Motion carried. There will be a meeting to discuss how to enlarge the program. Mike Syzdelowski will help the committee speak to the secondary teachers meeting coming up in August. Lea Langdon offered information on how to reach elementary teachers.

Hawthorn Award: Nancy Langworthy moved to establish the Hawthorn Award which recognizes persons or businesses other than the membership for contributions to Missouri's native plants. Denny Donnell seconded. Motion carried.

Lea Langdon stated the Park Avenue Preschool rain garden the Columbia Metro Rotary Club installed is doing well. She has spoken with the contact person, who would like the Hawthorn Chapter help occasionally with educating parents and advise on maintenance. Denny suggested drawing up a memorandum of understanding for this partnership. Lea and Denny will write it.

Tables and Materials for Booth: Someone will be needed as back up to pick up the tables at the end of the days that the delivery person cannot pick them up. Ann Wakeman and Glenn Pickett volunteered to do this.

Fountain Container Garden on Courthouse Square: Becky Erickson and Nancy Langworthy checked into cost for liability insurance for the Chapter to plant a section. The application stated liability would be on the group who adopted for planting. After discussion, the Chapter decided not to adopt a section of the Fountain Garden project.

Since the Chestnut Festival has been canceled, other venues are discussed for setting the Chapter booth. Coming up are the Sustainable Living Fair at Columbia College on September 18, various Farmers Markets in Columbia. Lea and Nancy L will check into these.

Next meeting will be September 12. Program to be announced.

Meeting was adjourned about 9pm

Native Plants and More September 24th at LU

Submitted by Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

Lincoln University Native Plants Program is having the fourth annual "In Touch with Nature" field day on Saturday, September 24 from 10 am to 2 pm at Alan T. Busby Farm located on Goller Rd. Off US-54 W, 5 minutes from Jefferson City.

Come alone or with your family and friends to enjoy and learn. The event is open to everyone. Presenters include LU students, staff and faculty, Missouri Department of Conservation, Natural Resources Conservation Service and others local groups. During this field day visit exhibits, get involved with hands-on activities, and take part of walking or wagon tours.

Activities include native plant garden tours, dutch-oven cooking demonstrations and food tasting, storytelling, pet zoo with chicken, goats and sheep, all about bugs and more. Learn about prairie and woodland native plants beneficial for pollinators and other wildlife.

Children accompanied with adults are encouraged to come.

For more information about this event and if you or your group are interested in having an exhibit please contact Nadia Navarrete-Tindall (Navarrete-TindallN@LincolnU.edu) or Amy Gooding at GoodingA@LincolnU.edu. Vendors offering hand-made items are welcome.

Directions to the farm are as follows: From Columbia, head on US-63, merge onto US-54 W/US-63 S via the ramp to Jefferson City. Continue to follow US-54 W for 7.9 miles, after passing Neighorn creek, take the left side of the road on a long hill, turn left just at the crest of the road on Monticello Rd. (opposite small Phillips gas station) continue straight onto Goller Rd. On Goller Rd. look for balloons.

Open Mind = New Discoveries

Submitted by Wanda Parscal

Reading and understanding the Highways BEE Act [sent out by email from the communications officer] really hits home with me since I now have a newly cleared roadside along a black top well traveled county road. As you all know, I have let the natives and such grow without disturbing them for a couple of years. Have discovered to my enjoyment this roadside garden now contains a bevy of mourning doves, at least two rabbits, turtles, snakes, all types of butterflies, bees and birds feeding on plants. I have placed a bird house out there, along with logs and a sitting bench made of two logs to observe. A wonderful native show goes on continuously on my own roadside. So I know first hand what the Highways Bettering the Economy and Environment Act can create. I'm glad I signed the petition, hope you did too.

I am always in awe: the beauty of Nature. I feel sorry for those that have never been privileged to see and enjoy it because they live in the big cities or have just not taken the time to really look around themselves in the outdoors. All is ever changing and I marvel at what I discover each day. I need to thank you all for making nature available to me at this time in my life. We just need to open our eyes to see all going on around us and do what we can to make this awareness available to others, as they say "a wonder to behold."



VM-S photo
Monarch caterpillar on Vanessa's swamp milkweed.

Gardening in the Heat

Submitted by Vanessa Melton-Silvey

This summer has been a hot one! I spent all of July and most of August keeping my tomato and pepper plants alive as well as my ornamental annuals and native plant seedlings that are to be sold at our many booths. I consider my wildflower garden "native to the area" which in my mind means those plants are suited to our climate and should be able to handle mid-Missouri weather no matter what the extreme. However, I had to adjust my thinking in early August as I watched the wildflowers slowly wither in the sun and heat. I gave them a little douse with the garden hose and they perked right up. Fortunately the August rains came soon after that and solved my watering problem.

Every year my wildflower garden seems to change. Plants that did well last year don't do well the next year. Things I planted two or three years before finally flower. It is amazing to see every year what blooms and what doesn't. That may be a joy of gardening, but one of the downsides of gardening (whether with natives or non-natives) is battling the critters. From pesky aphids to big-eyed deer it always seems like I am fighting something! Some battles you lose and some you win. Thanks to Becky's warning I was able to get the tussock moth caterpillar situation under control before they devoured the swamp milkweed. Last year I lost that battle and hardly had any blooming swamp milkweed, but this year was a different story. Many butterflies have been enjoying swamp milkweed nectar and now monarch caterpillars are enjoying the leaves. I had seven caterpillars at one time chowing down. Aphids are also getting their fair share of the plant, but since I don't want to coat the plants with a harmful chemical the aphids and caterpillars are just going to have to duke it out. Two years ago my garden was a-buzz with bees, butterflies, and other insects, but last year...not so much. This year it is back to the way it was and I am looking forward to all the insects who will be hitting it hard before the first frost. Ah, gardening...it is always an adventure, and I don't even have to leave home.



AW
photo

Tiger swallowtail [female black form] on Cirisium.

Biodiversity Key to Earth's Life-Support Functions in a Changing World

Reprinted (with editorial adaptations by ScienceDaily staff) from materials provided by [Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg](#)

ScienceDaily (Aug. 14, 2011) — The biological diversity of organisms on Earth is not just something we enjoy when taking a walk through a blossoming meadow in spring; it is also the basis for countless products and services provided by nature, including food, building materials, and medicines as well as the self-purifying qualities of water and protection against erosion. These so-called ecosystem services are what makes Earth inhabitable for humans. They are based on ecological processes, such as photosynthesis, the production of biomass, or nutrient cycles.



Meadows with different amounts of species were planted in the tracts and compared with each other. (Credit: Sandra Weigelt)

Since biodiversity is on the decline, both on a global and a local scale, researchers are asking the question as to what role the diversity of organisms plays in maintaining these ecological processes and thus in providing the ecosystem's vital products and services.

In an international research group led by Prof. Dr. Michel Loreau from Canada, ecologists from ten different universities and research institutes, including Prof. Dr. Michael Scherer-Lorenzen from the University of Freiburg, compiled findings from numerous biodiversity experiments and reanalyzed them. These experiments simulated the loss of plant species and attempted to determine the consequences for the functioning of ecosystems, most of them coming to the conclusion that a higher level of biodiversity is accompanied by an increase in ecosystem processes. However, the findings were always only valid for a certain combination of environmental conditions present at the locations at which the experiments were conducted and for a limited range of ecosystem processes.

In a study published in the current issue of the journal *Nature*, the research group investigated the extent to which the positive effects of diversity still apply under changing environmental conditions and when a multitude of processes are taken into account. They found that 84 percent of the 147 plant species included in the experiments promoted ecological processes in at least one case.

The more years, locations, ecosystem processes, and scenarios of global change -- such as global warming or land use intensity -- the experiments took into account, the more plant species were necessary to guarantee the functioning of the ecosystems. Moreover, other species were always necessary to keep the ecosystem processes running under the different combinations of influencing factors.

These findings indicate that much more biodiversity is necessary to keep ecosystems functioning in a world that is changing ever faster. The protection of diversity is thus a crucial factor in maintaining Earth's life-support functions.

Journal Reference: Forest Isbell, Vincent Calcagno, Andy Hector, John Connolly, W. Stanley Harpole, Peter B. Reich, Michael Scherer-Lorenzen, Bernhard Schmid, David Tilman, Jasper van Ruijven, Alexandra Weigelt, Brian J. Wilsey, Erika S. Zavaleta, Michel Loreau. **High plant diversity is needed to maintain ecosystem services.** *Nature*, 2011; DOI: [10.1038/nature10282](https://doi.org/10.1038/nature10282)

[Comment from Editor] There is an article in Science Magazine which must be paid for to be read so I can't get it to copy here about recent articles which call upon the conservation community to embrace invasive species. Davis and coauthors propose down-sizing the struggle against invasive species (1). In the News Focus story "Embracing invasives" (18 March, p. 1383), G. Vince suggests that the Galápagos "embrace the aliens." In The New York Times (2), H. Raffles accused environmentalists, conservationists, and gardeners targeting invasive species of being unreasonably dogmatic and xenophobic.

Please understand that introduced species, unencumbered by predators and disease will quickly monopolize the established biodiversity.

The following is an argument against the embracing of species in the wrong place.



Lespedeza cuneata
[serecia] infestation.
So they think we
should let this go?

USFS Photo

UGA2307246

[Alien Battlefield](#)

August 5, 2011 by Dick Shaw

Recent articles in [Science](#), the [NY Times](#) and [Nature](#) have suggested that we should embrace invasive species and the resultant “novel ecosystems” and that those that do battle with such species are verging on xenophobic. This is a common cycle in many fields and I’m told that a discussion thread is considered closed once a poster has been described as xenophobic or worse, if so this discussion could be over before it even begins.

Nevertheless, a group of scientists and practitioners wrote a response which can be found on the [ISSG website](#). The issues are certainly complex.

It is true that preserving pristine ecosystems is a lost goal and there are probably none in existence anymore, but to do nothing and indeed to try to argue that the new system is one worth accepting suggests that the authors have either given up in the face of too difficult a task, or have seen an opportunity to publish something controversial. There are certainly “profits” of doom to be had on both sides.

In order to get your invasive management project funded it is necessary to take the public with you and when engaging with the media evocative negative language can appear in print. On the other side it is easier to stand out from fellow authors if you challenge an accepted paradigm.

In the case of weeds, it is generally understood that monocultures of the new plant are less biodiverse but more productive than the flora they replace and depending on your priorities their arrival could be a good or a bad thing. If we accept that biodiversity is a priority there are few arguments to be had for introducing new invasive exotic species except for biocontrol where the excellent paper by [Van Driesche and many co-authors](#) shows the potential benefits. It is this tool that was notably overlooked in the discussions despite choosing the Galapagos as a case study where there are excellent targets for weed biocontrol yet no funding has materialised despite the vast sums spent on vertebrate eradications.

Open discussions are valuable and provocative articles can stimulate debate. However, it is important that all parties show balance especially in

the current climate when funding for the environment globally is under severe pressure. Any unnecessary doubt over the wisdom of supporting invasive species management efforts could result in decisions being made that have long lasting and severe consequences.

I’m pleased to say that Science has since published a series of strong rebuttals, one from the [heads of key environmental organisations](#). And Nature has done the same including one from [141 eminent signatories](#). Finally the CBD Secretariat put its weight behind the rebuttals and issued a [communiqué](#) supporting the struggle against invasive species. In short, I think as far as the debate is concerned, normal service has been resumed.

Further reading:

Vince, G. (2011) [Embracing Invasives](#). *Science*. **331 (6023)**: 1383-1384.

Raffles, H. (2011) [Mother Nature's Melting Pot](#). The New York Times: The Opinion Pages. [Online] 2nd April, 2011.

Davis, M.A., Chew, M.K., Hobbs, R.J., Lugo, A.E., Ewel, J.J., Vermeij, G.J., Brown, J.H., Rosenzweig, M.L., Gardener, M.R., Carroll, S.C., Thompson, K., Pickett, S.T.A., Stromberg, J.C., Del Tredici, P., Suding, K.N., Ehrenfeld, J.G., Grime, J.P., Mascaro, J. & Briggs, J.C. (2011) [Don't judge species on their origins](#). *Nature*. **474**: 153-154.

IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG). [We need to strengthen, not weaken, the struggle against harmful invasive species: An ISSG response to recent articles calling is to re-think the struggle against biological invasions](#). [Online] 15th June, 2011.

Van Driesche, R.G., Carruthers, R.I., Center, T., Hoddle, M.S., Hough-Goldstein, J., Morin, L., Smith, L., Wagner, D.L., Blossey, B., Brancatini, V., Casagrande, R., Causton, C.E., Coetzee, J.A., Cuda, J., Ding, J., Fowler, S.V., Frank, J.H., Fuester, R., Goolsby, J., Grodowitz, M., Heard, T.A., Hill, M.P., Hoffman, J.H., Huber, J., Julien, M., Kairo, M.T.K., Kenis, M., Mason, P., Meda, J., Messing, R., Miller, R., Moore, A., Neuschwander, P., Newman, R., Norambuena, H., Palmer, W.A., Pemberton, R., Perez Panduro, A., Pratt, P.D., Rayamajhi, M., Salom, S., Sands, D., Schooler, S., Schwarzländer, Sheppard, A., Shaw, R., Tipping, P.W. & van Klinken, R.D. [Classical biological control for the protection of natural ecosystems](#). *Biological Control*. **54 (Supplement 1)**: S2-S33.

Lambertini, M., Leape, J., Marton-Lefèvre, J., Mittermeier, R.A., Rose, M., Robinson, J.G., Stuart, S.N., Waldman, B. & Genovesi, P. [Invasives: A Major Conservation Threat](#).

Science. **333 (6041)**: 404-405.

Simberloff, D. (2011) [Non-natives: 141 scientists object](#). *Nature*. **475 (7354)**: 36.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). (2011) [Communiqué: Struggle against invasive species remains important goal for global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity supports recent statement by conservation organizations](#). [Online] 1st August, 2011.



Buchnera americana [bluehearts] Annual found rarely *AW photo* on dry prairies and glades south of MO River. These had set seed during the month of drought and revived to bloom again after several inches of rain and moderate temperatures.

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 now.

MEMBERSHIP FORM Missouri Native Plant Society—*Hawthorn Chapter*

July 1 through June 30.

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