



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

Volume 28, Number 1
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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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January 2013

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 **Call Paula for more information.** Carpool meeting place, commuter parking lot at AC and US63.

January

14 Monday Regular Membership Meeting, 6 PM Unitarian Universalist Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Please attend to vote for officers and plan 2013 activities.

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

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

14 Monday Regular Membership Meeting, 6 PM Unitarian Universalist Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd.

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



If you do not get your Petal Pusher the first week of January, you forgot to renew. No problem, there is no penalty. Just send your dues to Paula [address on back] and we will get you back on the membership list.

Thanks to John White, Bob Kremer, and Carolyn Terry 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 or other creative nature writing from you, too.

News from Stateside

Submitted by John White, Chapter Representative

The winter MONPS State Board Meeting was held at the Dunn-Palmer Herbarium in Columbia on December 1, 2012. There was a good turnout for this meeting, no snow, and the usual lunch was delivered by Jimmy John's.

- The meeting was called to order by Paul McKenzie. A quorum was present and the minutes of the last meeting and treasury report were approved.
- John Oliver graciously volunteered as recorder.
- Becky Erickson, Hawthorn Chapter Communications Editor, has agreed to take on the Petal Pusher Editor position vacated by Janet Haworth. Many thanks to Becky.
- Kevin Bley will continue as publicity chair if no one will take over.
- Brian will leave the web site as is for now and keep it updated.
- Next year's *Missouriensis* will be larger due to additional maps and will try to publish within the first six months.
- The Society has 40 new members so far this year for a total membership of 348. Of these, 57 are life members. Approximately 74 members have not renewed.
- Hudson award applications are due February 15, 2013.
- Tote bags and T-shirts were still available as of Dec. 1.
- The Wildflower poster is still in the works.

MONPS State Board Meeting Schedule for 2013
Spring – April 12-14, 2013 - Pineville, Big Sugar State Park/Huckleberry Ridge State Park.
Summer – June 14-16, 2013 – Salem or Ellington, Cave Branch Camp.
Fall - August 20-22, 2013 – Kirksville, Morris Prairie and Union Ridge CA.
Winter - December 7, 2013 – Columbia, Dunn-Palmer Herbarium

Native Wildflowers of Western Australia

Submitted by Bob Kremer

While on a consulting trip sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and Food of Western Australia in September 2012, my wife and I had the rare opportunity to tour much of the southwestern corner of Australia (from 200 miles north and east of Perth and south to Southern Ocean coast). The vast fields of wheat and canola observed along highways passing through the Australian Wheat Belt are deceptive because within the landscape one will find numerous natural areas maintained by the state, which are touted as “home to the largest collection of wildflowers on earth.” Because the seasons were in transition from winter to spring, our timing was perfect to witness the rich floral display in “wildflower country.” Excursions into the countryside to explore these natural areas are very popular

Announcements:

Membership Meeting

Our winter membership meeting is **January 14 Monday, 6 PM** Unitarian Universalist Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Please attend to vote for officers and plan 2013 activities.

January Lunch at RagTag

is Thursday 17 January, 11:30 am, 10 Hitt St. Schedule your shopping downtown that day and join us for lunch.

Project Table STILL for Sale

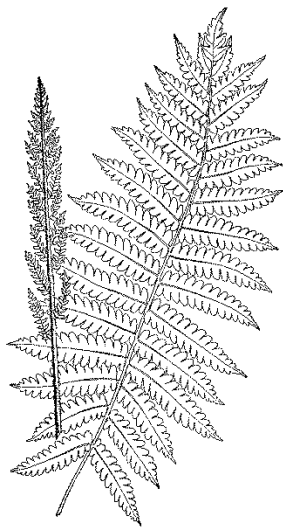
There is **STILL** a very sturdy hand built table we used at our booth displays for many years being stored at Becky's house. This 3X8 foot table has a thick, varnished, plywood top with 3" skirting, heavy folding legs. It would cost much more than \$100 for the materials and the time it takes to build a comparable table [possibly \$400]. \$100 goes back into the NPS account. Please call Becky for viewing, sale, and pickup. 657-2314



The cowslip orchid (*Caladenia flavia*) in full bloom in native shrubland near Dallwallinu, Western Australia Sept 2012.

BK photo

with the Australians, during which the various wildflowers are hunted, photographed, described and identified using many of the numerous guides and keys available to those venturing into the wild. We stopped at several areas during our tour of the countryside and photographed an assortment of blooming specimens. Our favorite accomplishments were ‘discovering’ many of the native orchids typically inhabiting these sites, including a cowslip orchid (*Caladenia flavia*) shown here. The foray into the Western Australia countryside in search for unique flowering plants was a most enjoyable and learning activity – one which we hope to repeat some time in future.



Fern Identification

Submitted by Carolyn Terry

Ferns are lovely, but I never knew which one I was admiring until about 25 years ago. At that time I began to pay a visit to northeastern Connecticut twice a year, usually in May and October. I stayed there with a dear friend named Nellie Teale. (Her husband was Edwin Way Teale, whose books I heartily recommend, both for pleasure and for instruction about the out-of-doors.)

Cinnamon Fern

Nellie and Edwin lived on a 130-acre farm that became criss-crossed with trails as they walked daily, covering every inch of their beloved land, which they named "Trail Wood". For the last five or six years of her life Nellie was not able to walk safely on uneven ground, and her excursions outdoors were few. She still wanted to know about every flower that bloomed in the spring, and the comings and goings of the wildlife of every sort.

Nellie dispatched me daily to the mailbox to pick up the mail. This required following the 1/8 mile gravel driveway and gathering up the letters from the rural mailbox across the road. One spring day I stopped to admire the ferns covering the hillside in front of the house behind the mailbox. I wanted to know the name of those ferns, so I broke off a piece of the top of a frond, took it back to the house and presented it to her. She was not pleased. There is only one way to identify a fern correctly, she told me. You must carry a butcher knife with the tip cut off and the broad end sharpened, or a single-edged razor blade. Thus armed, you must cut the fern about an inch below the surface of the ground, bring it home, take a narrow slice off the lower end of the rachis (formally called the stipe) to reveal a clean cut, and examine it closely with a 10x lens. You will then see a distinctive pattern of vascular bundles on the cut surface. This pattern is as specific to the species of fern as is its DNA, and allows the precise identification of the plant. Nellie ordered me back to the road to bring a proper specimen.

Of course a guidebook is required to correlate this pattern with the identity of the fern in hand. I am unaware of this type of guidebook for Missouri ferns, but it may be out there. The one I have is *Ferns of Northeastern United States; Illustrations and Descriptions of All Known Species in the New England and Middle Atlantic States* by Farida Wiley. It serves me fairly well around here, is focused on Connecticut ferns, and small enough to fit in a large pocket. [Ed note: *Field Guide to Missouri Ferns*, James S. Key 1982 MDC Pub., is temporarily out of stock. Contact MDC to request reprint. Id is based on leaf and spore structure.]



Purple cliffbreak

BE photo



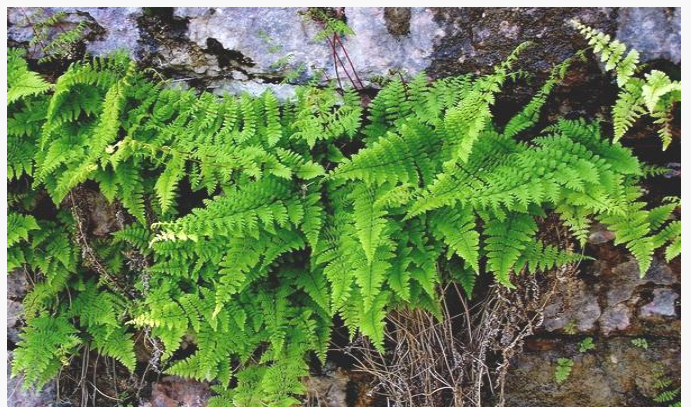
Christmas fern fiddleheads

BE photo



Maidenhair fern

BE photo



[unidentified]

BE 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 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 _____

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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