



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

Volume 35, Number 8
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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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We would like to read about announcements, impressions, species accounts, photos, poems, links to scientific articles or other creative nature writing **from you, too**. Please submit during the second half of every month.

This is the 35th year Hawthorn has supplied a newsletter to chapter members.

August 2020

Future Activities Calendar

Dues are due in June and July

If you paid for membership earlier this calendar year it is not necessary to pay again unless you want to pay for 2022. If this is a hassle every year, you might consider a Life Membership.

Send a check to our treasurer Paula [see last page here] or pay on the MONPS website.

Thanks to about half of our members who acted on this announcement last month.

Sad to say: all future group activities are cancelled for the foreseeable future.

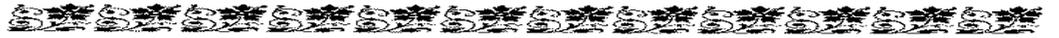
We just want everyone to be as healthy as possible.

This does not mean you must stay inside looking at a screen, or reading, or cleaning the closet for the third time. Put on your boots, sun hat, tick repellent, water bottle and **go explore! Go off trail!** *Go my Sons, burn your books. Buy yourself stout shoes. Get away to the mountains, the valleys, the shores of the seas, the deserts, and the deepest recesses of the Earth. In this way and no other will you find true knowledge of things and their properties. Peter Severinus, 16th. century Dane educator.*

Go to a native plant nursery to buy plants to expand your garden. *"...the psychological benefits to humans of green space are closely linked to the diversity of its plant life..." Jonah Lehrer*

Getting exercise outside will help your physical and psychological health while you can't have human contact. *"Those who contemplate the beauty of the Earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts."* Rachel Carson

Take your frustration and aggression out on some aliens. **Small bush honeysuckle seedlings are very easy to pull – go for it!** **20% Glyphosate stump treatment works after 1 August.** Ask me how to use these chemicals carefully and judiciously. By law, I cannot post 'off-label' instructions on a public forum. You must ask for those instructions.



Announcements

Lunch at RagTag Third Thurs **Cancelled until future notice**

Meet our group for lunch 11:30 at RagTag/Uprise, 10 Hitt St [Just south of Broadway].



Meetings are the second Monday:

Stay tuned for a zoom meeting announcement in future emails



Thanks to Bob, Mike, Julie, Judy, Louise, Anne, and Nancy for their submissions this month!



Special Activity Announcement

From July PETAL PUSHER Page 10

While we love field trips and while members of the Board are willing to endure each other during in-person meetings, we must keep each other safe. To this effect, all in-person MONPS events are cancelled for the rest of the year. But keep reading, for some exciting Zoom opportunities. Save the Date for our Fall Webinar: Summer flora is in full bloom and many of us are lamenting the loss of field trips with the Missouri Native Plant Society this year. Since our fall field trip is also canceled, we will host a webinar instead!

Justin Thomas, Science Director at NatureCITE, will provide us with an online presentation entitled **Plants in Place: The Nature of Native. How Missouri's native plants came to be, what they tell us about the places they live, and what they tell us about ourselves.** **The webinar will be held at 6:00 pm on Friday, September 25th.** All MONPS members welcome! Tune in for his talk and we will leave time for your questions at the end. It will be a great way for us all to connect and learn something new in a safe and socially distanced format. Watch your inbox or check the event page of our website for details and the webinar link. Don't forget to mark your calendar! We look forward to "seeing" you there.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES



Rose gentian – *Sabatia angularis*
THE surprise of the summer!
It doesn't come up every year.

Many of you have expressed interest in helping to manage the myriad of native plant gardens around town and at Columbia Public Schools as a reason to get outside and a process of education. Doing this community service is applicable to your MMN re-pay requirements. Even if you have not had MMN training, working in these gardens will help you learn how to recognize good native plants from undesirables. Lea is the leader for this volunteer group. She knows where all the gardens are and offers a schedule, received from her by email, when group weeding parties occur. If you have confidence in your knowledge of species recognition, don't be shy! – [ask Lea for a garden](#) and do what you can to remove 'bad plants' when you want to work. If you need assistance with id and technique, go with a group several times before you strike out on your own. langtrea@gmail.com call or text 864-7647.

Our chapter has adopted the dry rain garden on the north side of the recycle lot north of the new Planet Fitness at Providence and Grindstone. It needs a great deal of help. If you drop your recycles there, please pick up trash around our garden areas. If you want to work there please contact Lea, Cindy, or Becky [see masthead] for direction/instruction.

GOLD LINKS

To learn more about Deep Roots KC or to view previous webinars, visit <https://deeprootskc.org/>.

This explains a lot of uses for common milkweed. Hoping this article encourages more folks to plant milkweed!!
https://iamcountryside.com/growing/milkweed-plant-wild-vegetable/?utm_source=CountrySide+Master&utm_campaign=762e130b7b-Homesteading+7%2F30%2F20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_90c3e5631e-762e130b7b-73517711

Article on Spice bush swallowtails in July
Conservationist
<https://mdc.mo.gov/conmag/2020-07/big-eyed-beautiful>

Wild Bee ID
https://www.wildbeeid.org/?r=slt-eml-bck-a2e0&utm_source=sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=bck-04162019update&utm_term=

FWS West newsletter. No, not our region, but packed with so many good ideas!
https://www.fws.gov/home/fwn/pdf/News-Spring%202020-web.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

A Delicate Balance

Text and photo submitted by Julie

“All good things come to those who wait.” Since January 2019, these words loop in my head like a mantra as I stroll through my new native prairie field, an approximately five acre former fescue pasture. While the origin of that proverbial saying has been attributed to everyone from the 1800's English poet Lady Mary Montgomerie Currie, to Abraham Lincoln, it doesn't take much effort to imagine the circumstances either Currie or Lincoln had in mind while penning those words. On a much less momentous scale, the words fit for me in many ways and are especially appropriate as I search my new field for the emergence of yet another new forb.

Waiting requires patience, which is not necessarily one of my attributes. But I am learning to hone that skill, engaged in what feels like a delicately balanced exercise, sometimes eloquent but often a clumsy one-step-forward-two-steps-back dance. I find that waiting is the hardest part. Waiting to see if that sericea lespedeza will finally die off, waiting to see if those precious, most desired forb species appear (for me, right now, this is anything with a red or orange bloom), waiting to see if the deer or insects will spare my one remaining purple milkweed pod. Yet in the waiting, there comes a sense of living in the moment, noticing and accepting all of it, and feeling gratitude for the lessons nature offers. My field, full of hope, dreams and promise is a graceful teacher.



Repairing Neglect

Text and photos submitted by Anne

We started to use native perennials in St. Louis after going to hear a talk at a local park. We had a large back yard that was challenging to plant because it was very wet in spring. We dug up a lot of honeysuckle in that yard. One day Gary brought home a few starts of jewel weed to put in the wet area. Within 2 years we had a fairyland forest each spring around the wettest parts that would then die back a bit as dryer weather came. In summer/fall the yard edges populated with tall ageratum and eupatorium of various sorts. Early attempts at standard gardening with hostas and ferns turned out to be a way just to feed the bunnies. [next page]



Subscribe to the Center for Plant Conservation's monthly newsletter:
<https://centerforplantconservation.us12.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=5111078c47821caea413b21ca&id=601d443b31>

The Elevator Pitch

From Becky

I was at the grocery register with 20# of sugar among other things. The checker gave me a quizzical look. I: "It's for the birds." She: "What birds?" I: "Hummers. It is the third bag this year!" She: "We have woods behind our house. Used to see many of them, but not this year." I: "Do you have a yard full of native wildflowers? You need wildflowers to feed them." Another quizzical look. I: "There is a website for Grow Native. The resource guide lists about 100 nurseries that specialize in native wildflowers. Don't get the designer plants at the big box hardware stores." She smiled and nodded with understanding as I finished the transaction.

Don't forget to talk to your friends about our group.



BE photo
Tiger swallowtail on
Pycnanthemum virginianum



We moved to Columbia in 2015 and started on a several year project to dig up tons of invasive honeysuckle and plant native perennials. We did a lot of digging plus hired a company to help. We are still surrounded by the honeysuckle in some nearby areas, so must continue to pull up the starts. Nearly all of the plants we added have grown well, despite the half-shade/half sun nature of much of the yard. The front of the house is the sunniest and has pink coneflowers, an abundance of yellow blooms, plus some yarrow and columbine. Seeing some bees and butterflies makes the work worthwhile.
<<< Replacements for bush honeysuckle.



4-Legged Invasive Suppression

Text and photos submitted by Mike

This is the second year I've used goats to reduce invasive species within my walnut tree plantations and I'm happy with the results. Goats are, of course, less environmentally impactful than mowing or herbicides, but they are not cheaper.

For suppressing invasives in a small area (less than 10 acres) it is effective. Goats graze fescue low enough that it does not need to be mowed. They browse the foliage off invasive species like sericea lespedeza, small callery pear trees, autumn olive, and bush honeysuckle. They like to eat the invasives first, which is good, **but since goats will eat almost any plant, I have not been able to effectively protect all native species mixed in with invasives.** Goats love to climb and damage wire protection so be prepared for some losses of plants, sapling trees (and the wire) if you have wire in use.

I have found that mechanically cutting invasives first, then repeatedly goat grazing the re-sprouts works best. The goats can only browse to a height of about five feet off the ground. If you have tall autumn olive and bush honeysuckle, it's best to cut them first and let the goats browse the re-sprouts. **Don't use herbicides or stump killers just before goat grazing** — it is bad for their health.

I contract for the goats, which means that I have no responsibility for goat health, fence integrity, etcetera. Before the growing season starts, I meet with the goat owners, tell them my desired end-result, and we agree on a price. They decide how many goats to use, what paddock size to use, and how long the goats need to be in a certain paddock before being moved to the next paddock. The owners make all fence moves, and at the end of the season they take all goats and fence home. If you decide to do multiple goat grazing passes over the same area in a season, be aware that you will need to allow about six weeks between passes to prevent nannyberries [goat feces] from harboring larvae, which can give the goats worms.



Autumn olive stump resprouting

Same resprouts after goat grazing

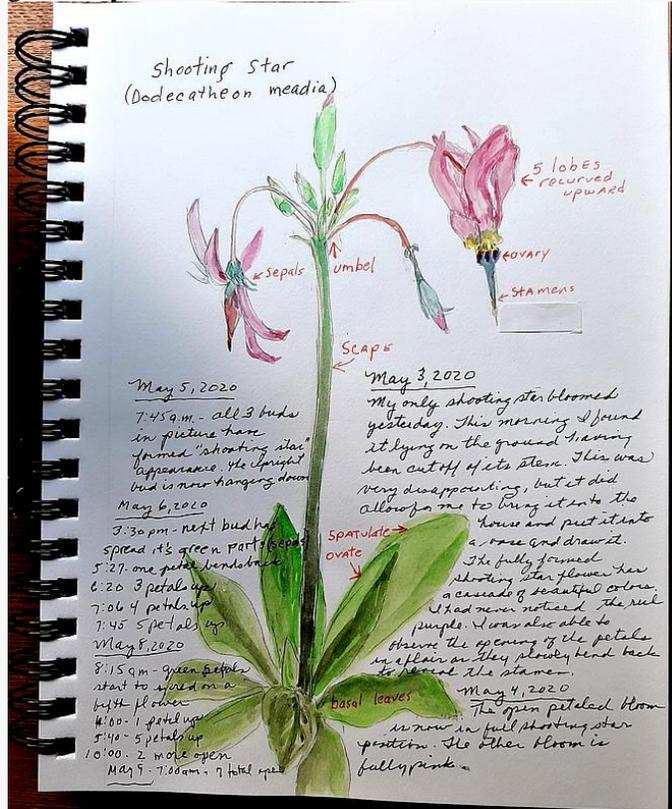


Nature Journaling: A Learning Experience

Submitted by Louise

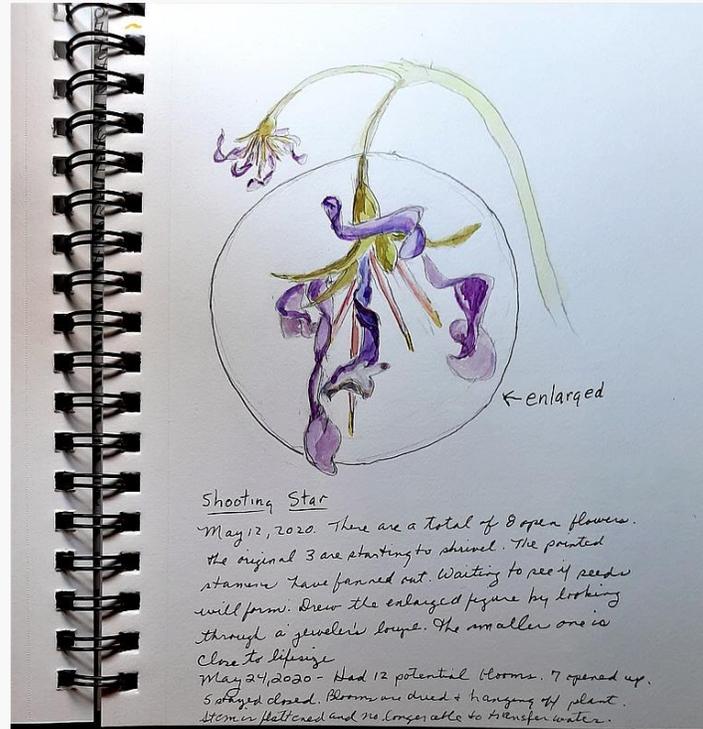
Last May I had my first ever bloom of Shooting Star (Dodecatheon Meadia) in my native plant garden. It was only one flower, but was quite exciting as these are noted to be hard to start from seed or transplant. With high hopes I came to look at it the next morning only to find the flower lying prone on the ground, bitten off by some animal. I decided to make the most of it and brought the flower into the house, put it into water and set it by my computer. While admiring it, it occurred to me to put it into my nature journal.

It was very interesting to follow its progress and note what happened not only day by day, but also hour by hour. The flower had 8 flowers in various stages of development. The close proximity of the flower allowed me to observe it very minutely. I was first enthralled with the colors. I hadn't realized how the color palette that descended down the open flowerhead was so diverse. It went from pink to green to yellow to purple to green to yellow.



I began to record its progress in my nature journal. In summary this umbel had 8 flowers. On the first day the petals bent back on one of the flowers to assume the readily recognized shooting star. The sequence I followed in the buds was as follows: The buds start in an upright position. Within a day, the petals will bend their heads down. Next the sepals spread open and the petals start to bend back to produce the shooting star appearance. Each petal rises separately, but it takes about 2 hours for all 5 petals to complete the move. Between May 3 and May 9, 7 flowers had opened. By May 24, 8 flowers had opened and the flower, still in water, was spent.

I really enjoyed the drawing and painting of this flower. One picture allowed for making notes over the course of a week. It reads right to left as I didn't think I would need so much room. Then as it dried out and ended its season, I was able to again journal this process. I used a jeweler's loupe to magnify what was happening. The sepals and stamens were flared out and the petals hung in beautiful swirls of purple ribbons. On May 24, the stem was flattened and was no longer able to transfer water.



As I wrote what was happening each day, I realized I was not familiar with the scientific terms needed to describe the flower and leaves. So 2 months later I got out my Missouri Wildflowers book and did some self-education. I studied the different terms for plant and flower parts. Then I added these identifiers to my drawings.

For me, nature journaling is one of the most enjoyable ways to learn about our environment. Last year, Becky mentioned a nature journaling course offered by Bird Academy, a part of Cornell Lab of Ornithology. I checked it out and made it a Christmas gift for me. It is a downloadable course. The sessions are fairly short - 30 minutes on average. Students are encouraged to post their efforts and looking through those pictures is very helpful. This course gives you some of the skills needed to both draw and paint in watercolors in your nature journal. It is not time consuming. It has been a wonderful outlet during the Covid 19 pandemic. If you can go outside at all you will find something to draw and think about and increase your knowledge. Thank you, Becky, for the reference and here is the link.

academy.allaboutbirds.org

Taming Rosinweed (*Silphium integrifolium*)

Text and photos submitted by Bob

In Front of Fire House 7 at the corner of Green Meadows and Bethel is a city rain garden which I have adopted, there are many rosinweed *Silphium integrifolium* plants growing all along the front of the garden blocking the view of shorter plants behind them such as *Hibiscus lasiocarpus*. This has been a major issue with me for a long time.



Last year during a tour of bio-retention ponds in Columbia an invited guest from Missouri Biological Garden, mentioned *S. integrifolium* can be trimmed to keep them shorter. This interested me as it could solve my problem.

I could not find information on Google about trimming this plant, but an article, "How to Prune Aster" gave tips on pruning. First, clean and sanitize pruning shears to not open up the plant to infection. Wash shears in hot soapy water, then rinsing and soak for 5 minutes with 70% isopropyl alcohol diluted in half with water. Water plant deeply before pruning.

Next, I emailed Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Information Service (mss). A representative replied finding little information about trimming *S. integrifolium* to control height, but has done it with *S. perfoliatum* to good effect. He hasn't noticed any increase in blights or head-clipper weevil in the cut plants.

With this information I have been trimming the *S. integrifolium* and in a few days new flowers are formed on the shorter plant. The attached picture, is a close up of a small bud just above a leaf pair, this is the spot I have cut off the stems. Now more of the plantings in this rain garden can be enjoyed by passer byes.



Poster Presentation to the Texas Plant Conservation Conference

by Judy Turner and Liz Pullman, August 13 and 14, 2020.

[Ed. Note: Judy Turner moved to Bastrop TX 12 years ago. She is still a Hawthorn member and occasionally submits to our newsletter. She noted to me: I do not know yet when it will be shown during the conference. I probably won't know until after Aug 9th.]

Updating BONAP Maps for the State of Texas

The Biota of North America Program (BONAP) provides current phytophagic, nomenclatural and taxonomic research on the North American vascular flora and offers the most comprehensive county-by-county data and reference sourcing.

BONAP's maps are used widely throughout the botanical community. To a great extent, continuity of the data behind these maps is contingent on up-to-date field and herbarium researchers providing current and accurate distribution data.

To show a more accurate species diversity within our Texas counties, Dr. John Kartesz (Director, BONAP) urged us to investigate additional Texas counties with the objective of increasing the number of taxa reported for each county, especially for under-collected ones, some of which had fewer than 60 species reported!

Thus far, we have assessed 210 out of 254 Texas counties, adding significantly to the number of taxa presented within each; sometimes doubling, tripling, or quadrupling the totals. New occurrences are reviewed by specialists and if accepted, are added to BONAP's distribution maps. Based on the first four years of our research, BONAP has accepted over 12,000 vouchered reports.

The rest of the information on the poster shows BONAP's counts by county for the state of Texas in 2015 and discusses how we mined various on-line digital herbaria for our data. It also has an example of us finding a rare taxa reported for five counties in Texas, where only six had been previously reported to BONAP.

Thanks! Judy

It will be interesting to see if we get any questions during the conference. Our initial goal was for 500 species in each county and we weren't going to do the larger ones. Well, that was 5 years ago when we started and we still don't have 500 species in some counties. And we have done some of the larger ones. Like all of the counties in the Trans-Pecos region in Texas. That was a special request from the director, John Kartesz. We were all amazed at the number of new species we found that hadn't been reported to BONAP. That area has been botanized a lot - even in the 1800s! Now with DNA a lot of those identifications aren't valid any more. Not counting all the family and species name changes! ***I suspect that Missouri has some counties that don't have 500 species reported.*** Besides researchers, BONAP data is used by the National Butterfly Center, National Audubon, and others.

Q & A from Becky

Nancy sent some questions

“How to get rid of bothersome vines, whether noxious natives like poison ivy, or reduce natives which strangle other plants and attract Japanese beetles like grape and Virginia creeper? Both at my place are embedded with multiple rooting locations and intertwined with good plants making it very difficult to get to where they are rooted when pulling, and hard to spray or paint (with what herbicide?) without harming good plants.”

Right – sometimes the only answer is moderate work. I suppose the easiest way to work on this problem is to obtain a small bottle with a tiny tip – like the ones found in hair color kits. Fill it half with 41% glyphosate and add water so it is now 20%. Follow the vines to where they are rooted. Cut the stem 2-4” off the ground so you can see it. Drip a bit from the bottle on the stump. SNIP AND DRIP. It doesn’t take much. This method will kill any woody [tree and vine] after 1 August until leaf-fall. In the spring until the end of July, 8% triclopyr works best for stump treatments. [If I had a nickel for every time I explained this, I would be very wealthy. Maybe now that it is in print, I can get a reprieve.]

“How to reduce spread of serious rhizomatous plants, like Hercules club or mint?”

Besides nuking mint with gly– I assume you mean European *Mentha*, I guess dig it up. I don’t know how deep the roots grow, but you could try installing plastic lawn edging around the patch. I have a patch of Jerusalem artichoke, *Helianthus tuberosus*, that grows into the gravel driveway. I did a test with gly; nothing beyond the sprayed spot died, so I sprayed the edge. On the other hand I wanted some of the sassafras gone. I did stump treatment on three sprouts and two larger trees died. Oops. So it depends on the species.

Rhizomatous trees: I have a lovely rusty blackhaw,



Viburnum rufidulum, which is not supposed to sucker. Mine is 15 years old now and blooms profusely so I don’t want to damage the mother tree. But she has started to sucker into the flower garden. Karen told me to cut the sprouts off and shove a soup can over it. Leaves and mulch

cover the cans – 12 of them. They will dissolve into the earth in a few years. I’ll tell you how that worked in a couple of years. On the other hand, I planted a bladdernut, *Staphylea trifolia*, in my east rock garden not knowing it has a terrible habit of suckering into a large copse, if allowed. I’m tired of ripping up these creeping sprouts: the tree must go!!



I couldn’t forward this directly and separately because of my server’s restrictive parameters.



Wild & Weird: Injured Turtle Recovers in LEGO Wheelchair

For more than a year, staff at the Maryland Zoo cared for a wild eastern box turtle that had been brought in with a fractured shell. To stabilize the shell so that the turtle could heal while still moving around, the zoo team used metal bone plates, epoxy, clasps — and a custom wheelchair made of LEGOs.

LEGO Turtle, as he came to be called, has since recovered and was recently released back into the wild. The zoo radio-tracks his activity weekly and reports that he’s doing well.

[Get more from People magazine](#) and [watch this video](#) about how the turtle rode his way back to health with the help of herpetologists and a LEGO enthusiast.



I hope you understand the difference between civics and politics. This is not politics. This is a plea to exercise your right to vote. There are many countries where people risk their lives to have a voice in the way they are governed. It seems, this year, that issue could be the same for us. Don’t be fearful enough to stay home, act safely. Vote whatever your conscience requires to feel at ease. Take a friend, or maybe a stranger. Just vote next Tuesday. Our future depends on it.

Topics for This Year's Petal Pusher

the state MONPS newsletter

You don't need to be an expert, but if you have good repeatable experience as a naturalist on any of these subjects, you are welcome to offer your knowledge to the rest of us.

If we have members who are experts on any of these topics, Michelle Pruitt [on masthead] is willing to do an amateur proofread for you if that would be helpful.

The submission deadline for the Sept/Oct issue is 20 Aug. ALWAYS - 20th of even numbered months. If you don't understand subjects, parameters, or submission format, contact Michelle Bowe, PP editor MBowe@MissouriState.edu.

Sept/Oct Focus on the (Plant) Family

You pick one and do the research on families such as Rosaceae, Scrophulariaceae, Asclepiadaceae, Fagaceae, Fabaceae, Polemoniaceae, and many others. Start with the back of Dennison, pick a family and go from there. Share a paragraph about what you learned.

Nov/Dec What's in a name? Common vs. Scientific
2021 Jan/Feb Ecoregions of Missouri

Regular Recurring Columns:

Conundrum Corner Contributors needed!

Invasive Tip of the Month Tips to identify and eradicate invasives, with a different species in each issue. Contributors needed!

Other Recurring Columns: **Casey's Kitchen** Casey Burks

Name Change of the Month Justin Thomas. Other volunteers welcome.

Poetry Corner or Quotation Corner Send suggestions for poems or quotes for inclusion. Note that for poems, we must have permission from the publisher.

Where are we going Features we will see on the next field trip. Malissa Briggler?

And here's where you can become newsletter famous by submitting your questions: <https://monativeplants.org/ask-a-question>.

Ask a question Questions from website, answered. Facilitated by Jerry Barnabee

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. There are opportunities to volunteer caring for native gardens in public places. We don't deliver printed copies by mail unless you insist. Please consider requesting email delivery; it saves us money for the Grant Program.

___ Regular (\$16.00)*

___ Student (\$11.00)

___ Contributing (\$26.00)* designate chapter or state

___ Paper postal service (\$10)

___ State Lifetime (\$200) Might be raised for 2020

___ 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:

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. Dues are Due NOW!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: Evening _____

Day or Cell _____

Email: _____

Method of receiving chapter newsletter:

(circle preference)

Email

Regular mail

As of July 2018, Petal Pusher printed on paper in grayscale, sent by post, will cost an additional \$10 more than standard membership. Email delivery brings you color photos, and instant delivery. It saves natural resources, pollution, and MONPS and your money.