



Missouri Native Plant Society

Hawthorn Chapter

Newsletter

Volume 36, Number 10

Hawthorn Chapter Officers:

President

Elena Vega

573-999-6123

elenavega@aol.com

Vice President

Nadia Navarrete-Tindall

nativeplantsandmore@gmail.com

Secretary

Emily Beckett

314-346-1537

emily@emilybeckett.com

Treasurer and Membership

Paula Peters

2216 Grace Ellen Dr

Columbia, MO 65202

pieridae1@gmail.com

Chapter Representative

Michelle Pruitt

michelle.pruitt@gmail.com

Web Master

Doug Miller

the.douglas.miller@gmail.com

Web site:

<http://columbianativeplants.org>

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

Communications Editor

Becky Erickson

573-657-2314

beckyerick711@centurylink.net

PO BOX 496

Ashland, MO 65010

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 36th year Hawthorn has supplied a newsletter to chapter members.

October 2021

Future Activities Calendar

Our traditional meeting time is second Mondays at 6:30. We decided at the September meeting to not hold a formal meeting in October because there are other activities scheduled or TBA.

Be aware – when weather moderates we will announce a mosey but only a few days in advance. Read your emails from us.

Chestnut Festival 2 Oct, 9 – 3. [surf the link for location] We will be setting up a full booth at CF this year and will share tent space with [Forrest Keeling Nursery](#). I posted the start time of 9am so we will have the booth finished by 10 when it opens to the public. It is a large festival showcasing many MO Ag products. You are free to visit other booths. You may arrive and leave at your convenience however we need at least 4 people morning and evening for carrying and loading.

As newsletter editor it is my job to get all appropriate and pertinent news to members. **The previous statement regarding a free lunch is incorrect** so I apologize if that was the primary catalyst for your attendance. The catered lunch menu is either pulled pork or pulled chicken with chips and a soda for \$10. Or you can bring your own.

*Without meaning to offend anyone's good sense, when you go to CF, bring all you will need for your comfort such as water, hand cleaner, a chair, appropriate apparel for the weather such as a jacket and shoes for a mowed field. Weather might be rainy. We will be sporting **masks** when working with the public at the booth.*

Announcements

Opening for chapter Treasurer/Membership volunteer needed. Candidate will be instated at December meeting: The Treasurer takes care of the money and any memberships paid locally. The state maintains the official membership list.

Serious candidates are welcome to contact Paula for details.

Propagation Workshop Offered - for members who want to learn to propagate native plants or want a stronger appreciation for the people who do. Afternoon of 17 October we will drive to 100 Acre Woods to study plant 'skeletons' and learn to collect seed and process it. Then in early December, those who collected seed will get together to learn methods of stratification and scarification. **The dates and location will be organized by the schedules and consensus of interested people. If you are interested in attending both days of this workshop, please respond to Becky. beckyerick711@centurylink.net**



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 [named Volunteer of the Month by City of Columbia last summer].

Activities are announced weekly, so sign up now to know when and where to get started. Lea 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.



GOLD LINKS

All new MPF/GN events posted here:
<https://grownative.org/events/>

Sign up for MO Prairie Journal

<https://moprairie.org/mission/missouri-prairie-journal/>

Find links to educational webinars every Wed afternoon on the MPF site.

Smithsonian's The Plant Press

<http://uminn.typepad.com/the-plant-press/>

Intriguing articles and essays from newly identified plants to artists found in archives. Sign up for newsletter delivery in upper right corner.

Elena offered to share this article on [butterfly identification](#) from MPF.

Excellent info from GN [Native Landscape Care Calendar](#) - for pros and homeowners. Also - a brief [one-page care overview](#) And just added: [extensive Butterfly Host Plant list](#)

You can now [subscribe to National Geographic Magazine](#) on line for \$19/year.

Ubiquitous Plastic from NatGeo weekly e-newsletter 27Aug 2021 . [Midway](#) through it explains the complete plastic cycle.

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

It's hunting season 15 Sept thru 15 Jan. It would be prudent if bird-watching, seed hunting, or hiking to enter MDC CA's mid-day wearing an orange vest. Some are very inexpensive in most box store hunting/sports dept.

Thanks to Emily for plant sale prep.
Thanks to Michelle for proofing this newsletter.

The Hawthorn Chapter made a trip up to Rudolf Bennit Conservation Area to explore and search for seed of wild leeks or ramps *Allium tricocum* [seed cluster at top of photo]. We found a hillside in dappled sunlight and shade absolutely covered in leek seed. Among the seed we were collecting were lovely *Aster drummondii*.

EV photo



Native Plants Should Take Their Place In Your Own Front Yard

by Carol Davit re-print from [KC Star 16 Sept 2021, P9A](#)

Plants that are native to Missouri and Kansas — from our mighty oaks to brilliant wildflowers — support songbirds, monarch butterflies and other treasured wildlife. They also beautify home landscapes, city streets and parks, and can be used to manage stormwater, store carbon in the ground via complex root systems, and support pollinators. And if those weren't enough virtues — I've got more: There are native plants for every gardening situation, from dry, rocky locations to poorly drained areas.

At the time it gained statehood, Missouri was blanketed with at least 15 million acres of tallgrass prairie — about a third of the state. Prairie here, and in Kansas, was part of the great North American prairie ecosystem that stretched from Ohio to the Rockies, north into Canada, and south to Mexico. Forty-eight percent of Jackson County was covered in prairie grasses and wildflowers. Today, there are fewer than 51,000 scattered prairie acres remaining in Missouri, with once vast landscapes converted to agriculture and other development.

Groups such as the Missouri Prairie Foundation, other land trusts and state agencies are protecting as much remaining, original, unplowed prairie and other habitats like forests, woodlands, glades and wetlands in the greater Kansas City area as possible — while they still exist to save. These natural communities provide vital habitat for pollinating insects, songbirds and other wildlife as well as perform carbon-capture, stormwater management and other services that benefit us.

These remnant wild spaces are also sources of seeds for the native plant industry. Purchasing native trees, shrubs, grasses, wildflowers and other natives from native plant businesses to use in our yards, farms, businesses, schools and parks can restore ecological function to the metro area.

There are native plants that are compatible with every landscaping need and gardening condition. Natives adapted to dry rocky glades, for instance, are the same plants that work well in rock gardens or in the dry, poor soils in many urban parking lot borders. And wetland plants, evolved to tolerate periods of flood and drought, can be used in rain gardens, bioswales and other areas to slow and filter stormwater.

Native landscaping can be informal, such as a native wildflower meadow in a backyard. It can also be formal, with compact species such as butterfly milkweed and wild blue indigo [adding front yard beauty for you and food sources for pollinating insects, monarch butterflies, and more.](#)

Many municipalities are using natives to convert unused turf areas into wildflower meadows to beautify parks, reduce mowing costs and provide pollinator and songbird habitat. Stormwater managers use prairie and wetland plants with complex root systems (some reaching 15 feet deep) to hold enormous amounts of stormwater, and to trap nitrogen and other nutrients that can pollute city-owned ponds and lakes.

There simply aren't enough acres of intact natural habitats "out there" to sustain nature's services that benefit us, nor to feed and fledge monarch butterflies, warblers and all the other animals that add to a community's livability factor. We must make our human-scapes as habitable as possible, and restore nature's web of life from the bottom up. That foundation is native plants. Happy gardening. Learn more about Missouri's prairie heritage and how you can be involved in protecting it at moprairie.org.

Public Enemy #1



I have killed eight this fall. PLEASE be aware and act.

Perfectly camouflaged, this oriental mantis waits on flowers to eat EVERYTHING that lands on it: all beetles, butterflies, bees, other mantids, hummers, and finches who come for seed. It is imperative to rid your area of this ecological menace. Catch and kill the bird-sized adults. Egg cases look like a tan foam golf ball stuck on any vertical twig or wire. Put them in a jar over a year, or soak them in something flammable and light on fire to be sure they are dead before disposing in the trash.



Public Enemy #2 Tussock moth *Euchaetes egle* caterpillar

They come in herds/hordes and devour milkweeds in one day. So you have no milkweed leaves for monarchs. There are many caterpillars with white and black bristles found on the under-side of leaves. **SQUISH THEM ALL!** Last year I posted this and two people messaged me in a panic after they had not read this. No room for a photo, look it up on line. *Euchaetes egle*

These Animals Offer Key Clues For Environmental Change

Indicator species are often the first to be affected by change in an ecosystem. Studying these sensitive animals helps scientists detect the effects of climate change and pollution early. [Click link for full article](#) in Nat Geo.



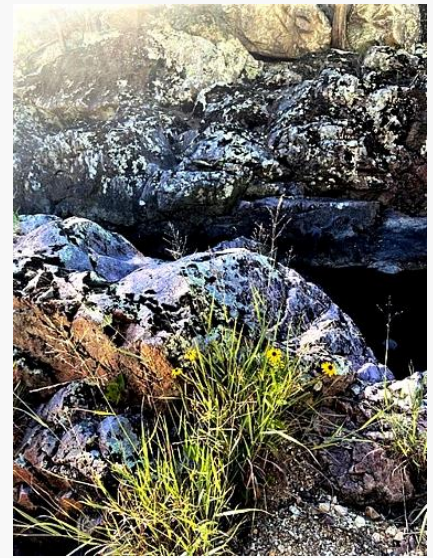
News from Stateside

Elena went to the MONPS state-wide meeting and field trip 25 and 26 September to represent our chapter. These are a few of the high points she wants to share.

The Saturday field trip of the State MONPS in the Eminence area started with a tour of the wildflower area around Alley Mill Spring. In the afternoon, there was a tour of a prairie fen area along the trail to the Mill Mountain Shut-in. The group got to enjoy the calm water cascading through the shut-ins and the *Rudbeckia missouriensis* were growing right on the rocks. > > >



John offered a preview of what to expect on Sunday morning when the MONPS group toured the Lick Log Trail. The trail led to a small creek shut-in area where we found little patch of many stems of orchids with maturing seed. Steyermark states that this is the common habit of this orchid, *Goodyera pubescens*. > > >



An equally interesting discovery in a fen is this *Parnassia grandiflora*, found in protected limestone fens across the southeastern US. > >

Ed note: scientific names are given so you can look up more information on these plants.



After our presentations and discussions on soil mycology [mycorrhizae], the following should be enhanced information for you.

From: Rangeland Ecology & Management

Title: Biological Soil Crusts of the Great Plains: A Review

By: S.D. Warren, R. Rosentreter, N. Pietrasiak

Published: 2021 **Full Article Available Open Access:** <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rama.2020.08.010>

Abstract:

Biological soil crusts (BSCs), or biocrusts, are composed of fungi, bacteria, algae, and bryophytes (mosses, etc.) that occupy bare soil, entwining soil particles with filaments or rootlike structures and/or gluing them together with polysaccharide exudates to form a consolidated surface crust that stabilizes the soil against erosion. BSCs are common in arid and semiarid regions where vascular plant cover is naturally sparse, maximizing the exposure of surface-dwelling organisms to direct sunlight. Although less prominent and less studied there, BSC organisms are also present in more mesic areas such as the Great Plains where they can be found in shortgrass and mixed-grass prairie, in the badlands of several states, where burrowing animals have created patches of bare soil, on damaged road-cuts, strip-mines, gas and oil

Link to

Braiding Sweetgrass

by Robin Wall Kimmerer. If you want to assist Robin's cause with a purchase of one or more of her books, please do. If you cannot afford this purchase at this time, [this link is a gift of a free download](#).



Links to two of our Chapter Autumn Zoom Presentations

[Lea's Outdoor Native Plant Classrooms](#)

[Becky's Pollinator ID & Garden Plants:](#)

(the NOTES show up in the bottom; you need to click "notes" at the bottom of the screen to see verbiage).

[St Louis chapter presentations are posted on the state website](#)



drill pads, military training areas, heavily grazed areas, and burn scars. Even where BSCs are not readily visible to the naked eye, many of the organisms are still present. BSC organisms are passively dispersed to the Great Plains as airborne organismal fragments, asexual diaspores, or sexual spores that accompany wind-blown dust from as far away as northern China and Mongolia. BSCs can best be studied and managed by 1) acknowledging their presence; 2) documenting their diversity, abundance, and functional roles; and 3) minimizing unnecessary disturbance, particularly when the soils are dry. This paper describes the current knowledge of Great Plains BSCs in an effort to heighten awareness of these cryptic but crucial ecosystem components and to encourage new research initiatives to better understand and manage them in this biome. Some specific actions may include refined taxonomic and ecologic studies of BSC organisms in underexplored areas, particularly those previously less or not recognized as BSC habitat, and incorporation of techniques to sample airborne organisms.

Received from PCA 27 Sept 21 [You, too, can receive these articles personally without waiting for a forward by signing up with PCA (Plant Conservation Alliance) for their information emails.]



Defending insects: how to not make them “gone”.

Akito Y. Kawahara, Lawrence E. Reeves, Jesse R. Barber, and Scott H. Black, PNAS, January 12, 2021

Read the details posted in the National Academy of Sciences easy to read article:

<https://www.pnas.org/content/118/2/e2002547117>

Insects constitute the vast majority of known animal species and are ubiquitous across terrestrial ecosystems, playing key ecological roles. As prey, they are critical to the survival of countless other species, including the majority of bats, birds, and freshwater fishes. As herbivores, predators, and parasites, they are major determinants of the distribution and abundance of innumerable plants and animals.

The majority of flowering plants, the dominant component of most terrestrial ecosystems, depend on insects for pollination and hence reproduction. As consumers of waste products, insects are essential to the recycling of nutrients.

Humans and their agriculture rely heavily on such “ecosystem services” provided by insects, which together have at least an annual value of ~\$70 billion (2020 valuation) in the United States. Insects also provide humans with honey, silk, wax, dyes, and, in many cultures, food. Insects have become essential subjects in medical and basic biological research.

Furthermore, insects are one of the most easily accessible forms of wildlife, with a diversity of morphology, life history, and behavior that seems ready-made for inspiring appreciation of nature and its conservation. This benign characterization of insects seems self-evident now, but its emergence is historically recent, especially in the United States.

In the mostly agricultural 19th century United States, political pressure generated by increasing crop losses to insects led to the creation of a government-supported corps of professional entomologists. Great advances in fundamental knowledge resulted, but entomology became closely tied to the chemical/pesticide industry, which increasingly adopted a strident insects-as-enemy dialogue, broadened to include disease vectors.

The 1962 publication of *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson marked a dramatic turn toward a more balanced view, but the transition has been slow, not least because the challenges of crop pest and disease vector management remain enormous.

1. Convert lawns into diverse natural habitats.
2. Grow native plants.
3. Reduce pesticide and herbicide use.
4. Limit use of exterior lighting.
5. Lessen soap runoff from washing vehicles and building exteriors and reduce use of driveway sealants and de-icing salts.
6. Counter negative perceptions of insects.
7. Become an educator, ambassador, and advocate for insect conservation.
8. Get involved in local politics, support science, and vote.

Ed note: National Geographic May 2020 feature article starts on P40, “Where Have All the Insects Gone?”

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 October.

ALWAYS - 20th of even numbered months. If you don't understand subjects, parameters, or submission format, contact Michelle Bowe, PP editor
MBowe@MissouriState.edu .

A topic emphasized in this winter's Petal Pusher is winter botanizing. How do you identify plant skeletons, basal leaves, twigs? It helps if you offer illustrative photos.

- Focus on a Plant Family could be used every year. Louise Flenner of Hawthorn chapter wrote a good article on this topic in 2019. Would be good to study that as a template.

- Potential Emerging Invaders. **Have you seen a new plant invader?** Someone from MoIP as contributor; Malissa Briggler volunteered. Any one of us could study invasive plants; MPF Journal featured invasives during 2020. Just search 'invasive plants' and pick one to report on.

- Favorite Natural Areas. Suggested to also have chapters solicit articles from their members. This means YOU can write about your favorite Natural Area

- Better Know a Genus. These are species accounts. You observe/research a species or genus and describe the whole life cycle including preferred habitat and vectors/predators.

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 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, to man our information booth at events such as Earth Day and Bradford Plant Sale, and to care for native gardens in public places.

MEMBERSHIP FORM Missouri Native Plant Society Hawthorn Chapter

How were you attracted to join MONPS?

Membership runs from July 1 through June. You must be a member of the State Missouri Native Plant Society (MONPS) in order to join a chapter. You may send state and chapter dues to our membership chair, Paula Peters.

Please check membership category you desire:

Minimum required annual membership per household is \$10 for students or \$15 for non-students [state+chapter]

*These amounts include both state and chapter dues

_____ Student \$10.00*

_____ Goldenrod \$15.00*

_____ Sunflower \$30.00*

_____ Blue Bell \$55.00*

_____ Blazing Star \$105.00*

_____ Surcharge for paper state Petal Pusher by mail (+\$10.00)

_____ Chapter only \$5.00 – this option is for members who
already belong to State and another chapter

_____ Amount Paid

Make checks payable to:

Missouri Native Plant Society

Mail payment and this form to:

Paula Peters

2216 S Grace Ellen Dr

Columbia, MO 65202

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Newsletters and messages will be sent by email