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# Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

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## Future Activities

**March 24th through May 19th at 5:30 pm: Randal's Wildflower Walks.** Join Randal Clark as he leads Spring wildflower walks each Thursday evening in Rock Bridge State Park. Meet Randal at the Devil's Ice Box Parking lot to begin each trip.

**April 30th, Saturday at 7:00 am: Birdwalk at Prairie Garden Trust.** Prairie Garden Trust will be hosting a Spring birdwalk. For more information visit their website at <http://prairiegardentrust.org/>.

**May 9th, Monday at 7:00 pm: Bimonthly Meeting at Unitarian Church.** Meeting topic is to be determined.

**May 19th, Thursday at 11:30 am: Lunch at Uprise Bakery.** 10 Hitt St., just south of Broadway.

**May 21st, Saturday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm: Plant Sale at Bass Pro.** Missouri Prairie Foundation will be sponsoring a plant sale at Bass Pro Shops in Columbia and our Chapter will have a booth at the sale.

**June 4th, Saturday at 8:30 am: PGT Wildflower Walk.** Prairie Garden Trust will be hosting a wildflower walk led by Tim Smith. Visit their website at <http://prairiegardentrust.org/> for more information.

**June 16th, Thursday at 11:30 am: Lunch at Uprise Bakery.** 10 Hitt St., just south of Broadway.

**June 23rd, Thursday: Native Pollinator Symposium.** More information about this Symposium will appear in the June newsletter.

## Meeting Minutes from March 14th

The meeting was convened at 7:00pm with 21 attending including 2 visitors. President Denny Donnell presided.

Randall Clark presented the program in the form of a demonstration and audience challenge to ID Native plants from interesting sites around the world. Seven to 10 species were presented from each of the following sites: Rock Bridge State Park, Graham Cave, Hawn State Park, Upper Buffalo (Arkansas), Rocky Mountain Nat'l. Park, Tuscon Arizona, Costa Rica, Scotland. Active participation and enjoyment occurred.

Visitors and new members were Gail Raskin and Bruce Fluesmeier.

The January minutes were published. Review indicated that Janice Albers could not attend June MONPS meeting but would switch with Boyd and Carolyn Terry who had May. Treasurer's report was reviewed and accepted.

Plant sales were reviewed and a call for help for Becky Erickson to prepare. April 9 Bradford Farm, April 24 Earth Day (begin 9:00 start sale at noon, continue until 6:00pm); May 21, info later available; October 8, Chestnut festival.

Next meeting 7:00 pm May 9—No program set as yet, need Vice President position to be filled. Suggestions included Book discussion, Plant sharing, seed sharing, Moss presentation. Field trips as desired, check the website, enter a proposal for others to gather around.



Hawthorn Booth at Bradford Farm Plant Sale. Courtesy of Vanessa Melton.

Hawthorn Chapter Booth at Earth Day. Courtesy of Vanessa Melton.



## Spring Plant Sales

April has been a busy month for our Chapter with booths at two Spring Plant Sales. The first one occurred at Bradford Farm on April 9th and the second was on the 24th at the annual

Earth Day Celebration in downtown Columbia. Even though it was cold and windy the Bradford Sale netted us \$1277.00. The Earth Day Celebration fell on a warm, sunny day and resulted in our booth raising roughly \$700. Not a bad Spring for us so far!

We will have another

booth coming up on May 21st at Bass Pro with Missouri Prairie Foundation. The plant sale will start at 10 am and run to 2 pm. We will be setting up at 9 am, so please plan to help with the booth. Please contact Paula Peters at [pieri-dae1@gmail.com](mailto:pieri-dae1@gmail.com) if you can help.

## Musings on Managing a Deer-choked Landscape, and a Book Recommendation: Deerland

Deer have been on our mind for years as one of the more challenging problems we face in pursuing landscape and ecological management on our diversified farm in northern Boone County. Though we can keep deer out of produce growing areas with vigilantly maintained tall fences and/or hot electric lines, we feel helpless against the plant-devourers when it comes to management of our broader landscape and ecosystem.

Deer in the modern Missouri landscape practice the worst kind of grazing: dispersed, not meaningfully pressured by predators, preferentially eating what they like best, probably returning to nibble again before preferred plants have had time to recover, and leaving a landscape enriched with the subset of plants they're less fond of. As such, deer act as a strong filter regarding what plants persist in our landscape and which don't. We think it's no coincidence that plants such as White Snakeroot, Tall Goldenrod, and Tall Fescue, which are distasteful or poisonous to goats (close relatives of deer), are prevalent in the regional landscape. We can pretty much forget about growing domesticated deer-favorite

foods outside a fence. We have happy alfalfa plantings inside our deer-resistant fences; outside our fences alfalfa doesn't stand a chance. How many natives meet with a similar fate as a result of out-of-balance deer populations? And we wonder: To what extent are deer responsible for encouraging invasives?

With deer ever on our mind, when I spotted a book called *Deerland* on the Daniel Boone Regional Library shelf, I immediately reached for it. The photo on the front cover of a deer-feeding station gave me pause; had I just picked up a Bambi-worship book? But the subtitle gave me hope: "America's Hunt for Ecological Balance and the Essence of Wilderness." I checked it out, and I'm glad I did.

Written by Al Cambronne, a freelance writer from northern Wisconsin, the book delves into a variety of issues related to deer ecology and economics. Cambronne coins the term "deer

industrial complex" to describe the multifaceted ways in which businesses large and small have developed deer dependencies related to feeding them, hunting them (especially trophy specimens), selling real estate, farming for them, and repairing damage they do to vehicles, for example. Governments are equally entangled in the business and ecology of deer. His many interviews provide the human context of these pursuits, striving to present all sides fairly. Simultaneously, though, he builds a strong case that deer populations are seriously out of balance, with detrimental impacts on ecology, agriculture, and human well-being.

The book is engaging, and though some of the material is depressing, Cambronne lightens the mood with humor and witty turns of phrase, making it an enjoyable read. And it is a worthwhile read, especially for anyone who cares about native plants, wild bird populations, sustainable land management, and/or growing an orchard or garden. Check it out!

Joanna & Eric Reuter

## Chestnut Roast Results

The Hawthorn Chapter once again has an opportunity to sell plants at the Missouri Chestnut Roast at MU's Horticultural & Agroforestry Research Center (HARC) in New Franklin. The date this year is Saturday, October 8, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Our chapter has had a booth at this event for many years --- 2016 is the 10th anniversary of the Roast --- and usually found it a fun and successful event. As most of you know, there are usually several vendors of chestnuts and chestnut trees, handicrafts, wine and beer, and food demonstrations. There'll be a separate tent for local musicians to entertain us.

We will need members to help at our

booth throughout the day: setting up the tent, displays, unloading plants---selling plants---taking money---helping with books, T-shirts, etc.---closing up the booth---packing up the tent, displays, books, T-shirts---loading up any unsold plants. All help is welcome and appreciated! All help is needed!! You don't have to be an expert to be helpful!

HARC gathered some data about the more than 1500 attendees of last year's event that you might be interested in.

**Age** 25 or less: 15.79%, 26-35:

16.32%, 36-45: 13.68%, 46-55: 17.37%, 56-65: 20.53%, Over 65: 16.32%

### Annual household income

Less than \$25,000: 19.16%, \$25,000-\$34,999: 13.77%, \$35,000-\$49,999: 16.77%, \$50,000-\$74,999: 19.16%, \$75,000-\$99,999: 9.58%, \$100,000 or more: 21.56%

**Gender** Female : 55.97%  
Male: 44.03%

**Education** High School: 15.93%, Technical School: 2.75%, College Degree: 32.97%, Graduate Degree: 45.60%

**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.

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Evening \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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. The local Chapter newsletter will be sent by email.

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