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The Hawthorn Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society Newsletter is published monthly. Send submissions by the 26th of every month to:

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# Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

VOLUME 30, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2015

## Future Activities

**December 6th, Sunday at noon: Holiday Party.** Paula Peters has offered to host the Holiday Party this year—see details inside this newsletter.

**December 17th, Thursday at 11:30 am: Lunch at Uprise Bakery.** 10 Hitt St., just south of Broadway.

**January 11th, Monday at 6 pm: Bimonthly Meeting at Unitarian Church.** This meeting will be our annual planning meeting so come and join the discussion about upcoming events for 2016.

## Plant/Bee Association List

At the November meeting Wedge Watkins gave an excellent program and native bees covering their life cycle through current status of some species. One of his slides was a list of native bees and their host plant(s) and he was asked to share it with the group after his talk. Below is the list he provided and if you would like a more detailed list here is a link to a broader list: [jarrodfozler.com/specialist\\_bees.html](http://jarrodfozler.com/specialist_bees.html).

Provided by M. Arduser:

- *Andrena helianthiformis*.....*Echinacea simulata*, *E. pallida* -Osage Plains, Ozarks: prairies and glades
- *Colletes brevicornis* - *Triodanis* spp. – prairies, glades
- *Colletes robertsonii*.....*Amorpha canescens*....., Osage Plains: prairies
- *Hylaeus nelumbonis* - wetland plants like *Nuphar* and *Nymphaea*
- *Andrena gardineri* - *Senecio* spp.- prairies, glades
- *Protandrena passiflorae* - *Passiflora lutea* – woodlands (openings and edges)
- *Panurginus potentillae* - *Potentilla simplex*, probably other spp.
- *Calliopsis nebraskensis* - *Verbena* spp., esp. *V. hastata* and *V. simplex*
- *Perdita obscurata* - *Diospyros* – sand prairies and woodlands
- *Nomia universitatis* – *Psoralea tenuiflora* and related spp.- prairies
- *Osmia illinoisensis* - *Onosmodium* - prairies, glades
- *Osmia distincta* - *Penstemon* spp.- prairies, glades, woodlands
- *Megachile integra* - *Strophostyles* spp.- open sandy areas
- *Megachile campanulae* - *Campanula americana* - woodlands

## Pokeweed—*Phytolacca americana*



**Pokeweed. Submitted by Louise Flenner.**

Consider the lowly pokeweed. Often it's deemed an uninvited guest to the native plant display. If you didn't plant it, a bird probably did. It often gets removed when its first tender poke sallet shoots come up in the Spring. Some people like to eat these as greens, but be VERY careful if you decide to try this as everything on the poke plant is poisonous and even the edible shoots require several boilings to remove toxins. If you don't want the plant, cut it below the crown and it will die. The roots can be too big to dig. But, if you are like me, you enjoy keeping a poke plant in your display. It's like having a fast growing tree that recedes to the ground by Winter.

I've become quite attached to the poke that volunteered itself next to

the bird waterer outside my living room window. The stem of the poke is like a tree trunk painted a bright vermilion that can grow to 10 feet tall. This year I had two stems positioned next to each other. When it grew to small tree size, I removed the green leaves on the stem and let the top leaves fan out umbrella style. It provided shade and cover for the small birds all Summer. By late Summer pokeweed flowers dangled from long racemes. The white flowers have a center that resembles the berries they will become. This berry starts out green and then plumps up into a glossy purple-black berry. Each berry is marked by an indentation as though someone had "poked" it. These dark berries along with the green leaves and red stems produce a beautiful accent piece for the native plant display. By Autumn the green leaves gradually turn a bright red and add to the Fall color.

The real action, or should I say interaction, begins when the berries become bird food. The first berry eating bird to discover

it is almost always the mockingbird. Showing off its classic grey color, black eyeline and long tail it displays aerial acrobatics as it nips off the berries obviously thoroughly enjoying itself. Other visitors to the pokeweed feast have been bluebirds, cardinals and yellow-rumped warblers. Some for the cover, some to enjoy the feast.

To extend the berry-eating season, I keep an American Beauty Berry (*Callicarpa americana*) next to the poke and the mockingbirds seems to love these berries too. The bright red purple berries on the long shafts of stem create an eye catcher in the display. These, too, will die back in the Winter.

So, if one of the reasons you plant native plants is to attract birds, I think you will love the results from these two berry-bearing plants.

Louise Flenner  
(lfenner@hotmail.com)



**Mockingbird on Beauty Berry courtesy of Louise Flenner.**

# December Holiday Party



**Paula's Wreath from the 2015 Wreath-making Workshop courtesy of Paula Peters.**

This year's Holiday Party will be held Sunday, December 6 at 12:00 pm at Paula Peter's house. We will have appetizers around 12 and the main lunch at 1:00. Please bring a dish to share with the group.

**Directions:**

To get to my house at 2216 S. Grace Ellen Dr. take Oakland Gravel Rd. north off of Vandiver. Cross Blue Ridge Rd and continue north, taking the 2nd street on the left, which will be Grace Ellen. My house is the 4th house on the left

(south) side of the street. Look for a brown house with lots of trees. Call Paula, 573-881-4225 if you have any questions.

Paula Peters

## MDC Calendars Are In

If you ordered MDC Natural Events calendars for the upcoming year they are in and available for pick up!

You can email Vanessa Melton at vann-dawn@gmail.com or call at 573-864-3905 to schedule pick up, or you can

come to the Holiday Party on December 6th and pick them up there. See you all at the Holiday Party!

Vanessa



**MDC Natural Events Calendar Cover. Provided by the Missouri Department of Conservation.**

**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 the Spring Bradford Plant Sale. If you receive this by mail, please consider requesting email delivery.

- Regular (\$16.00)\*
- Student (\$11.00)
- Contributing (\$26.00) Designate Chapter or State
- Paper Postal Service (\$5.00)
- State Lifetime (\$200.00)
- Chapter Lifetime (\$120.00—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.

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**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**Missouri Native Plant Society—Hawthorn Chapter**  
July 1st through June 30th.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Day or Cell \_\_\_\_\_

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Method of receiving Chapter newsletter: (circle preference)

Email                      Regular Mail

As of July 2015 printed paper Petal Pusher newsletters sent by post will cost an additional \$5.00 more than standard membership. Email delivery brings not only a color copy of the newsletter, but also updates and announcements between newsletters.