



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

Volume 28, Number 2
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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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February 2013

Future Activities

Watch email for email 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 **Call Paula for more information.** **Carpool meeting place, commuter parking lot at AC and US63.** **We will no longer offer planned tours of local wild areas. Occasionally one will be posted on the calendar. Otherwise, only interested members will be contacted by email a few days in advance of a mosey activity. As stated above, let your ideas for a mosey location be noticed. We will let the rest of the local membership know about the visit to your favorite location.**

February

21 Thursday: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts, 11:30 at RagTag, 10 Hitt St [Just south of Broadway]. Informal exchange of ideas and information.

March

11 Monday Regular Membership Meeting, 6 PM Unitarian Universalist Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Program TBA

16 Saturday: with Wild Ones, clean up and planting of Capen Park and Forum Gardens. Call Ann 573-642-6927 for more information.

21 Thursday: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts, 11:30 at RagTag, 10 Hitt St [Just south of Broadway]. Informal exchange of ideas and information.

April

12 - 14 Fri – Sun: State Field Trip [SW] Pineville, Big Sugar State Park/Huckleberry Ridge State Park. **More info in Petal Pusher.**

13 Saturday, Spring Native Plant Sale, Bradford Farm, 10 to 2. Our booth set up starts at 9. Call Paula 474-4225 or Becky 657-2314 to volunteer. Need help for various projects throughout three weeks before sale.

18 Thursday: Come with WildOnes for Plant ID in the Field – Rudolph-Bennit CA in NW Boone County. Leave at 9:30, Lunch at Heuer's. More later ...

18 Thursday: Lunch with Native Plant Enthusiasts, 11:30 at RagTag, 10 Hitt St [Just south of Broadway]. Informal exchange of ideas and information.

21 Sunday Earth Day Columbia: booth and plant sale noon to 6. Booth set up 9-10 am. Call Paula 474-4224 or Becky 657-2314 to volunteer. Need help for various projects before sale.

MONPS State Board Meeting Schedule for 2013

Summer – June 14-16, 2013 – [SE] Salem or Ellington, Cave Branch Camp.

Fall - August 20-22, 2013 – [NE] Kirksville, Morris Prairie and Union Ridge CA.

Winter - December 7, 2013 – Columbia, Dunn-Palmer Herbarium

Thanks to Ann Wakeman, Randy Tindall, Casey Burks, and Nadia Navarette-Tindall for their submissions to the newsletter this month. Thanks to Doug Miller for keeping the website up to date. **We would like to get announcements, impressions, species accounts, poems, links to scientific articles or other creative nature writing from you, too.**

January Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Ann Wakeman, Secretary

The January 14, 2013 meeting of the Hawthorn chapter of Missouri Native Plant Society was called to order at 6:04 pm by president Vanessa Melton-Silvey. The January meeting is the chapter's meeting time to vote for officers and discuss and plan the year's activities. There was no slate of officers recruited for the President, Vice-president, Chapter Representative or Treasurer. However, after John George agreed to continue in that office, Becky moved, Nancy L. seconded the motion to re-elect John as Treasurer. Motion carried. After much discussion, Vanessa agreed to stay on for the remainder of her term as President and will delegate duties to the membership to be carried out. The position of Vice-president is left open for the present time. Ann Wakeman agreed to be Chapter Representative, provided another member finish the Secretary's term.

Activities for the coming year include the setting up the booth at Spring native plant sale at Bradford Farm, April 13, Columbia's Earth Day, April 21, and Quail Day at Bradford Farm June 20. Fall native plant day at Lincoln University Busby Farm September 28. Since Bradford Farm no longer has the fall native plant sale, other venues for the sale were discussed like the Columbia Farmer's Market. John George suggested Stephens Lake Park or the Missouri Methodist Conference Center (MMCC). Ann will ask Missouri Wildflowers Nursery to also participate in this sale, as well as inquire at MMCC for permission to use their facility.

Paula suggested members volunteer as field trip leaders where they would like to hike. Since there won't be any calendared field trips, will be informal, short notice for these. A list was passed around for anyone wanting to be notified. [Ed note: please call/email Paula or Becky to be added to this list.]

Nancy L. inquired if the adopted Stadium site would be needing work this coming season. Becky will announce a work date sometime in the spring.

Nadia suggested hosting brunches or 'happy hours' for a social gathering, just send out an email as an invitation. Becky offered to have one later this spring associated with a mosey at Baskett Area. Watch your email.

Treasurer's report: John reported a balance of \$7765.72.

Announcements

Ann announced there will be a brunch and planning meeting of Mid-Missouri Wild Ones at Laura Hillman's home on Saturday January 19, 10 to noon. All are invited.

March meeting program to be announced, watch the newsletter. Meeting was adjourned at 7:04pm.

Addendum: Lea Langdon agreed to fill Secretary position so Ann Wakeman could fill Chapter Representative position.

Announcements:

Membership Meeting

Our spring membership meeting is 11 March Monday, 6 PM Unitarian Universalist Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Program will be about native gardening for pollinators



February Lunch at RagTag

Thursday 21 February, 11:30 am, 10 Hitt St. Schedule your shopping downtown that day and join us for lunch.



Officers for 2013

Thanks to Vanessa, and John for continuing their officer positions as President and Treasurer respectively. Thanks to Lea for taking on the Secretary position so Ann can take the position of Chapter Representative at state functions. We will need new volunteers next year.



Our Network

Look for announcements by email of activities with Missouri Prairie Foundation [MPF], WildOnes [WO] Columbia Audubon Society [CAS] and training from Stream Team and MO Master Naturalists. Other pertinent information comes from Plant Conservation Alliance [PCA]. Direct membership in all of these is free or nominal and can bring you a wealth of information on native issues. You won't have this source forever.



Goldfinch picking sweet gum seeds to illustrate Randy's article on next page.
RT photo

Winter Rations

Submitted by Randy Tindall

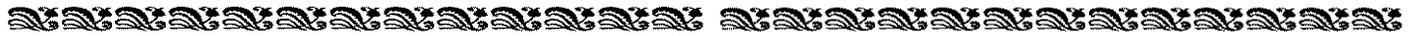
I've often thought of our Sweet Gum tree as more of a Bitter-Sweet Gum tree, mainly when I rake up piles of the spiky little balls it sheds with great joy and abandon. I think I am not alone in this. But then I reflect on the fact that the universe really doesn't revolve around me and my kind, despite our illusions to the contrary sometimes, and that this wonderful tree has lots of benefits.

Just ask the goldfinches when they flock into its branches and spend hours snacking on its seeds outside our window. Even with feeders available nearby, our sweet gum is a popular stop for these birds, plus many others who like to nest in it. It's also a great shade tree, so I'm grateful for it in the end.

I'm also grateful that nobody reported someone suspiciously hanging out of our upstairs window with a camera pointed in the direction of the busy street, passersby, and our neighbors houses..... I guess they're just used to us by now.

I will try to add a page on the Sweet Gum to our native plants section in the near future, so stay tuned.

This and other stories can be seen at: <http://nadiasyard.com>



Back to Nature, the Charms and Uses of Indigenous Flora

2013 Native plants classes series Sponsored by Lincoln University Native Plants Program



- All classes will be offered at Lincoln University at 900 Chestnut Street at Allen Hall in room 100 unless noted.
- Cost \$5 or \$10 per class or \$25 for the whole series. Advanced registration is encouraged. Space is limited.
- Send check payable 'Lincoln University/Native Plants Program' to Ms. Shirley Downing at 900 Chestnut St., Jefferson City, MO 65101
- Scholarships are available. For additional information please contact Amy Hempen at HempenA@LincolnU.edu

Title	DATE	Cost	DESCRIPTION
Introduction to Landscape Design and Principles of Plant Propagation. Participants will form teams for group project.	Feb. 21 2-5 p.m.	\$5	Participants will be introduced to landscape design; form teams to create a design for a given site at Lincoln University. Participants will also learn methods to propagate plants by seeds. Hands-on activities. Indoors
Garden Maintenance at Lincoln University Native Plant Outdoor Laboratory and other native plant gardens.	March 7 2-5 p.m.	\$5	In addition to learn to maintain a native plant garden, participants will be able to collect seed for their own gardens. Bring your pruners. Hands-on maintenance experience on existing gardens. Learn while you exercise and enjoy the outdoors.
Native Plants Identification (Wildflowers, grasses and small woody plants). More about Native Plant Propagation. Teams will present garden designs.	April 25 2-5 p.m.	\$5	Identification and propagation of most popular native plants for pollinators, butterflies and for food. Check seed-seedlings established during first class. Participants will help to lift seedlings from gardens to take home.
Guided field tour at a nearby prairie and woodland	May 22	\$10	Training session about meadowscaping and woodland gardens followed by walking tour. Low impact activity. Lunch included.
Landscape Design. Installing the native plant garden	June 6 2-5 p.m.	\$5	Creating a Garden with native plants using design developed by the teams (see above). Teams will take turns to water while plants get established.
Native Plant Edibles class. Tour of Native Plant Outdoor Laboratory	August 15 10a.m. to 1 p.m.	\$10	Garden tour followed by indoor class and cooking demonstrations using native plant ingredients at certified kitchen at Lincoln University campus.
Check our website for fall classes or other events later in the year or call us at: 573-681-5392.			http://www.lincolnu.edu/web/programs-and-projects/native-plants

Persimmon Experience

Submitted by Becky Erickson

As a child, I grew up on some acreage in 'rural' Jackson County. It is now under the parking lot of the Chiefs' Stadium. Wild persimmons grew on the place. We picked them off the trees. Not realizing they were not completely ripe, we never relished this harvest. Besides, the horses usually got them before we did. They reacted the same way we did when we bit into a green persimmon: they slobbered profusely from the high alum concentration.

About 20 years later I moved to rural Cass County. I watched a fence row of persimmons and waited until we had at least several frosts and a freeze before I stopped to harvest them. I wasted WAY too much brown sugar on them before I just had to throw out the batch I tried to cook. At this point I was convinced persimmons were inedible and would leave them for 'coons and 'possums.

Twelve years ago I moved to the end of the road in southern Boone County. There is a persimmon tree in my yard and another just up the road. When the soft little orange fruit fell at my feet, I was tentatively tempted to try again. OMG! What a treat! Now I am convinced their palatability depends on genetics, or soil, or some combination. I DO know you have to be there to pick them up off the ground before they start to spoil; the ones still on the tree are not ready. Like grapes, the dryer the summer, the sweeter they are, and frost has nothing to do with their ripeness. I hope this lifetime of trials and experiments will help you know when to enjoy one of our forest's finest natural treats.

A Persimmon Tradition Preserved

From Kitchen Notes, Marcia Vanderlip; Columbia Daily Tribune, 27 Nov 12, P8A. Lindsey Smith of Columbia sent in a family recipe that is "both seasonal and local — as things were 100 years ago. My grandmother, Mary Smith, used to gather persimmons in Kirkwood Park in the St. Louis area to make this for my grandfather every year. Now that she is 92, my children and I gather persimmons in Stephens Lake Park every year and make it to share with her. This original recipe is from Dora (Mom-Mom) Smith, my great-grandmother, who lived in Oblong, Ill."

PERSIMMON PUDDING

2 cups persimmon pulp (less if very thick); 2-1/4 cups sugar; 2 eggs; 1 teaspoon salt; 1 teaspoon soda; 2-1/2 teaspoons baking powder; 1 tablespoon cinnamon (and allspice if desired); 1 quart milk; 2 cups flour.

Melt large spoon of butter in a 9-inch-by-13-inch pan for baking. Pour off and save until last. Mix pulp, sugar, eggs until well-beaten. Mix soda, salt, baking powder and cinnamon with flour. Gradually add to pulp mix, alternating with milk. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until knife in center comes out clean.

Casey Burks in Osage Chapter was in the same mind set. Completely unsolicited, she sent

another persimmon story: And now to share with you my latest joy.....persimmon cookies. I had always heard the best time to eat persimmons was after a frost, but on one of the Cuivre River field trips last fall I saw some persimmons on the ground. This was before any frost so I timidly ate one, then another then another and they were amazingly sweet. I started finding out that there are some persimmon trees that ripen much earlier than others; that some drop their leaves and others hang onto them much longer. Back at home, I noticed one persimmon tree along Z road on the way to Warsaw that was loaded, with branches drooping under the weight. I finally stopped to ask if, by chance no one else was going to use them, could I have them. The owner gave me a hearty "have at 'em" permission and I began the first of several gatherings. My neighbor told me to use a ladder and a hard rake to shake the high limbs with bounteous results. Then came the problem of separating the seeds and skins from the pulp. Some nights I was up after midnight squishing pulp through a sieve. Two cups of pulp became quite precious! I began baking cookies to share with family, neighbors, take to meetings etc. It has been so much fun to see people surprised at how good persimmons can be. So here is the recipe I used: 2 Cup sugar, 1 Cup butter, 2 eggs, 2 Cup persimmon pulp, 2 Cup raisins, 2 Cup nuts (English walnuts or pecans). After these are all mixed then stir in mixture of dry ingredients: 4 Cups flour, 1 teaspoon each of salt, cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg and 2 teaspoons each of baking powder and baking soda. Drop cookies on greased cookie sheet. They hardly spread so they can be close together on the cookie sheet. Depending on size, bake 12-15 min at 350. I made mine large so it usually took 15 minutes. They freeze wonderfully. Yes, I gave a large batch of cookies to the owner of the tree. I hope he'll let me have next year's crop so I can try Persimmon Pudding!

Photo by Pan Demin of China



In the Eastern U.S., Spring Flowers Keep Pace With Warming Climate, Blooming Up to a Month Earlier

Story is reprinted from materials provided by [University of Wisconsin-Madison](#). Original article by Terry Devitt Jan. 16, 2013

— Using the meticulous phenological records of two iconic American naturalists, Henry David Thoreau and Aldo Leopold, scientists have demonstrated that native plants in the eastern United States are flowering as much as a month earlier in response to a warming climate. The new study is important because it gives scientists a peek inside the black box of ecological change. The work may also help predict effects on important agricultural crops, which depend on flowering to produce fruit. The study was published online Jan. 16 in *PLoS One* by a team of researchers from Boston and Harvard Universities and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Compared to the timing of spring flowering in Thoreau's day, native plants such as serviceberry and nodding trillium are blooming 11 days earlier, on average, in the area around Concord, MA, where Thoreau lived and worked. Nearly a thousand miles west in Wisconsin, where Leopold gathered his records of blooming plants like wild geranium and marsh marigold, the change is even more striking. In 2012, the warmest spring on record for Wisconsin, plants bloomed on average nearly a month earlier than they did just 67 years earlier when Leopold made his last entry.

Stan Temple, a co-author of the study and an emeritus UW-Madison professor of wildlife ecology. Temple is also a senior fellow at the Aldo Leopold Foundation in Baraboo, Wis., a stone's throw from the iconic shack where Leopold made many of his observations. "Both Thoreau and Leopold were part of the 19th century naturalist movement in which individuals often kept meticulous daily journals recording the things they observed in nature," notes Temple. "Most of those journals have been lost over time, but Thoreau and Leopold were famous writers, and their journals have been preserved, providing us with unparalleled historical data."

Comparing modern observations with those gathered by Leopold shows that in 1942, when the mean spring temperature in southern Wisconsin was 48 degrees Fahrenheit, black cherry bloomed on May 31. In 2012, with a mean spring temperature of 54 degrees Fahrenheit, black cherry blooms were observed as early as May 6. In 1942, Leopold's notes show the woodland wildflower bloodroot blooming on April 12. In 2012, bloodroot was first observed blossoming March 17.

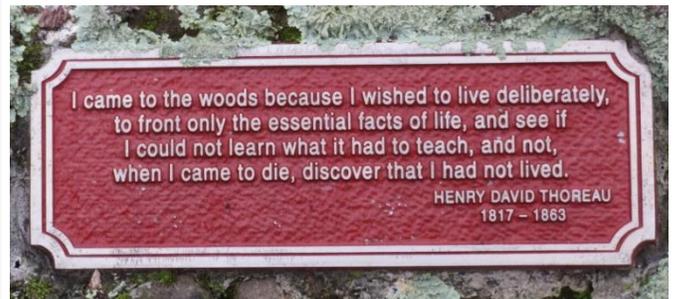
"These historical records provide a snapshot in time and a baseline of sorts against which we can compare more recent records from the period in which climate change has accelerated. Together, these two data sets provide a unique record of flowering trends in the eastern United States over a 161-year period", says Temple. "Leopold and Thoreau had no idea their observations would help us understand responses to human-caused climate change."

But Leopold knew his records might be useful in retrospect when he wrote: '**Keeping records enhances the pleasure of the search, and the chance of finding order and meaning in these events.**' Leopold and his students gathered their data in Dane and Sauk Counties between 1935 and 1945. From 1977 until she died in 2011, Aldo Leopold's daughter Nina Leopold Bradley resumed the collection of phenological records near the Leopold Shack.

[Ed note: [By signing up with Budburst on line you can add you backyard observations to this set of data. You need to start soon.](#)]

The results give scientists a peek into the subtleties of ecological change in response to climate change. Flowering of native plants, a harbinger of spring in the world's temperate regions, signals the start of the growing season. Changes in the timing of flowering have broad implications for the animals and insects that depend on the plants. "Earlier blooming exposes plants to a greater risk of experiencing cold snaps that can damage blossoms and prevent fruiting," says Temple. [Ed note: 'fruiting' of both wild and agricultural crops. It can also change the relationship between insects and plants.]

The new study keyed on the detailed phenological records of 32 native plant species in Concord, Mass., kept between 1852 and 1858 by Thoreau, a pioneering naturalist best known as the author of "Walden," as well as later records. A second data set of flowering times for 23 species in southern Wisconsin was compiled by Leopold, a renowned wildlife ecologist at the University of Wisconsin and author of "A Sand County Almanac."



RH photo

"[W]e seem ultimately always thrown back on individual ethics as the basis of conservation policy. It is hard to make a man, by pressure of law or money, do a thing which does not spring naturally from his own personal sense of right and wrong."

Leopold, Aldo: *Conservationist in Mexico*, American Forests, March 1937. Reproduced in *Aldo Leopold's Southwest*, edited by David E. Brown & Neil B. Carmony, University of New Mexico Press, 1990, pg. 207.

[Ed note: **Yes – some of what is printed here you will see again in the Petal Pusher ... next month. I want my local Chapter to get this information in a timely manner. Then - repetition never hurts to send the message.**]

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM Missouri Native Plant Society-*Hawthorn* Chapter

July 1 through June 30.

Name _____

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Day or Cell _____

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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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