



Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter Newsletter

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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.

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

September 2020

Future Activities Calendar

Dues are due in June and July

Thanks to about 80% of our members who acted on this announcement.

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

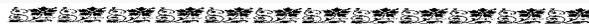
Take your frustration and aggression out on some aliens. Small bush honeysuckle seedlings are very easy to pull – go for it! 20% Glyphosate stump treatment works after 1 August. Ask me how to use these chemicals carefully and judiciously. By law, I cannot post 'off-label' instructions on a public forum.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



ZOOM Meeting planned for our regular 14 Sept time 6:30:

Emily, newbie MO native plant gardener, will present how she got into native plants & gardening for wildlife in Central Columbia. Added bonus, during COVID quarantine, she collaborated with neighbors on either side of her house to help with bush honeysuckle removal which opened the dialogue of "if you plant it, they will come." Neighbors continue to remove invasive plants and are now planting MO Natives too!
Will send your meeting link when established.



Thanks to Glenn, Emily, and Louise for their submissions this month!



Special State Activity Announcement

MONPS sent an announcement by email about this zoom webinar

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! The duration of Justin's talk will be approximately 40 minutes and there will be opportunity 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. You will receive a link via email to access the webinar closer to the event date. Watch your inbox or check the event page of our website for the webinar link. Find Details Here: <https://monativeplants.org/event/monps-fall-webinar/>



Louise wanted to share her spider lilies that bloomed in the middle of August. *Hymenocallis occidentalis*

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

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. langtree@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.



MO Wildflower Nursery

If you are not on Merv's mail list, you did not get his fall sale flyer in your mailbox. Here are some highlights: Now until 11 October he is offering 10% discount on all potted plant sales. All sales over \$120 get the price reduced another 5%. Google Missouri Wildflower Nursery to get locations of remote plant sales, inventory and suggested garden plans.

Hours: M-S, 9-5; Sun noon-5. Open Labor Day. *Missorian* published a long article about Merv: https://www.columbiamissorian.com/news/local/missouri-wildflower-specialist-creating-a-lasting-inspiring-legacy/article_916a0a00-dd8a-11ea-ae3c-979dd87e6aad.html



From Fescue, to Warm Season Grasses, to Pollinator Meadow; A Journey

Text and photos submitted by Glenn and neighbor Kathleen

In 2005 my neighbor, Kathleen, and I each received 'fescue conversion' grants through Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). Together we had about 10 acres to convert to warm season grasses (WSG) and forbs. The project, by most all standards, was a success. We're now in the middle of an EQIP contract/grant to convert the WSG fields to a pollinator habitat. What follows is our land management journey.

Though separated by less than a quarter mile, the site characteristics of our two contract units are quite different. Kathleen's 4 acres of old field is in a small valley floor and nearly flat. The soil there has some sand and a decent organic layer. My 5 acres is a hilltop that was farmed in row crops and grazed some decades ago. There is no sand, and in places very little organic 'top soil'. The clayey soil is not deep and in places the field is rocky.



(above Kathleen's; below Glenn's)



For the first steps of the fescue conversion grant we killed off the existing vegetation in the spring and then reseeded a few months later.



At that time the recommended seed mix for our project included a fairly high proportion of Indian grass, big bluestem, little bluestem, and some side oats grama. Also included was a 10 species mix of the following forb species: Illinois bundle flower, purple prairie clover, white prairie clover, wild bergamot,

MPF gave MONPS the award for Plant Protector at the annual dinner Friday evening.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kC789mGYWM>



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=

=

Amazing resource for stratification instructions

<https://tomclothier.hort.net/page02.html>

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

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



Baptisia alba [GP photo]



Camassia scilloides
[KM photo]

lance-leaved coreopsis, partridge pea, grayhead, black-eyed susan, stiff goldenrod, and purple coneflower. The grass species did extraordinarily well. The only forbs that proved to be really successful those first few years were the partridge pea and the black eyed susan. I really don't remember ever seeing the purple prairie clover, the coreopsis or the stiff goldenrod.

We attended prescribed burn training and began burning in year three. Then we burned annually for about 8 years, then roughly every other year after that. Usually we burned in the spring, but sometimes in the fall. In retrospect, more fall burning would have been appropriate.



(< Photos: Spring burn and response below)



The grass species, especially the Indian grass and big bluestem >>> overwhelmed the forbs. A few weeks after a spring burn some forbs would be evident. But the grasses would soon hide them, if not flat out suppress them. Tick trefoil became rank in the WSG, and it was difficult to walk through. The birds loved it year round, deer bedded in it, and even a few silly hen turkeys made nests in it. But we came to disparage the near solid stand of WSG, mostly from an esthetic standpoint. Where we ended up really wasn't what we had in mind 12 years earlier when we started the project.

Photo: Kathleen's field also heavy with grass. >>>>

After visiting with our MDC Private Lands Conservationist and representatives of the local NRCS in late 2018, we applied for and received EQIP grants to convert our WSG fields to Monarch Pollinator Habitat, starting in the spring of 2019. The requirements for these grants are pretty brutal from a herbicide perspective. Existing grasses, especially the fescue and warm-season grasses, the invasives such as sericea lespedeza, the "weeds," and other species must be killed out completely in order to provide bare dirt contact for the seeds, and to eliminate aggressive species that would put pressure on the young germinating forbs.



In so far as possible both Kathleen and I would protect a few specimens from the herbicide rig. We put plastic trash cans upside down over nice, established white wild indigo, butterfly weed, tall green milkweed, etc. Most of them survived.

In April 2020, before the third prescribed spraying, our fields were brown but greening up quickly. Of course there was still some Indian grass, but also ragweed, curly dock, chickweeds, mare's tail, foxtail species, black medic, trumpet creeper, and other common weed species. When some of the forbs started flowering we could find various mustards, (not garlic), *Rudbeckia*, butterfly weed, wild indigo, spiderwort, oxeye daisy, etc. It looked pretty good, but we covered up our few indigo and milkweeds, and then bit the bullet again and called for the spray rig. Fortunately, our timing was again good, avoiding wind and rain in the following days.

We're both retired high school biology teachers and decent field botanists/ecologists. But we are both continually amazed at how rich the seed bank is in the soils. Plants have done a marvelous job of insuring populations have at least a chance of starting future generations. A couple of things that have surprised us include: side oats grama grass is pretty resistant to glyphosate, and finding a herbicide to kill trumpet creeper isn't easy. We've learned that several sedge species require their own special herbicide, if you really want to get rid of them.

It turns out that the herbicide applicator missed nearly an acre on my hilltop in June of 2020. It was nearly a month before I could get the rig back to respray...but this was fortunate. Again, it was a testimonial to the vitality of plants; species appeared that I hadn't seen in decades, if ever, on my hilltop. blue vervain, field milkwort, whorled milkweed made an appearance. Occasional

Right: *Polygala sanguinaria*, milkwort
 Left: *Rudbeckia hirta*, annual black-eyed susan and *Verbena hastata*, blue vervain with leaves of *Eupatorium seratinum*, early boneset.



Asclepias verticillata, whorled milkweed



National Geographic Magazine, Sept 2020, P15: The Cost of Harming Nature.

The more we stress and degrade nature the more animals shed disease. Then we interact with them and we are living the results. Ecosystems with a full complement of species harbor less disease.



BE photo
 Spangled fritillary on *Asclepias purpureascens*

warm season grass remained along with, *Rudbeckia* species and other composites, ragweeds, mare's tail, and there was one solid patch of partridge pea that was at least 100 square feet. Seldom seen on my hilltop, the side oats was thriving. Illinois bundle flower showed up again, along with several other forb species that have yet to flower and we can't identify. The area was literally humming with insects, and full of birds getting something to eat. It would be considered a weedy mess by many, but the species and height diversity of these plants made it really attractive and amazing to me. So, I did some careful mowing and flagging to protect some areas before the spray rig arrived again on July 23. He did a great job cleaning up what needed to be resprayed without spraying my set aside plots.

(*Hypericum perforatum*, St John's wort > >)

After two summers of preparation, seeding will occur this coming December/January. So now we mostly wait. Wait to see what kind of regrowth from the seed bank develops during the summer and fall. There will be some spot weeding, or spraying to do as opportunistic weed species take advantage of the reduced competition in the bare fields. We're in the process of selecting species according to the grant guidelines. Spring, Summer and Fall bloomers are required, as are a minimum percentage of milkweed species and other "preferred forbs". There are specified seeding rates that we have to follow, as well. In December or January we will broadcast the seed. And wait again...

We're both excited for the new version of our fields...our 'new meadows.' The conversion process is long and at times painful. MDC and NRCS have been great to work with and have provided important and valuable direction. If you have questions about our 'journey' please give us a call; we would be happy to share our experiences.

Editorial Comments from Becky: I can't resist. This story is such a perfect example of what I have seen so many times. And I thank Glenn for explaining it. Many-many people follow the NRCS/MDC protocol and run into the same frustrating results. If they have a small enough area along with enough patience and resources, they can start over.

From the beginning, the area needs to be sprayed 3-6 times over 12 to 18 months before seeding in December – especially if you see a hint of serexia or johnson grass which need special attention. First seeding should never even be contaminated with big bluestem and indian grass let alone included in the mix. I would wait for animals to bring in *Desmodium* because as Glenn and two clients of mine have experienced, it is very aggressive and very hard to kill. Also mixes should be separated to be distributed in wetter and drier and shadier areas. *Asclepias purpureascens*, *Lobelia cardinalis* and *Lobelia syphilitica* won't last long on a sunny hill top or a south/west-facing slope.

If you want to experience a successful succession with your new native planting, GO LOOK at natural areas similar to what you want; learn the species that grow there. Talk to people who have done this before. Hire a counselor who can guide you thru the ecological maze. Then, yes, you can get a monetary subsidy from NRCS/MDC.



Topics for This Years' 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 Nov/Dec issue is 20 Oct. ALWAYS - 20th of even numbered months. If you don't understand subjects, parameters, or submission format, contact Michelle Bowe, PP editor MBowe@MissouriState.edu.

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.